



REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST:

Historic Signs of the Frederick Town Historic District



CITY OF FREDERICK

101 NORTH COURT STREET • FREDERICK, MD 21701



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to serve first and foremost as a guide for property owners to identify whether or not a sign on their building may be a historic sign prior to entering the approval process and to serve as a general guide for the Historic Preservation Commission. The report also includes brief histories of the signs including their association with the building, its use and its occupants where information was available. The signs included in this report are representative of the types of signs that are generally considered historic. The signs in this report were identified by Planning Department staff by conducting walking surveys between December 11, 2009 and January 26, 2010.

WHAT IS A HISTORIC SIGN?

A historic sign is one that conveys a significant aspect or period of history related to the specific building to which it is attached or the City in general even long after its commercial or advertising value no longer applies. Historic signs are those that have achieved significance over time. A historic sign may be the only remnant of a building's historic use and the only means by which the past aspects of daily life are conveyed to and preserved for the future. Not every sign that is 50 years old is a historic sign. Historic signs are generally associated with historic figures, events or places, significant as evidence of the history of the product, business or service, significant for reflecting the history of the building or the development of an area, characteristic of a specific historic period (such as gold leaf on glass or neon), integral to the building's design or physical fabric, an outstanding example of the sign maker's art (excellent craftsmanship, use of materials, or design) or elements important in defining the character of a district (such as marquees in a theater district).

HISTORIC SIGNS

1. BANKS & INSURANCE COMPANIES

A. **Address:** 2 East Patrick Street

Type: Carved

Sign Text: Citizens National Bank

Condition: Excellent

Date: 1908

Citizens National Bank was founded in 1886 on this location but after growth and the need for additional space, the building was demolished and this one constructed in its place in 1908. Citizens National Bank was the first local bank to pay interest on savings accounts (Cannon, 116).



B. **Address:** 112-114 North Market Street

Type: Carved

Sign Text: Mutual Insurance Company

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1924

The Mutual Insurance Company of Frederick County purchased this property from the Commercial State Bank of Frederick County in 1924. (Frederick County Land Records, l. 348, f. 18).



C. **Address:** 100-102 West Church Street

Type: Carved

Sign Text: Peoples Fire Insurance Building 1808

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1908

The People's Fire Insurance Company was incorporated in 1907 for the purpose of insuring dwellings, churches, schools and farm property and in 1908 moved to general fire insurance business (Williams, 553).



D. Address: 244 North Market Street

Type:

Sign Text: The Frederick Trust Company

Condition: Fair

The Frederick Trust Company sold property in 1915, Purchased property in 1913. (Frederick County Land Records, l. 314, f. 400)



2. GOODS & SERVICES

A. Address: 7 East Patrick Street

Type: Carved or cast

Sign Text: Rosenstock Bldg

Condition: Excellent

Date:

Joseph Rosenstock founded a clothing store in 1855 that was later run by his sons Aaron and Jacob. The store was first located at the corner of Patrick and Market Street until it outgrew that space and purchased the adjacent property at 7-11 East Patrick Street and built the new structure which was called "one of the finest places of business in Western Maryland" with 20,000 square feet of floor space (Williams, 1391).



B. Address: 44 North Market Street

Type:

Sign Text: Dry Goods-Hendrickson-Wraps & c.

Condition: Good

Date: c. 1877

In 1871, John Hendrickson began working at Parsons, a local dry goods store, and then purchased the establishment in 1877 and moved it to 52 North Market Street in 1882. In 1887 he leased space at 42 North Market Street and was described as carrying "one of the most complete lines of dry goods and ladies' readymade garments in Western Maryland" (Cannon, 240 and Williams, 1141).



C. **Address:** 37 North Market Street

Type: Carved

Sign Text: Rosenour Building

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1885

Benjamin Rosenour and his sons Benjamin, Abraham and Gerson operated one of the largest mercantile firms in Western Maryland and were known as leading businessmen in the City operating two stores in Frederick, this one on North Market Street and another at 6-8 East Patrick Street. In 1903, they constructed a new building at 101 North Market Street (Williams & McKinsey, p. 1392).



D. **Address:** 37 North Market Street (south wall)

Type: Painted

Sign Text: B. Rosenour Bros. Clothing and Shoes

Condition: Poor

Date: c. 1885

See above description.



E. **Address:** 37 North Market Street (north wall)

Type: Painted

Sign Text: B. Rosenour Bros. Clothing and Shoes

Condition: Poor

Date: c. 1885

See above description.



- F. Address:** 37 North Market Street (vestibule)
Type: Mosaic
Sign Text: Rosenour's
Condition: Good
Date: early 20th century
 See above description.



- G. Address:** 101 North Market Street
Type: Cast
Sign Text: Rosenour Building
Condition: Excellent
Date: 1903
 The Rosenour Brother acquired this property in 1902. In 1903, this new building at 101 North Market Street was constructed and was called "one of the most commodious and up-to-date storerooms in Western Maryland" selling furnishings, clothing, shoes, trunks and suitcases. (Frederick County Land Records, l. 15, f. 107 and Williams, 1392)



- H. Address:** 105 North Market Street
Type: Cast
Sign Text: Shipley
Condition: Excellent
Date: c. 1919
 Shipley's began in 1897 as Shipley and Bopst general merchandise store. Harry F. Shipley purchased this property in 1919 and moved the store to a new location and it became known as Shipley's Temple of Fancy. Over the years, Shipley's moved several times and specialized in office supplies, then housewares, then athletic equipment, and, finally, home electronics. (Historical Society of Frederick County, 74, 2007 and Frederick County Land Records, l. 747, f. 82)



I. Address: 201-203 North Market Street

Type: Mosaic

Sign Text: Storm and Shipley

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1920s-1930s

Storm & Shipley was a stationary store owned by O. Leonard Storm and Robert L. Shipley. They conducted business at #201 as a tenant of the Columbia Lodge No. 58 before purchasing the property from them in 1926 and the adjacent property at 203 the Doll family in 1932. (Frederick County Land Records, l. 358, f. 392 and l. 382, f. 233)



J. Address: 121 South Market Street

Type: Carved (sidewalk)

Sign Text: U. A. Lough & Son Monuments since 1874 This site since 1912

Condition: Excellent

Date:

Uriah A. Lough moved his monument and marble cutting business from East Patrick Street to this location after he purchased the property in 1912. The business was sold a couple times but remained at this location through the 1990s. The exact date of this sign is unknown but the company may have also supplied the other marble markers that can be found throughout the City. (Frederick County Land Records l. 575, f. 294, Williams & McKinsey, p. 950 and www.loughmemorials.com)



K. Address: 10-12 North Market Street

Type:

Sign Text: Castle Building

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1890

Charles Castle was a native Frederick County saddle and harness maker. He was a partner in the firm Brish & Castle from 1874-1880 after which he started his own business at 10 North Market Street. In 1881 he expanded to 8 North Market Street and then purchased the property in 1889. The building is still owned by the Castle family. (Frederick County Land Records, l. 397, f. 171 and Williams, 851)



L. Address: 27-29 North Market Street

Type: Cast

Sign Text: Byerly Building 1915

Condition: Excellent

Date: 1915-1916

Jacob Byerly was one of the earliest photographers opening a studio in Frederick prior to the Civil War. His grandson Charles continued to operate the studio when on this site in April 1915, the three story building that housed the studio and Dutrow's Soda Fountain collapsed. The building was reconstructed shortly thereafter. (Williams, 86-103)



M. Address: 33-35 North Market Street

Type: Cast

Sign Text: Hamburger Building

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1926

Abraham and Rebecca Hamburger purchased this property in 1926 and sold it in 1939. Abraham emigrated from Poland in 1885 and worked as a coat presser and a proprietor of a clothing house in Baltimore before moving with his wife to Frederick where he resided on West College Terrace and continued to work as a proprietor of women's apparel, likely in the shop at 33 North Market Street. (Frederick County Land Records, 1.418, f.302-303 and 1.356, f.147, U.S. Census).



N. Address: 33-35 North Market Street

Type: Mosaic

Sign Text: H

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1926

See description for L above. This sign is located in the vestibule at the entrance to the upper floor.



O. Address: 205-207 North Market Street (north)

Type: Painted

Sign Text: Parsons Co Dry Goods Dresses Cloaks

Condition: Poor

Date: c. 1952

The text of this sign is not entirely clear, but it likely dates from the mid-20th century. The Doll Brothers constructed the building in 1906 for their department store and operated there until 1931. I. Manning Parsons, Jr. purchased the property from the Doll family in 1952 and sold it in 1984. (Williams, 1080, Frederick County Land Records l. 504, f. 514, l.1250, f. 630 and Frederick News-Post 2/12/1981)



P. Address: 205-207 North Market Street (south)

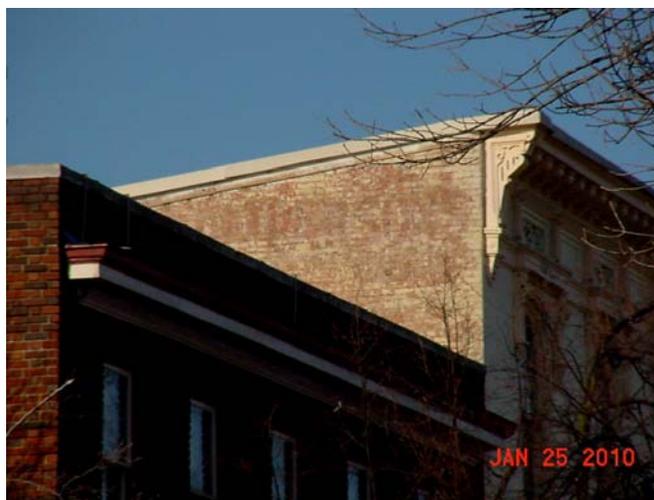
Type: Painted

Sign Text: Parsons [illegible]

Condition: Poor

Date: c. 1952

See description above.



Q. Address: 54 South Market Street (north wall)

Type: Painted

Sign Text: Hardware P.L. Hargett Co. and Seed Delicious! Refreshing! Coca-Cola Soda Fountains 5 cents

Condition: Fair

Date: After 1888

In 1877 Peter Lilburn Hargett and his four brothers formed the firm of P.L. Hargett & Co selling hardware, farming implements and seeds. One account described the store as "...the leader in its own particular branch of trade, the amount of business being exceedingly large...The store, located in South Market Street, covers an area of some 10,000 square feet..." The store closed in 1966. (Williams, 1312).



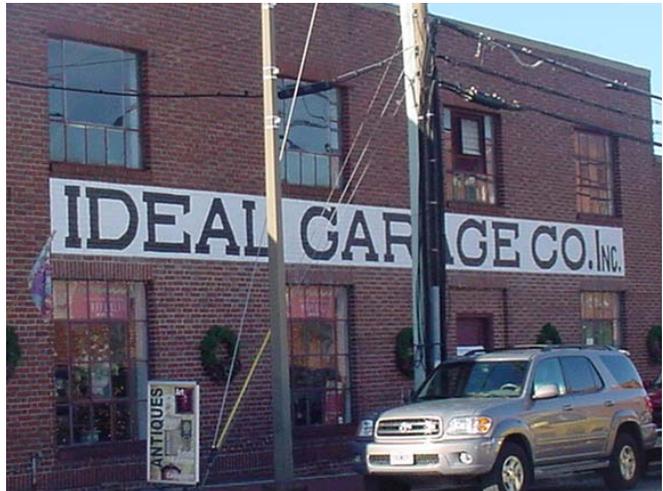
- R. Address:** 56 South Market Street (south wall)
Type: Painted
Sign Text: P.L. Hargett Co. Hardware & Seed
Condition: Poor
Date:
See description above.



- S. Address:** 21 South Carroll Street (1)
Type: Painted
Sign Text: Buick- Ideal Garage Co.
Condition: Good
Date: c. 1924
The Ideal Garage Company was founded in the early 1900s and had a contract with Buick to sell their vehicles exclusively. In 1924 it acquired a former tannery property on South Carroll Street and expanded the business. The Ideal Garage Company sold new and used cars, provided full maintenance and service, operated a machine shop and provided year-round storage (Cannon, 188).



- T. Address:** 21 South Carroll Street (2)
Type: Painted
Sign Text: Ideal Garage Co. Inc.
Condition: Excellent
Date: c. 1924
See description above.



U. Address: 238 West Patrick Street

Type: Neon

Sign Text: TV

Condition: Fair

Date: c. 1950

Charles A. Faust began developing this property in 1933 for a “bungalow court.” By 1946, forty residential and tourist cabins had been constructed forming the Barbara Fritchie Cabins. The name was an attempt to capitalize on one of Frederick’s most famous historical characters. Neon signs became popular during the 1920s through the 1940s. (Historical Society of Frederick County 2005, 46 and Auer)



V. Address: 36 South Market Street

Type:

Sign Text: John Gomer

Condition: Good

Date: c.1892

John Gomer acquired this property in 1892 working there as a machinist and residing there with his family. (Sanborn maps, U.S. Census, Frederick County Land Records, 1.1, f.488)



W. Address: 27 South Market Street

Type: Mosaic

Sign Text: Landis

Condition: Fair

Date: c. 1945

Landis Jewelers is a long-standing business founded in 1893. This tile mosaic in the shape of a pocket watch in the sidewalk in front of 27 South Market Street marks the original location of the business before it expanded operations to 23 South Market Street in 1945 (Frederick Magazine).



X. Address: 23 South Market Street

Type: Etched glass

Sign Text: Landis

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1945

Landis Jewelers is a long-standing business founded in 1893 at 27 South Market Street. The business expanded and moved to 27 South Market Street in 1945. This is one of the few historic signs in the district where the associated business is still in operation. This sign is highly characteristic of the 1940s when pigmented structural glass veneers had become synonymous with the “modern look.” (Frederick Magazine and Preservation Brief 12)



Y. Address: 101 East 4th Street

Type: Painted

Sign Text: Lewis M. Kintz Groceries & Provisions Sensation Smoke Chew

Condition: Fair

Date: c. 1900

Lewis M. and Lulu Kintz owned the property from late 1890s until 1922 (Frederick County Land Records, l. 338, f. 228) and operated a grocery at this location.



Z. Address: 142 West Patrick Street

Type: Mosaic

Sign Text: Animal Hospital

Condition: Excellent

Date: 1940s-1950s

The 1920 census listed J. Bernard McClellan’s occupation as veterinarian. McClellan acquired this property when it was vacant in 1922. By 1930 it was a storefront and by 1947 it was a pet hospital. The property was owned by the McClellan family until 1992. (U.S. Census, Frederick County Land Records l. 340, f. 481 and l. 1775, f. 1118)



AA. Address: 142 West Patrick Street
Type: Mosaic
Sign Text: McClellan
Condition: Excellent
Date: 1940s-1950s
See description above.



BB. Address: 201 South Market Street (rear)
Type: Painted
Sign Text: Francis Scott Key Hotel Turn Left
Condition: Fair
Date: 1920s-1930s
This is the first of two signs providing direction to the (former) Francis Scott Key Hotel at 31 West Patrick Street which opened in the 1920s.



CC. Address: 36 South Market Street
Type: Painted
Sign Text: Francis Scott Key Hotel Turn Left
Next Corner
Condition: Poor
Date: 1920s-1930s
This is the second of two signs providing direction to the (former) Francis Scott Key Hotel at 31 West Patrick Street which opened in the 1920s.



DD. Address: 69 South Market Street

Type: Carved

Sign Text: Jacobsons Building

Condition: Good

Date: 1927-1930

Karl Jacobson emigrated from Russia in 1912 and operated Jacobson's Department Store until the 1960s. Jacobson acquired 69 South Market Street in 1927 and built this three story building soon thereafter. Prior to this, the store occupied the building at 77 South Market Street. The 1930 Census indicates that Jacobson lived with his family in this building at that time. (Frederick County Land Records, l. 348, f. 120, 1930 Sanborn Map, U.S. Census)



3. INDUSTRY

A. Address: 47 East All Saints Street

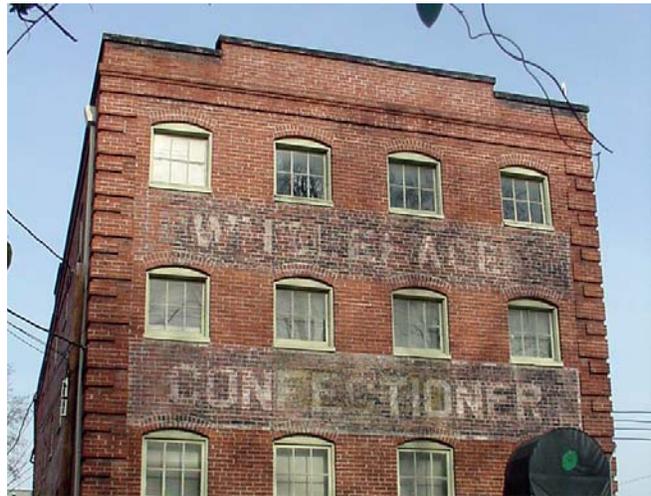
Type: Painted

Sign Text: Wholesale Confectioner

Condition: Fair

Date: c. 1916

This 1916 building was part of the George B. Kehne's complex on East All Saints Street adjacent to the B&O Railroad. Kehne advertised himself as a "wholesale confectioner" and "Bottler of High Grade Soda Water." The business expanded to a new bottling building at 41 East All Saints Street with a row of garages along the back (now 45 East All Saints Street). In the 1950s, the business changed ownership and was operated as the Wachter Bros. Wholesale Confectioner (Reed, MHT NR-Eligibility Review Form).



B. Address: 47 East All Saints Street

Type: Painted

Sign Text: Kehne Brothers Wholesale Confectioner

Condition: Fair

Date: c. 1916

See description for A. above.



- C. Address:** 47 East All Saints Street
Type: Painted
Sign Text: Wachter Bros. Wholesale Confectioners Fountain Supplies Paper Goods
Condition: Fair
Date: c. 1955
 See description for A. above.



- D. Address:** 41 East All Saints Street
Type: Painted
Sign Text: Bottling Works
Condition: Good- Fair
Date: c. 1927
 See description for A. above.



- E. Address:** 47 East All Saints Street
Type: Painted
Sign Text: 3-C Nectar The Drink of the Gods
Condition: Good
Date: c. 1920

This building was originally constructed as a series of garages for the Kehne Brothers Wholesale Confectioner. 3-C Nectar was a cola drink produced by a Roanoke, VA company that was briefly promoted in the 1920s before the company went bankrupt. (<http://www.tazewell-orange.com/3cnectar.html>)



F. Address: 132 East 4th Street /317 Chapel Alley

Type: Painted

Sign Text: Crystal Laundry Co.

Condition: Good

Date: c. 1925

Commercial laundries developed from the home-based industries of the 19th century. The Crystal Laundry is a classic example. It was originally established by E. Guy Albaugh at his home at 135 East 3rd Street and then expanded into a new brick building on Chapel Alley around 1925. (Reed, MHT NR-Eligibility Review Form)



G. Address: 103 South Carroll Street

Type: Cast iron

Sign Text: Winebrener

Condition: Excellent

Date: c. 1910

D.C. Winebrener & Co. was operated in this location by D. Charles Winebrener who took over the warehouse grocery business of his father. Winebrener acquired the property from the Frederick County Farmers Exchange in 1908 and the current building was constructed, and likely the associated sign, by 1911. The building was conveniently located adjacent to an extension of the B&O rail line. (Williams, 708-709, Frederick County Land Records, l. 282, f. 126 and Sanborn maps)



H. Address: 310 Chapel Alley (west)

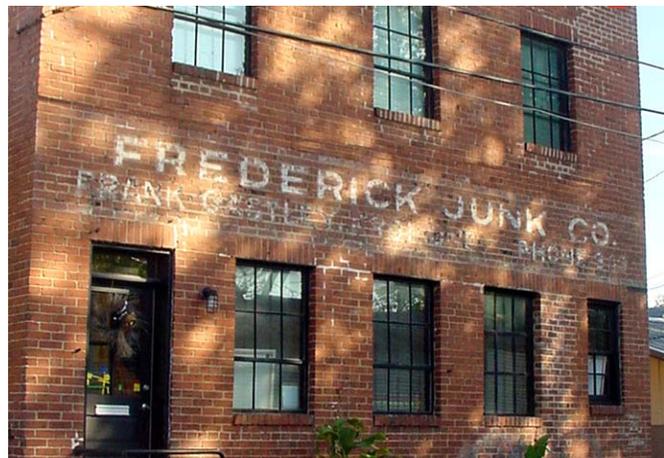
Type: Painted

Sign Text: Frederick Junk Co. Frank Gastley [illegible]

Condition: Fair

Date: c. 1930

The advent of World War II caused many companies to change their output to meet the growing market. Dealers in scrap metal supplied material to larger companies and significantly expanded during this time. One example is the Frederick Junk Company which was located on Chapel Alley and became a partnership in 1936. They produced an estimated monthly average of 500 tons of scrap iron and 30 tons of scrap metal during the war years. (Reed, Industrial Context)



- I. **Address:** 310 Chapel Alley (south)
Type: Painted
Sign Text: illegible
Condition: Poor
Date: c. 1930
See description above.



4. INSTITUTIONS

- A. **Address:** 116 Record Street
Type: Carved
Sign Text: C. Burr Artz Library
Condition: Excellent
Date: 1937

This building served as the free library for Frederick County from 1938 until 1982. It was designed by local architect Joseph Urner who popularized the Colonial Revival style in Frederick. (City of Frederick Planning Department Historic Site Files) The library's construction was funded using money left by Margaret Thomas Artz in her will specifically for the building of a library in memory of her husband. (Cannon, p. 215)



B. Address: 22 West Church Street

Type: Metal

Sign Text: Masonic Temple

Condition: Good

Date: 1901-1902

The Masonic Temple Association purchased the property in 1900 and dedicated the new building in 1902. The U.S. Post Office was located on the first floor from the building's opening until 1917. (Frederick County Land Records, l. 7, f. 391, Cannon, 150 and Sanborn Maps)



C. Address: 20 North Court Street

Type: Cast

Sign Text: Pythian Castle

Condition: Excellent

Date: 1912

This building was constructed around 1912 for the Mountain City Lodge No. 29 of the Knights of Pythias and at the height of its popularity had close to 2,800 members. The Knights of Pythias are a charitable and benevolent fraternal organization founded by Justus Rathbone during the Civil War as a reaction to the turbulent times. (Cannon, 189 and Frederick News Post, April 22, 2004)



D. Address: 121 North Bentz Street (east)

Type: Carved

Sign Text: M. N. G.

Condition: Excellent

Date: 1913

This sign dates from the building's use by the Maryland National Guard armory and is significant for its association with the reorganization and expansion of the National Guard system in the 20th century. Frederick's armory was the third of 12 constructed across the state between 1901 and the early 1930s. Patriotism surrounding the United State's involvement in World War I motivated the construction of armories. This building is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Frederick News-Post, February 15, 1986 and National Register of Historic Places FHD-0793)



- E. Address:** 121 North Bentz Street (west)
Type: Carved
Sign Text: Maryland National Guard
Condition: Excellent
Date: 1913
See description for D above



- F. Address:** 15 South Court Street
Type: Carved
Sign Text: Citizens Truck Company
Condition: Excellent
Date: 1939
In 1926, the Citizens Truck Company was formed and their headquarters on South Court Street built in 1939. (Jewell and Jenkins, p. 75, 78)



5. OTHER

A. Address: 26 South Market Street

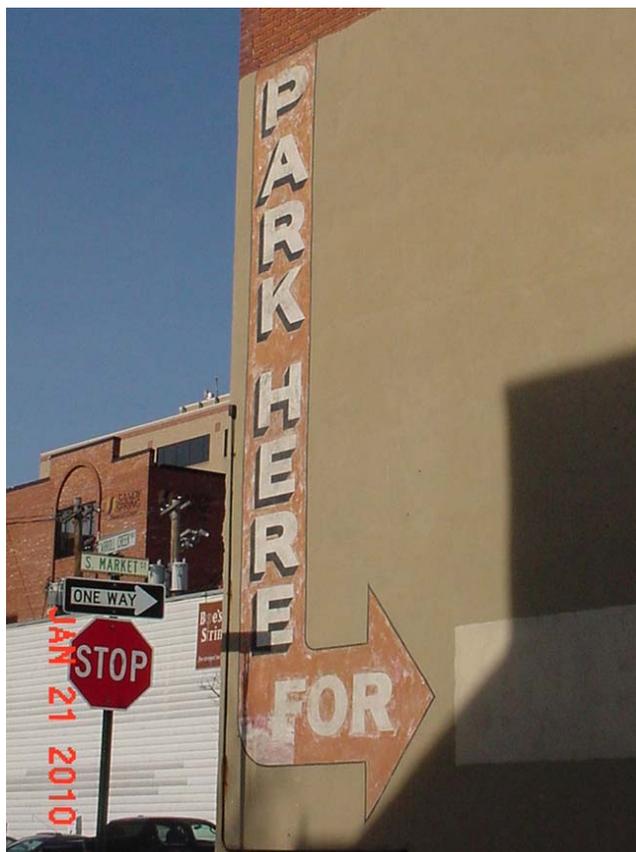
Type: Painted

Sign Text: Park Here For

Condition: Good

Date: c. 1960s

This sign was likely painted shortly after 1961 when the adjacent building at 28-32 South Market Street was purchased by the City of Frederick and demolished (by 1964) to provide access to parking (Cannon, p. 239, Frederick County Land Records, l. 655, f. 534 and Sanborn maps). The "For" may have been a later addition to the sign.



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