

SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-<sup>229</sup>~~228~~  
ADDRESS: 26 East Water Street, Smithsburg, MD  
OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: William B. Kimler, 141/584, private  
BUILDING DATE: mid 19th century

26 East Water Street is a north-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, frame, freestanding, residential structure resting on a stucco-finished, stone foundation. The building appears to have been built in two sections. The side gable roof is sheathed with an artificial roll covering and has one interior chimney. There is a flat-roof raised, porch that runs across the center three bays and is supported by squared Tuscan posts with a balustrade running between them. The two entrances consist of six-paned doors topped by glazed transoms. The fenestration consists of single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, nine-over-six (first floor) and six-over-three (attic) windows in wood frames. There is an old barn and shed in the rear of the property.

The building is set on original lot 63, a vacant lot at the time the 1814 plat of the town was drawn. A pottery owned by J. Kimler (the current owner is a descendant) appears on the site on the 1875 town map. The 1916 Sanborn notes this as a log carpenter's shop numbered 131 Water Street. The 1923 Sanborn notes it as a frame dwelling.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, April 1991

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN:**

**STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Development Periods: Agricultural-Industrial  
Transition

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

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: small, rural town

Historic Function and Use: pottery and residential

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WA-IV-228-<sup>229</sup>

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Kimler Pottery

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 26 East Water Street  not for publication

city, town Smithsburg  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

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

name William Kimler

street & number 400 Collings Avenue telephone no.: 609-858-1806

city, town Collingswood state and zip code New Jersey 08108

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber 141

street & number Summit Avenue and West Washington Street folio 584

city, town Hagerstown state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 Setting

The Kimler Pottery is located in Washington County at 26 East Water Street (lot 141/584) in Smithsburg. It is sited at the public-right-of-way along Smithsburg's principal east-west thoroughfare and along a major creek running through the town. The site features the mid-19th century house, a large barn at the rear of the property, a frame out-building, and several mature trees.

### Exterior

26 East Water Street is a north-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, log and frame, freestanding, residential structure rising on a stucco-finished stone foundation. It rests on a lot that measures 82.5' x 264'. The building appears to have been built in two sections. The side gable roof is sheathed with an artificial roll covering and has one interior chimney. There is a flat-roof, raised porch that runs across the center three bays and is supported by squared Tuscan posts with a balustrade running between them. The two entrances consist of six-paned doors topped by glazed transoms. The fenestration consists of single, rectangular, wooden sash, double-hung, nine-over-six (first floor) and six-over-three (attic) windows in wood frames.

The house has received several additions over the years. The original section of the house is the eastern three bays. It is of log construction chinked with moss, according to the current owner, and covered with weatherboarding. A two-bay, gable-roof addition was erected in 1854, extending the facade to five bays. On the rear of the building is a one-story gable-roof addition that intersects the original section of the house. It has a shed-roof open porch along its east face. A fourth addition is located behind the two-bay front addition. It has a shed roof.

The site includes a massive frame barn at the southwest corner of the property. Shutters from an old school were used to side a portion of its east face (according to the owner). A frame carpenter's shop is located between the house and the barn.

### Interior

The interior of the house was not accessible for this study. According to the owner, the first floor now contains a living room, two small bedrooms, and a parlor. The attic in the original section contains three bedrooms. There is a storage area in the attic of the 1854 addition.

# 8. Significance

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 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 checked="" 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** c.1832, 1854, 1910 **Builder/Architect** Jacob Friedrich Kimler?

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 building is set on original lot 63, a vacant lot owned by John Fulliton at the time the 1814 plat of the town was drawn.

According to the current owner, his great-grandfather, Jacob Friedrich Kimler immigrated from Wittenberg and settled in the Smithsburg area because of its clay deposits. A potter, he is believed to have arrived in the area around 1832. The current owner believes that Jacob Kimler erected the log house which today is covered with weatherboarding. (Deed research indicates that the land was not owned by Kimler in 1832, but he may have leased it. The owner, Robert Catron, is listed in the 1836 tax records as owning improved property valued at \$409. However, because the tax records do not provide lot numbers, it is not clear whether this assessment refers to this property alone.)

Kimler erected a pottery over the stream that runs directly east of the house. At the time, the street was at a lower grade and what is now the basement of the house was then the first floor. In the pottery, Kimler washed and ground the local clays using large stone wheels. (The wheels were donated by William Kimler to the Smithsburg Historical Society when the pottery was dismantled.) Horses were used to power the wheels. Kimler produced redware which was used for a variety of kitchen needs (crockery, colanders, jugs, baking dishes, etc.). The kiln or bake oven, as it is referred to by the current owner, stood directly behind the house and was fired by wood from mountain lots that Kimler owned specifically for this purpose.

Upon the death of Jacob Kimler, the west, one-room addition on the house was constructed for his wife. His son, the grandfather of the current owner, then occupied the house and continued his father's trade. He is noted on the 1877 map of J. Kimler. In the 1880s, East Water Street was raised by five feet. The first floor of the Kimler house became the basement and the upper floors had to be remodeled to reflect this change in grading.

William B. Kimler, the father of the current owner, inherited the

(continued...)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-IV-228<sup>229</sup>

See attached sheets

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .5

Quadrangle name Smithsburg, MD

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 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

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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William B. Kimler, the father of the current owner, inherited the property in 1913. As a carpenter, he made many changes to the property. The original log barn at the back of the property was demolished and a new barn was erected in 1912. At the time, Kimler was building a new school in Ringgold. The old schoolhouse had recently been demolished, and Kimler took the shutters and incorporated them into his new barn. He also built a carpenters shop for himself at that time (the extant, two-door frame shed). The property also included a log smokehouse, a summer kitchen and laundry. The 1916 Sanborn notes several of these structures and numbers the house 130 Water Street. The former pottery is indicated as a carpenter's shop numbered 131. The attached kitchen was erected in 1917 when the bake oven or kiln was dismantled. The 1916 Sanborn notes the house as a log, carpenter's shop numbered 131 Water Street. The 1923 Sanborn notes it as a frame dwelling.

The yard held gardens and fruit trees and a chicken house and pig pen, all of which allowed the family to be self-sufficient except for staples such as flour and sugar. Chickens were raised both for meat and for eggs. An itinerant butcher would slaughter the pigs and the family would prepare the meats. Rendered fat and lard, collected during the year was cooked in large kettles to produce the family soap.

The property is currently owned by William B. Kimler's son (also William) who is a doctor residing in New Jersey. The house is furnished, but unoccupied except during his visits to Smithsburg.

The chain of title was traced to 1836

February 7, 1836 (no citation given in Cornelius Reese deed of 1858), Deed from Robert Catron to Thomas Golden

October 17, 1836 (LL/370), Deed from Thomas Golden to George Shiess

December 2, 1837 (LL/173), Deed from George Shiess to William Downey

March 5, 1849 (IN 4/540), Deed from William Downey to Michael Wachter

December 6, 1851 (In 7/183-185), Deed from Michael Wachter to George Pearson

August 28, 1858 (IN 13/350), Deed from George and Ellen Pearson to Cornelius C. Reese

August 28, 1858 (INN 13/353), Deed from John and Elizabeth Young and Cornelius and Ann Reese to Joseph Kimbler [sic] for the sum of \$254

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.2

May 20, 1913 (141/584), Deed from Abraham C. Kimler, executor for Joseph Kimler to William B. Kimler "and whereas the said Joseph Kimler deceased as aforesaid, in said last will, devised and bequeathed the house and lot on which he resided to his son William B. Kimler, at the stipulated value of \$500."

Significance

A preliminary architectural evaluation of 26 East Water Street was made in January 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Smithsburg. At that time a survey site number WA-IV-228 was assigned and it was determined that the structure is a contributing element to Smithsburg's historic economic and 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 with the Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan: State Historic Context (Western Maryland Geographic Organization; the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition; the Historic Period Themes of Economics; Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of the Smithsburg Historical Society, the general history of the building was researched. It was concluded that the building served an important economic role during the second half of the 19th century, is a representative example of mid-19th-century architecture in Smithsburg, and meets two of the following eligibility criteria (B and C) for listing on the Maryland Register.

**Criterion A -- The property is not associated with significant historical events.**

**Criterion B -- The property is associated with a significant person.** The house is associated with the Kimler family who maintained a pottery at the site through most of the 19th century. The house remains in the Kimler family.

**Criterion C -- The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect.** As a typical example of mid-19th century architecture in this town, 26 East Water Street is a contributing element to the architectural significance of Smithsburg.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.3

SURVEY NO. WA-IV-~~228~~<sup>229</sup>

Criterion D -- The property may provide important information about history or prehistory. The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. Because of the Kimler pottery was located here, it is likely that 19th- and 20th-century archeological remains associated with the pottery and with 19th- and 20th-century family life will be found near the building.

CONTINUATION SHEET  
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

SURVEY NO. WA-IV-<sup>229</sup>~~228~~

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Washington County Deeds and Tax Records

MAPS:

1814 Plat of the town  
1877 town map  
1916 Sanborn  
1923 Sanborn Map

Telephone interview with William Kimler, current owner, August 1991.

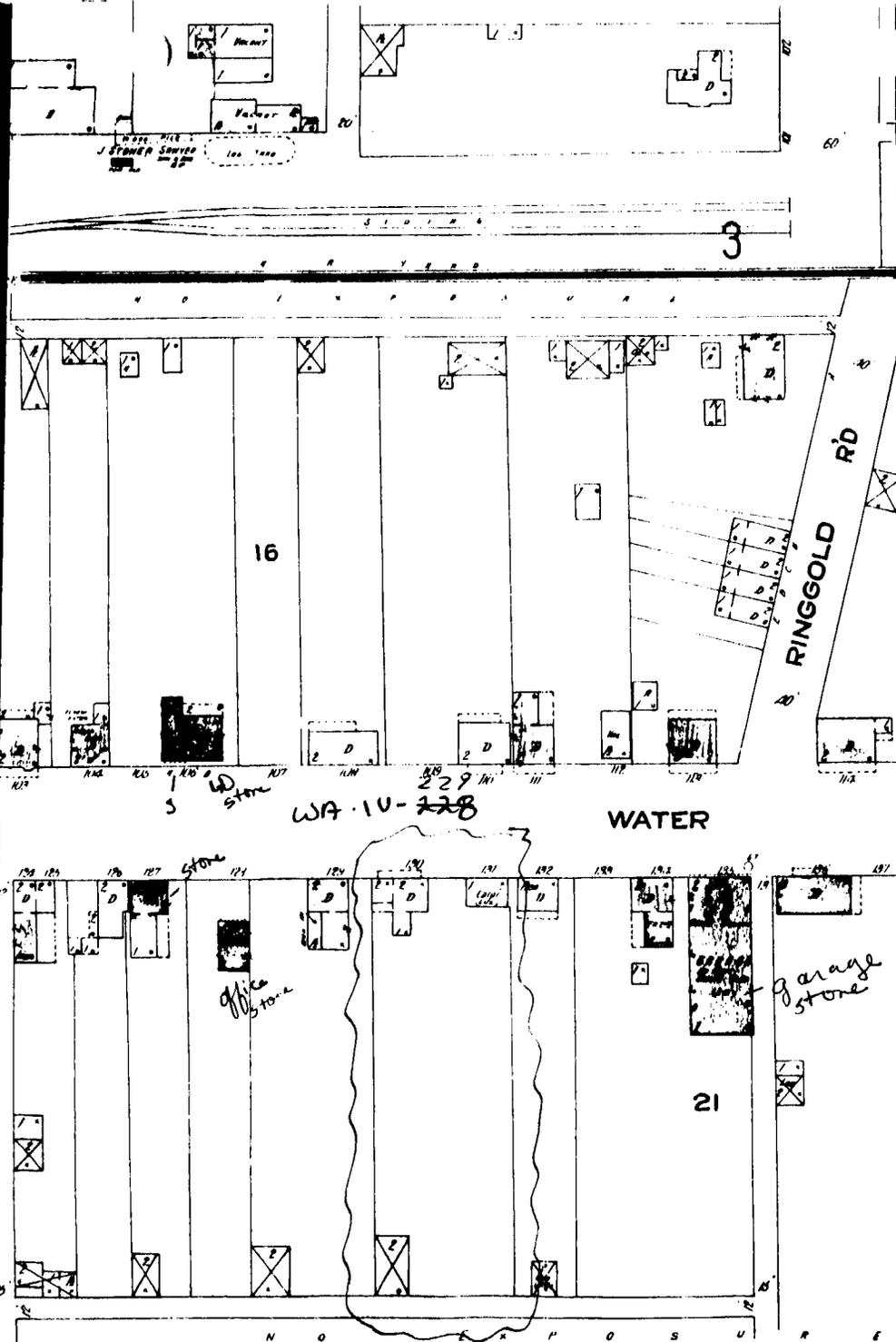






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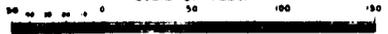


WA-10-728

WATER

garage stone

Scale of Feet.



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1923 Sanborn

CORPORATE LI

TODD P.H. BOLTON  
736/235  
1.75A

W RICHARD  
ECKSTINE  
7615 300/258

WILLIAM A. JENKINS  
598/512

CHARLES R.  
FERGUSON  
212/92

RICHARD A.  
COOVER  
469/101  
808/501

RALPH E.  
EYLER  
GOS/74  
G.73A

HOWARD R. KENDALL  
213/292

WILBUR L.  
RIDENOUR  
371/322

ORVILLE J.  
HOOVER  
766/798

JOHN C.  
COSTOPOULOS  
846/1016

ROMELA  
INVESTMENT  
CORP  
380/714  
(POST OFFICE)

LEWIS E. MC  
662/75  
092A

PENNSYLVANIA

AVE.

HUBERT J. NEEDY  
573/156

JAMES L.  
BANZHOFF  
884/714

ELIZABETH  
LAUGHTON  
893/861

LORRI A.  
STOCKSLAGER  
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LEWIS E. MOTTER  
662/756

ALICE H. FARGO  
662/659

LARRY D. KENDALL  
685/759

HOMER L. MYERS  
835/446

ELINOR F. SUMMERS  
609/492

ROBERT L. LAURAND  
745/548

WILLIAM B. KIMLER  
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JOHN L.  
BURKETT  
707/738

CHARLES P. JOHNSON  
822/782

CATHERINE V.  
POFFENBERGER  
62 338/362

WAYNE E. PUTMAN  
867/221

SMITHSBURG LIBRARY

RICHARD E. VERDIER  
802/615

DAVID E. REED  
755/757

DAVID P. CREAMER  
887/865

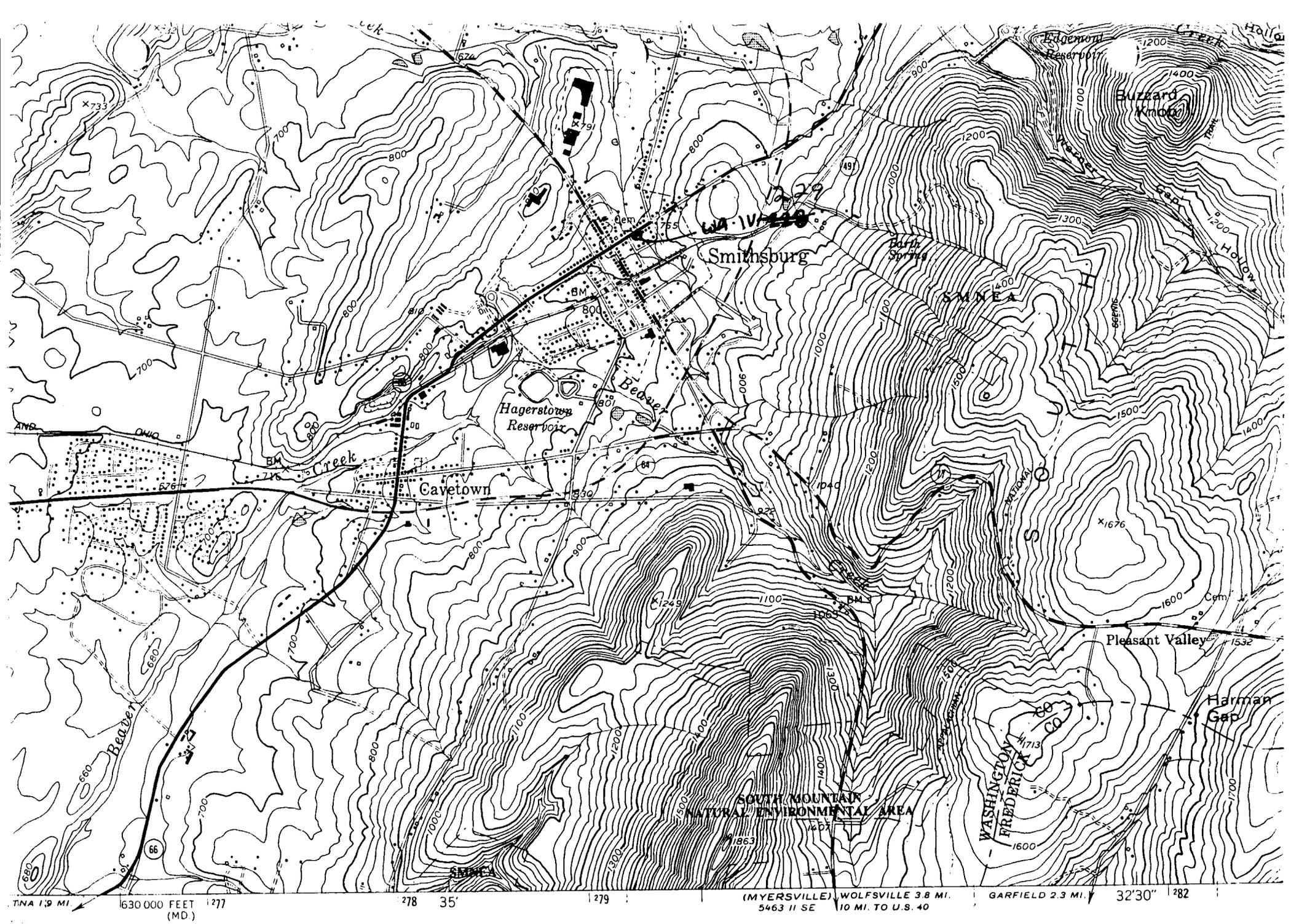
HOMER L. MYERS  
908/498

DONALD E. HAYS, JR.  
653/42

EAST WATER ST



WILLIAM  
150/364  
WA-14-229



TINA 1.9 MI 630 000 FEET (MD) 277 278 35' 279 (MYERSVILLE) WOLFVILLE 3.8 MI. 5463 11 SE 10 MI. TO U.S. 40 GARFIELD 2.3 MI. 32'30" 282  
 Geological Survey  
 from aerial  
 MN GN  
 SCALE 1:24 000  
 1 MILE  
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET



WA-10-~~2280~~ 229

7/1991

J. Mueller

xl. elev.



WA-10-~~228~~ 229

Fl 1991

J. Muelker

NW corner of house



WA-10-~~228~~ 229

7/1991

J. Muelb

S+E elev. of kitchen wing



WA-10-~~228~~ 229

7/1991

J. Mueller

S + E elev of house



WA-10-~~228~~ 229

7/1991

J. Muelle

NE corner of house



WA-10-~~228~~ 229

7/1991

J. Moeller

S+E elev. of carpenter's shop

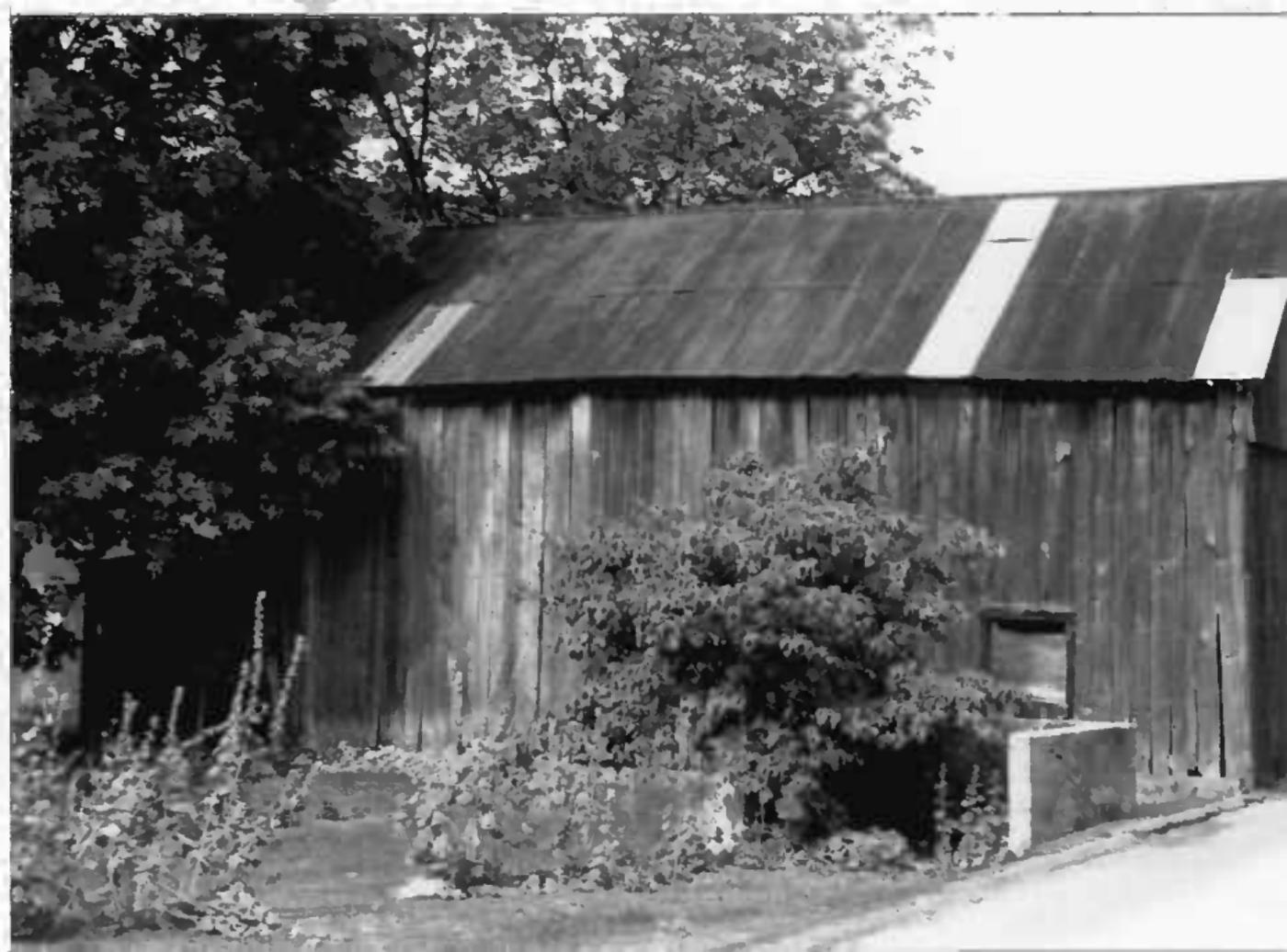


WA-10-~~228~~ 229

7/1991

J. Muelle

S + E elev. of bank



WA-10-~~228~~ 229

7/1991

J. Mueller

w. elev. of barn



WA-10-~~228~~ 229

7/1991

J. Moelle

St w elev. of sold. + hours



WA-10-229

26 E. Water, Smithsburg

1/1991

Julie Mueller

Looking SW