

WA-IV-204

Emily Clayton Bishop 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.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-12-2004

SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-204

ADDRESS: 66 South Main Street, Smithsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Leon R. Bachtell, 393/698, private

BUILDING DATE: late 19th/early 20th century

66 South Main Street is an east-facing, vertically massed, L-shaped, two-and-a-half-story, four-bay, brick (common bond), freestanding, residential structure resting on a stone foundation. The principal focus of the building is its enclosed porch that wraps around the south and east facades. The intersecting gable roof is sheathed with an artificial roll covering and has open eaves and gable returns. The entrance is now located in what was once the porch and consists of a modern door. Windows are single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, two-over-two with stone sills and jack arches. The front gable window is pentoid in shape.

The building is set outside the original platted town. The property, including possibly this house is noted as belonging to Mrs. Bigham on the 1875 town map. The house is noted on the 1916 and 1923 Sanborns as 22 Mountain Road (Main Street narrowed from 65' to 40' starting at this property southward). This was the home of Emily Clayton Bishop, a renown sculptor in the late 19th/early 20th century.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning; and Social/Education/Culture.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, April 1991

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN:

STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland (IV)

Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance

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

Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: Small, rural town

Historic Function and Use: residential

Known Design Source: unknown

7. Description

Survey No. WA-IV-204

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 Emily Bishop House is located in Washington County at 66 South Main Street (lot 393/698) in Smithsburg. It is prominently sited on the southwest corner of Henrietta Street, a small side street, and South Main Street, Smithsburg's principal north-south thoroughfare. The site includes the 19th-century main house, two garages at the rear of the property, and several mature trees in the front yard.

The Setting

The house sits on a slightly above grade, narrow, 80' x 265' lot just south of the former commercial center of Smithsburg. The commercial area encompasses only a few buildings at the center of the town. It is flanked in all directions by residential structures which generally line the street at the public-right-of-way to the original limits of the town. The Bishop House is located immediately outside the original platted town on a lot that is comparable in size to the original lots (approximately 82.5' x 265'). The lot size indicates that there may have been an intention to continue the original platting scheme when the town began to expand beyond its 1814 limits. While most of the houses on South Main Street within the originally platted town are sited very close to one another on narrow lots that have been subdivided, 66 South Main has never been subdivided. As such, the Bishop House is the first house as one leaves the original town limits that rests on an open spacious lot. Unlike the older houses to its north, it and its neighbors to the south are set back from the street. The setback creates a front lawn, an important landscape element in town planning and design in the last quarter of the 19th century.

The property is surrounded on three sides by paving. On the east is South Main Street, across which are other residential structures. On its north is Henrietta Street and on its west is an alley. The south side of the property neighbors another residential lot. The front yard contains several mature trees and shrubs, as well as statuary. The rear and side yards are not landscaped.

Exterior

The Bishop House is an east-facing, vertically massed, L-shaped, two-and-a-half-story, four-bay, brick, freestanding, residential structure resting on a stone foundation. The principal focus of the building is its enclosed porch that wraps around the south and east facades. The intersecting gable roof is sheathed with an artificial roll covering and has open eaves and gable returns. The entrance is now located in what was once the porch and consists of a modern door. Windows are single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, two-over-two with stone sills and jack arches. The front gable window is pentoid in shape.

(continued...)

8. Significance

Survey No. WA-IV-204

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 checked="" 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 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.

The Bishop House appears to be one of the first houses erected beyond the southern limits of the original 1814 platted town of Smithsburg and was the childhood home of Emily Clayton Bishop, a nationally renown artist at the turn of the century.

First noted on the 1877 town map as Mrs. Bigham's residence, it was later sold to Susan Ellen Delosier, according to deeds. The Bishops purchased the property in 1888. The 1877 map shows an L-shaped house with what appears to be a semi-circular walk or porch directly in front of the structure. According to the map, there were no other buildings south of this one within today's town limits and the property appears to have been part of a larger parcel that encompasses the southwestern quadrant of today's town. That parcel also belonged to the Bishop family, as did several other large tracts west of what is today Maple Avenue.

As indicated on the 1877 map, the house was located along a section of the road that was only 40 feet wide, as opposed to the 65-foot width of Main Street within the original town limits. As late as 1923, the section of Main Street south of Henrietta Lane remained only 40 feet wide and was known as Mountain Road. The houses along the road, however, were numbered consecutively with those on Main Street. The 1916 and 1923 Sanborn maps note that the Bishop House was then numbered 22 Mountain Road. Its neighbor just north of Henrietta Street (unnamed on these maps) was 23 Main Street.

(continued...)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-IV-204

See attached sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .49

Quadrangle name Smithsburg, MD

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 393/698 in Smithsburg, bounded by South Main Street on the east, the first alley west of South Main on the west, and Henrietta Lane on the north.

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

state	code	county	code

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

7. DESCRIPTION

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The masonry, bearing-wall house is constructed of materials and in a manner common to Smithsburg. The limestone was, in all likelihood, taken from one of the nearby quarries.

A two-story garage at the northwest corner of the lot dates to at least 1916, when it is first noted on maps. This garage is no longer in use and has been replaced by a newer one at the northwest corner of the lot.

Interior

The interior of the house was not accessible for this study.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

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The chain of title was traced to 1888.

- May 4, 1888 (92/83), Deed from Susan Ellen Delosier to Alice B. Bishop for the sum of \$1650 (no improvements mentioned)
- March 22, 1929 (182/307), Deed from C. Walter Baker, assignee of mortgage to Anne Hoyer Bishop
- July 19, 1929 (183/395), Deed from Anne Hoyer Bishop to Martin V.B. Bostetter, Trustee for the sum of \$10
- July 19, 1929 (183/395), Deed from Martin V.B. Bostetter, Trustee to Gertrude B. and Anne Hoyer Bishop for the sum of \$10
- December 14, 1963 (388/276), Deed from Hertha E. Bishop of Montgomery County to Dennis and Ellen Zeller for the sum of \$10
- May 29, 1963 (393/698), Deed from Dennis and Ellen Zeller to Leon and Mazie Bachtell for the sum of \$10, lots 2 and 3 of Bingham's Addition to Smithsburg

The Bishops were a prominent family in Washington County. Within Smithsburg, as mentioned above, they owned a tremendous amount of land on the south and west sides of the town in the mid-19th century. Today, their contribution is commemorated by the street which delineates the southern edge of the town limits: Bishop Lane. The first of the Bishop family to come to Washington County was Elijah Bishop. A prominent physician, he was born in New England and educated at Yale University, as his father had been. Bishop married Miss Hoyer, a woman from a family who had settled in Maryland during colonial times. Mrs. Elijah Bishop was one of the founding members of St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Smithsburg. She instigated its organization upon the death of her husband, when she could no longer travel to Hagerstown to worship.

Among the Elijah Bishop children was John Hoyer Bishop who received his education at Yale and became a civil engineer. He married Alice Bezor and among their children was Emily Clayton Bishop. Emily, who was born in Smithsburg in 1883, became one of the town's nationally renowned citizens. (According to deed research, the Bishops purchased 66 South Main Street when Emily was approximately five years old.)

Emily was educated first in Washington County's public schools before being sent to St. Mary's Seminary in St. Mary's City, from

8. SIGNIFICANCE

which she graduated in 1890. Upon her graduation, she enrolled in Baltimore's Maryland Art Institute which she attended between 1901 and 1904. During her studies there she also received a teacher's certificate in Art Interpretation and Criticism from Johns Hopkins University (1903). Because of her artistic abilities and high ranking in her class, she was awarded a scholarship to the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts where she studied from 1904 through 1909. She received many esteemed prizes for her work, including the Packard Prize for drawings made from living animals (1904), the McClellan Anatomy Prize (1905), Honorable Mention in the Stephenson Competition (1906, 1907, 1910), and the Composition Prize for Sculpture (1907). Her school career was highlighted by receipt of the Academy's highest award, the Cresson European Scholarship (1907 and 1908), which allowed her to travel to England, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Greece during the summers of 1907, 1908, and 1909. Upon completion of her studies and travel, she opened a studio in Philadelphia.¹ Upon opening her studio, she received both public and private commissions.

Bishop's work, specifically her bronze sculpture was exhibited at the Annual Exhibitions of the Pennsylvania Academy (1907, 1910, 1911, 1912), the Chicago Art Institute, and the National Sculpture Society's Baltimore Exhibition (1907). Following her untimely death in 1912 at the age of 28, the Pennsylvania Academy held a memorial exhibit of 20 of her pieces, some of which were later placed on permanent exhibit at several museums. Her sudden death elicited eulogies from the art critics of the day. Warren Brown, art critic of the Baltimore News wrote, "In her death the American Art world lost a genius of the first order." The Baltimore Evening Sun (December 14, 1914) carried this notice, "Dying when she was only twenty-eight years old, she is one of the very few of whom it may be said, that she 'arrived' before her death, for she at least lived long enough to know the joy of successful achievement and to receive some of the praise that so often does not come during an artist's lifetime." At the time of her death, a memorial tablet that she had recently completed in honor of the director of the Orpheus Club was being installed at the Philadelphia Academy of Music.

¹ Lockett, Margie, H., editor. Maryland Women, Volume 1. Baltimore, Maryland: Margie Lockett, publisher, 1931, p. 31.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.3

Emily Clayton Bishop is buried in the Smithsburg Cemetery. Her grave is inscribed with a poem she wrote:

My trust is this--To call into the city-darkened mind
The scent of wayside blooms--God's gifts in
Fields and wood and his own image in mankind
Too oft forgot--or so o'erlaid it is not recognized.

Suzanne Smith of Keedysville, the granddaughter of one of Bishop's sister, has completed extensive research on her great-great aunt. As a result, in 1983--the centennial of Emily Clayton Bishop's birth--an exhibition of her work was held at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. Many of her plaster studies and original works are on permanent exhibit at the Smithsburg Historical Society.

Significance

A preliminary architectural evaluation of the Bishop House was made in January 1991, during a survey of Smithsburg conducted by Julie Mueller. At that time, the survey site number WA-IV-204 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 Industrial/Urban Dominance, the Historic Period Themes of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning; and Social/Education/Culture).

Upon the suggestion of the Smithsburg Historical Society, the general history of the building and the Bishop family was researched. It was concluded that the building is a good example of mid-19th-century architecture, was the home of an important Smithsburg family, was the childhood home of an important American artist, and meets two of the following eligibility criteria (B and C) for listing on the Maryland Register.

8. SIGNIFICANCE
Page 8.4

Criterion A -- The property is not associated with significant historical events. No evidence was found to indicate that any important events in local, state, or national history took place on the property.

Criterion B -- The property is associated with a significant person. Because of its association with Emily Clayton Bishop, an artist of national repute at the beginning of the 20th century, and for its association with the Bishop family--an important local family--66 South Main Street qualifies for listing on the Maryland Register.

Criterion C -- The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect. Although it would not qualify as an individual landmark under this criterion, 66 South Main Street is a contributing element to the architectural significance of Smithsburg.

Criterion D -- The property may provide important information about history or prehistory. The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. Because it is outside the original town limits on land that was probably under cultivation before the construction of the house, it is likely that if any archeological sites are located in the future, they will yield 19th- and 20th-century remains.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 9.1

1814 Plan of Smithburgh [sic] as traced by Edw. M. Schindel,
January 31, 1936

Keyser, Ephraim. "Baltimore the Monumental City--Why?"
Art and Archeology, Vol. XIX, Nos. 5-6, June 1925, p. 233.

Lockett, Margie, H., editor. Maryland Women, Volume 1.
Baltimore, Maryland: Margie Lockett, publisher, 1931, p. 31.

No Citation. Map of Smithsburg, 1877.

Sanborn Map Company. Maps of Smithsburg, Maryland.
New York, New York: 1916 and 1923.

Smithsburg Historical Society, photographic file

Washington County Deeds and Tax Records

WA-IV-204



Emily Clayton Bishop (WA-IV-204)

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.

Wm. Hitchew, Dealer in Plaster, Coal, Flour, Mill Feed, Cooper Stuffs, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c.

Sabillasville, Frederick county.

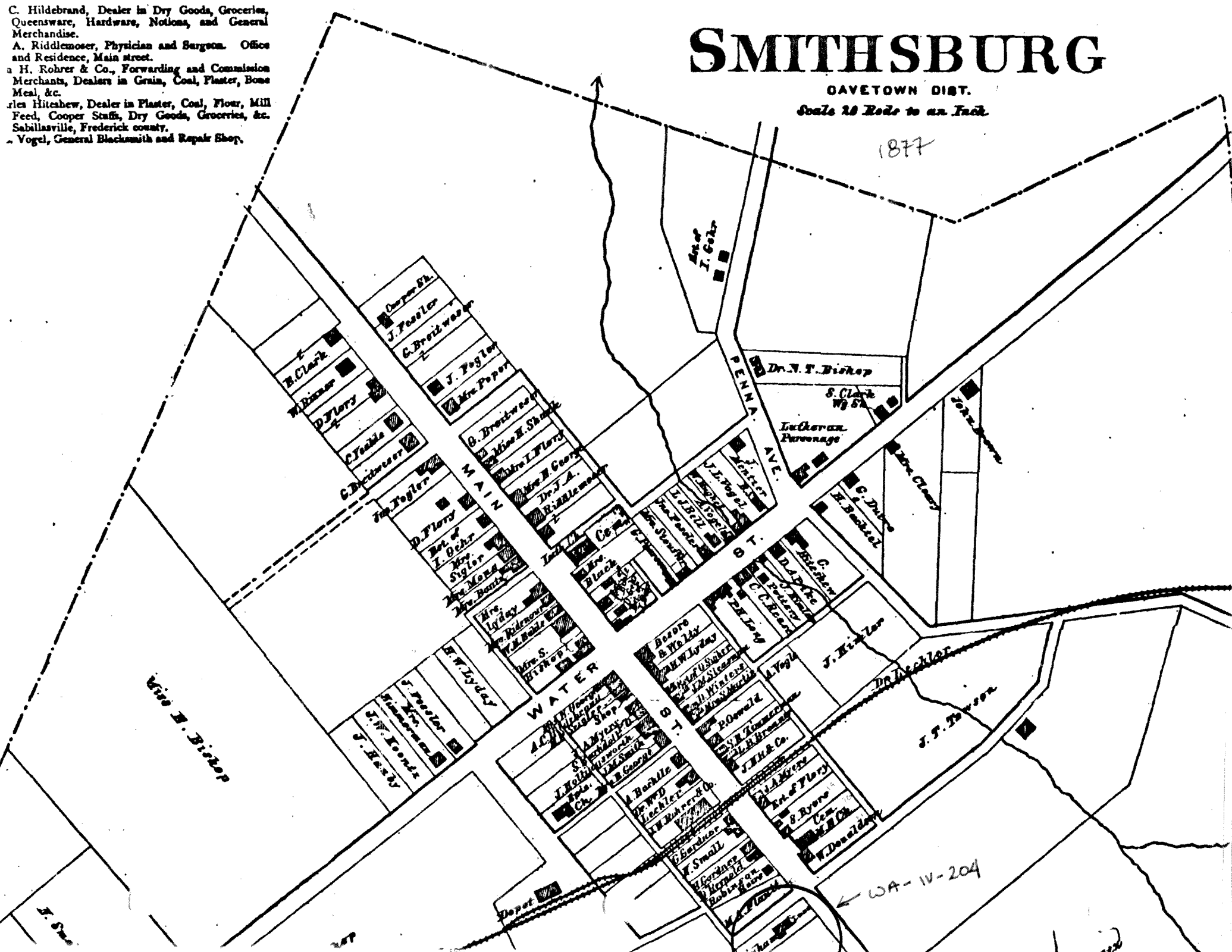
Vogel, General Blacksmith and Repair Shop.

SMITHSBURG

DAVETOWN DIST.

Scale 10 Rods to an Inch

1877

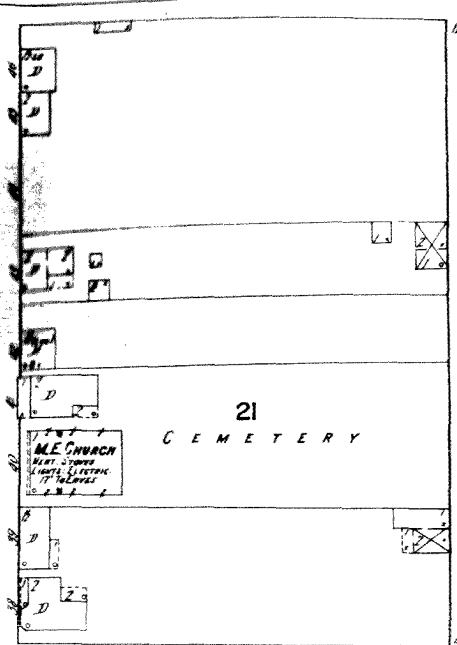
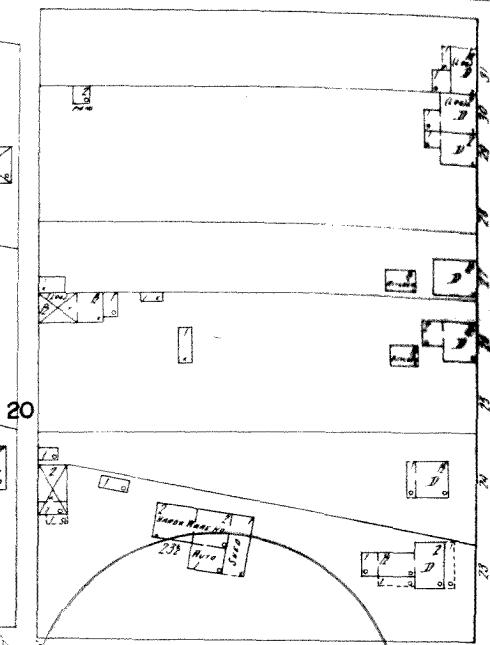
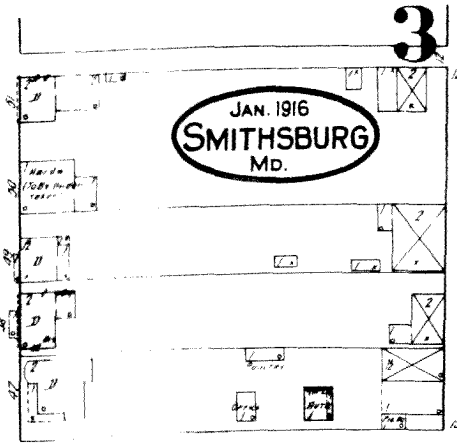
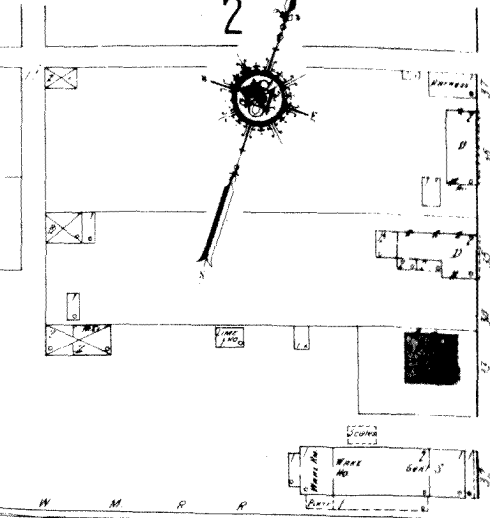


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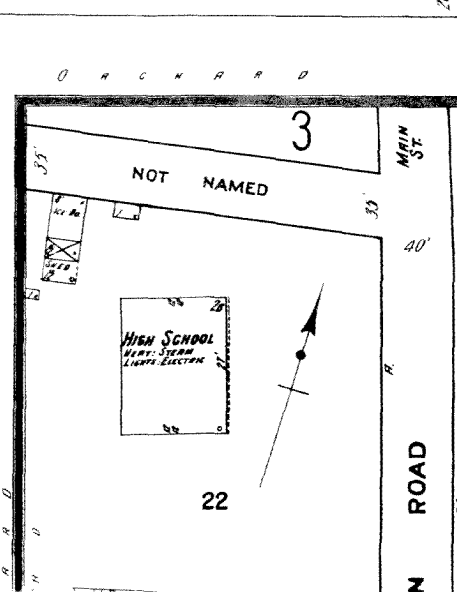
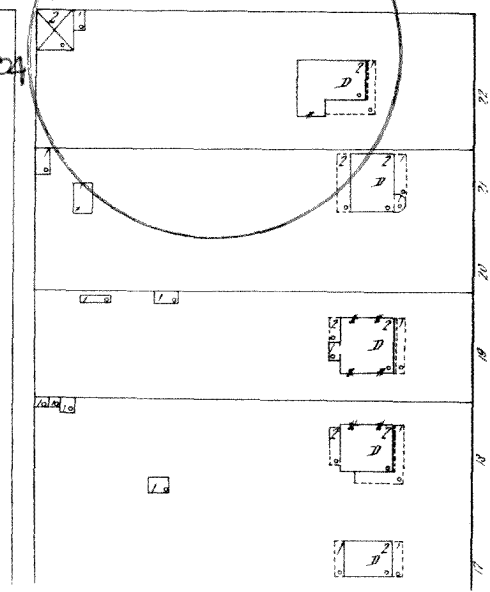
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JAN. 1916
SMITHSBURG
Md.



MAIN

WA IV-204



O R C K A R D

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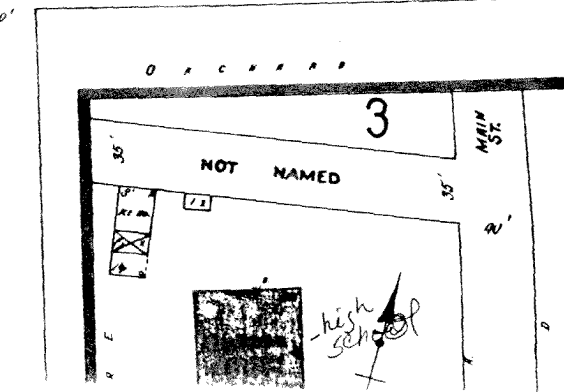
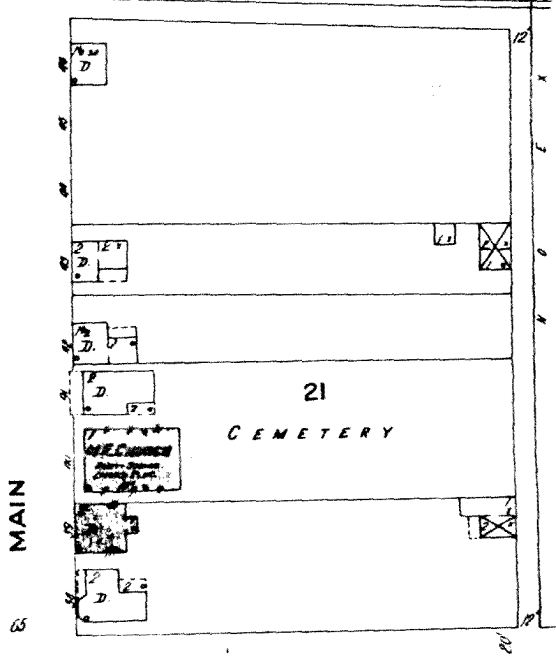
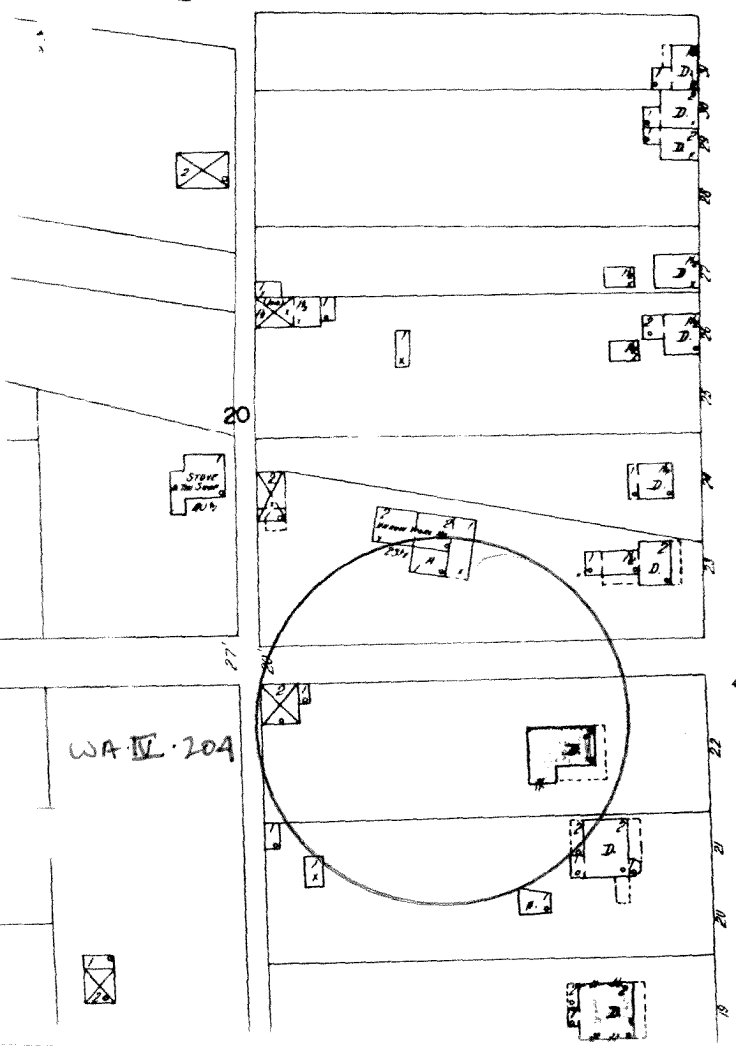
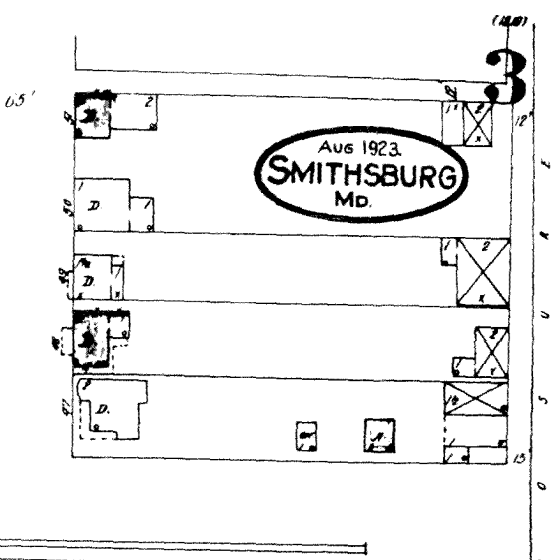
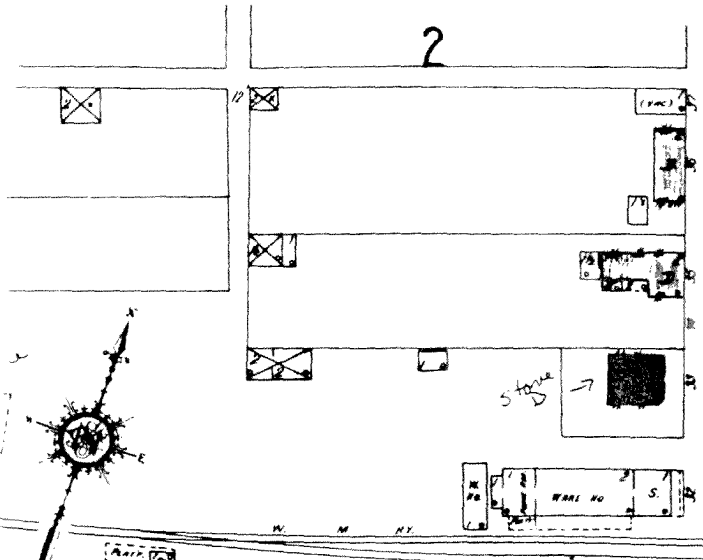
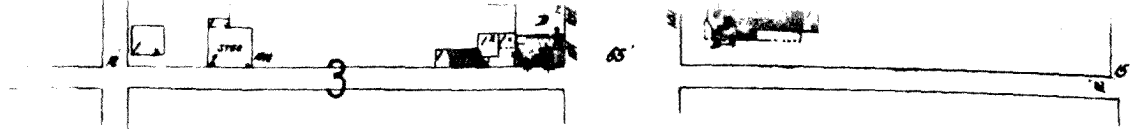
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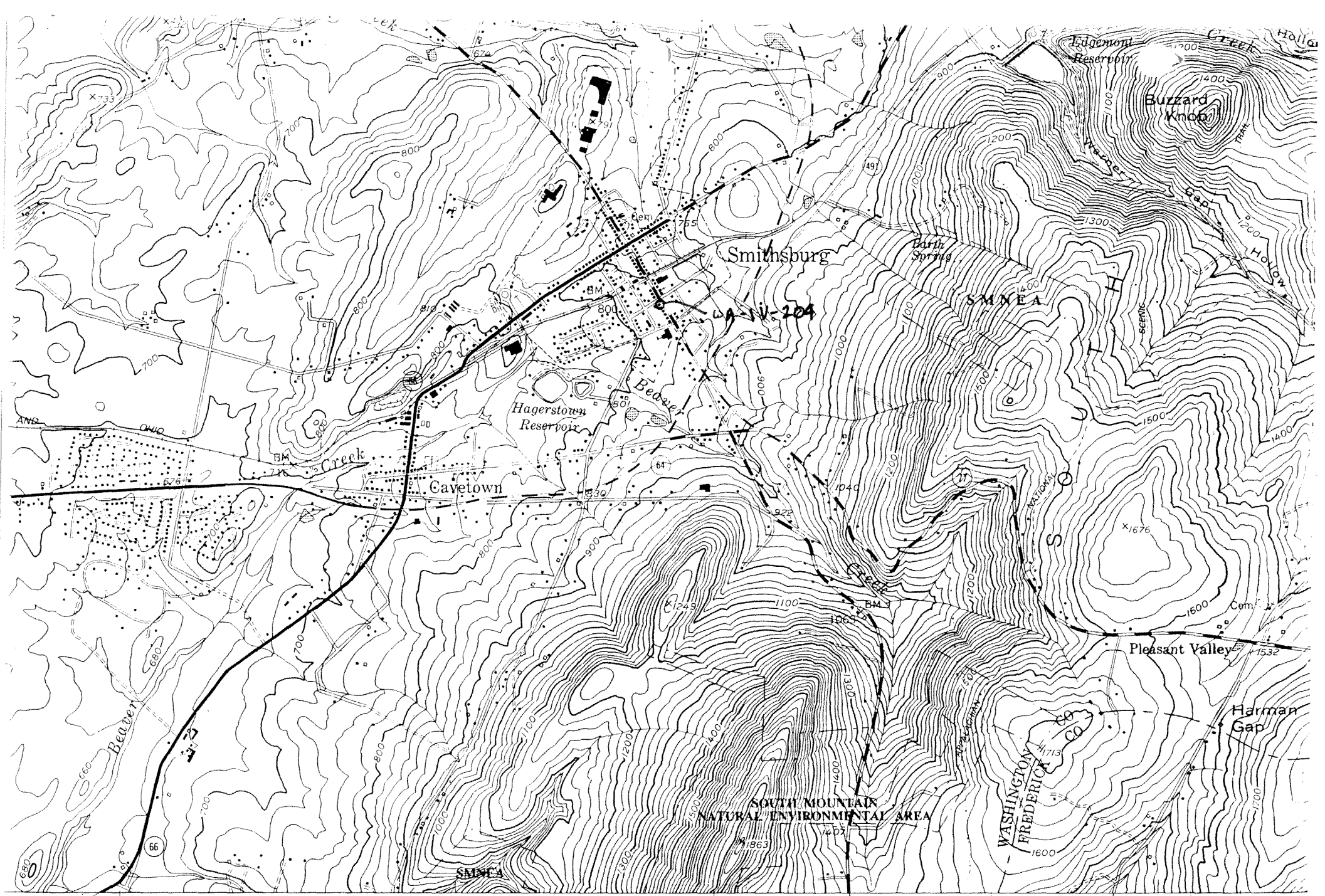
HIGH SCHOOL
WATER-SEWER
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N ROAD

MAIN ST





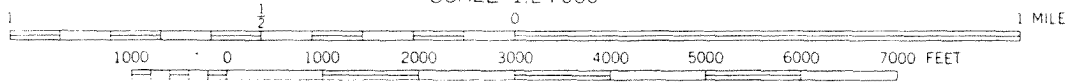
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ological Survey

SCALE 1:24 000

from aerial





WA-10-204

7/1991

J. Mueller

E. elev.



WA-10-204

7/1991

J. Mueller

N. elev.



WA-10-204

J. Mueller

7/1991

N + W elev.



WA-10-204

Fl. 1991

J. Mueller

S + E elev.



WA-10-204

66 South Main, Smithsburg

1/1991

Jolie Mueller

looking w