Survey # WA-III-025
Rohrersville
private _x_ public _x_

Rohrersville is a village located in southern Washington County, eighteen miles southeast of residential Hagerstown, the county seat. Surrounded by rolling farmland, the village is nestled in the fertile plain of Pleasant Valley between Elk Ridge and South Mountain. Extending from both the northern and southern points of the village's Main Street is Route 67 which was built to by-pass Rohrersville and leads to the former National Turnpike Toll Road to the north and the Shenandoah River to the south. Principally residential in character, Rohrersville's public buildings and sites include churches, a post office, a band hall, mill ruins with a cooper's building, a former school, and a cemetery. The Rohrersville district contains 42 contributing buildings and sites. The village portrays the architecture and development of an early 19th to early 20th century rural trading center in southern Washington County.

Rohrersville was settled in the 1820s and initially developed in response to Washington County's strong agricultural economy, its location along an early wagon road and major transportation route, and a marble works industry. Mid-19th century development was influenced by the arrival of the railroad. By 1920 much of the extant village had been erected. Aside from the loss of its commercial character and limited alterations to its building stock, Rohrersville retains its mid-19th to early 20th century architecture that portray the cultural and historical trends of the time. Rohrersville is significant as an excellent example of a rural historic village in Washington County reflective of the prosperity of the surrounding agricultural region which supported it.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WA-III-025

Magi No.

DOE ___ yes ___ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Rohrersville

2. Location

street & number Along Main Street and Rohrersville School Road ___ not for publication

city, town Rohrersville ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

3. Classification

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

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

name Multiple ownership

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 95 West Washington Street Folio

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Washington County Historic Sites Survey

date 1973-1978 ___ federal _x_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. WA-III-025

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	__ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Resource Count = 68

Rohrersville is a village located in southern Washington County, eighteen miles southeast of Hagerstown, the county seat. Surrounded by rolling farmland, the village is nestled in the fertile plain of Pleasant Valley between Elk Ridge and South Mountain. Extending from both the northern and southern points of the village's Main Street is Route 67 which was built to by-pass Rohrersville and leads to the former National TumpikeToll Road to the north and the Shenandoah River to the south. Principally residential in character, Rohrersville's public buildings and sites include churches, a post office, a band hall, mill ruins with a cooper's building, a former school, and a cemetery. The Rohrersville district contains 42 contributing buildings and sites. The village portrays the architecture and development of an early 19th to early 20th century rural trading center in southern Washington County.

The villages of Washington County grew to service surrounding farms to meet their marketing and daily needs, and generally evolved as either crossroads or linear plans. Reasons for development included locations along a major transportation route or near a grist mill or tavern. Rohrersville is the largest village in the Rohrersville District, however it is smaller than some of the other villages in the county such as Keedysville and Maugansville. It developed as a linear plan adjacent to a grist mill. Rohrersville is rather unique in the county in its size and establishment of a number of cultural institutions without being located along a major transportation route.

The present town plan is composed of Main Street, and a short cross street, Rohrersville School Road. Main Street curves gently through the community on a slight slope that rises north to south. The Antietam Creek flows east of, and passes through the district at its northern end where a concrete bridge crosses Main Street. The majority of the lots are generally long and narrow. Some properties have, in addition to a house, one or more support structures. Most of these are of frame construction and are small barns and garages. Buildings have small side yards and are set back a few feet from the public right-of-way. Building placement generally is spaced farther apart on the north and south ends of Main Street with a tighter cluster of buildings in-between. Flanked by human-scale architecture, the street has a pedestrian environment.

Trees are a common feature of the village with some trees lining the street and others located on the lots. Sidewalks traverse most of the district, particularly in the central portion along Main Street and some properties contain stone retaining walls. The Rohrersville Ruritan Club maintains a park with picnic grounds along the north side of Rohrersville School Road, opposite the school. The district is basically surrounded by farm land on all four sides with some mid- to late twentieth century residential buildings to the south. These buildings are located on larger lots than those in the village. Despite the addition of the new Route 67 in the 1960s the surrounding environment retains the historic rolling farmland appearance.

The overall appearance of the village was formed in the early 19th to the early 20th century. The character of the town is a mixture of residential and institutional. Buildings of different time periods are interspersed throughout the village, with the exception of a group of turn-of-the-century buildings south of Rohrersville School Road, and it appears that properties may have been subdivided over time to create this mix. A significant portion of the buildings are three or four bay-wide vernacular brick or frame houses. Other types of dwellings include Gothic Revival, Second Empire, and two American Foursquares. Only three one-story dwellings exist from the post 1950 period. There are no commercial buildings. The principal industry was the grist mill which is in ruins, however a cooper's shop associated with the site and the Miller's house exist. Rohrersville's cultural and social character is seen in three churches dating from the late 19th century, an early 20th century school, and the 1916 band hall which also served as the town hall.

Rohrersville development began in the early 19th century and grew up around its grist mill, later known as Barkman's Mill. Varle's 1808 map shows two grist mills in the approximate location of Rohrersville, one of which may be Barkman's Mill and the other located about a mile away from the village. Continuing into the mid-19th century, maps from 1859 and 1877 indicate that close to three-quarters of the village existed. Buildings appear from the mill at the north end of town, up the west side of Main Street to include three of the existing buildings at the intersection of School House Road, thence traveling south on the east side of the street to include seven buildings. A side street known as Pig Alley contained four dwellings, of which only one remains today, and a school at the south end of town which no longer exists.

Rohrersville's first phase of building is represented in its buildings constructed between 1810 and 1870. It is estimated that 16 buildings and the mill (WA-III-139), were built during this time, with the mill being the oldest. These buildings illustrate what is known as a vernacular, or traditional, style of building that is common to a region. Of these buildings at least eleven are of log construction (WA-III-126, 128, 130, 141, 143, 150, 151, 152, 156, 157, and 164). Most houses are frame or brick, three- or four-bays wide, side gabled, with 2/2 light sash, some with additions and rear shed extensions. Porches have simple design elements including round columns and straight railings that signify the period before mechanization made elaborate detailing available. One of the village's three churches (WA-III-125) and the cemetery (WA-III-124) existed.

Rohrersville's second phase of building in the later 19th century include the traditional style as well as the popular styles of the Victorian period. Victorian buildings are represented by one Second Empire (WA-III-163) and five Gothic Revival (WA-III-132, 140, 146, 160, 162) dwellings. Building characteristics of the Victorian period include decorative features that became popular after the advent of the railroad and industrialization made mass production of design elements available to a wide market. Porches on Rohrersville's Gothic Revival houses generally feature Victorian influenced characteristics in their turned columns, fancy posts, and gingerbread brackets. Late 19th century public buildings include three Gothic Revival style churches. All of the dwellings in the village, regardless of age, have front porches (only one has been enclosed) or built-in two-story porches. Besides dwellings, two churches were added (WA-III-131 and 144), one on each side of Main Street, and the extant Colonial Revival school (WA-III-124) was built at the west end of School House Road in 1919.

Rohrersville's last phase of building in the early 20th century is represented by two American Foursquares, examples of a type that was popular from 1910-1930 (WA-III-138 and 152). Early 20th century public buildings include the 1916 vernacular band hall (WA-II-129) and the 1919 Colonial Revival school (WA-III-166). Only three contemporary mid- to late-20th century one-story dwellings have been constructed within the district.

Rohrersville no longer has some buildings associated with its historic commercial activities including blacksmith shops, a wagon maker shop, and the marble works which was demolished for construction of the band hall. The former stone millhouse is in ruins, however the cooper's shop and the Miller's House associated with the mill remain. Two buildings that housed stores (a millinery and a general store) and residences have been converted to all residential.

Alterations to the dwellings over time generally include rear additions and a relatively small number of modern surface treatments of aluminum and vinyl siding and 1940s asbestos shingles. Changes to public buildings vary, but are generally limited. The two-story frame post office has been altered over time with an enclosed porch and vinyl siding. An earlier post office was at one time part of one of the

stores that has been converted to a residence. Architectural elements of the band hall have been covered over, but remain intact. Rohrersville School, built in 1919, appears to be relatively unaltered on the exterior. Two of the churches have replaced their steeples, the St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church may have modified its tower, and an addition was added to the rear of the United Brethren Church at the comer of Main Street and Rohrersville School Road; however their integrity remains intact.

The overall character of Rohrersville is conservative and traditional in keeping with the rural character of its surroundings. Due to limited demolition and alterations, the entire spectrum of Rohrersville's architectural past can be viewed. Despite the loss of its commercial support activity, Rohrersville retains a cohesive and intact village atmosphere. The Rohrersville District with its residential and public buildings, winding tree-lined rural road, and stone walls retains the character and feeling of a rural historic village that grew from the early 19th to the early 20th century.

8. Significance

Survey No. WA-III-025

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

Specific dates N/A **Builder/Architect** Various unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: x A B x C D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state x local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SUMMARY

Located in southern Washington County, Maryland, Rohrersville was settled in the 1820s and initially developed in response to Washington County's strong agricultural economy, its location along an early wagon road and major transportation route, and a marble works industry. The village's mid-19th century development was influenced by the arrival of the railroad in 1867. By 1920 much of the extant village had been erected. Aside from the loss of its commercial character and limited alterations to its building stock, Rohrersville retains its mid-19th to early 20th century architecture that portray the cultural and historical trends of the time. Rohrersville is significant as an excellent example of a rural historic village in Washington County reflective of the prosperity of the surrounding agricultural region and the marble industry that supported it, and the 18th and 19th century transportation systems that made the community viable.

COUNTY BACKGROUND

Washington County was formed as a political entity in 1776 when it was divided from Frederick County. It received its present western boundary in 1789 when Allegany County was formed. The county experienced initial settlement from the 1730s with the first white settlers being hunters and fur traders. However, by the 1760s, the broad limestone valley which spanned much of Washington County came to be highly regarded for its fertile, productive soil. By the mid-18th century a few communities such as Hagerstown, the future county seat, were well-established. The county's 1790 population of 15,800 increased to 18,659 by 1800. Despite the increase in the number of people in Washington County, much of the land remained in large uncultivated tracts, as the majority of the population was centered in towns. Besides Hagerstown, Varle's 1808 map identifies the towns of Boon's Borough (Boonsboro), Sharpsburg, Williamsport, and Hancock within Washington County. None of the county's present day villages appear on the map.

Settlement patterns outside the towns were mainly isolated farmsteads as Pennsylvania Germans and Scotch-Irish immigrated south along the valleys of the Allegany Mountains and established farms and villages[1]. The lower Cumberland Valley became renowned as a grain growing region with emphasis on small grains including wheat, oats, rye and barley. Washington County produced significant quantities of grain resulting in a demand to establish many grist and flour mills along the county's creeks. For example, fifteen grist mills operated along the Antietam Creek in the 18th century alone. By 1870, Washington County had the highest yield of wheat in bushels per acre in Maryland[2].

As the county's population increased in the early 1800s, transportation networks spread to the west as the farm markets played a crucial role in supporting rapidly growing urban centers. Road, railroad, and canal networks

[1] Worden, Amy. "Washington County Historic Site Survey," on file with the Maryland Historical Trust, 1983, p. 1.
[2] Reed, Paula S. "Keedysville Survey Report." Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, Maryland, 1993, p. 4.

As the county's population increased in the early 1800s, transportation networks spread to the west as the farm markets played a crucial role in supporting rapidly growing urban centers. Road, railroad, and canal networks provided market access from Baltimore westward beyond the Ohio River and south to Georgetown. Grain products from Washington County were shipped by wagon to Baltimore and Philadelphia, or floated down the Potomac River to Georgetown.

As a result of the combination of transportation networks, the farming skills of the immigrants, and the availability of rich farm land, towns and villages began to emerge to service the farming community.

> "Many of Washington County's towns and villages were established during this period as commercial centers along major transportation routes. Villages grew up around taverns or mills as small trading centers to service surrounding farms. These commercial centers normally continued in this role through the late 19th century with little change. Where a change occurred, it was usually brought about by changes in transportation, especially those caused by the development of the railroad".[3]

The rich grain resources of the county were, in part, the impetus for construction of two of the nation's earliest railroads, the Baltimore & Ohio extending west from Baltimore and the Franklin (later the Cumberland Valley Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad) extending south from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Cumberland Valley served as a bread basket until after the Civil War when grain production shifted to the midwest; grain production in the valley gradually gave way to dairy farming and orcharding. Today the rich farmland is disappearing beneath housing and industrial developments as a highly developed interstate highway system, the legacy of the 18th and 19th century transportation system, puts the valley within commuting distance of the metropolitan areas.

RESOURCE HISTORY

Settlement and early growth, 1810-1860

Pleasant Valley, home to Rohrersville, is located on the south end of the county and borders Frederick County. The valley was settled by ancestors of many of the principal families which still live in it, the Botelers, Clagetts, Grimms, Browns, and Rohrers. According to Varle's 1808 map, the valley had a church, a saw mill, and three grist and merchant mills. Reportedly the first settlers in the valley cleared the forest and planted tobacco. Rohrersville was the principal village of Rohrersville District No. 8 and much of Rohrersville was formed from a tract of land containing 1,550 acres called "Park Hall" that was granted to a William Parks in 1732. A resurvey of Park's Hall by Andrew Grim comprising 510 acres occurred in 1766.[4] Reference is made to Park Hall in the land records of some of the parcels in the village.

Frederick Rohrer was a French emigrant who settled in what would become Washington County in 1766 on a farm near the present day Rohrersville. Frederick Rohrer was the progenitor of the Rohrer family which founded Rohrersville, and for which the district of Rohrersville was named.[5] A mill later known as the Rohrersville mill was in use before 1783.[6] Given the mill's name it may have been built by Frederick Rohrer. An 1806 deed conveys a mill named "Rohrers Mill" to Frederick Rohrer (Liber S, Folio 560). Varle's 1808 map shows two grist mills in or near what appears to be the area that would become Rohrersville and a saw mill just to the west.

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[3] Worden, p. 6.
[4] Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Vol. II. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882, p. 985.
[5] Williams, Thomas, J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906, p. 963.
[6] Frye, Susan Winter. "Evolution of Mill Settlement Patterns in the Antietam Drainage, Washington County, Maryland." Thesis, College of William and Mary,1984, p. 93.

Frederick Rohrer had nine children, some of whom settled in Rohrersville. On August 20, 1816, Frederick Rohrer sold 76 and one-fourth acres of a tract of the Park Hall land to his son David. Under the deed, David was to let Samuel Rohrer, his brother, have full liberty and privilege on the part of Park Hall containing a dam made for the use and benefit of the grist mill erected on Samuel Rohrer's land. David was to let the water run through to the mill without any hindrance; otherwise David had the privilege to shut the floodgate belonging to the mill for use of saving water when the saw mill was in use (Liber BB, Folio 774). Seven days later, Frederick Rohrer sold to his son Samuel Rohrer, 78 and one/fourth acres and "the use of the race and water that runs from the Dam on David Rohrer's land to the mill" for $5,045 (Liber BB, Folio 463). It is unknown whether the mill referred to in the deeds was for the late 18th century Rohrersville Mill or for an early 19th century mill later become known as Barkman's Mill.

By 1836, the town was called Rohrersville after David Rohrer who lived in a two-story brick home 400 yards east of the village. Today this home is visible from Route 67 which runs parallel to Rohrersville's Main Street. David Rohrer's brother-in-law, George Kefaufer, reportedly built the first house in the village. A genealogical work, notes that George Kefaufer's wife, Mary Ann Rohrer, was left part of Park Hall in her father's will.[7]

Besides milling and agriculture, another industry that existed in the area was marble quarrying. Marble was discovered north of Rohrersville near the current junction of Marble Quarry Road and Route 67. This quarry most likely furnished the marble for a marble works in Rohrersville and was a source of employment for its residents.[8]

Taggert's 1859 map emphasizes the importance Rohrersville had achieved as a farm trading center in Pleasant Valley. The road running south from Rohrersville down the valley is referred to as the "Road from Rohrersville to Weverton". The road traveling north from Rohrersville, west across the top of the Summit of Elk, and then south outside the valley is referred to as the "Road from Rohrersville to Harpersferry." Large land holdings surround the village and include names such as Rohrer, Thomas, Mullendore, Clopper, and Beeler. Common names in the future village are of course, Rohrer, as well as Mullendore, a prosperous farming family, and the Beelers who would at one time own the grist mill in the village.

Besides serving as a farm trading center, Rohrersville became a vibrant community with social, educational, and cultural interests and needs. In 1837, a brass band was started by the village's marble quarry owner Washington McCoy, and was originally known as McCoy's Band. Apparently community bands at this time were gaining momentum as a popular cultural attraction in the country:

> "The brass band movement in America began in the early 1830s among people who could find little else in the way of entertainment that wasn't immoral. That musicianship claimed a whiff of culture gave it added attractiveness. Rohrersville's band was similar to other groups that sprang up in every community, and it provided music at fairs, parades, church picnics, and rallies".[9]

In 1850 a new school replaced the original school that was located south of Rohrersville. The new school was located in the village at the south end of "Pig Alley" (origin of name unknown), a small pedestrian thoroughfare extending from Main Street by the post office to the present day Ruritan Park. The first church in the village was constructed of logs in 1842 on one acre of land bought from David Rohrer and was located where the cemetery now exists.

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[7] Neal, Wickliffe B. The Rohrer Families: A Genealogical Work. Arlington, Kentucky, 1991, p. 275.
[8] Woodring, Frank. "Mother Leaves Priceless Legacy." Cracker Barrel, Feb./March, 1994, p. 22.
[9] Kemp, Sherry. "Rohrersville Band Defies History to Contribute 156 Years of Musical Enjoyment." Maryland Cracker Barrel, December/January, 1993, p. 18.

No information was forthcoming regarding Rohrersville's role in the upcoming Civil War with the exception of a letter dated February 8, 1863. The writers stated that they "heard" that churches and homes in Rohrersville were full of wounded from the Battle of Antietam.[10] Other battles in Pleasant Valley that may have affected Rohrersville in September 1862 were the battle of South Mountain and the battle of Crampton's Gap.[11]

The Railroad and subsequent growth, 1860-1900

The 1860 census for the Pleasant Valley District showed the major occupations as farmers, day laborers, and farm hand, along with other occupations such as magistrate, blacksmith, wagon maker, carpenter, physician, and druggist. These occupations signified that the area existed as primarily rural with scattered villages that provided professional and service support to the surrounding agricultural area. The farmers in the valley as well as Western Maryland faced difficult times following the Civil War, as Midwestern producers worked relatively larger fields that yielded heavy corn and wheat crops. This resulted in driving prices down and making it useless to farm marginal land. Farm laborers migrated west as they followed farming jobs. Relief to the labor shortage came during the age of mechanization when new agricultural implements became available in Hagerstown and Baltimore.[12]

Access to a broader market for farmers became an issue in the mid-19th century. As early as 1857, a movement began for the construction of a railroad running through Pleasant Valley that would provide transportation for a large and fertile section of the county which at that time had no access to the markets except by wagon and mostly over extremely bad roads. In 1865, three of the county commissioners, one of whom was Elias E. Rohrer, met with the Baltimore and Ohio Company to discuss this situation. Eventually the company subscribed for stock in the amount of $750,000 with more funds forthcoming from Washington County and individuals. In November 1867, the last rail was laid and the trains began running from the valley to Hagerstown, the county seat where four rail companies eventually merged providing access to a wide market place.[13] The legacy of the branch line is a series of stations, warehouses and small businesses along its path. The 1877 Atlas showed depots located at Trego just west of Rohrersville, Clagett Station, Brownsville and Barthalow Station at the southern tip of the district. Train service on this line continued until 1953. The 1870 census reflected the new jobs the railroad brought to the valley with listings of railroad laborer, repairman, and foreman added to those of farming related occupations.

It appears that as a result of the railroad, Rohrersville prospered. The 1877 Atlas indicates that Rohrersville was the major village in the Rohrersville District and consisted of a grist mill, marbleworks, cemetery, school, store, and approximately twenty residences. Comparatively, the next largest village, Brownsville, contained two stores, nine residences, a tannery, post office, church and cemetery. Occupations in Rohrersville included farmers, teachers, merchants, carpenters, and a railroad conductor. The population in 1887 in the Rohrersville District was 1,304, including Rohrersville which contained 106 inhabitants. By comparison Brownsville had 68 inhabitants.

Farming strengthened again in the 1880s in the Pleasant Valley area following the discovery that fruit, first peaches and then apples, grew well along the mountain sides. Land formerly thought to be useless became

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[10] Woodring, Frank. "Civil War Footsteps: Rohrersville Churches, Homes House Wounded From Antietam According to 1863 Letter." Maryland Cracker Barrel., October/November 1995, p. 10.
[11] Williams, p. 330.
[12] Brugger, Robert J. Maryland: A Middle Temperament. Johns Hopkins University Press, Maryland Historical Society Press, n.d, p. 328-329.
[13] Williams, p. 401.

valuable and commanded high prices. With the railroad traveling through the valley and the use of refrigerator cars it was possible to distribute the products of Washington County orchards over a large part of the country.[14] The advent of fruit and vegetable canning profited the valley and Western Maryland growers in general who increased their apple and peach acreage during this time. Products grown on the 100 and 200 acre farms in the valley were shipped to markets in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The agricultural prosperity apparently fostered enough development in Rohrersville to support three churches and a new school. In 1871, the former United Brethren Church moved its congregation to a new building on the corner of the "public square" on one acre purchased from David Rohrer. This church is now known as the Bethel United Methodist Church. In 1882 and 1883, there was trouble in this church regarding secret societies. Two divisions were formed known as the Liberals and the Radicals. The Radicals broke away from the church and built the Central United Brethren Church on Main Street in 1888. St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, organized in June 1879, stands on the ground where the first building was erected in this village.[15] The new four-room school was built in 1880 near the site of the extant school on farm land that the Mullendores sold to the Board of Education.

Quiet years, 1900-1930

While in the midst of the industrial era that created growth in the county's large towns, Rohrersville experienced a period of relative tranquillity accompanied by limited growth. The 1912 USGS map shows an increased number of buildings, particularly on the east side of Main Street. The population in 1920 was 150 people and this number would increase only slightly in the town's future years.[16] Rohrersville's community remained composed mainly of farmers and railroad workers. By 1930, as in previous years, no new roads had been built.[17]

Rohrersville had numerous general stores and one store operated a millinery shop in the same building. Apparently a second marble shop operated in town in what is now a garage. Marble came to the Trego Station and a two-horse wagon transported the marble to the shop. Farming continued around Rohrersville as reported by one family who bought a farm at Rohrersville in 1922 and raised lima beans, blackberries, and raspberries.[18]

The village's fourth and final school was erected in 1919 and closed in 1978.[19] In 1916, McCoy's Band changed its name to the Rohrersville Band and built the town hall it uses for practices to this day. The town hall was used for meetings and for many years was the scene of almost all the community events in Rohrersville until churches constructed facilities that helped to ease the demand on the town hall. The band has the distinction of being the oldest in Washington County as well as one of the oldest continuous bands in the country.

Shift to modern times, 1930-present

Farming continued in the rural areas surrounding the village in the 1930s. One dairy was started around 1931, but today dairy herds no longer exist, most likely due to costs associated with pasteurization. The mill went out of business sometime after 1920 and Baer's Nursery operated in a cooper's building associated with the mill until

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[14] Williams, p. 375.
[15] Ibid, p. 507.
[16] Nelson, John. "Rohrersville-Heart of Pleasant Valley." Washington County Network, May/June 1994, p.1.
[17] Washington Map Company. Map of Washington County and City of Hagerstown, Maryland, 1930.
[18] Woodring, Frank. "Nostalgic Moments: Life on Farm of Rohrersville Founder Recalled by Area Women." Maryland Cracker Barrel. February/March, 1994, p. 32.
[19] _____. "Nostalgic Moments: Rohrersville Schools Provide Community with Common Bond.", Maryland Cracker Barrel, February/March, 1994, p. 6.

the 1960s.[20] Since the Depression, the physical fabric of the village has not changed significantly. Rohrersville developed very little during this period with only three one-story contemporary dwellings built along Main Street.

Main Street through Rohrersville became Route 67 by 1953. The development of Rohrersville remained stable up to 1953 with no new road additions. The 1990 US census shows 191 people living in Rohrersville which may be attributed to construction just outside the district boundary to the south.[21] Long time residents of the village remark that people living in town no longer work on the railroad or work the farms, but rather commute to Washington DC via carpool or train from Brunswick. All the general stores and businesses have been converted to residential use, but the buildings remain. A new Route 67, built in the 1960s, is located east of Rohrersville and the old Route 67 has once again become Main Street in a serene setting. Rohrersville remains pristine in character both within the village as well as the surrounding rural countryside.

HISTORIC THEMES

Architecture Rohrersville's architecture portrays the development of the village. The architecture reflects both the modest rural farming influence of the surrounding community as well as the trends and styles of the later Victorian era and the American Foursquare. The prosperity of the community in the 19th century is seen in the abundance of the early log buildings and the popular vernacular architecture. Buildings reflecting the industrialization age brought on by the railroad are seen in the Victorian styles of the late 19th century that in part developed as the railroad transported mass produced components such as windows and decorative detailing at relatively low cost.

Economics Rohrersville's economic development was dependent on the surrounding farms and also a nearby marble quarry and reflects broader patterns of development and industrialization in rural areas of Western Maryland. Businesses existed in Rohrersville from the early 19th century to the mid-20th century. Industrial economic activity was evidenced in Rohrersville in its grist mill followed by a marble works. Commercial activity included at least two stores and a millinery.

Social/Educational/Cultural This theme is very significant to the overall quality that made Rohrersville a rural village and a place where people lived, worked, and played within a concentrated setting. The small village supported three churches of German heritage that is an indication of the German heritage of the settlers In the village and the surrounding area. The construction of three schools in the village over time reflected the growth of the community. Lastly, the time honored tradition of the band is today represented by not only the continued existence of the band, but the existence of the hall built by the band.

Transportation Rohrersville was profoundly affected by transportation systems dating back to the early 18th century. According to Varles' 1808 map, Rohrersville was in the vicinity of early roadways leading south through the valley to the river, east across South Mountain through Crampton's Gap and Fox's Gap as well as west. In 1859 it was located on the major roadway through the valley and was in close enough vicinity to the future train station at Trego that it was called the Rohrersville Station. The National Pike was close by to the north, forging a link between Baltimore and the lower Cumberland Valley. The B&O in its heyday had three to five trains a day. By 1872, however, the Western Maryland Railway was providing direct service from Hagerstown to Baltimore, and the B&O spur became more of a local service route. It was Rohrersville's location along a major early road that allowed access to its early 19th century grain mill and the railroad which brought new jobs and a new market to farmers, in turn bringing prosperity to Rohrersville.

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[20] Ibid, p. 14.

[21] Emde, Laura. "The House was Rohrer's." The Daily Mail, March 25, 1994, n.p.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
Economic
Social/Educational/Cultural
Transportation

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Cemetery
Religion/Church
Domestic/Single Dwelling
Band Hall/Town Hall
Industrial/Grist Mill
Education/School

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-III-025

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 62 acres

Quadrangle name Keedysville Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The district extends north and south along Main Street from its northern point at parcel 190 on the north side of the bridge containing an 1880s dwelling facing Main Street. The remainder of the land to the north is open space. The south boundary extends beyond School House Road to parcel 165 on the east and parcel 235 on the west containing late 19th century buildings exhibiting the same setting characteristics as the remainder of the village. Properties to the south of this point are situated on larger parcels of land than is characteristic of the village. The boundary extends east on School House Road to include the cemetery and west to include the school.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Cianci Salvatore

organization Woodward-Clyde date June 1997

street & number 200 Orchard Ridge Drive telephone 301 670-3300

city or town Gaithersburg state MD

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
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington County
Continuation Sheet 9.1: Major Bibliographical References

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Taggert, Thomas. A Map of Washington County. 1859.

U.S.G.S. Antietam Quadrangle, 1912, and Keedysville Quadrangle, 1985.

Varle, Charles. A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties. 1808.

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Washington Map Company. Map of Washington County and City of Hagerstown, Maryland, 1930, Western Maryland Room, Washington County Public Library, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Williams, Thomas, J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906.

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_____. "Mother Leaves Priceless Legacy." Maryland Cracker Barrel, Feb./March, 1994.

_____. "Nostalgic Moments: Life on Farm of Rohrersville Founder Recalled by Area Women." Maryland Cracker Barrel. February/March, 1994,

_____. "Nostalgic Moments: Rohrersville Schools Provide Community with Common Bond.", Maryland Cracker Barrel, February/March, 1994.

_____. "Civil War Footsteps: Rohrersville Churches, Homes House Wounded From Antietam According to 1863 Letter." Maryland Cracker Barrel., October/November 1995.

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WA-III-025
District 8
Map 81
MAGI # 2210345904

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Rohrersville

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Maryland Route 67

CITY, TOWN
X VICINITY OF Boonsboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Multiple Owners

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:
Folio #:

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown

STATE
Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

WA-III-025

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED < 50%	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rohrersville is a small rural community made up of sided log&brick houses most of which show Germanic influence in their construction. Many of the houses are two story, four bay structures, some with two front doors placed side by side in the principal elevation. The brick houses in general would appear to date from the middle third of the 19th century while the log houses have modern surface treatments, they also probably date from the 19th century. The houses are concentrated along one main street, old Maryland Route 67.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

WA-III-025

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rohrersville is a typical small rural community of the 19th century in Washington County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

WA-III-025

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
Preservation Associates

DATE
July 1978

STREET & NUMBER
109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE
301-432-5466

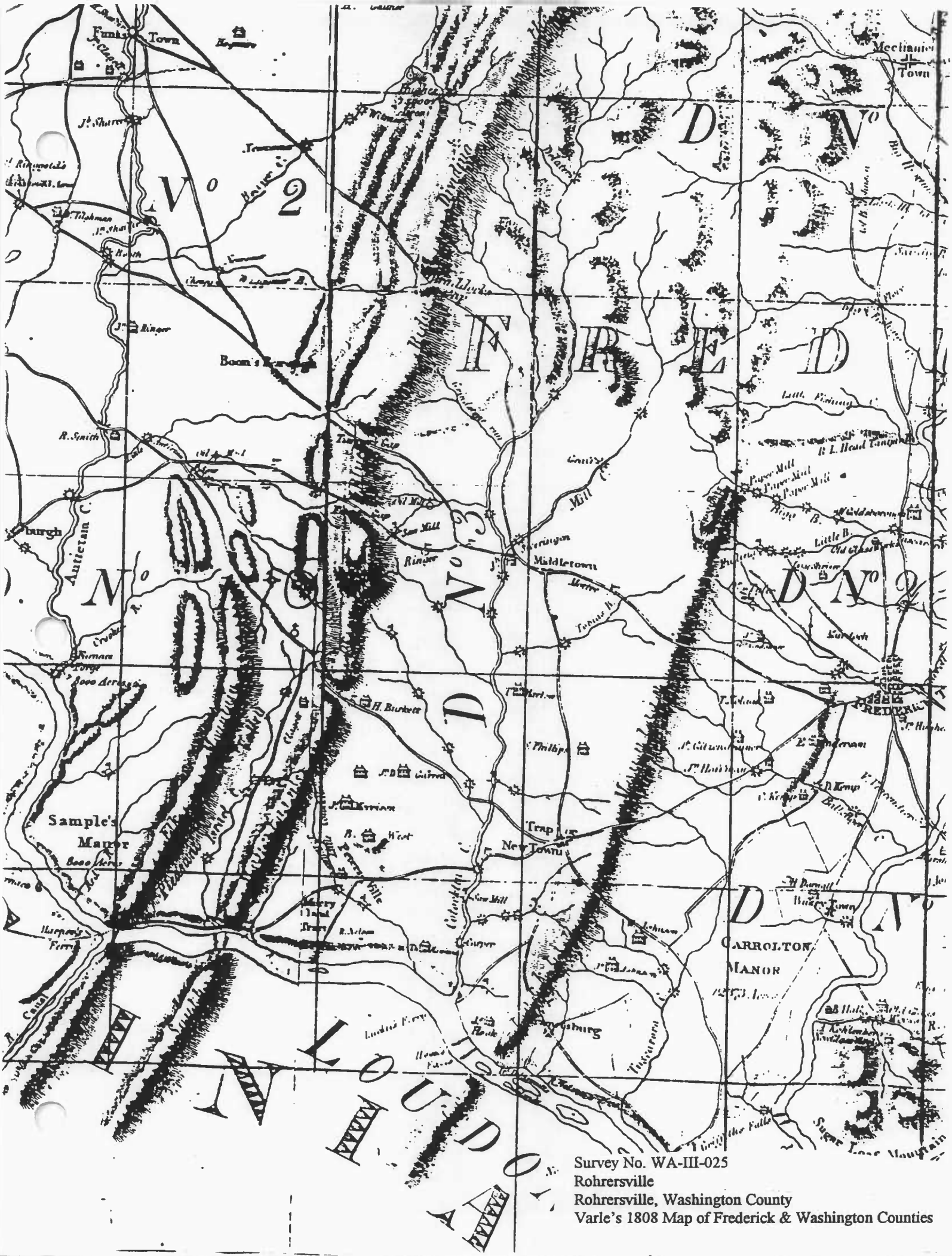
CITY OR TOWN
Sharpsburg

STATE
Maryland 21782

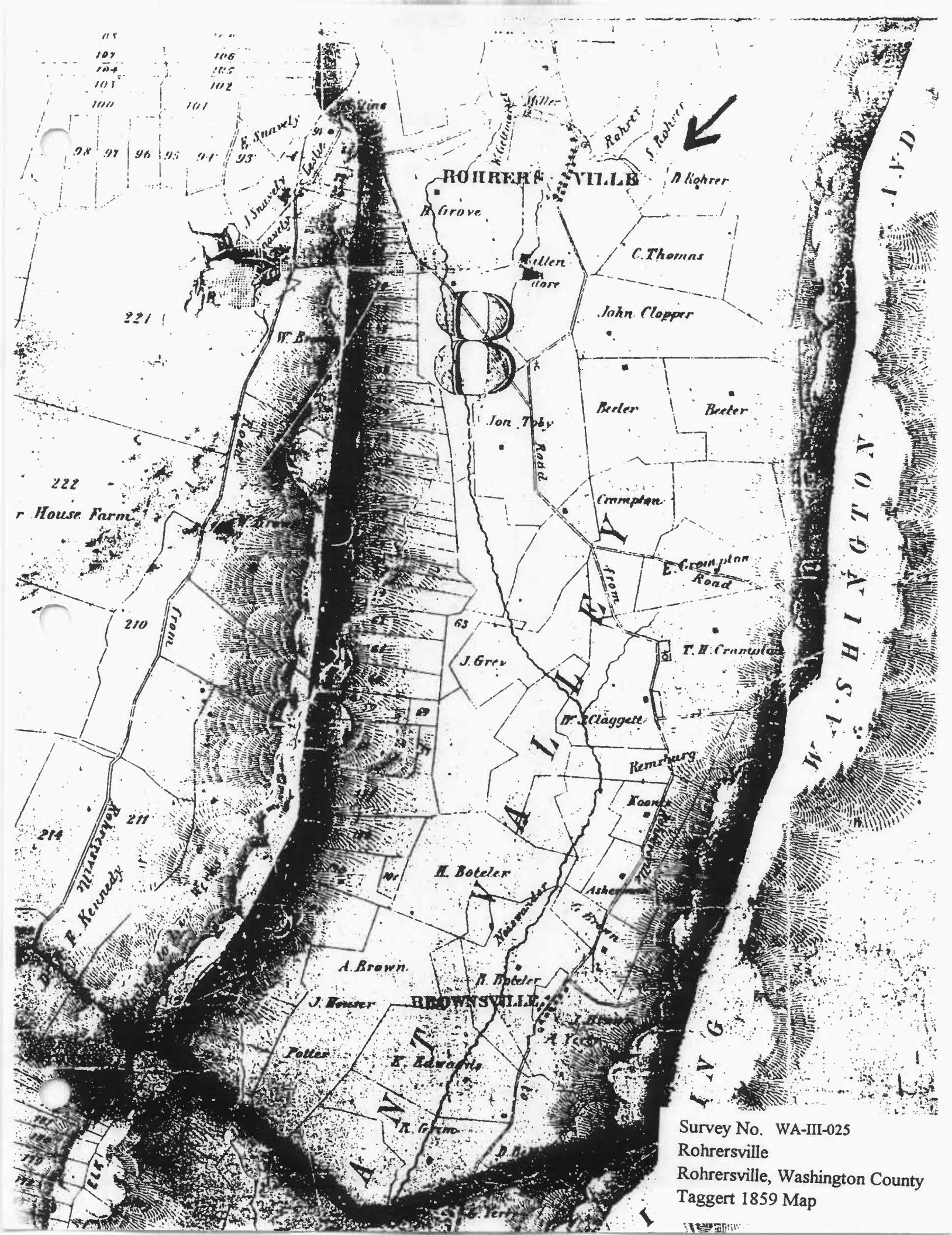
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

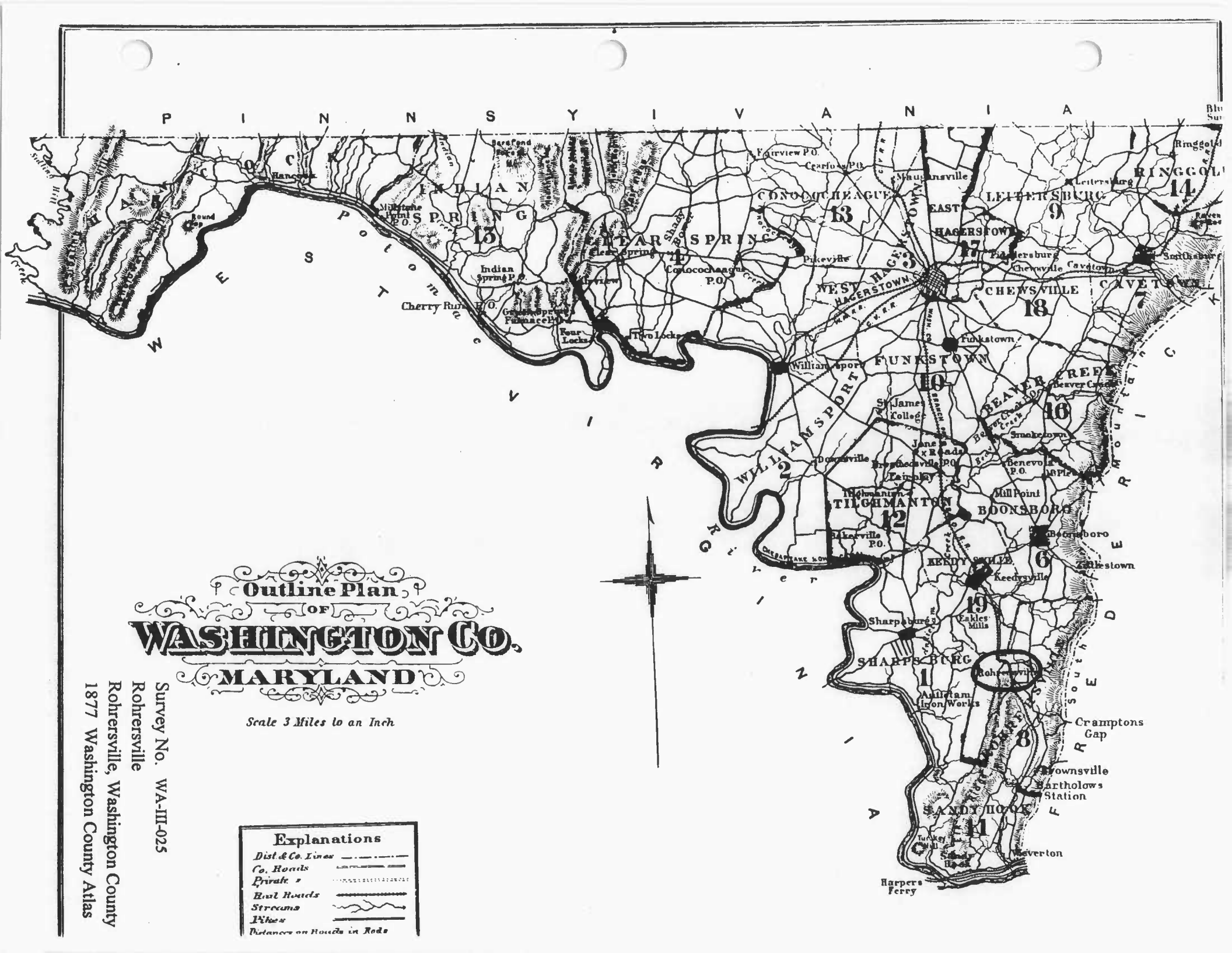
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Survey No. WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Rohrersville, Washington County
Varle's 1808 Map of Frederick & Washington Counties



Survey No. WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Rohrersville, Washington County
Taggert 1859 Map



Outline Plan OF WASHINGTON CO. MARYLAND

Scale 3 Miles to an Inch

Explanations

- *Dist. & Co. Lines*
- *Co. Roads*
- *Private "*
- *Rail Roads*
- *Streams*
- *Pikes*
- *Distances on Roads in Rods*

Survey No. WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Rohrersville, Washington County
1877 Washington County Atlas

RSVILLE

T. No. 8

res to the Mile

S REFER-

ries, Dr
Also,

SS REFER-

s, Groceries, and
d Glassware,
nd Grower of all

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ankfully received

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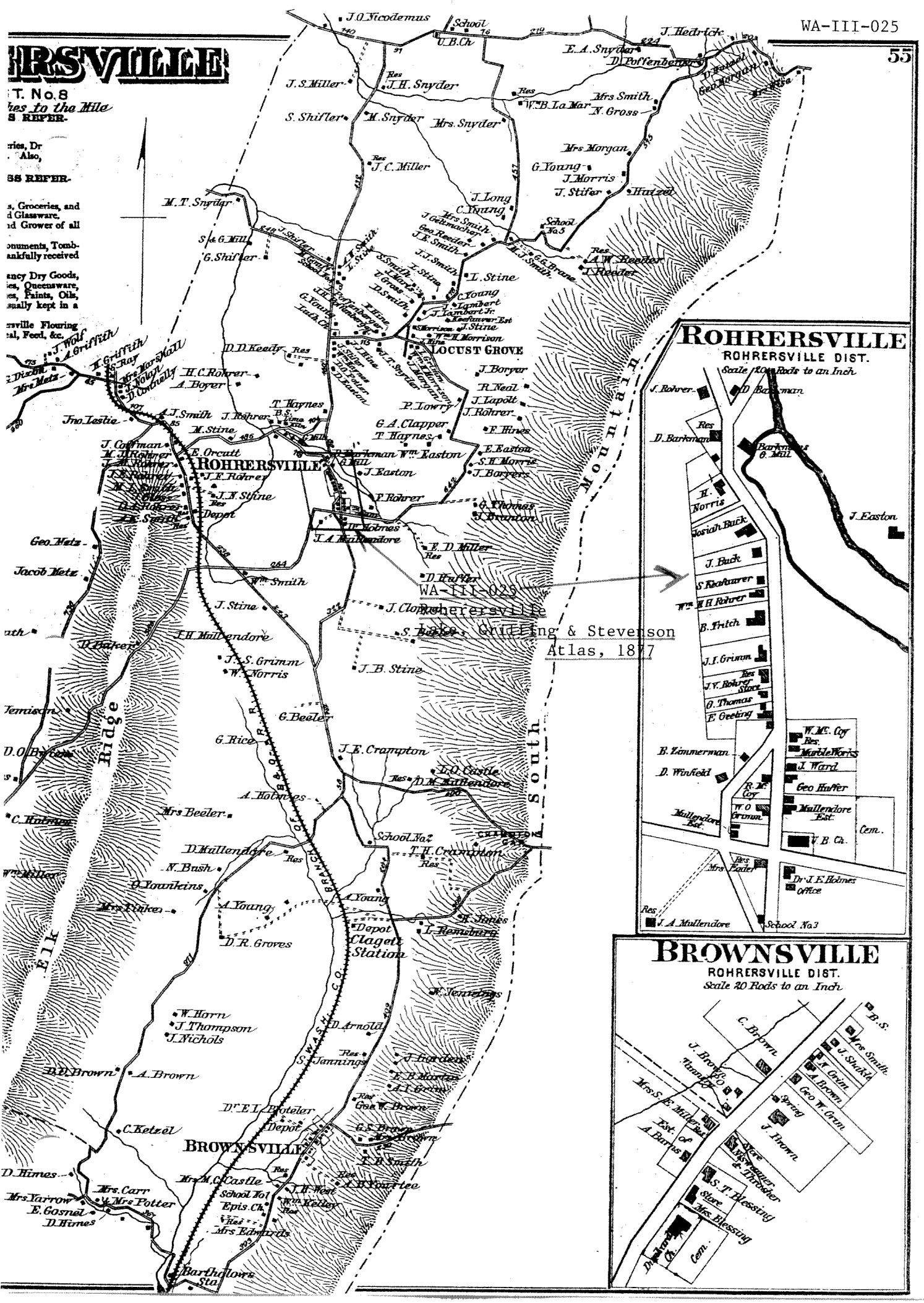
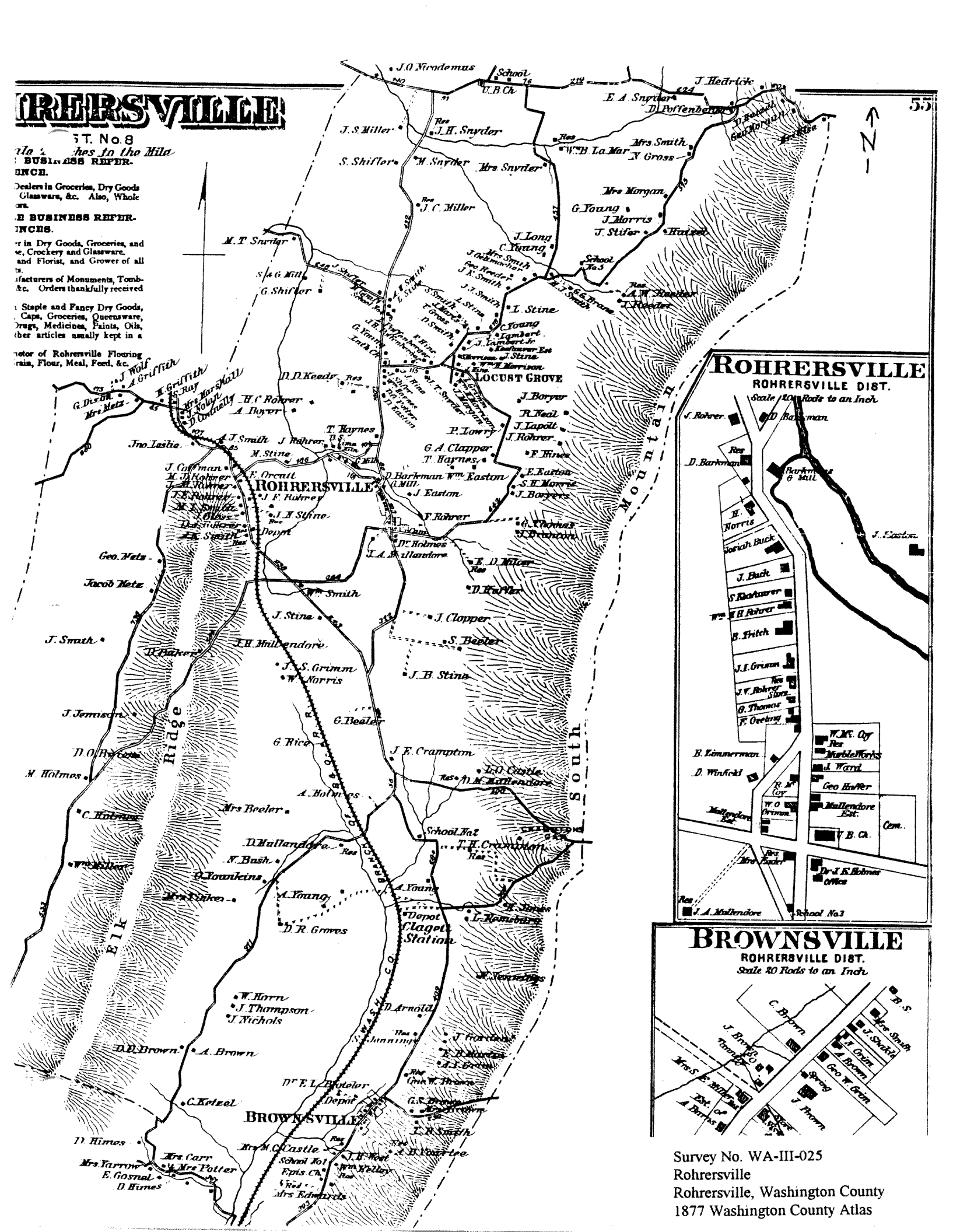
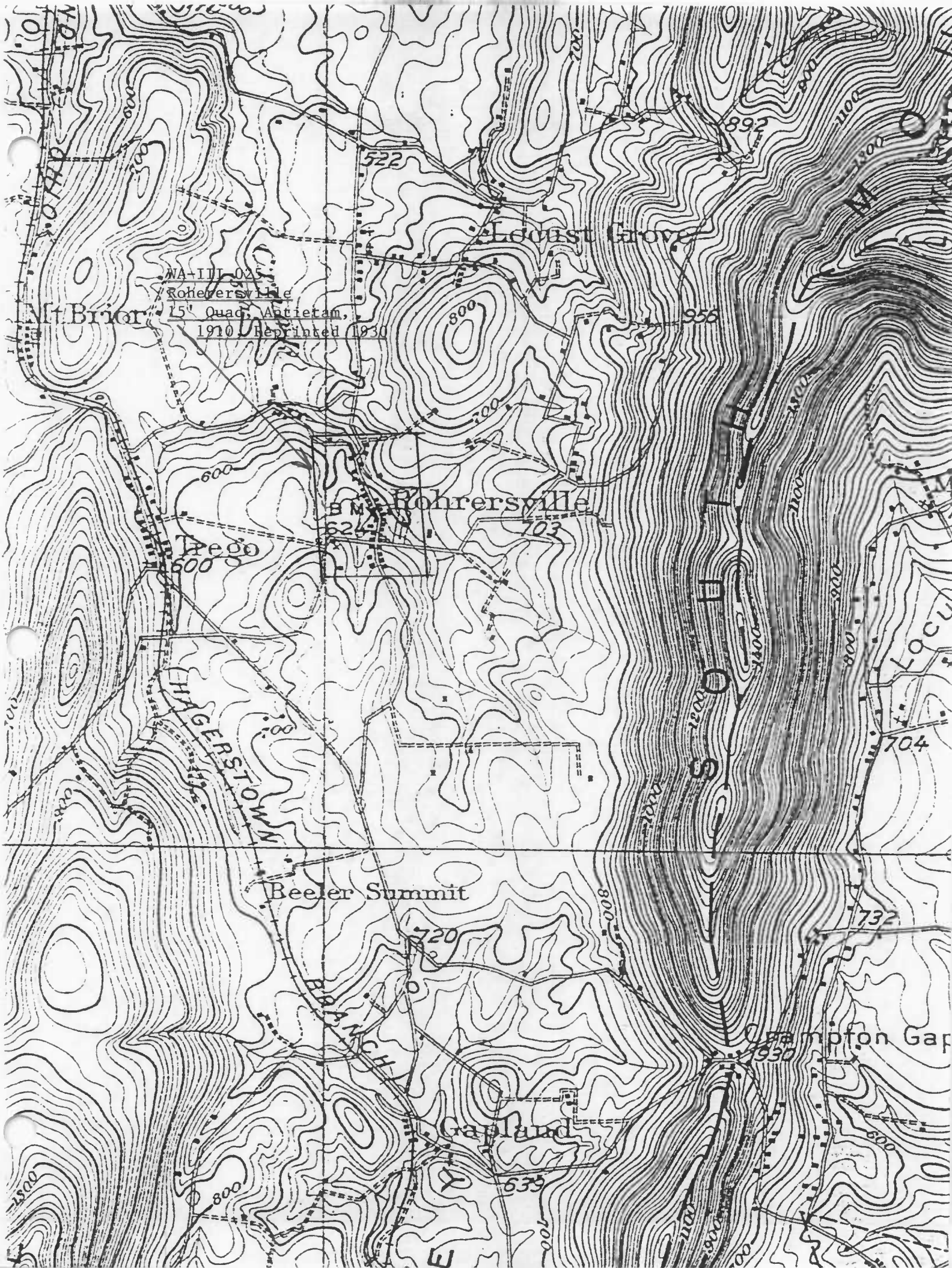
es, Queensware,
es, Paints, Oils,
sually kept in a

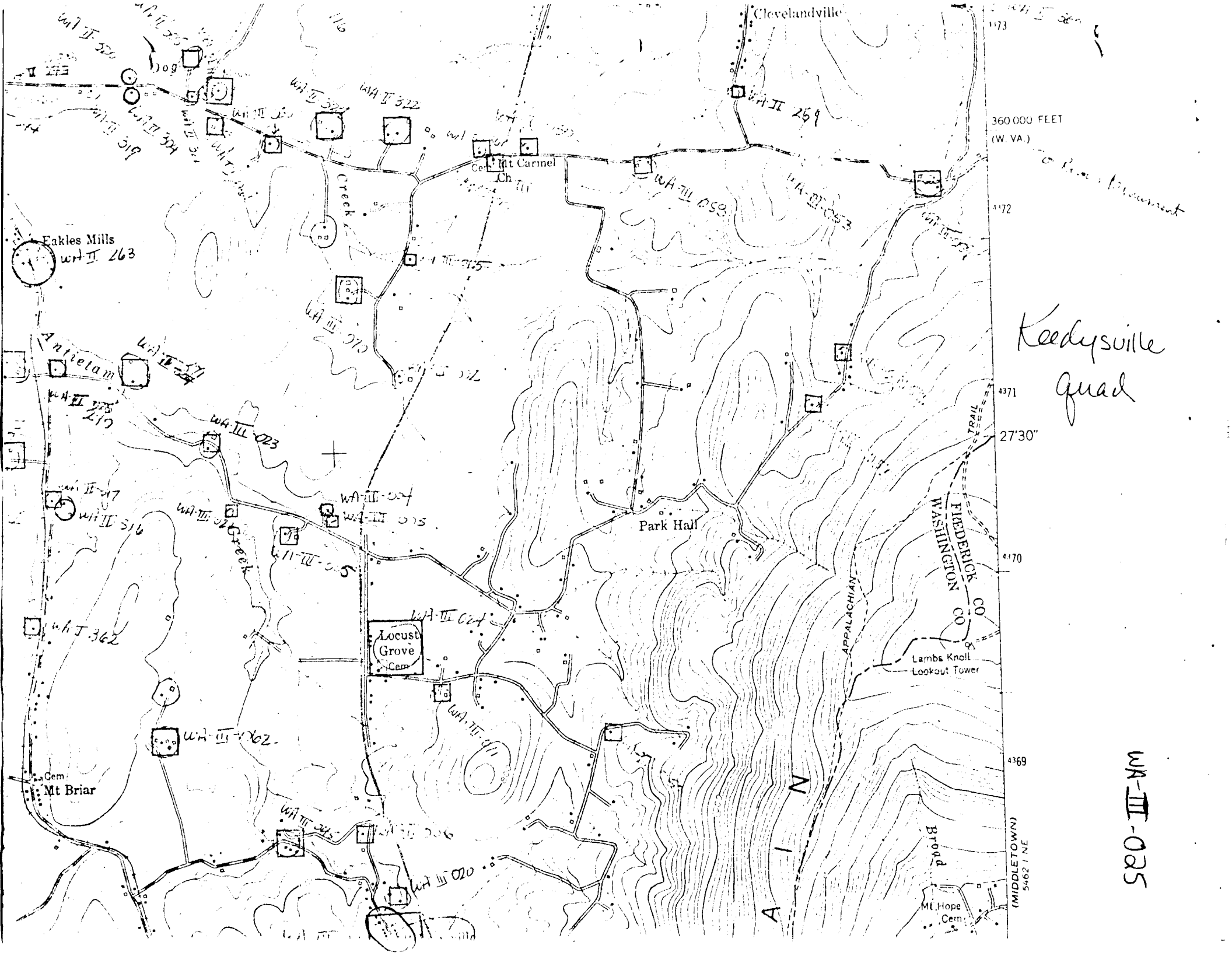
rsville Flouring
al, Feed, &c.

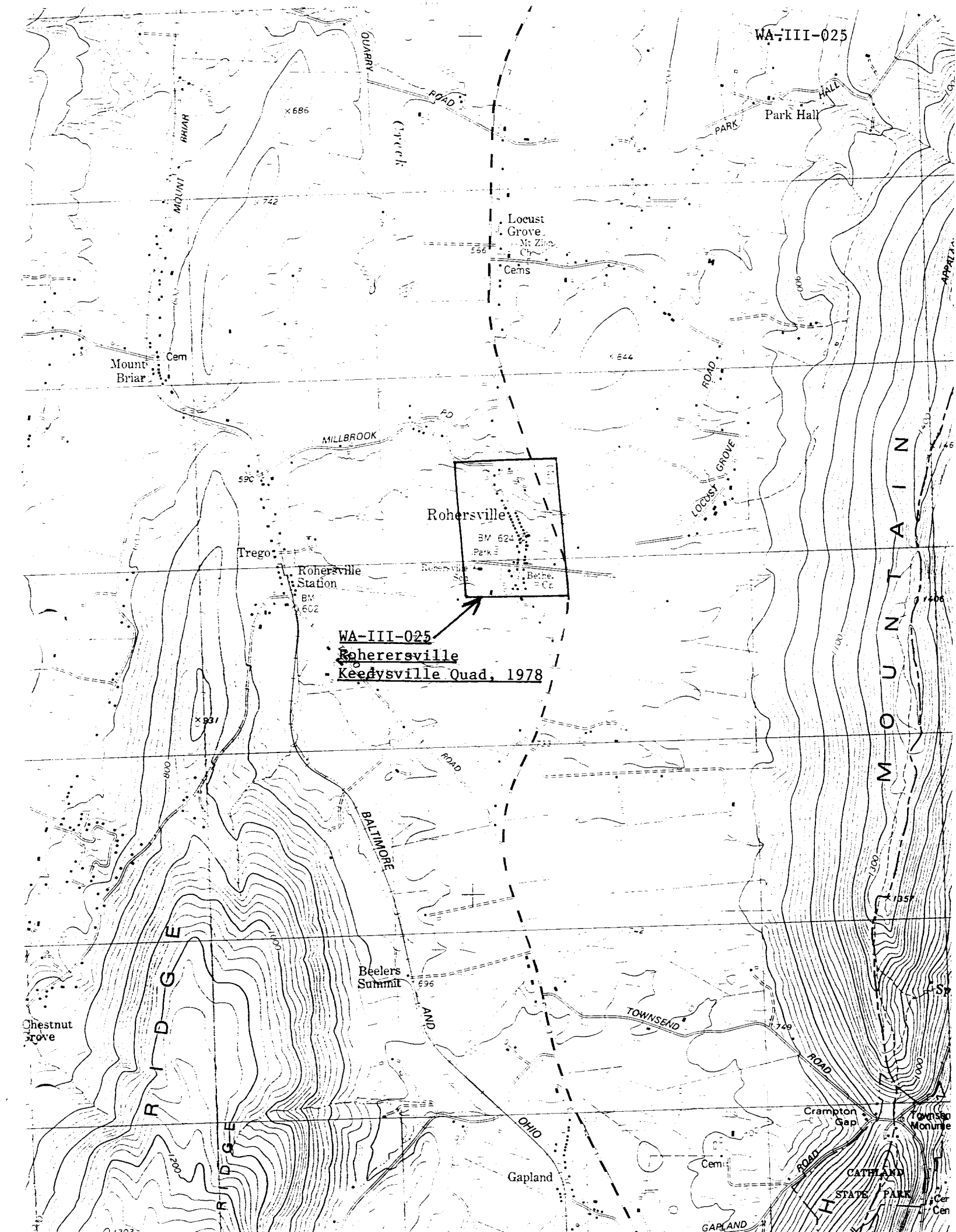


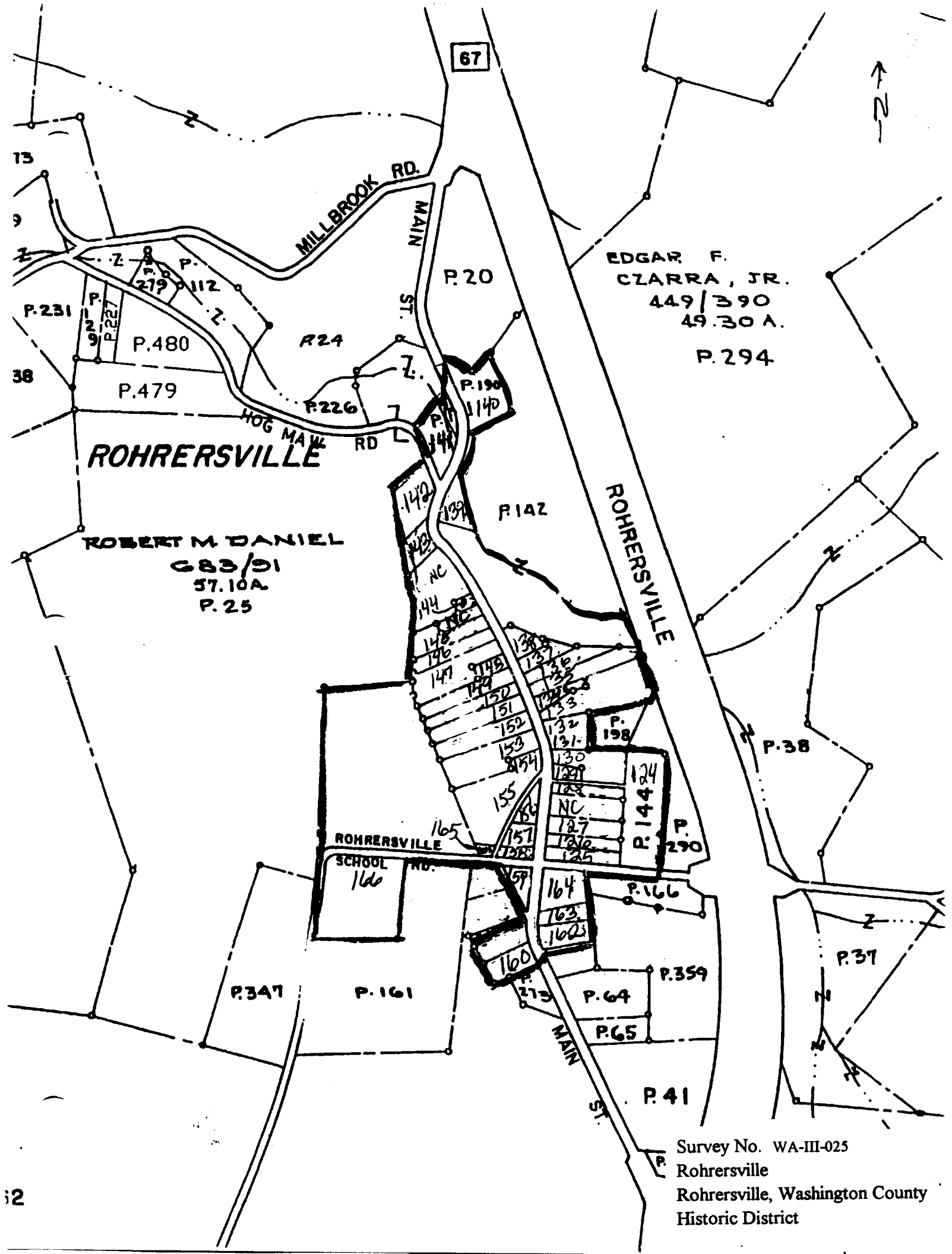


Survey No. WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Rohrersville, Washington County
1877 Washington County Atlas

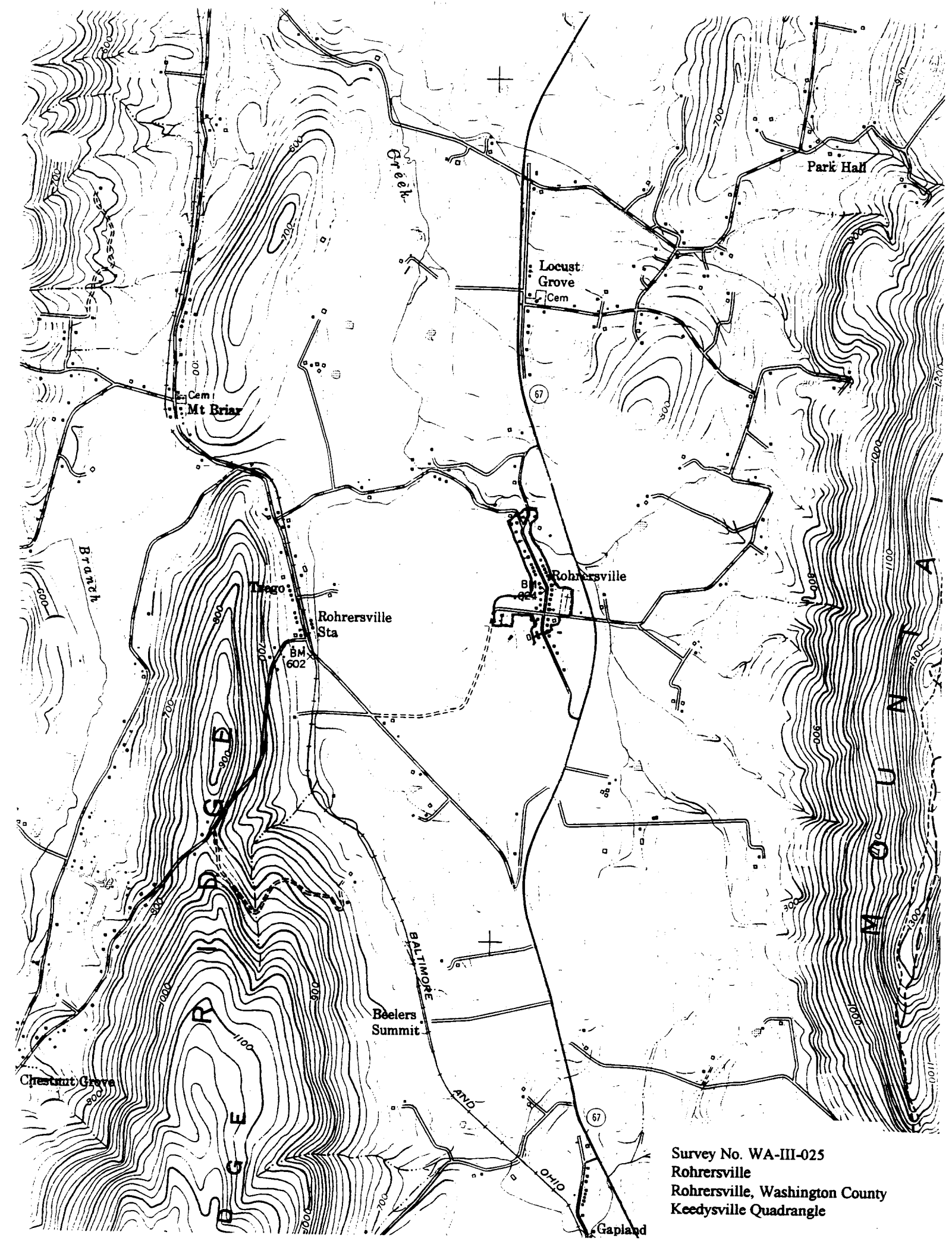

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
15' Quad, Antietam,
1910, Reprinted 1930
Locust Grove
Mt Brior
Rohrersville
Trego
Beeler Summit
Crampton Gap
Gapland
HAGERSTOWN
BRANCH
522
892
956
624
703
600
704
720
732
930
639


Cleveland
Mt Carmel Ch
Eakles Mills
WH II 263
Antietam
WH III 023
WH III 024
WH III 025
Park Hall
Locust Grove Cem
WH III 062
Mt Briar Cem
WH III 020
Lambs Knoll Lookout Tower
APPALACHIAN TRAIL
FREDERICK
WASHINGTON
CO
CO
Broad
Mt Hope Cem
360 000 FEET
(W. VA.)
27'30"
4373
4372
4371
4370
4369
(MIDDLETOWN)
5462 I NE
Keedysville Quad
WA-III-025


WA-III-025
QUARRY
ROAD
Creek
MOUNT
BRIAR
Park Hall
PARK
HALL
Locust
Grove
Mt Zion
Ch
Cems
Mount
Briar
Cem
MILLBROOK
PD
ROAD
LOCUST
GROVE
Rohersville
BM 624
Park
Rohersville
Sch
Bethel
Ch
Trego
Rohersville
Station
BM
602
WA-III-025
Rohererssville
Keedysville Quad, 1978
ROAD
BALTIMORE
AND
OHIO
Beelers
Summit
Chestnut
Grove
RIDGE
RIDGE
TOWNSEND
ROAD
Crampton
Gap
Townsend
Monument
Gapland
Cem
ROAD
CATHLAND
STATE PARK
GAPLAND
MOUNTAIN
APPALA



Survey No. WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Rohrersville, Washington County
Historic District



Survey No. WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Rohrersville, Washington County
Keedysville Quadrangle

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington County, MD
SC Salvatore
6/17
Neg- MDSHPO
View West Rohrersville School Rd from Rt 67
1 of 13

WA - III - 025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
SC Salvatore
6/97
Neg: MD SHPO
View W from 67 to district
#2 of 13

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
sc Salvatore
L/97
Neg: MD SHPO
View S to Northern district boundary
#3 of 12

25

WP-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington Co
Sc Salvation
6/97
Neg: MD SHPO
View SW to Miller House
#4 of 12

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington Co MD
SC Salvatore
6/97
Neg-MD SHPO
View SE up Main St
#5 of 13

AAP 013

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington Co MD
sc Salvatore
6/97
Neg: MD SHPO
View Sup Main St
#6 of 12

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
SC Salvatore
6/97
Neg MD SHPO
View S up Main St
#7 of 13

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
St Sabastore
6/87
Neg: MD SHPO
View E on Rohrersville School RD from intersection
8-6/3

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
sc Salvatore
6/97
Neg: MD SHPO
View N on main St from Rohrersville School (R)
#9 of 13

WA-III-025
Rohrersville
SC Salvatore

6/97

Neg: MD SHPO

View S on main from Rohr. School (Rd.

#10 of 13

MAIN

WA-II-025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
Sc Salvatore
6/97
Neg: MD SHPO
View W on Rohr. School Rd from Main St
#11 of 13

WA-II-025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
St Salvatore
6/97
Neg: MD SHPO
View E on Rohr. School Rd from School
#12 of 13

WP-III-025
Rohrersville
Washington County MD
St Salvatores
6/99
Neg: MD SHPO
View N on Main St from S boundary
13 of 13

WA-III-025
N. view
March, 1976

Rohrersville

Maryland Route 67
Boonsboro Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-III-025
N. view
March, 1976

Rohrersville

Maryland Route 67
Boonsboro Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-III-025
N. view.
March, 1976

Rohrersville

Maryland Route 67
Boonsboro Vicinity

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

PARK

WA-II-025
S. view
March, 1976

Rohrersville

Maryland Route 67
Boonsboro Vicinity

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CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-III-025
E. View.
March, 1976

Rohrersville

Maryland Route 67
Boonsboro Vicinity

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY