NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

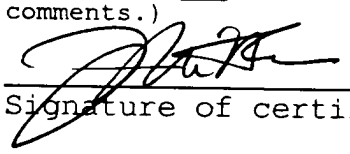
historic name Piper House
other names/site number WA-II-703

2. Location

street 200 East Main Street
not for publication n/a city or town Sharpsburg vicinity x
state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21782

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official — Date 9-22-99

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
____ removed from the National Register _____

____ other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_x_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		sites
	2	structures
		objects
1	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in National Register 0
Name of related multiple property listing n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Metal
walls Stone; brick
other Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
_x_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance ca. 1792-ca. 1857

Significant Dates ca. 1792; ca. 1804; ca. 1834

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a
Cultural Affiliation n/a
Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre
USGS quadrangle Keedysville, MD-WV
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	263750	4371080	C	__	_____	_____
B	__	_____	_____	D	__	_____	_____

__ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property comprises Lot #145 in the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland, measuring 103' by 206'; boundaries are described in Washington County Land Records, Liber 476, folio 552.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property comprises the single town lot historically associated with the resource.

1. Form Prepared By

name/title Merry Stinson
organization n/a date March 1, 1999
street & number 21412 Leiter Street telephone (301) 791-1621
city or town Leitersburg state MD zip code 21742

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state ____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Piper House stands on the southeast corner of Main and Church Streets in Sharpsburg, Maryland. The two-story limestone main block, constructed ca. 1792-1804, faces north to Main Street; a two-story brick wing, added ca. 1834, extends to the rear, running parallel to Church Street on the west. The main block of the house measures five bays long by two bays deep. The ell is also five bays long. Each section is covered by a galvanized metal gable roof. Nine-over-six windows light the entire house and transoms top all exterior doors except the rear hall door. A hip-roofed porch shelters the main central entrance. Another porch covers the ell's entrance in the first bay of the west side. A two-story galleried porch runs along the entire east side of the ell.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The floor plan of the original section comprises a central stair hall flanked by one long room on either side. Originally the library to the east was divided into two equal rooms, and the western parlor's south end was partitioned off at the end of the chimney block. One fireplace is located in the parlor. The library has two fireplaces, with a paneled-door cupboard in between.

The second floor plan is similarly arranged, with two bedrooms on the east and one on the west. The west and northeast bedrooms each have a fireplace. Paneled cupboards adjoin the chimney block on the east wall of the southeast bedroom.

The ell includes a dining room, kitchen, and keeping room, running north to south. The wall between the dining room and kitchen was originally closed about two-thirds of the way by paneled folding doors; these doors have been removed, leaving the space open. Fireplaces flanked by original paneled-door cupboards heat the south end of both the kitchen and the keeping room.

On the east side each of the three rooms has a door in the northern bay and a window in the southern bay. On the west side one window lights the keeping room, two light the kitchen, and a door flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom opens into the dining room.

The ell's second floor has one room over the keeping room and one large room, said to have been a ballroom, above the kitchen and dining room. A fireplace heats the south end of the ballroom. The fenestration and door

locations reflect those on the first floor with the exception of a window above the west side's doorway.

Attic windows in the gable ends each hold a single six-pane casement window. All doors are composed of six panels except for four-panel doors at the south end of the stair hall, the cellar, and the attic. Most of the six-panel doors are wood-grained on the raised-panel side to resemble mahogany, and sponge-painted on the back. Iron lever locks remain on most of the doors. The rear hall door hangs on strap hinges.

Three steps from the landing lead to the second floor level of the ell's porch. Originally one had to go outside on the porch and then enter the ballroom through its exterior door. The current owners boxed in this intersection for more comfortable access to the ballroom.

Original Federal period ovolo trim forming crossettes appears in the hall and the library. Bolection molded chair rails accompany this trim. Early nineteenth century Greek ovolo moldings and beaded chair rails and baseboards trim the rest of the house.

A heavy Victorian turned newel post replaces the original at the stair's first floor level. From the landing to the attic the stair retains its original appearance with scrolled step ends and slender turned newel posts and balusters. The handrail's typical Federal period profile includes a curved top followed by bolection and cavetto moldings.

Black marble mantels, Victorian replacements of the originals, are located in the library, the northeast bedroom, and the ballroom. Early nineteenth century wooden mantels with simple molded framing appear in the western bedroom and in the kitchen. The keeping room's large cooking fireplace is surrounded by plain heavy timbers. The parlor mantel with gougework and plaster garlands was applied by the present owners.

The beaded board wall enclosing the stair at the attic has been plastered. The back of the attic door retains an early paint treatment with gray-green stiles and rails and cream panels. The large rafters, hewn on all four sides, are positioned with their widest side against the roof sheathing. The apex is mortise-tenon-pegged and the sawn collar beams are half-lapped and pegged. The rafters' Roman numerals are located in an unusual position: on the side, halfway between the collars and the wall plate. The collar beams are set about 5' high, an uncomfortably low position. The sawn rafters in the brick addition are half-lapped and pegged at the apex, and half-lapped and double nailed with cut nails at the collar beams. These

collars are also set at the inconveniently low height of 5 feet. Narrow windbraces cross the rafters. Both sections of the attic are floored with original wide boards.

A full cellar is located under the hall and parlor, with crawl spaces under the rest of the house. The interior cellar entrance is at the back of the hall under the stair. The back of the cellar door shows original red paint. A relieving arch spanned by a wooden lintel supports the parlor fireplace. The floor joists are hewn on the top and bottom and laid with the widest side against the floor. A large summer beam hewn on all four sides runs east to west. Two small openings filled with vertical bars light the west end. The exterior cellar entrance is located in the north wall, and a small storage niche is set in the east wall.

The Piper House features fine coursed ashlar stonework on the main façade and well-laid rubble masonry on the other sides. Flat arches composed of finely cut stones top the door and window openings. Although the current pointing is cream-colored, remnants of black mortar are visible. The stone chimney tops each include a narrow drip course.

The ell is built in 5:1 common bond brickwork set on a stone foundation. Flat arches top the doors and windows. A canted limestone wall buttresses the average 20' drop along Church Street.

The main façade's shutters are paneled on the first floor and louvered on the second floor. The cornice under the eaves features a Greek key design. The cellar steps in the first bay west of the main entrance are covered by a wooden door.

The front porch includes jigsawn splats, chamfered posts, a curved hand rail, wooden deck, and scroll-cut brackets. The galleried porch has chamfered posts, a curved handrail, and square balusters. The small entrance porch on the west side of the ell has turned posts, a curved hand rail, and square balusters.

The property includes several non-contributing elements, all minor in scale. A one-story wood-frame building that functions as a small Civil War museum is located on the northeast corner of the lot. A gazebo, a small red barn, and a former chicken coop now used as a potting shed are located at the back of the property.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Piper House is significant under Criterion C as an exceptionally well preserved example of a type of vernacular domestic architecture which characterized Washington County in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Defining features of the type include finely-crafted masonry utilizing the distinctive native limestone of the region, a symmetrical façade, center-passage plan, galleried service ell, and crossetted architrave trim. The Piper House is one of four similar late eighteenth century limestone houses in Sharpsburg, and is distinguished among them by its outstanding state of preservation and the relatively expansive nature of its brick service wing. The period of significance, ca. 1792-ca. 1857, spans the period during which the building substantially achieved its present appearance.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

Sharpsburg, located a few miles northeast of the Potomac River in southern Washington County, Maryland, was laid out in 1763 by Colonel Joseph Chapline. The Piper House is one of four similar Federal period stone houses in the town. It is located at the prominent intersection of MD Rt. 65, also called the Sharpsburg Pike or Church Street, coming from Hagerstown to the north and MD Rt. 34 leading from Boonsboro and Keedysville from the east.

The lot on which the Piper House was built was first sold by Joseph Chapline to David Harvey in August 1789 for £5. When Harvey went bankrupt in 1792, Sheriff Daniel Stull sold the lot to Benjamin Tyson for £7.5.0. This scant rise in value indicates that no substantial improvements had been made to the lot.

However, by April 1804, when Tyson sold the lot to John Amon, the value had risen to £22.10.0. This is the value of some of the log dwellings in Sharpsburg at that time, as recorded in the 1804 Tax Assessment, but stone buildings were assessed at about £80 to £125. The 1804 assessment lists John Amon in Sharpsburg with a house and lot worth £100. It seems likely that Tyson had begun constructing the shell of a stone house in the 1790's which Amon finished after buying the property in April, 1804. The original architectural elements of the building support this theory.

Benjamin Tyson owned one other lot in Sharpsburg in the 1790's as well as three "out lots", which were designated as gardening but not building

sites, set aside at the west end of town. No other information was found regarding Tyson.

John Amon also left few records. He appeared in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 census. The 1804 Tax Assessment indicated that Amon owned two cattle, two sheep or hogs, £57 worth of household furniture (a comparatively substantial valuation) and personal property worth £67.

When Amon died in 1832 he willed his "House and Lot in Sharpsburgh, which I now occupy" to his wife Elizabeth. He also specified that his son-in-law John Highberger and his family should live in the house rent-free in compensation for Highberger's care of John and Elizabeth Amon. Amon's four daughters were also mentioned.

According to the Piper Family History by S. Webster Piper, Daniel Piper (1780-1857) was the son of (John) Jacob Pfeiffer (later Piper) who emigrated from Germany to the Sharpsburg area in 1763. Daniel Piper, who married Martha Brown, had 8 children, including Henry Piper. Daniel farmed the land that later, during the Civil War, became known as the Piper Farm. He was known to be a slaveholder. In his later years Daniel retired to his stone house in the town of Sharpsburg.

John Amon's heirs sold the house to Samuel Dietrick in 1834. He sold the property to Daniel Piper in 1839. Upon Piper's death in 1857 his son Henry Piper acquired the house. Henry Piper (1809-1891) married Elizabeth H. Keedy (1810-1887) in 1828 and had 8 children. He also farmed the Piper Farm, and was living there at the time of the Civil War battle in September, 1862. The farm was so severely devastated that Piper moved into his house in town, where Rev. Startzman had been living, in 1863. (The Piper House masonry was damaged by shelling during the Civil War; several bullets from the battle are still embedded in the doors.) Piper was a member of Christ Reformed Church in Sharpsburg. He was a Whig and later a Republican. Henry Piper was also a slaveholder. His slave Emory Summers was said to have been the last slave sold at the auction block in Sharpsburg. Summers continued to work for the Pipers after manumission at the end of the Civil War.

The house was passed along to two of Piper's daughters when he died in 1891. Several generations of Henry Piper's descendants owned the house until the mid-twentieth century. The current owners, John and Rosita Ray, who bought the Piper House in 1968, have carefully maintained its fine architectural elements.

The Piper House visually documents the architectural development of Sharpsburg from the 1790's through the 1850's. The fine coursed stonework and crossette architraves are typical features of the Federal period in the region, also seen in other late eighteenth century buildings in Sharpsburg. This part of the house was probably built, but perhaps not finished, by Benjamin Tyson between 1794 and 1804. John Amon most likely improved the structure, judging by the rise in value in the 1804 Tax Assessment.

Either Amon or Daniel Piper added the brick ell in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Daniel Piper also may have added the Victorian features such as the newel post and the marble mantels.

The Piper House shares a five-bay center-hall plan, end chimneys, and coursed limestone façade with three other Sharpsburg buildings: WA-II-500. The William Chapline House (109 W. Main St.), WA-11-715 (107 East Main Street), and WA-H-550, the Kretzer Homestead (128 East Main Street). Despite the architectural similarities it is not known if the same builder was responsible for all or even several of the houses.

The Piper House is the only dwelling in the group to retain its original windows. The Kretzer Homestead, which was probably built before the Piper House, differs from the other dwellings in that it displays regularly spaced closers at the corners of the main façade. 107 East Main Street is unique in its one-story form over a fully fenestrated, raised cellar. The William Chapline House, a National Register listed property, is most like the Piper House. It also was extended by a two-story brick ell with a galleried porch. Both the Chapline House and 107 East Main Street show remnants of black mortar.

The entire range of architectural detailing in the Piper House has been well preserved. Modern necessities have been added in a discreet manner and none of the significant woodwork has been altered or replaced. The masonry, grained doors, and crossetted trim are especially well-executed features. The brick ell survives in completely original condition.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A. D. 1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A. D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic: single dwelling

Known Design Source: none

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barron, Lee and Barbara. The History of Sharpsburg, Maryland. 1972

Frederick County Land Records and Wills, Frederick, Maryland

Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties for Washington County, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland

Mueller, Julianne. Architectural and Cultural Survey of Smithsburg and Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland.

Piper, S. Webster. Piper Family History.

Reed, Paula Stoner. "Building in Stone in the Cumberland Valley: A Study of Regional, Environmental, Technical, and Cultural Factors." PhD dissertation, 1988.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Schildt, John W. Drums Along the Antietam. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1972.

Schooley, Pat. "Piper House" Herald Mail, Hagerstown, MD, 10/4/98 p. DI

Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland. 1877 (map)

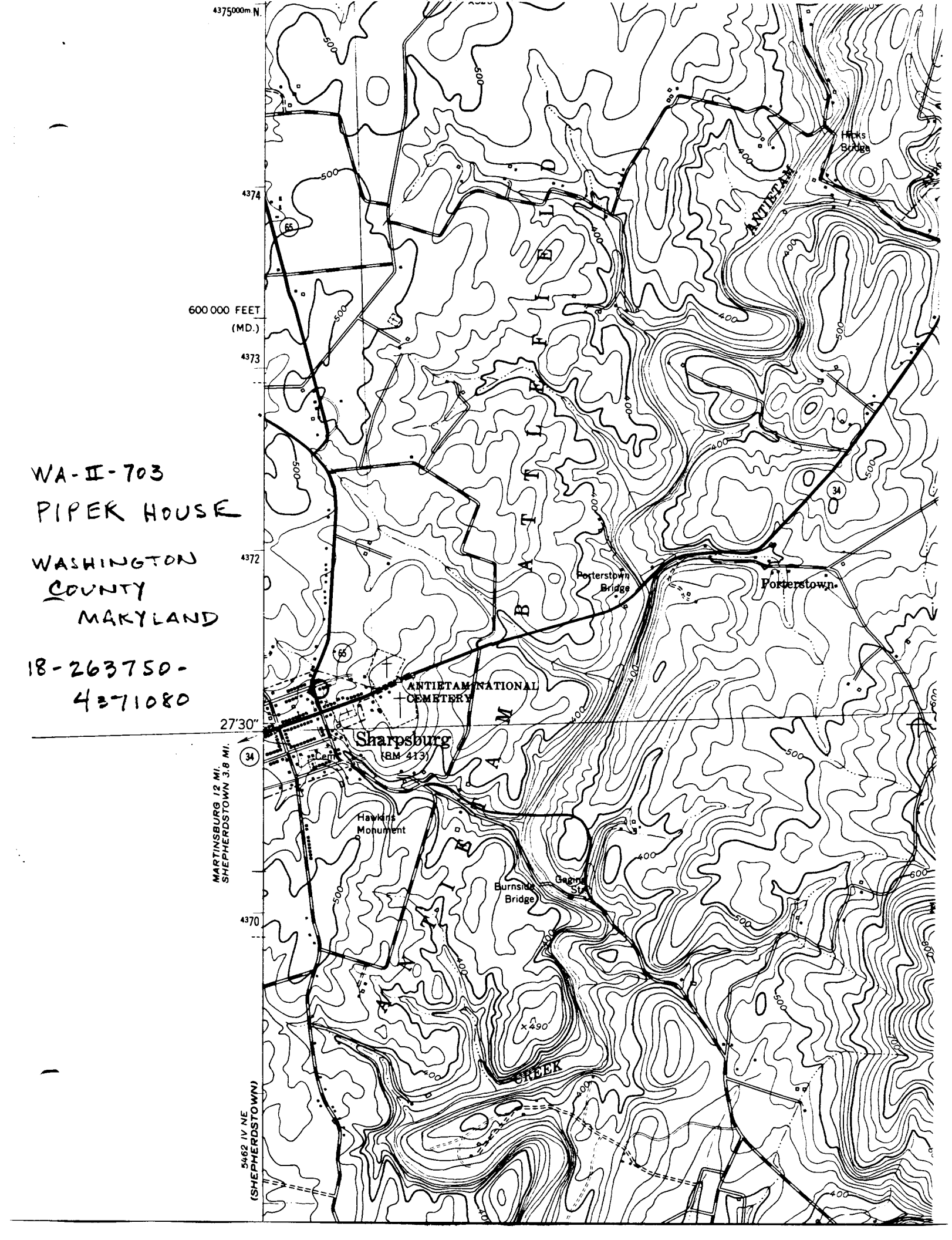
Washington County Land Records, Wills, Chancery Records, Hagerstown, Maryland

Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland, Western Maryland Room: general files, 1803 Tax Assessment

Williams, Thomas J.C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1969.

Wilshin, Francis F. Historic Structures Report: History Data, Antietam National Battlefield Site, Maryland. Division of History, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, August 28, 1969.

U. S. Census: Washington County, Maryland, 1810-1870



WA-II-703

PIPER HOUSE

WASHINGTON COUNTY MARYLAND

18-263750-4371080

WA-II-703 Pilot House
WA CO MD
Merry Stinson 1999
N&E elev.
MD SHPO
1 of 9

JAN 69 038 NNNB 1.---

neg. #7

WA-II-703 Piper House
WA Co MD
Merry Stinson. 1/99
MD SHPO
V & W elev.
2 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 4.---

Neg # 9

VA-II-703 Piper House

Merry Stinson 1/99

NC 270

S & E elev.

3 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 6.----

Neat #1

WA-II-703 Piper House
WA CO MD
Merry Stinson 1/99
MD SHPO
S&E elev.
4 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 7.---

neg #13

WA-II-703 Piper House
WA CO MD
Kerry Stinson 1/99
MD SHPO
Well entrance
5 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 10.---

neg #16

WA-II-703 Piper House
W- CO MD
Merry Stinson 1/91
MD SH70
library
6 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 11.---

WA-II-703
Piper House
VA to MD
Stinson 1/99
MD SHPO
hall door to library
7 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 13.----

WA-II-703 Piper House
WA 60 MD
Merry Stinson 1/99
MD SHPO
stair
8 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 16.---

neg # 20

WA-II-703 Piper House

Washington County WA CO MS

Henry Stinson 199

SHPO

stair - 2nd floor

9 of 9

JAN 99 038 NNNB 17.---

neg# 22

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-703
ADDRESS: 200 East Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD
OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: John G. Ray, Jr., 476/552, private
BUILDING DATE: late 18th/early 19th century?

200 East Main Street is a north-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, five-bay, two-and-a-half-story, L-shaped, stone and brick (wing), freestanding, residential structure on a stone foundation. The building is set directly at the public-right-of-way on a corner lot. The stone is set in a regularly coursed ashlar fashion on the front facade and random rubble on the side elevations. The standing-seam metal, side-gable roof has two massive, interior endwall stone chimneys and gable returns. The center-bay entrance is obscured by a louvered storm door. It is protected by a hipped-roof, open porch that is supported by slender posts connected by an ornamental flat-cut railing. Fenestration consists of single, rectangular, double-hung, nine-over-six windows with stone sills and jack arches. The windows all have paneled shutters. The ell is large, two-stories in height and is constructed of brick.

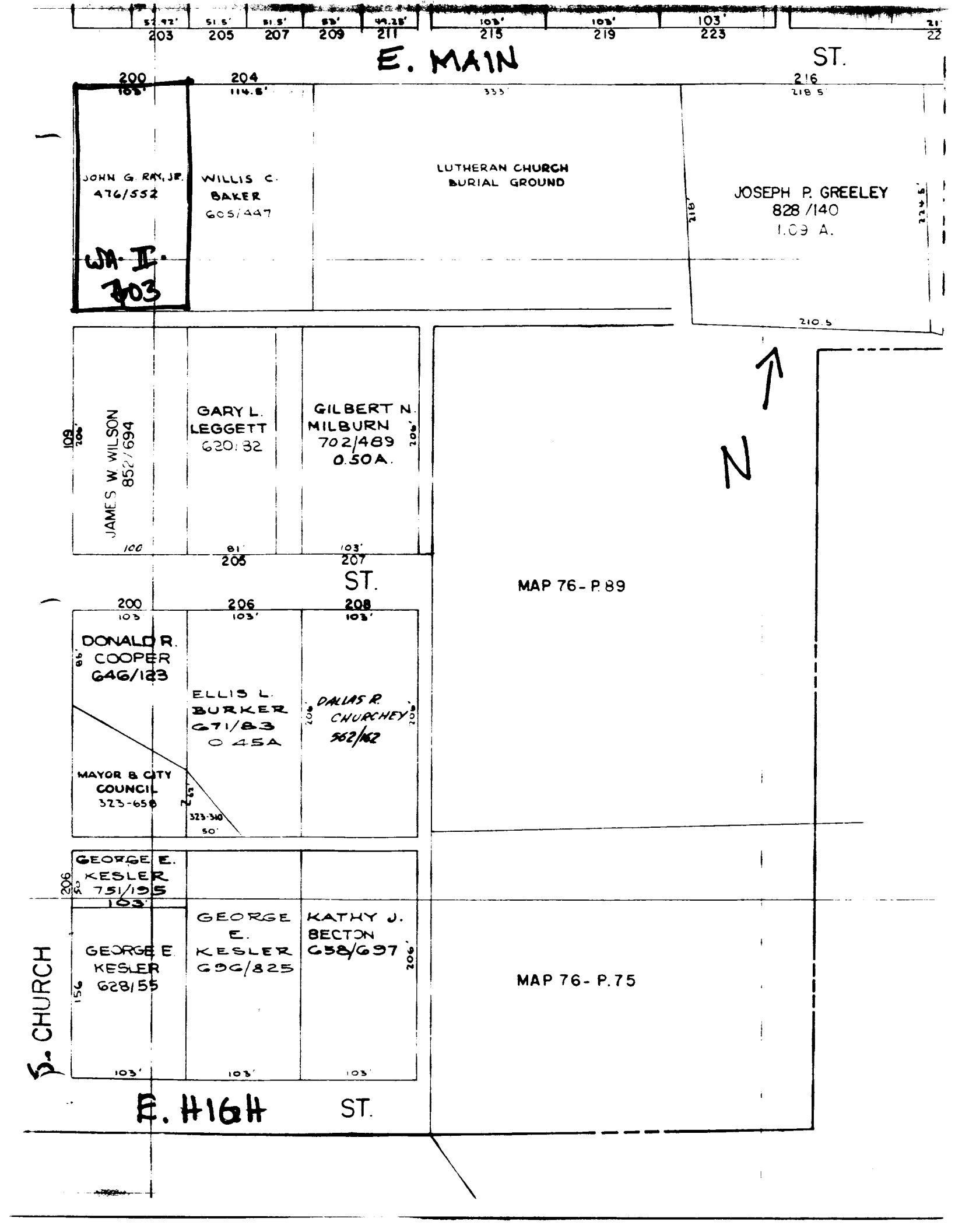
Based on the type of stone construction, the building appears to date from the late 18th/early 19th century. The entire building appears to be indicated on the 1877 map where is it noted as belonging to H. Piper. The structure is noted on the 1922 Sanborn as 514 East Main. Several other structures are indicated on the lot, including a brick outhouse, a one-and-a-half-story frame shed, a two-story barn and another one-story frame shed.

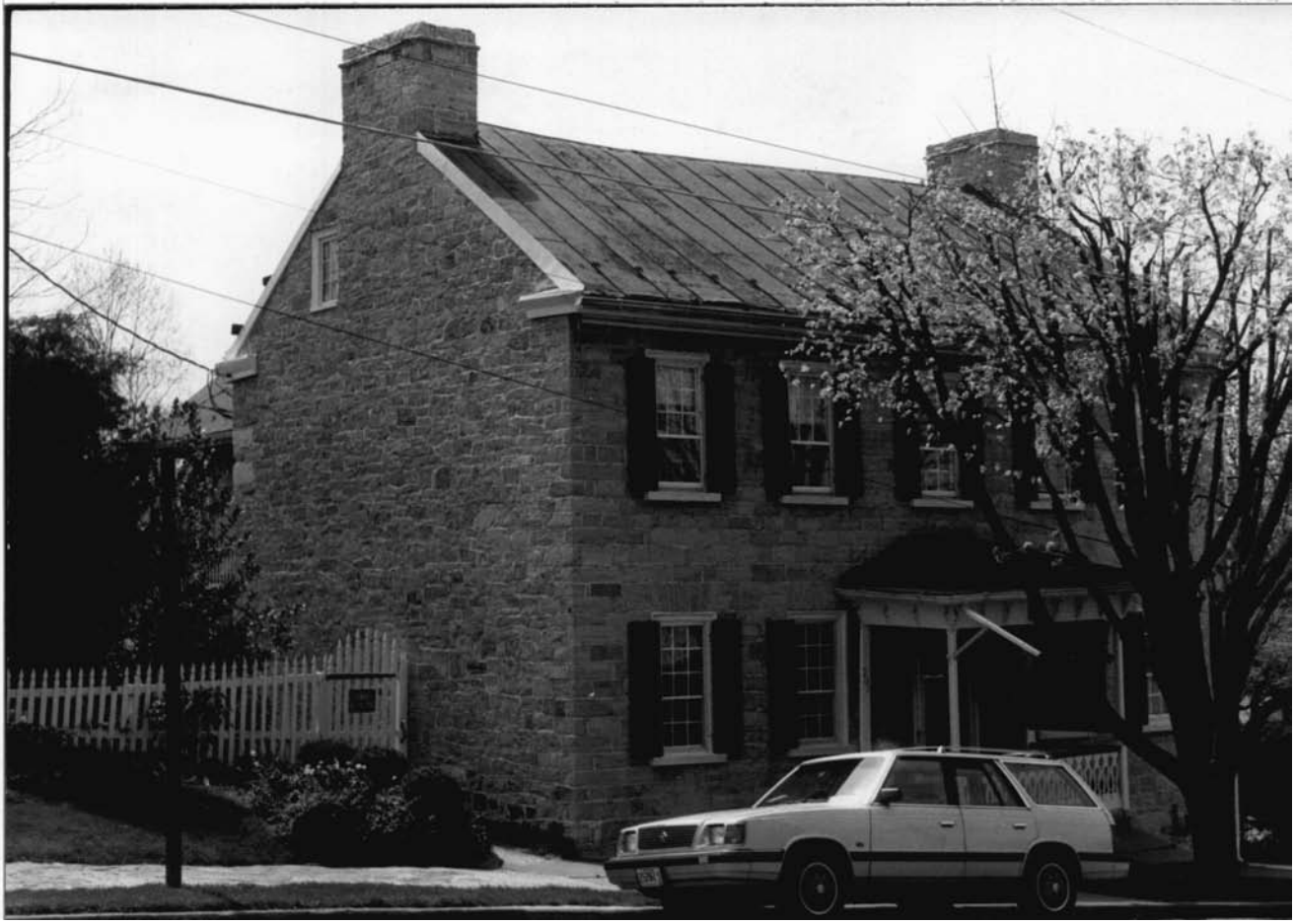
The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the possible Development Period of Rural Agrarian Intensification, and falls within the Historic Period Theme of

WA II-703

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, June 1991


203
205
207
209
211
215
219
223
E. MAIN ST.
200
204
216
JOHN G. RAY, JR.
476/552
WILLIS C. BAKER
605/447
LUTHERAN CHURCH BURIAL GROUND
JOSEPH P. GREELEY
828/140
1.09 A.
WA-II-303
JAMES W. WILSON
852/694
GARY L. LEGGETT
620/32
GILBERT N. MILBURN
702/489
0.50A.
205
207
ST.
MAP 76-P.89
N
200
206
208
DONALD R. COOPER
646/183
ELLIS L. BURKER
671/83
0.45A
DALLAS R. CHURCHEY
562/162
MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
323-650
323-340
GEORGE E. KESLER
751/195
GEORGE E. KESLER
628/55
GEORGE E. KESLER
696/825
KATHY J. BECTON
658/697
MAP 76-P.75
S. CHURCH
E. 116th ST.



WA - II - 703

200 E. Main, Sharpsburg, MD

4/91

P. Sackett Chrisman

looking SW