

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-705

ADDRESS: 137 East Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Willis C. Baker, 710/890, private

BUILDING DATE: mid-18th century with alterations dating to 1862-1877

137 East Main Street is a south-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, brick (common bond), freestanding, residential structure resting on a stone foundation. The building is set directly at the public-right-of-way on a corner lot. It has a side-gable, metal roof with one, interior, endwall brick chimney. The first-floor front facade is composed of a modern door in a center bay, flanked by double-hung, one-over-one windows, some of which have been shortened. The first floor of the front facade is shielded by an open, shed-roofed porch supported by iron railing. The second floor has windows directly above and matching those on the first floor. There is a one-story, shed-roof wing to the rear. The building rests on a lot that has not been subdivided since the town was originally platted.

According to a 1962 walking tour brochure of the town written by Clifton Smith, this building, which Smith notes as the Caleb Michael House, was one of four houses standing when the town was laid out by Joseph Chapline in 1763 and the original log structure is incorporated into the existing building. His information may have come from an 1878 entry in the Sharpsburg Enterprise that names the four houses that were standing when the town was platted--one being an old log house enclosed by brick and owned by Samuel Michael. The building in today's configuration is indicated on the 1877 map of the town as being owned by S. Michael. A second building, also owned by Michael is noted directly west of the house

on what is presently vacant land. The extant building is noted on the 1922 Sanborn as 319 East Main; the second building was no longer standing in 1922.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Periods of Rural Agrarian Intensification and Agricultural-Industrial Transition, and falls within the Historic Period Theme of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, June 1991





WA-II-105

137 E. Main, Sharpsburg, MD

4/91

D. Sackett Chrisman

looking NE