

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Capsule Summary
Survey No. WA-HAG-195

The Antietam Fire Station at 113 Summit Avenue in Hagerstown, Maryland is known to have inspired the design of the nation's only War Correspondents Arch. Situated on the west side of Summit Avenue near Antietam Street, the original two story limestone, Romanesque style front facade dates back to 1895 having survived two fires in the early 1900's. The building houses the Antietam Fire Company, Inc., the second oldest incorporated fire company in the history of Hagerstown. The building is a contributing resource for the Hagerstown National Register Historic District which includes a variety of function from commerce/trade and industry to social and government uses. The elaborate Romanesque exterior is typical of the era following the 1893 depression known as the "golden age of architectural design for firehouses" (See Section 8, footnote 3, Rebecca Zurier). The interior of the fire station has been modernized through the years and is still a working firehouse. Although the main structure behind the 1895 facade dates to the period of 1914-1920, the Antietams have rented their second floor space to various local businesses as far back as 1897.

HAGERSTOWN LANDMARKS RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties # WA-HAG-195

Property Name/Address: 113 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, Maryland

Description/Significance: The old Second Hose Company Fire Station, constructed about 1890. The building is constructed of rock-faced gray limestone with red sandstone accents, achieving a richly textured, polychrome effect characteristic of the Romanesque style. At the ground level, a central entrance is flanked on either side by equipment doors; these openings have round arched heads formed with red stone voussoirs. A string course of red stone marks the level of the second story windows; a three-part window is centered on the second story, comprising tall, narrow 1/1 sash with red stone sills and lintels, below a lunette comprising three Queen Anne style elements framed in red stone. Beginning at the second story level, the corners of the building are expressed as towers, each with a transomed 1/1 window with a red stone lintel and sill. A band of red stone above dentil-like sandstone blocks forms a cornice, above which the towers are spanned by a section of concave mansard covered with sheet metal in a simulated tile pattern. The south tower rises to an open belfry capped with a bell-cast pyramidal roof covered with tile-patterned metal, above a course of dentils. The north tower terminates in a peaked parapet displaying the numeral "2" within a circular panel above a small lunette. The building retains a high level of integrity.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
- 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):
GOVERNMENT/fire station
Known Design Source: Unknown

Form Prepared by: Peter E. Kurtze
109 Brandon Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
August 15, 1991

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Second Hose Fire Company

and/or common Antietam Fire Hall (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 113 Summit Avenue not for publication

city, town Hagerstown vicinity of congressional district

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 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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial 2nd fl. <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 Antietam Fire Company, Inc.

street & number 113 Summit Avenue telephone no. 301-733-3334

city, town Hagerstown state and zip code Maryland 21740

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber 246

street & number 95 West Washington Street folio 55

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Hagerstown Landmarks Reconnaissance Survey (WA-HAG-195)

date August 15, 1991 federal state county local

pository for survey records Maryland Historic Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. WA-HAG-195

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.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Significance

Survey No. WA-HAG-195

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/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

~~Stone Mason - William H. Lewis~~

Specific dates 1895-1915 **Builder/Architect** Builder - Clifton Lamkin

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D 1915 - Rebuild - A. J. Klinkhart

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.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

The Antietam Firehouse at 113 Summit Avenue in Hagerstown, Maryland is situated on the west side of Summit Avenue near Antietam Street. The two story east facade "is constructed of rock-faced gray limestone with red sandstone accents" typical of the textured, polychromatic effect of the Romanesque style.¹ The limestone continues on the north facade on the first story. The north and south corners each have a tower different in design, "spanned by a section of concave mansard covered with sheet metal in a simulated tile pattern"². The bulk of the building behind the facade is red brick laid in common bond. The roof is flat with a downward slope towards the north. The structure is built into a hillside.

The current structure reflects three construction periods. Most of the east facade, built ca. 1895 according to the foundation stone (between 1892-1897 according to the Sanborn maps³), and the first story of the north facade survived both the fires of 1914 and 1920. According to the 1918 Sanborn map, two major changes occurred⁴. The building was enlarged to the rear and a three story extension was added onto the south wall, recessed back from the east facade. Between 1950⁵ and 1957⁶ a one story modern entrance was built in the recess flush with the east facade.

The principal facade faces east towards the street and consists of three bays. The central door way is "flanked by equipment doors with openings forming a round arch with red stone voussoirs".⁷ A turn of the century picture shows wood infill over the equipment doors. A modern one story entrance with a glass door was added on the south side of the facade. The door on the right side of the facade was once the entrance to Coffman's Cafe according to an early

¹Peter E. Kurtze. Hagerstown Landmarks Reconnaissance Survey, WA-HAG-195. August 15, 1991.

²Ibid.

³Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. (New York: Sanborn Map Co., May 1892), p. 14 and Sept. 1897, p. 5.

⁴Ibid., October 1918, p 8.

⁵Ibid., November 1950, p. 13.

⁶Gearhart, Mitch, Interview, October 8, 1996.

⁷Kurtze, op. cit.

undated picture. The shop window was in the left half of the opening and the door crowned with a rectangular transom was on the right side of the opening. The central entrance has three concrete steps leading up to a glass door with a Jalousie transom window above it. A clear glass lunette is above that. An undated turn of the century picture in the fire company archives shows that the door was once a double door made of wood. The doorway was deeply recessed with wooden paneling. "Antietam Fire Hall" is lettered over the doors.

"A string course of red stone marks the level of the second story windows. A three-part window is centered on the second story" consisting of "tall, narrow 1/1 sash with red stone sills and lintels, below a lunette "consisting of "three Queen Anne Style elements framed in red stone"⁸.

At the second story level, the two corners of the east facade suggest towers with a 1/1 transom window with a red stone lintel and sill⁹. The window on the south side of the tower is boarded up. The cornice is formed by a band of red sandstone above dentil-like sandstone blocks. Above this, the towers are bridged by a concave mansard roof¹⁰. "The south tower rises to an open belfry capped with a bell-cast pyramidal roof covered with tile-patterned metal, above a course of dentils. The north tower terminates in a peaked parapet displaying the numeral '2' within a circular panel above a small lunette"¹¹ on the north and east faces.

The east facade recessed back behind the one story entrance on the south side of the principal facade is of common bond brick with two brick piers running the entire height of three stories. The second story window is 6/6 with two rows of bricks forming a segmental arch with alternate headers protruding out of the upper row. Undecorated wood infill spans the space between the arch and the window. The window on the third story is taller and is 9/9 with a rectangular wooden panel above. The window arch is the same as the window below but heavier. The window on the fourth story is recessed, is 6/6, and has a segmental arch consisting of three rows of brick, stepping inward as it nears the window head. All of the windows have red sandstone sills and lintels on this facade.

⁸Ibid., Kurtze.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

The north facade sits on a concrete curb and is half stone with half brick separated by a brick water table. The first story is stone (part of the original building) which changes character two thirds of the way towards the rear of the building. It becomes thicker and a few feet higher than the original section forming a retaining wall. This corresponds to the enlargement of the building after the 1914 fire¹². There are six windows in the first story, and none in the stone tower section. Window 1 has a metal hood in the upper half and one pane in the lower half. Window 2 has a hood over nine lights. Window 3 is 9/9, window 4 has two air conditioners in it, window 5 is glass block with an air conditioner protruding from the mid upper half, and window 6 is glass block with a Jalousie window inset in the upper half. All sills and lintels are of red sandstone.

The second story is brick beyond the stone tower with a total of eight windows on the facade. Seven of the windows and a covered door at a loading dock are separated by eight rectangular brick pilasters which run from the roof to the water table above the stonework. The eighth window is in the stone tower section. It is of glass block with a modern window in the center of the lower half. The sill and lintel are of red sandstone; the sill runs the full width of the tower. The other windows are made of glass block with the window openings in the upper center of the lower portion of the windows. The sills are red sandstone, but in place of the lintels there are double rows of bricks forming segmental arches. Above the windows an elaborate belt course is formed by brick work. The corbeled cornice is similar but not as wide.

The west facade, or back of the building, is one and a half stories due to the hillside and roof slant. Five brick pilasters separate the facade into four unequal sections. The windows on the ground level are blocked in with brick and wood. Double row segmental arches can still be seen. There are shadows of two blocked up windows in the half story and a louvered vent beneath a segmental arch at the highest point of the roof, at the south end.

The towers, on the west side, appear to be spanned with modern siding.

In 1917 the Antietam Fire Company bought the alley from the northwest corner of their property to Antietam Street¹³. This is not reflected in the 1910 Sanborn Map (p. 5) unless it is the current access ramp from Antietam Street to the northwest corner of the building. There was a one story structure where the west end of the present building now sits that may have been a

¹²Sanborn Map, op. cit., Oct. 1918, p. 8.

¹³Deed, John W. Feldman to the Antietam Fire Company, 6/30/07, Liber 126, Folio 346.

stable for the horses. By 1926 the structure disappeared, and the firehouse was extended to the end of the lot, possibly coinciding with the 1915 rebuilding of the structure.

INTERIOR

The interior floor arrangement of the Antietam Firehouse does not reflect the exterior two story structure. The first floor, currently occupied by the fire department, has three main levels of construction and a cellar. The ground level is divided into three sections: the north bay, south bay, and the south extension. The north and south bays, at one time were separated by a fire wall because the north bay was rented out to a printing company¹⁴. The wall between the two bays is currently open near the rear. The north bay houses Engine No. 2 in the front. The back part consists of a sitting area and equipment area. The bunk room and bathroom are in separate rooms beyond. The north wall has three windows within the bay and one window in the bunk room. The remains of an electric harness system for the horses still hangs from the ceiling¹⁵. The south bay is similar but has a stair leading to an office on the upper level and a separate wooden stair leading from the office to a third level in the south extension. The south wall of the bay has a blocked door near the street entrance and a door leading to the south extension near the rear of the bay. Both bays have closets under the outside stair at the east end which possibly once housed cellar stairs. Both have modern rectangular shaped tile on the floor, and ceilings constructed of modern material. The walls are glazed ceramic tile half way up and painted plaster above. The plain, stained wood architraves around the doors and windows are probably original to 1920.

The south extension can also be entered from the street by the one story enclosed entrance. It opens into a narrow corridor which ends in a closet on the southwest corner and a stairway in the northwest corner leading to the second level. At the base of the stair in the original stone south wall there is a large closed in window predating the extension. The door to the kitchen and cellar is also in this wall further east.

The second level consists of the office overlooking the south bay, and the Meeting/Recreation Room behind it. The office is reached via the stairway in the south bay. The short hallway at the top of the stairs continues to the back of the building where the Meeting/Recreation Room is. The office exits off to the left of the hallway. It is small with three modern windows overlooking the south bay and has a door in the east wall leading to the

¹⁴Ibid., Sept. 1926, p. 13.

¹⁵Gearhart, op. cit., Interview Sept. 8, 1996.

suspended stair case leading up to the south extension.

The Meeting/Recreation Room still has the original patterned metal ceiling that was possibly the ceiling that the two bays originally had. The room has a linoleum tile floor, two windows in the north wall, and three doors in the west wall that are approximately two feet above the floor level without steps.

The south wall has a built out range of closets with a shed roof. The original metal ceiling and cornice is visible above the roof. Outside of the southeast corner of the Meeting/Recreation Room, there is a stair going up to the third level in the south extension. The original metal ceiling is still present. There is a door with a transom between the landing and the meeting room that is blocked by the closets. The room was once part of one narrow room running the length of the south extension. It once served as the Bunk Room in the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's¹⁶. The room was made into two rooms, the eastern one accessed through the suspended stair off of the office. This room is currently a store room. The attic and tower are accessible through this room.

The second floor is rented to a company manufacturing sportswear. It is entered via a dog-leg stair way from the street. At the top of the stairs on the north side there is an office (unaccessible). There are two windows in the east wall. Two rooms, situated end to end, run along the east wall to the southeast corner. One room exists at the top of the stair. A short hall is accessed through a doorway on the west side next to the dog-leg stair. The corridor leads towards the south side of the building. The other room exits into the corridor on the east side. The side of a stair leading to the balcony terminates the hall at the south end. At the base of the stair on the south end is another room. The west side opens into a vast, high ceiling room. Immediately to the north is an area of temporary wooden walls approximately seven feet high with a door. This is a storage area (inaccessible) and a small part of the total area. The office, storage area, and other rooms comprise of approximately one fourth to one third of the total floor area. The floor is original hard wood. The ceiling is the original patterned metal with wide highly decorative crown molding. The pattern is different from the one on the ceiling of the Meeting/Rec. Room on the first floor. There are six windows on the north side and a small loading door in the northwest corner.

The balcony takes up a small area off of the east wall and runs the full width of the stone east facade. It does not include the brick south extension. It is open on the west side above a waist high wall. There is a small enclosed room at the southwest end next to the stair. The window on

¹⁶Ibid., October 8, 1996.

the north wall continues from the office below. The east wall has the large lunette.

The attic space is approximately five and a half feet high and runs the full length of the building. It gives access to the tower area. On the back side of the south tower a heavily charred beam is still supporting the masonry.

The top of the south bell tower is also accessible. It is surrounded on three sides by two metal columns, and four round pilasters against brick supports. They have crocketed capitals. The ceiling is patterned metal. The area is surrounded by an ornate metal balustrade.

The cellar, entered off of the south extension and through the kitchen, is divided into two major sections which correspond to the two bays. The kitchen is an intermediary level located under the south bay at the west end. It does not go back the full length of the cellar. The steps continue down at a right angle to a small laundry room partitioned off with concrete block. Through the east wall of the laundry room, the main part of the south bay cellar extends to the street. The remains of the old coal chute can still be seen. On the north side of the laundry room, a doorway leads to the cellar under the north bay. It is not as deep and still has the rock face showing in the west wall.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. WA-HAG-195
Section 8 , page1

Description (continued)

See Search

The Antietam Fire Station is known to have inspired the design of the nation's only War Correspondents Arch, a memorial to U. S. war correspondents¹. The original front facade of the building dates back to 1895 and survived two fires in the early 1900's. The building houses the Antietam Fire Company, Inc., the second oldest incorporated fire company in the history of Hagerstown.

The fire station is part of the Hagerstown (National Register) Historic District which includes a variety of functions from commerce/trade and industry to social and government uses². During the time of construction, Hagerstown was experiencing massive industrial growth. The elaborate Romanesque exterior is typical of the era following the 1893 depression known as the "golden age of architectural design for firehouses"³. The interior of the fire station has been modernized through the years and is still a working firehouse. A second floor has been rented to various local businesses since 1897.

The Antietams have almost consistently rented out unused areas of their hall throughout the 20th century to commercial industrial businesses (see attached tenant list). This contributed to Hagerstown's status as a major manufacturing city in the state. By 1914 it was second in manufacturing in terms of product value⁴. By 1929 there were 110 industries based in Hagerstown manufacturing 50 different products. These included organs, furniture, gloves, leather, silk, shoes, and women's apparel.⁵

The Antietam Fire Company was organized upon the ruins of the old Lafayette Company

¹Herald Mail. Hagerstown, MD, "Monument to Reporters Celebrates 100th Year." October 10, 1996, p. E-1.

²Reed, Paula S. "Hagerstown Historic District". National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, June 18, 1991.

³Zurier, Rebecca. The American Firehouse--Architecture and Social History. (New York: Abbeville Press, 1982. P. 122.

⁴Reed, Paula, "Hagerstown Commercial Core Historic District", State Historic Sites Inventory Form, July 1982, 8:2. Sited from Eleanor Bruchey, "The Industrialization of Maryland." In Maryland, A History, 1662-1974. Richard Walsh and William Lloyd Fox, eds. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society 1974), p. 431.

⁵Hagerstown City Directories.

which first formed in 1808.⁶ During the early 19th century, Hagerstown began organizing fire companies. At this time, the town was officially named Elizabeth Town, incorporated in 1791. There were over 200 houses, mainly of log with a population around 2,000. The area was developing commercially and becoming a transportation center boosted by the construction of the National Road.⁷

As the larger cities had already discovered, building expansion created a greater threat and incidence of fire. Wood was the only fuel and all of the roofs in town were constructed of wood. A chimney sweep was the only means of preventing chimney fires. A town ordinance passed in February 1793, fined homeowners seven shillings and six pence for chimney fires. The first fires were fought by bucket brigades composed of every able-bodied individual. Losses were usually high. As a result of the destruction of both a house and barn of a prominent citizen, the first organized volunteer fire company (the United Fire Co.) Was formed on New Year's Day in 1791.⁸ By 1803, the firemen divided the town into two districts using two hand-pumper engines. Regular meetings were held and attendance was mandatory under penalty of a fine of 25 cents, and \$1 for directors.⁹

Still, firefighting at this time was ineffective. Dark streets at night posed problems for firemen getting to the scene of fires. Citizens were requested to help by placing lighted candles in their windows upon hearing a cry of fire. In 1822, another fire affecting a prominent citizen prompted the forming of the First Hagerstown Hose Company. In May 1824, an ordinance was passed requiring all white male taxpayers to assemble and form themselves into fire companies.¹⁰ Also, every owner of a dwelling worth \$300 or more was required to provide two black leather buckets with their name and fire ward on them. Individuals were fined \$1 per month without the

⁶Antietam Fire Co. Meeting Minute Book, January 1835, pp. 1, 13.

⁷Reed, Paula. "Hagerstown Historic District." National Register Form, 1991, Section 8, pp. 4-5.

⁸Williams, Thomas J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968), V. 1, p. 115.

⁹Ibid., pp. 158-159.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 159.

buckets and .50 for using the buckets for other things.¹¹

When the Antietam Fire Company was incorporated in May 1835, Hagerstown had five fire companies. Members of these companies were composed of prominent, local citizens. Some of those who signed the constitution of the Antietam Fire Company in 1834 included J. Dixon Roman, William D. Bell, and Alexander Armstrong.¹² At this time the following officers were selected: president - W. D. Bell, vice president - William Hollyday, secretary - J. H. Heyser, and treasurer - Jacob H. Harry.¹³

William D. Bell was "ranked among the first gentlemen of the state". He was a member of the state militia during the 1814 British attack on Baltimore where he resided. Within the same year he relocated to Hagerstown and became the first editor of the Torch Light. He was a Mason, a stockholder in the "Bank Road", and involved in surveying for the coming of the railroad in 1827. He was active in the affairs of the city as a moderator who made public announcements and notices. Due to his notices, the town was spared the worst of the cholera epidemic of 1832. In addition, Mr. Bell was known for his community involvement as a writer, a Whig, and an elder in the Presbyterian church besides being active in the Antietam Fire Company.¹⁴

J. Dixon Roman was known as one of the most influential men in the County. He was an attorney, United States Congressman, president of the Hagerstown Bank, president of the local telegraph company and president of the first gas company in 1854.¹⁵ According to the minutes of the Antietam Fire Company on January 2, 1836, he was appointed to the office of secretary.

¹¹Herald-Mail, Hagerstown, MD. "All Able-Bodied Males Once Compelled to be Fire Fighters." August 27, 1962, p. B-12.

¹²Antietam Minute Book, p. 7.

¹³Hagerstown Mail, Hagerstown, MD. "Historic Hagerstown Hails the Happy Hosts." June 15, 1894.

¹⁴Williams, pp. 148, 155-156, 167, 185, 221, 228, 238.

¹⁵Ibid., pp. 238, 252, 276, 307, V. II - 1251.

Alexander Armstrong was a leading dry-goods merchant.¹⁶ He also served as director of the fire company according to minutes of an annual meeting dated January 2, 1836.

The organization of the incorporated Antietam Fire Company in 1835 consisted of engine men divided into three divisions with 48 men total. There were three captains, four axe men, six hose guards, four ladder men and four hook men.¹⁷ They ordered badges for "thirty-four colored men to work the suction engine". On May 2, 1835, the company purchased a lot adjacent to the Court House for \$125. A building costing \$150 was then erected (not the present site).¹⁸

Socialization of the firemen at this time was an important factor. Companies became like fraternities or clubs. Meetings were adjourned to the "Brew House" for camaraderie and refreshment. Firemen's parades were also a popular public event and the March 1842 Antietam Fire Company minutes detail discussing a meeting with the Hagerstown Hose Company to have a firemen's procession.¹⁹

Visitings were the early version of political or business conventions in which one department would host another for a few days of business and pleasure. The celebration would include parades and receptions with the highlight being firefighting competitions²⁰. The first tournament on record in Hagerstown was in 1851, when the Antietam Fire Company welcomed the Independents of Frederick on a visit. A contest of water throwing was held in front of the Court House and the Antietams beat the visitors by twenty-five feet.²¹

The Antietam Fire Company owned the only city fire bell from the 1850's -70's. Purchased in 1850, the bell was struck in the little cupola in the company's first building located

¹⁶Ibid., V. II - p. 612.

¹⁷Antietam Minute Book, p. 9.

¹⁸Hagerstown Mail, June 15, 1894.

¹⁹Ibid., pp. 63, 68.

²⁰Zurier, p. 43.

²¹Hagerstown Mail, June 15, 1894.

in Court House Row. The bell was still in their possession in 1894.²²

The 1880's was an active time for the Antietam Fire Company as evidenced in the Minute Book, 1883-85. Invitations were received to several fairs and a parade. However, rowdiness was apparently a problem. The February 1884 minutes mention the suspension and attempt to expell members for disorderly conduct at Greencastle, PA. On July 7, 1895 they voted to have a convention with the other Hagerstown fire companies to discuss working together. Brawling and competitiveness was not unique to the Antietam Fire Company. It had been a national problem aggravated by the monetary rewards often paid to the first company at the scene of a fire. In addition, fire companies were politically powerful and the rowdiness was overlooked²³.

In May 1889, the Antietam Fire Company purchased a lot where the present fire station stands for the sum of \$1,100 from Martha and Rebecca Middlekauff.²⁴ The construction of the building took place in 1895. The bids ranged from \$6500 to \$12,000 which was higher than the company had expected.²⁵ The Building Committee cut the proposed cost by \$1,100. They intended to propose new plans to closely model a Washington engine house.²⁶ However, it is not known whether this happened. In fact, John H. Middlekauff was named as taking the contract in the Daily Mail newspaper on May 4, 1895, but according to an article from the same source dated January 2, 1896, Clifton Lamkin was listed as the architect.

Nevertheless, the design of the Antietam fire hall depicts the building period of 1890-1918 known as "castles and palaces". Leading architects were hired to design elaborate fire stations as tributes to the heroic firemen and their service. This "golden age of fire station design" set fire stations apart from other public buildings²⁷. In addition, the construction was during the height of Hagerstown's industrial, transportation, and building boom.

²²Ibid.

²³Zurier, p. 40.

²⁴Deed. Washington County Courthouse, 1889, Liber 93, Folio 466.

²⁵Daily Mail, Hagerstown, MD, April 17, 1895.

²⁶Ibid., May 1, 1895, p. 5.

²⁷Zurier, pp. 119-128.

The grandeur of the facade of the Antietam Fire Hall is characteristic of those in larger cities. Perhaps it was the Romanesque arches, towers, or other detailing that captured the attention of journalist and poet, George Alfred Townsend. Perhaps it was the stone work that was underway. (The stone came from the rear of the lot and was dressed for the front by William H. Lewis.²⁸) Whatever the inspiration, George Alfred Townsend sketched the Antietam Fire Hall from across the street at what was then the B & O Railroad Station. It is believed he then patterned the design of the nation's only War Correspondent's Arch memorial after the Antietam building. Work began on the memorial April 14, 1896.²⁹

The year of 1914 brought victory and disaster for the Antietam Fire Company. The 1914-15 Fire Company Minute Book entry dated July 1, 1914 (p. 20) hails congratulations to the Reel Team on establishing a new world's record of 36 1/4 seconds in the Hose Race at Westminster, MD. However, a few months later disaster strikes. On October 28 a raging fire spread from the roof of the adjacent Sherlay Building to the fire hall.³⁰ The entire structure was destroyed except for the front facade at a loss of \$30,000. The second floor served as the armory for Company B of the Maryland Regiment.³¹ The Hall was occupied by the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company as well.³²

A special meeting was held by the fire company members on April 1, 1915. During this meeting it was stated that A. J. Klinkhart, a prominent local architect was approved for the rebuilding of the fire hall.³³

Amos John Klinkhart, 1876-1954, had a reputation for specializing in the design of public buildings. He designed municipal structures in Washington County such as the Washington County Hospital, the Hagerstown City Hall, and the Beaver Creek School. He also designed the

²⁸Daily Mail, August 22, 1895, p. 3.

²⁹Herald Mail, October 6, 1996.

³⁰Morning Herald, Hagerstown, "Spectacular Blaze Originates from an Auto Explosion", October 28, 1914.

³¹Ibid.

³²Antietam Fire Company Minute Book, 1914-15, p. 124.

³³Ibid., p. 132.

State Reformatory for Males in Breathedsville.³⁴ The Antietam Fire Hall drawing plans were approved in June 1915 at a cost of \$125.³⁵ Unfortunately, another fire occurred within the Antietam Fire Hall in 1920. The extent of damage is unknown at this time; however, it is believed to have been less severe.

Despite the tendency to design elaborate firehouse exteriors, the interiors were generally plain. Towers were built to hang leather hoses to drain and dry. A second floor served as a bunk room during the 1880's and 1890's since horses were brought inside the firehouse to save time hitching them to the engines. An upstairs lounge was often furnished with easy chairs and card tables for club fraternization³⁶. Trophies, banners, and company portraits lined the walls.

Currently, the Antietam Fire Hall has a first floor club room with a large television, easy chairs, and portraits. Apparently the towers were never used for hose drying, according to Fireman Gearhart. The hoses were stretched out in the alley to dry. An electric hose dryer is now used. All of the Hagerstown fire halls had interior stabling facilities.³⁷ The remains of the automatic horse harness apparatus can still be seen hanging from the ceiling of the north bay. The horses would automatically move under them at the sound of the fire bell.³⁸ The sliding pole, no longer used as it was considered dangerous, has been removed; the space having been made into a small alcove.

Today, the Antietam Fire Company, Inc. is managed by a small core of volunteers. These few dedicated men and women plan an annual fund-raising carnival, regularly attend meetings and business matters, and of course, respond to fire alarms. Even though the present number of volunteers is not what it once was, the heroic efforts of firemen past, present, and future will never be forgotten.

³⁴Washington County Historical Society, MD. Vertical file, Obituary - October 30, 1954.

³⁵Minute Book, 1914-15, p. 135.

³⁶Zurier, pp. 44, 108, 143.

³⁷Hull, John, former Fire Chief. Interview, February 21, 1997.

³⁸Ibid.

MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

Antietam Fire Station

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources:

Antietam Fire Company Meeting Minute Books, January 3, 1835, pp. 1, 7, 9, 13, 40 and 1914-15, p. 124, 35. (Located at the Antietam Fire Company).

Daily Mail, Hagerstown, MD. May 1, 1895, p. 5 and August 22, 1895, p.3.

Deed. John W. Feldman to the Antietam Fire Co., June 11, 1907, Liber 126, folio 346. Washington County, Maryland land records located in the county courthouse.

Deed. Martha and Rebecca Middlekauff to the Antietam Fire Co., May 1889, Liber 93, Folio 466. Washington County, Maryland land records.

Hagerstown City Directories.

“Historic Hagerstown Hails the Happy Hosts.” Hagerstown Mail, June 15, 1894.

“Spectacular Blaze Originates From an Auto Explosion.” Morning Herald, October 28, 1914.

Obituary. Amos John Klinkhart. October 30, 1954, Washington County Historical Society Vertical File.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York City: Sanborn Map Co., May 1892, p.14; September 1897, p. 5; July 1910, p. 5; October 1918, p. 8; September 1926, p. 13; November 1950, p. 13.

Secondary Sources:

“All Able-Bodied Males Once Compelled to be Fire Fighters.” Herald-Mail, Hagerstown, MD., August 27, 1962. p. B-12.

Gearhart, Mitch. Interviews, September 8, 1996 and October 8, 1996. Conducted by Carol J. Appenzellar at the Antietam Firehouse, 113 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, MD.

Hull, John, former Fire Chief. Interview, February 21, 1997. Conducted by Deborah Miller.

Kurtze, Peter E. “Hagerstown Landmarks Reconnaissance Survey.” August 15, 1991.

“Monument to Reporters Celebrates 100th Year.” Herald-Mail, Hagerstown, MD. October 10, 1996, p. E-1.

Reed, Paula. "Hagerstown Historic District", National Register Form, 1991.

_____. "Hagerstown Commercial Core Historic District", State Historic Sites Inventory Form.

_____. "Hagerstown Railroad Heritage Phase I: Context Report", Hagerstown, MD, June 1992

Williams, Thomas J. C. A History of Washington County Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968, (Hagerstown, 1906).

Zurier, Rebecca. The American Firehouse--Architecture and Social History. New York: Abbeville Press, 1982.

DEED CHAIN
ANTIETAM FIRE COMPANYFROM WASHINGTON COUNTY LAND RECORDS -
located in Washington Co., Maryland:

		<u>Liber</u>	<u>Folio</u>	<u>Year</u>	
1.	from Martha Middlekauff	Deed	93	466	1889
2.	to Mary Keefer (Tr)	Mortgage	103	320	1895
3.	to D. Clinton R. Miller	"	105	32	1896
4.	from John W. Feldman	Deed	126	346	1907
5.	to John W. Feldman	"	126	345	1907
6.	to Owen D. Sherley	"	137	344	1910
7.	to Harry K. Powles, Trus.	Mortgage	147	43	1915
8.	Francis & Dorothy Harper	"	246	55	1942

MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY
Antietam Fire Station

Tenant List

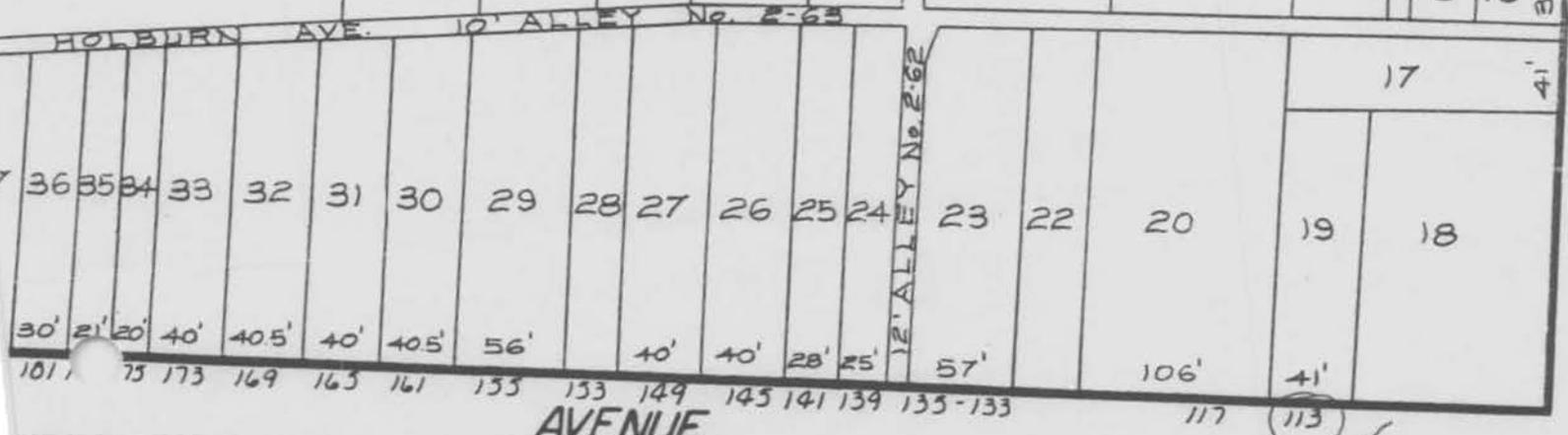
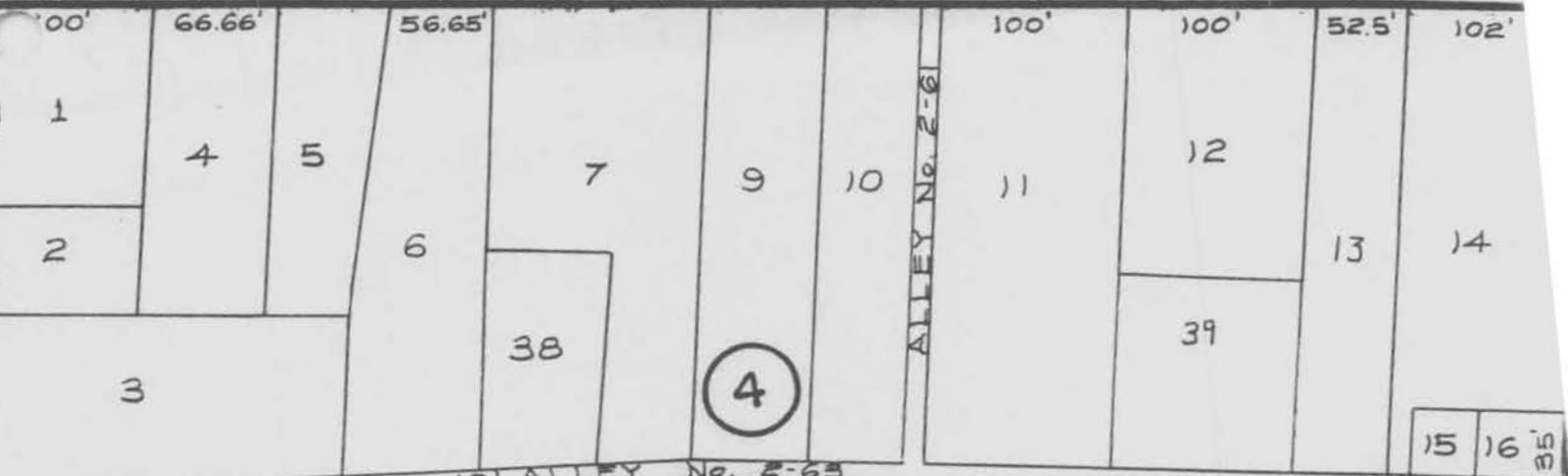
YEAR	TENANTS	SOURCE
1897-1910	Sal. and Pool	Sanborn Maps
1914	Fire	
1915	Rebuilt	Antietam Minutes
1915-1918(?)	Coffman's Cafe (1 st fl.)	Undated Photo
1914-1920(?)	Armory (2 nd fl)	1918 Sanborn Map*
1918-1920	Antietam Printery (1 st fl)	City Directories
1920	Fire	
1921	Rebuilt	Corner Stone
1922-46	Antietam Printing Co (1 st fl)	City Directories
1926	Chemical Packing (2 nd fl)	Sanborn Map
1948-1958	Hagerstown Manuf., Co., Inc Dress factory (2 nd fl)	City Directories
1959-67	Elpern Manuf., Inc. Children/women's clothes	City Directories
1968-1971	Hagerstown Manuf., Co. Children/Jr. Miss clothes	City Directories
1969	Joseph Love, Inc; clothes	City Directory
1972-80	Doris Manufac., Co., Inc. Children/Jr. Miss clothes	City Directories
1981-84	Antietam Footwear, Inc.	City Directories
1985	Antietam Fire Company	City Directory
1986-present	New Horizons Sportswear Factory	

* Also: Morning Herald, (Hagerstown) "Spectacular Blaze Originates from an Auto Explosion", October 28, 1914.

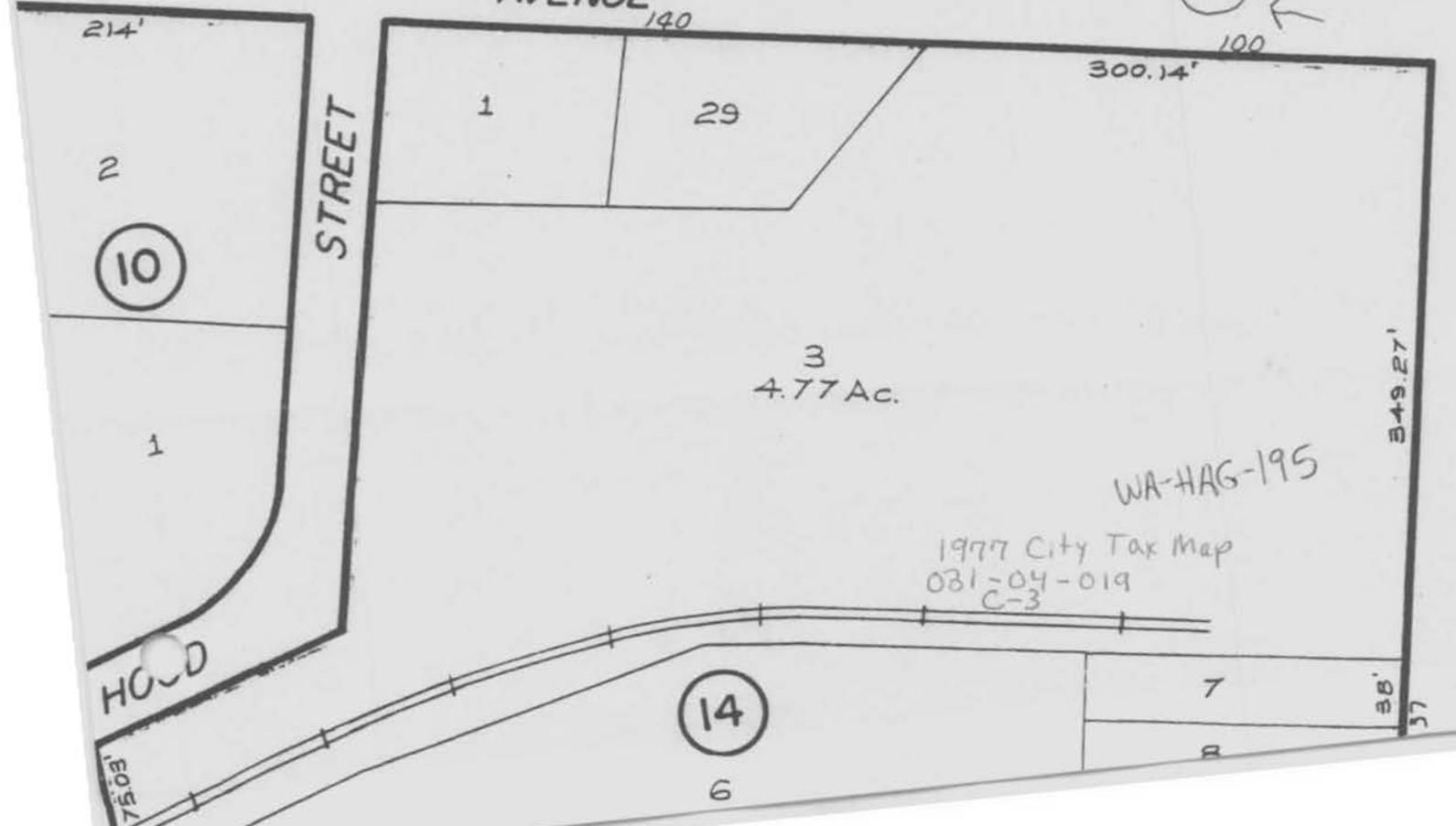
55' 51.5' 66.66' 66' 63' 60.5' 52' 93.8' 60' 43' 81' 45'
3-181 175 171-169 165-163 157 151-149 145 137 131 125 121 113 109

STREET

178 170 158 156 154 140 138 128 124-122-120-118 112



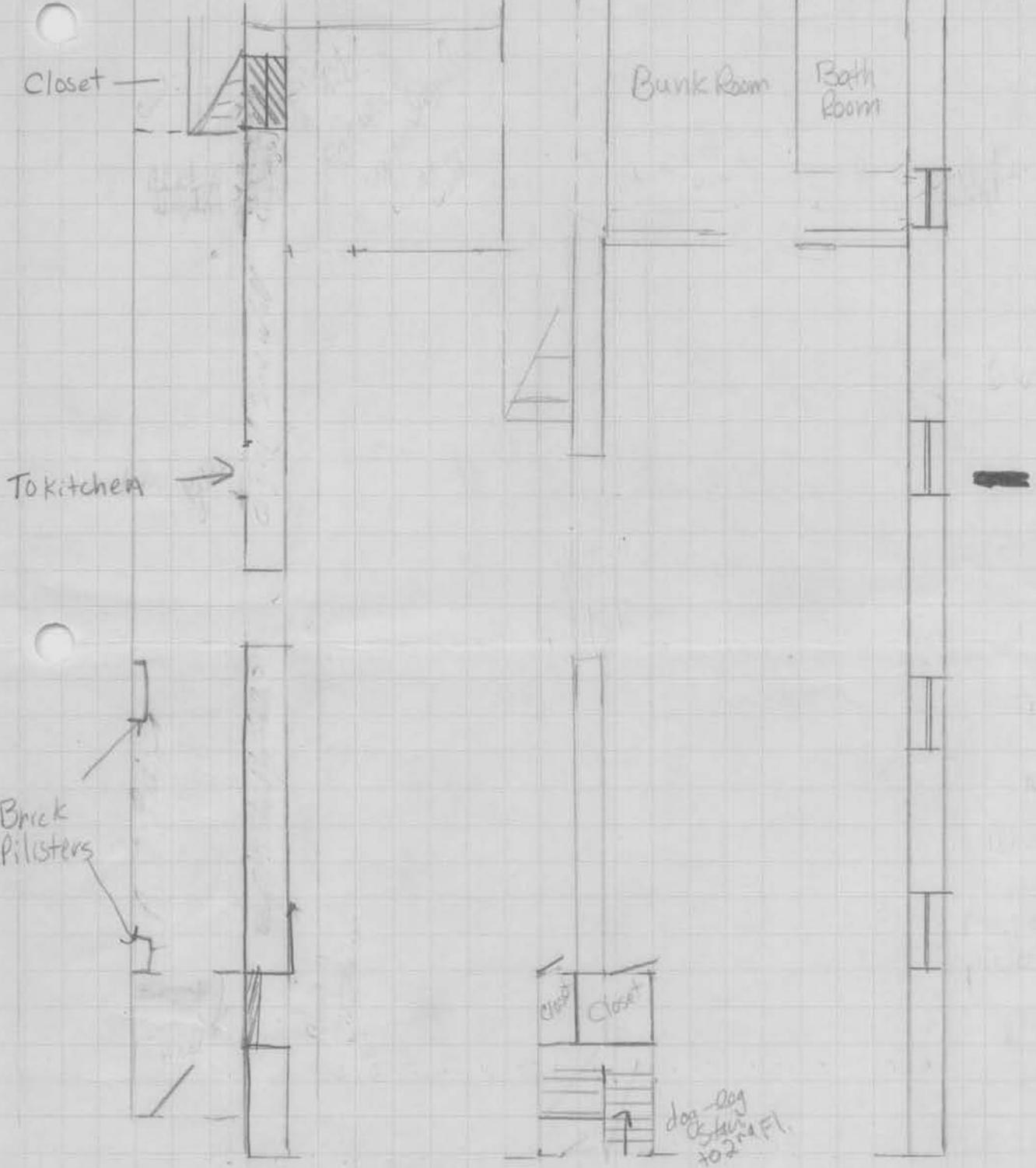
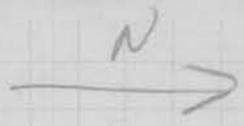
AVENUE



WA-HAG-195

1977 City Tax Map
081-04-019
C-3

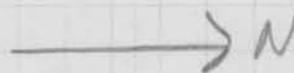
1st Floor (Hillside)



Summit Avenue

WA-HAG-195
appenzeller
architect Portland

Third Level



stair

Current Shower Rm

Suspended Stair

Old Bunk Room

30's-50's

South Extension

Second Level -

WA-HAG-195

Hill Side



Closets w/
Shed roof

Meeting Rm / Rec Rm

Blocked
Window

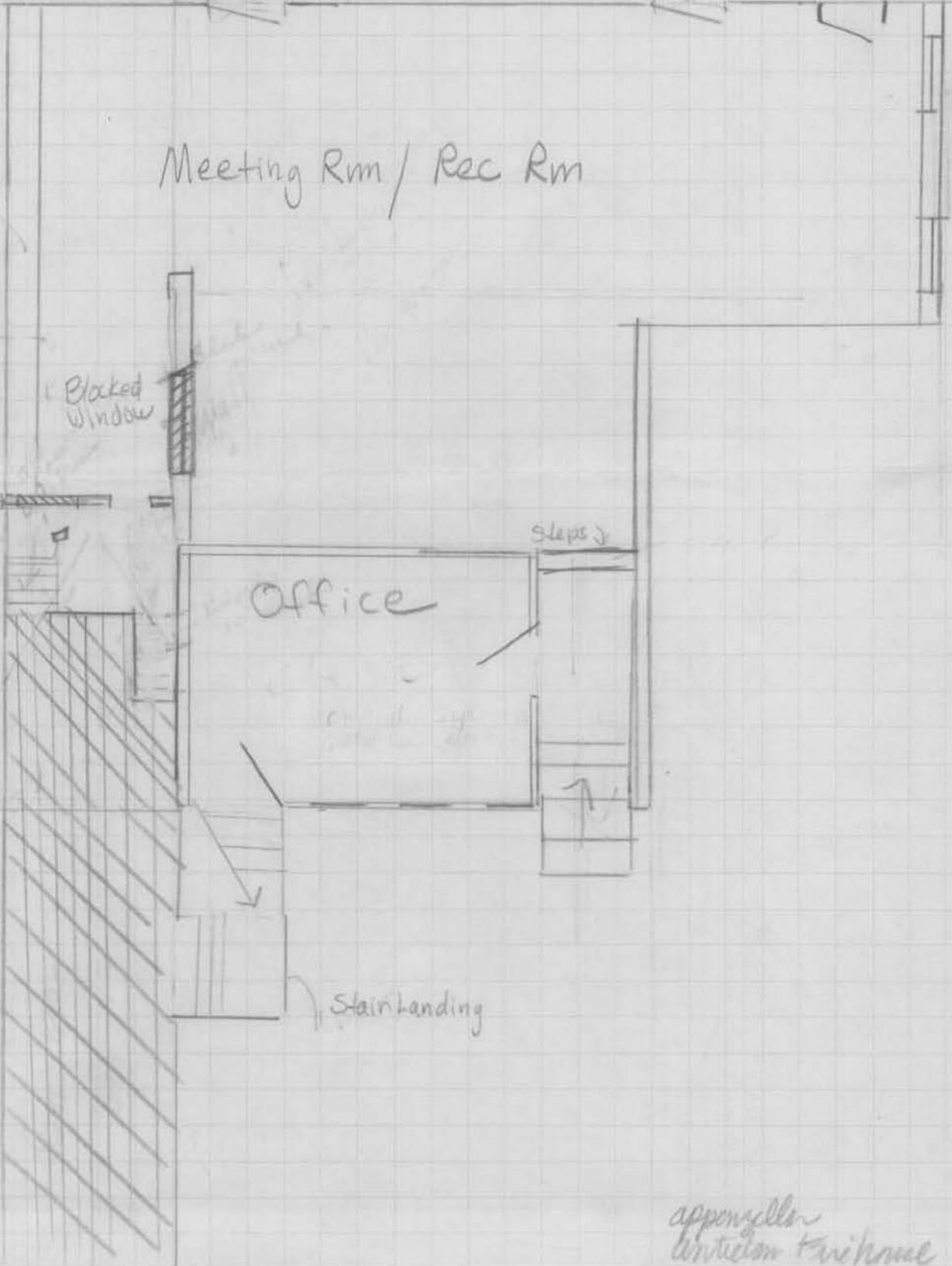
Door

Steps ↓

Office

Stair landing

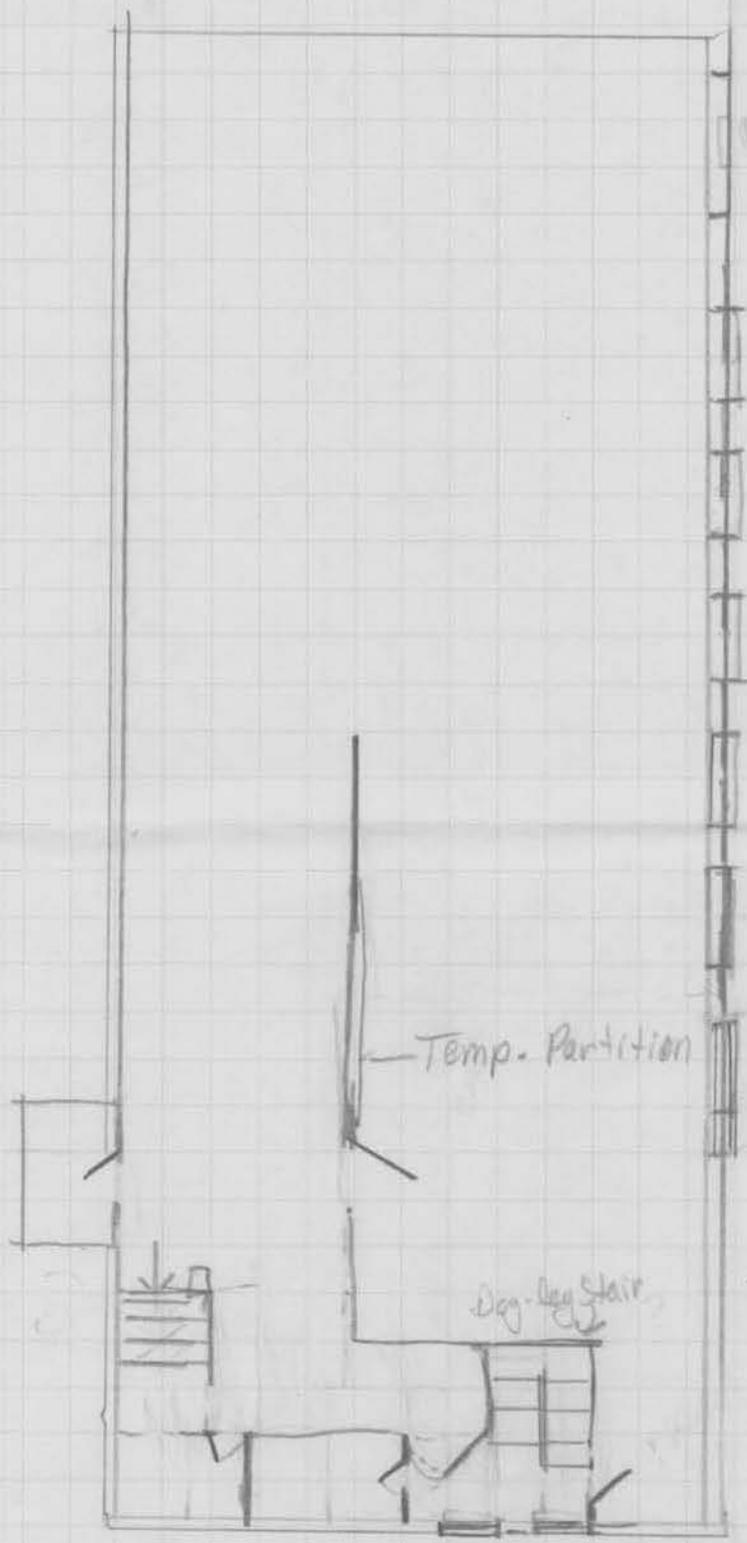
appenzeller
architecture + interior



Second story - New Horizon Sportsware

WA-HAG-195

North



Delivery Door

Temp. Partition

Day-day Stairs

Galery area above



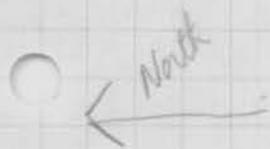
Summit ave.

appenzeller
architecton firm

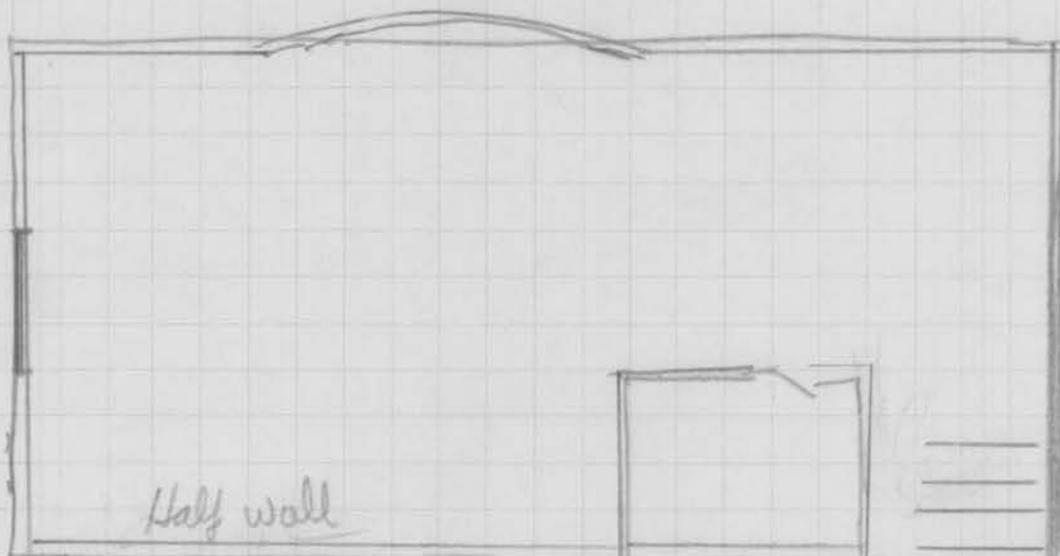
Balcony

WA-NAG-195

Summit Ave.



Window

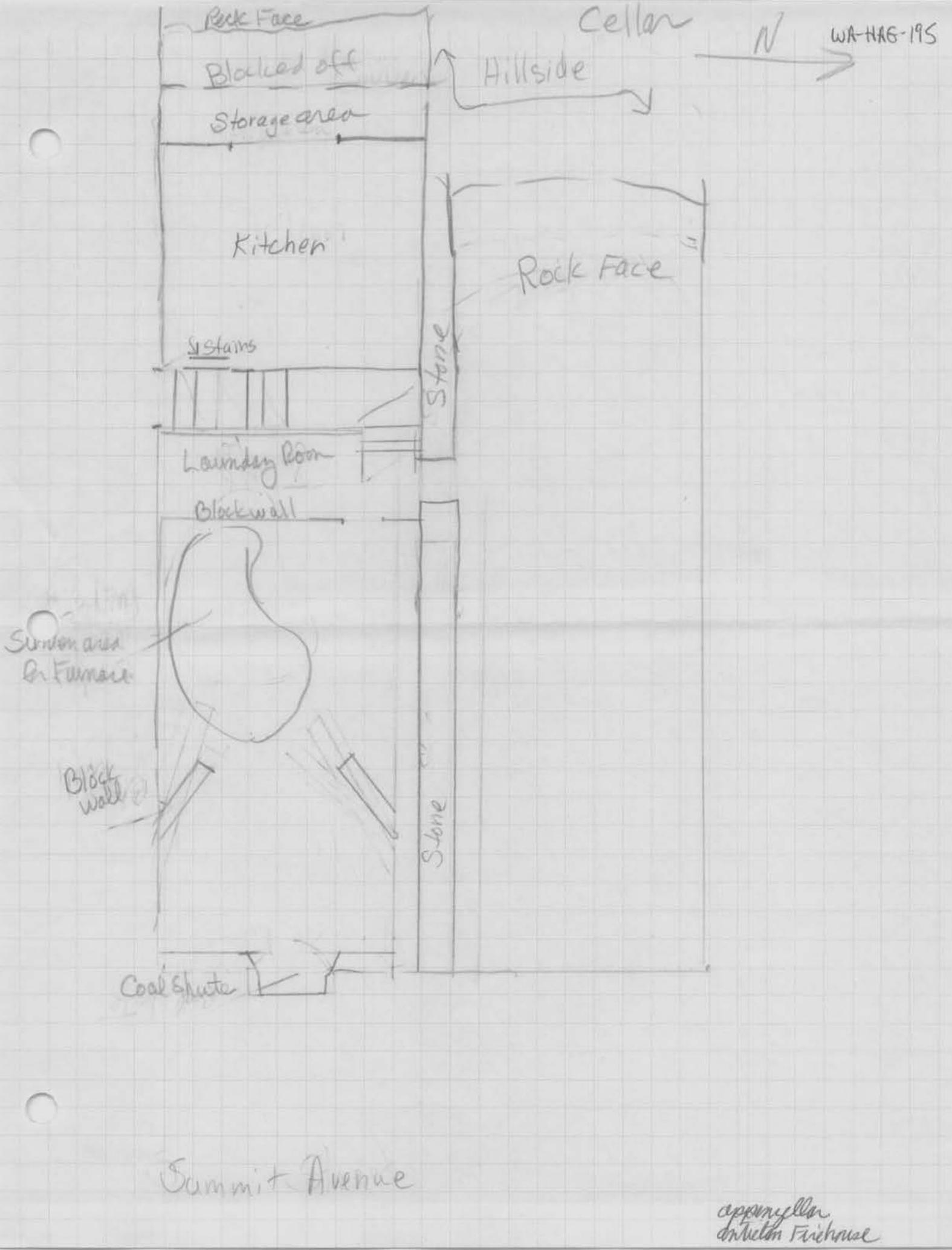


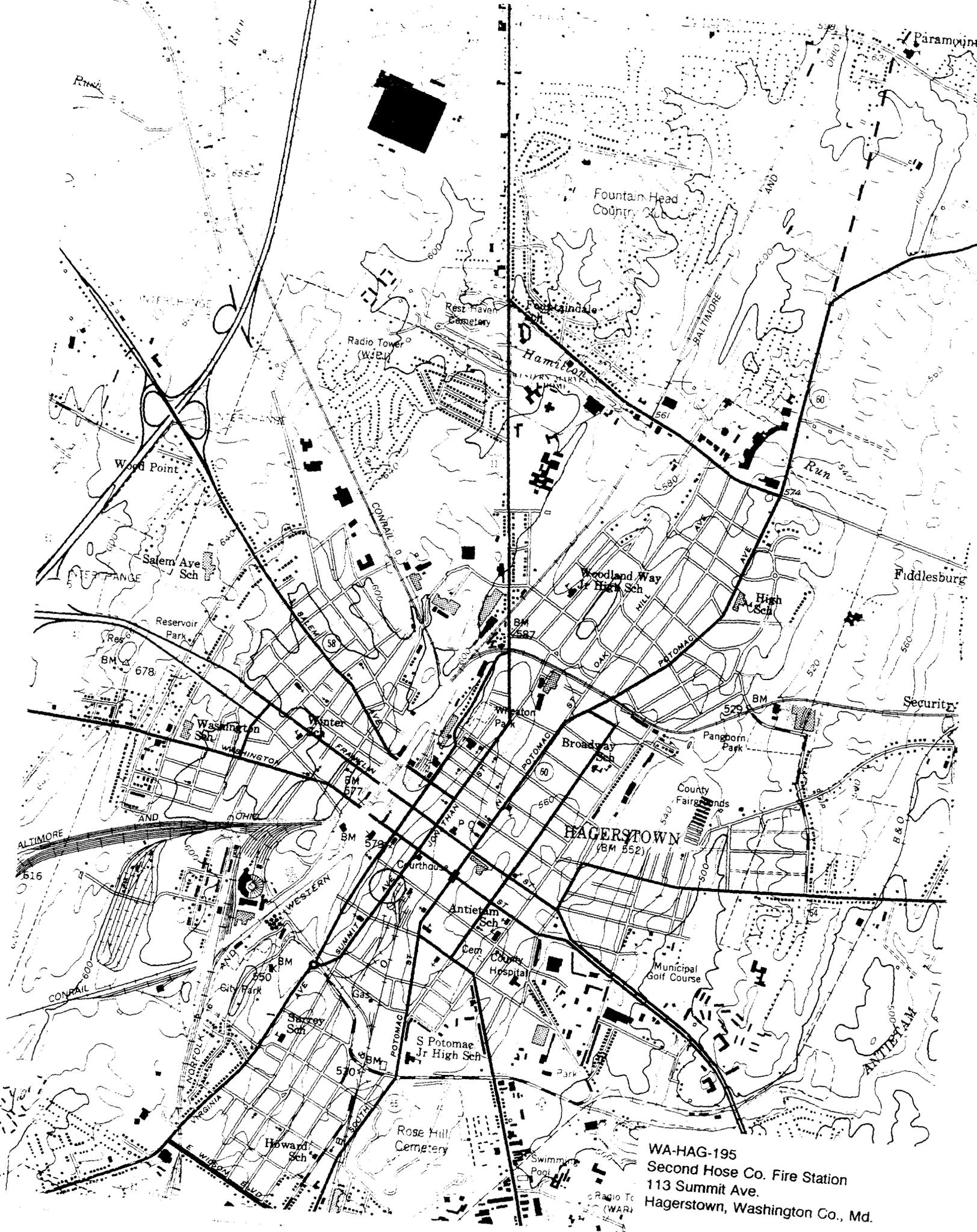
Half wall

Full wall

Stair

appenzeller
architectural studios





WA-HAG-195
Second Hose Co. Fire Station
113 Summit Ave.
Hagerstown, Washington Co., Md.

ANTIETAM FIRE CO. NO. 2
ORGANIZED - 1808
INCORPORATED - 1834
BUILT - 1895
REBUILT - 1921

Antietam Fwd Station
Washington Co Md
Debbie Miller
11/96

Common - Eastern
facade

10/24

W.A. Miller



WA-HAG-195

Antietam Fair Station

Washington Co MD

11/96

NE

Antietam Fair Station

Washington Co MD

Debbie Miller

11/96

NE Elevation

1/24



Orntation. Fr. a Southern
Washington Co. N.D.

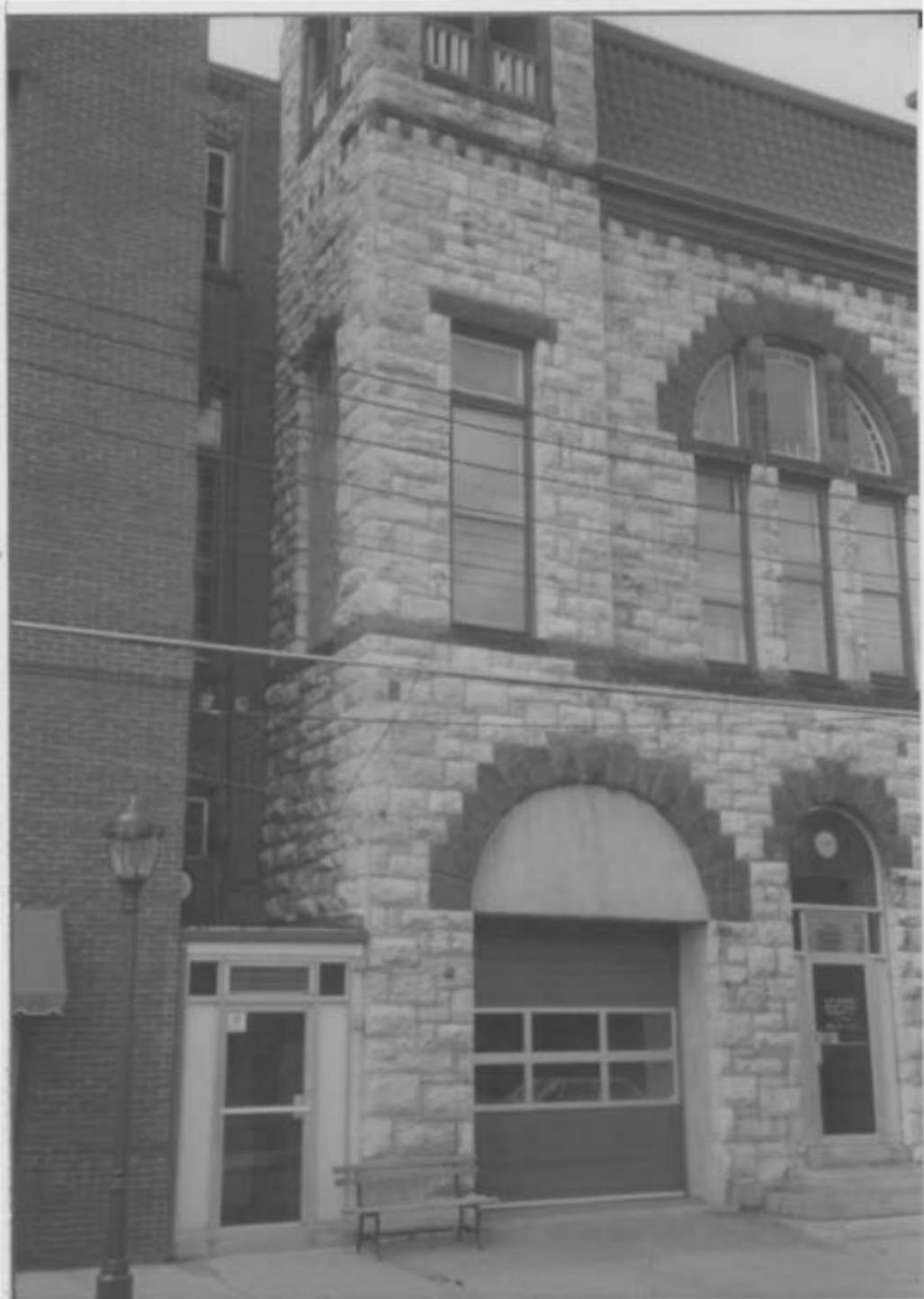
Debbie Miller

11/96

Notation. Elevation from
the State Survey

724

W. D. Miller



Conjectum Fire Station
Washington Co, MD
Debbie Miller
11/96

Smithson Extension
5/24

USA - AK - 195

Art. 1000 - 1000
1000 - 1000
1000 - 1000
1000

For album 1000
+ 1000
Nott. Bay

15/24

1000 1000 195



Anteater Paw Station
Washington Co, MD
Deer Mill

11/16

Western Elevation

8/24



10/10 F.A.C. 1975

Antelope Park Station
Washington DC
10/10

10/10
North Bay

10/10



antireform Fire Station
Washington Co MD
Carol Appenzeller
10/96
Detail - 2nd Floor Ceiling
21/24

WA-HAG-195



WA-HAG-195

Antietam Fine Station

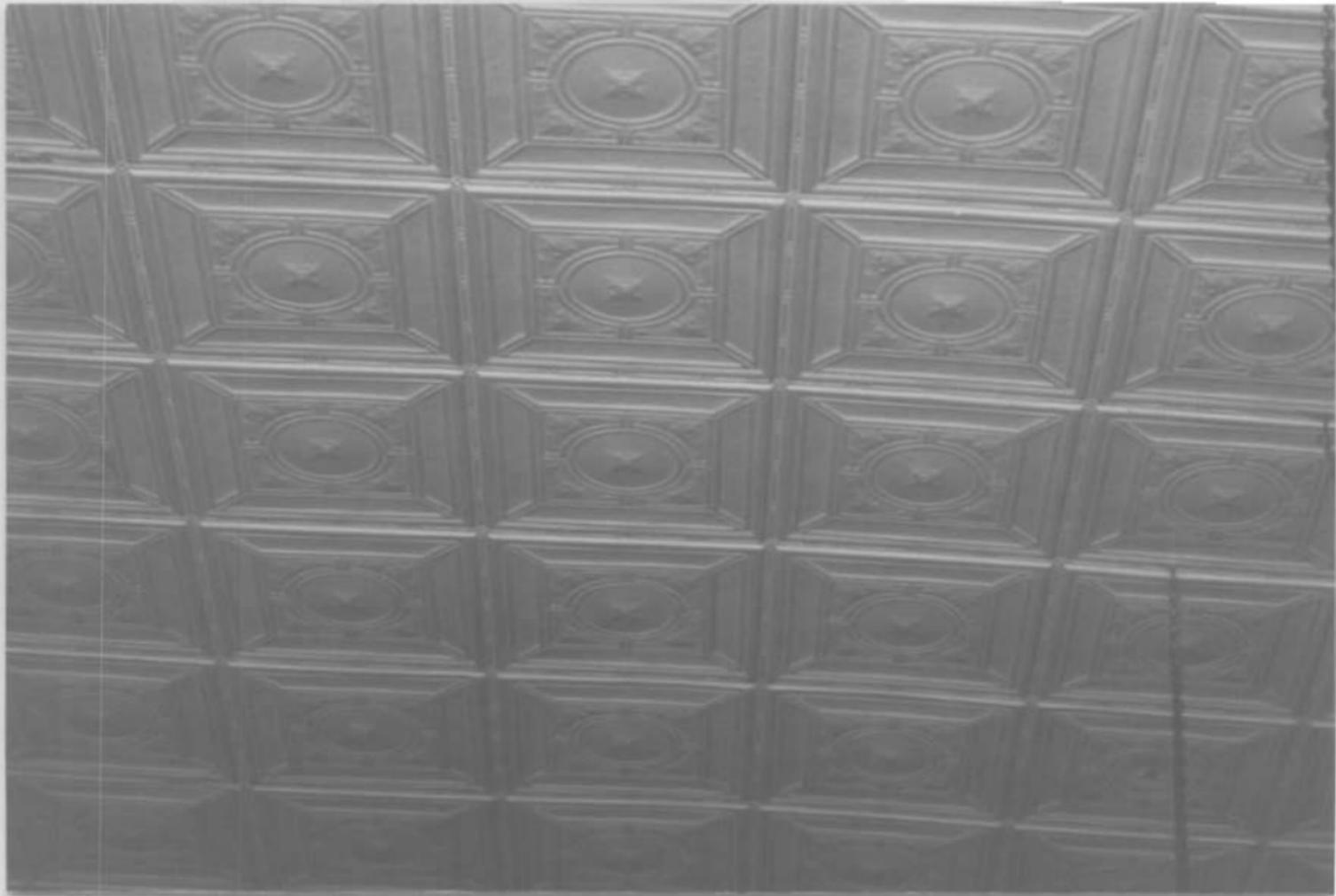
Washington Co MD

Carol Appenzeller

10/96

Detail 2nd Floor Crown Molding

20/24



WA-HAB-195

Amston Fire Station

Washington Co. ME

Carroll Springs

10/96

2nd Floor Ceiling

18/24



WA-HAG-195

Arcticton Fire Station
Washington Co MO
Caral Appenzeller
10/96

Interior detail - South
tower

24/24



WA-HAB-195

Antietam Fine Station
Washington Co MD
Carol Appenzeller
10/96

Interim detail - South House

Q3124



WA-2AG-195

OLD SECOND HOSE COMPANY FIRE STATION
113 SUMMIT AVE.

HAGERSTOWN, MD

7/91 P. KURTZE

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST