

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED WA-I-149
DATE ENTERED

43

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bell-Varner House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

on the south side of Unger Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Leitersburg

X VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE
024

COUNTY

Washington

CODE
043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Varner

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland National Bank Building, West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

WA-I-149

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

The Bell-Varner house is located on the south side of Unger Road, about three miles south of Leitersburg in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a gentle rise of ground and faces east.

A 2 1/2-story, five-bay brick dwelling with a two-story, four-bay el extending to the rear or west, the house was built into a slight bank making the front elevation a full three stories in height. The lowest story consists of the foundation of roughly-coursed fieldstone. The bricks at the front elevation are laid in Flemish bond while the side and rear elevations display common bonding. They are flat brick arches over the openings, and a corbeled brick cornice finishes the walls. A date-stone set in the north gable is inscribed: "Jonas Bell, 1851 C.B."

The windows appear to be spaced evenly in the front elevation. Most display modern, single-pane, double-hung sash held within narrow frames; however, six-over-six light sash remain at several main story windows. Most of the windows have shutters that are half louvered and half paneled. The small windows that flank the entrance at ground level on the front have paneled shutters.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the main story at the front elevation. The entrance treatment includes a high transom and paneled jambs. Directly beneath is a door in the ground story level. A raised porch extends along the front elevation at the main story level and continues with the north-elevation. A partially enclosed double porch is present on the south elevation of the el.

The roof is of slate, terminating with a plain barge board set directly against the end walls.

Between the two rooms of the interior of the front east part of the house is a central stair and entrance hall. The woodwork is consistent with the 1851 building date and features interior doors with three pairs of vertical panels. Door architraves in the parlor are trimmed with corner blocks decorated with concentric circles. This motif is used on the fireplace mantels throughout the house as well. The wing to the rear contains two rooms. The innermost of these has a fireplace in its north wall that shares a flue with the fireplace in the north room of the front section. The end room is a kitchen with a service fireplace and a small stairway.

Construction of the cellar of this house is notable. Several 18th century architectural elements were found there, particularly in a stone walled room beneath the parlor and main entrance hall. This room has a large service fireplace in its south end wall with a trammel for hanging utensils. A massive raised panel door with a batten back hung on large strap hinges opens into the room. The end partition consists of vertical beveled panels which appear to be from an 18th-century structural pieces. In the

See Continuation Sheet #1

LWA-I-149

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Bell-Varner House
Washington County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

rear of the cellar is a small vaulted room for vegetable storage.

The farm on which this house stands has been divided into smaller parcel
The tract with the house contains approximately four acres and a chicken
coop and wagon shed of the early 20th century. It does not include the
large frame bank barn on fieldstone foundations directly across Unger
Road.

SIGNIFICANCE

WR - I - 149

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 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 Jonas Bell 1851 C.B. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dated 1851, the Bell-Varner House is a documented and well-maintained example of the mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture of Washington County. Its five-bay, center door plan represents a significant architectural group in the county and the Cumberland Valley. The house has undergone relatively few exterior alterations.

The house is also important for the 18th-century woodwork and structural elements found in the basement. These suggest that parts of an earlier house were used in construction of the present dwelling, or that the present house rests on foundations of a possible 18th-century structure.

According to the datestone, the house was built by or for Jonas Bell. Members of the Bell family were prominent in the early life of the Leitersburg vicinity.

It appears likely that there was some sort of settlement in this area prior to Jonas Bell's occupation of the land in the mid-19th century. Deeds indicate that Bell acquired the farm containing slightly more than 100 acres on March 30, 1848 (IN3/292). The property had actually been sold to him at public sale in 1840 as directed in an equity court case between John Burkholder and John Yockey. John Yockey and his niece, Susan Yockey Burkholder, wife of John Burkholder, were the only surviving heirs of John Yockey who had died intestate "many years ago." (Chancery Record 3/155). Apparently, John Yockey Sr. had resided on this farm.

The farm includes parts of the land grants, "Resurvey on Darlings Sale," "Resurvey on Webb's Discovery," "Webb's Discovery" and "The Forest." "Darling's Sale" was patented on October 14, 1743, containing 420 acres, for Capt. John Charlton. After Capt. Charlton's death, the tract was divided into seven 60-acre parcels, one for each of his children.¹

¹ Herbert C. Bell, History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Maryland: the author (1908) 27.

WA-I-149 ADDENDUM 5/77
#1 Bell-Varner House
#5 Current Deed 122/562
#7 Description

The interior of the front or east part of the house is bisected by a central stair and entrance hall. The woodwork is consistent with the 1851 building date and features interior doors with three pairs of vertical panels. Door architraves in the parlor are trimmed with corner blocks which are decorated with concentric circles. This motif is used on the fireplace mantels throughout the house as well. The wing to the rear contains two rooms. The innermost of these has a fireplace in its north wall sharing a flue with the fireplace in the north room of the front section. The end room is a kitchen with a service fireplace and a small stairway.

Construction of the cellar of this house is notable. Several 18th century architectural elements were found there, particularly in a stone walled room beneath the parlor and main entrance hall. This room has a large service fireplace in its south end wall with a trammel for hanging utensils. A massive raised panel door with a batten back hung on large strap hinges enters into the room. Its end partition consists of vertical beveled panels which appear to have been from an 18th century interior wall. Another early door is used as well as some 18th century structural pieces. In the rear of the cellar is a small vaulted room for vegetable storage.

The farm on which this house stands has been divided into smaller parcels. The tract with the house contains approximately four acres and does not include the barn.

WA-I-149 ADDENDUM 5/77
#1 Bell-Varner House
#5 Current Deed
#8 Significance

The house is also important for the 18th century woodwork and structural elements found in its basement. These suggest that parts of an earlier house were used in construction of the present dwelling, or that the present house rests on foundations of a possible 18th century structure.

It appears likely that there was some sort of settlement in this area prior to Jonas Bell's occupation of the land in the mid 19th century. Deeds indicate the Bell acquired the farm containing slightly more than 100 acres on March 30, 1848 (IN3/292). The property had actually been sold to him at public sale in 1840 as directed in an equity court case between John Burkholder and John Yockey. John Yockey and his niece Susan Yockey Burkholder, wife of John Burkholder, were the only surviving heirs of a John Yockey who had died intestate "many years ago." (Chancery Record 3/155). Apparently, John Yockey Sr. had resided on this farm.

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¹ Herbert C. Bell, History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Md: the author (1908) 27.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

1. NAME					
COMMON: 19th Century Brick House, Unger Road					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Unger Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Leitersburg vicinity					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Max C. Unger					
STREET AND NUMBER: 927 Security Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House					
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): No reference found					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Trust Survey # 3102					
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust					
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle					
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-I-149

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	< 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located on the south side of Unger Road, about three miles south of Leitersburg in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a gentle rise of ground and faces east.

The structure is a two and a half story, five bay brick dwelling with a two story, four bay el extending to the rear or west. The house is constructed into a slight bank so that the front elevation is a full three stories in height. The lowest story consists of the foundation of roughly coursed fieldstone. Bricks at the front elevation are laid in Flemish bond while the side and rear elevations display common bonding. Flat brick arches are present over the openings. A datestone set in the north gable is inscribed, "Jonas Bell, 1851 C.B.". A corbeled brick cornice finishes the walls.

Windows appear to be spaced evenly in the front elevation. Most display modern, single pane, double hung sashes held within narrow frames. However, some six over six light sashes remain at several main story windows. Most windows are flanked with shutters having louvered and paneled sections. Paneled shutters are present at the ground floor of the front elevation where small windows flank an entrance.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the main story at the front elevation. The entrance treatment includes a high transom and paneled jambs. Directly beneath the main entrance is a door in the ground story level. A raised porch extends along the front elevation and continues with the north elevation. A partially enclosed double porch is present at the south elevation of the el.

The roofing material is slate, terminating with a plain barge board set directly against the end walls. The house is in excellent condition and is situated on a tract containing 128 acres. Immediately across Unger Road from this house is a large frame bank barn set on fieldstone foundations. Also in the complex, are numerous smaller buildings related to agricultural use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
- 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Jonas Bell 1851 C.B.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> Art
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry
<input type="checkbox"/> Invention
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> Literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/> |
|---|---|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of significance of this house is its architecture. Dated 1851, it is a documented and well maintained example of the mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture of Washington County which has received relatively few exterior alterations. Constructed of brick in the five bay center door plan, it represents a significant architectural group in Washington County and the Cumberland Valley. According to the date stone, the house was built by or for Jonas Bell. Members of the Bell family were prominent early residents of the Leitersburg vicinity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 128 Acres

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Washington County Historical Sites Survey DATE: August, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Washington Street Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

 Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bell-Varner House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

on the south side of Unger Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Leitersburg

X VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

024

Washington

043

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Varner

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland National Bank Building, West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Bell-Varner house is located on the south side of Unger Road, about three miles south of Leitersburg in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a gentle rise of ground and faces east.

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The roof is of slate, terminating with a plain barge board set directly against the end walls.

Between the two rooms of the interior of the front east part of the house is a central stair and entrance hall. The woodwork is consistent with the 1851 building date and features interior doors with three pairs of vertical panels. Door architraves in the parlor are trimmed with corner blocks decorated with concentric circles. This motif is used on the fireplace mantels throughout the house as well. The wing to the rear contains two rooms. The innermost of these has a fireplace in its north wall that shares a flue with the fireplace in the north room of the front section. The end room is a kitchen with a service fireplace and a small stairway.

Construction of the cellar of this house is notable. Several 18th century architectural elements were found there, particularly in a stone walled room beneath the parlor and main entrance hall. This room has a large service fireplace in its south end wall with a trammel for hanging utensils. A massive raised panel door with a batten back hung on large strap hinges opens into the room. The end partition consists of vertical beveled panels which appear to be from an 18th-century structural pieces. In the

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WA-I-149

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Bell-Varner House
Washington County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

rear of the cellar is a small vaulted room for vegetable storage.

The farm on which this house stands has been divided into smaller parcels. The tract with the house contains approximately four acres and a chicken coop and wagon shed of the early 20th century. It does not include the large frame bank barn on fieldstone foundations directly across Unger Road.

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 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 Jonas Bell 1851 C.B. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dated 1851, the Bell-Varner House is a documented and well-maintained example of the mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture of Washington County. Its five-bay, center door plan represents a significant architectural group in the county and the Cumberland Valley. The house has undergone relatively few exterior alterations.

The house is also important for the 18th-century woodwork and structural elements found in the basement. These suggest that parts of an earlier house were used in construction of the present dwelling, or that the present house rests on foundations of a possible 18th-century structure.

According to the datestone, the house was built by or for Jonas Bell. Members of the Bell family were prominent in the early life of the Leitersburg vicinity.

It appears likely that there was some sort of settlement in this area prior to Jonas Bell's occupation of the land in the mid-19th century. Deeds indicate that Bell acquired the farm containing slightly more than 100 acres on March 30, 1848 (IN3/292). The property had actually been sold to him at public sale in 1840 as directed in an equity court case between John Burkholder and John Yockey. John Yockey and his niece, Susan Yockey Burkholder, wife of John Burkholder, were the only surviving heirs of a John Yockey who had died intestate "many years ago." (Chancery Record 3/155). Apparently, John Yockey Sr. had resided on this farm.

The farm includes parts of the land grants, "Resurvey on Darlings Sale," "Resurvey on Webb's Discovery," "Webb's Discovery" and "The Forest." "Darling's Sale" was patented on October 14, 1743, containing 420 acres, for Capt. John Charlton. After Capt. Charlton's death, the tract was divided into seven 60-acre parcels, one for each of his children.¹

¹ Herbert C. Bell, History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Maryland: the author (1908) 27.

W 149



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

600 FEET (MD.)

HAGERSTOWN (JUNE 1951)

W 149

W 150

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W 154

W 155

W 156

W 157

W 158

W 159

W 160

W 149

W 149

Hagerstown Reservoir

Cavetown

Bender

WESTERN ROAD

HAGERSTOWN ROAD

Creek

Creek

EBE

Cem.

Cem.

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W 150

W 151

W 152

W 153

W 154

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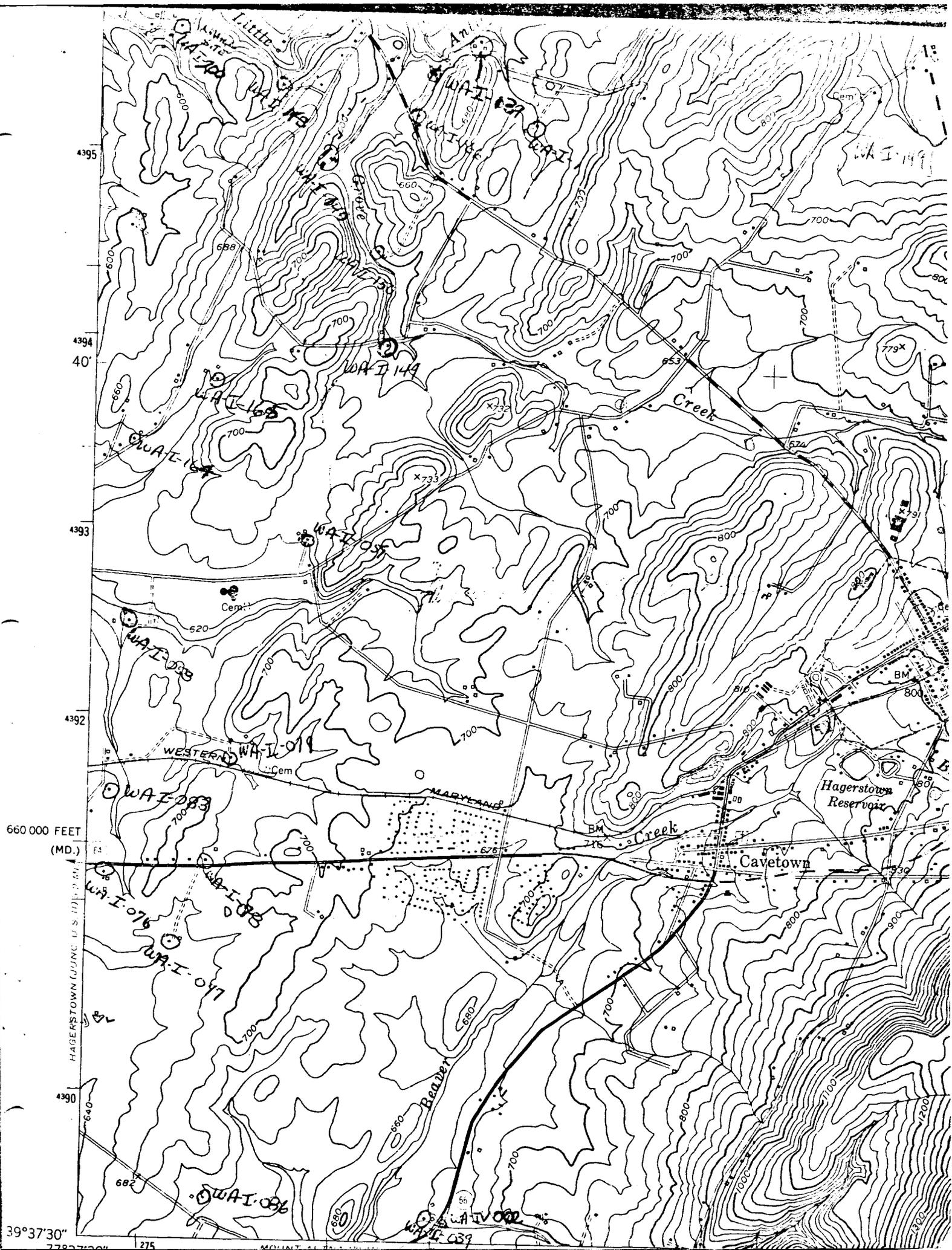
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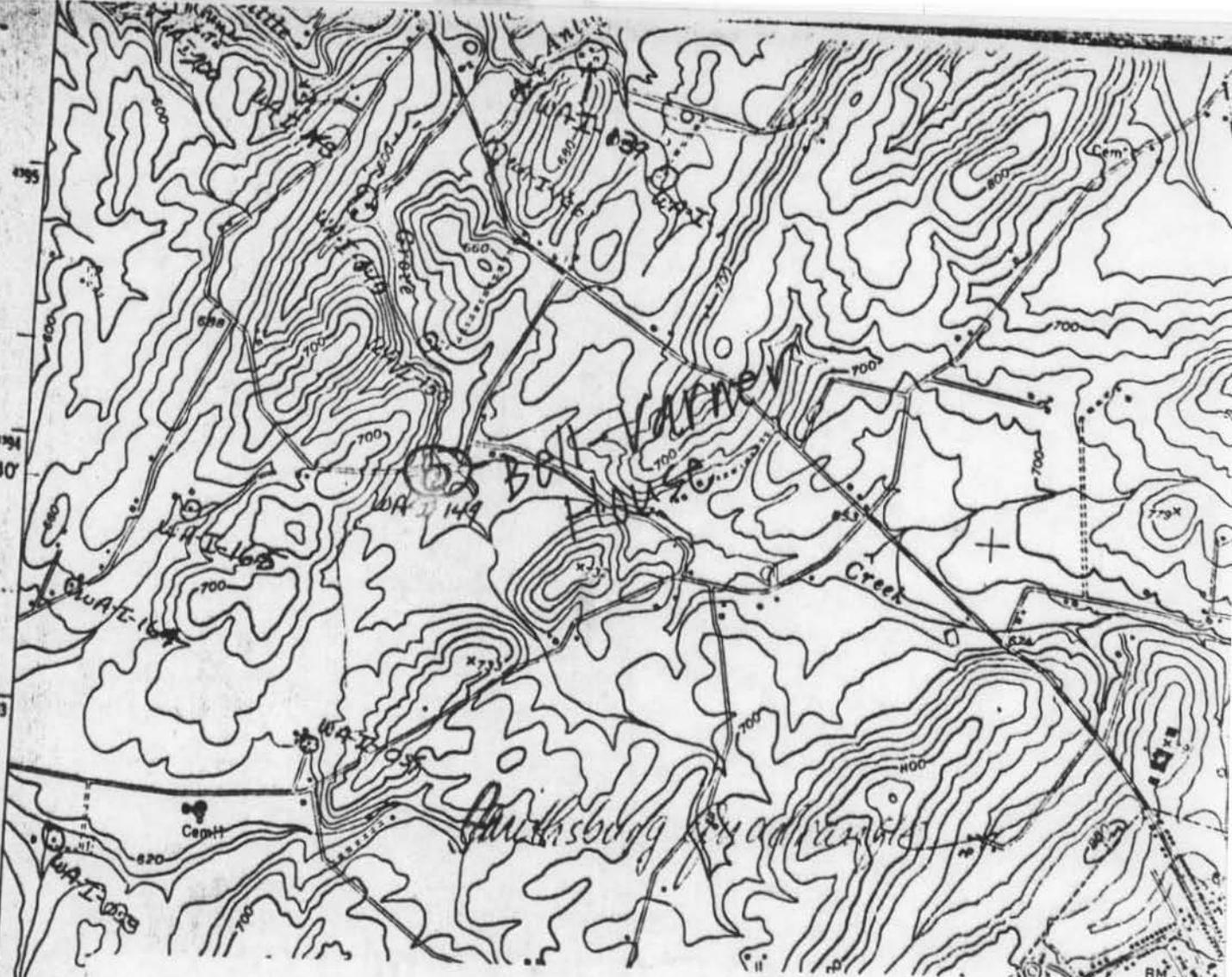
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SEE INST. SECTIONS

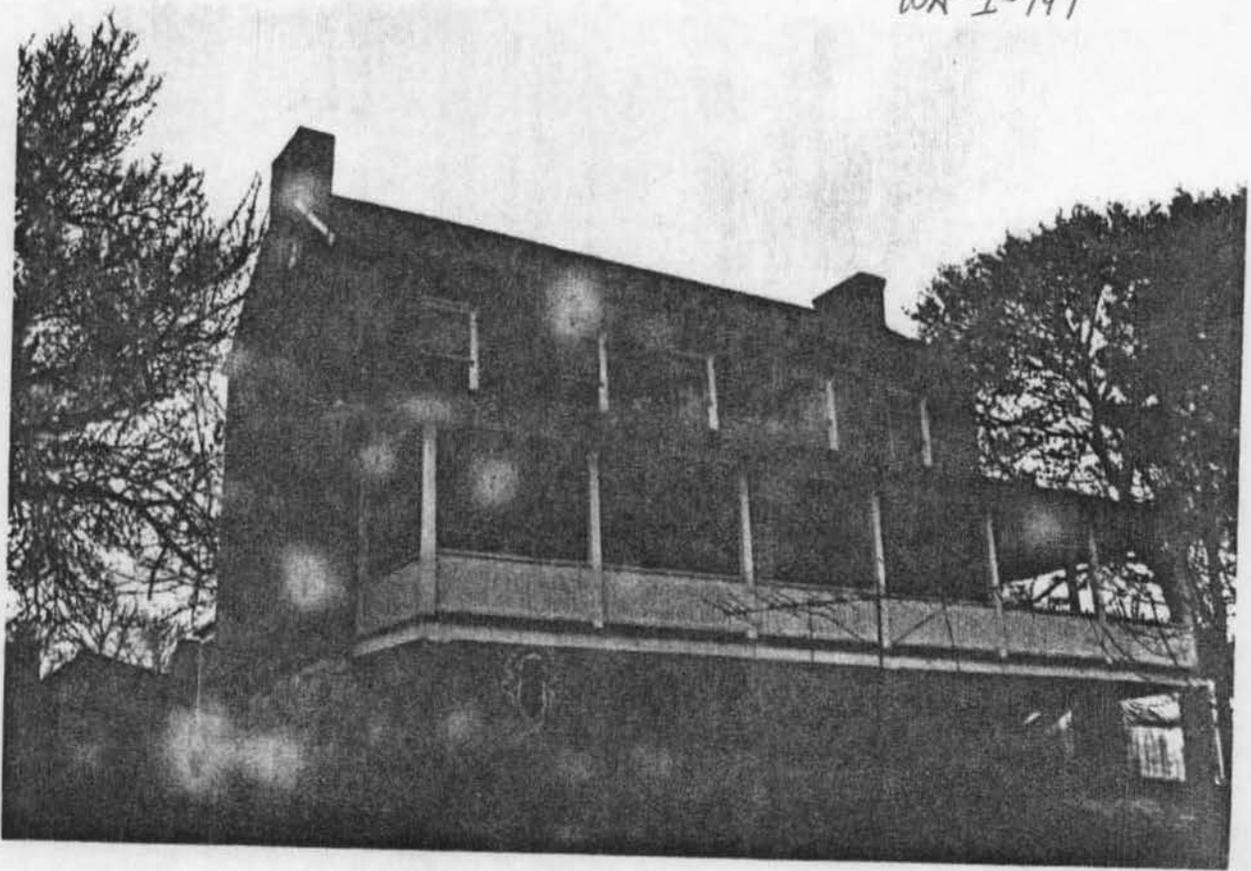


WA I-149

5000 FEET

(MD.)

MAGESTOWN, JING. U.S. 1115 2. M. 4





WH-1 157

1.

April, 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W.F. I-149

S.U.

April, 1944

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON D.C.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



114.5 129

Barre E.C.

April, 1914

PAULA STORER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W.H.-I-1419

Bell-Varnor House

April, 1976

PAULA SUPER DICKET
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY