

ABSTRACT

(R. Andrews 9-76)

12-16 Public Square

Circa 1880s

12-16 Public Square (NE Quadrangle)

Hagerstown

Washington County

Three stories high and constructed of brick, this late nineteenth century Italianate influenced urban commercial structure is significant because the upper stories of the principal facade (west elevation) are original and for its location on Public Square.

The building was erected in the late 1800s when Hagerstown was developing economically and commercially into the transportation center the city became about 1900. The Public Square area was fast becoming the commercial hub of the city and buildings of this type replaced the earlier residences which once lined the streets.

Although the exact new date of construction is not known, the structure appears to have been built about the 1880s when the basic stylistic and construction features of the upper levels of the principal facade were in common use. These features are the segmental arch window openings with two-over-two lights, the boldly projecting cornice with large brackets, and the common brick bonding. Fortunately, the upper levels of the facade are intact.

The second reason that this building is significant is because of the prominent location on Public Square. The structure is the control unit in the complex of nineteenth century buildings which make up the northeast quadrant of Public Square. The buildings have common lines, materials, and textures which create a harmonious urban streetscape with human scale. The visual and aesthetic impact is particularly noticeable with the present system one-way flow of traffic on Washington Street toward the buildings.

HISTORIC SITE
SURVEY INVENTORY

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: 12-16 Public Square					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: 12-16 Public Square (NE Quadrangle)					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input 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: Garland E. Groh and R. Eleanor Groh Warrenfoltz					
STREET AND NUMBER: 151 West Washington Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland	21740	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER: 95 West Washington Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland	21740	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 558-704					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Known as 12-16 Public Square in Hagerstown, Washington County, the building stands on the east side of the Square in the northeast quadrangle.

The building is a three-story-high nineteenth century brick commercial structure with a flat roof. Abutting the sidewalk and the neighboring buildings to the north and south, the structure was extensively enlarged to the east in recent years.

The principal or street facade is the west elevation. Rectangular in form, this elevation has three twentieth century stone fronts on the first or ground floor and is terminated by a projecting cornice. The upper two stories appear to be original and have six segmental arch window openings on each floor. The area of the upper stories is also visually divided into three sections corresponding to the street level store fronts and the arrangement of the cornice brackets. The bricks of this area are heavily coated with paint and are laid in common bond (five rows of stretchers to one row of headers).

The facade cornice appears to be constructed of metal, probably tin, and is restrained, almost classical in design, particularly compared to the large bracketed cornice of the neighboring structure to the south. The cornice consists of a decorated frieze, angular dentils below the crown, and four large angular brackets with fluting and rosettes.

The upper story facade windows have rectangular double-hung, wooden sashes with two-over-two lights, narrow frames, and wooden sills. The wooden panels in the segmental arches have incised decoration.

The three storefronts on the ground floor were installed in the mid 1900s and consist of large display windows surrounded by polished facing tiles.

Note: The facade windows have wider proportions than commonly found on buildings of the 1880s; however, there is no evidence known which indicates the windows or openings are not original.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Circa 1880s

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Three stories high and constructed of brick, this late nineteenth century Italianate influenced urban commercial structure is significant because the upper stories of the principal facade (west elevation) are original and for its location on Public Square.

The building was erected in the late 1800s when Hagerstown was developing economically and commercially into the transportation center the city became about 1900. The Public Square area was fast becoming the commercial hub of the city and buildings of this type replaced the earlier residences which once lined the streets.

Although the exact new date of construction is not known, the structure appears to have been built about the 1880s when the basic stylistic and construction features of the upper levels of the principal facade were in common use. These features are the segmental arch window openings with two-over-two lights, the boldly projecting cornice with large brackets, and the common brick bonding. Fortunately, the upper levels of the facade are intact.

The second reason that this building is significant is because of the prominent location on Public Square. The structure is the control unit in the complex of nineteenth century buildings which make up the northeast quadrant of Public Square. The buildings have common lines, materials, and textures which create a harmonious urban streetscape with human scale. The visual and aesthetic impact is particularly noticeable with the present system one-way flow of traffic on Washington Street toward the buildings.

The present owners acquired the property in 1973 from the Groh family.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

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			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

The property measures approximately 50' x 82',

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant (bg)

ORGANIZATION: City of Hagerstown DATE: Sept. 24, 1976

STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall

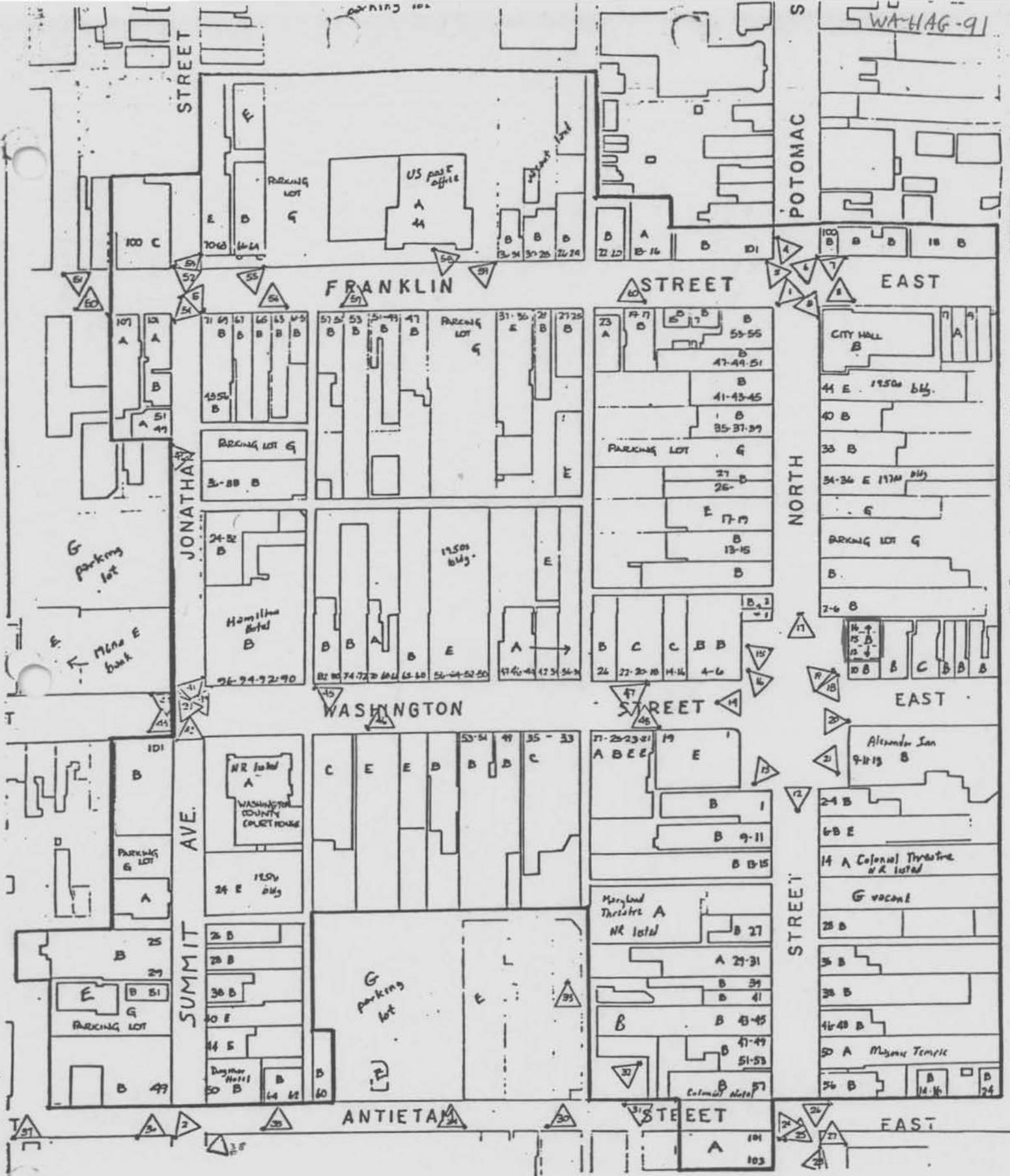
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

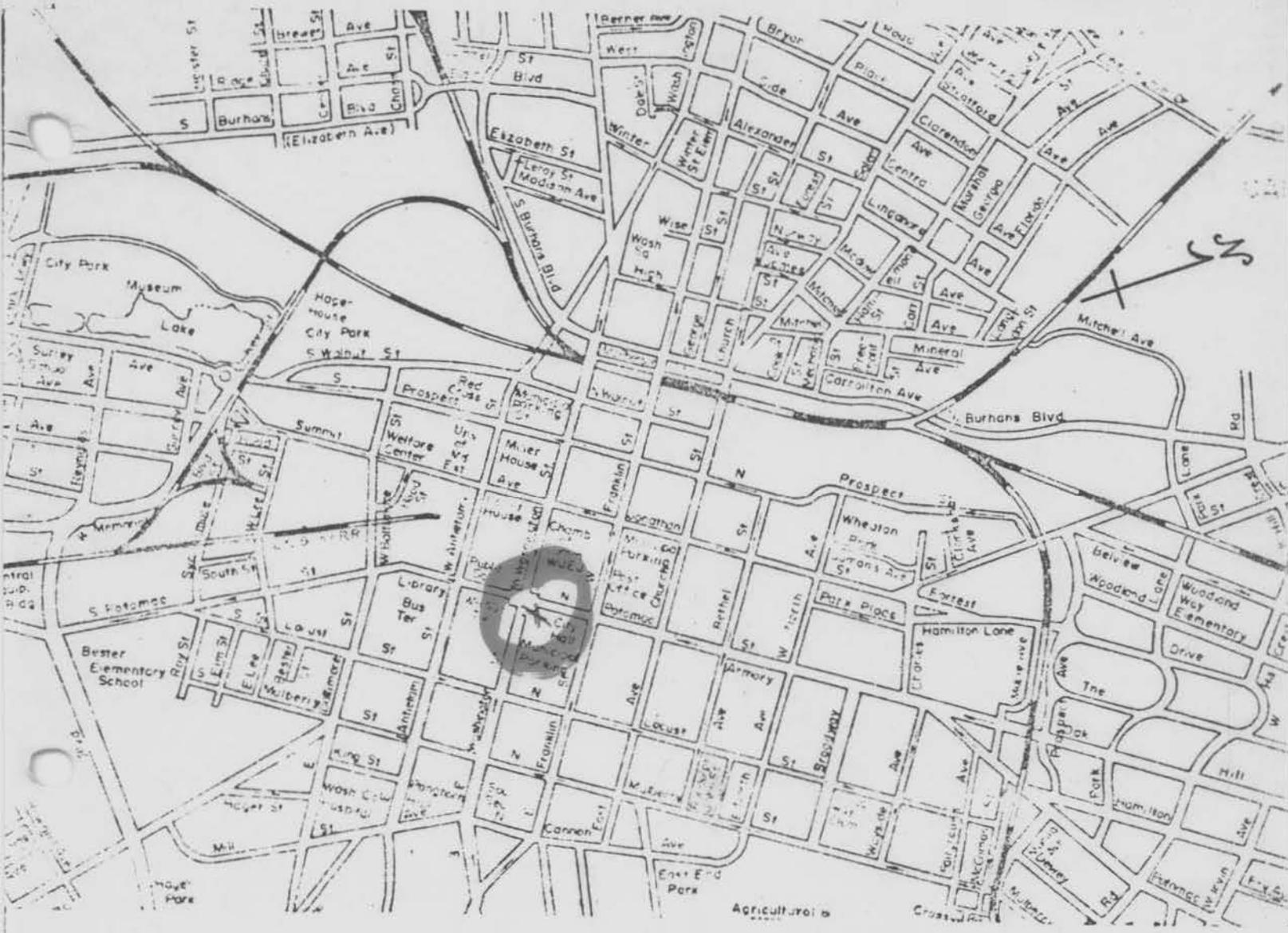
National State Local

Signature _____



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: 12-16 Public Square
 Hagerstown
 Washington County, Maryland

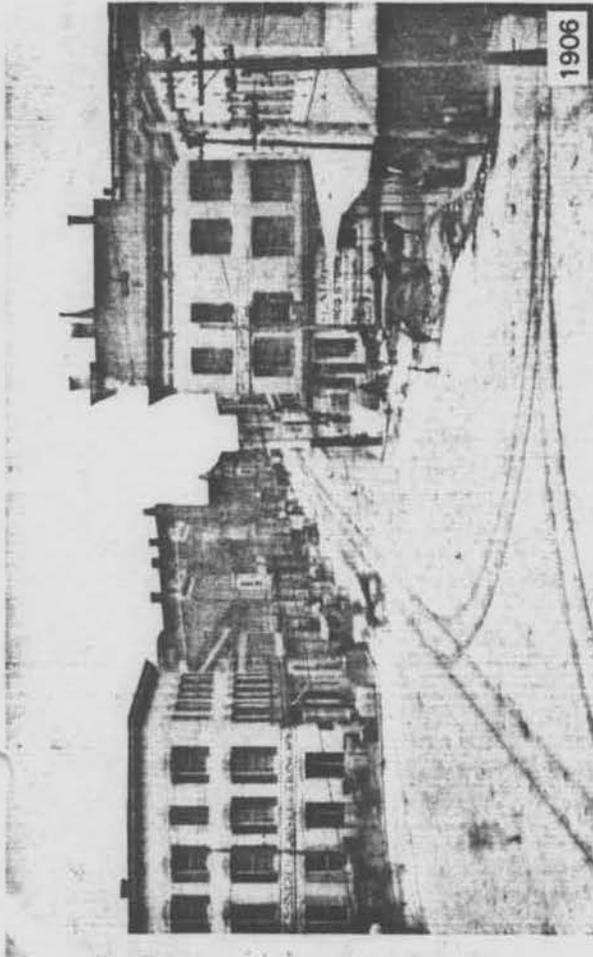
map: City of Hagerstown,
Washington County, Md.
 City Engineering Dept.
 July, 1970
 scale 1"=1200'

Feldstein, Albert L.

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

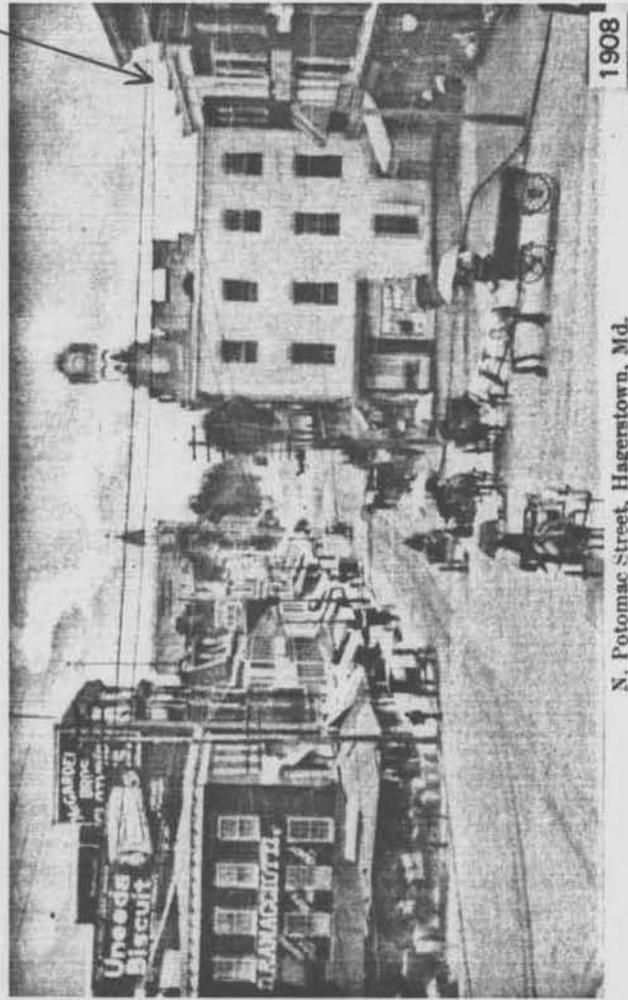
WA-HAG-91

WA-HAG-91



S. PATOMAC ST., HAGERSTOWN, MD

1537



N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Md.

1908



*Waded P.M. just arrived.
Stelle.*

1906



WA-HAG-91

12-16 Public Square

Hagerstown

Washington Co., Md.

west elevation

July, 1936

RONALD L. ANDREWS