

2205461103

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:  
Hager House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Hager's Fancy or Hager's Choice

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
19 Key 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mayor and City Council of the City of Hagerstown

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Washington

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input 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

Hager House, 19 Key Street in Hagerstown, is a two story house, plus an attic, that sits on a high, stone foundation. The front, or southern, facade is three bays wide with the west bay being larger than the others. The entrance is in the west bay with a single window in each of the other bays. On the second floor are three windows directly above the first story openings. All the windows in the first and second stories have twelve over twelve lights and three panel shutters. Above each window is a flat arch with stone voussoirs. The stone on the first story level has been white-washed. A porch extends across the first story and rests on a stone foundation. Under the porch is a Dutch door with its original iron shop hinges. Between the west and center bays a chimney pierces the roof near the ridge.

The east end, two bays wide, is also constructed of uncoursed stone. Centered in the gable is a nine light casement window. The second floor has a window in each bay while the first story has one, narrow window in the south bay. Beneath this window is one in the cellar with six lights.

The north side has a window in each bay on both the first and second stories. Below the east bay is a small cellar window with vertical wood bars.

The west end has an irregular window placement. There is one window in each story. The first story window is slightly to the right of center while the one in the second story is centered in the end. Centered in the gable is a nine light casement window above which is a small, segmental arch recess.

Originally the Hager House was one-and-one-half stories. The Hager House is two rooms wide and two deep with an identical arrangement on the second floor. In the southwest corner is the entrance hall with a steep, enclosed stairway with black walnut risers and treads. Northwest of the entrance is the kitchen with a large brick fireplace laid in Flemish-common bond. Across the top of the rectangular opening is a large, well-worn beam.

East of the entrance hall is the fur trading room. This is a very plain room with a simple chair rail around it.

The northeast room is also very simple.

The southeast bedroom, on the second floor, has a small fireplace. The wood mantelpiece has an arched opening. A simple chair rail surrounds the room.

The small northwest bedroom has a built-in cupboard with two doors, with H-L hinges, above four drawers. At the top of the stair perpendicular to the panelled rail, is the whimsical profile of a face.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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) circa 1740

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>local history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Hager House has been well-restored and retains much of its original woodwork and hardware. This is one of the earliest stone houses in Washington County.

Built circa 1740 by Jonathan Hager, one of the first settlers in Washington County, Maryland. A native of Westphalia in Germany, he came to Philadelphia in 1736. He stayed in Pennsylvania for a short time and then pushed on to western Maryland. In December 1739, he received his first patent from Lord Baltimore for two hundred acres which he called Hager's Fancy or Hager's Choice.

Before building his house, Hager lived in one of two log houses which stood on the property when he acquired it. These houses are thought to be two of the oldest in this part of Maryland. They are described as "sorry" houses in the surveyor's certificate for Hager's Fancy, a term which H. Chandlee Forman defines as "meaning cheap, poor, mean of miserable houses." One of these houses was excavated in 1953 under the direction of Forman. Known as "The Johathan Hager Foundation," it is described as a "very crude stone foundation which appeared, from what evidence that remained, to have been probably a small log house of two tiny rooms, a fireplace, and casements with quarrel panes."<sup>1</sup>

In 1739-1740, Hager built a one-and-one-half story stone house over the springs on his property. Although it made his cellar very damp and even wet, this protected his water supply from the Indians. The loop windows, narrower on the outside of the thick cellar wall than they are on the inside, also provided protection from hostile Indians.

Hager married Elizabeth Kershner (or Grischner) in 1740. Four years later he had Hager's Fancy resurveyed, adding three hundred acres of land to it, because he was "apprehensive about some vacant land thereto contiguous."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Forman, H. Chandlee. Maryland Architecture, A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War. (Cambridge, Maryland. Tidewater Publishers, 1968), p. 52.

<sup>2</sup>Washington County Land Records, Patent T. I #3/281.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cunz, Dieter. The Maryland Germans, A History. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1948.

Forman, H. Chandler. Maryland Architecture, A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.

Mish, Mary Vernon. Jonathan Hager, Founder. Hagerstown, Maryland: ASC Creative Printing, 1972. (Reprint)

**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	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 38 ' 23 "	77 ° 43 ' 20 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			50	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: two

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:

Ann Hill, Pamela James, Summer Interns

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

CODE

24

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 for Maryland

Date September 24, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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-9

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)

Hager House

No. 7. Description continued.

The rafters in the attic have mortise-and-tenon joints fastened with wood pins. Between the three principal rafters are purlins with wind braces. The purlins are mortised into the principal rafters.

In the cellar are three rooms. The west room has a high, stone, fireplace with a large beam across the top of the rectangular opening. In the south-east and northeast rooms are two springs which flow out through the east end. The rye straw insulation can be seen in the low ceiling. There are loop holes in the twenty-two inch stone walls.

No. 8. Significance continued.

In 1747, he transferred his right to this land to Jacob Rohrer, who then had it patented in his name. It is possible that it was Rohrer who enlarged Hager House to its present two full stories and attic.

In 1753, Hager acquired a patent for another tract called Hager's Delight which consisted of one thousand, seven hundred eighty acres. On this land, he built what T. J. C. Williams describes as a "large log house, a fine building in those days. There were two large log pens far enough apart to constitute a hall."<sup>3</sup> Hager's children were probably born in this, their parents' second home, Rosanna in 1752 and Jonathan, Jr. in 1755.

In the years following, Hager obtained patents for six more tracts of land, the last of which was called New Work. It was on these seven hundred fourteen acres which he acquired in 1765 that Hager laid out Elizabeth Town, named after his wife who had died in 1765. The extent to which it had grown by 1722 is evident in this description written by William Eddes, the English Commissioner of the Land Office in Annapolis:

About thirty miles west of Fredericktown, I passed through a settlement which is making quick advances to perfection. A German adventurer, whose name is Hager, purchased a considerable tract of land in this neighborhood, and with much discernment and foresight, determined to give encouragement to traders, and to erect proper habitations for the

<sup>3</sup>Williams, T. J. C. A History of Washington County Maryland, . . ., Reprint of 1968 edition (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), p.23.

(see continuation sheet #2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #2

05461103

WA-HAG-9

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Hager House

No. 8. Significance continued.

stowage of goods, for supply of the adjacent country. His plan succeeded; he has lived to behold a multitude of inhabitants of lands, which he remembers unoccupied; and he has seen erected in places, appropriated by him for the purposes, more than an hundred comfortable edifices, to which the name of Hager's Town is given in honour of the intelligent founder.<sup>4</sup>

Hager was naturally the new town's foremost citizen and as there were still few towns so far west, he held a position of some importance. He was one of the eleven Maryland managers (there were also eleven from Virginia) of George Washington's project to promote the development of navigation on the Potomac River. In 1771, he was elected to represent Frederick County at the General Assembly in Annapolis. Although he had taken out naturalization papers in 1746,<sup>5</sup> Hager's eligibility for this position was called into question because he was neither a "natural born" English subject nor decedent from one. The Assembly voted by a narrow margin that Hager could not serve, but nearly within the week they passed a law making him eligible. When he was re-elected in 1773, the same problem was encountered because the last Lord Baltimore had died and the Assembly doubled the validity of the laws passed under him. The question was not resolved in the 1773 session but Hager was allowed to retain his seat for that period. He died the following year in an accident at the new German Reformed church for which he had contributed the land.<sup>6</sup> Just the year after his death, Hager's Town (legally still Elizabeth Town) was made the county seat of the newly formed Washington County.

Jacob Rohrer, to whom Hager sold Hager's Fancy in 1747, had it resurveyed with several other tracts of Land of Prospect in 1789. He left this to his son Frederick in 1804 and the latter sold it to Michael Hammond in 1813. It remained with his heirs until 1890, after which it went through a succession of owners until the Hager House and some of the land around it was acquired by the Washington County Historical Society in 1944. The house has been restored and is now situated in Hagerstown's city park.

<sup>4</sup> Williams, T. J. C. A History of Washington County, p. 27.

<sup>5</sup> Mish, Mary Vernon, Jonathan Hager, Founder. (Hagerstown, Maryland, 1972), p. 24.

<sup>6</sup> Mish, Mary Vernon, Jonathan Hager, Founder. (Hagerstown, Maryland.

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #3

WA-HAG-9

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Hager House

No. 9. Major Bibliographical References Continued.

Williams, T. J. C. A History of Washington County Maryland, from the Earliest Settlements to the Present Time. Reprint of 1906 edition. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Washington County Land Records and Wills. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

WR-HAG-9

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Washington</u> TOWN <u>Hagerstown</u> VICINITY STREET NO.  ORIGINAL OWNER <u>Jonathan Hager</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>City of Hagerstown</u> PRESENT USE <u>Museum</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>stone</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2½ with cellar</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>WA - VI - 1</u>
	2. NAME <u>Hager's Fancy</u>  DATE OR PERIOD <u>circa 1740</u> STYLE <u>colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER <u>Jonathan Hager</u>
	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC yes

Jonathan Hager, a German, in 1739, received a grant of 200 acres on which he built first a log house. Within a short time other settlers joined him and Elizabeth Town, named for Hager's wife, was laid out. Some hundred dwellings were erected among which was the permanent home for the Hagers. This settlement became an important trading post.

The two-story house is three bays long (two bays on the north facade) and two bays deep with an "A" roof and a one-story entrance porch which covers the entrance to the high basement with its original Dutch doors. Flat stone arches span the windows and door openings. The panelled shutters twelve over twelve sash date from the restoration. A vacant recess in the gable appears to have been the place for a date plaque.

The structure has a full basement, in which are two pools of water for household use, fed by clear water springs. There are some small louvered vents in the basement to circulate air around these springs.

(continued on reverse side)

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered no    Interior excellent    Exterior excellent

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
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8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>Maryland, a Guide the Old Line State, American Guide Series, Oxford University Press, N.Y. 1940 p.283</u>	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u>  DATE OF RECORD <u>April 4, 1968</u>
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

A Conococheague Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution marker on the house reads:

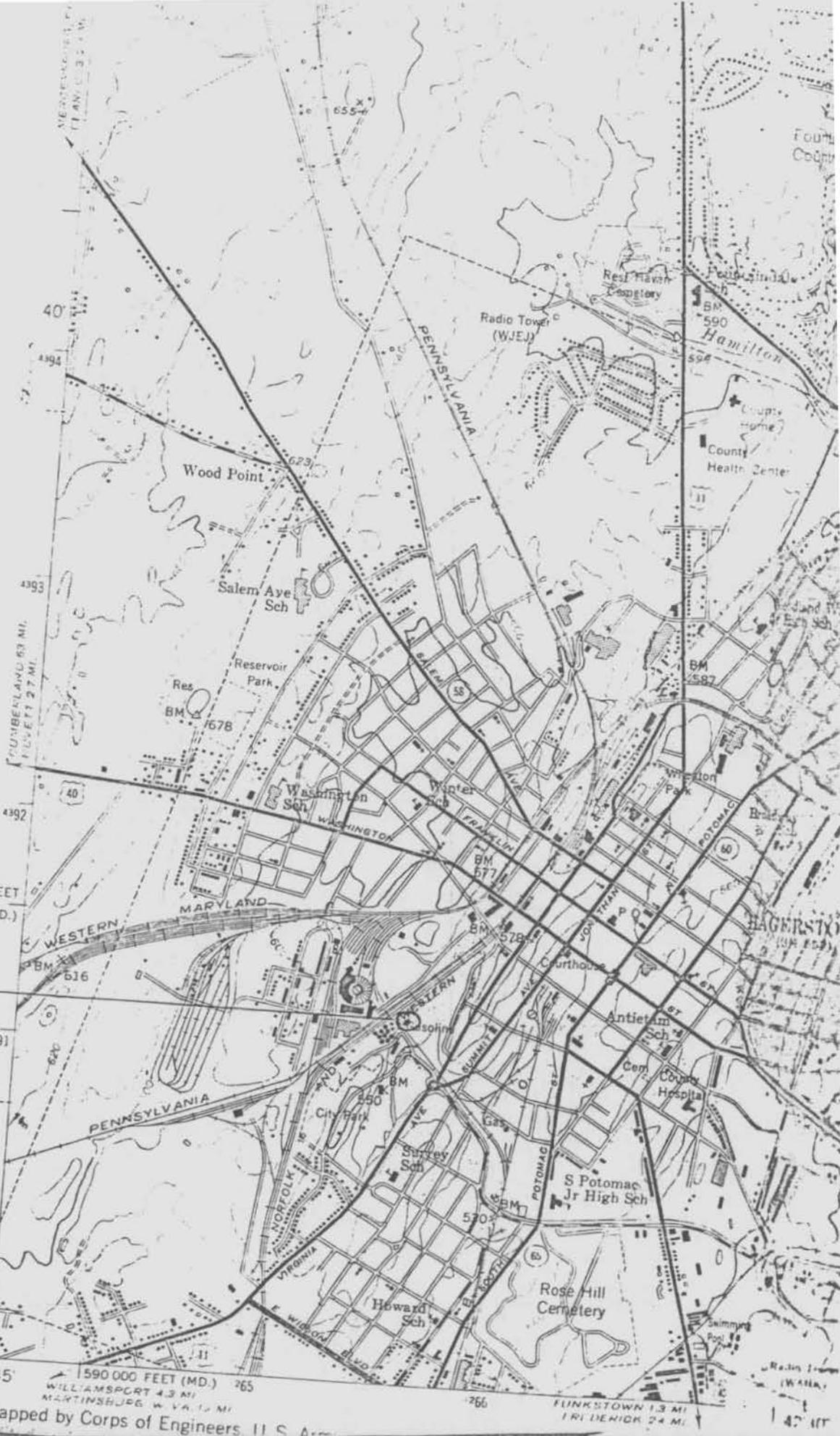
**"HAGER'S FANCY**

THIS DWELLING WAS BUILT BY JOHATHAN HAGER FOUNDER OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND, 1762. CAPTAIN OF SCOUTS, FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, 1755-1763. MEMBER OF THE NON-IMPORTATION ASSOCIATION AND OF THE COMMITTEES OF SAFETY AND OBSERVATION, 1775 MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ANNAPOLIS, 1771-1775."

The city which grew up around Hager's house was incorporated as Hagerstown in 1814. It became a railroad center and is now an aircraft, truck and pipe organ manufacturing center.

The two-story stone Hager House has been restored and is open for visitors as a museum in a wooded park with a stream.

A nearby small stone building of recent construction houses a collection of artifacts relating to the Hager House and the early history of the town.



WA-NAG-9  
 Hager House  
 Lat. 39° 38' 23"  
 Long. 77° 43' 20"

39° 37' 30" 77° 45' 1590 000 FEET (MD.) 765  
 WILLIAMSPORT 4.3 MI  
 MARTINSBURG W. VA. 12 MI  
 Mapped by Corps of Engineers U.S. Army  
 FINKSTOWN 1.3 MI  
 IRI DENIGR 2.4 MI  
 47 47

## HAGERSTOWN LANDMARKS RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties # WA-HAG-9

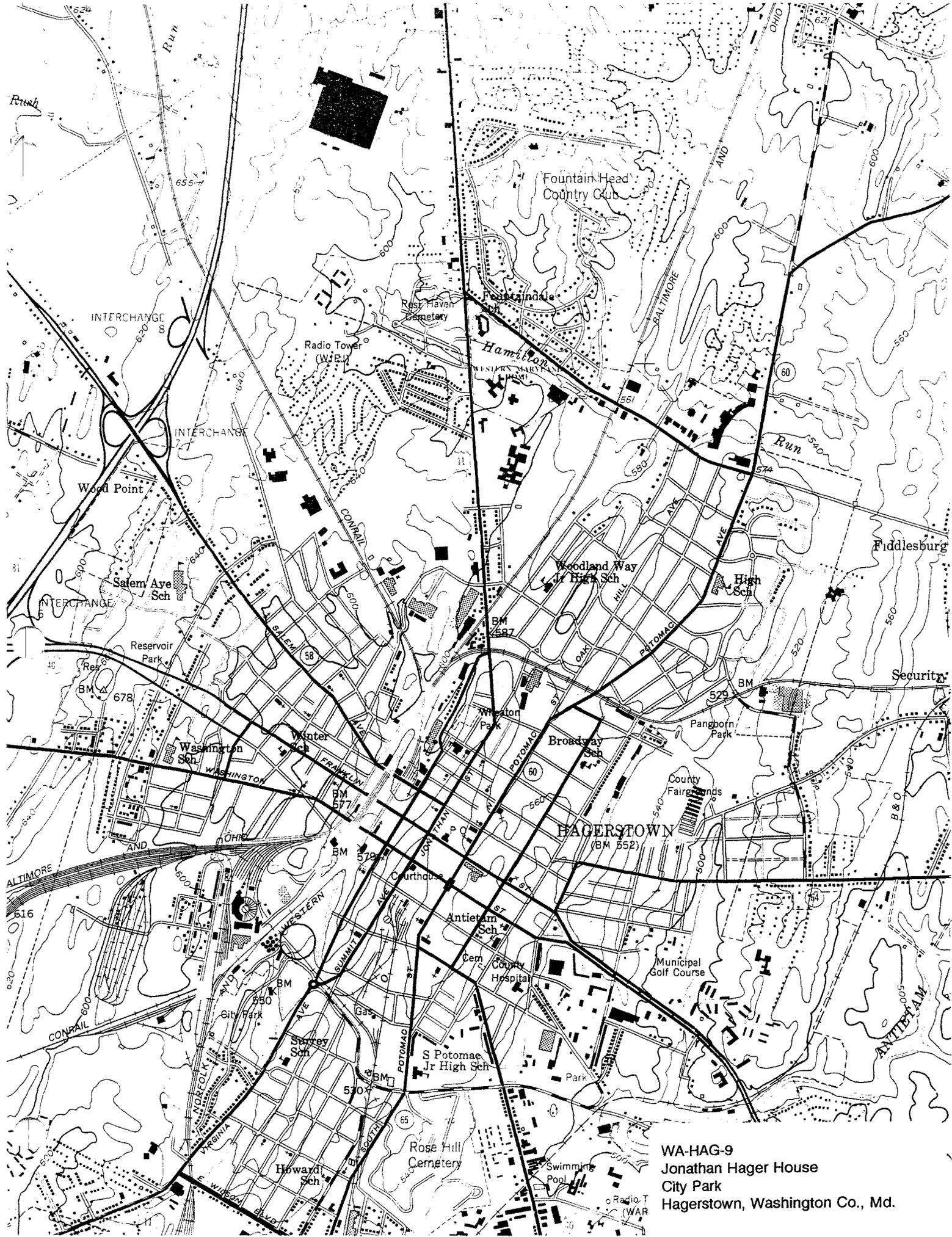
Property Name/Address: Jonathan Hager House, City Park, Hagerstown, Maryland

Description/Significance: A three-bay, 2½-story stone farmhouse begun ca. 1740 by Jonathan Hager, founder of the town. Its form, plan, and construction details exemplify Germanic vernacular building traditions of the 18th century. Significant features include the four-room, central chimney plan; siting into a sloping bank, with partially exposed basement; enclosure of springs within the cellar; and straw insulation between the first floor joists. Represents Hagerstown's settlement period. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815
- III. Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
- IV. Resource Type  
Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Urban  
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
Known Design Source: Unknown

Form Prepared by: Peter E. Kurtze  
109 Brandon Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21212  
August 15, 1991



WA-HAG-9  
Jonathan Hager House  
City Park  
Hagerstown, Washington Co., Md.



WESTERN MARYLAND - WASHINGTON COUNTY D14

WA-HAG-009

SOUTH FACADE  
HAGER HOUSE  
HAGERSTOWN

WASHINGTON CO, MD

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
2525 RIVA ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

ANTHONY O. JAMES

7/23



WA-HAG-9

JONATHAN HAGER HOUSE

HAGERSTOWN MD

7/91 P. KURTZE

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST



HAGER - FANCY ~~WA 111~~

121

WA-HAG-9  
Jonathan Hager House

9  
Hager House

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

MOB '96