

MHT #FHD-1278
Mary Jane Baer House (142 B&O Avenue)
Built around 1910
Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland
Private dwelling

Brief Description

This brick dwelling is built forward on its lot, faces the railroad tracks, and shares a party wall with its neighbor, 144 B&O Avenue. It is two-and-one-half-stories tall, two-bays wide, has a gabled roof, and rests on a low limestone foundation. Its two-story back building with a two-story porch is a common architectural tradition in the neighborhood and Frederick as a whole. Although the house retains much of its original fabric, it has been expanded with later additions.

Summary Statement of Significance

This dwelling is a contributing building in the Frederick Historic District. Although it is among the more recent dwellings in the Lower Depot neighborhood, its design incorporates architectural elements common in the earlier dwellings in the area. It was erected during the first decade of the twentieth century on the site of an earlier frame dwelling that burned. Throughout the late nineteenth-century and most of the twentieth century, the property-- first the frame house and then the present brick dwelling--was occupied by Mary Jane Baer, her children, and grandchildren. A number of Baer's descendants continue to own and occupy dwellings in the immediate neighborhood. As with many occupants of dwellings in the neighborhood, Mary Jane Baer was employed by the B&O Railroad.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. FHD-1278

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mary Jane Baer House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 142 B&O Avenue not for publication

city, town Frederick vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Thomas M. Dodson

street & number 142 B&O Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 217801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Court House liber 2033

street & number 100 West Patrick Street folio 1048

city, town Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Standing Structures Report, East Street Widening and Extension in Frederick, Maryland

date May 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resources Count: 1 building

Although 142 B&O Avenue is among the more recent dwellings in the Lower Depot neighborhood, its design incorporates architectural elements common in the earlier dwellings in the Lower Depot neighborhood. It is built forward on its lot facing the railroad tracks and shares a party wall with its neighbor, 144 B&O Avenue. Its two-story back building with a two-story porch is a common architectural tradition in the neighborhood and Frederick as a whole. Although the house retains much of its original fabric, it has been expanded with later additions.

The two-and-one-half-story, two-bay, gable-roofed single dwelling rests on a low limestone foundation. The eave of the building is defined by two-brick corbeling, and the gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal and has snow birds along its north front edge. The north front features one-over-one single-sash windows with wood sills. Some of the sills have been covered with vinyl. The first-story windows on the front and west side elevations are topped by two-course brick segmental arches. The second-story windows have flat wooden lintels, creating a hierarchy between the ornamental first story and the simpler second story. A small basement window in the second bay is slightly narrower than the first- and second-floor windows. It appears originally to have been a two-light window, but a vent has been inserted in place of one of the panes. Like the first floor windows, the basement window is topped by a segmental arch, but the wood infill between the window and the arch is much more ornate. It is molded and embellished with a central bull's eye. The recessed, three-panel, three-light, replacement front door in the first bay has a paneled surround and a single-light transom. Like the first floor and basement windows, the doorway is topped by a segmental arch. The wood infill between the transom and arch is embellished in the same manner as the basement window. The first-floor windows were probably similarly embellished at one time. A three-step, poured-concrete stoop has been added at the front door, and the brick extends to the ground level, unlike the west side, on which the limestone foundation is exposed.

On the west elevation, the windows of the first and second story are aligned with each other at the south end of the wall. A small attic opening situated asymmetrically below the peak of the gable serves as a louvered vent. The eaves are flush with the wall, and the chimney that rises from the gable end appears to be a replacement.

The back building that extends south from the rear elevation has a two-story porch that extends to the southwest corner of the main block, making the entire back building composition of the same width as the main block. The four-bay, shed-roofed back building is brick and has the same window, door and roof treatments as the north and west elevations. A six-panel door opens onto the second story of the porch. The porch supports and railing are constructed of milled lumber, and the balustrade has square balusters. The ceiling is covered with beaded tongue-and-groove boards. A one-story, shed-roofed vinyl and aluminum sun porch, which is glazed with full length windows, projects from the lower story of the porch.

A one-story, shed-roofed, concrete-block storage shed has been added to the south elevation of the back building. This shed has two doors on its west elevation and extends to the large concrete-block garage at the rear of the property. The shed-roofed garage has an aluminum garage door.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Survey No. FHD-1278

please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nomiated property 3,765 square feet

Quadrangle name Frederick, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM Refernces **do NOT complete UTM references**

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

Frederick Tax Map 418 Lot 907A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Elizabeth Barthold O'Brien/Project Architectural Historian		
organization	John Milner Associates, Inc.	date	November 1996
street & number	5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 410	telephone	703-354-9737
city or town	Alexandria	state	Virginia

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
 (301-514-7600)

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES Continuation Sheet

MHT # FHD-1278

Name of Property Mary Jane Baer House
142 B&O Avenue
Frederick County

Section number 8 Page 1

In 1890, the frame house was acquired by Mary Jane Baer, and it remained in her family for nearly a century. By 1890, Mary Kemp Sinn had married and moved to Bland County, Virginia, and along with the executors of John Sinn's estate, sold the property for \$500 to Mary and Jerome Ford. Within the same year, the Fords sold it to Mary Jane Baer for \$550. According to Bertha Kennedy, who owns the adjacent 144 B&O Avenue, and who is a great-granddaughter of Mary Jane Baer, the B&O Railroad Company gave Mary Baer the house or perhaps gave her the money for it. The railroad company also provided her with a means of support by giving her a job cleaning the rail cars as they arrived at the nearby depot. The railroad company provided her with a house and job in compensation for the loss of her husband, William B. Baer, who died while working on the railroad.

William Baer's obituary, which was published in the *Salvation Army Gazette*, stated that he worked for the B&O Railroad as a brakeman and was killed while on the job in 1888. The obituary, included in Bertha Kennedy's extensive file of family memorabilia, also stated that he was survived by his widow and five small children. Mrs. Kennedy's files also include an undated photograph of Mary Jane Baer standing with her children in front of the frame dwelling on B&O Avenue. According to the "Improved Street Directory" in *W.H. Kirwin's Frederick City and County Directory of 1892-93*, Mary Baer lived in the west half of the double house (6 B&O Avenue), and the household of William Bell, a watchman, resided in the east half (8 B&O Avenue).

Soon after Mary Jane Baer moved into the house, her family was beset by another rail accident when her 8-year-old son Willie injured himself while jumping from a rail car. According to a newspaper article written around 1894, also in Mrs. Kennedy's files, Willie Baer worked as a newsboy and customarily hopped onto the train at the end of his route for a free ride back to his house. One day he fell from the train and was found lying near the ice factory by Lillie Baer, his sister, and Kate Reynolds, probably a neighbor. He was taken to Dr. Goodsell, who predicted that the boy would be crippled for the rest of his life.

By the time of the 1900 census, William Baer was 13-years-old and was attending school, unlike his 16-year-old brother John, who could neither read nor write and was described in the census as "afflicted." They were the only children living at 142 B&O Avenue with their mother, but Mary Jane Baer's 22-year-old daughter, Mary A. Crum (nee Mary A. Baer) was not too far from home. She lived in rented rooms next door in 144 B&O Avenue with her husband and two children.

Mary Baer's son John died in 1905, and a number of the pall bearers listed in the obituary (also included in Mrs. Kennedy's files) were from local families. Three of them, Clarence Geisner, Albert Crawford, and Fred Oden, were listed in the 1910 census as occupants of 109 Water Street, 120 Water Street, and an unidentified house on nearby Winchester Street, respectively, while Frank Crum and Gus Ford, although not enumerated by those names in the census, could have been members of several neighborhood households with those surnames.

Around the time of John Baer's death, the family also lost its house to fire. According to Bertha Kennedy, the frame dwelling was ignited by sparks from a passing train and burned to the ground around 1910. Kennedy claims that the B&O Railroad built a new house for the family on the same lot. The new brick house, shown in plan on the 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, was half the width of the frame house, but was two stories in height and extended deeper into the lot.

By 1910, Mary Jane Baer's daughter Lillie had moved into 142 Water Street along with her husband, their children, and his extended family. Because she married a man with the same surname, all of the residents in the house had the last name Baer, although they were not necessarily related. Her husband William Baer, was a Virginia native and worked as a stationary engineer, and his family members that resided in the house included his father George F. Baer, a retired laborer; his step-mother, 43-year-old Annie Baer; and his step sister, 15-year-old Ethel. Lillie Baer had already lost two children, but the four that survived lived in the house and ranged in age from eight months to ten years of age.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES Continuation Sheet

MHT # FHD-1278

Name of Property Mary Jane Baer House
142 B&O Avenue
Frederick County

Section number 8 Page 2

Mary Jane Baer died in 1916, but Lillie Baer remained in the house with her extended family. By 1920, Lillie M. Baer had been widowed, and worked, like her mother had, as a railroad car cleaner. Four of her children lived in the house with her, including 19-year-old Ralph, who was a machinist at the brush factory; 18-year-old Margaret, who was a looper at the hosiery plant; and 14-year-old Franklin and 10-year-old Ruth, who were both in school. Lillie Baer's sister, Mary Crum, had also been widowed, and lived in the house with her children Charles C., who was a 21-year-old plumber at a plumbing shop, and Glenrosa Crum, who was 17 and was also a looper at the hosiery plant. The household also included 5-year-old Mary J. Hupper, who was described as Lillie Baer's niece.

According to Bertha Kennedy, Charles C. Crum married Margaret Barthlow, of 113 Water Street, several years later, and the two sublet a room on the opposite side of the B&O Railroad tracks in Whitehill's Row. They remained in the neighborhood, living in a number of different houses on Water Street. In 1940, Lillie Baer purchased 113 Water Street from Millard Barthlow. The property eventually passed on to her son Franklin and remains in the Baer family today.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Lillie Baer's son, Ralph Baer, lived with her at 142 B&O Avenue. In the 1940s, he was a machine operator at Frederick Iron and Steel. In the 1950s, however, he went into business with his brother Franklin, and the two operated a plumbing and heating business out of the house at 113 Water Street.

When Lillie Baer died in 1964, 142 B&O Avenue passed to her daughters, Margaret Hamilton and Ruth Blumenauer. Margaret resided in the house until it was sold in 1989. At that time, it was revealed that Lillie Baer had sold portions of the property to the Monocacy Valley Canning Company, in 1901 and 1906, but had continued to occupy the land, which then passed to her descendants. In order to clear the title to the land, the descendants of the Monocacy Valley Canning Company owners relinquished rights to the land. Since then the property changed hands one more time, and is now occupied by its present owner.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES Continuation Sheet

MHT # FHD-1278
Name of Property Mary Jane Baer House
142 B&O Avenue
Frederick County

Section number 9 Page 1

Baer, Bruce, Personal Communication, August 1996.

Frederick County Board of County Commissioners, Frederick County Tax Assessments, 1866, 1866-76.

Frederick County Circuit Court, *David Shlessin v. Richard Harper and Charles F. Keller (executors of will of Jacob Keller)*, Circuit Court Equity Case #3130, 1864.

Frederick County Commissioners of Tax, Frederick County Tax Assessments, 1835.

Frederick County Recorder of Deeds, *Frederick County Land Books*, liber HS7, folio 18; liber HS 8, folio 426; liber HS 9, folio 243; liber HS 15, folio 153; liber WIP 11, folios 28, 583; liber 710, folio 343; liber 1602, folio 405

Kennedy, Bertha, Personal Communication, August 1996.

Kirwin, W.H., *Frederick City and County Directory 1892-93*, Great Southern Printing and Manufacturing Co., Frederick, Maryland, 1892.

Polk, R.L. and Co., *Polk's Directory of Frederick*, R.L. Polk and Co., New York, New York, 1940-41, 1950.

Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Map of Frederick, Maryland*, Sanborn Map Company, New York, New York, 1911.

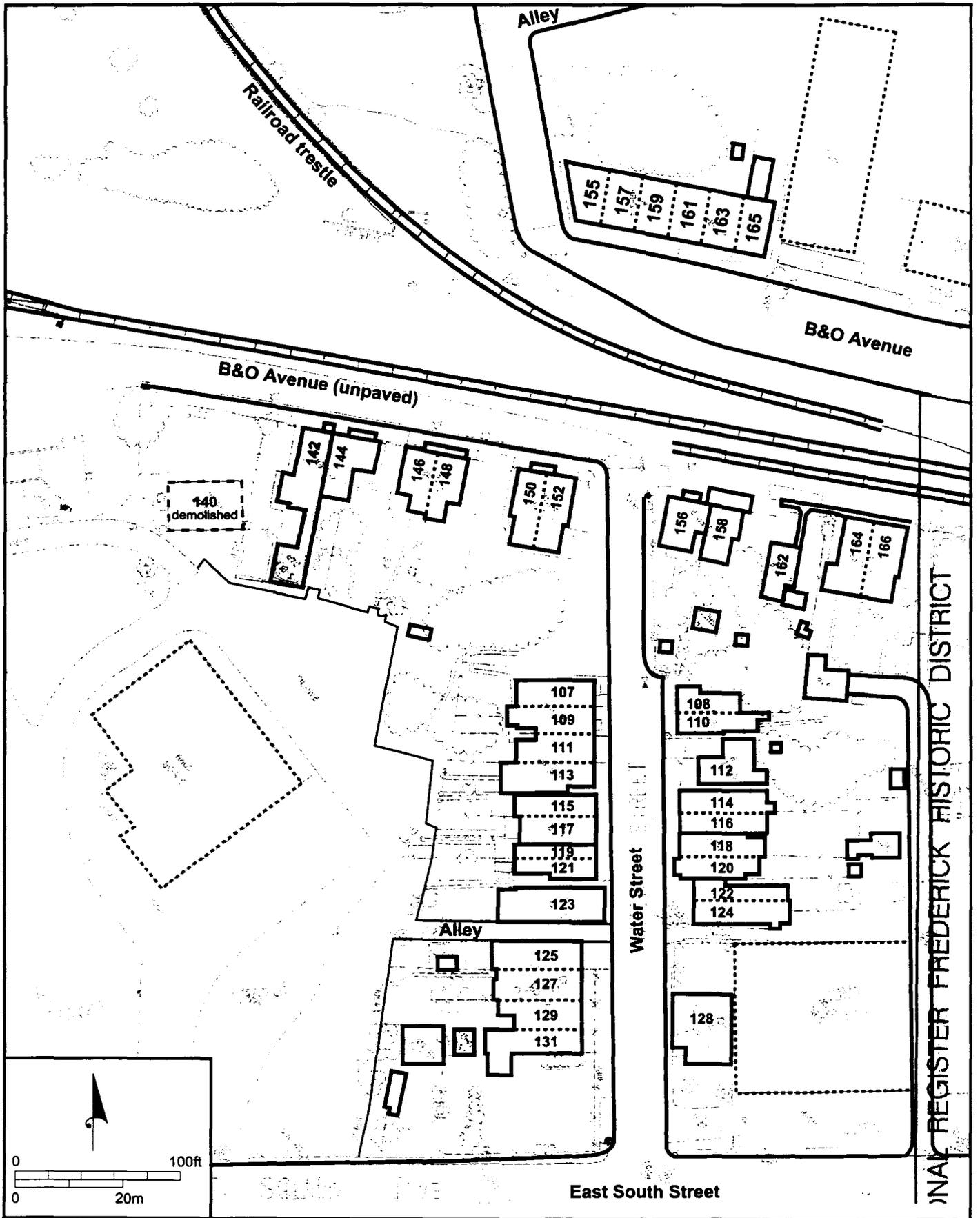
United States Bureau of the Census, *Manuscript Population Census of the United States*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920.

Mary Jane Baer House (142 B&O Avenue), MHT #FHD-1278

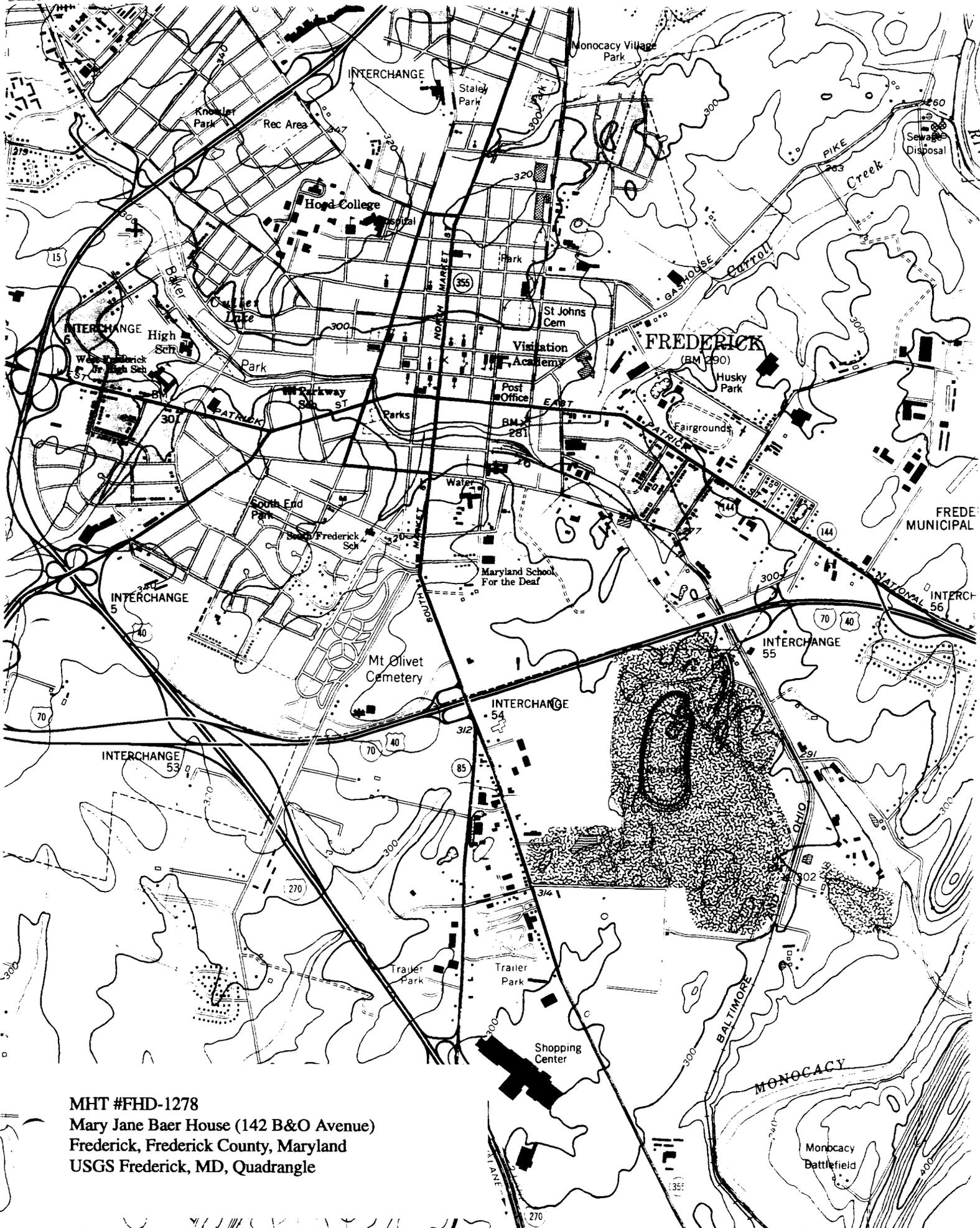
Date	Transaction	Property description	Reference
Aug. 2, 1994	Deed: Scott E. Harlow to Thomas M. Dodson	142 B&O Avenue sold for \$83,000	Deed Book 2033/1048
Nov. 3, 1989	Deed: Margaret J. Hamilton (through attorney Clarence W. Hamilton) to Scott Harlow		Deed Book 1602/405
Sept. 8, 1964	Deed: Lillie M. Baer to Ruth Blumenauer and Margaret B. Hamilton	142 B&O Avenue passed from Baer to her heirs	Deed Book 710/343
1960	City Directory: Mrs. Lillie M. Baer	occupant of 142 B&O Ave.	Polk 1960
1955	City Directory: Mrs. Lillie M. Baer	occupant of 142 B&O Ave.	Polk 1955
1950	City Directory: Mrs. Lillie M. Baer, widow of William, Ralph H. Baer, Baer's plumbing and heating	occupant of 142 B&O Ave.	Polk 1950
1946	City Directory: Mrs. Lillie M. Baer, household of 8	occupant of 142 B&O Ave.	Polk 1946
1940-41	City Directory: Mrs. Lillie M. Baer, household of 8 including Ralph Baer, machine operator Frederick Iron and Steel Co.	occupant of 142 B&O Ave.	Polk 1940-41
1935	City Directory: Mrs. Lillie M. Baer	occupant of 142 B&O Ave.	Polk 1935
1928-29	City Directory: Mrs. L.M. Baer	occupant of 142 B&O Ave.	Polk 1928-29
Aug. 23, 1922	Deed: Charles McC. Mathias and George R. Dennis to Lillie M. Baer for \$1,000	142 B&O Avenue (Equity Case 10464)	Deed Book 340/187
January 6, 1920	Census: Lillie M. Baer, 40, widowed, railroad car cleaner; Mary C. Crum, sister, 42, widowed; Charles C. Crum, nephew, 21, plumber at plumbing shop; Ralph H. Baer, 19, son, brush factory machinist; Margaret Baer, daughter, 18, hosiery looper; Glenrosa Crum, niece, 17, hosiery looper; Franklin Baer, 14, son, Ruth Baer, daughter, 10; Mary J. Hupper, niece, 5	occupants of 142 B&O Avenue	1920 Census
April 16, 1916	Owner Mary Jane Baer died		Deed Book 1602/405
1911	Map:	narrow, 2-story brick dwelling (present form)	Sanborn 1911

Date	Transaction	Property description	Reference
April 20, 1910	Census: William Baer, 33, (b. VA), stationary engineer; Lillie, wife, 30 (4 surviving of 6 children), housewife; Ralph, 10; Margaret, 9; Franklin; 5, Ruth, 8 mos.; Mary Baer, mother-in-law, 52, widow (4 surviving of 6 children), housekeeper; George F., father, 62, retired laborer; Annie Baer, step-mother, 43 (b. VA) housekeeper; Ethel, step-sister, 15 (b. VA)	Owner occupants of 142 Water Street	1910 census
ca. 1904-1911		142 B&O Ave. burned	Kennedy
1897 - 1904	Map:	1½-story frame double house attached to 144 B&O Ave.	Sanborn 1897, 1904
1900	Census: Mary J. Baer, 43, mother of 6, railroad employee; John O. Baer, 16, son, afflicted; William A. Baer, 13, son, at school	owner, with mortgage of unidentified property on B&O Avenue	1900 census
1897	Tax Assessment: Mrs. Mary J. Baer for \$300	\$100 for lot, \$200 for house, \$20 for furniture	Tax Book 1896-1910
1892	City Directory: Mrs Mary J. Baer, widow of William and George Baer (6); William Bell, watchman (8)	occupants of 6 and 8 B&O Avenue (duplex formerly on the site of 142 B&O Ave.)	Kirwin's 1892
December 30, 1890	Tax Assessment: Mrs. Mary Bair (widow) assessed \$550	for house and lot Depot Avenue of Jerome Ford	Tax Book 1876-1896
Nov. 3 1890	Deed: Mary and Jerome Ford to Mary J. Baer for \$600	26-sq.-perch part of Resurvey on Meadow, south side of B&O Railroad opposite Wm. S. Miller Coal Yard adjacent Henry Frazier's brick house.	Deed Book WIP 11/583
April 25, 1890	Tax Assessment: Jerome Ford assessed \$550	for lot and house of Mary K. Sinn at B&O Depot	Tax Book 1876-1896
Feb. 5, 1890	Deed: George T. and Mary Tyler (widow of John Sinn, both of Baltimore) and Lafayette and Mary K. Grayson (nee Mary K. Sinn, both of Bland Co. VA) to Mary and Jerome Ford for \$500	26-sq.-perch part of Resurvey on Meadow on the south side of B&O Railroad opposite the Wm. S. Miller Coal Yard	Deed Book WIP 11/28-29

Date	Transaction	Property description	Reference
April 8, 1867	Tax Assessment abatement	house and lot at B&O Depot by \$240 to value of \$560	Tax Book 1866-1876
1866	Tax Assessment: John Sinn, guardian of Mary Kemp Sinn for \$800	Double 1-story house at B&O Depot	Tax Book 1866-1876
Sept. 14, 1864	Deed: George Hoskins (for the executors of the will of Jacob Keller to John H. Sinn	all those pieces of land at the Railroad Depot opposite Philip Pylers Coal Yard containing a weatherboarded 1½-story house with 2 front doors	Deed Book JWLC 2/79
Apr. 27, 1864	Equity Case: David Schlessinger and other creditors v. Richard Hoskins and Charles F. Keller	House and lot at depot 40'x 200' with 1½-story weatherboard house suitable for 2 families, having 2 front doors	Equity Case #3130
March 15, 1848	Will: Jacob Keller to daughter Ann E. Keller, frame house on the east side of the lot next to Henry Frazier's lot with half the lot of ground thereto and the right to a 4' passage, and to daughter Caroline the frame house on the half lot joining the above lot and adjoining the property of Samuel Powell		Equity Case #3130
Aug. 8, 1841	Deed: Joshua Dill to Jacob Keller	26 perches of part of a tract called Resurvey on Meadow	Deed Book HS 15/153
July 2, 1839	Deed: Joseph Reid (of Cincinnati) to Joshua Dill	part of Resurvey on Meadow	Deed Book HS 9/253
March 14, 1839	Deed: Robert Reid (of Fulton, Ohio) to Joseph Reid (also of Fulton) for \$1,750	part of Resurvey on Meadow	Deed Book HS 8/426
Jan. 23, 1838	Deed: James and Louisa Geddings to Robert Reid (of Baltimore) for \$3,000	5½-acre part of Resurvey on Meadow	Deed Book HS 7/18
Oct. 27, 1835	Deed: Richard Marshall to Jacob Keller for \$226	Lot 10, between Lot 11 of Samuel Powell and Lot 9 of Henry Frazier	Deed Book JS 50:440



Resource Sketch Map
 MHT #FHD-1278
 Mary Jane Baer House (142 B&O Avenue)
 Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland



MHT #FHD-1278
 Mary Jane Baer House (142 B&O Avenue)
 Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland
 USGS Frederick, MD, Quadrangle



MHT # FHD-1278

Mary Jane Bae House

142 B ? O AVE., Frederick, Md.

ANITA DODD 8/96

MD SHPO

NORTH (FRONT) & WEST ELEVATIONS, Looking South
Building in center of photo

1 of 4



MHT # FHD-1278

Mary Jane Baer House

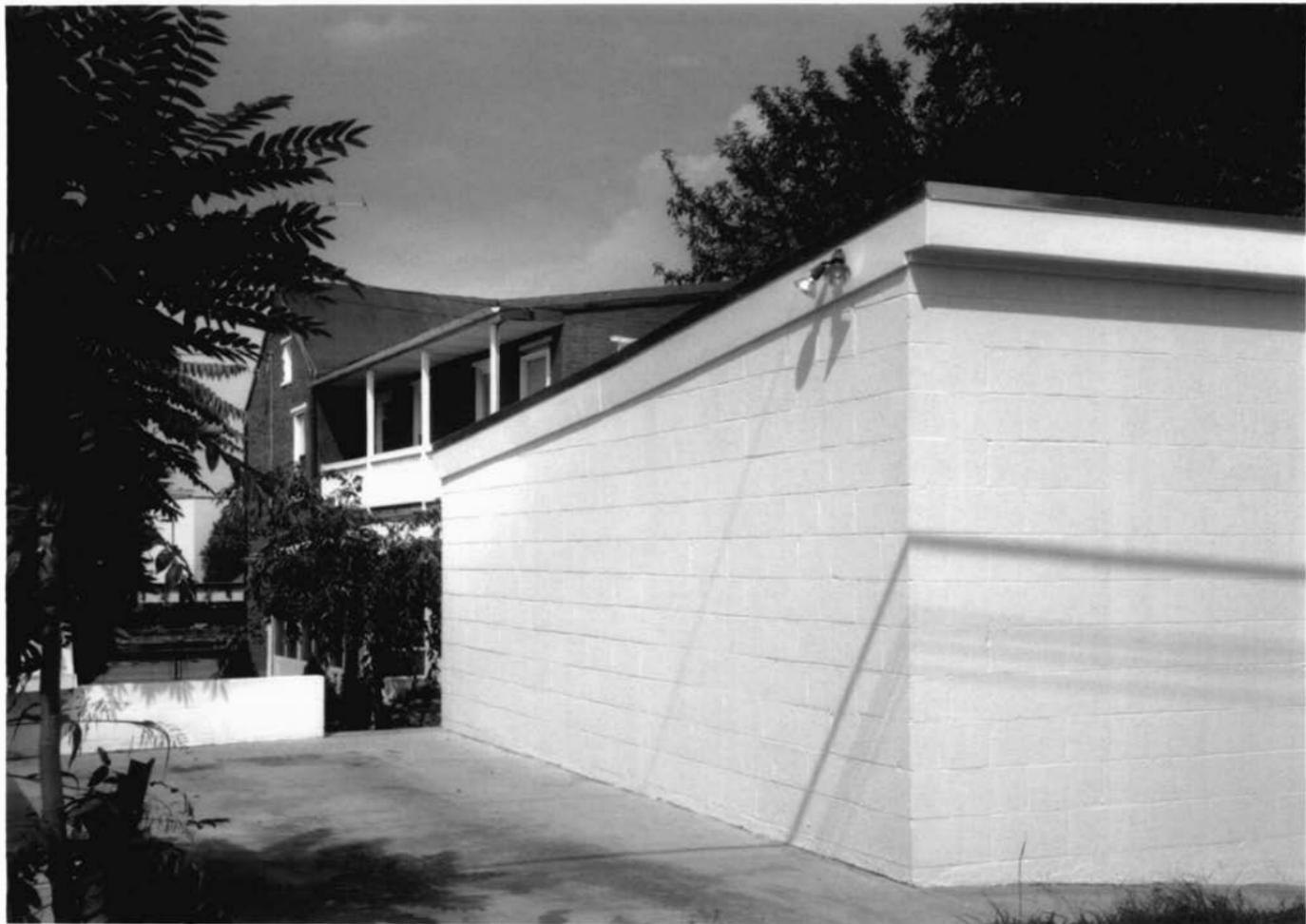
142 B30 AVE., Frederick, Md.

Avita Dodd 8/96

MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST

2 of 4



MHT # FHD-1278

Mary Jane Baer House

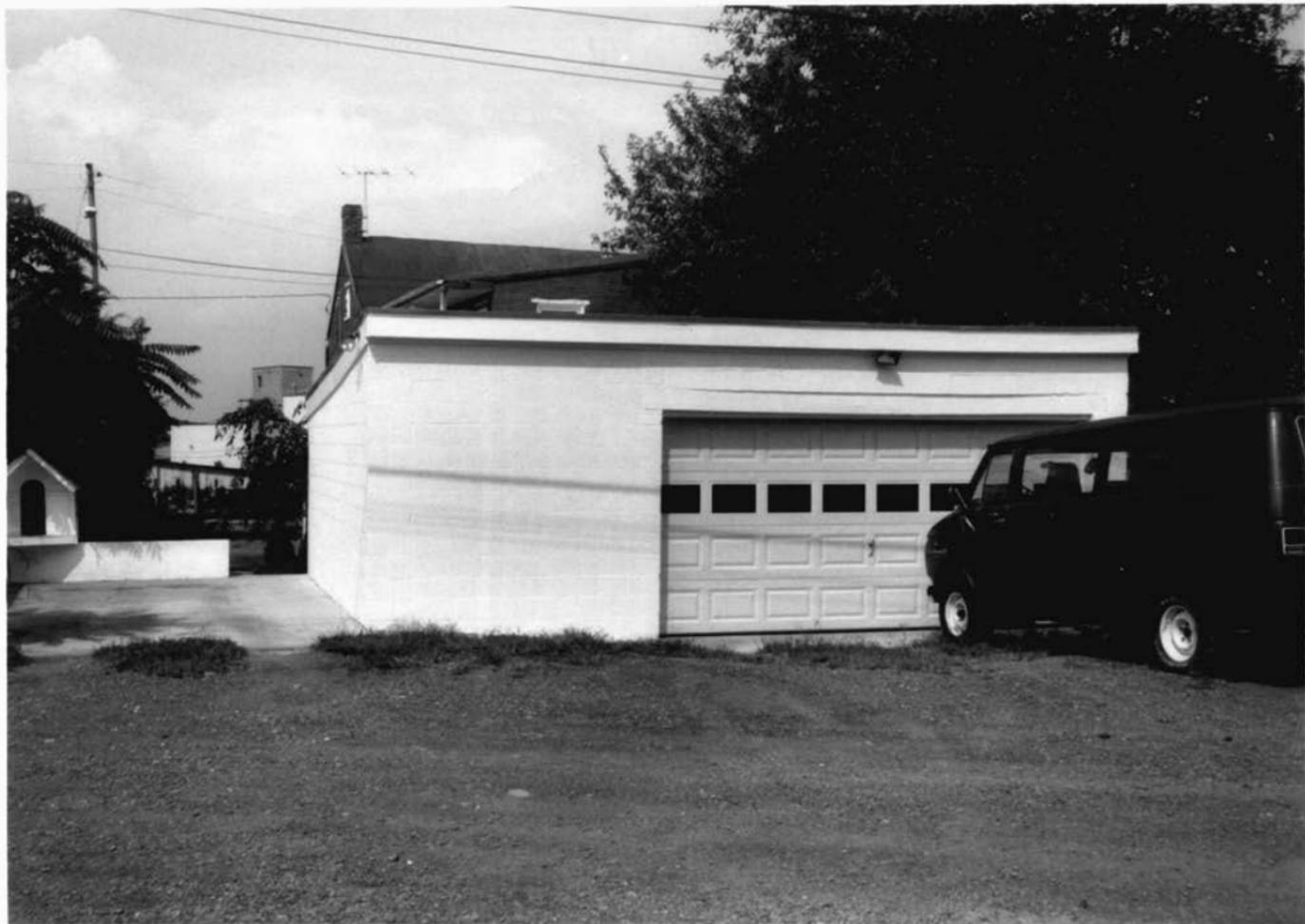
142 B 30 AVE., Frederick, Md.

Amita Dodd 8/96

MD SKPO

West Elevation 3 GARAGE, Looking NE

3 of 4



MHT # FHD-1278

Mary Jane Baer House

142 B?O AVE., Frederick, Md.

Arvita Dodd 8/96

MD SHPO

South elevation of garage, looking north

4 of 4