

G-V-B-092

Steyer Survey District  
Steyer  
Private

late 19th c. to early 20th century

Steyer, like several other small towns along the Potomac River in Garrett County, came into existence to take advantage of the coal and timber industries in the Potomac Valley. The West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railway Company, which later became a part of the Western Maryland Railroad, provided the access to the area, reaching the point that would be known as Steyer by 1882. The coal and lumber companies were responsible for erecting most of the buildings in town. Today, Steyer consists of two vertical plank dwellings, two frame dwellings, a frame store, and a frame schoolhouse.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Steyer

AND/OR COMMON

Steyer Survey District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

White Church-Steyer Rd. , at junction with Steyer-Gorman Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Steyer

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE , zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

G-V-3-092

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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 DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Steyer Survey District is a group of six buildings located approximately two miles northeast of Gorman on the north side of the North Branch Potomac River. The Western Maryland Railroad follows the path of the river, passing through the southern edge of the district. Although the land is level where the buildings are grouped together, the surrounding terrain is quite hilly, sloping steeply down to the river.

The district is composed of two plank dwellings, two frame dwellings, a frame store, and a frame schoolhouse. The dwellings and the schoolhouse are situated along White Church-Steyer Road, the northbound artery out of Steyer; the store stands on the south side of the railroad tracks.

#1 The John Steyer House is a two-story, gable-roofed building of vertical plank construction supported on a stone foundation. The main block of the house, a three bay by two bay, center hall plan, is said to have been built in 1884; the addition of a two-story, rear wing was accomplished circa 1905. A walkway leads from the facade porch to the edge of the railroad tracks, approximately fifty feet distant. Recently, both the interior and exterior were remodeled. The remains of a concrete cave (root cellar) is located directly behind the house, and the granary and barn that were situated southeast of the house no longer stand.

#2 The other plank house is a two-story, gable-roofed building on a concrete foundation, measuring four bays by two bays. Its facade has two center doors and a full length, hip-roofed porch supported by turned posts with jigsaw brackets. A two-story, gable-roofed wing and a one-story, shed-roofed addition abut the rear elevation. The building retains its original weatherboard siding and 2/2 sash windows.

#3 The Superintendent's House is a two-story, gable-roofed frame structure on a recently concrete block foundation. Its basic configuration is a three bay by two bay, center hall plan with a two-story ell on the rear. The building is lit by 1/1 and 2/2 sash windows and is sheathed with German siding. Both its facade and rear porches have been enclosed.

#4 The Coal Company Duplex House is a square plan, two story, pyramidal-roofed frame building on a new concrete block foundation. It originally measured four bays by two bays, however, the facade was reduced to three bays when the house was converted from a duplex into a single family dwelling. Other alterations include aluminum siding and an enclosed rear porch.

#5 The store is a one-story, gable-roofed, frame building on a poured concrete foundation. Its false front, gable end facade has recessed doorway with grouped 2/2 sash windows on either side. The only other window is a sash window on the opposite endwall. German siding sheathes the exterior. The interior is a single room with shelves lining both sides and the rear. Its walls and ceiling are paneled with narrow beaded board.

#6 The Schoolhouse, one-story, gable-roofed frame building, is largely obscure by additions.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES late 19th c. to early 20th c. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Steyer, like several other small towns along the Potomac River, came into existence to take advantage of the coal and timber industries in the Potomac Valley. The West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railway Company, which later became a part of the Western Maryland Railroad, provided the access to the area, reaching the point that would be known as Steyer by 1882.<sup>1</sup> The John Steyer House is thought to have been built for a railroad superintendent, it being sold to John Steyer later on.<sup>2</sup>

Little is known about Steyer's early period. However, it is said that William Whitmer erected the first buildings on the site. They were a sawmill, eight houses and a store.<sup>3</sup>

Just after the turn of the twentieth century, A.G. Miller and Company started a sawmill at Steyer. They ran their own narrow gauge rail line along Steyer Run to transport the logs to their mill, and then shipped the lumber east on the West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railway.<sup>4</sup>

In 1903, the Datesman Coal Company acquired land at Steyer adding a store, a saloon, nine houses, a tippie, and a post office to the town.<sup>5</sup> The Superintendent's House and the duplex house date from this period.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup>Stephen Schlosnagle, Garrett County, A History of Maryland's Tableland. (Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Company, 1978), pp. 267-8.

<sup>2</sup>Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Nogle, Steyer, 13 August 1981.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

August 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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Steyer Survey District

#9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Mrs. Paul E. Steyer, Steyer, 13 August 1981.

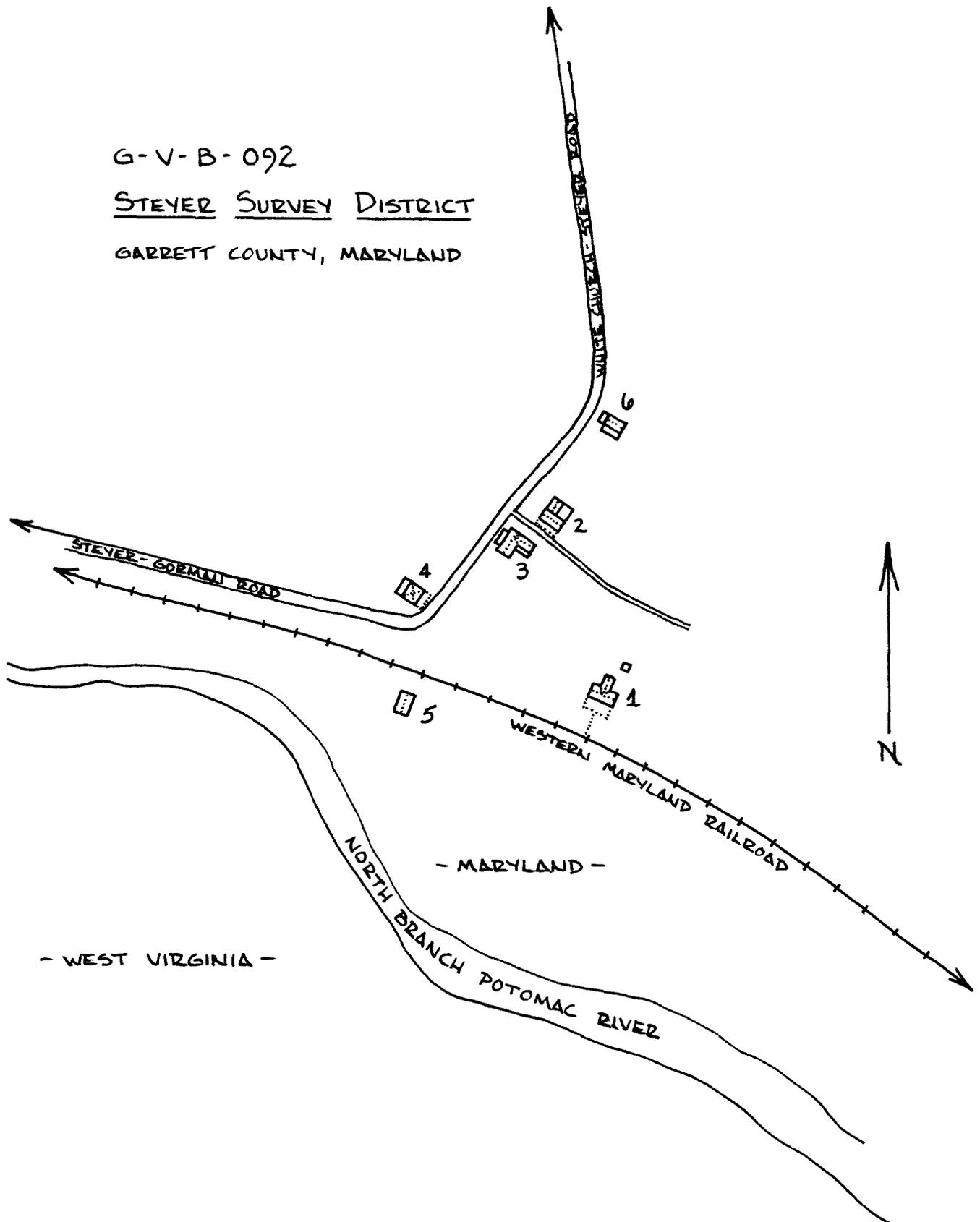
<sup>4</sup>Benjamin F. G. Kline, Jr. Tall Pines and Winding Rivers, 1976, p. 74.

<sup>5</sup>Interview with Mrs. Paul E. Steyer, Steyer, 13 August 1981.

G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT

GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND



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VALERIE CESNA — 22 NOVEMBER 1981

NOT TO SCALE



Gorman, MD-WV  
USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
Scale - 1:24,000  
1949; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-V-B-092  
Steyer Survey District  
White Church - Steyer Rd. at  
junction with Steyer-Gorman  
Rd.



G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT  
GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

#1 JOHN STEYER HOUSE

FACADE: SW ELEVATION



G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT  
GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

#1 JOHN STEYER HOUSE  
REAR: SE + NE ELEVATIONS



G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT  
GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

#2

FACADE: SW + SE ELEVATIONS



G-V-B-092

STEVEY SURVEY DISTRICT

GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

#2

REAR: SE + NE ELEVATIONS



G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT

GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CEDNA

13 AUGUST 1981

#3 - SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE  
FACADE: NW + NE ELEVATIONS



G-V-B-092

STEVEN SURNEN DISTRICT

GARRETT CO., MD

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

#3 SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE  
REAR: SW + SE ELEVATIONS



G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT  
GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

# 4 COAL COMPANY DUPLEX HOUSE  
FACADE: SE + NE ELEVATIONS



G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT

GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

# 4 COAL COMPANY DUPLEX HOUSE

REAR: SW + NW ELEVATIONS



G-V-B-092

STEYER SURVEY DISTRICT

GARRETT CO., MD.

V. CESNA

13 AUGUST 1981

#5 STORE

FACADE: NE ELEVATION