

Survey # WA-III-149  
Street Address 4336 Main Street  
Town, State Rohrersville, Maryland 21779  
private X, public \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate date 1882 (date tablet)

This well preserved brick house is located on the west side of Main Street in Rohrersville. A date tablet reveals that it was built in 1882 and the owner has indicated that the Colonial Revival front porch was added in 1912. The house is a two story, three bay building with a two story shed roofed extension to the rear. The main entrance is in the central bay of the front elevation. A distinctive feature is the Victorian Gothic projecting window bay in the north window of the front elevation. Its windows have pointed gothic arches, or lancet windows with a double arched pane pattern. The brick walls are painted red and are distinguished by segmental arches over the openings. Windows have two over two light sash and are trimmed with pairs of louvered shutters. The entrance includes a transom over the door. A frame, board and batten summer kitchen or workshop is located to the rear of the property. This place is significant because of its high level of integrity from the period of construction and the distinctive front projecting window bay. Both buildings are considered to be contributing.

#### **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, Summer Kitchen

Photo Reference: Photo # 26

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-149

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

historic Miller House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 4336 Main Street

not for publication

city, town Rohrersville

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county

Washington

### 3. Classification

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

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

name Charles R. Holder

street & number P.O. Box 6

telephone no.:

city, town Rohrersville

state and zip code Maryland 21779

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

Liber 493

street & number 95 West Washington Street

Folio 207

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built in 1882, the Miller House, is a two-story, three-bay, brick dwelling featuring an elaborate Victorian bay window. A Colonial Revival front porch was added in 1912. Located on the west side of Main Street in the Village of Rohrersville, the property also contains an unaltered front gable board-and-batten outbuilding southwest of the house. Although altered by a two-story rear addition, the dwelling retains its original ornamental massing and form. Both buildings are considered to be contributing.

Located within a concentration of mid- to late 19th century dwellings, the Miller House sits along the sidewalk on a tree-shaded lot a few feet above the plane of the roadway. A dirt driveway is on the south side of the property. The dwelling is covered by a side gable roof sheathed with standing seam metal. The walls are laid in a common bond brick pattern and are painted red. Originally massed as an L-shape, the building's footprint has been squared-off by a frame addition on the southwest corner. New concrete block paired exterior brick chimneys interrupt the ridge line in the gable ends. The overhanging eave is finished with a plain frieze.

The three-bay facade features 2/2 double-hung sash windows, a central entry, a bay window, and a full-width front porch. Added in 1912, the porch rests on cement blocks and cement steps leading to the south end of the porch. Round porch columns extend from the wooden porch floor to an entablature containing dentils in the architrave. The balustrade has turned spindle posts. The central doorway has a curved transom and is flanked by a 2/2 window to its south and a Victorian Gothic projecting bay window to its west. The bay window contains lancet windows with a double arched pane pattern. The segmentally arched windows of the facade feature flat wood sills and louvered shutters. The second floor contains three evenly-spaced windows.

The identical north and south sides of the main block contain two windows on the first and second floors flanking the chimney. These windows are identical to those found in the facade. Two small square windows flank the chimneys in the gable ends. A stone foundation is visible on the north side and contains two small flat arched windows. The ell extension on the south side has two evenly-spaced windows on each floor.

The rear (west) elevation has a centrally located new 1/1 (horizontal) window on the 1st floor of the original section. The original facade portico has been moved to the rear of the house within the ell, filled in with vinyl siding, and contains paired windows. The portico features elaborate Victorian brackets similar to the existing front porch, which were indicative of the time period in which the house was built. The upper story was closed in with vinyl after 1969 by the current owners.

The south elevation of the addition has a door and paired 1/1 windows on the first floor. A portion of the original second floor contains a bricked-in small square window and a new window to the east. The enclosed second story contains an aluminum window.

The front gable board and batten summer kitchen or workshop rests on a stone foundation and is covered with a metal roof. Small lengthwise rectangular openings are in the gables. Aluminum 1/1 windows are located on the side elevations. Off-center doors are located in both the gable ends.

The interior was not accessible.

Changes to the house include the removal of the original portico entrance to the rear of the house, and the addition of a full-width porch on the facade in 1912. The infilled portico hides the original exterior and is unusual in appearance, however does not detract greatly to the overall character of the dwelling since it is on the rear elevation. The addition of the full-width porch slightly alters the scale of the facade from its original appearance, however a full width front porch is not unusual for this time period. The overall scale,

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massing, and a majority of the original features remain intact and the Miller House retains a good level of integrity.

# 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 1882

Builder/Architect Ezra D. Miller

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.

Built in 1882, the Miller House is part of the village of Rohrersville, a rural farm trading center. The house is a two-story, three-bay building with a two-story shed roofed extension and represents a traditional building style popular in Washington County in the late 19th century. The building is significant because of its high level of integrity from its period of construction as well being the only traditional style house that also features a distinctive front projecting window bay in Rohrersville.

## Site History

The Miller House was built in 1882 by Ezra D. Miller in the same year that he acquired the property. A datestone in the south corner of the facade reads, "Built by E. D. Miller 1882". The 1900 census lists Miller as being 76 years old with an occupation related to farming.<sup>1</sup> The home was most likely a retirement home for Miller who had bought the property from a trustee after it became embroiled in an equity case. The land this house is located on was traced back to 1842 under the ownership of a family named Grim and was part of a larger property described in the deed as having 73.5 perches and all houses, building...ways, waters, water courses, etc. The equity case noted one acre of land, a dwelling house and a house used as a store house. These buildings are most likely associated with the Grim property that appears on the 1877 Washington County Atlas and which Ezra Miller sold while keeping the land to build this house<sup>2</sup>.

Miller built the house at a prosperous time in the rural trading village of Rohrersville which began developing in the early 19th century around a grist mill that formed the northern terminus of the village. Located in a fertile area known as Pleasant Valley between South Mountain and Elk Ridge, Rohrersville was the largest village in the valley that was part of an area in Washington County known for its grain production. The county's rich grain resources were, in part, the impetus for construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, one of the nation's earliest railroads that extended west from Baltimore. In 1867, the railroad began traveling through four stations in Pleasant Valley, with one in Trego, just west of the village. As the railroad expanded the farm market, it brought new growth and opportunities to the village and the area.

Rohrersville's status as a farm trading center continued into the early 20th century as the Miller House went out of Ezra Miller's possession in 1911, when it was involved in a second equity case and was sold by the trustees to Jacob and Alverta Long. The next citation was in 1915, when John & Bessie Clopper acquired the property from the Longs. The Cloppers kept the property for close to 25 years and then sold it to John & Nellie Keedy in 1941, who kept it for 28 years and sold it to the current owners in 1969.

<sup>1</sup> Census was difficult to read, occupation appeared as NR (unreadable) Farmer.  
<sup>2</sup> Sold a portion of land on 04/01/1882 to Seymour Gloss, Liber 99, Folio 76.

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DOE  yes  no

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### Theme

Late 19th century architecture in Rohrersville, Maryland: As a result of the success of the surrounding agricultural area and the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Pleasant Valley, Rohrersville experienced a second phase of building in the late 19th century. Styles popular in the village at this time included those from the Victorian period of 1860-1900, as well as the traditional, or vernacular, style of building of the early- to mid-19th century of Washington County. This traditional style was represented by two-story, side gabled, brick or frame buildings that were three or four bays wide. Just about half of Rohrersville's thirty-six dwellings were constructed in this traditional style. Fashionable elements of the Victorian time period were often added to traditional houses of Washington County and reflected the prosperity of its owner. Some of the dwellings in the community had small support structures consisting of frame barns or garages. The Miller House represents a fairly substantial traditional home that was built in Rohrersville with its accompanying summer kitchen or workshop. Of the 36 dwellings existing in Rohrersville today, bay windows exist on three other dwellings that are Gothic Revivals from the Victorian Period, making the Miller House the only traditional house with a bay window in the village.

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### Chain of Title

04/02/1842 Daniel & Martha Grim to John I. Grim  
Liber 22Folio 157

06/24/1864 John I. Grim & wife to John Shifler  
Mortgage  
Liber IN 17 Folio 672

04/01/1882 John Shifler, Trustee to Ezra D. Miller  
Liber 82Folio 531

01/04/1912 Lewis D. Syester and Leon R. Yourtee (trustees) to Jacob E. & Alverta R. Long  
(equity case)  
Liber 137 Folio 685

01/14/1915 Jacob E. & Alverta R. Long to John F. & Bessie M. Clopper  
Liber 145 Folio 711

04/19/1941 John F. & Bessie Clopper to John D. & Nellie A. Keedy  
Liber 215 Folio 197

08/01/1969 John D. Keedy to Charles Richard and Trudie Louise Holder  
Liber 493 Folio 207

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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:

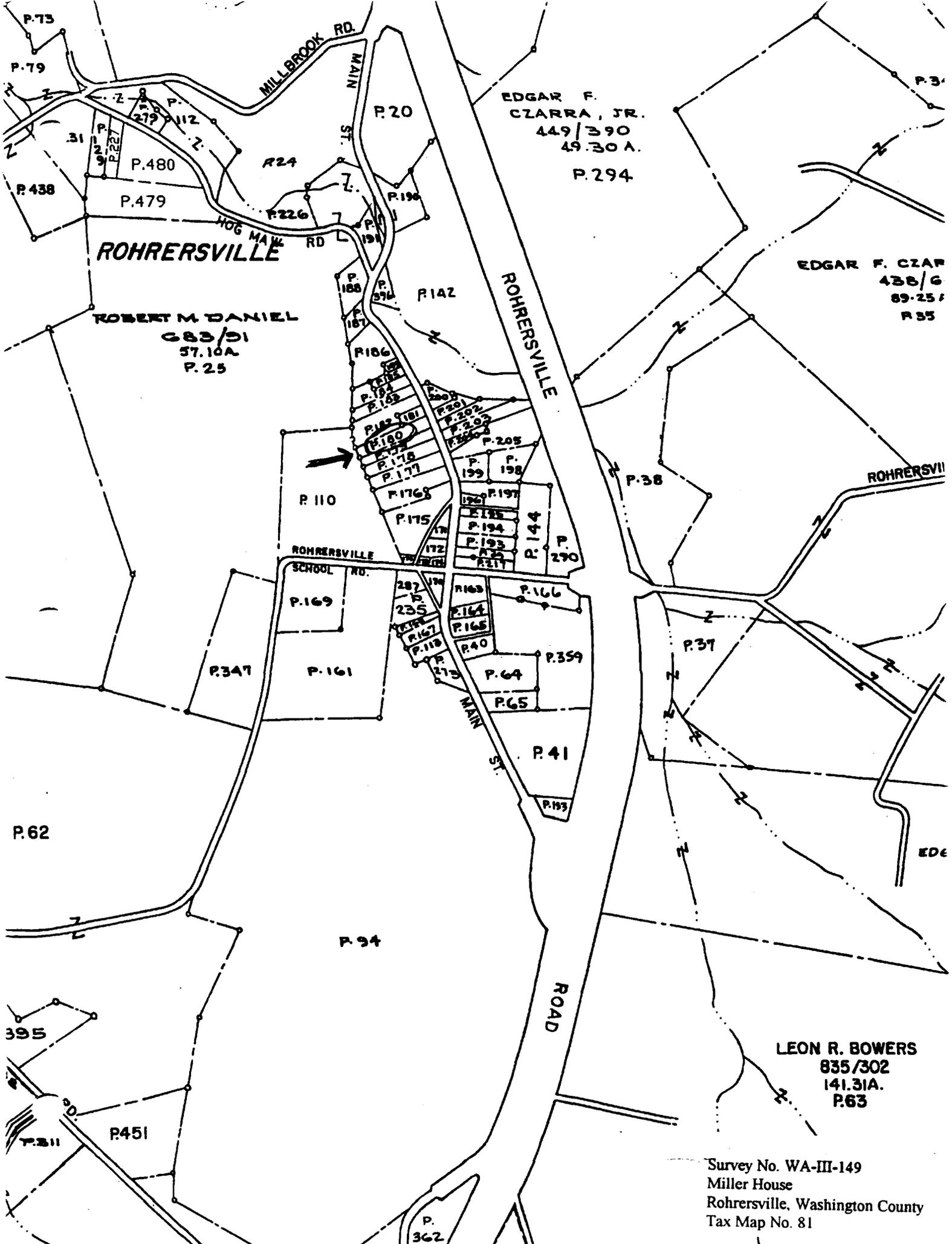
Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Summer Kitchen

Known Design Source: Unknown





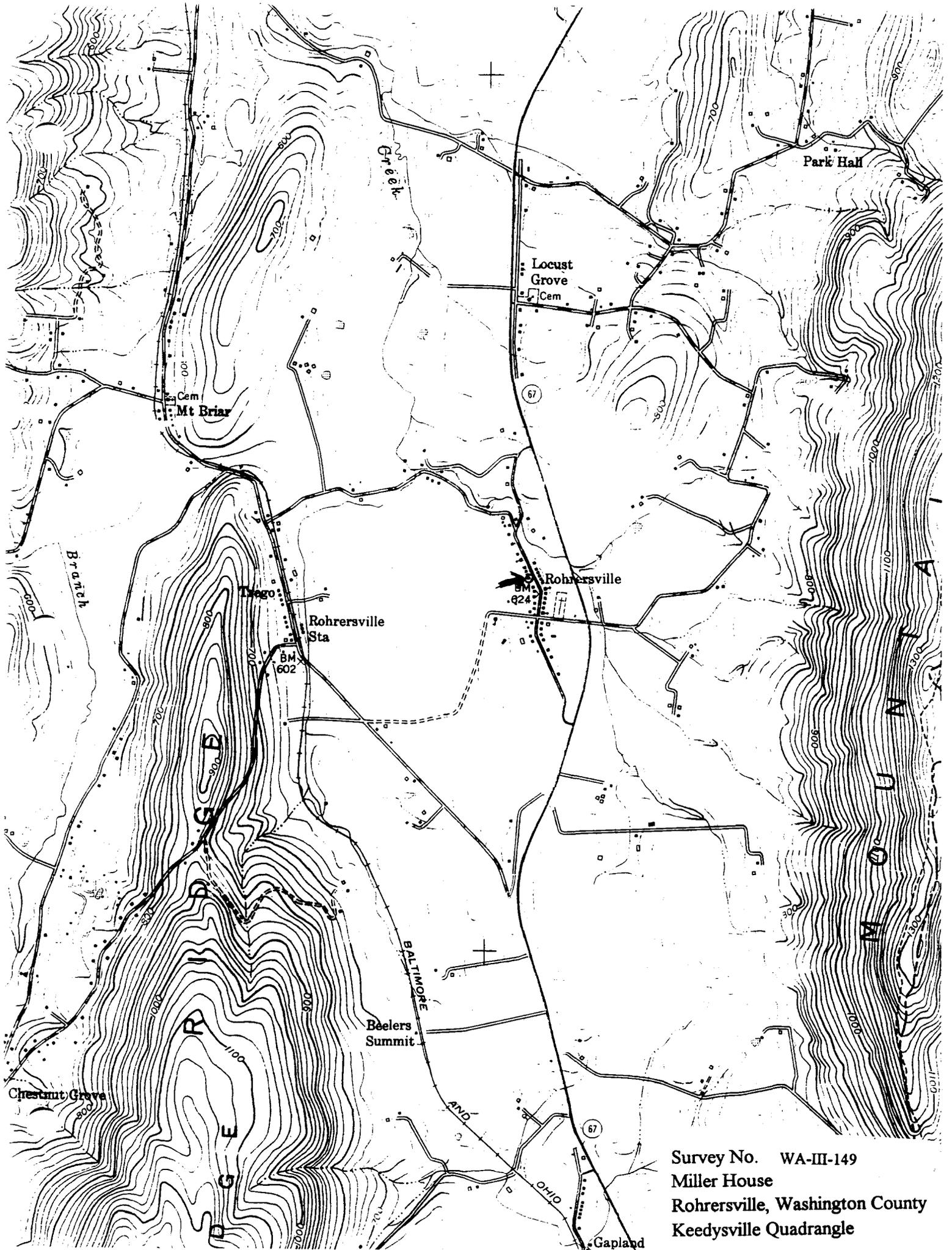
EDGAR F.  
CZARRA, JR.  
449/390  
49.30A.  
P.294

EDGAR F. CZAR  
436/6  
89.25  
P.35

ROBERT M DANIEL  
683/51  
57.10A  
P.25

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

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Miller House  
Rohrerstown, Washington County  
Tax Map No. 81



Survey No. WA-III-149  
Miller House  
Rohrerstown, Washington County  
Keedysville Quadrangle

67

67



WA-III-149

4336 MAIN ST, Rohrer'sville

Washington Co, MD

SC SALVATORE

5/47

NEG - MD SATD

VIEW NW TO MAIN HOUSE + OUTBUILDING

# 1 of 4 (ind)

# 26 of 43 (cap)



WA-TII-149

4336 MAIN ST, ROHRSVILLE

Washington Co MD

SE Saluator

5/95

Neg - MD SAPO

Miller House, view of N elevation

#2 of 4



4  
3  
3  
6

WA-III-149

4336 MAIN ST/ Rohreroute

Washington Co MD

SC SALVATORE

5/97

Neg - MD SHPO

Miller House, view of bay window

# 3 of 4



WA-III-149

4336 Main St, Rohrsville

Washington Co, MD

Sc Sawane

5797

Key-MD SHPO

Miller House, view NE

#4 of 4