

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-504

ADDRESS: 119 West Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Christ Reformed Church, no lot/tax number,
BUILDING DATE: 1890

The Christ Reformed Church is a tall, south-facing, horizontally massed, two-story-with-tower, three-bay, brick (Flemish and English bond), freestanding, ecclesiastical structure resting on a stone foundation. The building is set directly at the public-right-of-way and is built in a restrained Romanesque Revival style. The front-gable roof is covered with slate shingles and has slightly overhanging eaves. There are entrances to the building in the right and left bays of the front facade, as well as several in the rear addition. The entrances in the front facade are round arched with glazing in the arched portion. Rectangular, two-panel, double wooden doors resting on stone sills and approached by concrete steps complete the entrance composition. The center bay of the front facade holds a central stained glass window.

The Sharpsburg Christ United Church of Christ dates to 1768 when Joseph Chapline, founder of the town, deeded land for a church and burial ground to the German Reformed Presbyterians. The original church was sited on Chapline Street. The congregation moved to its present location in 1832 upon the completion of its church at that site. During the Battle at Antietam, the structure served as a hospital. Since that time it has been remodeled twice, once in 1890 and then in 1946. The cornerstone on the building attests to its construction chronology stating that the original church was constructed in 1832 and rebuilt in 1890. The building is noted on the 1922 Sanborn map as 212 West Main and as having a

two-story carriage house behind it along the alley and a two-story garage at the northwest corner of the property.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Theme of Religion.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, June 1991

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WA-II-608-

504

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Christ Reformed Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 119 West Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Sharpsburg ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

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

name Christ Reformed Church

street & number 119 West Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Sharpsburg state and zip code Maryland 21782

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Summit Avenue and West Washington Street folio

city, town Hagerstown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository 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 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 Setting

The Christ Reformed Church is located in Washington County at 119 West Main Street in Sharpsburg. It is sited directly at the public-right-of-way, as are most of the buildings in the town, on Sharpsburg's principal west-east thoroughfare. The site includes the church and a small side yard which is defined by a wrought-iron fence. The building rests at grade on a 51.5' x 103' lot at the northeast corner of West Main Street and the first alley west of Mechanic Street. It is a few lots west of the town square and the traditional commercial/social center of Sharpsburg and is flanked on either side by residential structures.

Exterior

The Christ Reformed Church is a tall, south-facing, horizontally massed, two-story-with-tower, three-bay, brick (Flemish and English bond), free-standing, ecclesiastical structure resting on a stone foundation.

The building is built in a restrained Romanesque Revival style. The front-gable roof is covered with slate shingles and has overhanging and open eaves supported by ornamental brackets. There are entrances to the building in the right and left bays of the front facade, as well as several in the rear addition. The entrances in the front facade are round-arched. The entrance in the west bay projects slightly from the face of the church, has decorative buttressing, and consists of three-panel double-doors that fill the entire entry. Those in the east bay, tower entrance are slightly recessed, rectangular double-doors with glazing in the arch. The center bay of the front facade holds a central stained glass window. The tower holds narrow slit windows except in the face. Decorative brickwork on the building includes stringcourses and dentilling on the tower and arches defining the window and door openings.

The building was sandblasted in 1976 and has been treated with silicon.

Interior

The interior of the church is divided into three sections: the small front vestibule areas, the main sanctuary, and the Sunday School room, office, and support facilities at the rear of the building.

The vestibules are small entry hallways with doors leading into the sanctuary. The sanctuary has two sets of curved pews with a center aisle. A curved railing extends into the sanctuary from the squared apse, which is further defined by an arched opening. Decorative molding at the doors and arches consists of simple profiles with bulls-eye corner blocks.

(continued...)

8. Significance

Survey No. WA-II-608 534

| 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1832, 1890, 1946 Builder/Architect

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 Sharpsburg Christ Reformed Church dates to 1763 when Joseph Chapline, founder of the town, deeded land for a church and burial ground to the German Reformed Presbyterians. The 103' x 206' lot located on Chapline Street and numbered 61 was deeded to the trustees of the Reformed Church one year later at a cost of 160 pounds. By 1769, \$600 had been raised by lottery to construct the original church. This was a small brick structure with a cupola.

The congregation moved to its present location on West Main Street in 1832 upon the completion of its new church at that site. The original church was demolished that same year. The new church is sited on original lot #46, whose first purchaser was George Keiffer (Liber J/Folio 135). The property was sold to the church by Mrs. Mary Ground. That building had a stepped parapet facade with a central entrance defined by two columns. Large windows were located in the flanking bays. Above the entry and the windows were large lunettes. A lunette also provided illumination for the balcony that served as a seating area for slaves and domestics. A massive frame cupola topped the structure.

During the Battle of Antietam, the structure served as a hospital for Union troops.

Since the Battle, the church has been remodeled at least three times; in 1890, in 1946, and in 1965. The cornerstone on the building attests to its construction chronology stating that the original church was constructed in 1832 and rebuilt in 1890. According to a history of the church, the front facade was completely remodeled in 1890. This included the enclosure of the original center-bay entrance with a large window. The windows in the east and west elevations were altered from rectangular to pointed arch openings. Interior changes included exchanging straight-backed pews with circular ones, removal of the plaster ceiling and insertion of a wooden one (extant today), and mechanical improvements. Some of the original floors were left intact. The church was rededicated in 1891.

continued...)

CONTINUATION SHEET

SURVEY NO. WA-II-608⁵⁰⁴

7. DESCRIPTION

Page 7.1

The commemorative windows in the church have been donated by members of the congregation, as well as by surviving members of regiments that were treated in the church when it served as a hospital during the Battle. The Moller Pipe Organ was installed between 1943 and 1947. The pulpit came from the Zion Church in Hagerstown circa 1965. Ceiling fans were added in 1980, as were some downlights.

Behind the sanctuary on the left (facing the alter) is the pastor's office which, in turn, leads into the Sunday school room. A door at the back of the sanctuary on the right leads into a small room that at one time served as a classroom. This room has a door for the pastor that leads into the apse, a door leading to the outside, and an opening into the new Sunday school room.

The Sunday School room extends across the entire width of the building and has a full, raised basement holding a meeting room.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.1

The building is noted on the 1922 Sanborn map as 212 West Main and as having a two-story carriage house behind it along the alley and a two-story garage at the northwest corner of the property. These structures may have belonged to the property immediately to the east of the church. They are not part of the church property today.

The 1946 remodeling included the installation of the Moller Pipe Organ. It is possible that it was at this time that the pastor's office was added. The Sunday school addition was erected in 1965 on land immediately behind the original church and donated by the Church's neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roulette.

Significance

A preliminary architectural evaluation of the Christ Reformed Church was made in April 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Sharpsburg. At that time a survey site number WA-II-608 was assigned and it was determined that the church is a contributing element to Sharpsburg's historic religious and architectural character. A summary sheet on the building with photographs was submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust in June 1991. The summary provides a basic description of the building and places it with the Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan: State Historic Context (Western Maryland Geographic Organization; the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition; the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of members of the Sharpsburg community, the general history of the church was researched. It was concluded that the building served an important medical and memorial role during and after the Battle of Antietam, is a good example of restrained, late 19th-century, Romanesque Revival architecture, and meets two of the following eligibility criteria (A and C) for listing on the Maryland Register.

Criterion A -- The property is associated with significant historical events. The church served as a hospital during and immediately following one of the most significant battles of the Civil War.

Criterion B -- The property is not associated with a significant person.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.2

Criterion C -- The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect. For its commanding presence near the center of town, and for its fine, restrained Romanesque-Revival detailing, the Christ Reformed Church is a contributing element to the architectural significance of Sharpsburg.

Criterion D -- The property may provide important information about history or prehistory. The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. Because of its long history at this site, it is possible that 19th- and 20th-century archeological remains might be found near the building. However, it should be noted that the building has undergone several remodelings and has been added to over the years. These construction efforts, the most recent of which occurred in the 1960s, might have obliterated much of the archeological record.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SURVEY NO. WA-II-⁵⁰⁴608

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 9.1

Barron, Lee and Barbara. The History of Sharpsburg Maryland; Founded by Joseph Chapline 1763. Privately Published: 1972.

Christ Reformed Church, historic photograph

Roulette, Annabelle E. "Welcome to Christ United Church of Christ." Undated pamphlet.

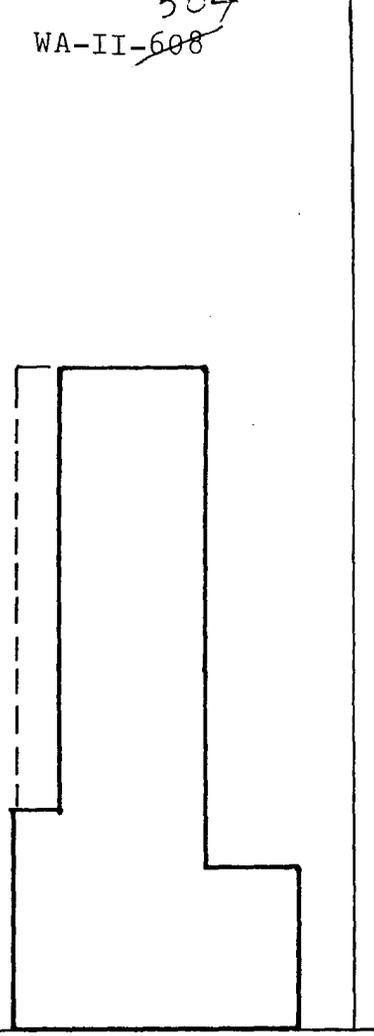
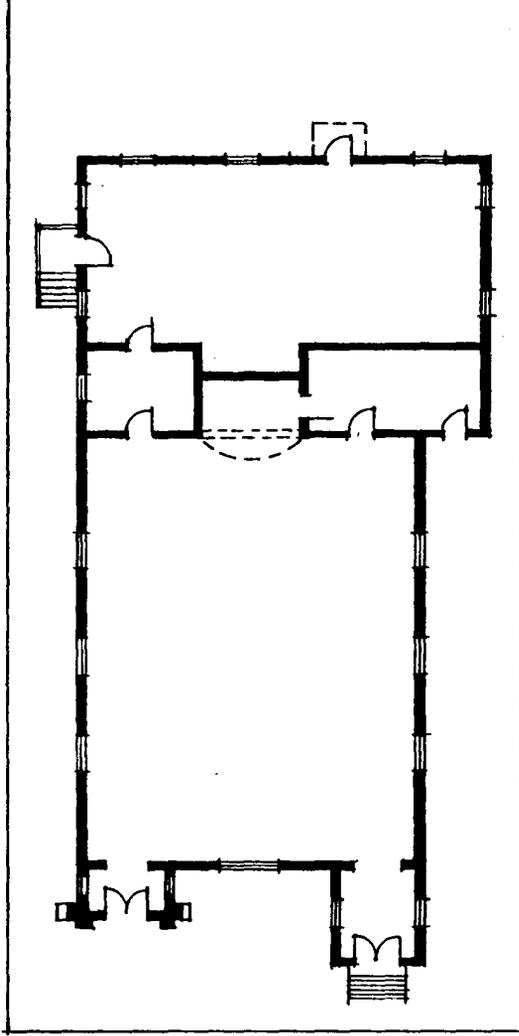
Tour with Charlotte Davis.

MAPS:

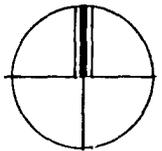
1877 uncited map

1922 Sanborn Map

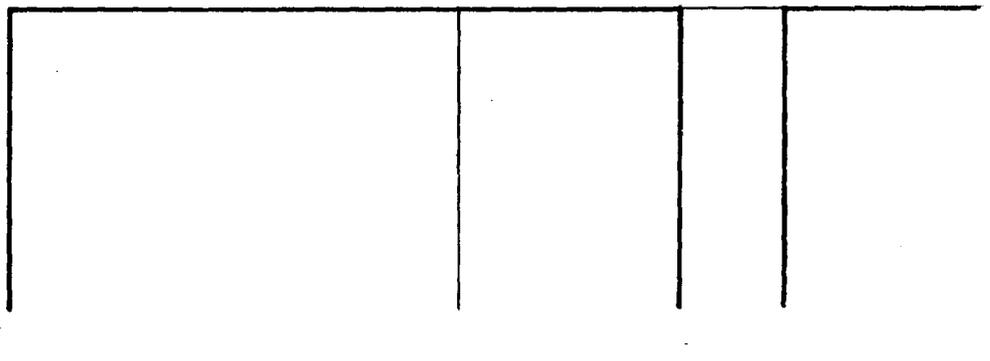
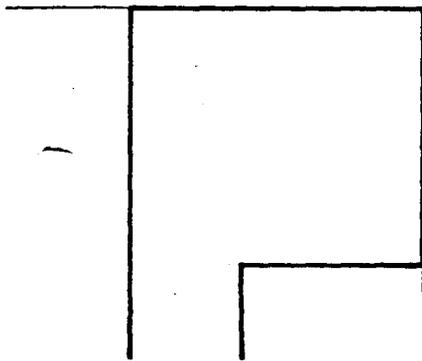
504
WA-II-608



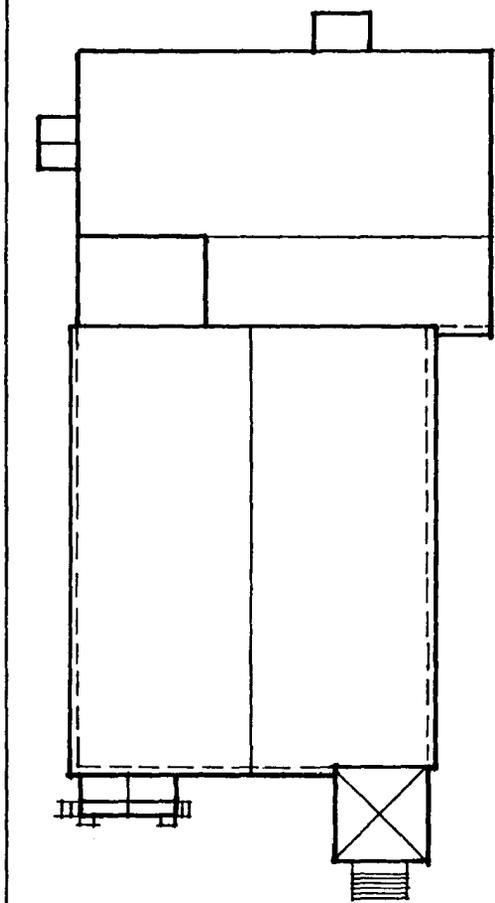
WEST MAIN STREET



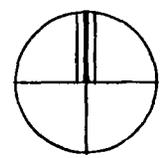
not to scale



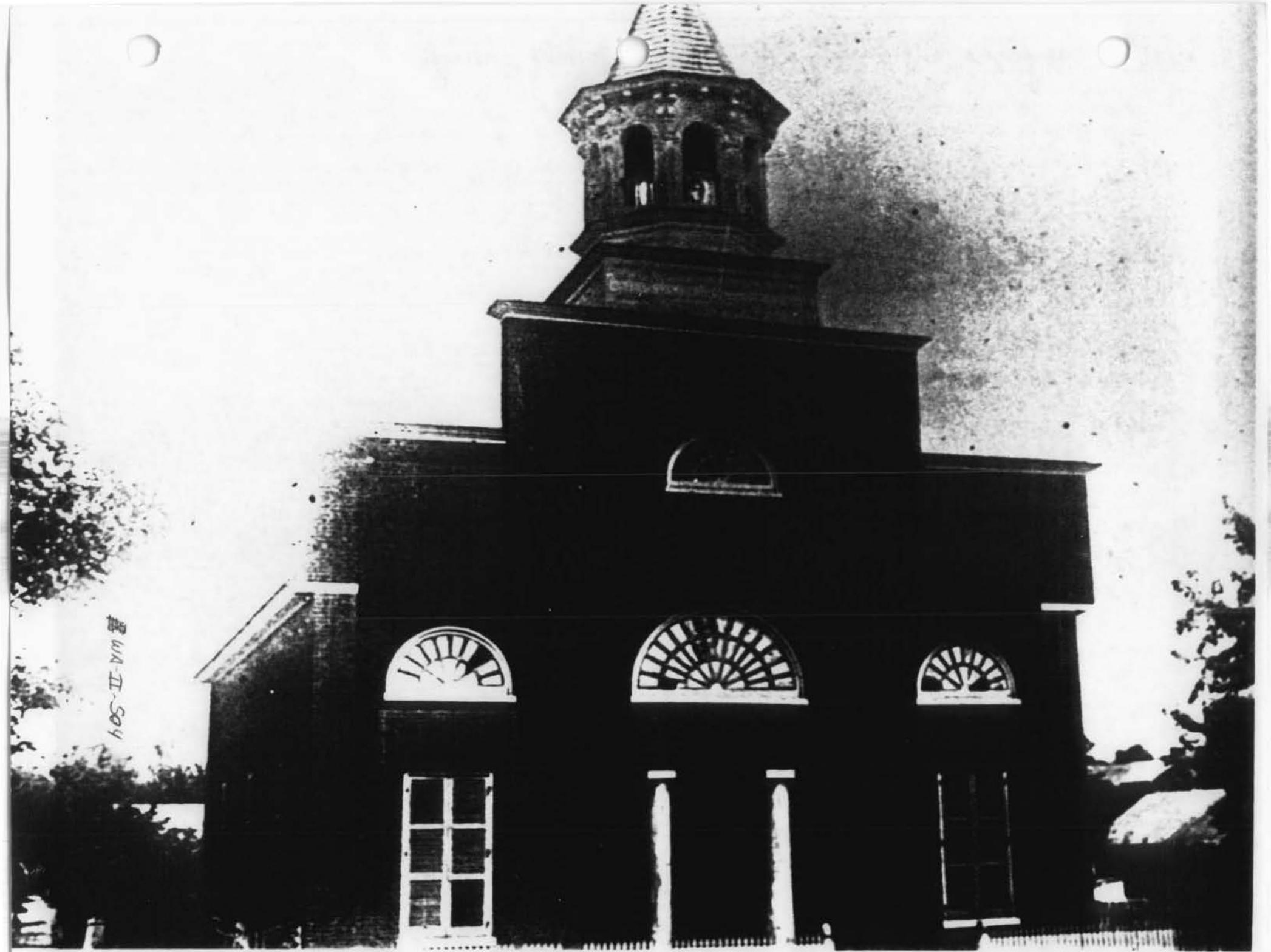
504
WA-II-608



WEST MAIN STREET

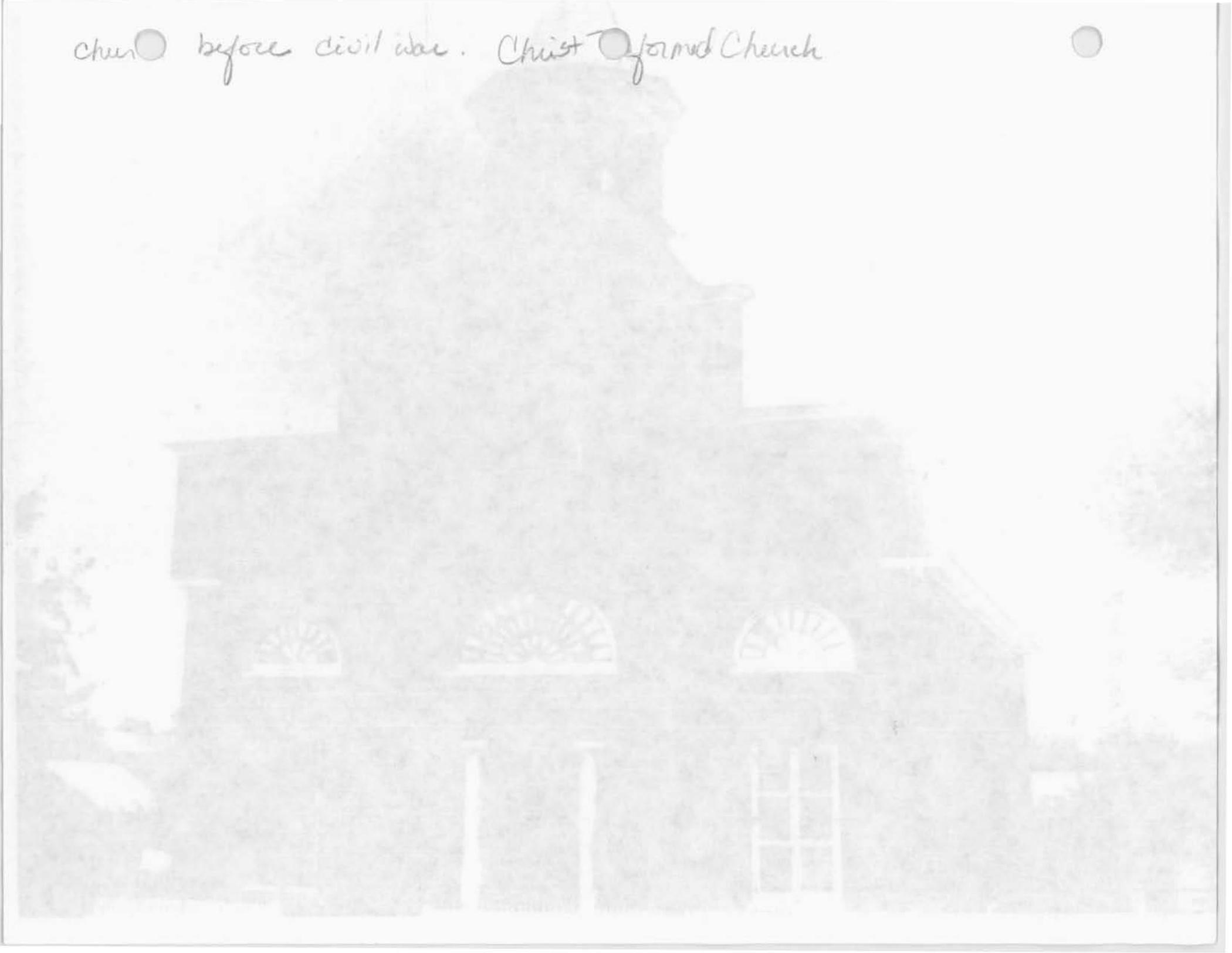


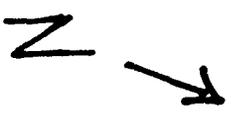
not to scale



WA-11-504

Chun before civil war. Christ Reformed Church





VICTOR T. WITMER
474/304

EDDIE T. SCHROYER
606/406

NORMAN L. MORGAN
895 / 426

MELVIN L.
CORDER
604/411

GARY A. TOMS
843/497

JEAN H REEL
594/271

DENNIS J. STEAD
869/348

PAGE T. OTTO
381-254

W. CHARLINE

ST.

ST.

PHILIP F.
RHODERICK
796/773

WILLIAM H. CANFIELD
789/251

ADRIAN E GRIM
762/990

HAZEL S. BROOKS
579/109

SHARPSBURG AREA
RESCUE SERVICE INC.
862 /955

SHARPSBURG
VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.
INC.
240 / 469

227-707

BETSY R BENDER
771/209

RALPH L
DELAUNAY
611/519

MECHANIC

LEON C
SPEILMAN
488/493

TESSE
C
GIFT
451/60
48/393

JAMES M. PHILLIPS, JR
628/96

CARGYL
GROVE
378-201

RICHARD A.
STOTELMYER
718/10

BONNARD J.
MORGAN
835/566

BONNARD J.
MORGAN, TRS
835/566

RUTH I. LOWMAN 582/53A

SAM-
EL M
COLE-
MAN
235-
140

PAUL F.
ROULETTE
531/637

ETHEL C.
CLIPP
341-575

PAULA
S.
REED
884/646

SHARPSBURG BANK
158/651

SHARPS-
BURG
BANK
622/684

MAJOR M. OSBORNE
617/543

W. MAIN ST.

WA-I-504

H. H.
GONOR
591/159

138

130

128

122

120

116

114

112

108

103

31

27

23

19

15

11

7

3

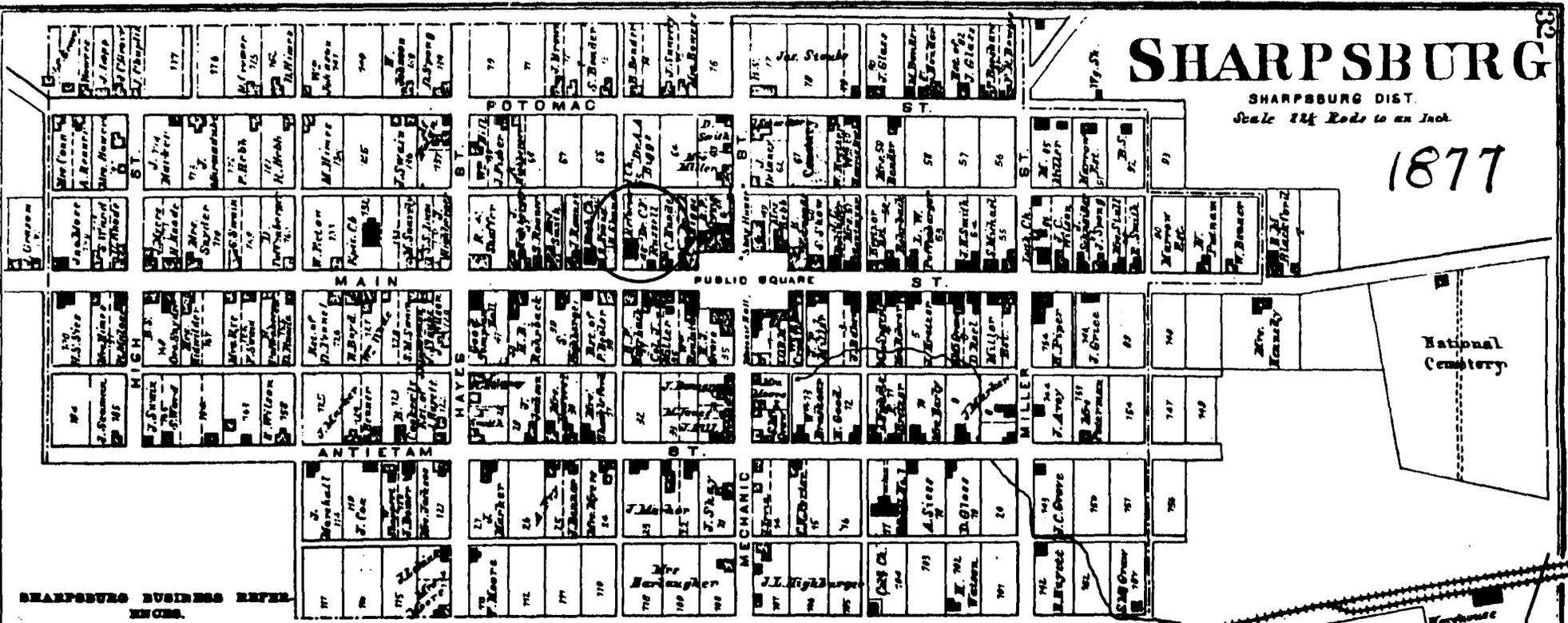
0

504
WA II 608

SHARPSBURG

SHARPSBURG DIST.
Scale 2 1/2 Rods to an Inch

1877



**SHARPSBURG BUSINESS REFER-
ENCES.**

- C. W. Adams & Co., (C. W. Adams and W. F. Rich-
ford) Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hardware,
Queenware, Groceries, Hats, Caps and Corsets.
Southeast corner of Public Square.
- C. W. Foster, Proprietor of People's Saloon. Dealer in
all kinds of Liquors, Wines, Brandy, &c. Public
Square.
- C. F. M. Russell, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. Office
on Main street, 4 doors west of Public Square.
- John Gray, Proprietor of "Shay House." Good accom-
modations at reasonable rates. Public Square.
- J. C. Wilson, Dealer in Dry Goods and all kinds of
Ladies and Gents' Furnishing Goods. Main street.
- L. W. Paffenbarger, Dealer in Corn, Hay, Grain, Lum-
ber, Coal, and all kinds of country Produce. C. and
O. Canal, opposite Sharpsburg, W. Va.
- J. B. Douglas, Collector of Tolls on C. and O. Canal.
F. O., Sharpsburg, W. Va.
- A. A. Biggs, M. D. Office on Public Square.
- Margus Miller, Justice of the Peace and Conveyancer.
Deeds, Mortgages, &c., carefully prepared.
- J. J. Coffman, Professional Ec-
teacher. Funnery
ship a specialty. F. O.,
Mills. Dealer in
Grain, Flour, Feed, &c. Lumber Served to order
on short notice. 1 mile east of Sharpsburg.

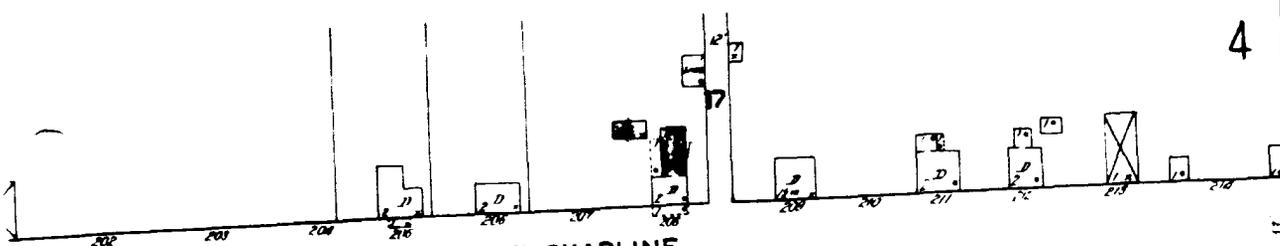
J. C. Mc
Comas & Co

F. C. Mc
Comas

Exhibit
2c

APR 1922
SHARPSBURG
MD.

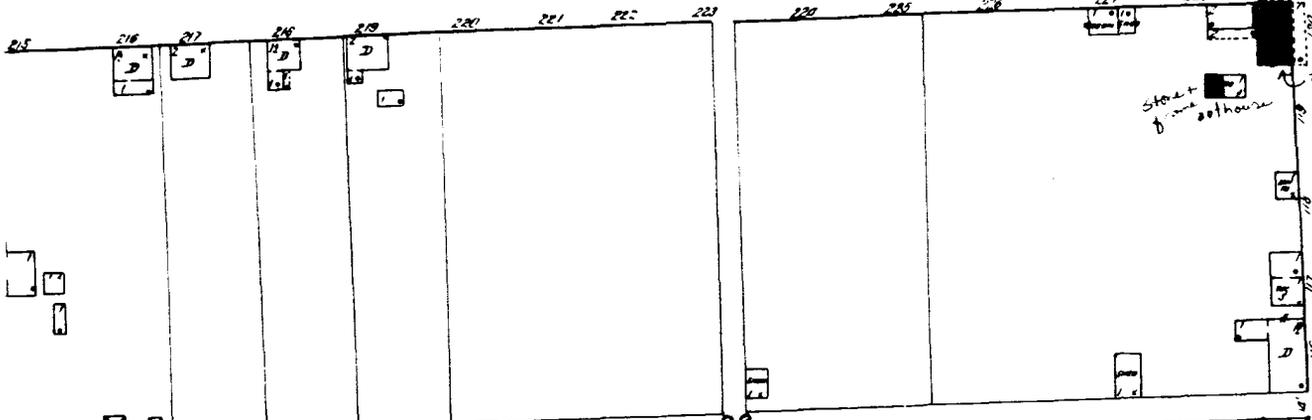
E CHAPLINE ST



W. CHAPLINE

4

65'



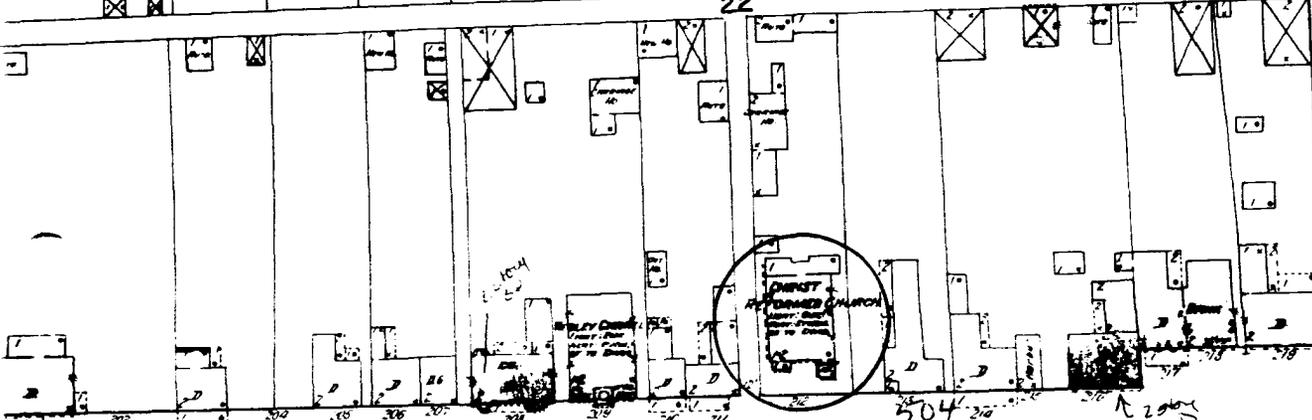
N. MECHANIC

4



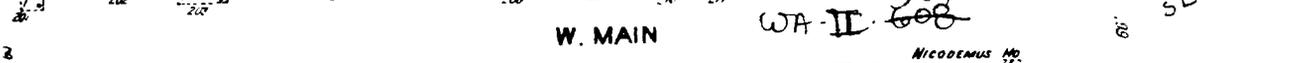
67'

EMMINST

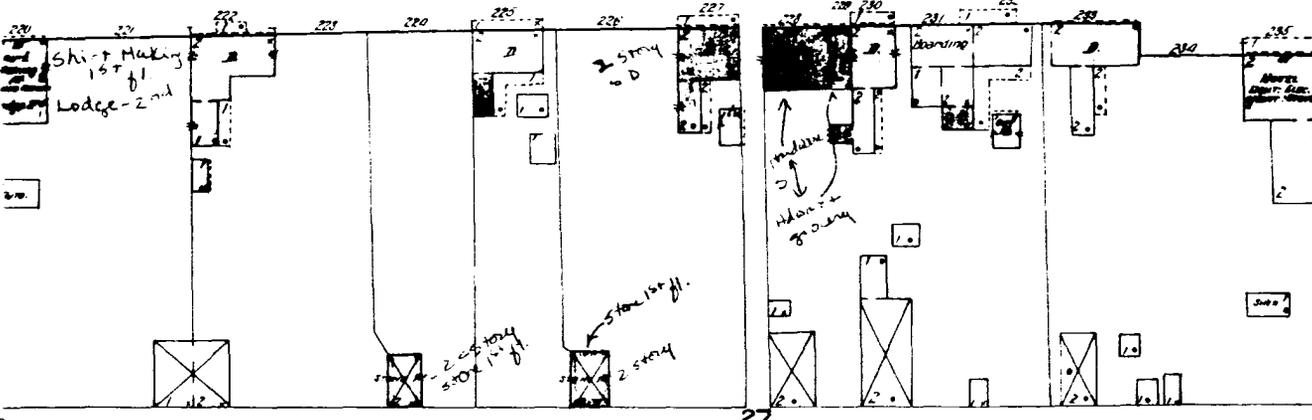


WA-II 504 608

W. MAIN

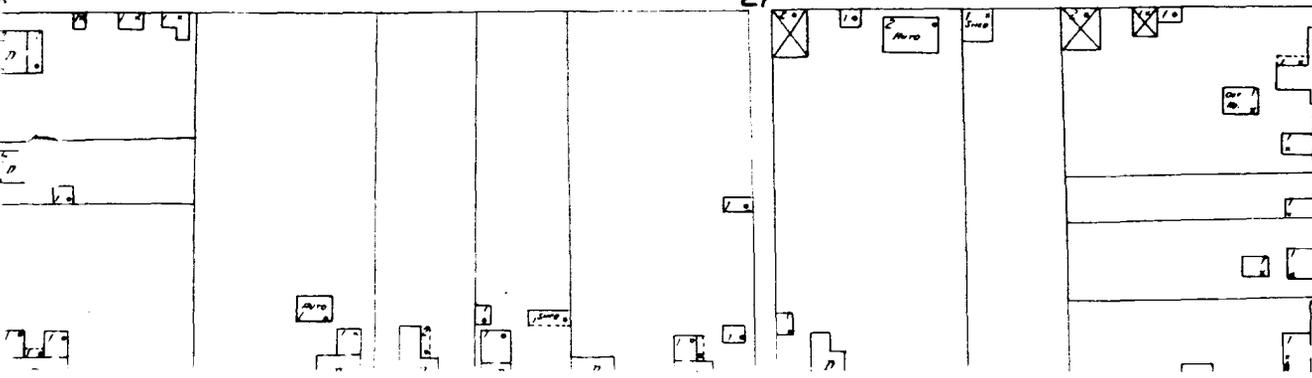


NICODEMUS RD



S. MECHANIC

5





504
WA-11-~~608~~

7/1991

J. Mueller

E. elevation



WA-11-~~608~~504

7/1991

J. Mueller

N + W elevations



WA-11-~~608~~⁵⁰⁴

7/1991

J. Mueller

W. elevation