

SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-227
ADDRESS: 20 East Water Street, Smithsburg, MD
OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Smithsburg Library, public,
BUILDING DATE: early 19th century

The Smithsburg Library is an L-shaped, horizontally massed, one-and-a-half-story, stone (random rubble), freestanding structure resting on a stone foundation. It is one of the few stone buildings in Smithsburg. The building was extensively remodeled when it received its large addition in 1961. The original structure is perpendicular to the street, while the addition faces it. The building has an intersecting gable roof with chimneys at either end of the original structure. Fenestration in the original section is single, rectangular, four-over-four, double-hung sash. There is a large, multi-paned picture window in the addition.

The building is set on original lot 61, a vacant lot at the time the 1814 plat of the town was drawn. By 1875, there were several buildings noted on the lot owned by P.H. Long, including this one. The 1916 Sanborn has the notation "LOCK UP" on the building, then numbered 128 Water. The 1923 Sanborn notes this as an office.

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

Known Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WA-IV-226¹³⁷

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Smithsburg Library

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 20 East Water Street not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Town of Smithsburg

street & number 21 West Water Street telephone no.: 301-824-7722

city, town Smithsburg state and zip code Maryland 21783

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber²³⁰

street & number Summit Avenue and West Washington Street folio¹⁰⁹

city, town Hagerstown state MD

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-226

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

The Smithsburg Library is located in Washington County at 20 East Water Street, near the historic center of the town. It is set perpendicular to the street, slightly back from the public-right-of-way on original lot 61 and is flanked by residential structures. The lot features a landscaped front yard and an open, grassy rear yard.

Exterior

The Smithsburg Library is an L-shaped, horizontally massed, one-and-a-half-story, stone (random rubble), freestanding structure resting on a stone foundation. It is one of the few stone buildings in Smithsburg. It is comprised of two sections that form the L-shape--the original, early 19th-century section and the 1961 addition that more than doubled the size of the building.

The original section of the library was a residence that rests perpendicular to the street. It has one bay facing Water Street and three bays facing west. Originally this facade had four bays with a window/door window/door pattern. The entrance, currently a six-panel door is located in the second bay from the street. The second door has been filled in with stone. There are two windows bays facing east. Fenestration in the original section is single, rectangular, four-over-four, double-hung sash.

The building has an intersecting gable roof with chimneys on the south and north elevations.

The 1961 addition is faced in stone along the north and east elevations. The stone was carefully selected, cut, and laid to match the original building. The south and west elevations are sheathed with a grey concrete brick. The principal entrance to the library is located in this wing, facing Water Street. Next to the door is a large, multi-paned picture window.

Interior

The interior of the original section is presently a single room. It originally was divided into two rooms, but the center partition was removed when the addition was constructed. The hearth along the south wall remains exposed. The floor is covered with linoleum tiling.

The 1961 addition is divided into three spaces--a large central room that spans the width of the building and two smaller ones behind it. One room opens onto a patio at the back of the building. A bathroom and storage closet has been inserted into the northeast corner of the addition.

8. Significance

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 checked="" 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 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: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: 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.

This is one of the oldest structures in Smithsburg, and one of the few constructed of stone. It served as a residence and the town "lock up" for many years before it was purchased by the town to house the library.

The building is set on original lot 61, a vacant lot at the time the 1814 plat of the town was drawn. The building may have been constructed between 1834 and 1836. An 1834 deed notes the sale of the property at \$50 and the tax record of 1836 assesses the owner at \$750. (These figures are not necessarily indicators of the true value of the property. The deed transaction may not reflect the actual price of the property. And the tax record does not distinguish between properties--the assessed amount could refer to the collective assessment on more than one site.)

According to a history of the library, the structure was erected as a house by the owner Adam Floury or his brother Daniel who were both stonemasons and had built several houses in the vicinity ("History of the Smithsburg Community Library"; transcription of a talk presented by Lillian Barknell at a meeting of the Harrisburg District and the Maryland Library Association, Smithsburg, April 29, 1926). This history notes that the building was divided into three rooms: a front room with its own entrance that was used for formal occasions; a central room with one window that served as the bedroom; and the kitchen/living area with its own entrance. The attic held two rooms.

The house was in the ownership of the Shank family during the Civil War. Adam Shank enlisted in the Confederate Army and fought at the Battle of the Wilderness.

By 1877, there were several buildings noted on the lot owned by P.H. Long, including this one.

The building stood empty for some years during the beginning of the 20th century until it was converted into the town jail (as noted on the 1916 Sanborn as 128 Water Street). A steel cage was erected in the center room. One of the outer rooms was used for town meetings while the third room served as a lumber storage area.

continued...)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-IV-²²⁷226

See attached sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .22 acres

Quadrangle name Smithsburg, MD

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification Lot is Smithsburg defined by East Water Street on the north, the second alley east of Main Street on the west, and the first alley south of East Water on the south.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julianne Mueller

organization

date July 1991

street & number 2730 Ordway Street, N.W.

telephone 202-364-6594

city or town Washington, D.C.

state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.-

When the estate of Lucien Brenner came up for sale in 1921, the women of the Reading Club decided to purchase this building as a home for the town library which had been founded in 1915.

The 1923 Sanborn incorrectly notes the building as an office.

The chain of title was traced to 1834.

May 6, 1834 (OO/924-926), Deed from George Ernst to Adam Flory for the sum of \$50
March 18, 1857 (INN 12/359), Deed from Adam Flory of Franklin County, Penn. to John Fessler for the sum of \$325
November 11, 1857 (INN 12/637), Deed from John and Susannah Fessler to Ann Shank for the sum of \$400
May 22, 1866 (LBN 1/450), Deed from Ann and Adam Shank to Peter Long, the east half of lot 61 for the sum of \$350
April 26, 1869 (McKK 1/448), Deed from Peter Long to Ruth D. Barkdoll (Long) and Vesta Long (his sisters) for the sum of \$500
November 10, 1920 (158/702), Deed from Rutha B. Barkdoll and John H. Ferguson, Trustee, to Lucien B. Brenner for the sum of \$345
May 31, 1921 (160/349), Deed from Walter D. Brenner, et al to the Smithsburg Free Library for the sum of \$1025
May 1, 1945 (230/109), Deed from the Smithsburg Community Free Library to the Burgers and Commissioners of Smithsburg

Significance

A preliminary architectural evaluation of the library was made in January 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Smithsburg. At that time a survey site number WA-IV-226 was assigned and it was determined that the structure 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 with 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 Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of the Smithsburg Historical Society, the general history of the building was researched. It was concluded that the building has served an important community role--both as a prison and later as a library, is a good example of early 19th-century stone construction in Washington County, and meets eligibility Criterion C for listing on the Maryland Register.

- Criterion A -- The property is not associated with significant historical events.
- Criterion B -- The property is not associated with a significant person.
- Criterion C -- The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect. As one of the only extant example of early 19th-century stone construction in Smithsburg, the Library is a contributing element to the architectural significance of town.
- 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 long association at this site, it is possible that 19th- and 20th-century archeological remains might be found near the building. However, it should be noted that the building received a large addition in 1961 and that the construction may have disturbed or obliterated some of the archeological record.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SURVEY NO. WA-IV-²²⁷~~226~~

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 9.1

Barknell, Lillian. "History of the Smithsburg Community Library", transcription of a talk presented at a meeting of the Harrisburg District and the Maryland Library Association, Smithsburg, April 29, 1926.

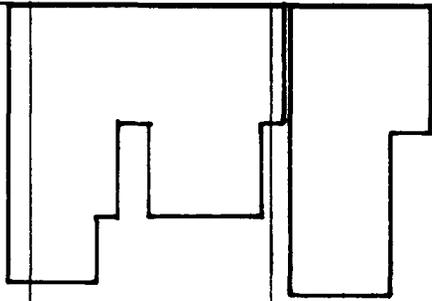
Smithsburg Historical Society, photographic files

Washington County Deeds and Tax Records

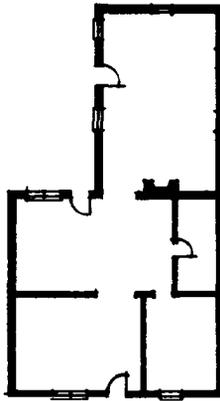
MAPS:

- 1814 Plat of the town
- 1877 town map
- 1916 Sanborn
- 1923 Sanborn Map

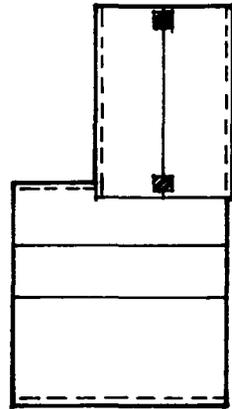
EAST WATER STREET



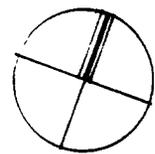
Adjacent Buildings



Floor plan



Site Plan



not to scale

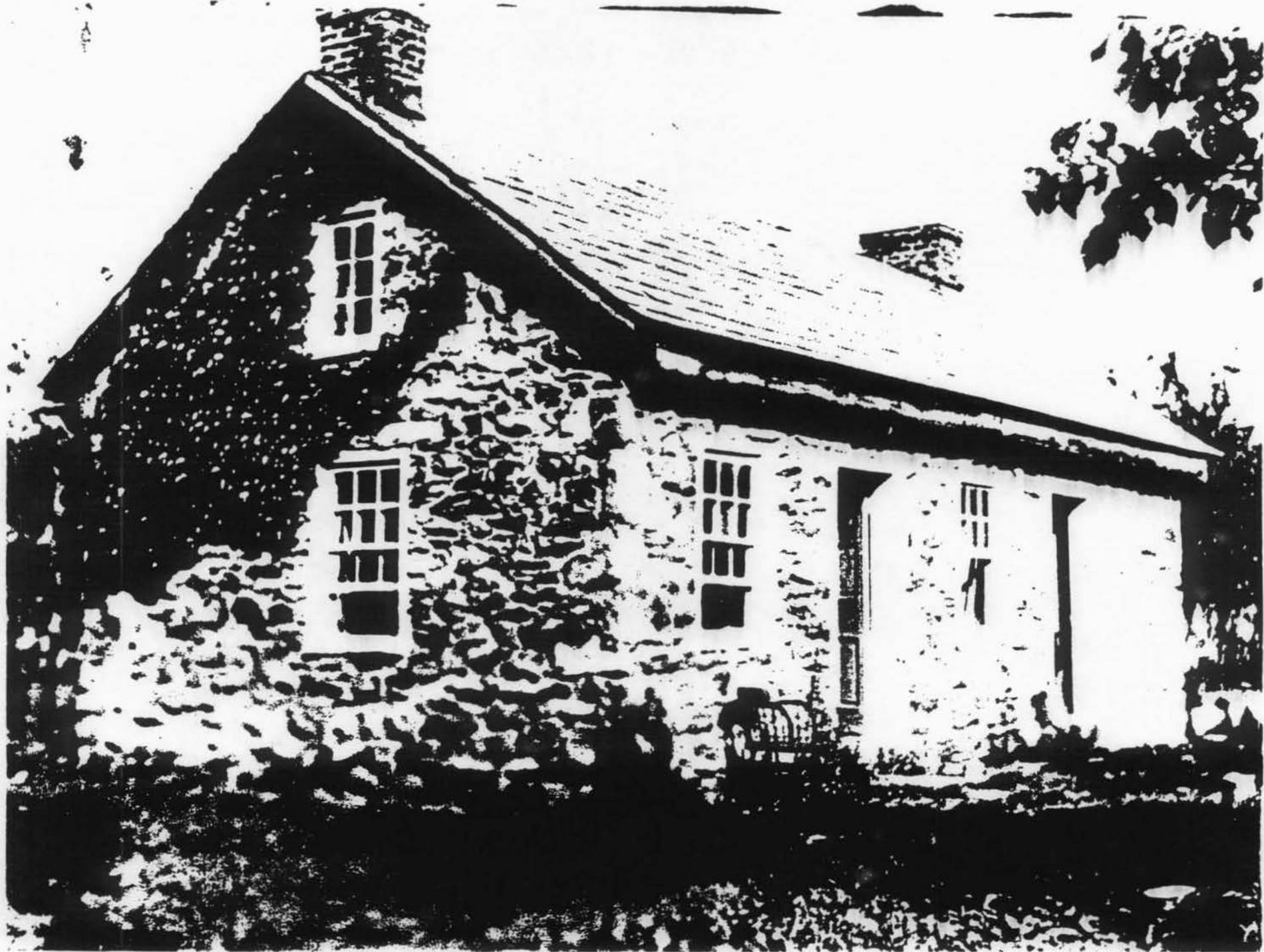
Alley

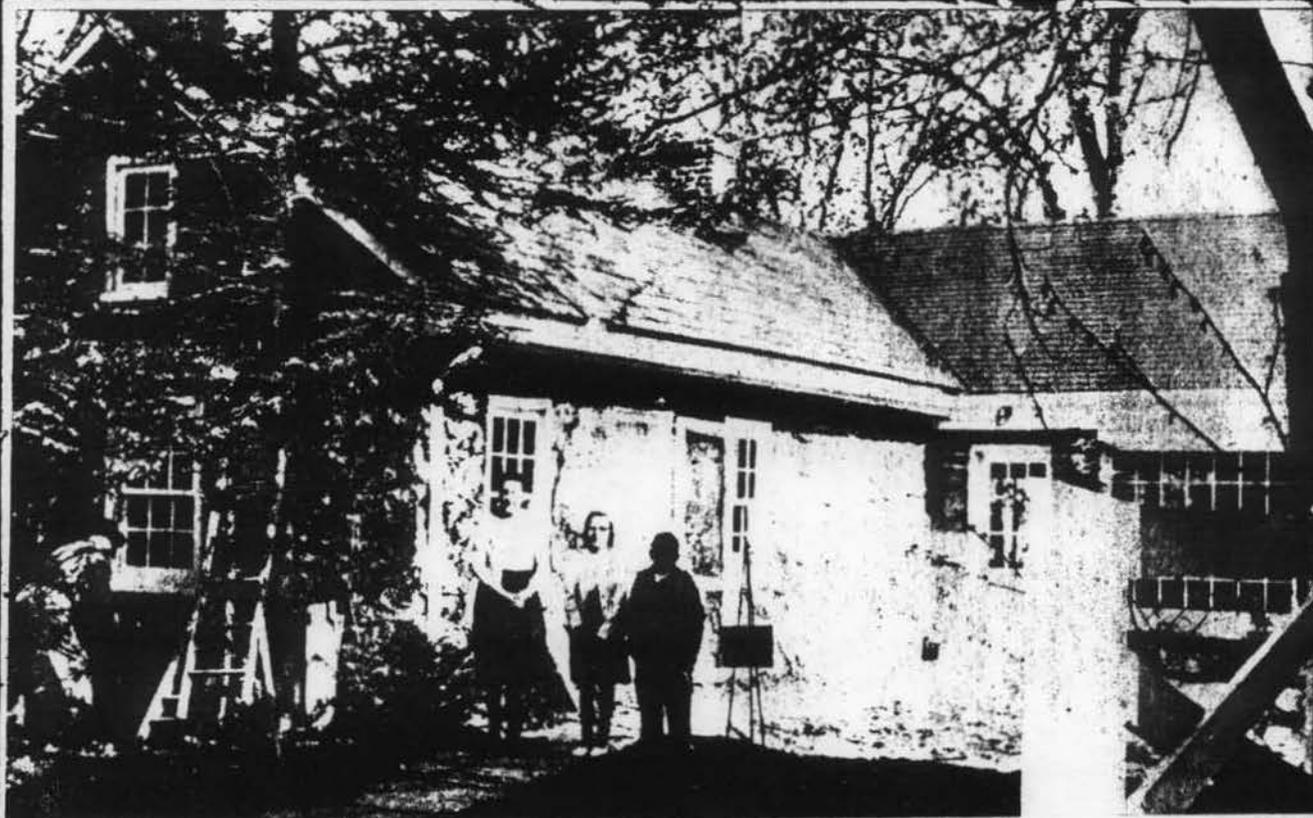


THE MOST PICTURESQUE public library in this area may finally be forced to undergo changes. Smithsburg's library was built around 1813 as a dwelling. About 1865, the town bought it for use as a jail, and some 40 years ago it became

Oct 27, 1960
a public library. Town authorities have held a conference with an architect on the question of enlarging it, because it is no longer large enough to hold a stock of books sufficient for the needs of the community.

WA-IV-²²⁷~~226~~ c. 1920





New Smithsburg Library Addition

The Smithsburg Library has a new addition, and Mrs. Max Newman, the librarian, and two of her patrons, Betty Kendall, 11, and Richard Kelbaugh, 10, shown above at right, are proud of it. In the shadows at left, Burgess Stanley E. Hauger puts the finishing touches on the landscaping. The library has an average circulation of 700 books a month, said Mrs. Newman, and an average membership of 50 in the sum-

mer children's book club. Besides doubling the shelf space, the new addition contains a bathroom and a furnace. Residents of Smithsburg will have a chance to see their new library during the open house on Wednesday, May 10, 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m.

no citation

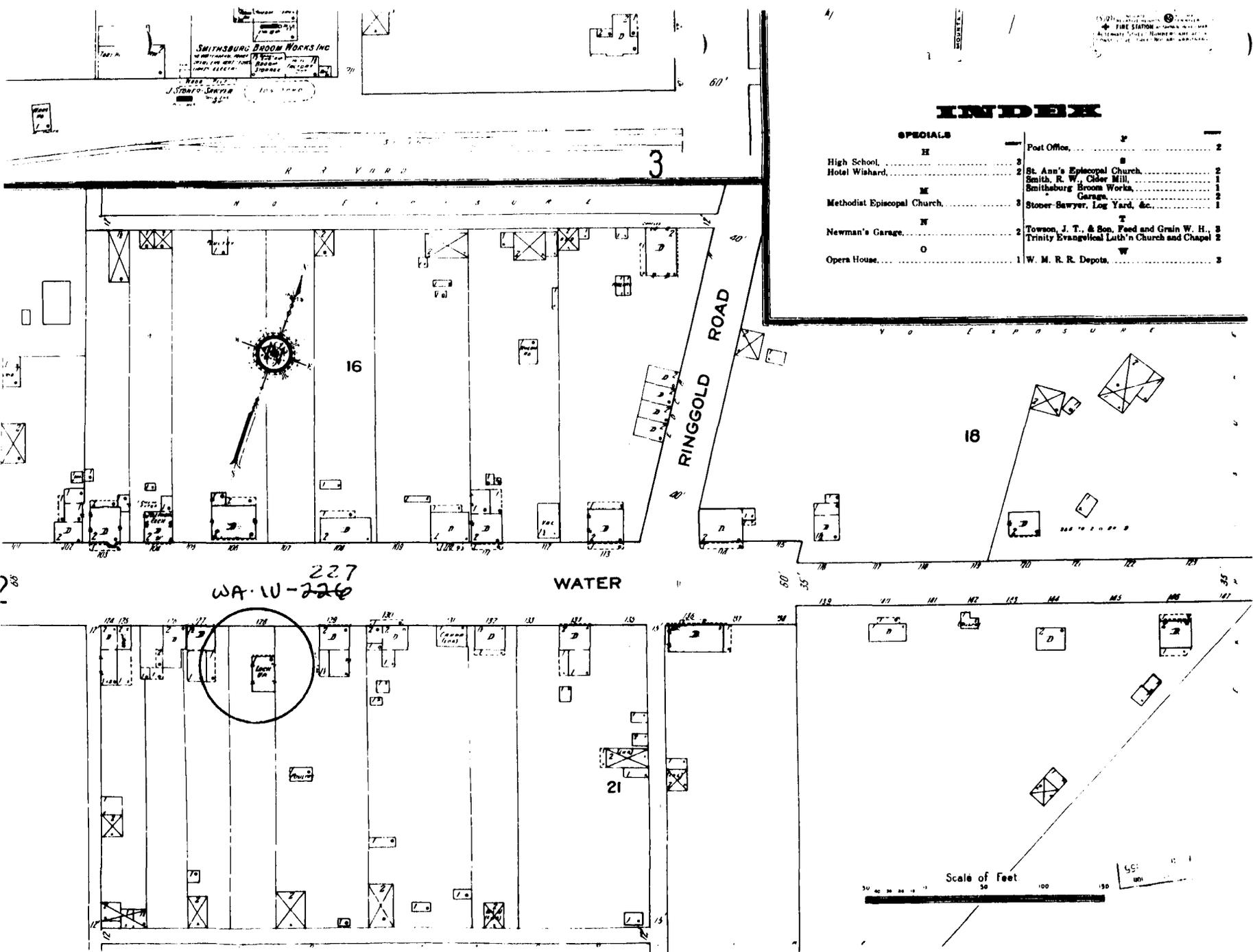
1961

227
WA-IV-226

SMITHSBURG BROOM WORKS INC
 1000 W. 10th St.
 J. Stanko, Owner

INDEX

SPECIALS	
H	High School
M	Methodist Episcopal Church
N	Newman's Garage
O	Opera House
P	Post Office
S	St. Ann's Episcopal Church
SM	Smith, R. W., Cider Mill
SW	Smithsburg Broom Works
G	Garage
SB	Stoner Sawyer, Log Yard, &c.
T	Towson, J. T., & Son, Feed and Grain W. H.
TE	Trinity Evangelical Luth'n Church and Chapel
W	W. M. R. R. Depots



227
 WA-U-226

WATER

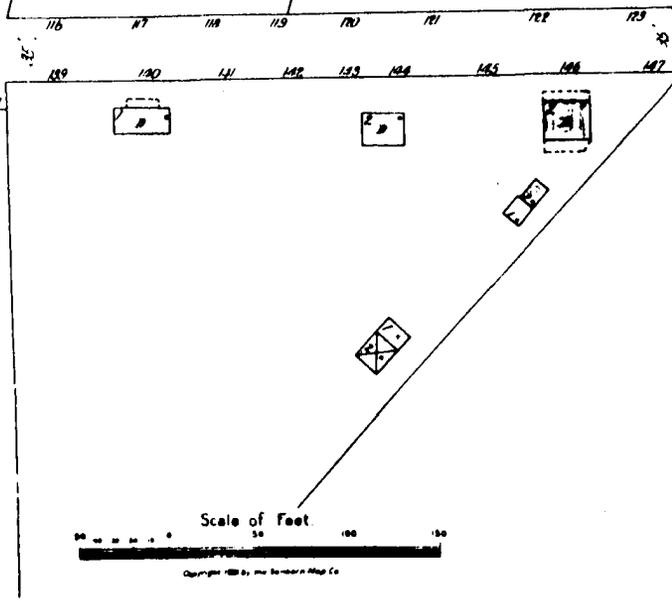
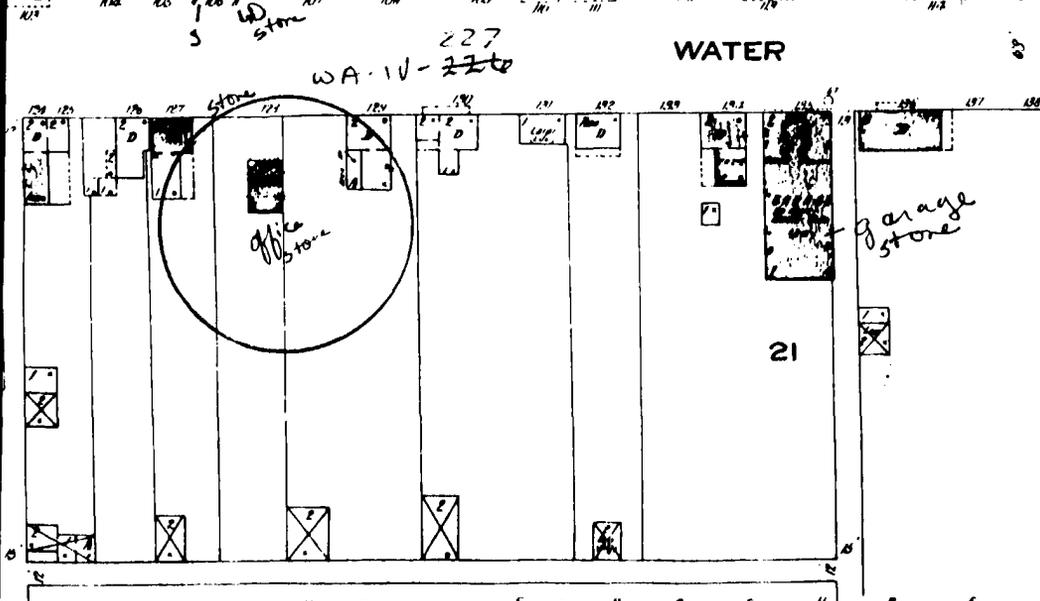
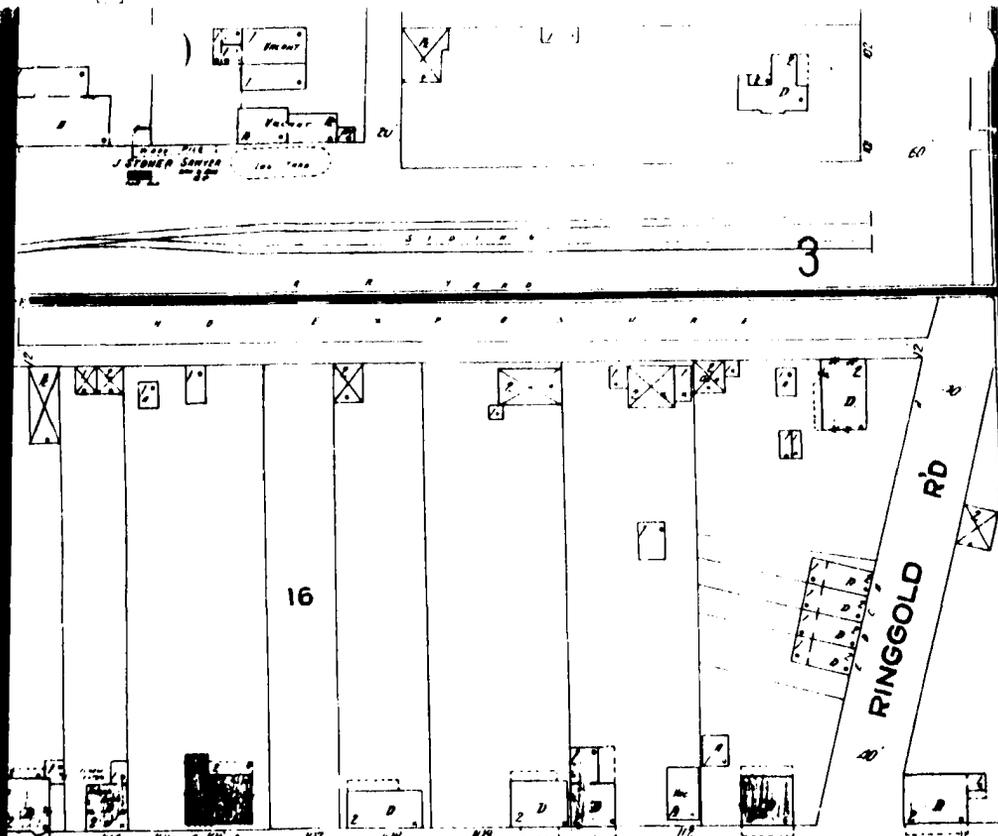
21

Scale of Feet

1916 Sanborn

INDEX

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



1923 Sanborn

TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
211/675, 128/338

ROBERT L. AURAND
745/548
CHARLES P. JOHNSON
822/782
JOHN L. BURKETT
707/738

WAYNE E. PUTMAN
867 / 221

RICHARD E. VERDIER
802/615

DONALD E. HAYS, JR.
653/42

SALLY C. LAY
646/351

MORRIS E. LAY
674/425

ROBERT C.
GEISER
623/303

D. S. SMITH
708/246

MARY L. RIDENOUR
505 / 181

JULIAN OLIVER
550/422

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
616/50

ZELDA P. GROVE, TRUST
922/37

CHEWVILLE CO-OP ASSOCIATION
290, 173

DAVID E. REED
755/757
DAVID P. GREAMER
887/865
HOMER L. MYERS
908/498

WILLIAM B. KIMLER
141 / 584
CATHERINE V.
POFFENBERGER
62 384 / 362
SMITHSBURG LIBRARY

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

NA

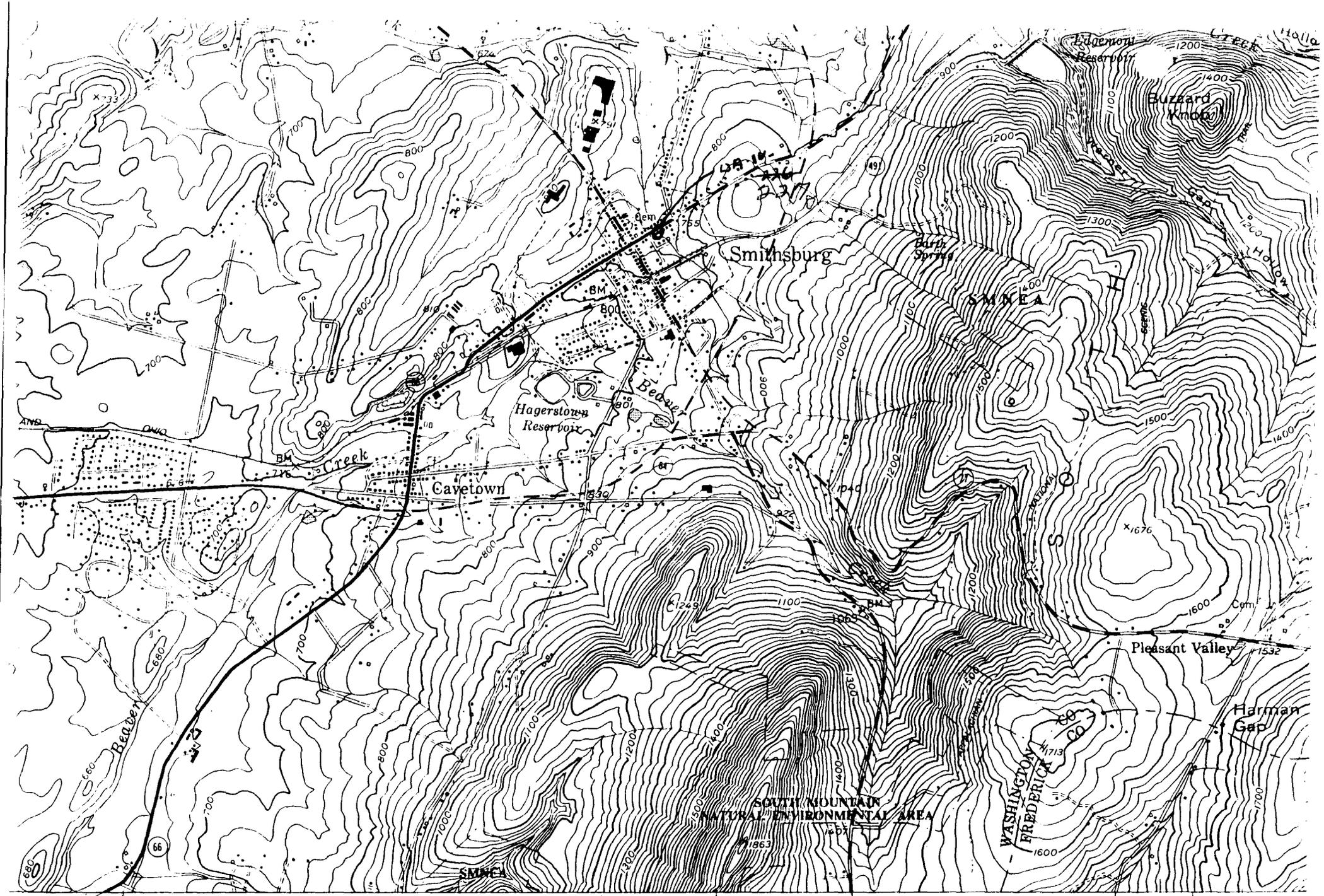
WA-IV-227

EAST WATER

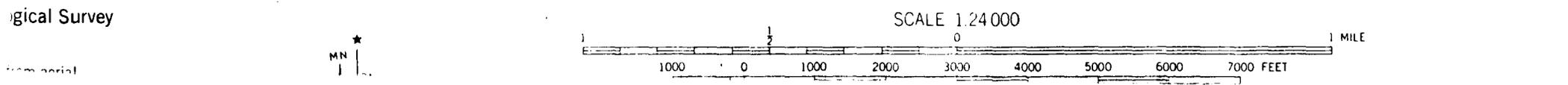
SOUTH

MAIN ST

WESTERN MARYLAND DA



TINA 1.9 MI. ← 630 000 FEET 1277 278 35' 1279 (MYERSVILLE) WOLFVILLE 3.8 MI. GARFIELD 2.3 MI. 32'30" 282
 (MD.) 5463 II SE 10 MI. TO U.S. 40





WA-10-226 227

7/1991

J. Mueller

W. elev.



WA-10-~~226~~ 227

Higg

J. Mueller

S. elev.



WA-IV-226 227

7/1991

J. Kuelle

W. elev. of orig. section +
N elev. of add.



WA-1V-227

Library, E. Walter, Smithsburg

1/1991

Julie Mueller

looking SE