

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name OLLER, JOSEPH J., HOUSE

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 138 WEST MAIN STREET N/A not for publication

city or town WAYNESBORO N/A vicinity

state PENNSYLVANIA code PA county FRANKLIN code 055 zip code 17268

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brent Glass, Executive Director 05-15-96

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

PA Historical and Museum Commission

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

OLLER, JOSEPH J., HOUSE
Name of Property

FRANKLIN, PA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: CIVIC

EDUCATION: LIBRARY

RECREATION & CULTURE: MUSEUM

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: QUEEN ANNE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD/BRONZE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

THE JOSEPH J. OLLER HOUSE IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF QUEEN ANNE RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE, C. 1890. THE 2½ STORY, 17 ROOM BRICK RESIDENCE WITH A ONE STORY, WOOD FRAME CARRIAGE HOUSE AND A TWO STORY WOOD FRAME BARN AT THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY ARE ALL CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES. THEY RETAIN MUCH OF THEIR ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY AND ARE REMARKABLY WELL-PRESERVED. ONE NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE, A RECONSTRUCTED GAZEBO, IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE NOMINATION BOUNDARY. THE PROPERTY SITS ON LESS THAN ONE ACRE OF GROUND, PLACED BACK SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE WEST MAIN STREET SIDEWALK NEAR A BUSY INTERSECTION ON WAYNESBORO'S PRIMARY THOROUGHFARE.

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The J. J. Oller House is constructed of deep red brick in a running bond pattern with a multi-gabled roof. The main facade has a projecting 2 bay block on the left and a projecting round bay capped by tower and cone with decorative finial on the right. The two projecting attic gables feature carved wood panels reminiscent of the Eastlake style. True to the style penchant for a variety of materials and textures, the Oller House also features rounded wooden shingles on the curved turret and fish scale slate shingles on the conical tower. Additional Queen Anne features are found in the bracketing, dentils along the roof line, asymmetrical floor plan and appearance, and wrap-around porch. A 1995 gazebo built on the location of an earlier demolished gazebo is a non-contributing structure.

The wrap-around porch which began on the main facade continues on the west facade which also features two projecting 3 bay blocks. The east facade contains a two story projecting 4 bay block. The south facade has a screened porch which extends the entire length of the rear with an open porch directly above.

Three large chimneys project from the slate roof. All of the house's windows (with the exception of the center attic gable) are 1/1 double sash windows with segmented brick arches. The windows contain unusually thick (1/4 inch) glass which may have been installed to reduce noise from the street.

The interior of the Oller House is reached through a vestibule which features a window with feathered glass and leads to a broad central foyer. The foyer is dominated by a massive open staircase made of chestnut with chestnut wainscotting which circles up the third floor. A double pocket door in the right wall of the foyer leads to the front parlor. The front parlor has the original chestnut woodwork as does the rest of the house and features a corner tiled fireplace with mirrored mantle and the round bay sitting area. Directly behind the front parlor and reached through another set of chestnut pocket doors is the back parlor. On the south wall is another tiled fireplace with mirrored mantle.

To the east of the back parlor and reached through double pocket doors from either the back parlor or the main foyer is the drawing room. The dining room contains a pass-through china cabinet that opens into the kitchen. The kitchen is situated behind the back parlor and dining room and is reached by a small foyer between the dining room and the kitchen, which contains the servants' back stairs to the second and third floors and a tiled half bath. The large kitchen also retains its original woodwork and contains two butler's pantries. A door from the kitchen leads to tile screened porch on the south facade.

In 1910 the two-story addition was made to the front facade which is the 2 bay block on the left. This contains the vestibule previously mentioned and an office for J.J. Oller. This addition was constructed in the same style with the same materials as the original house of 20 years before. The unique features of the

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office are the tambour door that separates the office from the main foyer and the red glass in the door from the vestibule to the office. With the addition being constructed so closely to the original construction date and with the style being maintained so closely, including woodwork, and with the construction not intruding into the original building, little integrity was lost and the addition does not affect the building's ability to reflect its significance.

The second floor has a large second floor landing and contains five bedrooms and two baths. The bedroom over the front parlor has a corner tiled fireplace with mirrored mantle. All rooms have the original woodwork and wooden floors. Both bathrooms are situated at the rear of the house and the first has delicate floral wall tiling, an oversized footed bathtub and a ceramic foot bath, all original. The second tiled bath has an unusually configured wrap-around shower with multi-level nozzles and is of Italian marble.

On the east side of the second floor a sleeping porch was added between 1910 and 1930. Fresh air and sunshine were the cures during the tuberculosis epidemics and this porch was installed with a stove so it could be used year round. Like the 1910 addition it does not intrude into the original structure and emphasizes a part of the medical history of the country by showing how pervasive the tuberculosis scare was. The fact that it cannot be seen from the main facade and that it does contribute to the understanding of society in the early 1900s, it does not significantly affect the building's ability to reflect its significance.

The third floor contains three bedrooms for the servants and a large room which contains the small tower room. This room was traditionally used as a playroom for the children.

The house has a full basement with limestone walls which form the foundation of the building and has rooms for storage and a kitchen area for canning and food preparation. The basement currently houses the Center for Ceramic Studies which is using the basement of the Oller House to clean and reconstruct pottery from pieces.

To the rear of the property there is a two-story, wood-frame, timber construction barn. The south facade which faces the alley has three large sliding doors and a small door with step-up threshold. The north facade has four bays including a double sliding door. The west facade has two bays including a Dutch door with the east side blank. In the interior the first floor has a small hostler room and the second floor is open and was used for storage of hay and equipment. Originally having a slate roof, this building now has asphalt shingles. This building was erected in 1893 and records show it was rebuilt in 1896.

To the immediate north of the barn is the carriage house, also wood-frame. It

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was constructed around 1910 to house the carriage and later the automobile. The east facade has double sliding doors. It retains its original slate shingles. Both these buildings retain most of their integrity, the only change being the asphalt roof on the barn.

The grounds contain a gazebo, but it has been completely rebuilt and no longer contains any architectural integrity. It is not a contributing structure.

The house retains much of its architectural integrity and is remarkable well-preserved. The Waynesboro Historical Society, which was given the property in 1992, made renovations to the structure with an eye to preserving the house's historical character. Care was taken to insure that alterations which included installation of a new heating system, central air-conditioning, climate control and a rear handicap-access ramp, were completed without compromising the house's historical and architectural integrity. The exterior wood trim of the house was painted four subtle shades of green in keeping with the house's original colors as determined by eyewitness accounts, photographs and paint chips taken during preparation. The only significant change to the exterior of the building in addition to the two additions previously mentioned was the replacement of the house's original turned porch spindles and decorative spandrels with plain porch supports and railings, slightly diminishing the accents which define the house's Victorian character.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1890-1910

Significant Dates

1891-92

1896

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

GOOD, D. F., ARCHITECT

GOOD, A. M. & BROTHERS, BUILDERS

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

WAYNESBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Joseph J. Oller House is significant under Criterion C for architecture as an important example of Queen Anne style architecture in Waynesboro. The multi-gabled roof, projecting bays, projecting round bay capped by tower and cone with decorative finial, the rounded shingles on the curved turret and fish scale slate shingles on the conical tower, the bracketing, dentils, asymmetrical floor plan and appearance, the wrap around porch and the setting all contribute to the Queen Anne styling. The property retains most of its design integrity that conveys these qualities. The period of significance begins in 1890 when the house was designed and ends in 1910 when the last additions to the main structure were built.

The house was built by Joseph J. Oller, a successful capitalist and financier who owned much property in and around Waynesboro. He built the house shortly after his marriage, on land purchased from J. C. Gerbig, sheriff (deed recorded December 8, 1890/Fr. Cty. Db. Bk. 90/144). The house, designed by local architect D. F. Good, was begun in 1891, but its construction was stopped when the contractors, A. M. Good & Brothers, Quincy, PA, stopped working on the house to complete North Street Elementary School, located two blocks away. The house, barn, and carriage house were completed in 1892. In 1896, the barn was rebuilt and in 1910 additions detailed in Section 7 were made to the house. J.J. Oller lived in the house until his death in 1936. His eldest daughter, Rello Oller, maintained the property as a single family home until she moved to a retirement home in 1990 and leased the property to the Waynesboro Historical Society for the sum of \$ 1.00 per year. Upon her death in 1992 the house became the property of the Waynesboro Historical Society.

Architecturally, there was a trend of Late Victorian construction in the Waynesboro community during its "Golden Age" 1870-1930 and the Queen Anne style was part of that trend. The Oller house is an outstanding example of the style for the period. The M.E. Sollenberger house at 204 West Main Street is another example of that period. Built in 1896, it is of brick with a slate multi-level roof and a copper-shingled, rounded tower finished with finial. The Sollenberger House has many of the same features as the Oller House. However, the Oller House is more prominently sited. Other houses that reflect the Victorian style of this period are the William B. Dock House at 201 North Church Street built c. 1890 in the Folk Victorian style with ornate Gingerbread trim, and the Dr. J. A. Kaufman House at 2 East Third Street. The Joseph J. Oller House not only reflects many of the architectural details of these buildings, but its massive size, setting, and prominent location downtown, shows that this was a home of people of importance in the community, the Ollers.

J. J. Oller was born March 2, 1855 and was educated in public and private schools in Waynesboro. At the age of 12 he entered the shops of Geiser, Price & Co., a manufacturer of threshing machines and other agricultural equipment, where he

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served as apprentice for 3 1/2 years. His father, J. F. Oller, was one of the founders of Geiser, Price & Co. After working for more than a year at Frick Company, another Waynesboro business, Oller completed a year's course at Baltimore Commercial College. Upon his return to Waynesboro, he began his career as an assistant bookkeeper of Geiser Company where he eventually advanced to the position of Treasurer and General Manager. Oller was elected to the Board of Directors of Landis Machine Company, a machine tool manufacturer, in 1906 and served as President of Landis Machine Company from January 20, 1910 until his death on September 3, 1936. Oller was also a Director of Peoples' National Bank and the Bank of Waynesboro; he was one of 20 men who started the Chambersburg, Greencastle, Waynesboro Railroad.

In addition to his commercial interests Oller was a devout Christian and active supporter of the Waynesboro Church of the Brethren where he served as treasurer and chairperson of the building committee when the new church was built in 1903. He often offered funds in an effort to seek matching contributions from the congregation. He was particularly interested in the church's mission work and funds from his endowment continue to benefit the existing congregation today. Oller also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Juniata College (a Church of the Brethren Institution) for more than 40 years and was President of the Board of Trustees at his death.

Architecturally, the exuberance of the house's design reflects Oller's prosperity and standing in the community and is reflective of the expansiveness and optimism which characterized industrialists at the end of the 19th century. 19th century industrial town. The size of the house with its large tower and veranda situated above the main thoroughfare of town all speak of the people who resided there. The fact that it retains much of its architectural integrity both externally and internally make it unique. Externally, it conveys much of the sense of the Queen Anne style of the Victorian period with the bays, conical tower, wrap-around porch, multi-gabled roof and shingles, and internally, the unaltered chestnut woodwork, massive staircase and pocket doors. The contributing buildings of barn and carriage house also retain much of their architectural integrity and add to the significance of this property.

Since the property was given to the Waynesboro Historical Society it has been the Society headquarters. The first floor serves as a reception area for Society events and as a center for community events such as lectures and meetings. The second floor houses the genealogical research of the Historical Society and the research library with two reading rooms. The third floor serves as storage for Society artifacts and a children's center in the room that was traditionally the playroom. The basement is temporarily being used by the Center for Ceramic Studies as a laboratory for reconstructing pottery.

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Bibliography

Ankrun, F. Alexander Mack. The Tunker and Descendants, 1943.

Eisenberg, J. L., ed. A History of the Church of the Brethren in the Southern District of Pennsylvania, n.d.

Davis, W. J. Remember When? Waynesboro Historical Society, 1983.
Franklin County Deed Book, 90/140.

OLLER, JOSEPH J., HOUSE
Name of Property

FRANKLIN, PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	278860	4403808
Zone	Easting		Northing
2			

3			
Zone	Easting		Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title MARY B. CAVERLY, PRESIDENT

organization WAYNESBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY date JANUARY 26, 1996

street & number 138 WEST MAIN STREET telephone 717/762-1747

city or town WAYNESBORO state PA zip code 17268

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name WAYNESBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

street & number 138 WEST MAIN STREET telephone 717/762-1747

city or town WAYNESBORO state PA zip code 17268

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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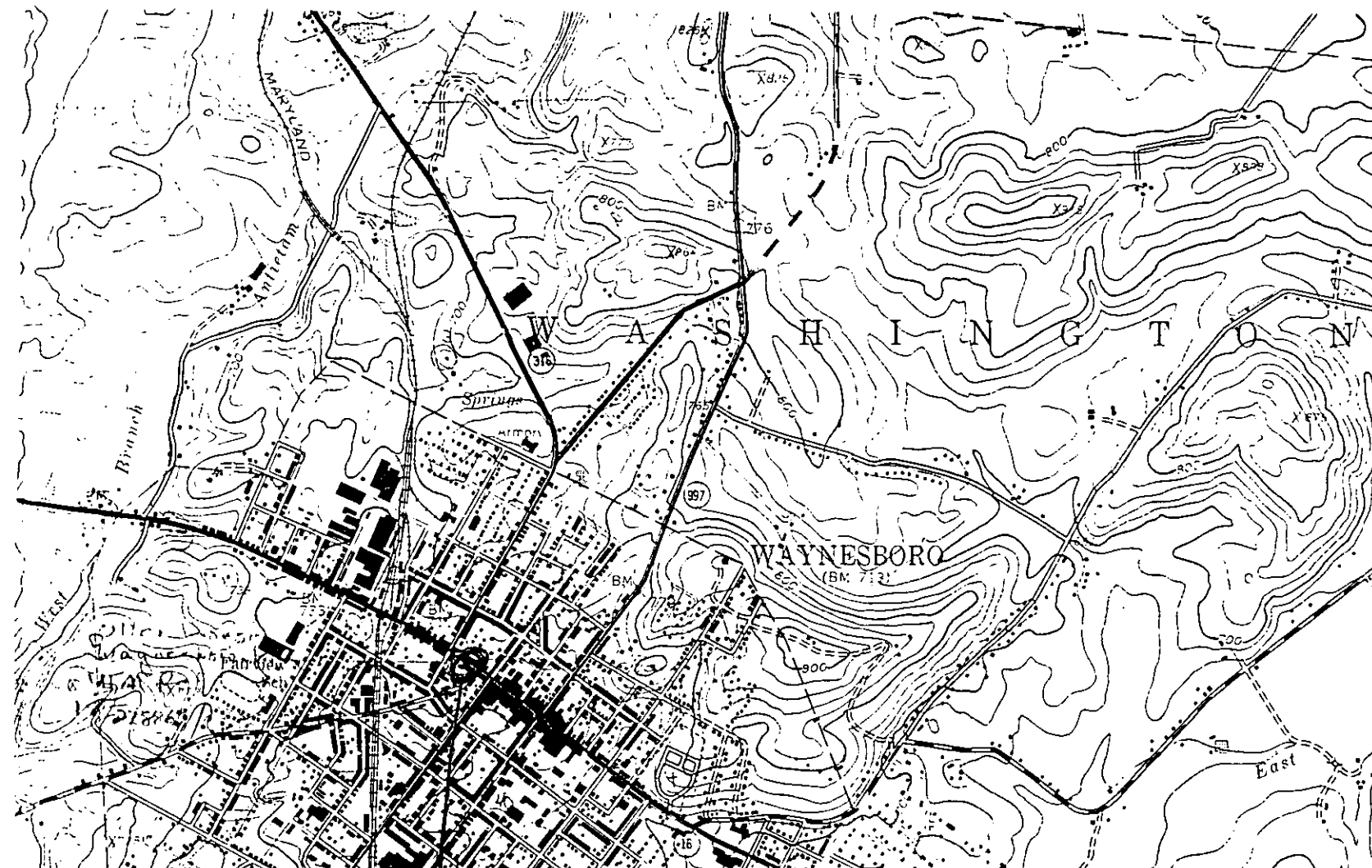
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Verbal boundary description

The nominated property occupies Waynesboro city lot tax parcel #5C6-27 and is 56 feet by 275.5 feet in size.

Boundary justification

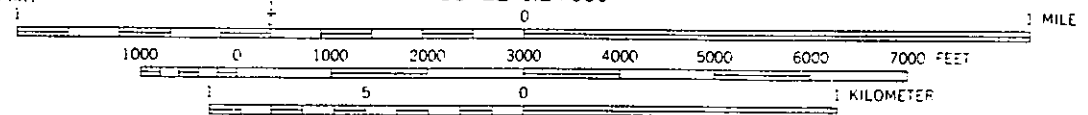
The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.



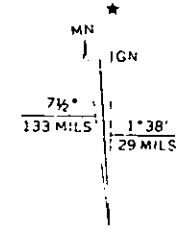
0.52 MI. LEITERSBURG 4.6 MI. (316) HAGERSTOWN 12 MI. (997) 35 279 WAYNE HEIGHTS 1 MI. (SMITHSBURG) 5463 11 NE 781 782 32'30"

RINGGOLD 3.1 MI. SMITHSBURG 7.3 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



*Older House
Waynesboro
127 on Ringgold*

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

18/27886/4403508
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST