

SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-216
ADDRESS: 13-15 East Water Street, Smithsburg, MD
OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Wayne E. Putman, 867/221, private
BUILDING DATE: c. 1820

13-15 East Water Street is a south-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, two-and-a-half-story, four-bay, stuccoed, freestanding structure. The building presents an austere and simple face to the street. The side gable roof is sheathed with artificial shingles, has two interior endwall chimneys, open eaves supported by brackets at each of the building corners, and three dormer windows. There are deep set entrances in the two center bays with what appear to be modern doors. Windows are single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, six-over-six on the first and second floors and paired one-over-one windows in the dormers. The building has a side addition with an enclosed garage.

The building appears to be set on original lot 66, a vacant lot that was owned by James Myers, according to the 1814 plat of the town. A building, probably this one, owned by John Fessler appears on the site on the 1875 town map. The 1916 and 1923 Sanborns note this as a dwelling numbered 106 A & B Water Street and show a poultry house in the rear of the lot. According to the Smithsburg Historical Society, this is known as the Bell-Mar House and was supposedly built by the town's founder, Christopher Smith, c.1820, as a distillery. Used during the Civil War as a hospital, it was later turned into an apothecary owned by the Bell family for many years.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of

WA-IV-216

Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community
Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, April 1991

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN:

STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Development Periods: Agricultural-Industrial
Transition

Historic Period Theme: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and
Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: small, rural town

Historic Function and Use: residential

Known Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bell-Mar House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 13-15 East Water Street not for publication

city, town Smithsburg, vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

3. Classification

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

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

name Wayne E. Putnam

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber 867

street & number Summit Avenue and West Washington Street folio 0221

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WA-IV-216

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

The Setting

This house is located in Washington County at 13-15 East Water Street in Smithsburg. ~~Sited~~ ^{Site} directly at the public right-of-way on Smithsburg's principal east-west thoroughfare, it is part of a residential area immediately east of the town's commercial district. The property includes a large rear yard.

Exterior

13-15 East Water Street is a south-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, two-and-a-half-story, four-bay, stuccoed, freestanding structure. The building presents an austere and simple face to the street. The side gable roof is sheathed with artificial shingles, has two interior endwall chimneys, open eaves supported by brackets at each of the building corners, and three dormer windows. There are deep set entrances in the two center bays with what appear to be modern doors. Windows are single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, six-over-six on the first and second floors and paried one-over-one windows in the dormers. The building has a side addition with an enclosed garage.

Interior

The interior was not accessible during this study.

8. Significance

Survey No. WA-IV-216

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

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building gains its significance for its possible association with Christopher Smith, the town's founder. It is believed to be the only structure in Smithsburg that is directly associated with him.

The building appears to be set on original lot 66, a vacant lot that was owned by James Myers, according to the 1814 plat of the town. An 1814 deed from Christopher Smith to Myers confirms this. According to the Smithsburg Historical Society, the structure is known as the Bell-Mar House and was supposedly built by Smith before 1820 as a distillery. If, in fact Smith did build this structure as a distillery, it is not known if he sold the land with the distillery already on it, if he bought the property back from Myers (or a later owner), or if he merely leased the land around 1829. No historical documentation about the distillery and Smith's connection to it were located during this study. Smith is not listed in Smithsburg in the 1820 population census, nor is his distillery listed in the Washington County District 3 (Smithsburg area) manufacturer's census of that year (neither under his or Myers' name--there is a distillery listed under Abraham Myers, but research was not conducted to determine if there is a connection to this site). It is known that Smith moved to Hagerstown around 1820. It is possible that at the time of the census, he had recently sold the business and therefore his name would not appear on that census.

During the Civil War, the building was owned by Elijah Bishop, the town's prominent doctor and landholder. In all likelihood, the Bishop family did not reside here, but leased the building. After the Battle of Antietam, wounded soldiers were brought by wagon to towns in the vicinity of Sharpsburg for treatment. This house is believed to have served as a hospital at that time.

In 1872, the property was purchased by Jacob Bell who had an apothecary shop in the house for many years. The house is noted on the 1877 map as owned by L.J. Bell. Although the house remained in the Bell family until 1940, it was converted from an apothecary to a dwelling by 1916 (as indicated on the Sanborn map of that year).

continued...

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.1

dwelling by 1916 (as indicated on the Sanborn map of that year).

The 1916 and 1923 Sanborns note this as a dwelling numbered 106 A & B Water Street and show a poultry house in the rear of the lot.

The chain of title was traced with gaps to 1814.

October 4, 1814 (AA/43), Deed from Christopher Smith to James Myer(s) for the sum of \$50

Date? Deed from James Myers to ?

March 31, 1846 (IN 1/675-676), Deed from Nicholas and Sarah Leister to Elijah Bishop for the sum of \$800

March 22, 1872 (McKK 4/613-614), Deed from the heirs of Dr. Elijah Bishop to Jacob Bell for the sum of \$28

March 3, 1879 (77/475), Deed from Jacob and Anna Maria Bell to Lewis J. Bell for the sum of \$2.80

September 10, 1940 (213/307), Deed from Bell family members to Emma and Stanley Hauver for the sum of \$5

June 14, 1977 (638/249), Deed from Elwood Hauver, personal representative of the estate of Stanley Hauver, to Elwood Hauver

July 13, 1984 (767/209), Deed from Elwood Hauver to John and Shirley Kuhn for the sum of \$65,000

April 2, 1986 (806/567), Deed from John and Shirley Kuhn to Harold and Esther Perkins for the sum of \$150,000

February 1, 1988 (867/0221), Deed from Harold and Esther Perkins to Wayne E. Putnam for the sum of \$10

Significance

A preliminary architectural evaluation of the building was made in January 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Smithsburg. At that time a survey site number WA-IV-216 was assigned and it was determined that the house is a contributing element to Smithsburg's historic architectural character. A summary sheet on the building with photographs was submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust in May 1991. The summary provides a basic description of the building and places it within the Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan: State Historic Context (Western Maryland Geographic Organization; the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition; the Historic Period Themes of Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of the Smithsburg Historical Society, the general history of the building was researched. If, in fact, the building was the distillery built by Christopher Smith, it is the only building in Smithsburg directly associated with the town's founder. For its possible association with Smith, because it served as a hospital following the Battle of Antietam, and as its use as an apothecary shop, it was concluded that the building

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.2

served an important economic and medical role during the 19th century, and meets two of the following eligibility criteria (B and C) for listing on the Maryland Register.

Criterion A -- The property is associated with significant historical events.

Criterion B -- The property is associated with a significant person. The building is believed to have been Christopher Smith's distillery. It is the only building in Smithsburg that is directly associated with the town's founder.

Criterion C -- The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect. Although the building does not qualify as an individual landmark under this criterion, it does contribute to the architectural character of Smithsburg (at least it did before the most recent alterations...)

Criterion D -- The property may provide important information about history or prehistory. The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. Because of its association with Smith, with a Civil War hospital and with the apothecary shop, it is likely that 19th and 20th century archeological remains may be found on this property. Furthermore, the property is crossed by a creek, the banks of which may yield Indian artifacts from the pre-European contact period.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SURVEY NO. WA-IV-216

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 9.1

Washington County Deeds and Tax Records

Smithsburg Historical Society, photographic files

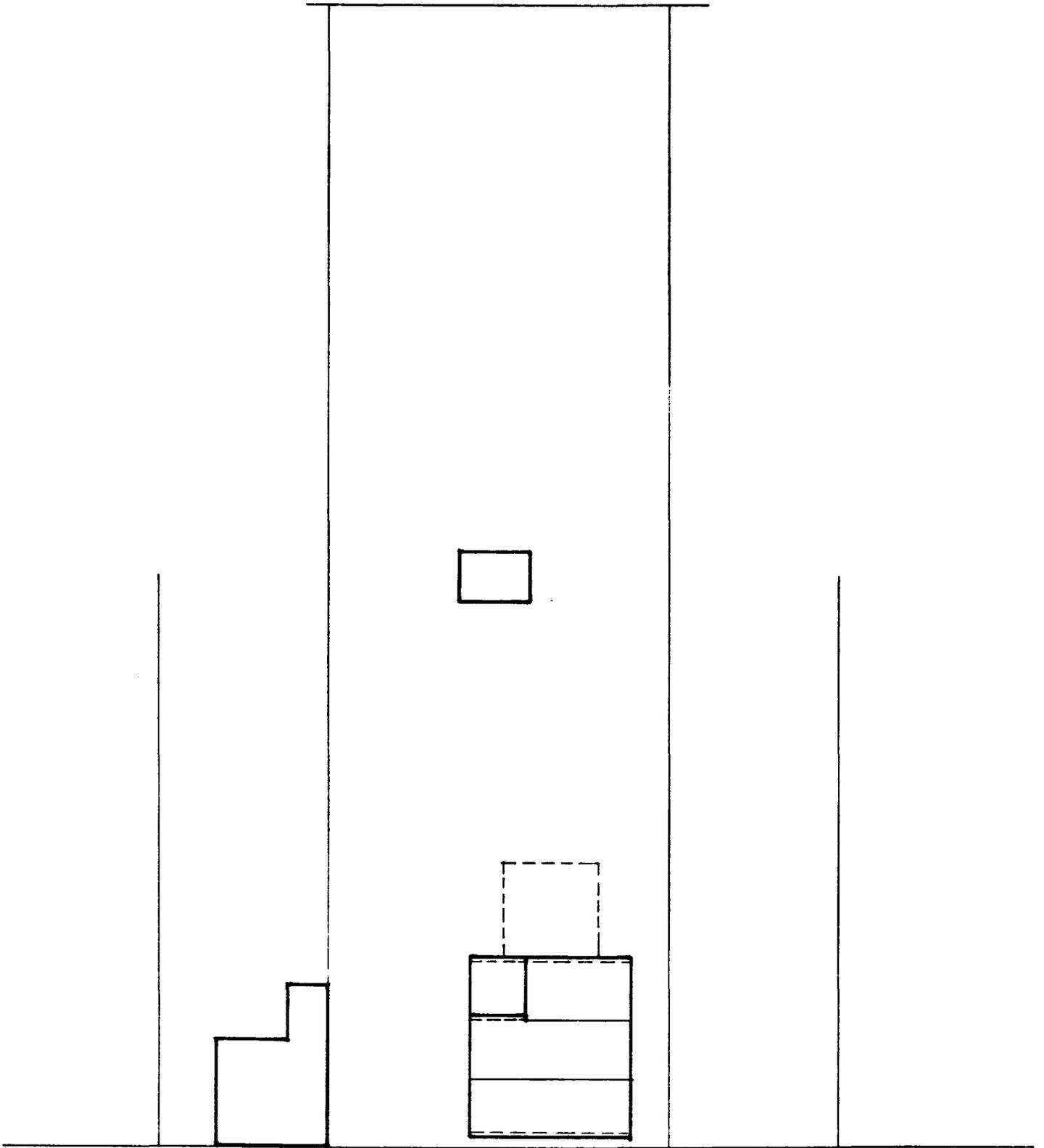
MAPS:

1814 Plat of the town

1877 town map

1916 Sanborn

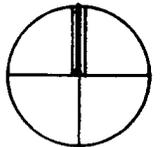
1923 Sanborn Map

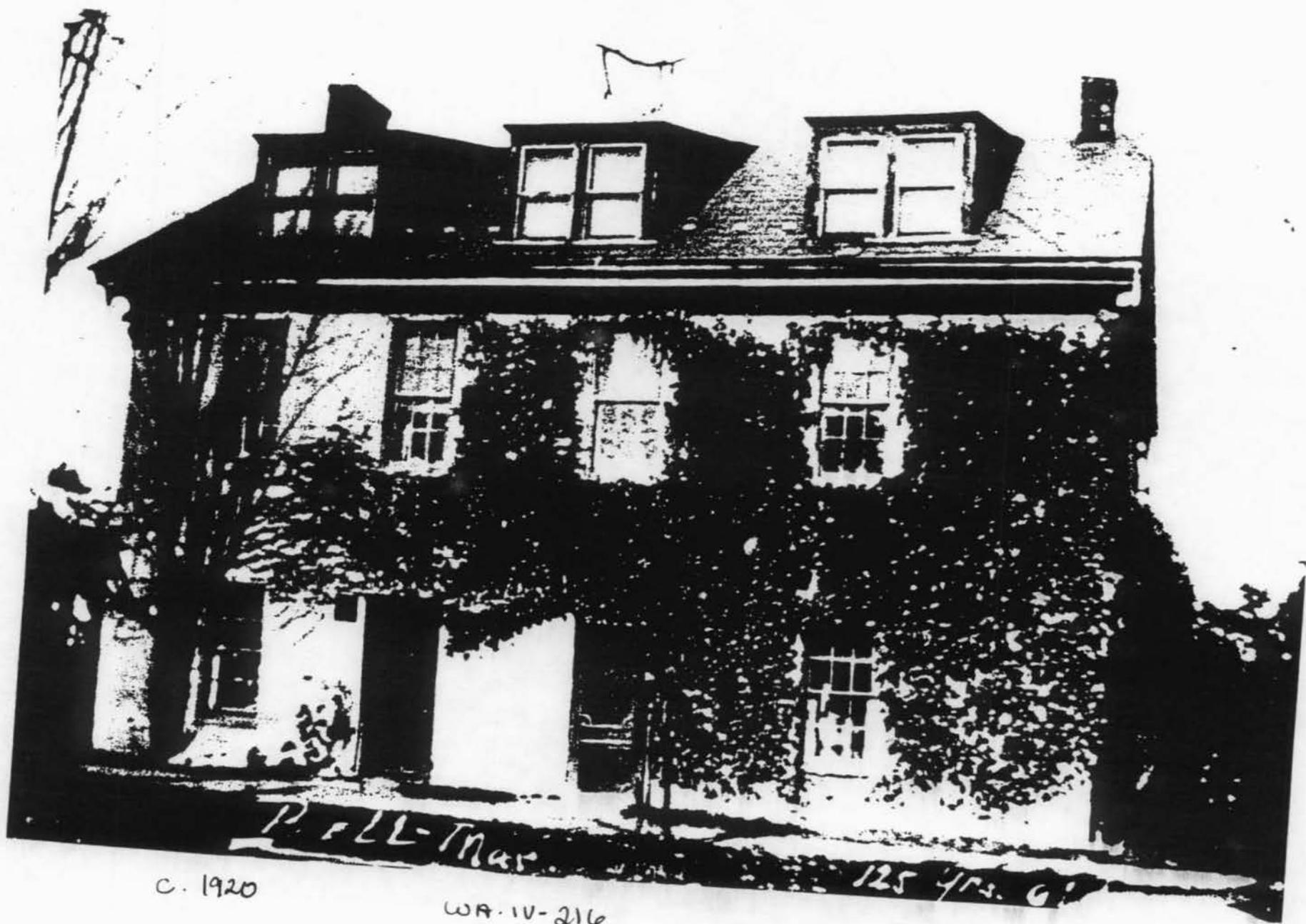


13-15

EAST WATER STREET

not to scale





Pell-Mas

c. 1920

WA-IV-216

125 4th St. G

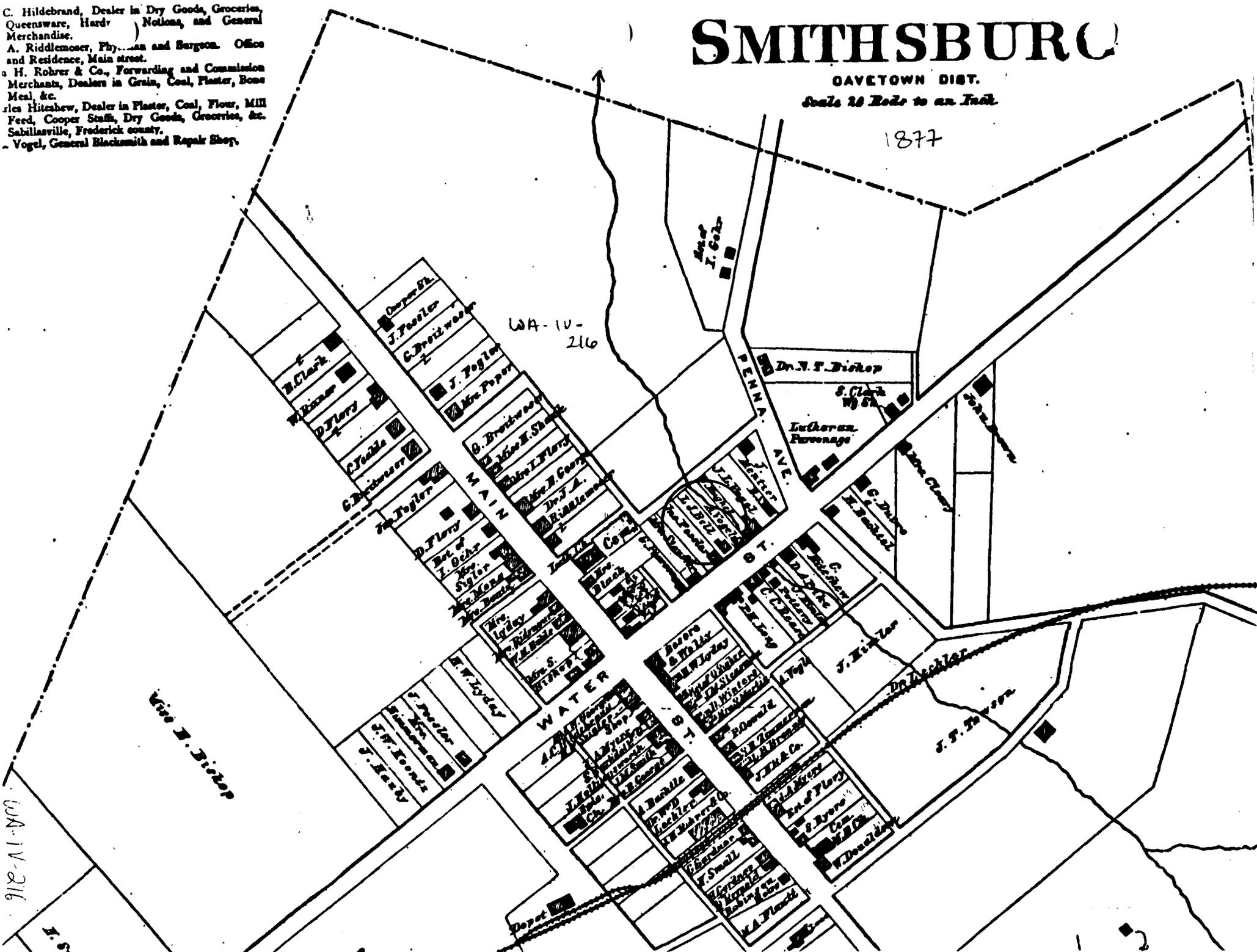
SMITHSBURG

DAVETOWN DIST.

Scale 20 Rods to an Inch

1877

C. Hildebrand, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Queensware, Hardware, Notions, and General Merchandise.
 A. Riddlemoser, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Residence, Main street.
 H. Rohrer & Co., Forwarding and Commission Merchants, Dealers in Grain, Coal, Plaster, Bone Meal, &c.
 J. Hitebaw, Dealer in Plaster, Coal, Flour, Mill Feed, Cooper Stuffs, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c.
 Sabillasville, Frederick county.
 Vogel, General Blacksmith and Repair Shop.



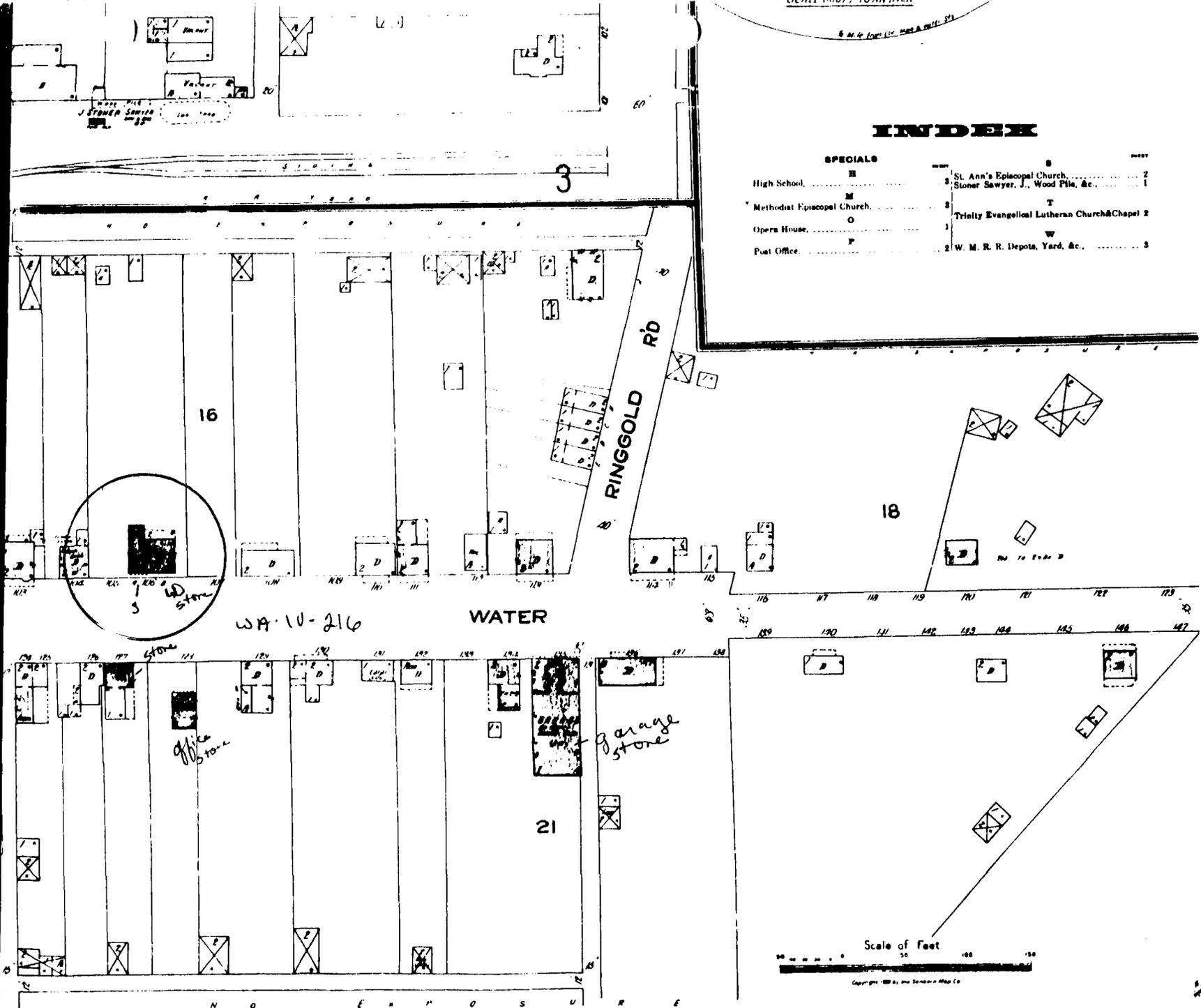
WA-10-216

WA-10-216

J. S.

INDEX

SPECIALS	SYMBOL	NAME	NUMBER
High School	H	St. Ann's Episcopal Church	2
Methodist Episcopal Church	M	Stoner Sawyer, J., Wood Pile, &c.	1
Opera House	O	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & Chapel	2
Post Office	P	W. M. R. R. Depots, Yard, &c.	3



1923 Sanborn

TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
211/675, 128/338

170 SALLY G. LAY
646/351

MORRIS E. LAY
674/425

ROBERT C. SEISER
623/303

D. S. SMITH
708/246

MARY L. RIDENOUR
505/181

JOHN W. EARLEY
498/26

MARY I. RIDENOUR
505/184

RICHARD E. VERDIER
802/615

DONALD E. HAYS, JR.
653/42

WAYNE E. PUTMAN
867/221

JOHN L. BURKETT
707/738

CHARLES P. JOHNSON
822/782

ROBERT L. AURAND
745/548

WA-N-216

JULIAN OLIVER
553/422

CARL E. CLINGAN
829/327

MONROE J. TARANTO
826/785

WAYNE L. RAMSBERG
734/815

SIMON CLOPPER
700/171

CLIFFORD KENDALL
720/787

THOMAS D. ECKSTINE
726/931

PAUL C. CORNISH
895/502

GLORIA W. BARNARD, ET AL
881/536

SHAWN T. SHINGLER
516/50

ZELDA P. GROVE, TRUST
922/37

CHEWSVILLE COOP ASSOCIATION
290/173

EAST WATER

TERRY L. MYERS
628/680

DAVID E. REED
755/757

DAVID P. CREAMER
887/865

HOMER L. MYERS
908/498

CATHERINE V. POFFENBERGER
62338/362

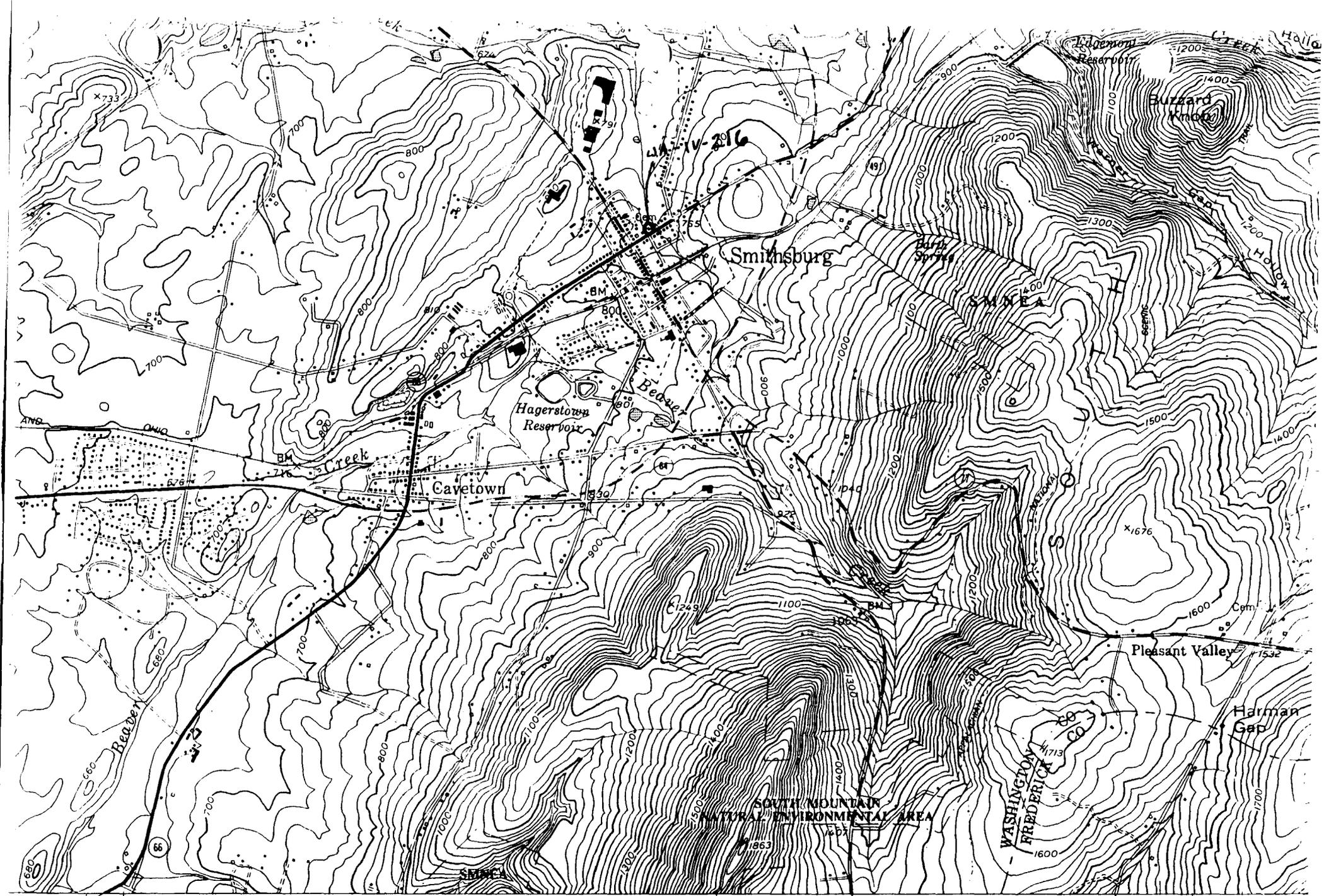
SMITHSBURG LIBRARY

WILLIAM B. KIMLER
141/584

WILLIAM B. KIMLER
150/364, 141/585, 138/108
5.00 A

SOUTH MAIN ST.

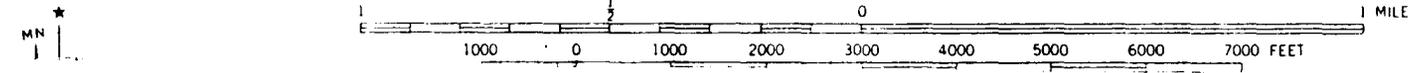
WESTERN MARY AND DA



TINA 1.9 MI. 6300 FEET (MD.) 277 278 35' 279 (MYERSVILLE) WOLFSSVILLE 3.8 MI. GARFIELD 2.3 MI. 32'30" 282
 5463 II SE 10 MI. TO U.S. 40

ological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000



from aerial



WA-IV-216

7/991

J. Mueller

E. elev.



SPEED
LIMIT
30

WA-1U-216

7/1991

J. Mueller

S + E elev.



WA-10-216

7/1991

J. M. Weller

W. elev.



WA-10-216

13-15 E. Water, Smithsburg

1/1991

Jolie Mueller

looking NE