

Survey # WA-III-142  
Street Address 4430 Main Street  
Town, State Rohrersville, Maryland 21779  
private X, public \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate date 1875 (date tablet)

Located on the west side of Main Street, opposite Barkman's Mill site is this brick house built by Mr. Barkman in 1875. The property includes the house, a frame German sided garage, and a frame chicken house all contributing to the character of the property. The house is a two story, four bay common bond brick building with two center front doors, a facade arrangement common in the 19th and 20th centuries in Pennsylvania German influenced areas. Windows have two over two light sash with the upper panes having arched tops. Openings are topped with wide wooden lintels. Across the front is a porch supported with turned posts. Brick chimneys are located inside the gable ends. Along the front of the property is a retaining wall which accommodates the sloping terrain. It is partly of stone and partly of poured concrete. Just south of the house is a one story frame building converted to a garage, covered with German siding. A shed dormer has been added to the front slope of the roof. This property is important as part of the Barkman Mill complex. The 1877 Atlas for Washington County identifies this as David Barkman's residence. He purchased the mill in 1872. The date tablet set in the center of the front wall of the house indicates that the house was built in 1875. The property retains a high level of integrity.

#### **MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE 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: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling, Garage, Chicken House

Photo Reference: Photo # 19

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian  
Woodward-Clyde  
200 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: 6/97

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WA-III-142

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Miller's House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 4430 Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rohrsersville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Washington

### 3. Classification

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

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

name Blue Ridge Beginnings, Inc.

street & number Box 3 telephone no.: 301-766-7344

city, town Rohrsersville state and zip code Maryland 21779

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse Liber 1056

street & number 95 West Washington Street Folio 954

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

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<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

Resource Count = 3

Built in 1875, the Miller's House is a two-story, 4-bay, side gable dwelling with two center front doors. A date stone on the facade is inscribed, "D. Barkman, Sept. 1975". Outbuildings on the property include a late 19th century building that has been converted to a garage and a chicken coop, both of which, along with the house, contribute to the character of the property. Despite an addition to the rear of the Miller's House, the building retains its original scale, massing, and materials to convey its late 19th century historic character.

The Miller's House is located in the north end of the Village of Rohrsersville just south of the intersection of Main Street with Hog Maw Road. Located on a slight rise directly on the west side of Main Street, the property is across the street from the ruins of a grist mill and a former Cooper's shop. Compared to the majority of the village which is concentrated with buildings on long narrow lots, the Miller's House is on a larger almost diamond shaped lot. Hog Maw Road is to the north, farmland is to the west, the mill ruin property is to the east, and a dwelling is to the south. Trees and bushes accent the front and sides of the parcel. Along the front of the property is a retaining wall which accommodates the sloping terrain. It is constructed partly of stone and partly of poured concrete. Concrete steps lead from the sidewalk to the house. A chicken coop is located at the rear of the property and an outbuilding converted to a garage is on the west side of the property.

The two-story symmetrical house is laid in a common bond brick pattern. Asphalt shingles cover the roof which features a cornice, a plain frieze on the roofline, and cornice returns on the side gables. Brick chimneys are located inside the gable ends of the house. All of the windows, except in the gable ends, are double-hung sash with 2/2 lights with the upper panes having arched tops. Openings are topped with wide wooden lintels. The gable ends contain small square 2-light windows.

The east facade features a full-width front porch with a flat roof supported by turned spindle posts, with a concrete floor, and a tongue-and-groove ceiling. The facade features two central doors; an arrangement common in the 19th and 20th centuries in Pennsylvania German influenced areas. The half-glass doors have a double panel below and arched two-light transoms above. The doors are recessed about one-foot and the surrounding molding is incised. Two windows on the first floor flank the doors and four equally-spaced windows are on the second floor.

The side elevations are identical with two windows each on the first and second floors and two windows in the gables. The rear facade has been greatly altered with a shed extension containing a two-story central section flanked by one-story sections. A chimney is located to the south side of the central section of the addition. The second story of the addition covers the two middle windows of the original building and only the second floor end windows are visible.

Two outbuildings on the property include a chicken house and a building that has been converted to a garage. The flat roof frame chicken house is located at the rear of the property. The garage is located along Main Street to the south of the house and is covered with a standing seam metal roof. A shed dormer has been added to the front slope of the roof and the building is covered with German siding. The east facade includes a new front door and 6/6 wood windows. A garage door is located on the south facade with a one-light window in the gable. The elevation facing the house has a wood door and a 6/6 window on the first floor and paired 6-light square windows in the gable. The garage appears to date from the late 19th century as evidenced by its inclusion on the 1877 Washington County Atlas.

The interior was not accessible.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	education	military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other(specify)

Specific dates 1875 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D

and/or Applicable Exceptions: 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 Miller's House is significant as part of the Barkman Mill, a grist mill site in the Village of Rohrersville, and as an example of a type of dwelling occupied by a successful merchant at the beginning of the late 19th century in Rohrersville. Its overall massing and scale reflect the relative prosperity of the milling industry during this period, as well as that of the surrounding agricultural region which supported it. The building retains a good level of integrity despite an addition to the rear elevation.

### History

The builder of this house, David Barkman, purchased the property in 1872, the same year he bought the property containing a grist mill located across from the house. Barkman built the house in 1875, according to a date stone on the facade and the house appears on the 1877 Washington County Atlas as D. Barkman's residence. The next dwelling north of the Barkman residence on the 1877 Washington County Atlas is identified as D. Barkman indicating that Barkman most likely lived there prior to building his new house.

Barkman ran the grist mill for several years which became known as Barkman's Mill. The mill had been a founding influence on the development of the Village of Rohrersville which is located in the fertile area known as Pleasant Valley between South Mountain and Elk Ridge in southern Washington County. This part of the county produced significant amounts of grain resulting in a demand for grist and flour mills along its creeks. In the 18th century alone, fifteen grist mills operated along the Antietam Creek<sup>1</sup>. As grist mill began dotting Pleasant Valley in the early 19th century, villages grew up around them to service surrounding farms, as was the case throughout much of the county. The Village of Rohrersville began as one of these villages as it started developing south of the grist mill. The mill was built between 1802 and 1810 and may have been built by a member of the Rohrer family who settled in the area<sup>2</sup>.

Before 1872, the land the Miller's House is located on was owned by John and Sophia Rohrer. John Rohrer was a fourth generation of the Rohrer family that settled in Washington County in 1766. Sophia was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Bealer who at one time owned the mill (WA-III-139) located across from the house<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Reed, Paula S. "Funkstown Research Design Report." Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, Maryland, 1995, p. 6.  
<sup>2</sup> Frye, Susan Winter. "Evolution of Mill Settlement Patterns in the Antietam Drainage, Washington County, Maryland." M.A. Thesis, College of William and Mary, 1984, p. 93.  
<sup>3</sup> Williams, Thomas J. C. A History of Washington County. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906, p. 737.

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DOE  yes  no

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At the time Barkman built his house, commercial and service establishments flourished in Rohrersville, largely as a result of the construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad through Pleasant Valley. Consequently, Rohrersville experienced a second phase of building in the late 19th century. The 1877 Atlas indicates that Rohrersville was the major village in the Rohrersville District and along with the the grist mill had a marbleworks, cemetery, school, store and approximately twenty residences.

David Barkman ran the grist mill for several years before passing it on to his son, George. The mill stayed in the family for about fifty years. In 1903, Mary Barkman deeded the property to George. Prior to this transfer Mary had received the house for life. Eventually George Barkman transferred the dwelling to Hettie M. Poffenberg who later sold it to George & Helen Baer. The Baers also owned the former Barkman Mill property in 1959 and operated a nursery out of the cooper's building on the mill property. In 1979, the Baers sold the property to the current owners who transferred it to their business in 1992. The house is currently vacant.

### Theme

Late 19th century architecture in Rohrersville, Maryland, 1875-1900: The Miller's House was built during Rohrersville's second period of construction in the late 19th century. The particular growth of the village during this period is marked by a number of similar houses of this style that coincide with the advent of the railroad and the agricultural prosperity of the region that influenced the growth of Rohrersville as a farm trading center. This traditional style was represented by two-story side gable buildings that were three or four bays wide. Just about half of Rohrersville's thirty-six dwellings were constructed in this traditional style. Some of the dwellings in the community also had small support structures consisting of frame barns, workshops, or garages. The Miller House is significant as a type of dwelling representing this traditional style and which was occupied by a successful miller during this time period. Prior to building this house, the owner lived in a less substantial frame structure (WA-III-141), and apparently as a result of the success of his milling operation was able to build this dwelling three years after purchasing the grist mill. Two outbuildings on the site are characteristic of the rural setting of the village. The grist mill associated with this dwelling was extremely influential in the early development of Rohrersville. Due to the loss of the mill which is now in ruins, the house serves as a remaining vestige of the Barkman Mill site.

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### Chain of Title

04/27/1872 John V. & Sophia Rohrer to David Barkman  
"Thomas Forest"  
Liber WMcKK 4 Folio 766

07/15/1903 David & Mary Barkman to George G. Barkman  
Mary had received house for her life  
Liber 118 Folio 375

n.d. George G. Barkman to Hettie M. Poffenberg  
by will  
Liber 18 Folio 585

11/04/1990 Hettie M. Poffenberg to George F. & Helen M. Baer  
Liber 213 Folio 628

01/22/1979 Helen M. Baer to Per-Olaf & Alice G. Backman  
Liber 675 Folio 351

08/20/1992 Per-Olaf & Alice G. Backman to Blue Ridge Beginnings, Inc.  
Liber 1056 Folio 954

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Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

#### Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

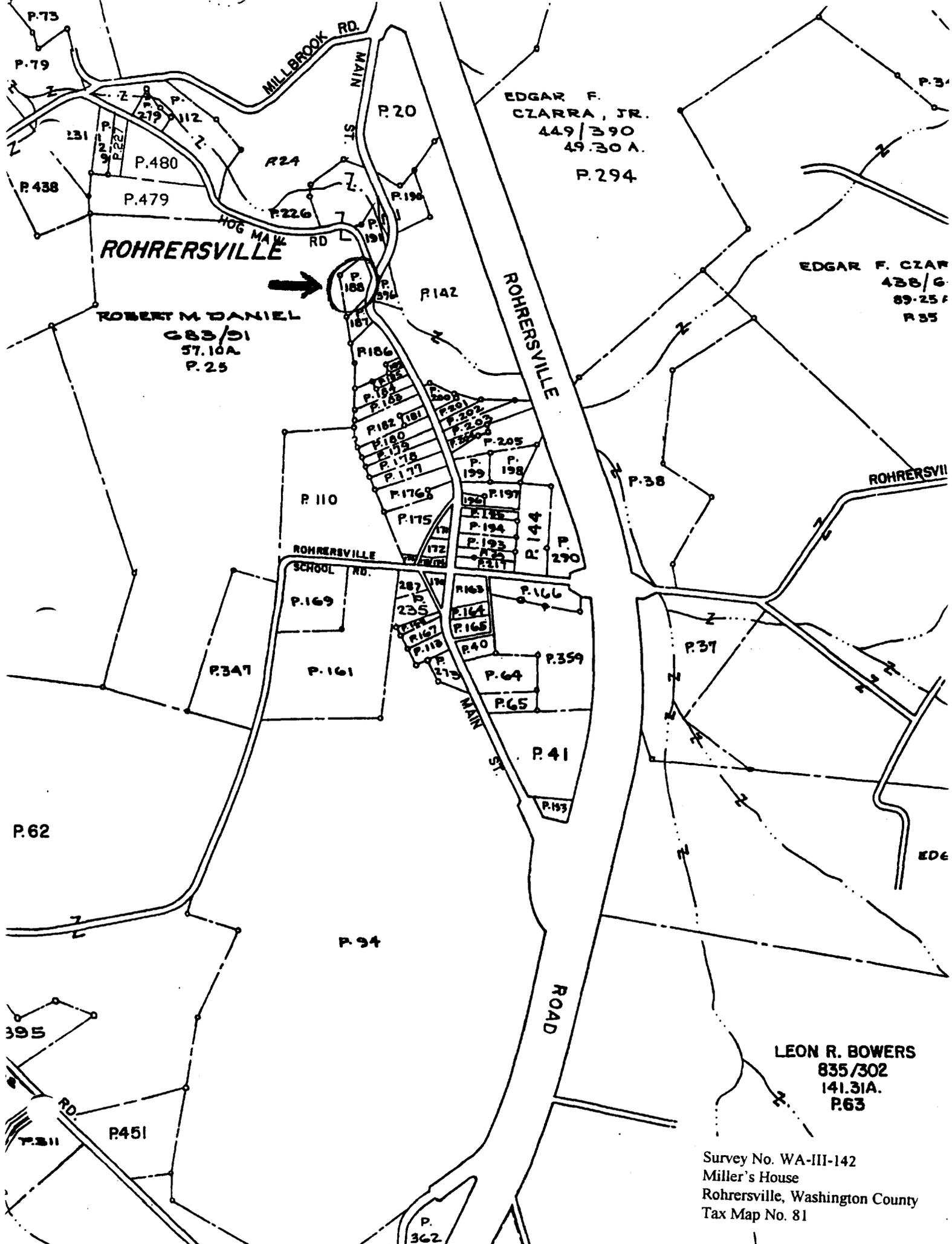
Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Garage  
Chicken house

Known Design Source: Unknown







**ROHRERSVILLE**

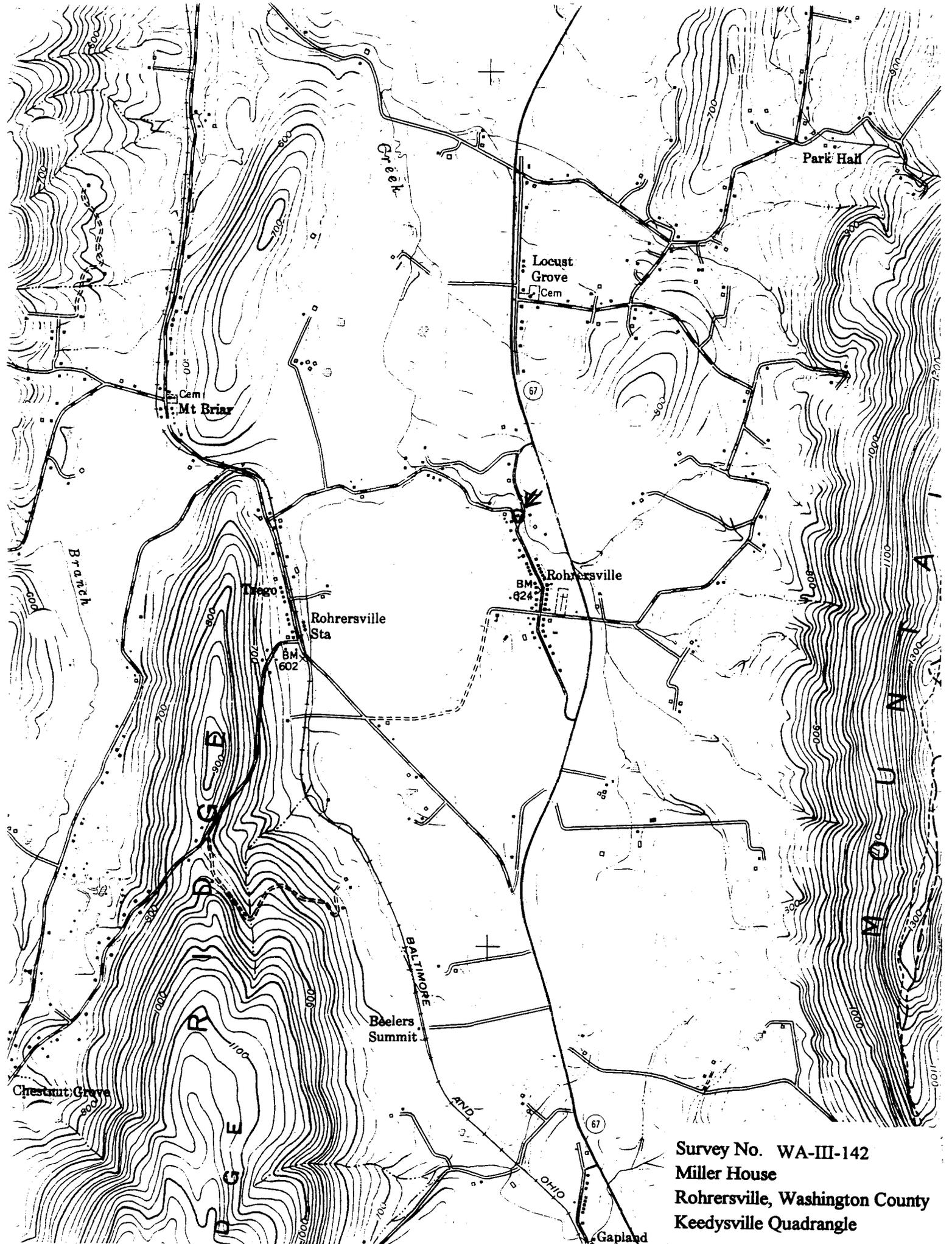
**ROBERT M DANIEL**  
683/51  
57.10A  
P.25

**EDGAR F. CZARRA, JR.**  
449/390  
49.30A.  
P.294

**EDGAR F. CZARRA**  
438/6  
89-25  
P.35

**LEON R. BOWERS**  
835/302  
141.31A.  
P.63

Survey No. WA-III-142  
Miller's House  
Rohrer'sville, Washington County  
Tax Map No. 81



Survey No. WA-III-142  
Miller House  
Rohrersville, Washington County  
Keedysville Quadrangle



WA-~~III~~-142

4430 MAIN ST, ROHRERSVILLE  
WASHINGTON Co.  
St. Salvatore

5/97

Neg - MD SHPO

Miller's House, SW VIEW

#1 of 4

(#19 of 43 caps)



WA-III-142

4430 MAIN ST, ROMEVILLE  
WASHINGTON CO. MD

SC SALVATORS

5/97

Neg - MDSHPU

Miller's house, NE VIEW

# 2 of 4



WA-III-142

4430 Main St, Pottersville

Washington Co, MD

Sc Salwater

5797

Neg - MD SHPO

Miller's House, NE view of chicken house

# 3 of 4



WA-III-142

4430 Main St, Rohrsville

Washington Co, MD

Sc Salvatore

5/97

Neg - md S4PS

Miller's Horse, NW view of garage

#4 of 4