

ABSTRACT  
(R. Andrews, 10-76)

2-4 North Potomac Street  
NE corner Public Square  
Hagerstown  
Washington County, Maryland

circa 1830s-1840s

Believed to be one of the oldest structures standing on Public Square, the building is both historically and architecturally significant. Current analysis indicates that the building was erected in the early to mid nineteenth century, probably about the 1830s or 1840s. In the late 1800s the building was raised to a full three stories in height and crowned with a bracketed cornice. The original use of the structure may have been a combination of residential and commercial, but, by the late nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, the first floor was fully commercial in use. This transformation characterizes the change of Public Square from its early stage as mixture of houses and shops to a complete business orientation corresponding to the growth and development of the city.

Architecturally, the building is an example of early to mid nineteenth century Neoclassical influenced construction in Hagerstown. The building is shown in a mid nineteenth century stereographic view of Public Square as being two and a half stories high with a low pitched, dormerless roof which peaks along the north wall. A portion of the parapet along the original roofline is visible at the northwest corner of the structure. As it appears in the photograph, the building has several of the basic characteristics of the Greek Revival phase of the Neoclassical period.

A particularly interesting feature of the building are the decorative corner blocks of the upper story windows of the street elevations (south and west sides). The use of this type of decorative detailing on this building is one of the few examples remaining in Hagerstown although numerous examples can still be found throughout Washington County and the surrounding areas of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, no dated examples of this decoration are known in Hagerstown.

At the same time the building was enlarged, the street elevations were also refurbished in the fashionable Italianate manner with the addition of a bracketed cornice. The cornice is less ornate than those of the neighboring buildings and is rather small in proportion to the block of the building it crowns.

The building is also an important part of the streetscape of Public Square both for its setting and lines. This building and the corresponding one on the west side of Potomac Street (also an early to mid nineteenth century brick structure) are termini for the avenue and lines formed by Potomac Street which sharply rise to the north. The form of the building and the placement of windows harmonize and contribute to the rhythm of lines set by the other buildings in the northern half of Public Square. Restoration of the original roofline and installation of sympathetic shop front on the ground level would greatly enhance visual impact of the building and Public Square.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2-4 North Potomac Street

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2-4 North Potomac Street, NE corner Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Garland E. Groh and  
R. Eleanor Groh Warrenfeltz

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

151 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Courthouse

Liber #: 556

Folio #: 208

STREET & NUMBER

95 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

NOTE: One (1) Continuation Sheet attached

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 building is a nineteenth century brick structure which abuts the neighboring buildings to the north and east. The south and west elevations front on North Potomac Street and Public Square. Erected in the early to mid nineteenth century, probably about the 1830s or 1840s, the building was extensively altered in the late nineteenth century. The present general appearance of the exterior is the result of the late 1800s remodelings.

Presently, the building is three stories high with a flat roof. The south and west or street elevations are simple, clear-cut rectangular forms which are terminated at the tops by a bracketed cornice. The facades are reminiscent of the rectilinear Italianate influenced commercial facades of the late nineteenth century only still containing the multi-light windows of an earlier building period. The bricks of the upper stories of the south and west elevations are heavily coated with paint and are laid in Stretcher bond.

The first or ground floor of the building contains a large storeroom with huge glass display windows on the exterior. The entrance to the shop is located in the southwest corner and is recessed into the building with a thick, round metal column in the outer corner supporting the upper stories. The shaft of the column is fluted on the lower section and is probably a vestige of a late nineteenth century storefront. The display windows and the surrounding panels were installed in recent years.

The upper two levels of the south and west elevations have four wooden frame windows on each story. The windows are of the double-hung, wooden sash type with six-over-six lights. The windows also have narrow frames, plain wooden sills, and rectangular architraves with corner blocks which extend beyond the width of the windows. The corner blocks have circular design. The window openings are symmetrically arranged along each elevation although the south facade is wider than the west one. The third story windows are a bit smaller in size than those of the second floor.

The building is prominently shown in a mid-nineteenth century stereograph of Public Square (Washington County Historical Society). In the picture, the building is two and a half stories high with a dormerless roof which peaks along the north wall. A parapet is also shown along the north wall. Part of the parapet still exists and extends from the present third floor.

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"/> 400-1499	<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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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    circa 1830s-1840s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Believed to be one of the oldest structures standing on Public Square, the building is both historically and architecturally significant.

Current analysis indicates that the building was erected in the early to mid nineteenth century, probably about the 1830s or 1840s. In the late 1800s the building was raised to a full three stories in height and crowned with a bracketed cornice. The original use of the structure may have been a combination of residential and commercial, but, by the late nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, the first floor was fully commercial in use. This transformation characterizes the change of Public Square from its early stage as mixture of houses and shops to a complete business orientation corresponding to the growth and development of the city.

Architecturally, the building is an example of early to mid nineteenth century Neoclassical influenced construction in Hagerstown. The building is shown in a mid nineteenth century stereographic view of Public Square as being two and a half stories high with a low pitched, dormerless roof which peaks along the north wall. A portion of the parapet along the original roof line is visible at the northwest corner of the structure. As it appears in the photograph, the building has several of the basic characteristics of the Greek Revival phase of the Neoclassical period. These characteristics are the rectangular form of the building; the smooth, brick exterior surfaces; the use of double-hung windows with multi-lights; an attention to the decorative treatment of the windows (the original doorways are not visible in the photograph); and the low pitched roof.

A particularly interesting feature of the building are the decorative corner blocks of the upper story windows of the street elevations (south and west sides). The use of this type of decorative detailing on this building is one of the few examples remaining in Hagerstown although numerous examples can still be found throughout Washington County and the surrounding areas of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, no dated examples of this decoration are known in Hagerstown.

When the building was enlarged with the addition of the third story, great effort was placed on the aesthetic quality of the street facades. A number of buildings of the early to mid nineteenth century period in downtown Hagerstown underwent alterations and enlargements in the late 1800s. In nearly all such examples, either the original upper story windows were

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

2-4 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown  
Washington County, Maryland

#8

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE continued

replaced to match the new ones of the addition or the addition windows were simply new and in contrast with those on the earlier portion. At 2-4 North Potomac Street, the addition windows are quite similar to the original one giving at first the impression that the building was originally three stories high. The source of the addition windows, or whether they were new or old at the time of installation, and why they were used is not documented.

At the same time the building was enlarged, the street elevations were also refurbished in the fashionable Italianate manner with the addition of a bracketed cornice. The cornice is less ornate than those of the neighboring buildings and is rather small in proportion to the block of the building it crowns.

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The present owner acquired the property in 1973 from his family.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Washington County Historical Society, files, Miller House, Hagerstown, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

The property measures approximately 40' x 240'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Known as 2-4 North Potomac Street, the building stands on the east side of the street on the northeast corner of Public Square in Hagerstown, Washington County.

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant (mbe)

ORGANIZATION

City of Hagerstown

DATE

October 6, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

TELEPHONE

(301) 731-3200

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

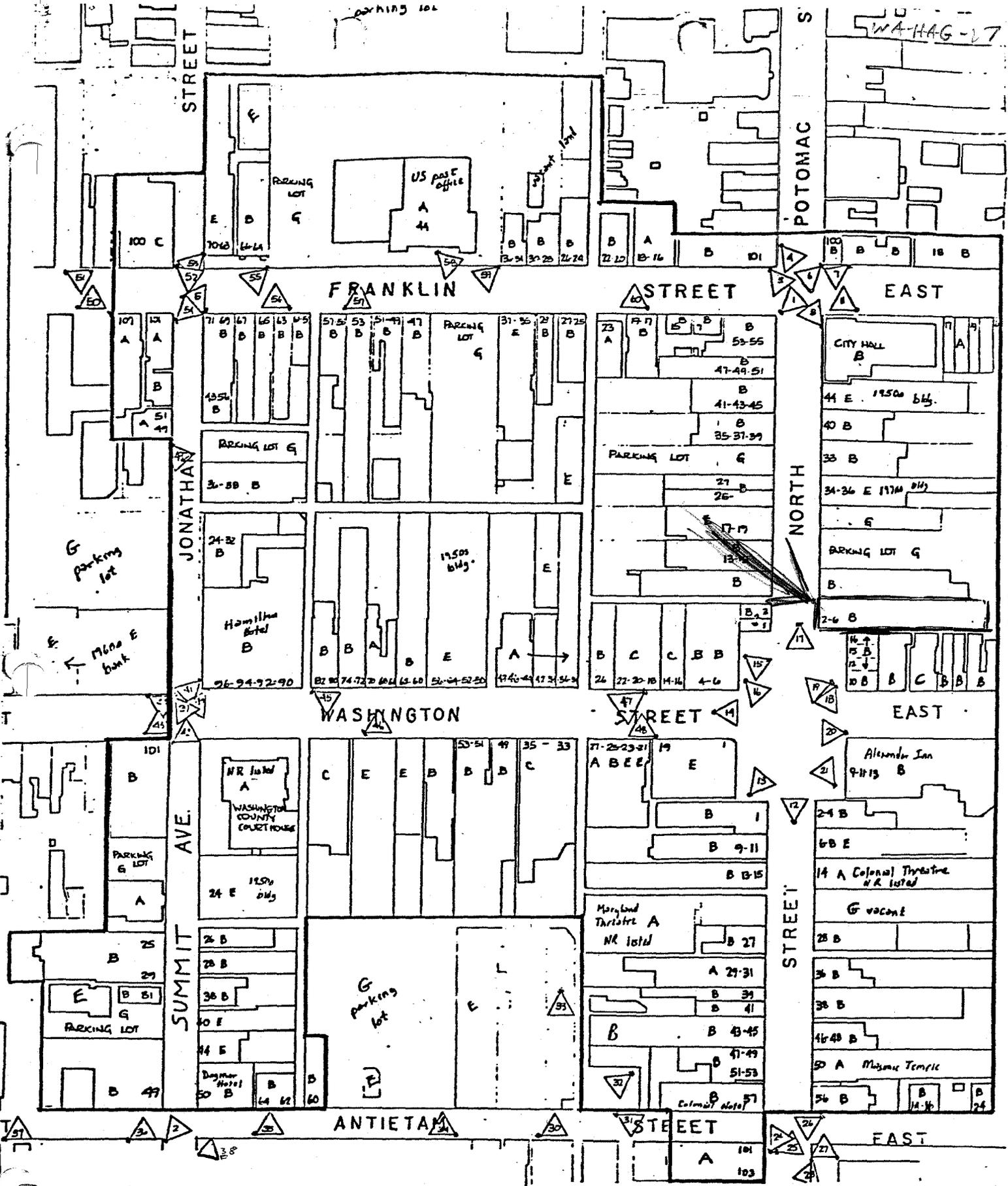
STATE

Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

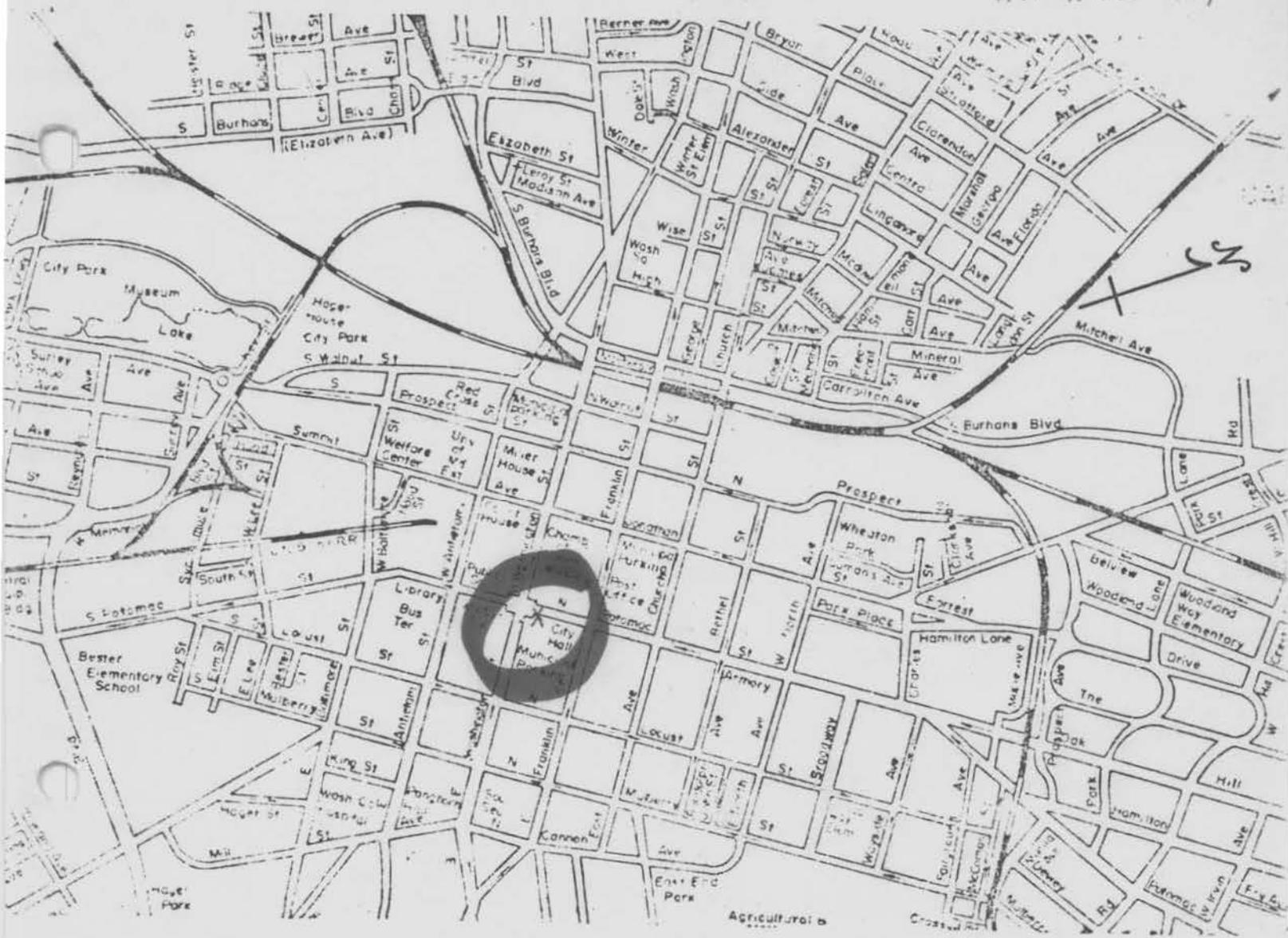
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



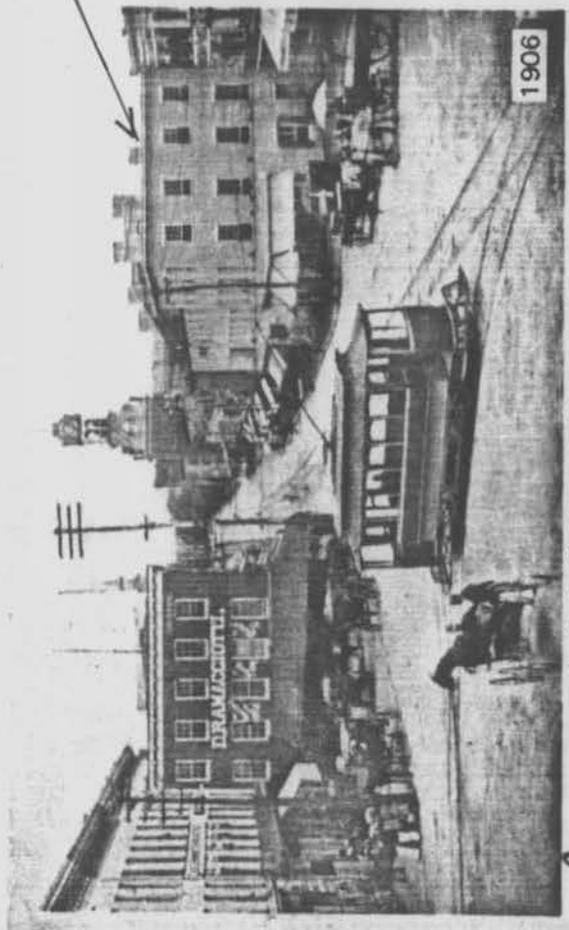
each building is identified as to contributive value to significance of the district - see reverse of map for code identification

Hagerstown Commercial Core Historic District  
 Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland  
 entered into National Register 17 Jan. 1983



SITE: 2-4 North Potomac Street  
 NE corner Public Square  
 Hagerstown  
 Washington County, Maryland

map: City of Hagerstown,  
Washington County, Md.  
 City Engineering Dept.  
 July, 1970  
 scale 1"=1200'



1906

H. M. WAYS & SONS

No. 24-N. Potomac St., Hagerstown, Md.

*January 27/06 Paper*



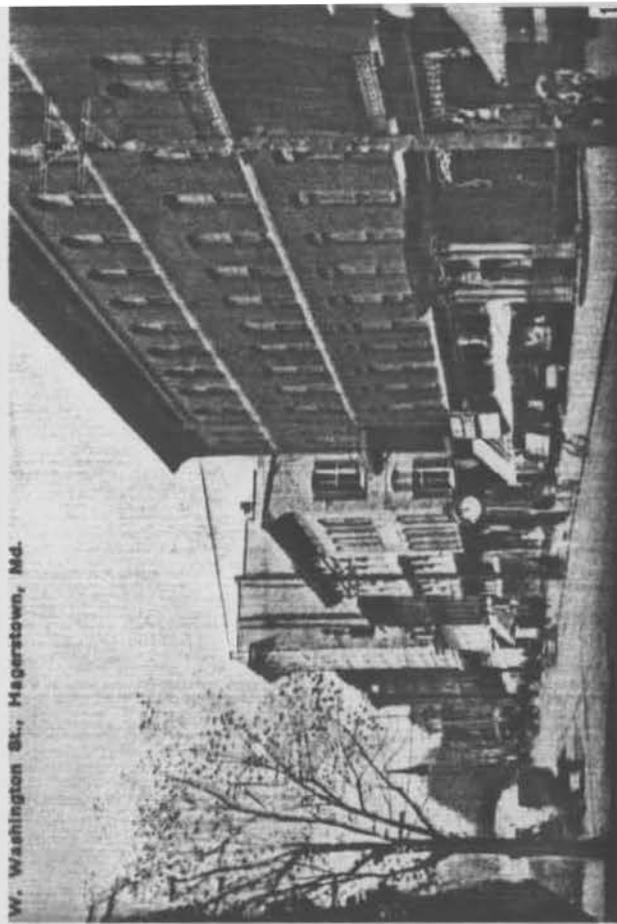
Public Square, Hagerstown, Md.

*From Union and Loretto*



Public Square, showing Alexander Hotel and Professional Arts Building Hagerstown, Md.

1938



W. Washington St., Hagerstown, Md.

WA-HAG-17

Feldstein, Albert L.

1984 Feldstein's Historic Postcard Album of Washington County, Maryland.  
 Commercial Press Printing Company,  
 Cumberland, Maryland.



1906

Dear Cousin  
 Please  
 and I am  
 coming  
 a date  
 morning  
 on the 9  
 o'clock  
 train  
 Please  
 meet us  
 from  
 Anne

No. 4—Second National Bank, Hagerstown, Md.

H. M. HAYES & BROS.



1907

Public Square, looking South, Hagerstown, Md. This is a nice town  
 and they make cats here but am not certain yet,  
 With the best wishes to you from Gust.



1906

W. Washington Street, Hagerstown, Md.  
 Am going to write a letter soon, and will then tell you  
 all about how I spent the day on Thursday  
 in around. Was surprised when I reached home  
 Evening.  
 Feldstein, Albert L.



1907

North Potomac St. Hagerstown, Md.

76.

WA-HAG-17

North Potomac Street, looking from  
Public Square, Hagerstown, Md.



1911

North Potomac Street Hagerstown, Md.



1907



North Potomac St., Hagerstown, Md.  
Feldstein, Albert L.

1906



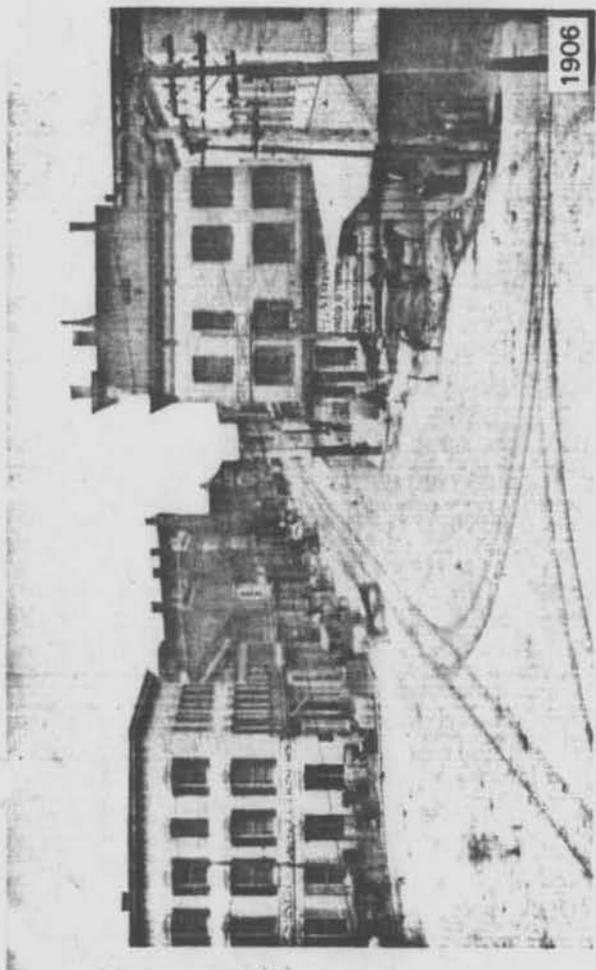
No. 4—C. V. and N. & W. Station Hagerstown, Md.

H. W. HAYS & SONS

1905

2-17-06.  
Does this  
look fa-  
miliar  
especially  
when you  
go to  
Martinsburg  
E.P.R!

WA-HAG-17

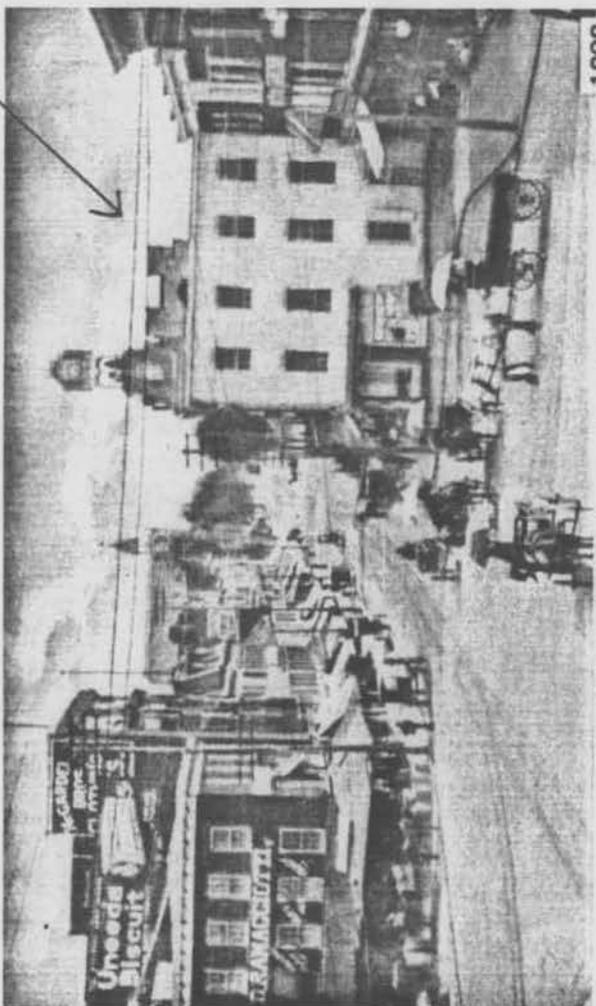


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS - PHOTODUPLICATION SERVICE - WASHINGTON, D.C.

S. PATOMAC ST., HAGERSTOWN, MD

1937

1906

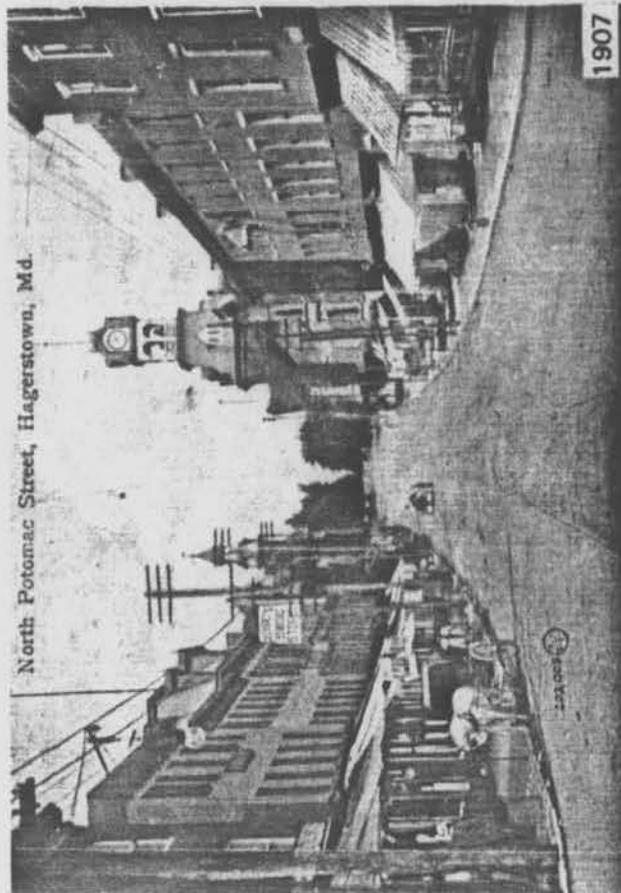


N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Md.

1908

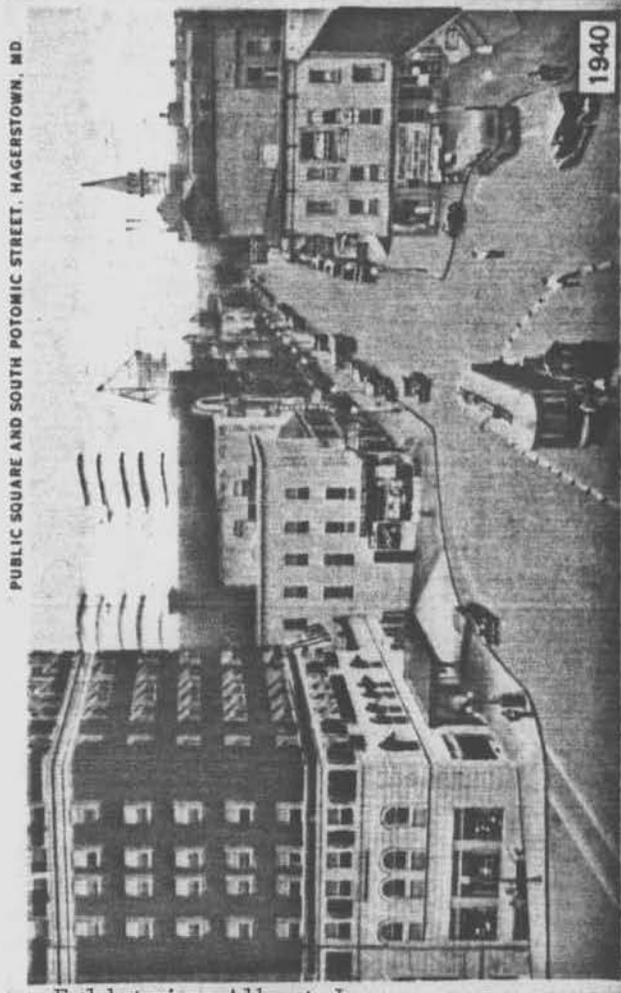


1906



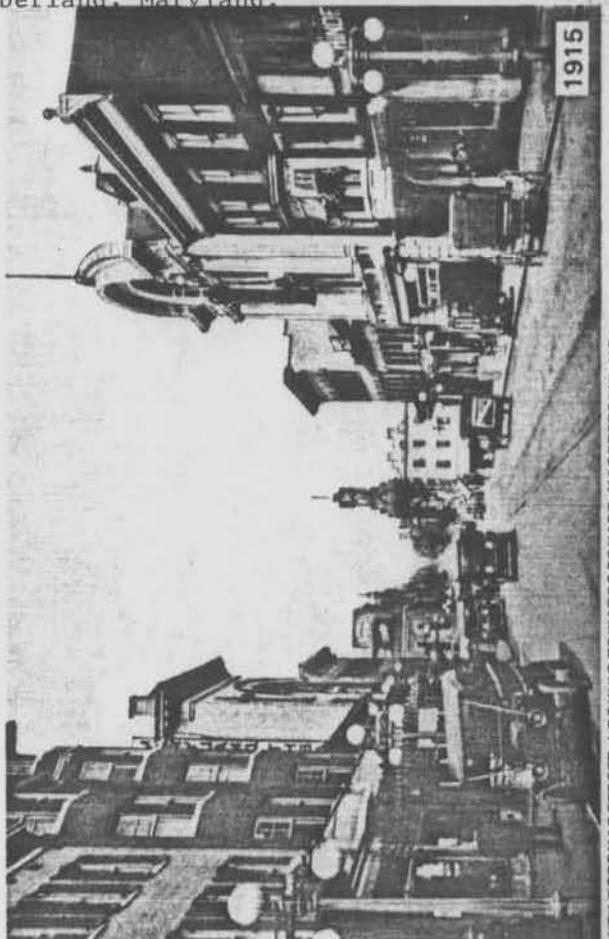
North Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Md.

1907



PUBLIC SQUARE AND SOUTH POTOMAC STREET, HAGERSTOWN, MD.

1940



SOUTH POTOMAC STREET, LOOKING TOWARDS SQUARE, HAGERSTOWN, MD.

1915



PUBLIC SQUARE AND NORTH POTOMAC STREET, HAGERSTOWN, MD.

1928

WA-HAG-17

WA-HAG-17

Feldstein, Albert L.

1984 Feldstein's Historic Postcard Album of Washington County, Maryland.  
Commercial Press Printing Company, Cumberland, Maryland.



2-4 North Potomac St.  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co., Md.  
SW view  
July, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS

WA-HAG-017