

F-3-135

Hagan's Tavern (The Old White House)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 11-21-2003

F-3-135

Hagan's Tavern; The Old White House
Frederick vicinity
Private

Ca. 1790-1830; ca. 1914

Hagan's Tavern is a two-story stone building with four bays and a one-story porch with a 1-1/2 story rear wing located at the northeast corner of Old National Pike and Edgemont Road. It was built possibly as early as 1790, pre-dating the National Road built through the area in about 1807. It was purchased about 1830 by John Hagan, who was the proprietor of the tavern through much of the mid and late 19th century. During the early 20th century, it continued to serve as a restaurant and bar with a rather notorious reputation for rough clientele. Later in the 20th century, the building was an antique shop. Recently restored, the building's white stucco exterior plastering was removed; the nickname "The Old White House", used perhaps during its tavern days and during its use as a restaurant and bar in the 1920's and 1930's, referred to the white walls. This is one of several features in common with other taverns and hotels identified along the National Road, including a wide center hall behind a heavy paneled door, flanked by two rooms with fireplaces, one of which had a built-in cupboard next to the fireplace and a bar. The bar has been reconstructed in a conjectural facsimile of the original based on evidence on the floor boards and historical descriptions and views of similar structures. The windows on the first story are 9/6 and the second story has 6/6 sash. The one-story porch with Tuscan columns was added about 1914. Also on the property is a one-story, much-altered frame store building called the Old Braddock Store, currently used as an antique shop.

F-3-135
Hagan's Tavern
Frederick
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Intensification, A.D. 1680-1845
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
Transportation

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:
Commerce/Trade/restaurant/tavern
Commerce/Trade/department store/general store

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Hagan's Tavern; The Old White House

and/or common Hagan's Tavern

2. Location

street & number 5018A Old National Pike not for publicationcity, town Frederick ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

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

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

name Mark F. McConnell

street & number P.O. Box 41 telephone no.:

city, town Braddock Heights, state and zip code MD 21714

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1470

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 130

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-3-135

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site
☒ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		date of move _____

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2

Hagan's Tavern is a two-story stone dwelling built about 1800 on the north side of the Old National Pike (U.S. 40A) at Edgemont Road about 2 miles west of Frederick (City), Frederick County, Maryland. The four-bay south elevation has a one-story porch built about 1914 and a 1-1/2 story rear wing. The date of the structure is based on its exterior architectural features and research by the current owner, Mr. Mark McConnell, who has also done considerable restoration of the house. The house is reputed by local tradition to have been built as a tavern about 1790, possibly by James Nixdorf. Although interior access to the house was not possible to meet current survey schedule requirements, further documentation and analysis of the interior features is expected to confirm the information published in a recent Frederick Magazine article regarding the features which typify its use as a tavern. A more accurate dating of the structure should also be accomplished by further research. Certain features on both the interior and exterior are associated with the period 1820-1850. Located west of the stone house is a circa 1914 frame store building with a parapet facade which has been extensively remodeled as an antique store.

The tavern has field stone walls which were covered with stucco during much of the 19th and early 20th centuries and painted white, a typical technique of drawing travelers' attention to inns, taverns, and toll houses along the National Road. The stucco has been removed from the west, south, and east elevations, but remains mostly in place on the north elevation of the main section. The south elevation has four bays and originally had two doorways in the inner bays. The westernmost door was converted to a window at a date not determined. The windows are 9/6 with louvred shutters on the first story and 6/6 with shutters on the second story. According to Mr. McConnell, the shutters were installed in about 1914, a probably true event since the original shutters in a late 18th or early 19th century building of this type would likely have been solid, raised panel shutters. The sills are wood. The remaining doorway has a paneled soffit and a high, three-light transom above a heavy, 6-panel door. Mr. McConnell rebuilt the raised panels in the upper four sections, which had been replaced with glass during the early 20th century. The original raised panels remain in the bottom two panels. A large brass knocker is centered on the door. Above the doorway is a wood lintel, which also appears above the converted doorway to the left.

The height and width of the doorway are, in Mr. McConnell's opinion, one of the features which show that the building was erected as a tavern rather than as a dwelling which was later made into a public house. This theory parallels the available evidence on other taverns along the National Road. The circa 1914 porch has a wood deck and Tuscan columns linked by a plain balustrade. A circa 1910 photograph of the tavern published in Frederick Magazine shows the facade without a porch. The roof is a wood shingle gable type, rebuilt about 5 years ago, but using the probable original material of the roof. Interior end chimneys also appear to have been rebuilt in recent years. A painted brick corbeled cornice is one of the exterior features which suggests a date of about 1820-1850; however, the corn

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-135

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	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☒ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1790-1830, C. 1914 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.

Hagan's Tavern is a well-preserved and restored example of an early 19th century stone tavern associated with the National Road, with a high level of integrity and significance under the themes of architecture and transportation. Its stucco covering in much of the 19th and the early 20th centuries gave it its nickname "The Old White House" by which it was operated as a restaurant and bar in the early 20th century and later as an antique shop. This name was often associated with other taverns on the National Road as well, including Motter's Tavern (F-4-30) and the Beachley House (F-4-29), both located on the Old National Pike in the Middletown Valley. A full context evaluation of Hagan's Tavern must await analysis of the interior.

The house may have been built as early as 1790 and is thought to have been a tavern operated by James Nixdorf. Architectural features of the tavern suggest conflicts with documentary evidence and oral tradition regarding dates, leaving open the possibility of construction between 1820-1830. By the 1830's, it was owned by John Hagan. His father Peter Hagan was described in Searight's The Old Pike: A History of the National Road (1894) as having a log tavern on the south side of the Pike near the stone building's location which was famed among wagoners on the road. The current owner of Hagan's Tavern, Mr. Mark McConnell, believes that the stone house may have operated concurrently with the log structure, eventually superceding it altogether. Research by Ann Lebherz in the Frederick County Historical Society revealed that the tavern was still a well-known drinking place during the Civil War and was "patronized" by both Confederate and Union troops in their passages through Frederick County. With the advent of the automobile, the tavern continued to operate and had a notorious reputation during the early 20th century for its rough clientele. Memories of its use during the 1920's and early 1930's suggest it was known as a speakeasy as well as a legitimate restaurant. Later, it was used as an antique store. Mr. McConnell has information regarding several outbuildings which no longer exist, including stables, a summer kitchen, and a bank barn.

7.1 Description (Continued)

could have been added to an earlier building during the 30-year period. The east and west elevations each have two window bays with the 9/6 and 6/6 sash as on the south elevation and 3/3 attic windows.

The 1-1/2 story rear wing has been the most altered part of the house's exterior. It also has the corbeled brick cornice and a replaced wood shingle roof. A modern shed addition with a doorway is attached to the west side of the wing. The east and north sides of the wing are partially obscured by a modern wood fence, but the east side of the wing clearly was built with an extended roof over a probably open porch. The area of the porch is now enclosed and extended, with modern vertical siding, windows, and doors. A wood shingled dormer is located near the junction with the main section. On the north elevation of the main section, the remaining stucco is visible, along with a modern exterior brick chimney.

The interior as described by Mr. McConnell and shown in the Frederick Magazine article has a center hall flanked by two rooms with a chair rail and original molded mantels. In one room, the removal of layers of paint on the wood floor revealed the outline of a bar and built-in wall cupboard flanking the fireplace. Mr. McConnell recently rebuilt a conjectural bar in this location. The feature is one which is approximated in other identified taverns on the Frederick County section of the National Road. Full documentation of the interior is strongly recommended.

Store: The one-story store has a modern sign identifying it as the Old Braddock Store, built about 1914. Mr. McConnell has additional information on the structure which should be incorporated in this inventory form. Its principal features are a stepped frame parapet with molding cornice and board and batten siding facing south. A four-panel center door is flanked by modern multiple pane windows. A shed porch with a composition roof shelters the south facade and has bracketed turned columns. These appear to be modern additions. The east elevation of the building has a modern doorway, now the principal entrance, and a picture window. A modern warehouse extension adjoins the building on the north.

Hagan's Tavern
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-3-135

9.1 Significance (Continued)

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

507A O.N.P.

F-3-135

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Cost	Miscellaneous
1470/130 29 Jan 88	Mark J. McConnell	Wm. H. & Margaret & Coleman, Jr.	1.915 A.	\$275,000
959/202 11 Apr 75	Wm. H. Coleman, Jr. et ux	Richard R. & Margaret M. Kline	1.915 A.	
793/362 2 Nov 68	Richard R. Kline et ux	Charles R. Smith, widower	1.915 A.	
740/196 22 Jan 66	Charles R. Smith	Clark H. Smith et ux, et al	"Nye Olde White House" 2.08 A.	LW & T of Milbert Smith TME 2/540 Will Records
494/350 9 Jun 51	Milbert L. & Mary R. Smith	Katherine C. Graham, widow	"Nye Olde White House" 2.08 A.	
342/580 11 Apr 23	Walter S. & Katherine C. Graham	Leo H. & Caroline Sommerfield		
326/572 26 Mar 19	Leo H. & Caroline Sommerfield	John N. Clay, trustee in Equity 7359	P.1: 26 A. 12. & 304 sq. P. Satisfactory Plans Helped P.2: 270 90 sq. ft. of "Fielders" 270. total	\$6,150
320/420 2 Apr 17	John N. Clay, trustee under will of Susan R. Melson, dec.	Leo H. & Caroline Sommerfield		\$5,700
HWB 308/298 1 Apr 14	Leo H. & Caroline Sommerfield	Druing S. Biser et ux		
HWB 296/162 25 Mar 11	Druing S. Biser & Celeste S. Biser, wife	Wm. M. & Blanche Elliott	1) 26 A. = STH 286/116, 1 Dec. 08 2) 90 sq. P. = HWB 296/162, 10 Dec 09	

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Cost	Miscellaneous
P. 1: STH 284/116 1 Dec 08	Willis M. Elliott	Jacob W. & Mary E. Gibbons	26 a. 1 R., 30 sq. p. "Fieldview", Salisbury Plains Helped	\$2,800
P. 1: WIP 6/398 10 May 1888	Jacob W. Gibbons	Clayton O. Keady et al, trustees in Equity 5304	26 a., 1 R., 30 sq. p. John Merdock vs. Noah Bowles & John C. Hagan	\$1,380 part of real estate of John Hagan, dec. Jan. 1883
P. 1: Equity Record WIP 2/565	LW & T of John Hagan devised his property known as the "White House" and adjoining land to his son Eugene Hagan	15-20 a. John Hagan resided in house at time of will (1873)		
P. 1: ES 6/286 23 Feb 1855	John Hagan	John Sifford, trustee to sell property of Peter Hagan, dec.	"The Old Tavern Land" in Exh H. of Equity 2586 20 a.	
P. 1: HS 16/130 8 Dec 1841	Peter Hagan	Henry Nixdoff & Susan Nixdoff	part of "Salisbury Plains Helped" & "Fieldview Manor"	\$1,700
P. 1: HS 15/155 8 Dec 1841	Henry Nixdoff	Francis Thomas, trustee for sale of real estate of Thos. Malberg, dec.	20 a. part of "Salisbury Plains Helped" & "Fieldview Manor"	\$1,300
P. 1: JS 30/263 29 Apr 1828	Thomas Malberg	Joseph Hanger James & Sophia Siebolt	Equity 1434 - HS 6/88 Equity Record 20 a.	\$250
P. 1: 14 Jun 1833	Thomas Malberg	James Field & Sophia Field	1 acre part of "Fieldview Manor" & "Salisbury Plains Helped" Lot #4 from Charles W. Johnson to Richard Potts to James Field	\$30
P. 2: HWB 296/162 10 Dec 09	Willis M. Elliott	Jacob & Mary E. Gibbons	Part of Lot #4, part of "Fieldview" 90 sq. p. this was a part of land sold in Dec. 1908 with bldg. and intended to be sold (Dec. 1908 sale prob. never recorded)	
P. 2: JLS 7/497 1 Dec 1894	Jacob M. Gibbons	D. & Mollie R. Gibbons	90 sq. p.	\$5.60

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Cost

Miscellaneous

Liber/Folio

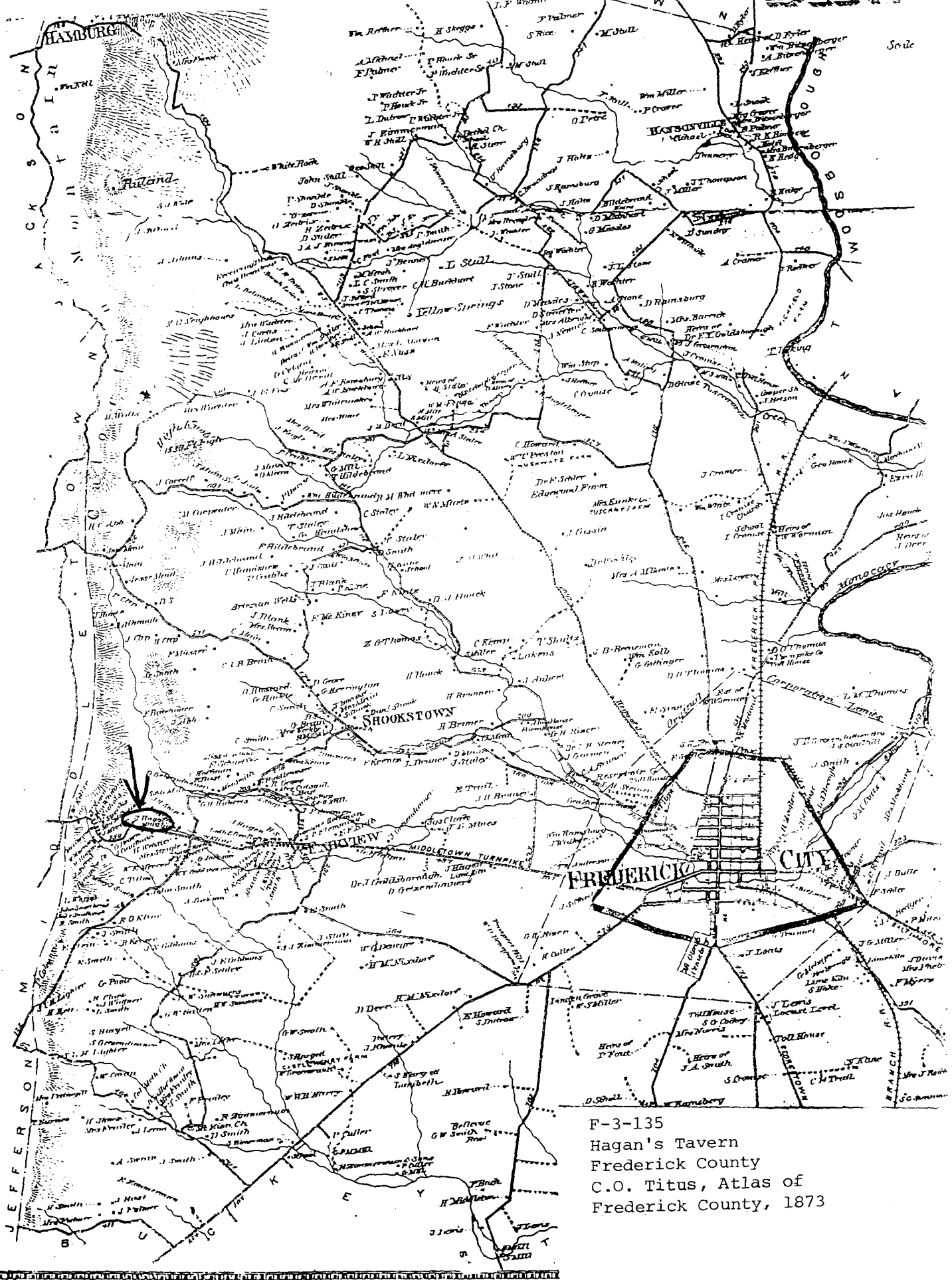
Grantee

Grantor

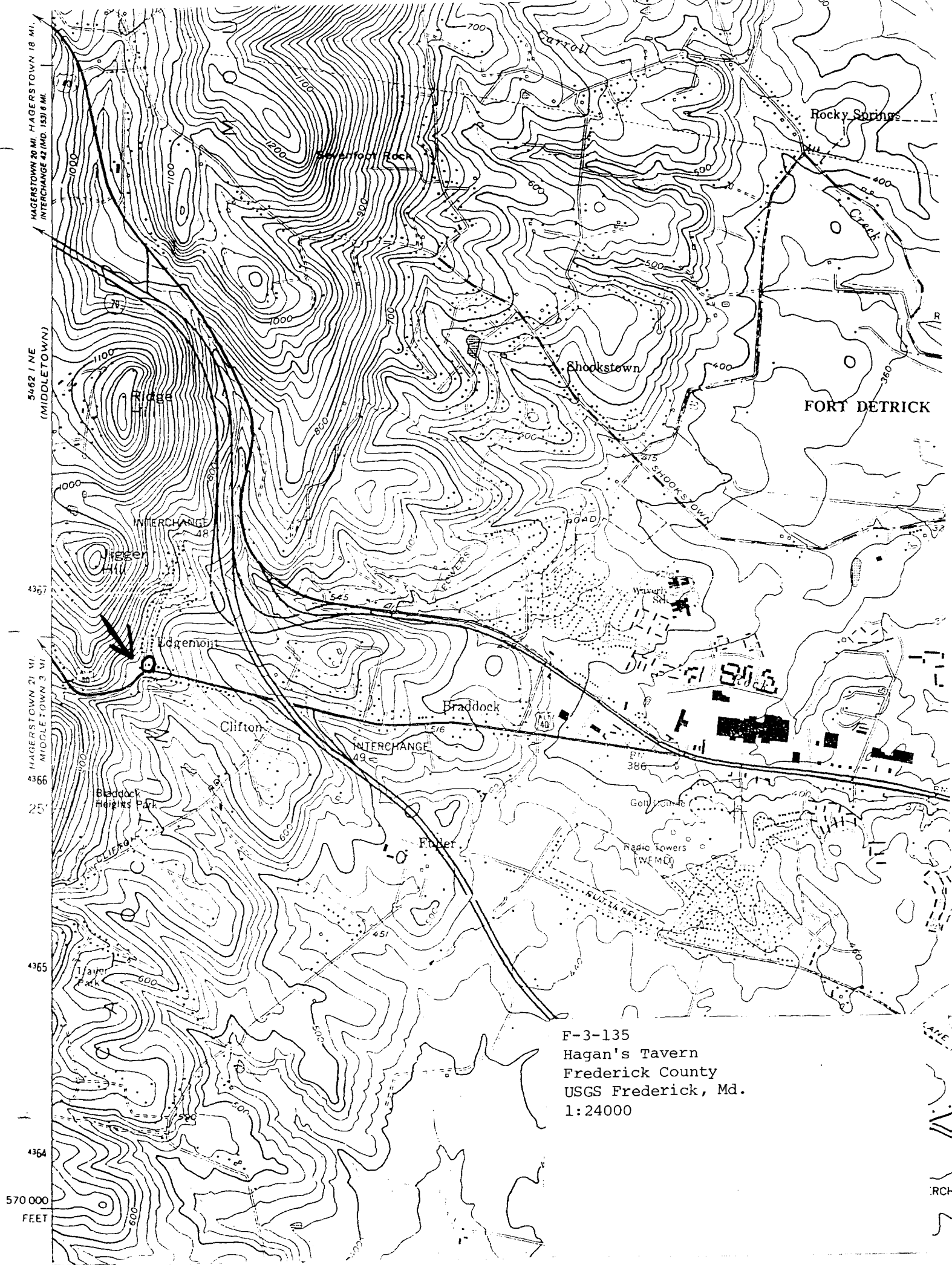
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Hagan's Tavern
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of
Frederick County, 1858



F-3-135
Hagan's Tavern
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of
Frederick County, 1873



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Hagan's Tavern
Frederick County
USGS Frederick, Md.
1:24000



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Hagan's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Reconstructed conjectural bar enclosure, 1st floor
west room

1/2



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Hagan's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1993

Neg. loc. Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

East parlor with mantel and wall sconce

2/2



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Hagan's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southwest corner view

1/4



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Hagan's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

South elevation doorway

2/4



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Hogan's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North elevation

3/4



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Hagan's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Old Braddock Store, south elevation

4/4