

HAGERSTOWN LANDMARKS RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties # WA-HAG-191

Property Name/Address: Miller's House, Hager Park, Hagerstown, Maryland

Description/Significance: Inscribed 1791 S, D + M, and built of brick, it reflects the early prosperity of the town and its surrounding countryside linked with grist and flour milling. Although updated in the late 19th century (porches, first story windows, etc.), the house retains many features associated with early construction.¹

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

¹ Description/significance information prepared by Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian, Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Miller's House

2. Location

street & number Hager Park not for publicationcity, town Hagerstown vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name City of Hagerstown

street & number City Hall telephone no.:

city, town Hagerstown state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber

street & number 95 West Washington Street folio

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title n/a

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WA-HAG-191

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The building known as the Miller's House is a 2½ story, gable-roofed, side passage plan painted brick dwelling dated 1791. The three-bay-wide principal facade faces east and is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, with a quarter-round water table of molded brick above a raised limestone foundation. The entrance, located in the northernmost bay, has a four-light transom above a replaced door. An early 20th century Colonial Revival porch spans the entrance bay, wraps around the north gable, and continues across the west elevation. The other first-floor bays hold tall two-over-two sash (installed in the course of a late 19th century remodeling, in which the window openings were lengthened by lowering the sills to the level of the water table). The window openings retain splayed jack arches, two brick-lengths high. A cellar entrance (the opening has been reworked) is located below the central bay; to the left of this entrance is a blocked cellar window with a brick jack arch. On the second story, six-over-six sash survive in original pegged frames with backband trim, surmounted by rubbed brick jack arches. The second story windows also retain projecting molded sills with coved subsills. The east facade is capped by a complex cornice with bed and crown moldings. The roof is covered with brown asphalt or fiberglass shingles; there are no dormers on the east slope.

The north gable wall is laid in three-course bond. There are no openings at the level of the first floor; a single window is located on the second floor, offset to the east of center. This opening retains a splayed jack arch, two brick-lengths high, but has been enlarged by lowering the sill a distance of approximately six courses. Two original 4/2 windows in pegged frames with backband molding light the gable.

The west elevation of the main block is laid in Flemish bond. The fenestration corresponds to that of the east facade, but all the openings on the west elevation were reworked and enlarged in the late 19th century. The entrance in the north bay was raised, and shifted about 1½ foot to the south; a portion of the original two-brick-high splayed jack arch survives in the wall to the left of the present entrance to indicate the height and jamb location of the original opening. The window openings on both levels have been enlarged to accommodate late 19th century 2/2 sash. The boxed cornice with crown and bed moldings appears to have been replaced on this elevation.

(see Continuation Sheet 7.1)

8. Significance

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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 checked="" 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 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 1791 **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Miller's House in Hager Park is significant for its architecture, as a dated example of a type of dwelling occupied by a successful merchant during the early period of Hagerstown's development. Its fine Flemish bond brickwork and exterior detailing reflect the relative prosperity of the milling industry during this period, as well as that of the surrounding agricultural region which supported it. The building retains a good level of integrity despite alterations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-HAG-191

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Hagerstown, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze

organization _____

date August 15, 1991

street & number 109 Brandon Road

telephone (301) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland 21212

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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

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Miller's House
Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland

Continuation Sheet 7.1

Two gabled dormers mark the west slope of the roof; they appear to be new, or at least substantially reconstructed in the recent past.

A lower shed-roofed wing, two bays wide, extends from the south gable. The west wall of this wing is flush with that of the main block, but a construction seam is readily apparent, indicating that the two sections were not built contemporaneously. The west wall of the wing is two stories high; it is laid in Flemish bond on the ground level and common bond above. Both bays of the west wall of the wing hold windows on both stories; the north bay was formerly an entrance. All the windows are 6/6 sash in plain mitered frames; evidence of a former splayed jack arch at the south window on the first floor shows the degree to which the opening was enlarged.

A close inspection of the brickwork of the south end wall of the wing clearly indicates that it was raised to its present steep shed-roofed form from a previous 1½ story gable configuration. The change in the brickwork between what was formerly the west slope of the gable and the upper corner of the present wall is evident. There is also an apparent seam indicating the jamb of a small window opening in the peak of the former gable.

The east wall of the wing is laid in three-course bond. There is an entrance in the north bay and a 6/6 window in the south bay; both are located in unaltered openings with simple brick arches. The window retains its original pegged frame, but without the backband trim seen on the main block. The east wall of the wing is recessed behind the plane of the east facade of the main block; the steeply sloping shed roof extends to create a porch. The north end of the porch was enclosed in the early 20th century.

The form of the wing suggests that it predates the main block, and the Flemish bond of the west elevation further suggests that this was the primary facade. The building was reoriented to face east when the present main block was added.

The south gable end of the main block has a single 4/2 window in a pegged frame with backband centered on the second story, above the level of the wing's shed roof. An arched datestone set into the gable peak reads:

S
D & M
1791

(see Continuation Sheet 7.2)

WA-HAG-191
Miller's House
Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland

Continuation Sheet 7.2

(the original owner remains unidentified at this writing). A large corbeled interior chimney rises above the south gable.

The interior was not accessible.

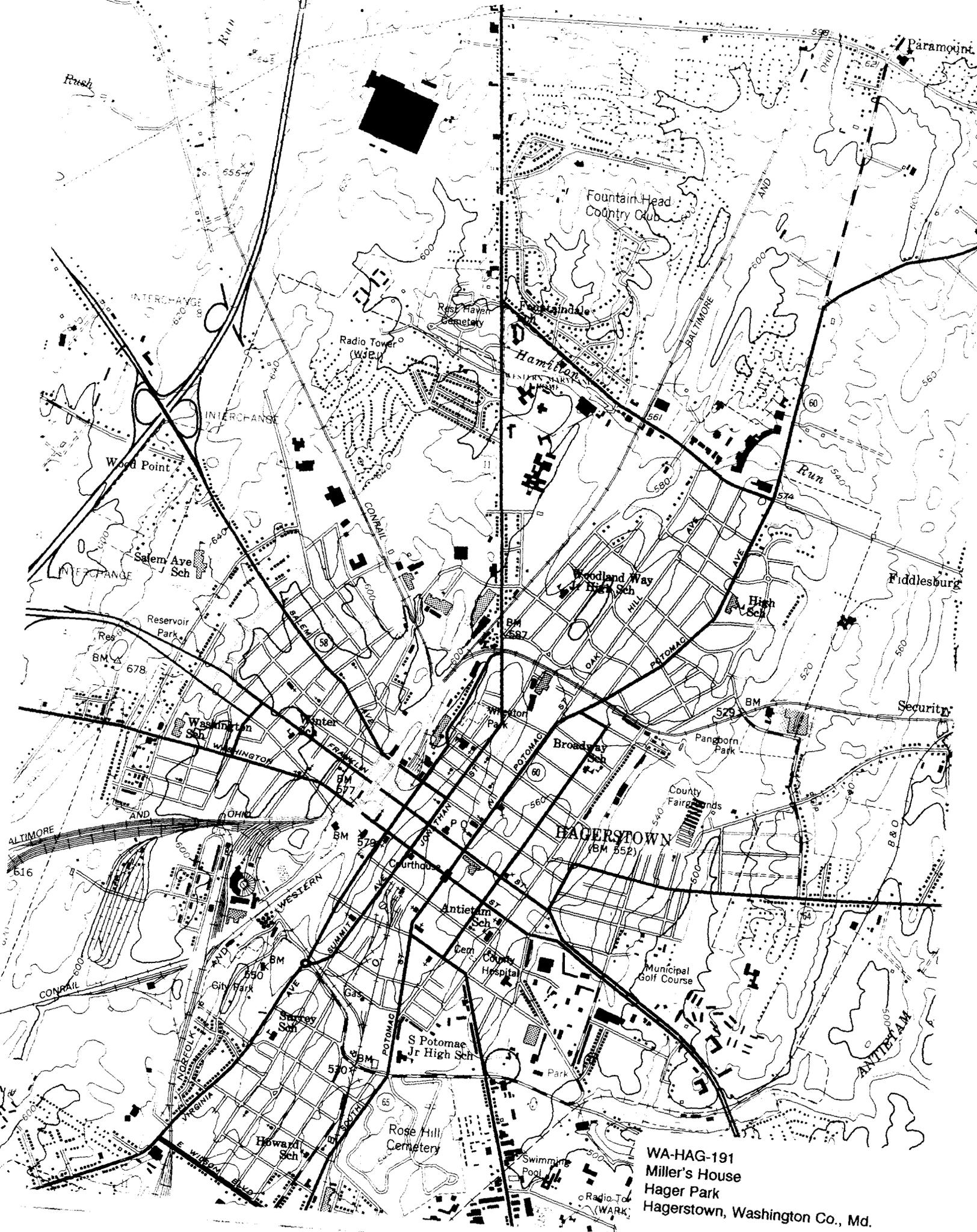
The house is owned by the City of Hagerstown and located within a small landscaped park.

WA-HAG-191
Miller's House
Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland

Continuation Sheet

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Miller's House
Hager Park
Hagerstown, Washington Co., Md.



WA-HAG-191

MILLER'S HOUSE

HAGERSTOWN MD

7/91 P. KURTZE

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



WA-2AG-191

MILLER'S HOUSE

HAGERSTOWN, MD

7/91 P. KURTZE

EAST FACADE