

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

WA-I-149

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bell-Varner House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

on the south side of Unger Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Leitersburg

X VICINITY OF

Sixth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Varner

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland National Bank Building, West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

WR-I-149

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bell-Varner house is located on the south side of Unger Road, about three miles south of Leitersburg in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a gentle rise of ground and faces east.

A 2 1/2-story, five-bay brick dwelling with a two-story, four-bay el extending to the rear or west, the house was built into a slight bank making the front elevation a full three stories in height. The lowest story consists of the foundation of roughly-coursed fieldstone. The bricks at the front elevation are laid in Flemish bond while the side and rear elevations display common bonding. They are flat brick arches over the openings, and a corbeled brick cornice finishes the walls. A date-stone set in the north gable is inscribed: "Jonas Bell, 1851 C.B."

The windows appear to be spaced evenly in the front elevation. Most display modern, single-pane, double-hung sash held within narrow frames; however, six-over-six light sash remain at several main story windows. Most of the windows have shutters that are half louvered and half paneled. The small windows that flank the entrance at ground level on the front have paneled shutters.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the main story at the front elevation. The entrance treatment includes a high transom and paneled jambs. Directly beneath is a door in the ground story level. A raised porch extends along the front elevation at the main story level and continues with the north-elevation. A partially enclosed double porch is present on the south elevation of the el.

The roof is of slate, terminating with a plain barge board set directly against the end walls.

Between the two rooms of the interior of the front east part of the house is a central stair and entrance hall. The woodwork is consistent with the 1851 building date and features interior doors with three pairs of vertical panels. Door architraves in the parlor are trimmed with corner blocks decorated with concentric circles. This motif is used on the fireplace mantels throughout the house as well. The wing to the rear contains two rooms. The innermost of these has a fireplace in its north wall that shares a flue with the fireplace in the north room of the front section. The end room is a kitchen with a service fireplace and a small stairway.

Construction of the cellar of this house is notable. Several 18th century architectural elements were found there, particularly in a stone walled room beneath the parlor and main entrance hall. This room has a large service fireplace in its south end wall with a trammel for hanging utensils. A massive raised panel door with a batten back hung on large strap hinges opens into the room. The end partition consists of vertical beveled panels which appear to be from an 18th-century structural pieces. In the

See Continuation Sheet #1

LWA-I-149

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Bell-Varner House  
Washington County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

rear of the cellar is a small vaulted room for vegetable storage.

The farm on which this house stands has been divided into smaller parcel  
The tract with the house contains approximately four acres and a chicken  
coop and wagon shed of the early 20th century. It does not include the  
large frame bank barn on fieldstone foundations directly across Unger  
Road.

## SIGNIFICANCE

WA-I-149

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 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 Jonas Bell 1851 C.B. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dated 1851, the Bell-Varner House is a documented and well-maintained example of the mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture of Washington County. Its five-bay, center door plan represents a significant architectural group in the county and the Cumberland Valley. The house has undergone relatively few exterior alterations.

The house is also important for the 18th-century woodwork and structural elements found in the basement. These suggest that parts of an earlier house were used in construction of the present dwelling, or that the present house rests on foundations of a possible 18th-century structure.

According to the datestone, the house was built by or for Jonas Bell. Members of the Bell family were prominent in the early life of the Leitersburg vicinity.

It appears likely that there was some sort of settlement in this area prior to Jonas Bell's occupation of the land in the mid-19th century. Deeds indicate that Bell acquired the farm containing slightly more than 100 acres on March 30, 1848 (IN3/292). The property had actually been sold to him at public sale in 1840 as directed in an equity court case between John Burkholder and John Yockey. John Yockey and his niece, Susan Yockey Burkholder, wife of John Burkholder, were the only surviving heirs of John Yockey who had died intestate "many years ago." (Chancery Record 3/155). Apparently, John Yockey Sr. had resided on this farm.

The farm includes parts of the land grants, "Resurvey on Darlings Sale," "Resurvey on Webb's Discovery," "Webb's Discovery" and "The Forest." "Darling's Sale" was patented on October 14, 1743, containing 420 acres, for Capt. John Charlton. After Capt. Charlton's death, the tract was divided into seven 60-acre parcels, one for each of his children.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Herbert C. Bell, History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Maryland: the author (1908) 27.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

WA-I-149

Washington County Land Records.  
 Washington County Chancey Records.  
 Bell, Herbert C. History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Maryland  
 by the author, 1908.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY four acres

UTM REFERENCES

A              
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B              
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

## FORM PREPARED BY

njm

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

August 1975

STREET & NUMBER

33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown,

STATE

Maryland 21740

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

WA 149

55

40

33

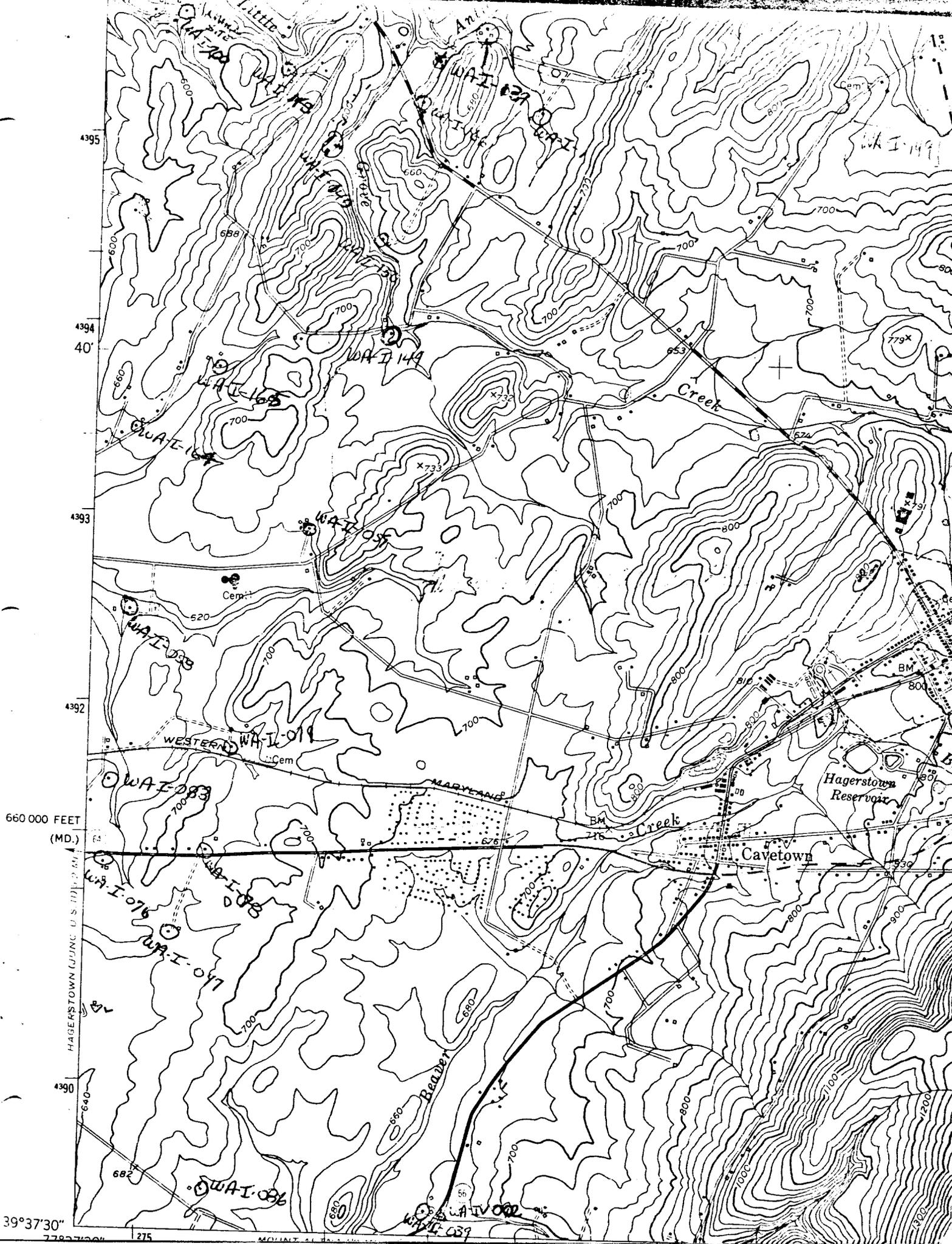
22

100 FEET (MD.)

SECTION 1

MADEPSTOWN JUNE 18 1893





4395

4394  
40

4393

4392

660 000 FEET  
(MD.)

HAGERSTOWN (JUNC. U.S. 11) 25000

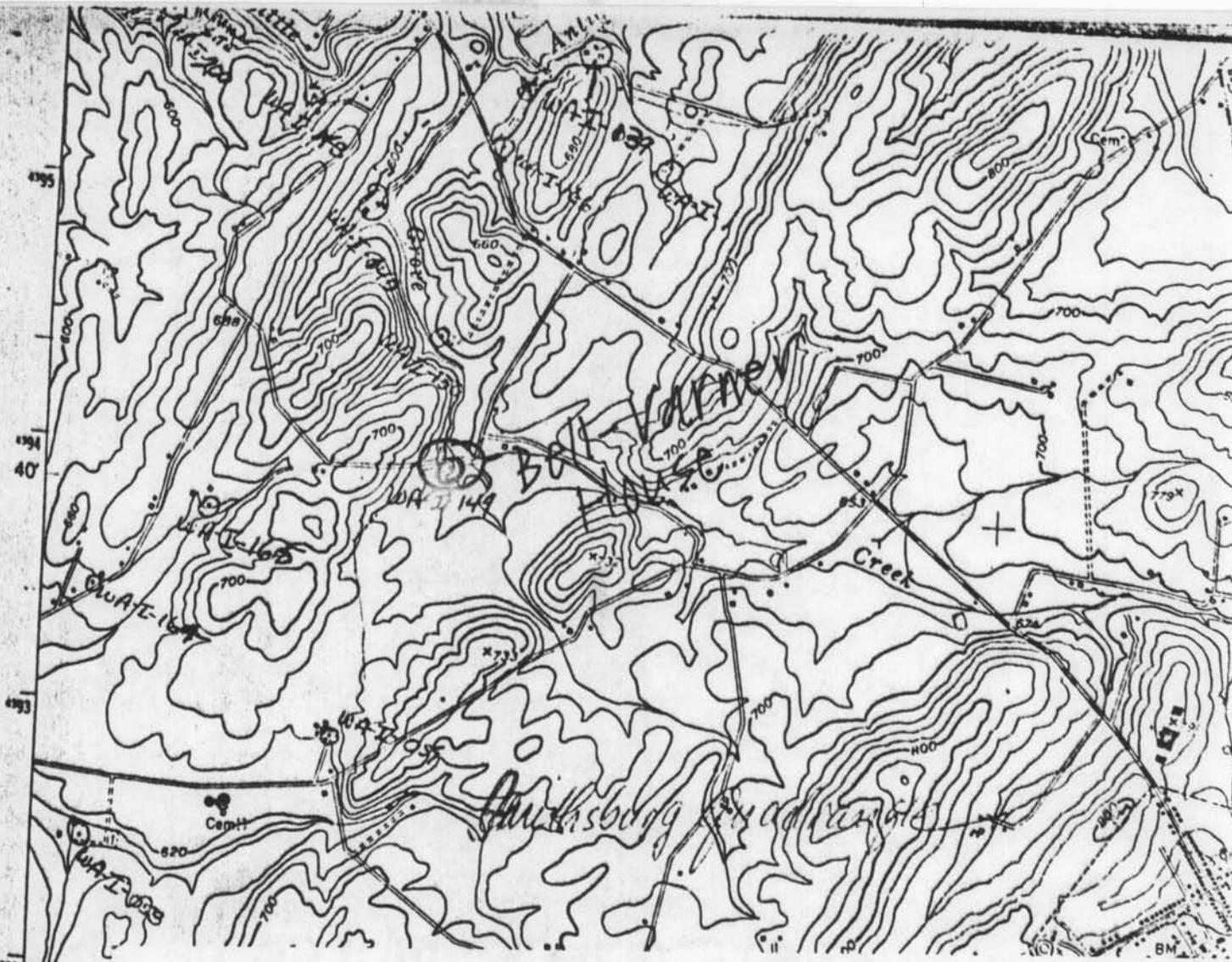
4390

39°37'30"

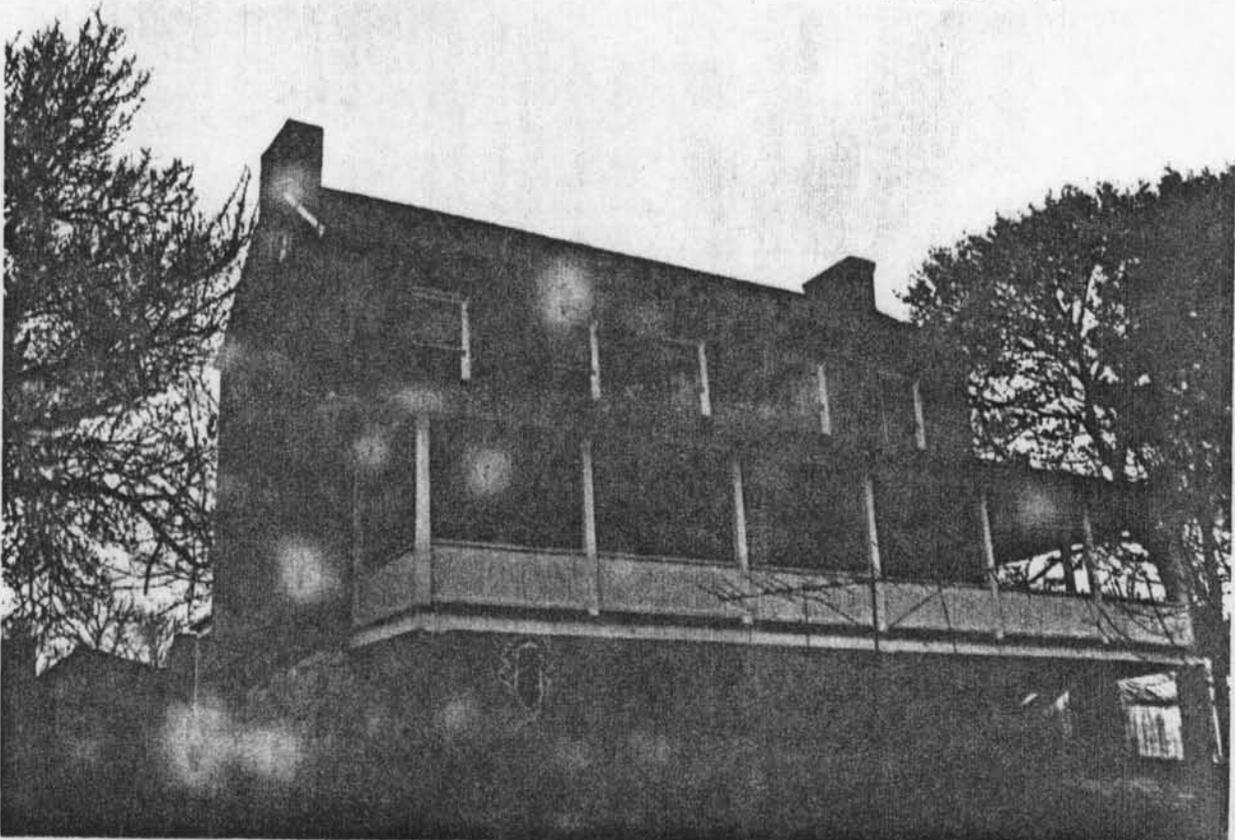
275

MOUNTAIN

SECTION 1



WA-I-149



1000 FEET (HD.)

HAGERSTOWN JUNG U.S. 1118 2 MI. 1

WA-I-075

730



WH-I 147

17.

April, 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



U.N.-I-149

S-11.

April, 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-E-127

Bank 2.6

April, 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



UVA-I-149

Bell-Varnor House

SE.

April, 1976

PAULA STUMER DICKET  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY