FHR-8-300 (11-78)

CARR-1024

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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: Sykesville

and/or common: Sykesville Historic District

2. Location

street & number: Main Street, Springfield Avenue, Norwood Avenue, Mellor Avenue — n/a not for publication

city, town: Sykesville — n/a vicinity of — congressional district: Sixth

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Carroll — code: 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	X both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	X transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: multiple public and private owners (more than 50)

street & number:

city, town: ___ vicinity of — state:

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Carroll County Courthouse

street & number:

city, town: Westminster — state: Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory — has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: 1985 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	
82	15	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
82	15	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: Private residences, commercial, religious, transportation

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Sykesville Historic District comprises 85 contributing resources within the corporate limits of Sykesville, a small town on the Patapsco River in southern Carroll County, Maryland. The district includes a cohesive group of houses, churches, and commercial buildings constructed between ca. 1850 and ca. 1925. The focus of the district is a two-block commercial area extending north along Main Street from the river, including a fine Queen Anne railroad station as well as several late-19th and early-20th-century frame storefronts and large scale brick bank and office buildings. Residential development characterizes the hillsides to the north, northeast, west, and southeast of the business district. The houses are generally of frame construction, and reflect a variety of turn-of-the-20th-century architectural influences including the vernacular "I-house" type and the popular foursquare, homestead, and bungalow forms; there are also a few examples of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival trends among the larger houses.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Sykesville Historic District comprises 82 contributing resources within the corporate limits of Sykesville, a small town on the Patapsco River in southern Carroll County, Maryland. The district includes a cohesive group of houses, churches, and commercial buildings constructed between ca. 1850 and ca. 1925. The focus of the district is a two-block commercial area extending north along Main Street from its intersection with the B&O Railroad tracks which parallel the Patapsco River. Late 19th-early 20th century residential development characterizes the hillsides to the north, northeast, west, and southeast of the business district.

The B&O Railroad Station anchors the south end of the district; constructed in 1883, it is an outstanding Queen Anne structure designed by architect E. Francis Baldwin. The rectangular brick building is 85' long, combining the functions of station and warehouse, and features multiple gables with decorative stick and spindle work, Queen Anne sash with rows of small colored lights framing the upper panes, and a slate roof with a deep overhang supported on curved brackets. The station is located at the south end of Main Street, on the west side, adjacent to the B&O tracks. The tracks parallel the Patapsco River, which forms the southern boundary of Carroll County.

North of the station, on the east side of Main Street, is a two-story gable roofed stone building, five bays wide with a two-bay wing at its north end and one bay deep; constructed in 1865, this vernacular building is one of only two in town illustrating the 19th-century stone building tradition of the Patapsco valley, as well as one of the few which predate the devastating flood of 1868. It is currently used as the parish house of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church (the church is located south of the river, in Howard County).

On the hillside above St. Barnabas' Parish House stands the district's other vernacular stone building, St. Joseph's Catholic Church. A simple, gable-roofed church built in 1867, it is embellished by a Victorian belfry.

On the west side of Main Street between the B&O station and Oklahoma Road is a group of five two-story commercial buildings dating from the turn of the 20th century. Notable among these is #7602, a frame building which retains its original storefront completely unaltered, with colored-glass transoms over the entrance and display windows, and #7600, formerly the First National Bank, a 1907 brick building which combines Georgian Revival, Romanesque, and Neoclassical elements in an eclectic composition.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

North of Oklahoma Road on the west side of Main Street is another two-story frame commercial building with its original storefront, reputedly dating to 1883. Adjacent to this is the Arcadia Building (now known as the Odyssey Building), a three-story, three-bay, Classical-influenced structure of buff-colored brick, and the 1901 Maryland National Bank building, whose highly ornate two-bay facade of orange brick with terra-cotta detailing is obscured on the upper story by a ca. 1960 metal grille (the ground story received a polished granite veneer at the same period).

An alley separates the bank from the Wade H.D. Warfield building, constructed in 1906; it has a first-story facade of rusticated granite, with buff brick above. Each upper story has a broad 3-part window with a splayed brick arch with granite keystone and impost blocks. The building is capped by a modillioned cornice of pressed metal.

Other commercial buildings on Main Street are generally frame, two stories high, with bracketed cornices; they have all seen some alteration of their facades at street level.

On the northeast corner of Main Street and Sandosky Road is a small c. 1920 one-bay hip-roofed brick gas station in near-original condition. Farther north on the east side of Main Street is the Town House; constructed ca. 1893, this large frame Colonial Revival building houses the Sykesville town offices. It is set well back from the street on a rise. To its north is an early 20th century block fire station.

Church Street, extending west from Main Street, marks the northern limit of Sykesville's commercial core. Its name derives from St. Paul's United Methodist Church, which is set back from Main Street southwest of the intersection. The gable-fronted frame church was built in 1889; in 1903, two lower gable-fronted projections were added on either side of the central entrance, tied together with a pent roof. All three gables have decorative stickwork and imbricated shingles.

North of Church Street there are several two- and three-story frame multi-family residences, some with two-story porches; two single-family houses are perched on the steep hillside on the east side of Main Street. The historic residential area of Sykesville is primarily concentrated along Springfield Avenue, which extends to the northeast from Main Street; smaller concentrations of houses are found on Norwood Avenue, which parallels the southern end of Main Street on the west, and on Mellor Avenue, the southeastern extension of the historic district.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Springfield Avenue, ascending a fairly steep hill to the northeast from Main Street, features approximately two dozen frame houses a variety of architectural influences from around the turn of the 20th century. Many of the houses conform to the traditional "I-house" type which characterized much of rural Maryland from the mid-19th century well into the 20th: two stories, three or five bays wide with a central entrance, one room deep, often with an ell or shed at the rear. Examples include #7311, 7312, and 7327, all of which have central front-facing cross gables and one-story porches.

Other houses on Springfield Avenue reflect popular architectural trends of the period. Vernacular interpretations of the Queen Anne style can be seen at 7320 and 7332, featuring complex massing, multiple gables with fishscale shingles, and wrap around porches. The Colonial Revival is represented by 7326 and 7338; the latter house is distinguished by colored-glass sidelights and fanlight. Examples of the popular "foursquare" form appear at 7321, 7337, and 7345; number 7322 is a gable-fronted "homestead" house. Several bungalows are located on the east side of the street, between Walnut and Cedar Avenues.

Norwood Avenue parallels Main Street on the west between Church Street and Oklahoma Avenue. The steeply-rising wooded area on its west side is punctuated by several large frame houses. Of these, 7534 is noteworthy for its steep mansard roof and its matching Gothic-influenced water tower; 7514 is a large Colonial Revival example with a broad porch.

Additional historic residential development extends along Main Street (Spout Hill Road) north of Springfield Avenue, and along Mellor Avenue southeast of the commercial area of Main Street; these areas are characterized by modest-sized frame I-houses and foursquares.

The district retains a good level of integrity. Alterations are generally reversible, and limited to synthetic siding on the houses and modern storefronts on the commercial buildings. A few of the commercial buildings have suffered more severe remodelings, but in general the district retains the capacity to convey the sense of an early 20th century community.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	X transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1850-ca.1920 **Builder/Architect** various unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Sykesville Historic District is significant for its architecture, comprising a cohesive collection of commercial, residential, and ecclesiastical buildings dating from ca. 1850 through ca. 1925; these buildings and their setting retain sufficient integrity to enable the district to convey a sense of a rural Maryland town in the first quarter of the 20th century. The houses within the district include frame "I-houses," reflecting a vernacular form used widely in rural Maryland from the mid-19th century through at least the first three decades of the twentieth; in addition, several examples represent the popular Foursquare, "homestead," and bungalow trends of the early 20th century, and a number of larger houses on Springfield Avenue and Norwood Avenue reflect Queen Anne and Colonial Revival influence. The district also includes a small commercial area characterized by two- and three-story masonry buildings of eclectic Neoclassical and Georgian Revival design, and several two-story shed-roofed frame storefronts. The southern anchor of the district is an outstanding Queen Anne railroad station dated 1883, reflecting Sykesville's importance as an early stop on the Baltimore and Ohio main line.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Sykesville began its place in the history of Maryland in the Revolutionary War era. Prior to 1800 it was part of the vast "Springfield Estate," the country home of William Patterson, one of the wealthiest men in America at that time. William Patterson was a large stockholder and one of the original directors of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. When it was being constructed and needed money, he gave it assistance, but made a requirement that it be continued up the Patapsco River, diverted from the route marked by the engineers. In 1831, the "Old Main Line" was extended from Ellicott's Mill through Sykesville to Point of Rocks in Frederick County. The cars were pulled by horses over flat strips of iron laid on soapstone "stringers." Sykesville was referred to as "horse train stop" as stables were there for changing horses, however steam locomotives were being invented and horse drawn cars were soon discontinued.

In 1825 James Sykes, the man for whom Sykesville is named, purchased several tracts of land from his business associate George Patterson, son of William Patterson, consisting of 1000 acres. One parcel was situated on the Howard County side of the Patapsco River containing a combination saw and grist mill. In 1836 Mr. Sykes replaced this mill with a more substantial structure and built a five-story stone hotel containing 47 rooms to care for the B&O Railroad and Baltimore City tourist trade. Sykesville was quickly becoming a tourist resort and its hotel was the finest outside of Baltimore City. Mr. Sykes built his home containing 34 rooms on the Howard County side of the Patapsco River. In 1845 he enlarged his mill and converted it into the Howard Cotton Factory employing 200 workers. He built substantial homes for his workers and urged the building of a "Chapel of Ease" (St. Barnabas Episcopal Church).

"Groveland" was another country home situated near Sykesville. In 1830 George Frazier Warfield, a wealthy merchant of Baltimore built a fine stone mansion on an elevation overlooking the Patapsco River, considered one of the finest in Maryland at that time. He married Rebecca Brown, daughter of Abel Brown. Of this marriage seven children were born.

In 1850 copper and iron ore were discovered on the Springfield Estate one mile north of Sykesville. Large quantities of ore were profitably mined until 1861. Men came from England and Scotland to work in the Patterson mine at Sykesville.

Most of the town was swept away by the flood of 1868. The five-story stone hotel operated by John Grimes, the Howard Cotton Factory, the store of Zimmerman & Schultz, and about a dozen homes were destroyed. Rebuilding Sykesville took place on the Carroll County side of the Patapsco River.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

"Chihuahua," the country home of Charles A. Warfield, about ½ mile east of Sykesville, was an elegant home for entertaining summer guests and local people. In 1887 this mansion was enlarged to accommodate fifty summer boarders. Two hundred people from Baltimore and Washington came to Sykesville to escape the heat of the city.

In 1880, Frank Brown combined Springfield with his own estate, "Brown's Inheritance," giving him 2,500 acres in one block. His was considered the finest farm in Maryland, Devon cattle, Percheron horses and 500 sheep. In 1894 Frank Brown of Carroll County was elected Governor of Maryland.

An event with an important effect upon the future of Sykesville was the establishment of a mental hospital on the Springfield estate. Governor Brown offered Springfield land for sale and 768 acres of land with improvements, including the large Patterson mansion was purchased by the state. The hospital opened with 27 patients. The census of 1975 showed 1771 patients and 1482 employees, the largest institution in the east.

From 1885 to 1910 a building boom was on in Sykesville with three building contractors at work building homes and businesses. Four brick buildings on Main Street were constructed during this period: the 3 story Wade H.D. Warfield & Co's store, 2 story Sykesville National Bank, two-story First National Bank and the 3 story "Arcade Building." Other buildings were - "The McDonald Block," the residence of J. Harvey Fowble, the residence of John McDonald and the beautiful Warfield Cottage and Dining Room at Springfield State Hospital. During this period, Sykesville had the largest lumber yard in the state, wholesale as well as retail in grains, feed, hay and straw. In 1909 a large grain elevator and flour mill was built having a capacity of more than 100 barrels of flour per day.

Sykesville was incorporated in 1904 bringing street lights and other needed improvements. The Sykesville Herald, a weekly newspaper, was organized in 1913 and served the Sykesville area for seventy years. With improved roads came more automobiles for transportation and B&O Passenger Service was discontinued in 1949 after 106 years of service.

Sykesville has grown to be more or less a bedroom community for residents who commute to Baltimore, Washington and Westminster, however local merchants have begun a revitalization campaign to promote the downtown business district as a viable commercial area.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6 for References.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

The Early Growth of Sykesville, by Wayne Reisburg.

Impossible Challenge, The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in Maryland, by Herbert H. Harwood, Jr.

Scharf's History of Western Maryland.

The Democratic Advocate newspapers in the files of the Carroll County Historical Society.

Carroll County 1837-1910, Supplement to the Democratic Advocate, Westminster, MD.

Town of Sykesville files.

Researched by Thelma C. Wimmer

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Sykesville Historic District are indicated on the attached map, and conform to the rear lot lines of the properties fronting on Main Street between the Patapsco River on the south and the B&O overpass on the north, Springfield Avenue running northwest from Main Street and ending at Central Avenue, Church Street from Main Street to Norwood Avenue, Norwood Avenue from Church Street to Oklahoma Road, and Mellor Avenue from Sandosky Road to Maple Avenue.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries are drawn to encompass the greatest concentration of historic resources while excluding surrounding areas whose land use is inconsistent with that within the district. The topography rises steeply on either side of Main Street, creating a strong visual break; the area to the west, behind the houses fronting on Norwood Avenue, is heavily wooded. Increasing density determines the northern and eastern boundaries. The southern boundary is formed by the B&O railroad tracks, which parallel the Patapsco River.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 6

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 65 acres

Quadrangle name Sykesville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	330600	4359960
B	18	330540	4358760
C	18	330180	4358780
D	18	330060	4359320
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
n/a			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ms. Thelma C. Wimmer, Chairman

organization Sykesville Historic Commission date June, 1985

street & number P. O. Box 245 telephone (301) 795-0376

city or town Sykesville state Maryland 21784

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. Mitchell 8-14-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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SYKESVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

CARROLL COUNTY MARYLAND

[redacted]

A: 18-330600-4359960

[redacted]

B: 18-330540-4358760

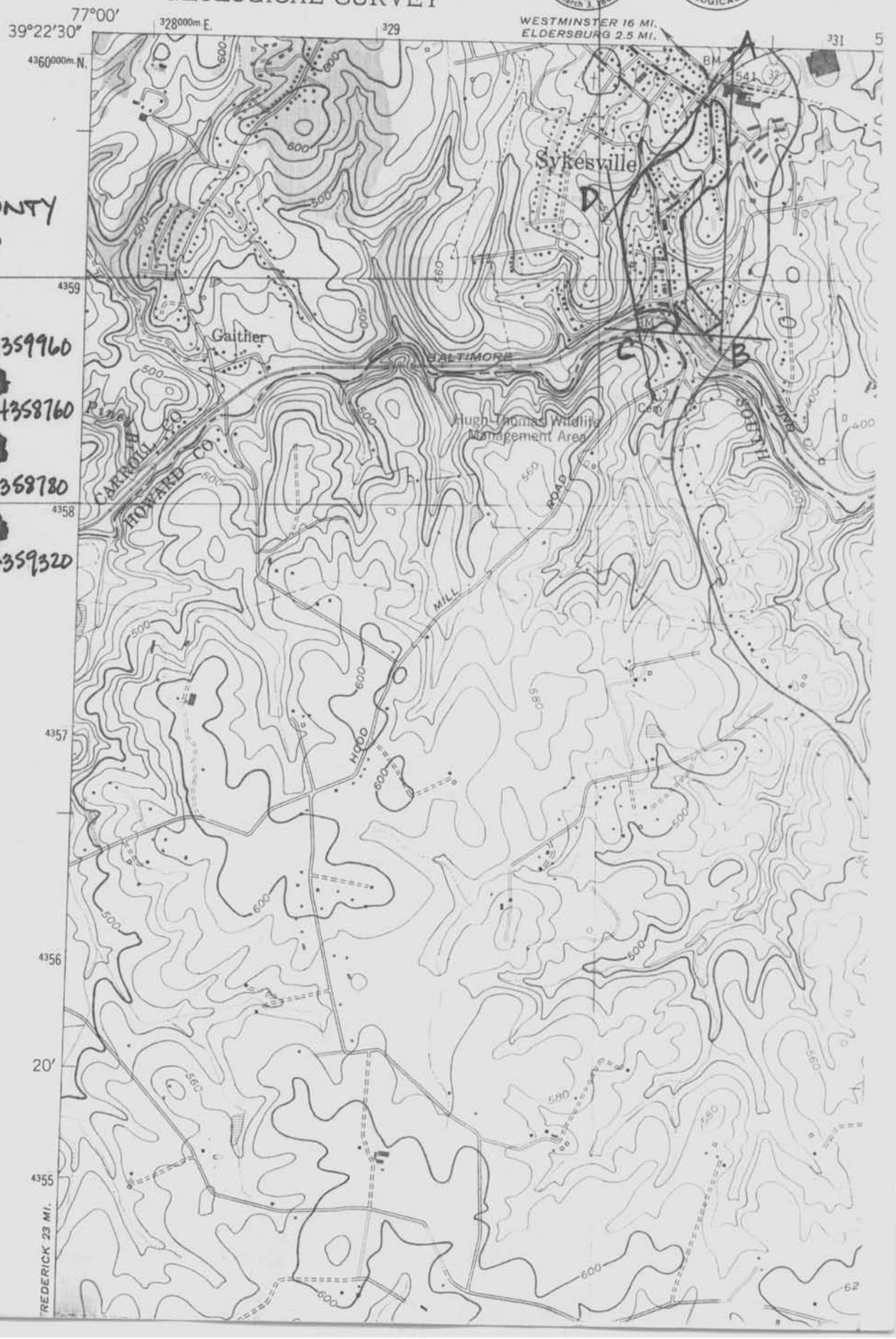
[redacted]

C: 18-330180-4358780

[redacted]

D: 18-330060-4359320

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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Built in 1865. 1983.

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(Within Sykesville Historic District)

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

St. Barnabas Episcopal Parish House
7609 Main Street.

1986

CARR-1024

(Within Sykesville Historic District)

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

B+O Station, South Main St.