

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

WA-II-108
District 1

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Showman Farm			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: East of Mills Road, about 1/2 mile south of Burnside Bridge Road			
CITY OR TOWN: southeast of Sharpsburg			
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington	
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Harry W. Wolfe			
STREET AND NUMBER: 251 West Patrick Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Frederick		STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 563/142			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey #1034			
DATE OF SURVEY: summer, 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located on the east side of Mills Road, about 1/2 mile south of Burnside Bridge Road and about two miles southeast of Sharpsburg in Washington County, Md. It is situated on rather level ground just south of Sharman's Run and faces west.

The structure is a two-story, five-bay stone dwelling with white trim. A five-bay, two-story el or wing extends to the rear.

The walls are constructed of roughly coursed local fieldstone which shows no decorative work at the openings. Three distinct types of masonry are evident in the exterior walls with marked differentiation of construction units apparent at the joints between the main or front section and the el and between the first and second stories of the el. A one-story high vertical seam between the two east bays on the south elevation of the el suggests either an addition to the wall or the alteration of windows or doors.

Windows are spaced evenly in the front and rear elevations of the front section. No openings are present in the end walls except at the attic and cellar levels. Nine-over-six light double-hung sashes are held within narrow frames with mitered corners and finished with a beaded edge. Most of the sills have been replaced.

At the el, the windows are placed at random. All of the early windows hold six-over-six light sashes. Those at the first story level have wide wooden frames which display pegged joining. They are finished with a bead at the inside edge. Second story windows at the el have narrower framing similar to those present in the front or main section. A larger modern window has been added at the first story.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation. The entranceway is very simple in appearance and is framed similarly to the windows with a narrow four-light transom over the door. Other entrances are present in the north wall of the el.

A one-story entrance porch with a pedimented roof is present at the front door. The relatively modern structure is supported by pairs of square pillars. A double porch which extends along the north elevation of the el has been enclosed with wooden siding.

The roof of both sections of the house is covered with sheet metal. It terminates at the end walls with a beaded barge board set against the wall. At the front elevation, the eaves are finished with simple boxing under which is a band of cove molding. The molding is omitted at other elevations. Brick chimneys rise from inside each gable end of the main section and from the center of the el.

At the south end of the west elevation of the house, the initials "G + M" have been carved in the stone.

The interior of the front section of the house has two rooms at each story divided by a central hall. The main stair faces the rear of the house. Doors have six panels which are not raised. Much of the woodwork in the front section shows old graining work.

The interior of the rear section is divided by a north/south fireplace wall into which is framed a winding stairway. The first story of the rear section has received modern alterations.

The rafters are pegged throughout.

The house is in fair to good condition with restoration being undertaken by the present owners. The property contains 203.71 acres.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry (Antietam Iron Works) <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
|---|---|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of significance of this house is its architecture. It is also important for its association with the Antietam Iron Works property a tract of several thousand acres which included the Showman farm.

Architecturally, the house is an example of the early vernacular construction in stone typical of Western Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania. From observation of the exterior of the structure at least three periods of building seem to be evidenced. The earliest portion of the structure would appear to be the first story of the el. Various construction details employed in the main section suggest a circa 1840 building date.

The meaning of the initials G + M on the front wall remain a mystery although they may be associated with George and Michael Showman, brothers who lived during the first half of the 19th century.

The land on which the house stands was part of a large tract held by the Antietam Iron Works. The furnace and forge were located near the mouth of the Antietam Creek, about a mile south of this house. Additional information on Antietam Iron Works may be found in form WA-II-031.

The land was transferred from the owners of Antietam Iron Works to David Showman in 1842. It remained in the Showman (also spelled "Sharman" and "Sherman") name until 1933.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1859 Map of Washington County.
E. E. Piper, Map of Antietam Works, 1833 (copy of a 1853 map by S. S. Downin).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NDMINATED PROPERTY: 203.71 acres

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND CDUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE DR CDUNTY BDUNDARIES

STATE:	CDUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Washington County Historical Sites Survey DATE: August, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House Annex

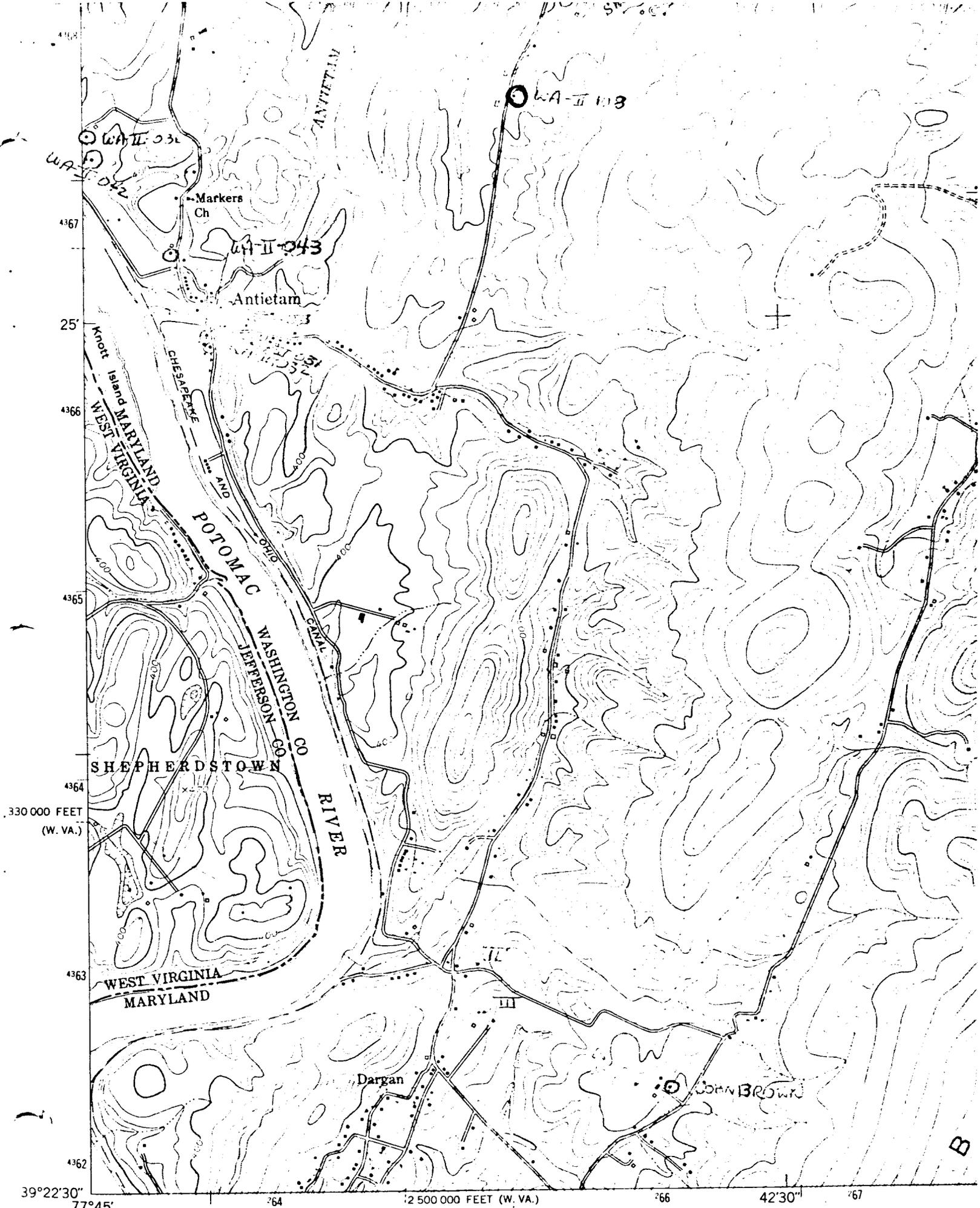
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Mapped by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Keedysville, Md. - W. Va.

TOWN

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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