

E s e m e n t

51

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

— HISTORIC
Bohrer House
— AND OF COMMON
Silsby House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1/4 mile north of Trovinger Mill Road, Route 1
CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown
STATE
Maryland

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth
COUNTY
Washington
CODE
043

— VICINITY OF
CODE
24

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 type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Oliver M. Silsby and Dr. Margaret Silsby
STREET & NUMBER
7506 Connecticut Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Chevy Chase

— VICINITY OF
STATE
Maryland 20015

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street
CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown

Liber: 643
Folio: 630

STATE
Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

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"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located about 1/4 mile north of Trovinger Mill Road, approximately 1 1/4 miles from its junction with Jefferson Boulevard (Maryland Route 64) in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a bluff above the Antietam Creek and faces south.

The structure is a three-bay, two-story brick dwelling painted white with black trim. A two-bay frameel extends to the rear of the building.

The house is set on fieldstone foundations. Brickwork at the facade is Flemish bond while other walls display common bond. Flat brick arches are located over the window and door openings.

Windows, containing two-over-two pane Victorian period sash are present on all sides of the house. At the facade they are flanked by louvered shutters. The window framing is finished with simple molding.

The front entrance is located in the center bay of the south wall. The doorway is quite plain, with molded edging providing the only decorative work at the jambs. A narrow transom is present above the door. Other entrances are located in the frame extension to the rear and at the cellar level in the west side of the foundation.

Evidence remains of a one-story porch along the facade which has been removed. Porches shelter the entrances to the rear frame extension. They are supported by square wooden posts.

The roof is covered with slate. According to a previous owner, the house received a new roof about 1898. Small brick chimneys rise from inside each gable end. The cornice consists of a simple band of molding.

Although the general exterior appearance of this house suggests a late 19th century building date, closer examination (made in 1977) reveals an 18th century building which was enlarged and extensively renovated during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Flemish bonding at the front elevation ends just above the first story windows to be replaced by common bonding showing six courses of stretchers between header rows. At the gable ends careful scrutiny revealed the outline of gables of a former one story building which had been raised in height to the present two stories. The older brickwork at the first story level was in common bond with three rows of stretchers between header courses. The common bonding above it, being the addition is already noted was laid in a six-to-one ratio.

The interior of the house reveals further evidence that an earlier, and apparently 18th century, house was enlarged. The first story has massive interior doors, most with four raised panels with quarter round trim. The door leading from the west room to the circa 1900 kitchen addition was apparently at one time an exterior door having raised panels on its front surface and battens sheathing the brick. It is secured with long strap hinges. Door frames are heavy, with quarter round trim. Early chair rail also remains in the first story. The first floor plan would appear to be Germanic in origin having a large room with a fireplace and corner stair taking almost half the house. Two smaller rooms utilize the remaining area. The fireplace in the west wall has been rebuilt.

The house is in excellent condition and is located on the property containing 27.88 acres. It is not at present in danger of destruction. Included in the acreage is a late 19th century frame bark barn.

An old road which led from Hagerstown to several mills and forges along the Antietam passes through the property. The road was in use during the 18th and early 19th centuries with portions remaining in service today as farm lanes. The road forded the Antietam behind the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

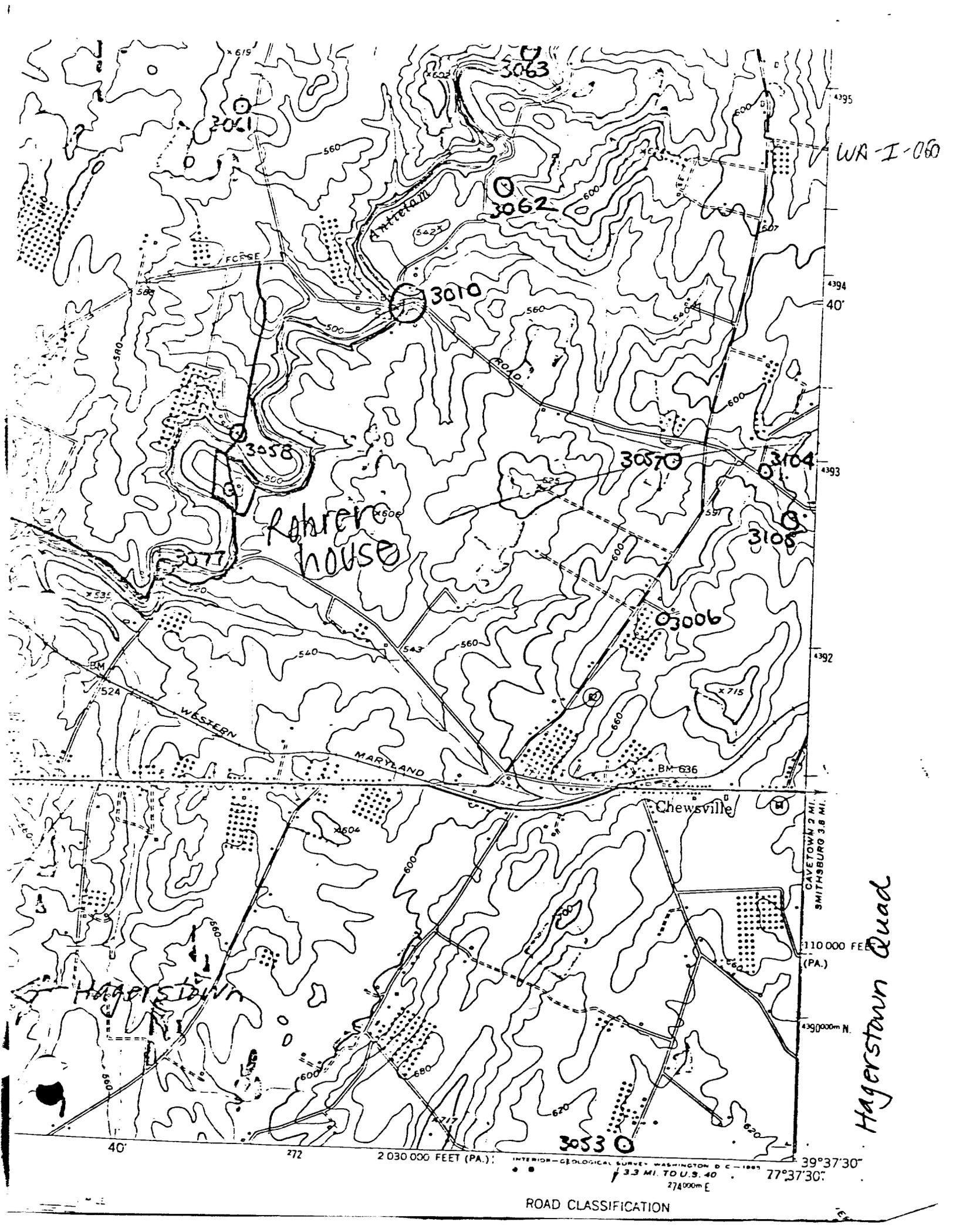
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant for its architecture. In its present form it represents a frequently seen type of brick building which dates in Washington County generally from the second half of the 19th century. The structure apparently began life, however, as a one-story, late 18th century brick building, and was enlarged during the late 19th century to two full stories. The exterior reveals the contrast between 18th and late 19th century construction, and the interior displays the same contrast with a remarkable amount of 18th century work remaining in the main story and in the cellar.

The property is worthy of note for its association with the early road which led west to "Rohrer's Mill" and to Hagerstown. Although the road is no longer in use, much of its path can be traced and it should be considered for preservation. (See description.)

The Rohrer family, who operated a nearby mill, originally owned the property on which this house stands, selling it in 1792. It was probably the Rohrers who built the 18th century portion of this house.

In its situation along Antietam Creek, the property also has great scenic value.



WA I-060

Rahero house

Hagerstown

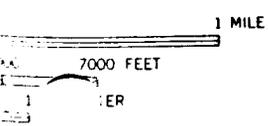
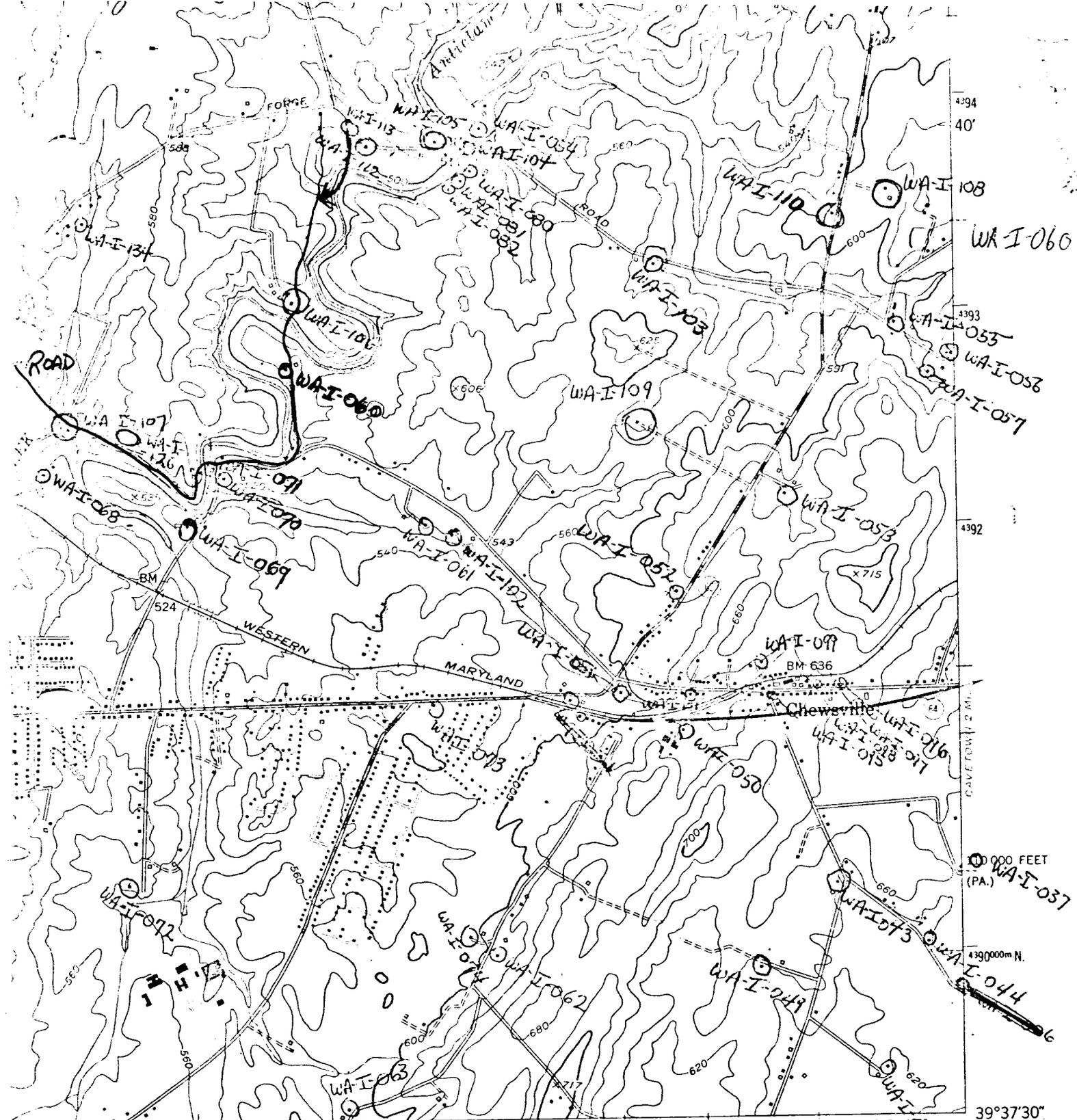
Hagerstown Quad

2 030 000 FEET (PA.)

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D C - 1895
 3.3 MI. TO U.S. 40
 2740000m E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

39°37'30"
 77°37'30"



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	

	U. S. Route		State Route
	Interstate Route		

HAGERSTOWN, MD.—PA.
 NW/4 HAGERSTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3937.5--W7737.5/7.5

ARCS
 2.C. 20242

Revisions shown in purple compiled by Geological Survey from
 aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked

1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1971

MYERSVILLE
 5.6.11 SE



WF-E-060

Rohrer House

May 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY