

MHT #FHD-1289
119-121 Water Street
Built around 1898
Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland
Private dwellings

Brief Description

The two-story frame duplex at 119-121 Water Street is attached to the neighboring duplex at 115-117 Water Street. The four units share the same bracketed cornice and appear almost as a group of four row houses. The width of 119 Water Street is somewhat diminished by a one-story, three-foot-wide side passage that extends through the north side of the building. The duplex shares many common characteristics with the other dwellings on Water Street, including the bracketed cornice, limestone foundation, and shared passage, as well as its location on its front lot line. Unlike a number of buildings in the area, which have had numerous additions and alterations added to their rear elevations, the basic form of this duplex remains largely intact.

Summary Statement of Significance

The frame double dwelling at 119 and 121 Water Street is a contributing building in the Frederick Historic District. It was built in Lot 6 of Mary Welty's Addition to Frederick, a small subdivision that was laid out in 1890 on the south side of the B&O Railroad tracks. This duplex was probably built in the mid-1890s by one of the members of the Ford family, who built a number of the frame dwellings in the subdivision.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. FHD-1289

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 119-121 Water Street not for publication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 checked="" 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 Please see continuation sheet

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Court House liber 2099 folio 1325

street & number 100 West Patrick Street ~~fol~~ liber 831 folio 494

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

Survey No. FHD-1289

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1 building

The two-story frame duplex at 119-121 Water Street is attached to the neighboring duplex at 115-117 Water Street. The four units share the same bracketed cornice and appear almost as a group of four row houses. Although the main blocks of all four buildings are the same depth, 117 and 119 Water Street are slightly wider than their neighbors. The width of 119 Water Street is somewhat diminished, however, by a one-story, three-foot-wide side passage that extends through the north side of the building. The duplex shares many common characteristics with the other dwellings on Water Street, including the bracketed cornice, limestone foundation, and shared passage, as well as its location on its front lot line. Unlike a number of buildings in the area, which have had numerous additions and alterations added to their rear elevations, the basic form of this duplex remains largely intact.

The roof of the duplex is covered with standing-seam metal, and a shared, brick chimney flue rises from the peak of the gable roof between the two units. The structure rests on a low foundation of parged limestone. The east front elevation of the duplex is covered with beaded asbestos siding with corner boards. The six front windows are all two-over-two double sash with wood sills and surrounds. The front doors are in the first and fourth bays and have plain wood surrounds. Both doors appear to be replacements and are covered with a storm doors. The unit at 119 Water Street has a hollow-core door with a small central diamond-shaped window, and 121 Water Street has a three-light, three-panel door. Both units have poured-concrete, two-step stoops. On 119 Water Street, there is a single one-light, fixed cellar window in the limestone foundation. Although 121 Water Street probably had such a window, it is now obscured by a small, stone-walled planter, installed between the stoop and the north end of the unit.

While the north elevation of the duplex is the party wall with 117 Water Street, the exterior north wall of the first floor is exposed inside the passage. It is clad with drop or German siding and likely indicates the original cladding material of the entire building. The south elevation of the duplex is fully exposed and faces onto a narrow pedestrian alley that separates it from its neighbor, 123 Water Street. The first story of this south elevation is covered with beaded asbestos siding, while the second story and attic are covered with what is likely the original drop or German cladding. One-over-one double-sash windows face into the alley from the rear of the second-story and from the attic.

The one-story, shed-roofed wing on the west elevation appears to be the original kitchen wing. Above this wing, on the west elevation of the two-story block, are two one-over-one double sash replacement windows, one in each unit. The division between the two units is marked by a vertical board on the rear wall. A narrow window has been added on the first-floor rear of 121 Water Street in the narrow space between the rear wing and the corner of the unit.

The rear wing extends across nearly the full width of the west rear elevation of both 119 and 121 Water Street and probably houses their kitchens. A large brick chimney in the middle of the shed roof probably serves both units. The wing appears to have had a rear shed-roofed canopy which has been enclosed. Despite this minor alteration, the duplex has had few alterations compared to the majority of the other dwellings in the neighborhood, which have had multiple additions and alterations on their rear elevations. The roof of the kitchen wing and shed extension are covered with asphalt shingles. The south elevation of the kitchen wing has one two-light, sliding window and a six-panel door. The west rear elevation of the kitchen addition has a nine-light, two-panel door, which is covered with a storm door.

The shed roof of an addition on the rear of the adjacent duplex, 115-117 Water Street, extends over the passage between the buildings and meets the north side wall of the rear wing. A vertical-board gate extends across the width of the passage.

A non-contributing gambrel-roofed plywood storage shed is located near the rear of 121 Water Street.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistory	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	c. 1898	Builder/Architect	unknown
check:	Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
	and/or		
	Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
	Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The frame double dwelling at 119 and 121 Water Street was built in Lot 6 of Mary Welty's Addition to Frederick, a small subdivision on the south side of the B&O Railroad tracks. It was probably built in the mid-1890s by one of the members of the Ford family, who built a number of the frame dwellings in the subdivision.

This small subdivision, accessed by the newly created Water Street, was developed in the last decade of the nineteenth century on an undeveloped tract of land. Horace Welty and John S. Ramsburg surveyed the approximately two-acre tract and divided it into twenty lots, as illustrated in a May 23, 1891 plat recorded in the land records of Frederick County. Horace Welty's wife Mary A. Welty then purchased the surveyed tract from Joseph Welty, who was her father-in-law, for one dollar "and natural love and affection."

Within the same year that the tract was subdivided, Mary Ford purchased Lot 6 from Mary and Horace Welty for \$42.50. The lot appears to have remained undeveloped until after 1897, however, because it was shown as a vacant lot on the 1897 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Frederick, Maryland*. The adjacent duplex at 115-117 Water Street, however, appears to have been built around 1893, by John Lewis Ford, and was occupied by Annie and John Benjamin Ford and by Annie Ford's widowed sister Sophia Ford.

Because the Ford's owned a number of lots that they built upon and transferred among themselves, it is difficult to determine from the tax records when this dwelling was erected. By 1904, however, it was shown on the Sanborn Map as a two-story frame double house, each half having a one-story rear wing. The units in the building were numbered 33 and 35 Water Street.

From the start, the houses appear to have been occupied by renters. Although the 1910 census listed no occupants in 121 Water Street, 119 was rented by Charles Shelton, a 25-year-old hosiery stamper at the hosiery factory; his wife Cora, a 24-year-old housekeeper; and two young sons. Again in 1920, the census did not list any occupants in 121 Water Street, but by that time, 119 was rented by the Hahn family, which is most likely the same family that had been enumerated in 115 Water Street in 1910. Although the head of the household was listed in the census as Michael, rather than Jacob, his age and that of the other members of the family suggest it was the same person. He had a 68-year-old wife named Kathryn Hahn, and a daughter Mary Gilbert, who was an employee of the canning factory. She had an 18-year-old daughter Madaline and a 4-year-old son, despite the fact that she appears to have been widowed for more than ten years.

The Hahns remained at 121 Water Street throughout the 1920s, but in the 1930s and 1940s, the unit housed a succession of occupants. Helen Albaugh resided in the house in the 1940s and 1950s followed by James Bartlett, who worked as a driver. The unit at 119 Water Street was occupied by Eugene Wright in the 1930s and 1940s, followed by Ray and Emily Lowe. Emily Low, a presser, remained in the house until the 1950s, but by 1960, the dwelling was occupied by Bruce Baer who had grown up in the neighborhood. A third generation occupant of Lower Depot and Welty's Addition, Baer continues to own the house and live in the neighborhood.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES Continuation Sheet

MHT # FHD-1289

Name of Property 119-121 Water Street

Frederick County

Section number 4 Page 1

119 Water Street Bruce O. and Shirley A. Baer
119 Water Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

121 Water Street Mary Jane and Brenda Harper Cregger
121 Water Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES
Continuation Sheet**

MHT # [REDACTED]

FHD-1289

Name of Property

119-121 Water Street

Frederick County

Section number 9 **Page** 1

Frederick County Recorder of Deeds, *Frederick County Land Books*, liber WIP 13, folios 372, 376.

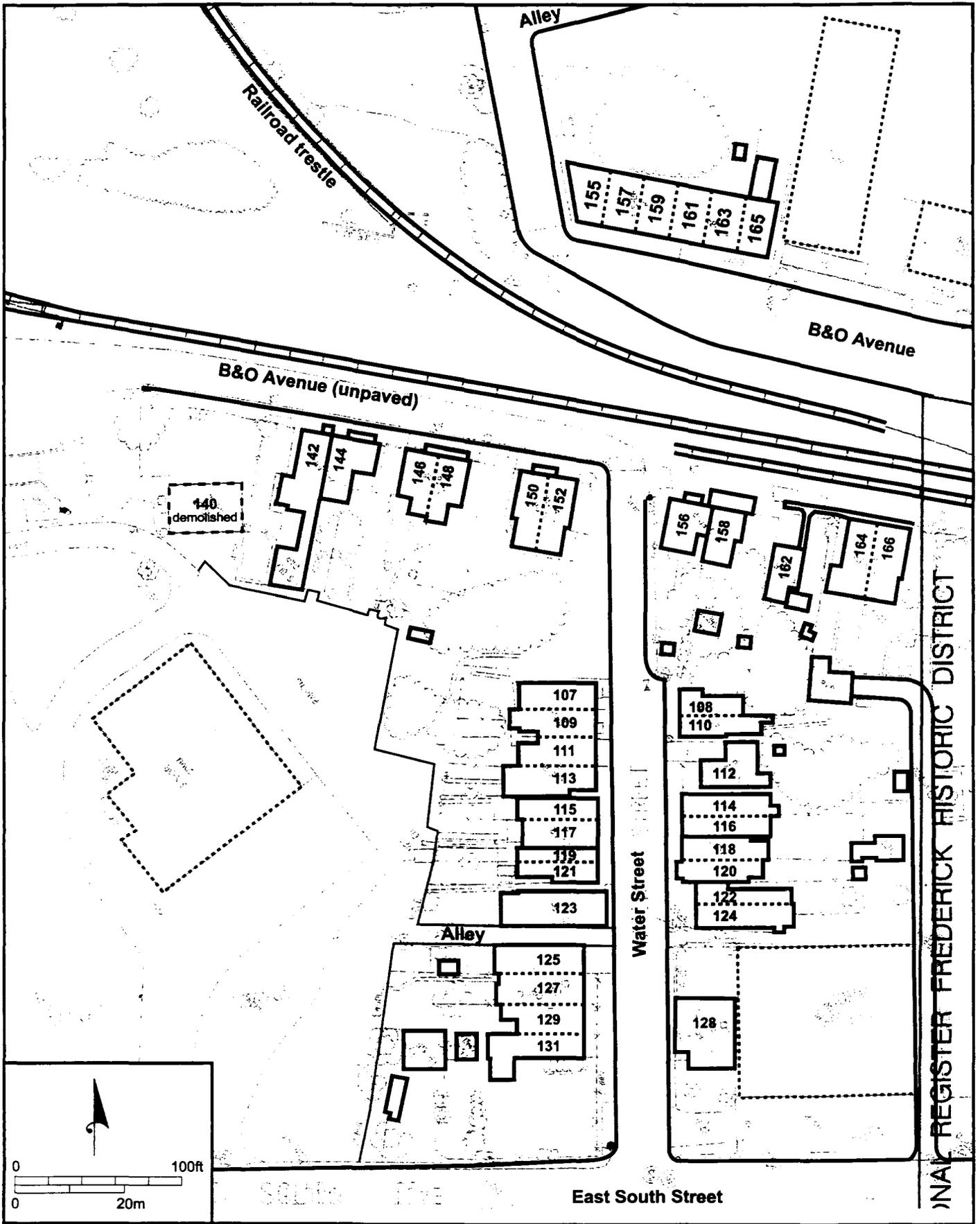
Polk, R.L. and Co., *Polk's Directory of Frederick*, New York, New York, 1928-29, 1935, 1940-41, 1946, 1950, 1955, 1960.

Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Map of Frederick, Maryland*, New York, New York, 1904.

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

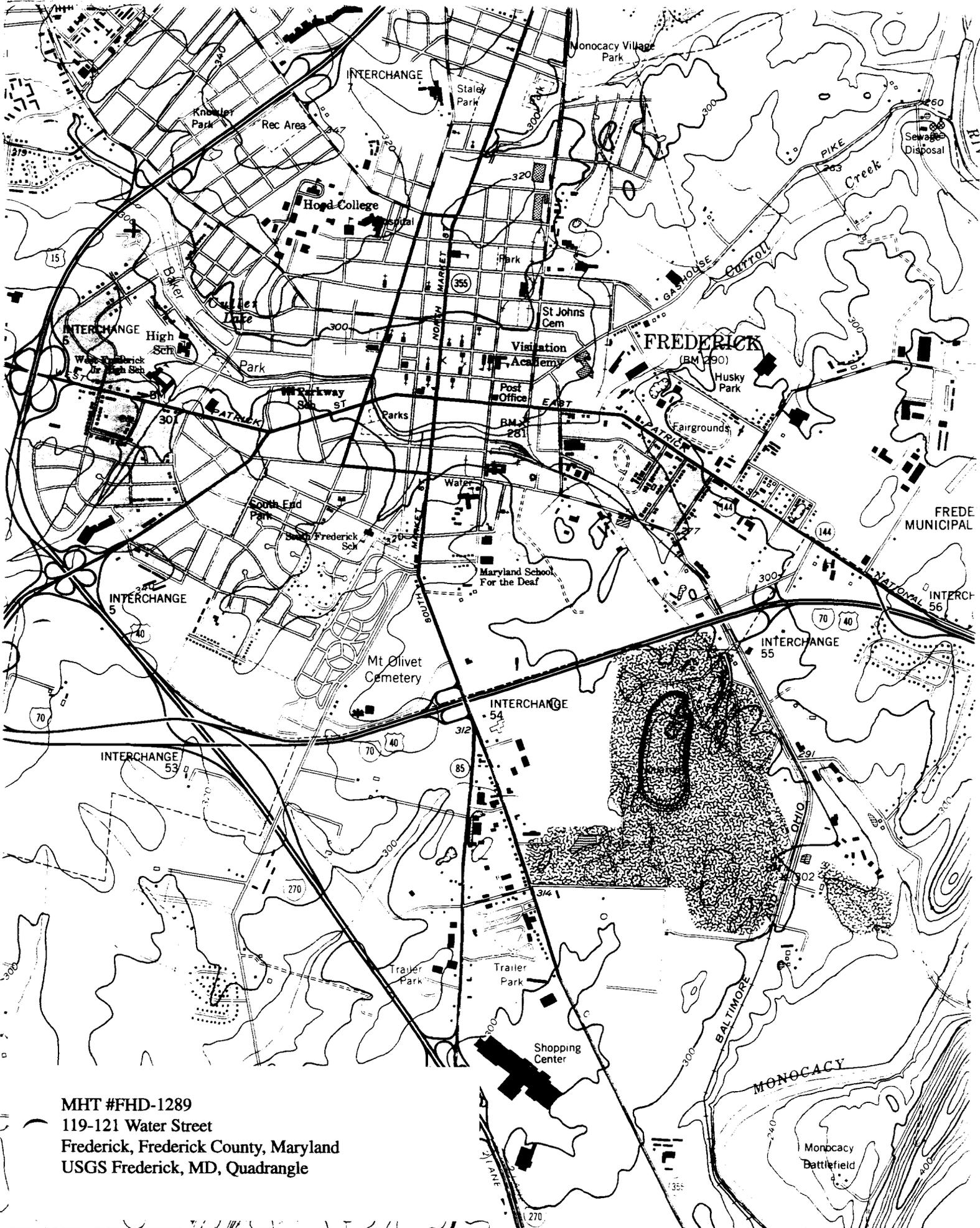
119-121 Water Street, MHT #FHD-1289

Date	Transaction	Property description	Reference
1960	City Directory: Bruce Baer employee Donald B. Rice Tire Co. (119); Jacob Bartlett (Kathleen) driver (121)	occupants of 119-121 Water Street	Polk 1960
1955	City Directory: Emily Lowe (119); Jacob Bartlett, huckster (121)	occupants of 119-121 Water Street	Polk 1955
1950	City Directory: Emily Lowe, presser (119); Helen Albaugh (121)	occupants of 119-121 Water Street	Polk 1950
1946	City Directory: Ray Lowe, household of 4 (119); Helen Albaugh, household of 5 (121)	occupants of 119-121 Water Street	Polk 1946
1940-41	City Directory: Eugene H. Wright, household of 5 (119); Russell Mattoon (Reatha) household of 3	occupants of 119-121 Water Street	Polk 1940-41
1935	City Directory: Eugene H. Wright (119); Thomas F. McCabe (121)	occupants of 119-121 Water Street	Polk 1935
1928-29	City Directory: Harry Smith (119); J. M. Hahn (121)	occupants of 119-121 Water Street	Polk 1928-29
1920	Census: Michael Hahn, 78; Kathryn Hahn, 68, wife; Mary Gilbert, 44, daughter, widowed, laborer canning factory; Madaline, daughter, 18; Saul [?], son, 4	Renters of 119 Water Street; no occupants listed in 121 Water Street	1920 Census
1910	Census: Charles Shelton, 25, hosiery stamper; Cora, wife, 24, housekeeper; Charles, 4; H.W. (son), 2	Renters of 119 Water Street; no occupants listed for 121 Water Street	1910 Census
1904	Map:	33 and 35 Water Street, 2-story frame rowhouses, 1-story rear wings	Sanborn 1904
1900	Census: no occupants listed for 33 or 35 Water Street		1900 Census
1897	Map:	vacant lot	Sanborn 1897
Nov. 7, 1891	Deed: Mary Alice and Horace G. Welty to Mary Ford for \$42.50	Lot 6	WIP 13/691
May 23, 1891	Plat of Mary A. Welty's Addition to Frederick, Maryland	Lot 6 is shown as a 25'-wide lot facing east onto Water St.	Deed Book WIP 13/376



NATIONAL REGISTER FREDERICK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Resource Sketch Map
 MHT #FHD-1289
 119-121 Water Street
 Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland



MHT #FHD-1289
 119-121 Water Street
 Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland
 USGS Frederick, MD, Quadrangle



MHT # FHD-1289

119 & 121 S. Water St., Frederick, Md.

Awita Dodd 8/96

MD SHPO

EAST (FRONT) ELEVATION. Looking NW

119 & 121 ARE AT LEFT SIDE OF PHOTOGRAPH

1 of 3



MHT # FHD-1289

119 & 121 S. WATER ST, FREDERICK, Md

Anita Dodd 8/96

MD SHPO

WEST (REAR) ELEVATION, Looking NE

121 & 119 ARE IN MIDDLE OF PHOTOGRAPH

2 of 3



MHT # FHD-1289

119 & 121 S. Water St., Frederick, Md.

Anita Dodd 8/96

MD SHPO

West (REAR) Elevation. Looking SE

119 & 121 ARE at the right of photograph

3 of 3