

Easement

WA-HAG-84

MAGI # 2204911204 6174

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Elliott-Bester House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
205-207 South Potomac Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 043

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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	The house is to be used as a museum after restoration.
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Restoration in progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

(upon completion of restoration work)

The house is to be used as a museum after restoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mary K. Bowman

STREET AND NUMBER:
951 The Terrace

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

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: CODE:

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Washington

ENTRY NUMBER:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

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 Elliott-Bester House is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Baltimore and South Potomac Streets in Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland. Its facade faces east, toward Potomac Street.

The two-story brick dwelling is seven bays in length, including a two-bay addition at its south end. It is painted yellow and is trimmed with black and white. A two-story four-bay ell extends to the rear or north of the main structure. To this ell is attached an early twentieth century concrete block addition which housed the Bester florist business.

Set on low stone foundations, the bricks of the original section of the facade, or east, wall and the north gable wall are laid in Flemish bond. Other walls display common bond brick work. A quarter round molded brick water table extends along the facade.

The windows, under segmental brick arches contain two over two pane Victorian period sashes. They are flanked with paneled shutters at the first story, and louvered shutters at the second floor level. A large store window has been installed in the bays north of the main entrance.

The two entrances in the facade are topped with late nineteenth century bracketed hoods. Wide transoms are present over the doors. The original front door is in the second bay from the north end of the house.

Three chimneys are present, of varying size but all with corbeled caps. They rise from inside the north and south gable ends with a large flue projecting from the original south gable end. The slate roof is broken by two projecting gables with carved decorative trim. Other exterior woodwork associated with the eaves is of the Victorian period.

The original appearance of the house was altered greatly during the late nineteenth century. Changes to the building include replacement of original windows, frames and doors, the addition of an entrance in the facade, the construction of the two projecting gables in the roof line at the front of the house and the addition of the two south bays.

Much of the interior of the house has also been altered. Changes have been made to the woodwork and floors as well as to the floor plan of the building. The major alterations appear to date from the late nineteenth century.

Some original interior woodwork is present in all rooms and in the stair hall. Most of the alterations to the woodwork occur at the first story although some original molded cornice (of wood) and doors with six raised panels remain. At the second story level the southeast room has original wood sheathing on the fireplace wall, consisting of raised panels with plain quarter round molding. The southwest room is treated similarly with paneling confined to the chimney breast and adjacent cupboards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Boyhood home</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>of Com. Jesse</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>D. Elliott</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Elliott-Bester House lies in its architectural and historic merit. With its remaining original woodwork and interior and exterior detail reflecting eighteenth century formal design, the house is an excellent example of a dwelling built early in western Maryland's architectural history. Since bricks apparently did not become a prevalent building material in Washington County until after 1800, the Elliott-Bester House with a probable late eighteenth century building date is particularly outstanding.

Historically, the house is important for its association with Commodore Jesse D. Elliott who spent his boyhood years there. Elliott is remembered in military history for his distinguished role in the Battle of Lake Erie with Commodore Oliver H. Perry during the War of 1812.

Jesse Duncan Elliott was born on July 14, 1782. The Elliots were a Scotch-Irish family who migrated from Donegal in the north of Ireland to Pennsylvania.

After studying law at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Elliott received a commission in the navy as a midshipman. During the Battle of Lake Erie, on September 10, 1813, Elliott commanded the "Niagra" where his strategic actions are recognized as leading to victory in the battle.

By 1818 a controversy had begun concerning Elliott's conduct during the Battle of Lake Erie which subsequently resulted in a court-martial and his suspension from the navy in 1840. In 1843 Elliott's case was reheard and he was reinstated at his former rank. He was appointed to the command of the Philadelphia Navy Yard and died there December 10, 1845.

In addition to his role in the Battle of Lake Erie, Elliott served in the Mediterranean. He was put in command of the naval forces in the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico in 1829. He led naval forces at Charleston, South Carolina, and later took charge of the Boston Navy Yard. Elliott then sailed to the Mediterranean again where he was in command of the navy squadron there. In 1839 he returned to the U. S. where he remained until his death.

An account of the Battle of Lake Erie from Elliott's memoirs along with biographical information is printed in Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources

Land Records of Washington County, Maryland

Probate Records of Washington County, Maryland.

Report on the Committee of Claims, the Petition of Anne Elliott, February 15, 1804.

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: 83' x 155'

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paula Stoner Dickey

ORGANIZATION: Consultant, Architectural History

DATE: April, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
335 South Ridge Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Greencastle

STATE: Pennsylvania

CODE: 03

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Orlando Ridout IV

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-NAG-84

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

The Elliott-Bester House

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Original doors and wood sheathed chimney walls have raised panels trimmed with plain quarter round molding. Numerous wrought nails and screws have been found. In the cellar heavy joists apparently of split logs carry a layer of stone and mortar below the floor boards.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Speech of Commodore Jesse Duncan Elliott, U.S.N., delivered in Hagerstown, November 14, 1843, Philadelphia: G. B. Zieber and Co., 1844.

Tax Records of Elizabeth Hundred, 1783, 1803.

Secondary Sources: (references to Com. Jesse D. Elliott)

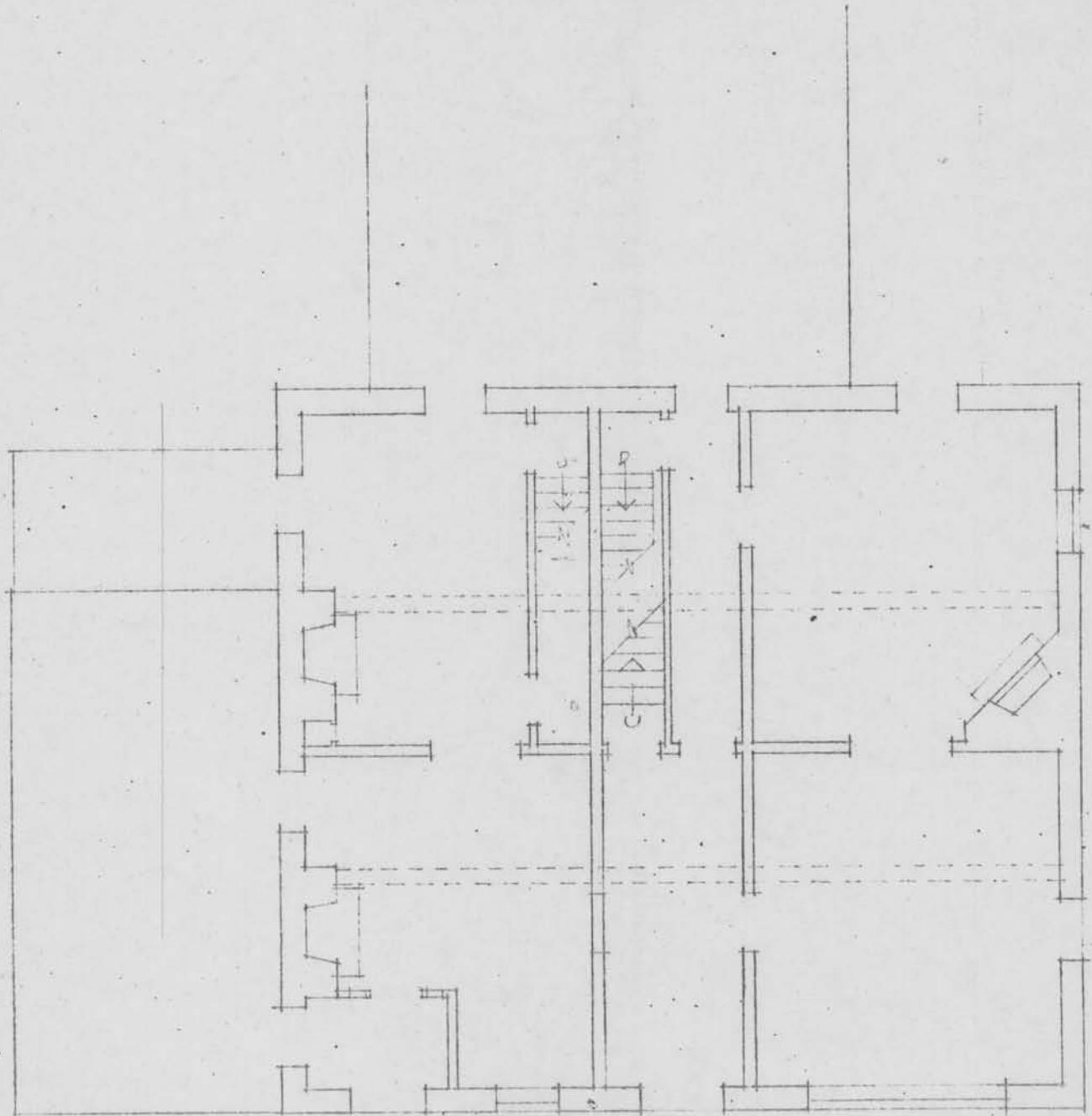
Sharf, Thomas, History of Western Maryland, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

Williams, Thomas J. C., A History of Washington County, Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

ELLIOTT-BESTOR HOUSE
205 S. POTOMAC STREET
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

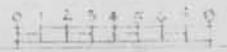
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN 1 MARCH 1974

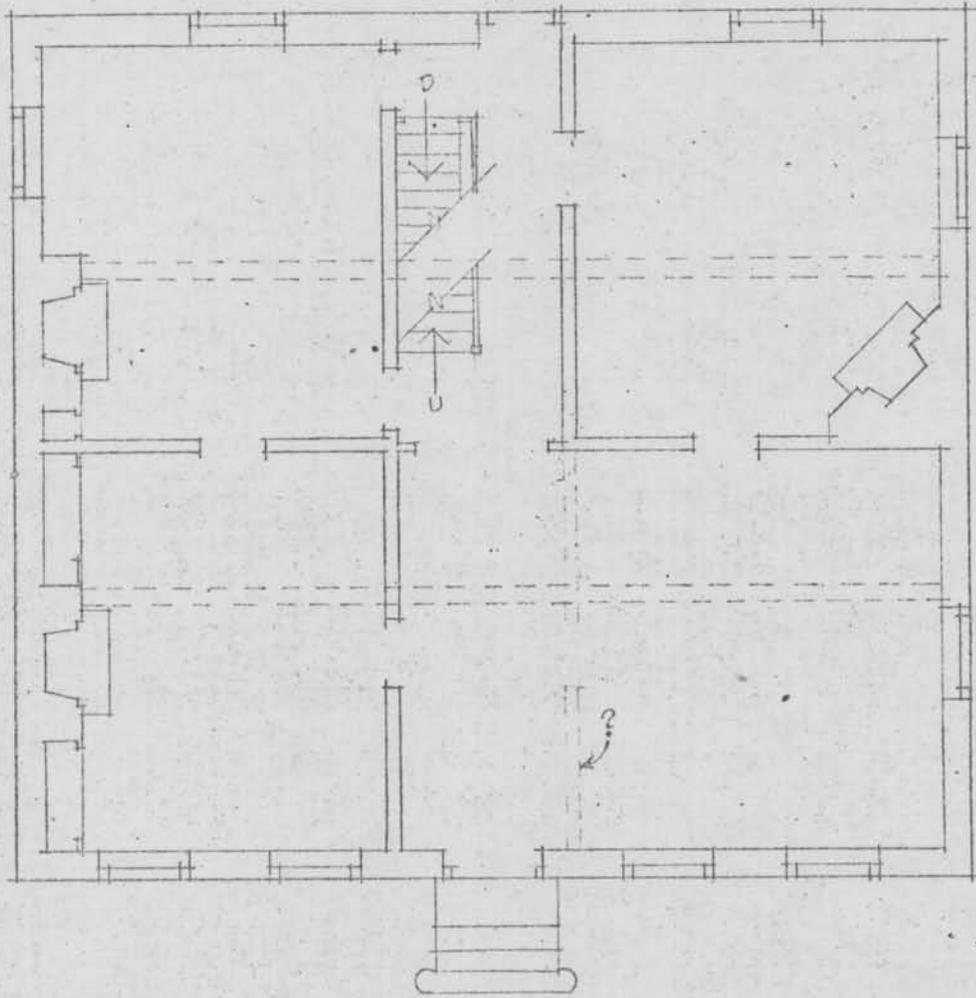
WA-HAG-84



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

APPROX. SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"





PRELIMINARY CONJECTURE of FIRST FLOOR
BASED ON AVAILABLE EVIDENCE 18 MARCH 1974

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

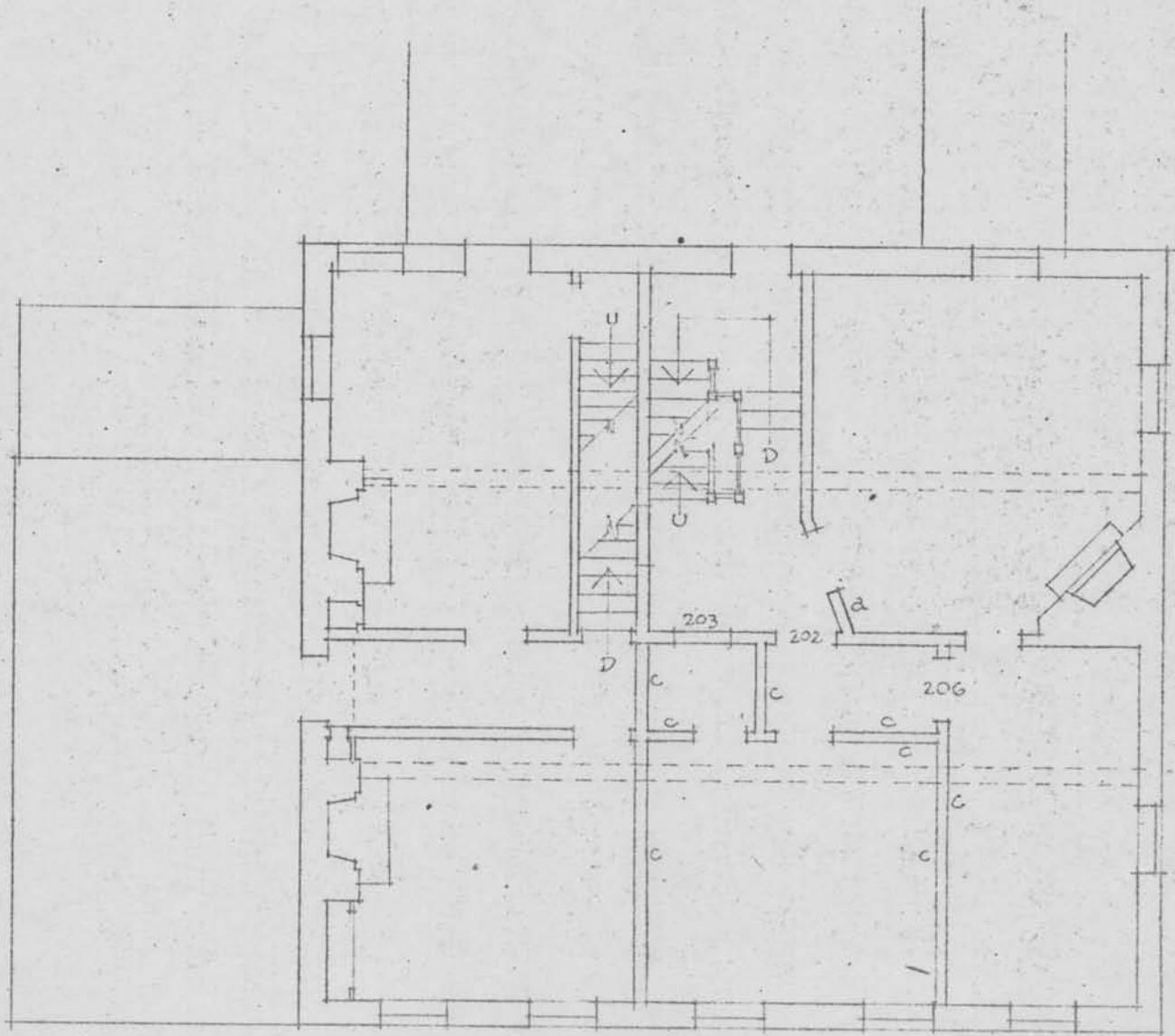
JAMES THOMAS WOLLON, JR., A. I. A.
ARCHITECT
HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND 21078
TELEPHONE: 301-879-6748

ELLIOTT-BESTER HOUSE
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

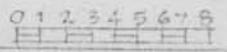
ELLIOTT-BESTER HOUSE
205 S. POTOMAC STREET
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

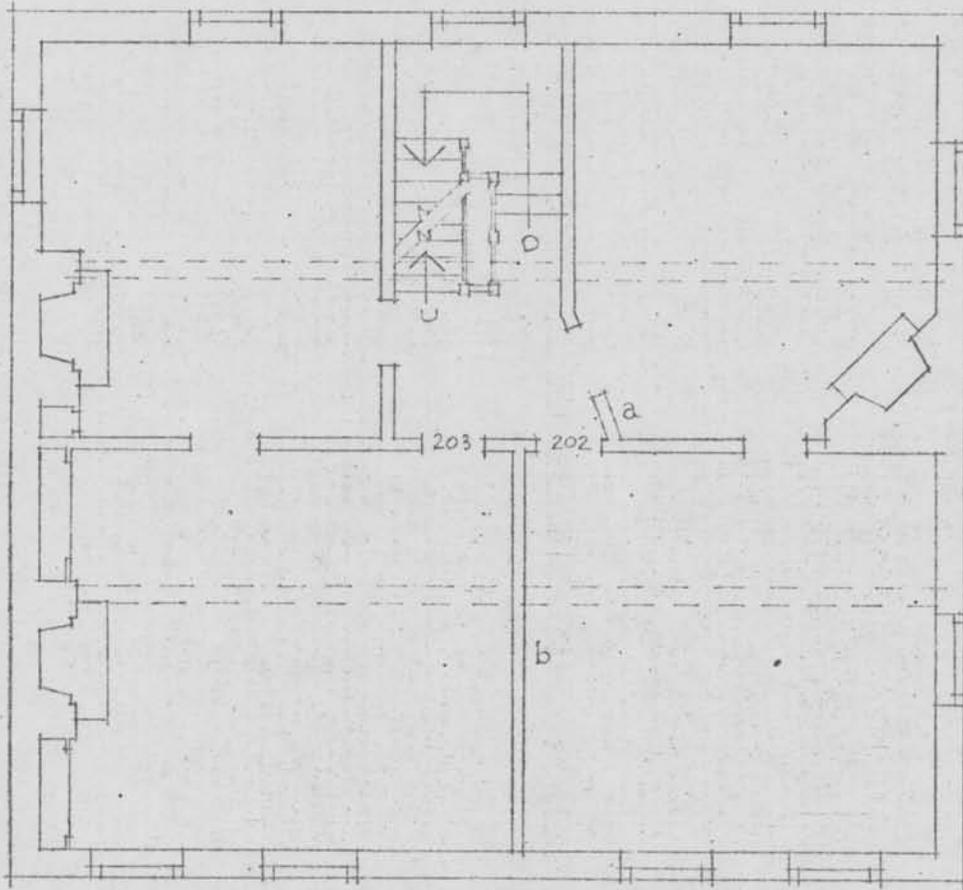
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN 1 MARCH 1974

WM-HAG-84



SECOND FLOOR PLAN APPROX. SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8





PRELIMINARY CONJECTURE of SECOND FLOOR
BASED ON AVAILABLE EVIDENCE 18 MARCH 1974

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

HAGERSTOWN QUADRANGLE
 USGS 7.5 minute map
 scale: 1: 24 000
 1953



MERCERSBURG, PA. 14
 GEARFOSS 2.3 MI.
 CUMBERLAND 6.3 MI.
 HUVETT 2.7 MI.

660 000 FEET
(MD.)

39° 37' 30"
 77° 45'

590 000 FEET (MD.) 1265
 WILLIAMSPORT 4.3 MI.
 MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 19 MI.

FUNKSTOWN 1.3 MI.
 FREDERICK 24 MI.

Mapped by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

WA-HAG-84

WILLIAMSPORT
 4.3 MI. SE

MN

HAGERSTOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1953



CUMBERLAND CO. MD.
HUVETT 27 MI.

660 000 FEET
(MD.)

39°37'30"
77°45'

1550 000 FEET (MD.) 465
WILLIAMSPORT 3 MI.
MARTINSBURG W. VA 11 MI

Map made by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army

WA-NAG-84



WA-HAG-84 ELLIOTT BESTER HOUSE

495



Elliott-Bester House
Interior, 2nd floor
S. E. room

May, 1974

Paula Stouffer Dickey
Consultant, Architectural History



Elliott-Bester House
205-207 South Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.
WA-HAG-84
SE view

Source: Donald R. Foush
Hagerstown

labeled:
J. D. Travinger
Gem Photo Shop
254 S. Potomac St
Hagerstown, Md.
(Travinger is listed only in the
1919-1920 City Directory)

RONALD L. ANDREWS



Elliott - Bester House
S.E. Room

May, 1974

WA - HA 6 - 84

Paula Dickey Consultant



Elliott-Bester House

S.W. Room

May, 1974

WA-HAG-84

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant



Elliott - Bester House

WA-11A6-84

S.W. Room

May, 1974

Paula Stonor Dickey, Consultant



Elliott Beater House ...

S.E. Room

May, 1974 ...

Paula Stoner Dickey, consultant