

## ABSTRACT

(R. Andrews, 8-77)

122-128 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown  
Washington County, Maryland

circa 1921-1922

Massive in size, this three story building of brick construction with masonry decorative detailing was erected about 1921-1922 for Hagerstown Camp No. 1 of the fraternal organization Woodmen of the World. A large panel bearing the insignia of the group is mounted in the upper levels of the north bay of the facade. The organization purchased the property in 1921 and retained title to it until 1961 when the building was sold to the present owners.

Stylistically, the facade or west elevation, which abuts the neighboring structures, is representative of the eclectic movement which influenced American architecture of the early twentieth century. In this movement, elements from various accepted architectural styles were combined, often resulting in interesting and picturesque designs. On the facade of the W.O.W. Building, as it is historically known, classical Georgian quoining and a door surround of the Tuscan order are combined with a Spanish type roof and French doors. These elements are mounted on a textured brown brick which have a warm Mediterranean feel to them.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-HAG-43  
MAGI # 2206285711

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC W.O.W. Building  
AND/OR COMMON 122-128 North Potomac Street

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 122-128 North Potomac Street  
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Offices

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Justin H. Scharf (Lucille) Telephone #:  
STREET & NUMBER 124 North Potomac 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 #: 526  
STREET & NUMBER 95 West Washington Street Folio #: 128  
CITY, TOWN Hagerstown STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

**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 122-128 North Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, the building stands on the east side of the street in the center of the block formed by Franklin Street and East Avenue, the second block north of Public Square.

The building is a four story massive size eclectic style masonry structure which was erected about 1921-1922 for the fraternal organization Woodmen of the World. With the facade or west elevation fairly well intact, the building abuts the sidewalk and the neighboring structures to the north and south. The building is a dominant feature of the streetscape because of its size and location near the crest of a hill where North Potomac Street drops sharply to the south.

The facade or west elevation is constructed of brown, textured bricks of the type commonly associated with the Spanish Survival style. It is decorated with Neo-Georgian masonry quoining and Tuscan influenced doorways. Ten bays wide, the facade is terminated at the top by a masonry capping blocks. The top or third story has three large centered multi-light French door arrangements with sidelights and segmental arch transoms. These door areas are covered by a steeply pitched, tile covered Spanish Revival type roof supported by six large brackets.

The principal windows of the facade are rectangular with double-hung, wooden sashes with six-over-one lights and masonry sills and lintels. The southern two windows on the first floor now have one single sash each. The two single windows on third floor flank the French doors and have large transoms; the one on the south end is rectangular whereas the one on the other end is half round.

The north bay is set off from the rest of the facade by a row of quoining and has the principal entrance to the lodge hall on the first floor and single windows above. Between the second and third stories is a large square masonry panel bearing a W.O.W. insignia. This bay is terminated at the top with a gable inscribed with the letters W.O.W.

The doorway in the north bay has double wooden doors with a Tuscan surround. Single doors are located in the third, fourth, and ninth bays from the south end. The fourth bay doorway has a Tuscan influenced hood.

The building appears to be structurally sound. The facade is fairly well intact except for a balcony which once connected the third floor French doors.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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            circa 1921-1922            BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Massive in size, this three story building of brick construction with masonry decorative detailing was erected about 1921-1922 for Hagerstown Camp No. 1 of the fraternal organization Woodmen of the World. A large panel bearing the insignia of the group is mounted in the upper levels of the north bay of the facade. The organization purchased the property in 1921 (Deed Book 159, p. 203) and retained title to it until 1961 when the building was sold to the present owners.

Stylistically, the facade or west elevation, which abuts the neighboring structures, is representative of the eclectic movement which influenced American architecture of the early twentieth century. In this movement, elements from various accepted architectural styles were combined, often resulting in interesting and picturesque designs. On the facade of the W.O.W. Building, as it is historically known, classical Georgian quoining and a door surround of the Tuscan order are combined with a Spanish type roof and French doors. These elements are mounted on a textured brown brick which have a warm Mediterranean feel to them.

The sheer size of this building makes it a dominant part of the streetscape. It is one of three huge structures in the block of North Potomac Street but is the only one of these buildings which sits directly out at the street. The other two buildings, the Wesley Methodist Church (1884-1885) across the street and the Y.M.C.A. Building (1920) diagonally across the street to the north, are set back several feet thus toning down the impact of their bulk.

The construction of this building represented a major change in the nature of the block from the residential status of the early and mid nineteenth century commercial quality of the late 1800s to the present.

SEE CHAIN OF TITLE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

The property measures approximately 79' 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 August 17, 1977
STREET & NUMBER	City Hall	TELEPHONE (301) 790-3200
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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1 of 1 page

CONTINUATION SHEETR. Andrews, 8-77

122-128 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown  
Washington County, Maryland

## HISTORICAL CHAIN OF TITLE (Washington County Land Records)

Book 526, p. 128

16 April 1971

grantor: Justin N. Scharf

grantee: Justin N. Scharf and wife Lucille

Book 365, p. 270

3 March 1961

grantor: Hagerstown Camp No. 1, Woodmen of the World  
Building Association, Inc.

grantee: Justin N. Scharf

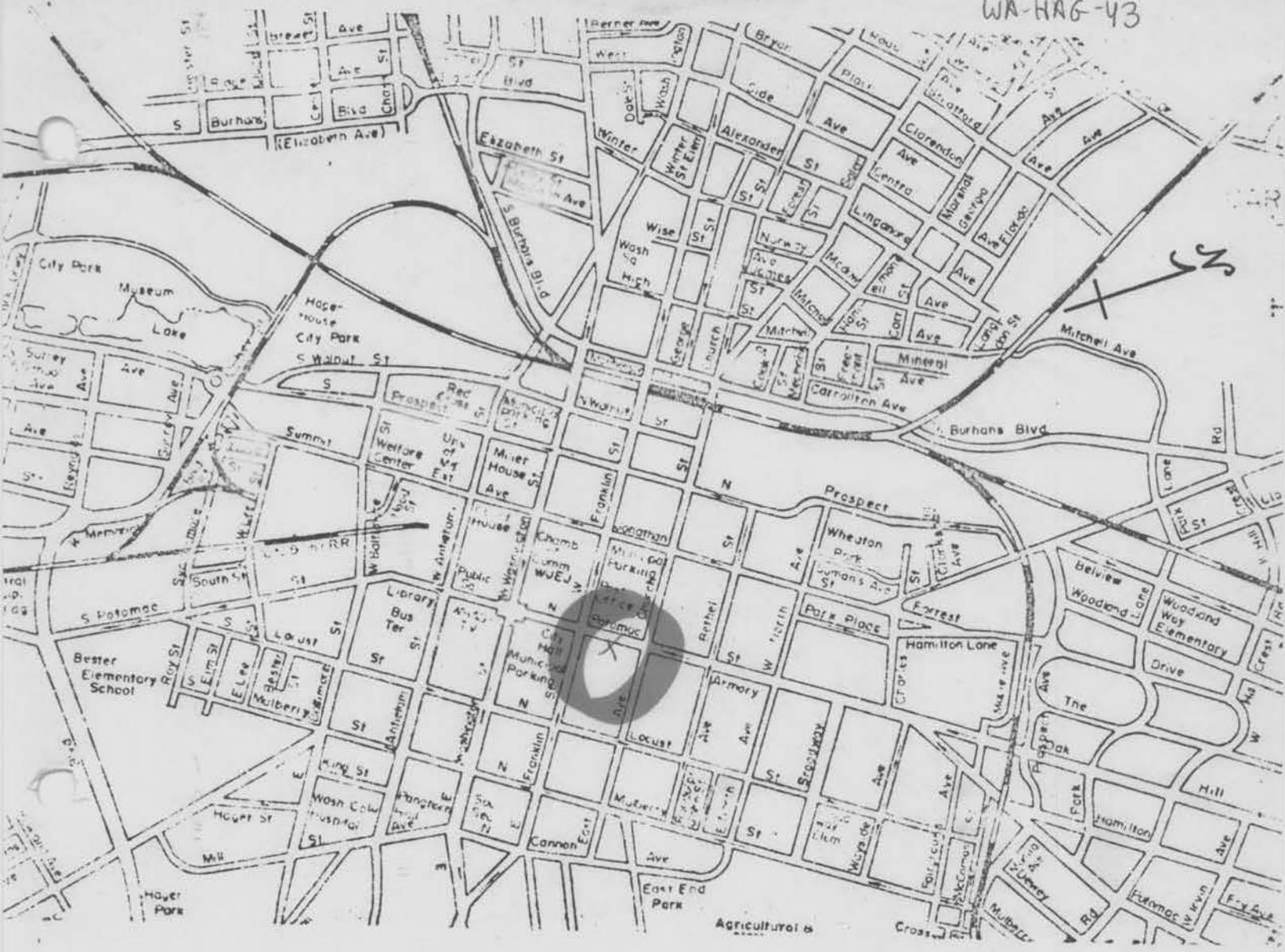
Book 159, p. 203

31 January 1921

grantor: Samuel W. Sowers

grantee: Hagerstown Camp No. 1 (Paul E. White, President)

WA-HAG-43



**SITE:** 122-128 North Potomac Street  
 Hagerstown  
 Washington County, Maryland

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



Washington County Department of Social Services

WA-HAG-43

W.O.W. (woodmen of The world)

Hagerstown

Front facade

2025 11 25 10:00 AM



WA-HAG-43

W.O.W. (Woomen of the World)

Hagerstown

Front facade

10021057512



WA-HAG-43

w.o.w. (woodmen of the world)

Hagerstown

Rear & north elevations

NO. 1005127 N.S. 1005127



WA-HAG-43

W.O.W. (Woodmen of the World)  
Hogersetter  
Rear & south elevations

10830525177



122-128 North Potomac St  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co, Md.

SW view

November 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS



122-128 North Potomac St.  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co., Md.

November, 1975

West elevation, detail

RONALD L. ANDREWS



122-127 North Potomac St  
Hagerstown

Washington Co, Md.

November 1975

West elevation, detail

RONALD L. ANDREWS



122-128 North Potomac St.  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co, Md.  
November 1975  
West elevation, detail

RONALD L. ANDREWS