

SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-102

ADDRESS: 20 West Water Street, Smithsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Robert W. Shearer, 462/288, private

BUILDING DATE: Late 19th/early 20th century

20 West Water Street is a south-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, freestanding, frame residential structure resting on a stone foundation. The side gable roof, which is covered with grey slate, is ornamented by a bracketed cornice and holds a minor cross gable in the center bay. The side gables have fish-scale, diamond-shaped, and staggered wood shingles. The fenestration consists of single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, two-over-two windows with round-arched mullions in the top panes. The entrance is approached from a set of stairs at the center of the facade, leading up to a slightly raised open porch covered by a shed roof supported by replacement metal posts. The entrance, located in the central bay, has a craftsman style glass door in a wood frame. The door is surrounded by sidelights and is topped by a glazed transom delineated by four slightly rounded arches that mimic the window mullions. The entrance, including its hardware, appears to be original to the house. The ornamentation appears to be a melange of Queen Anne and Italianate detailing.

The building is set on original lot 70 and part of lot 71, owned by James Hammett and George Greager, respectively, according to the 1814 plat of the town. No buildings are indicated on those lots. No building appears on this site on the 1875 map either. However, the extant building does appear on the 1916 Sanborn as 206 Water Street.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Theme of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning. Prepared by Julie Mueller, April 1991.





WA-10-102

20 West Water St., Smithsburg

Julie Modler

January 1991

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