

SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-130

ADDRESS: 35 West Water Street, Smithsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: P. Mark Divelbiss, 737/490, private

BUILDING DATE: early 20th century

35 West Water is a north-facing, horizontally massed, irregularly shaped, two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, frame, freestanding, residential structure situated on steep slope overlooking West Water Street. The building rests on a stone foundation and is sheathed in asbestos siding. The roof consists of several cross gables at various planes and has one side dormer. The front gable slope creates the roof for a deep open porch that runs along the east elevation of the house. The principal entrance is protected by a Colonial Revival style portico that is supported by Tuscan columns, has a wide cornice, and is topped by a balustrade. The fenestration consists of single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, one-over-one windows.

The building is set on parts of original lots 30 and 31, vacant lots that were owned by James Hammett to C. Smith and Henry Betz, respectively, according to the 1814 plat of the town. No building appears on the site, then owned by B.C. Bishop, on the 1875 map either. A cross-shaped building does appear on the 1916 Sanborn as 28 Water Street. The structure had porches at each of its four corners, creating a square footprint. The 1923 Sanborn indicates a building on the exact same site, that matches the extant building, and that has elements in its footprint that match those found on the 1916 Sanborn. It is unclear whether a new structure was built on the site of an earlier house, or whether the house indicated on the 1916 Sanborn was extensively remodeled. The later explanation might account for the unusual roof design. The

1916 Sanborn also indicates a large "Tool House and Band Room" at the rear 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 Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, April 1991





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35 West Water St., Smithsburg

Julie Moelle

January 1991

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