

ABSTRACT  
WA-I-172

late 18th century  
mid 19th century

Gabby House  
Leitersburg Vicinity  
private

This two part house consists of a central chimney wooden structure sheathed with German siding to which has been added a two story masonry section probably dating from the mid 19th century. The wooden section is said to have been built by John Gabby, an early Scotch-Irish settler, prior to the Revolution. John Gabby's son Joseph who held the farm from 1806 to 1856 was a prominent citizen of Washington County, serving as a member of the Governor's Council and the House Of Delegates as well as the County Levy Court.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON: Stone and Log House, Leitersburg Vicinity					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Gabby House					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER: Off Leitersburg-State Line Road at Antietam					
CITY OR TOWN: Leitersburg Vicinity					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Washington		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____	
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME: Gorman A. Snurr					
STREET AND NUMBER: Route # 5					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		
			21740		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House					
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		
			21740		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 359/554					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey #3075					
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

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered &lt; 50%    <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered           </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site           </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This house is located at the end of a long private lane leading north-eastwardly from the Leitersburg-State Line Road, just east of the Antietam Creek, north of Leitersburg in Washington County, Maryland. It stands on a rise of ground above the Antietam Creek and faces south.</p> <p>This two part dwelling consists of a two story, three bay stone and brick section which is attached to a two story, four bay weatherboarded structure. The masonry section is covered with a layer of rough cast or stucco which has been incised with perpendicular lines to resemble cut blocks. The German siding or weatherboarding of the wooden section would appear to conceal log construction. Both sections are set on low fieldstone foundations.</p> <p>Openings in the masonry section appear to have been spaced evenly in the front elevation. The window sashes are held within narrow rounded frames to which are attached pairs of four panel shutters at the first story and louvered shutters at the second story level.</p> <p>The main entrance in the masonry section is elaborate for a rural Washington County house. It consists of a broad seven light transom and side lights held within a narrow frame. Flanking the door are oval reeded attached columns. Evidence is present of a one story entrance porch. A second entrance is present in the rear or north elevation opposite the front entrance. It is quite plain and does not include a transom.</p> <p>Openings in the wooden section are much smaller in size than those in the masonry structure. Six over six pane double hung sashes are held within frames which appear to have been altered when weather boarding was applied to the structure. The main entrance to the wooden section is located in the third bay from its west end. The entranceway consists of a simple door frame without a transom. A second entrance is located in the eastern bay of the rear or north elevation.</p> <p>A double porch included under the main roof span extends along the front elevation of the wooden section. It is supported by chamfered square posts.</p> <p>Both the wooden and masonry structures are roofed with sheet metal. A stepped effect has been achieved at the east gable of the masonry section with the addition of brick finishing at the ends of the eaves. Double chimneys of brick are located inside the west gable end. A flue of brick extends from the interior of the wooden section, near its center. The eaves of both sections are finished with simple boxing.</p> <p>The masonry portion of the structure is in deteriorated condition while the wooden section appears to be in good condition. Near the dwelling is a large barn and other buildings related to agricultural use. The property contains 103.725 acres.</p>	

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## 8. 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)

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

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is primarily significant for its architecture. It is also important for its association with the Gabby family, prominent early residents of Washington County who apparently built both portions of the house.

Built in sections, this house represents two distinct periods in Washington County's architectural history. The wooden section, presumably of log construction, appears to be the earlier of the two. Constructed with a central flue it represents an 18th century form of vernacular architecture. Logs were used extensively for early buildings in Washington County, being the primary building material from the earliest days of settlement until about 1800. Unfortunately, the weatherboarding conceals the original construction of this house. Its interior was not examined.

According to Herbert C. Bell in his History Of Leitersburg District, this portion of the house was built by John Gabby prior to the Revolution. In 1769 John Gabby purchased from Peter Good 166 acres of the "Resurvey On Well Taught" and "Perry's Retirement".<sup>1</sup> He later acquired additional lands.

The masonry section of the structure would appear to date from the mid 19th century. To an extent it shows influence of the Greek Revival Style in Washington County's rural domestic architecture.

In 1795 John Gabby divided his plantation in Washington County, selling it to two of his sons, John and William. John Gabby Jr. received the portion of his father's land on which the improvements were situated. When John Gabby Jr. died in 1806, the farm he had purchased from his father in 1795 passed to his younger brother Joseph. Joseph Gabby resided on the property until his death in 1856. He operated a distillery along with the farm. Joseph Gabby was apparently an influential member of the community serving as a member of the Governor's Council, the House Of Delegates and the County Levy Court.<sup>2</sup>

The Gabby family, of Scotch-Irish descent, apparently came to Washington County from Pennsylvania.

<sup>1</sup> Herbert C. Bell, History Of Leitersburg District.  
Leitersburg, Md: the author (1908) p. 53, p. 216.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bell, Herbert C., History Of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Md: the author, 1908.

Washington County Land Records.

Williams, T.J.C., History Of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 103.725 acres.

**Acreage Justification:**

The property is a rural domestic structure. The primary section of the structure would appear to date from the mid 19th century. In an extent it shows influence of the Greek revival style. The primary section of the structure would appear to date from the mid 19th century. In an extent it shows influence of the Greek revival style. The primary section of the structure would appear to date from the mid 19th century. In an extent it shows influence of the Greek revival style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant		DATE: October 1975
ORGANIZATION: Washington County Historical Sites Survey		
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex		
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Liber Folio  
359/554

July 25, 1960

Grantor: Carrie L. Snurr

Grantee: Gorman A. Snurr

"Perry's Retirement," "Martins Fancy," "Burket's Lot," "Resurvey  
On Well Taught." 103 acres, 2 roods, 36 perches.

Liber Folio  
238/57

September 28, 1946

Grantors: A. May Holtzman & C. Boyd Holtzman, et al

Grantees: James W. Snurr & Carrie L. Snurr

Parcel # 1

Liber Folio  
206/98

February 12, 1938

Grantors: Evelyn M. Wachter

Grantees: A. May Holtzman & C. Boyd Holtzman, M. Edna Toms & Austin W.  
Toms

Liber Folio  
206/98

February 12, 1938

Grantor: A. May Holtzman, et al

Grantee: Evelyn M. Wachter

Liber Folio  
192/492

January 7, 1933

Grantor: Otis Smith

Grantees: A. May Holtzman & M. Edna Toms

Liber Folio  
155/674

October 1, 1919

Grantors: Hiram D. Middlekauff & Lavanda H. Middlekauff

Grantee: Annie B. Smith

\$6965.62 & \$6000.00 Mortgage

Liber Folio  
90/378

April 5, 1887

Grantor: Peter Middlekauff

Grantee: Hiram D. Middlekauff

\$8,816.62

Liber Folio  
IN18/354

March 4, 1865

Grantor: Wm. Motter, Trustee of Leander McRee, deceased

Grantee: Peter Middlekauff

Property from the estate of Joseph Gabby, deceased.  
159½ acres.

Liber Folio  
IN19/398

April 4, 1866

Grantors: Jacob Miller & Catherine Miller

Grantee: Peter Middlekauff

"Martin's Fancy" 96a. 18p.

... being part of the same tract conveyed by the heirs of  
Christian Kreider to Jacob E. Miller, June 2, 1856.

ber Folio  
I/186

April 8, 1795

Grantor: John Gabby, Sr.

Grantee: John Gabby, Jr.

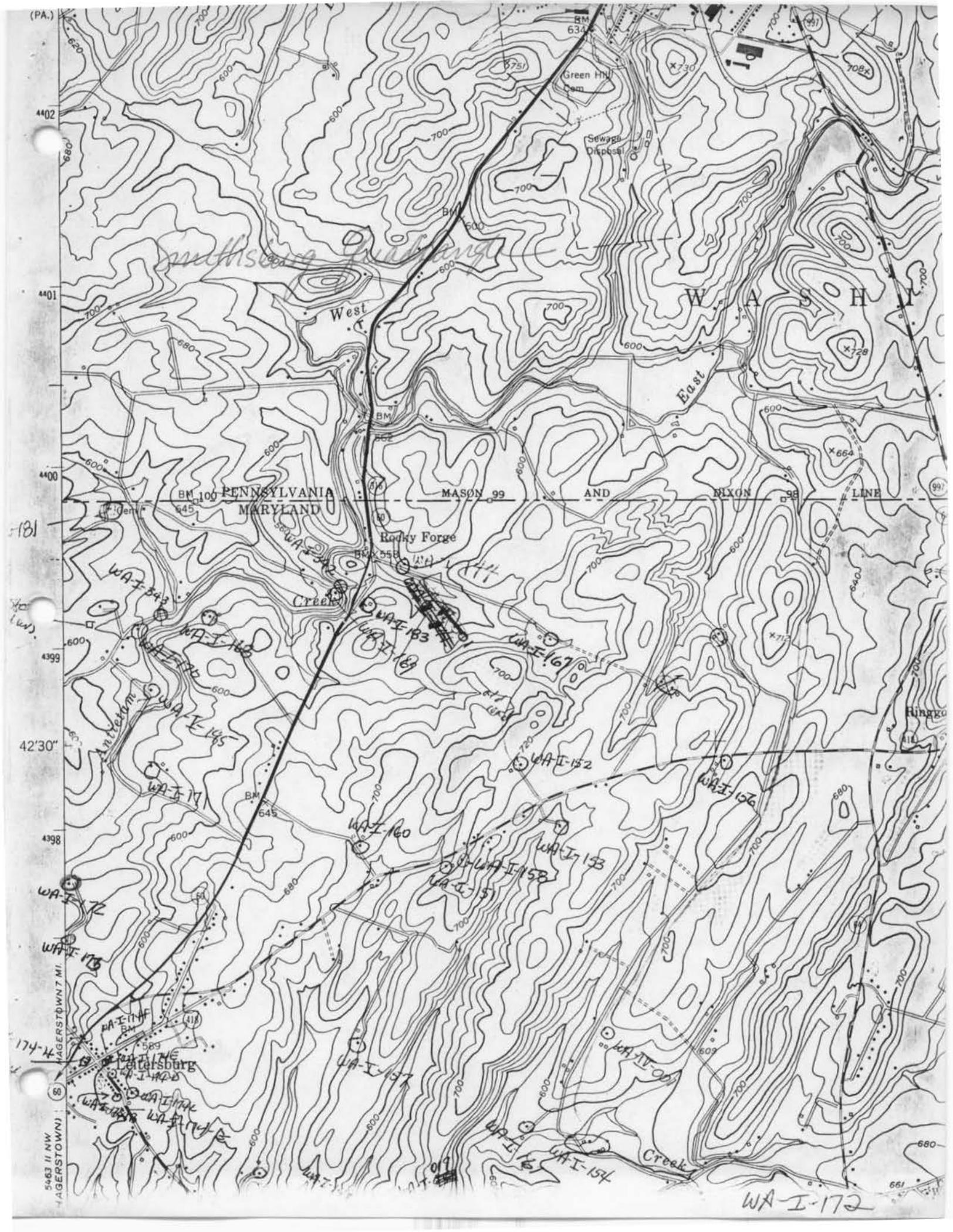
£ 500 "Resurvey On Well Taught," "Martins Fancy," "Rich Barrens", 66 a.

"Exchange" 3½ acres

"Perry's Retirement" 43½ acres

"Martin's Fancy" 2½ acres

"Resurvey On Well Taught" 10 acres.





UAI-173  
51  
Mar 19 1952

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W.H. 7-112

112

MARLA STORER DICKEY  
RESIDENT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



UH-F 12.

8.

May, 1971

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY