

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Edwards House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Main Street at Pennsylvania Avenue, SE corner  not for publication

city, town Grantsville  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Garrett

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Harry Kenneth Edwards

street & number Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Grantsville state and zip code Maryland 21536

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garrett County Courthouse liber # 223

street & number South Third Street folio # 361

city, town Oakland state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. G-II-C-006

<u>    </u> excellent	<u>    </u> deteriorated	<u>    </u> unaltered	<u>XX</u> original site
<u>XX</u> good	<u>    </u> ruins	<u>XX</u> altered	<u>    </u> moved    date of move    _____
<u>    </u> fair	<u>    </u> unexposed		

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

The Edwards House is located on the south side of Main Street in Grantsville on the southeast corner of the intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Edwards House is a 1½ story frame dwelling dating to circa 1830-60. It is five bays long and two rooms deep, with a pitched gable roof oriented on an east-west axis and an original rear wing forming an L plan. The house has been extensively altered over the years, but the original form and plan as well as numerous early features have survived intact. The house is notable as an example of a Greek Revival house form that was extremely popular in New York and Ohio but is extremely rare in Western Maryland.

The front facade of the Edwards House faces north to Main Street (U.S. Route 40). The house rests on a high stone foundation with raised square section joints. The door is located in the center bay, with two small 2/2 windows to the west and one modern picture window to the east, replacing two original double hung sash windows. The 2/2 windows to the west replace larger original sash windows removed by the present owner. The entrance door is flanked by narrow three-light sidelights on each side and is set back into the facade approximately 12-15 inches. Simple pilasters with molded Greek Revival capitals flank the door, the side-lights, and the jambs of the entranceway. A modern shed roof dormer window is centered on the roof on this facade. A pair of six-light window openings pierce the stone foundation in the two east bays, marking the location of an original cellar under the center and east portions of the house. The original siding has been replaced with or concealed by modern aluminum siding. The eaves are boxed in and trimmed with a simple but bold flattened ogee bedmold applied against a broad frieze. A double band of plain trim is carried across the facade at the base of the frieze.

The fenestration on the east gable wall is asymmetrical. A single 2/2 window is located at the north end of the wall and two modern windows are located at the south end on the first floor; a single 2/2 window is offset to the north in the upper gable. A cellar door is located directly below the north window and a six-light cellar window pierces the foundation to the south. The jointing is not raised or in any way defined on this wall. The early siding has been covered with aluminum siding and the gable eaves oversail. A modern concrete block chimney has been added to left of center on this gable wall.

On the west gable wall, there are two 2/2 windows on the first story and two smaller 2/2 windows in the upper gable. This end of the house has a pedimented gable, with the cornice on the front facade carried on across the gable wall as well. The gable eaves have been altered and the bed mold and frieze trim are only evident at cornice level. The cornice is carried across the gable wall and continues to the rear, enclosing the eave of an original rear L. One 2/2 window is centered on the west wall of the L. The foundation has been concealed with concrete; the siding is aluminum.

The rear of the house has been altered to some extent. An early L-shaped rear porch as been enclosed, leaving one earlier window and two door openings in place,

# 8. Significance

Survey No. G-II-C-006

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input 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 type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The Edwards House is significant as an extremely unusual house form in Garrett County and for its association with the early history of Grantsville.

The form, style and detail of this house is typical of the Greek Revival period, circa 1830-60. While the 1½ story full Georgian plan form was relatively popular during the Greek Revival period in New York and Ohio, this house type is only rarely found in Western Maryland and southwestern Pennsylvania and may be unique in Garrett County. While the house has undergone numerous alterations over the years, the plan and overall form survive intact, and much of the early detailing remains. The most significant details are the exquisitely detailed front entrance, the handsome interior stair, and the pedimented gable cornice on the west facade of the house.

It is recorded in Scharf's History of Western Maryland that the "present village of Grantsville was never regularly laid out as a town, but after its foundation lots were at different times laid out by Joel Miller, Adam and Perry Shultz".<sup>1</sup> The lot on which the Edwards House stands was purchased from Adam Shultz by George Brown in 1852.<sup>2</sup> Brown evidently married the daughter of Adam Shultz<sup>3</sup>, but in 1854, at the age of 33, he died.<sup>4</sup> The property remained in the Brown family until 1868, when Norman Brown, son of George Brown and grandson of Adam Shultz, sold it to John Bender.<sup>5</sup> In 1871 Bender conveyed the property to Catherine F. Breuninger<sup>6</sup> and in 1875 John G. Breuninger sold it to William R. Getty<sup>7</sup>. Eight years later, Getty sold the property to Mary L. McKenzie<sup>8</sup>. In 1959, Harry K. Edwards purchased the property from the McKenzie family.<sup>9</sup>

### Footnotes

1. Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland Vol. II, p. 1532.
2. Allegheny County Land Records, Book HR No. 8, p. 324-25. February 19, 1852. Adam Shultz to George Brown.
3. Scharf, p. 1533.
4. Ibid, p. 1532.



## 7.1 Description (Con't)

now opening into the porch addition.

The interior consists of a full Georgian plan with an original one room rear L projecting from the west end of the rear facade. The stair hall passes through the center of the house and is flanked by two rooms on each side. The stair rises against the east wall of the hall to a landing against the rear or south wall, then turns 180 degrees and rises to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with a turned newel post, square balusters and a plain rail. The lower portion of the carriage piece is molded with a flattened Greek ogee. The area below the carriage is plastered. A paneled door under the stair landing opens onto the cellar stair. The cellar door is one of at least four original doors that survive on the first floor. These are typical of the Greek Revival period, with two vertical panels side-by-side. They are mounted on butt hinges and have early cast-iron latches. Two of the doors are fitted with "twist" latches and one with a thumb latch.

Each of the four rooms flanking the stair passage was originally heated by a gable wall fireplace. The chimneys have been demolished, however, leaving only the framing evidence to suggest size and location. Early surviving trim on the first floor includes the original baseboard and some architrave trim on the interior door openings. An enclosed winder stair in the northwest corner of the wing leads up to the loft of the wing, which was unfinished until recent years.

The second floor of the main house consists of a center stair passage flanked by a single chamber on each side. The north end of the passage is partitioned to form an unheated chamber that has been adapted for a modern bath. Simple early trim survives in the stair passage.

The cellar originally extended under the east and center portion of the house, and now extends the full length of the building. A heavy hewn summer beam bisects the house longitudinally from east to west, with vertically sawn joists set parallel to the gable walls and let down into the summer beam. According to the present owner, the northeast chimney base included a fireplace; but this was destroyed when the chimneys were taken down.

8.1 Footnotes (Con't)

5. Allegheny County Land Records, Book HR No. 34, p. 44. February 17, 1868.  
Norman Brown, et. al. for Estate of George Brown, to John Bender.
6. Allegheny County Land Records, Book HR No. 34, p. 44. April 1, 1871.  
John Bender to Catherine F. Breuninger.
7. Garrett County Land Records Book WHT No. 2, p. 237. October 18, 1875.  
John G. Breuninger to William R. Getty.
8. Garrett County Land Records, Book 8, p. 48. April 24, 1883.  
William R. Getty to Mary L. McKenzie.
9. Garrett County Land Records.  
  
Book 148, p. 31. July 22, 1947.  
Della Jordan, widow of Arthur, to Charles C. Nathan  
  
Book 148, p. 32. July 22, 1947.  
Charles C. Nathan to Thomas McKenzie,  
  
Book 223, p. 361. June 22, 1959.  
Thomas B. McKenzie to Harry K. Edwards.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Edwards House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street at Pennsylvania Avenue, SE corner

CITY OR TOWN:  
Grantsville

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Garrett

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Harry Kenneth Edwards

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Grantsville STATE: Maryland

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Garrett County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South Third Street

CITY OR TOWN: Oakland STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 223-361

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edwards House stands on the south side of Main Street at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, southeast corner, in Grantsville, Northern Garrett County. The building sets back a few feet from the side walk on Main Street but quite close to Pennsylvania Avenue. The terrain rises slightly in a southerly direction.

The house is a one and a half story, frame structure with a stone foundation and a gable roof. The facade (north side) has five bays with a slightly recessed entranceway. A small, frame wing is attached to the back (south side) at the westerly end. The exterior walls and roof are covered with asbestos shingles.

There is a large, shed roof dormer with three-sash casement windows and covered with aluminum siding centered on the front part of the roof. The dormer is about as wide as the entranceway and appears to have been constructed in recent years. There is an internal, masonry chimney topped with bricks on the east end. The plain, flat cornice or entablature extends around the perimeter of the entire structure closing the gables.

The entranceway consists of an under door with sidelights and flanked by flat pilasters. The door is of recent vintage. The entrance is reached by a set of seven wooden steps. Most of the windows of the main portion are double-hung wooden sashes with one-over-one lights. The rooms on the first floor are arranged around a center hall.

The basic structure remains intact and the building is in a good state of general repair.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c.1840-c.1850

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of significance of this house is architectural. Although the house is not dated, it appears to have been built in the mid-nineteenth century, probably between 1840 and 1855.

Stylistically, the house is basically Greek Revival in design. The building is considerably less elaborate than noted examples of this type, but it is consistent with the rural adaptations of formal styles. The flat pilasters at the entranceway and the plain cornice or entablature are features characteristic of country Greek Revival.

This type of house is not commonly found in Garrett County, Maryland. Brick versions, however, do exist in Washington County, Maryland, and in Western Pennsylvania. In general, these brick examples date from the 1830's and have decorative detailing that is lighter than that found on this building. The frame, one and a half story Greek Revival houses are found in great number in Ohio and New York.

The house may have been erected for George Brown. It is recorded in Scharf's History of Western Maryland that the "present village of Grantsville was never regularly laid out as a town, but after its foundation lots were at different times laid out by Joel Miller, Adam and Perry Shultz" (p.1532). The property was purchased by Brown in 1852 from Adam Shultz. (Al. Co. Deed Bk. HR#8, P.324-325). The house may date past 1852. Scharf also records that Brown died in 1854 at the age of 33 (P. 1532); but the property was retained by the family until 1864 when it was sold. (Al. Co. Deed Bk. HR#34, P.44). Apparently George Brown married the daughter of Adam Shultz because Scharf identifies Norman Brown, the son of George, as a grandson of Shultz (P. 1533).

Garrett County Land Records, Courthouse, Oakland, Md.:

Book 223, Page 361 --  
22 June, 1959  
Grantor: Thomas B. McKenzie  
Grantee: Harry K. Edwards

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Md.  
 Garrett County Land Records, Oakland, Md.  
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, Vol. II  
 Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one (1) acre.

**Acreage Justification:**  
 Property measures approximately 60'x70'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COUNTY:

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Ronald L. Andrews, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc. DATE: 4/22/74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Suite 510, Algonquin Motor Inn

CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORMCONTINUATION SHEET

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Edwards House

## #8 SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Book 148, Page 32 --

22 July, 1947

Grantor: Charles C. Nathan

Grantee: Thomas McKenzie

Book 148, Page 31 --

22 July, 1947

Grantor: Della Jordan, Widow of Arthur

Grantee: Charles C. Nathan

Book 8, Page 48 --

24 April, 1883

Grantor: William R. Getty

Grantee: Mary L. McKenzie

Book WHT No. 2, Page 237 --

18 October, 1975

Grantor: John G. Breuninger

Grantee: William R. Getty

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Md.

Book HR No. 34, Page 44 --

1 April, 1871

Grantor: John Bender

Grantee: Catherine F. Breuninger

Book HR No. 34, Page 44 --

17 Bevruary, 1868

Grantor: Norman Brown et. al. for Estate of George Brown.

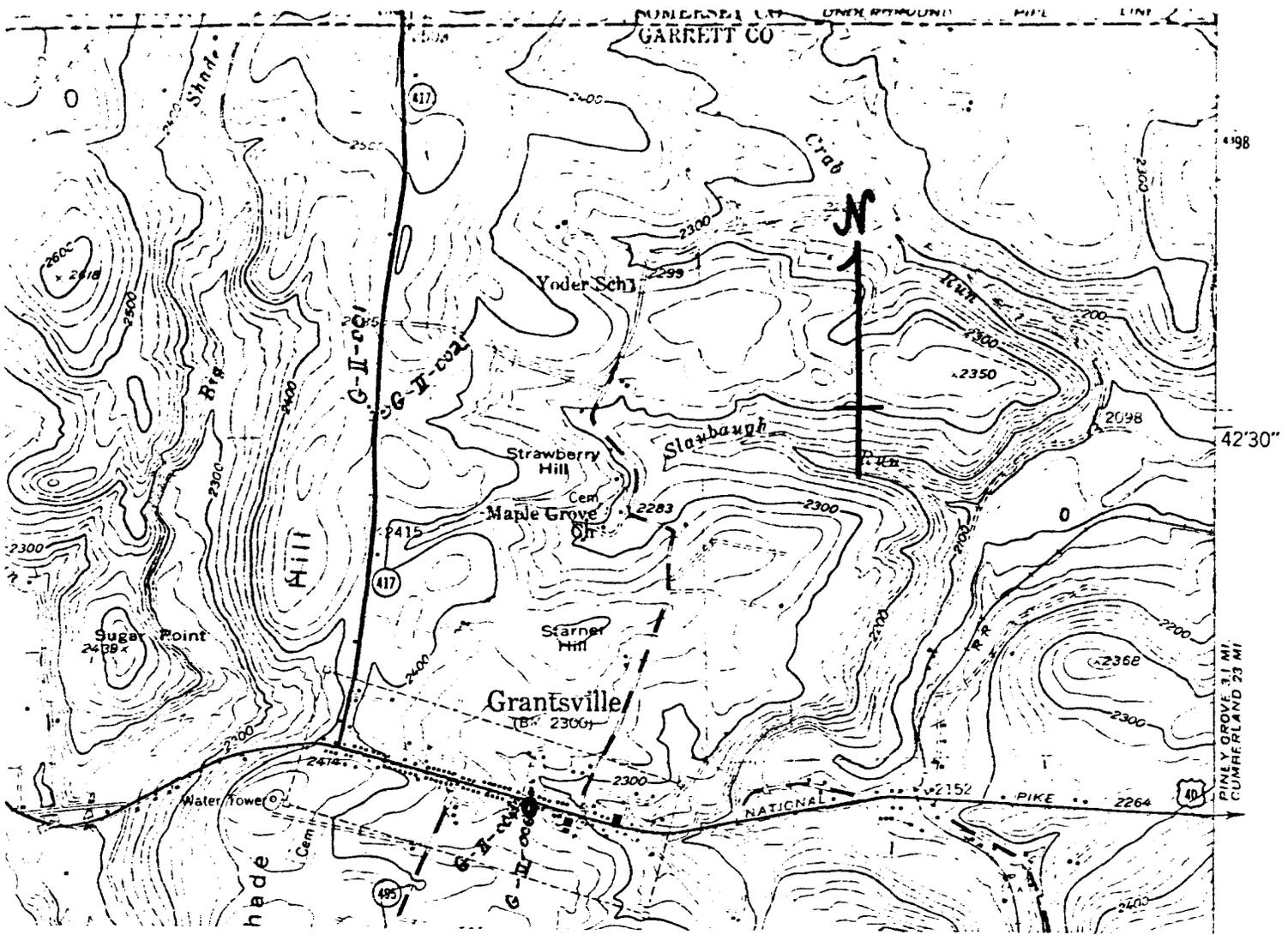
Grantee: John Bender

Book HR No. 8, Page 324-325 --

19 February, 1852

Grantor: Adam Shultz

Grantee: George Brown



Edwards House  
 Main Street at Pennsylvania Avenue, SE corner  
 Grantsville, Garrett County, Maryland

Grantsville, Md.-Pa. (USGS)  
 7.5 minute series  
 scale 1:24000  
 1946



Edwards house  
Main Street at Pennsylvania Ave, SE corner  
Grantsville, Garrett County, Maryland

NW view

March, 1974

RONALD L. ANDREWS