

ABSTRACT  
(R. Andrews, 1-77)

110-112 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown  
Washington County, Maryland

circa 1890

This circa 1890 three story brick building is architecturally significant primarily for its Romanesque influenced facade (west elevation). Although not the only Romanesque commercial front in Hagerstown's central area, the facade is quite important for two reasons: 1) it is one of the few remaining facades of this period in fairly original condition, and 2) the facade is artistically interesting for its decoration.

The facade has undergone only minor changes over the years in adapting it for changes in use and/or taste. As shown in a photograph published in 1896 the facade was originally crowned with three spherical finials positioned on triangular mounts. In comparison of the present street level facade with that shown in the 1896 photograph, the south storefront is nearly untouched but that the north storefront has been reversed in relationship to window and door locations. Another major change to the storefronts was the addition of colonial elements in the mid twentieth century.

Of the brick Romanesque commercial facades in Hagerstown, this front is one of the more elaborate. The surface plane is divided into two sections by flat pilasters which are corbeled at the top below the cornice. It is delineated into levels by decorative banding consisting of reeding and diamond patterns. This banding also serves to counterbalance the strong vertical feeling created by the pilasters. Probably the most interesting feature of the facade decoration is the molded square bricks located in two rows below the cornice and singularly positioned on the pilasters.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-HAG-37  
22045346-11

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

110-112 North Potomac Street

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

110-112 North Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Garland E. Groh

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 #: 217

Folio #: 368

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**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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**

Known as 110-112 North Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, the building stands on the east side of the street in the southern half of the block formed by Franklin Street and East Avenue, the second block north of Public Square.

The building is a circa 1890, three story, brick commercial structure with a Romanesque influenced facade (west elevation). Abutting the neighboring structures to the north and south, the building sits tight to the sidewalk and has a shed-type roof which slopes downward to the east. The structure currently has two storerooms on the first floor and apartments above.

The principal or street elevation (west side) is fairly original in condition and is primarily significant for its decorative brickwork. Rectangular in shape, the facade is divided into two sections by a pair of flat pilasters running the height of the upper two stories. It is also flanked by single end flat pilasters extending from the ground level to a corbeled brick cornice at the top.

The first or street level of the facade has two shop fronts which are adaptations of earlier fronts. The southern front has a recessed central door and large display windows which were recently given the multi-light look with the addition of false mullions. The basic framework appears to be original because of the decorative detailing (fluting and circular designs in 1890s fashion) on it.

The north front has a segmental entranceway leading to two recessed doorways into the interior. To the south of the entranceway is a multi-light display window with a large trabeated surround. This window is of recent vintage. The original arrangement of this section, as shown in a photograph published in 1896 (Baltimore American Illustrated), was the opposite of the present arrangement, a doorway to the south and a segmental arch window in the present entranceway. The present segment arch doorway, however, appears to extend higher than the original window. The surface of the bricks in this section are painted a cream color.

The street level facade is terminated and separated from the upper stories by a shallow cornice with a cove molding.

The second and third stories of the facade elevation have six windows each divided into groups of three corresponding to the sections formed by the pilasters. All of these windows are of the double-hung, wooden sash type with narrow frames and one-over-one lights but differ with segmental arch tops on the second story and round arch tops on the third level. The top sashes correspond to the shape of the arches. The sills may be molded masonry.

The entire facade is highly decorated with brickwork. The bricks are red and laid in Stretcher bond with decorative reeded banding delineating the story levels. The pilasters have small patches of fluting. A wide band of

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1 of 1 page

CONTINUATION SHEET

R. Andrews, 1-77

110-112 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown  
Washington County, Maryland

## #7. DESCRIPTION continued

brickwork laid in diamond pattern and bordered on the top with bricks set at a diagonal stretches the width of the facade below the third story windows. The division between the centered double pilasters is terminated at the top, being about the top of the third story windows, by a round arch below the corbeling of the cornice. The facade appears to have once been painted red, the same color as the bricks.

The most interesting of the brickwork are the square decorative bricks positioned along the end pilasters and forming two rows of banding below the cornice. The bricks on the pilasters are located two in the upper third of the first story and two about the height of the top of the second story windows. The bricks are decorated with round flower designs. Another of these bricks is located near the center of the street level and is visually connected to those in the end pilasters by reeding stretching across the north store front.

The two square brick bands below the cornice consist of alternating round flower designs of the type on the pilasters and a Greek cross design. The top band is immediately below the cornice and the other band, more easily visible, is located about two feet below, about where the cornice corbeling begins.

As shown in the 1896 photograph referred to above, the cornice originally was crowned with a shallow molding and sphere finials resting on triangular gables above the pilasters with only one finial in the center.

The building appears to be structurally sound.

**8 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 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 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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The facade has undergone only minor changes over the years in adapting it for changes in use and/or taste (see description section). As shown in a photograph published in 1896 (Baltimore American Illustrated), the facade was originally crowned with three spherical finials positioned on triangular mounts. In comparison of the present street level facade with that shown in the 1896 photograph, the south storefront is nearly untouched but that the north storefront has been reversed in relationship to window and door locations. Another major change to the storefronts was the addition of colonial elements in the mid twentieth century.

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The exact date of construction of the building is not known. As noted above, the structure is shown in a photograph published in 1896. When the building was erected, the facade was the most sophisticated urban commercial front in this block of North Potomac Street; and, such was the case until about 1914 when the building at 109 North Potomac Street (diagonally across the street) was constructed. Most of the nineteenth century buildings standing along the street were erected as houses, some of which were later adapted for commercial purposes.

Visually, the building is an important element of the streetscape with the rhythm of lines created by segmental and round arch windows harmoniously contrasting with rectangular lines of the neighboring structures.

The present owner acquired the property in 1941.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore American Illustrated Edition 1896: The State of Maryland.  
Baltimore: Baltimore American, 1896, p. 154.

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

The property measures approximately 41' x 240'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

December 14, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

TELEPHONE

(301) 731-3200

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

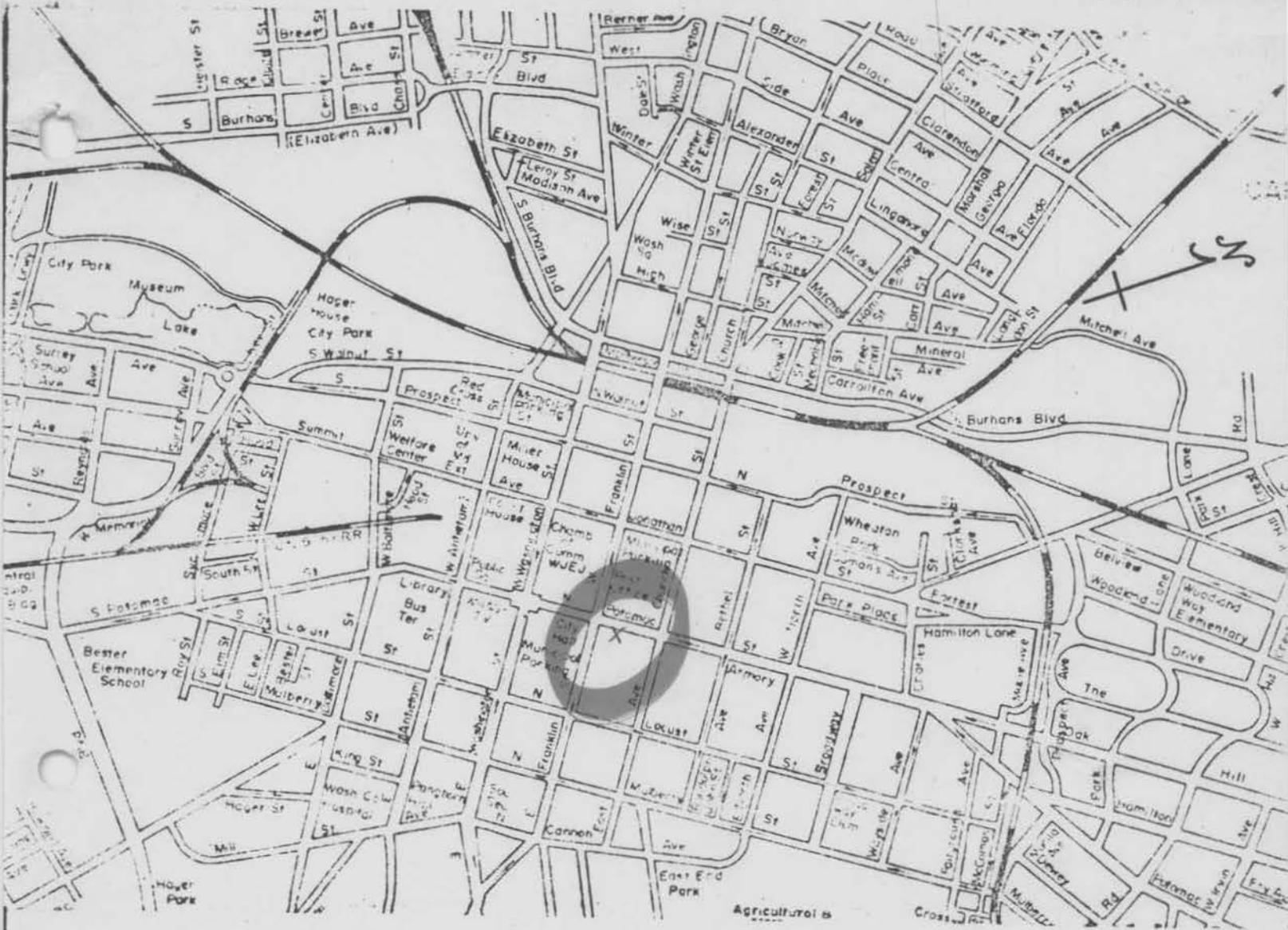
STATE

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



SITE: 110-112 North Potomac Street  
 Hagerstown  
 Washington County, Maryland

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



WA-HAG-37

110-112 North Potomac Street

Hagerstown

Washington Co., Md.

west elevation

July, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS



WA-HAG-37

110-112 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co., Md.

west elevation - detail

July, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS