

**Capsule Summary**

Survey # AL-VI-B-339

Approximate date Ca, 1920s

Street Address 14-16 Jackson Street

Town, State Lonaconing, MD (Allegany County)

Private , public

This property is being recorded prior to demolition due to severe flood damage which occurred in 1996 when Jackson's Run overflowed. The building is a two story frame apartment building dating from the 1920s, and displaying little stylistic influence. It reflects Lonaconing's decline in population which occurred after World War I, and the shift of commercial activity away from Jackson Street to concentration along Main Street. The building replaced the Jackson Hotel, Lonaconing's first, built during the late 19th century on this site. The hotel had been built by John Helber who acquired the property from the Georges Creek Coal Company in two transactions in 1865 and 1867. The heirs of John Helber sold the hotel property to John S. Phillips in 1901. Phillips built the subject building some time later.

Form Prepared by:

Paula S. Reed, PhD

Paula Reed and Associates, Inc.

105 N. Potomac Street

Hagerstown, MD 21740

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AL-VI-B-339

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 14-16 Jackson Street

## 2. Location

street & number 14-16 Jackson Street (Jackson and front Streets) \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lonaconing \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Allegany

## 3. Classification

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

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

name Town of Lonaconing

street & number Town Hall, Jackson Street telephone no.:

city, town Lonaconing state and zip code MD 21539

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Court House Liber 489

street & number Washington Street Folio 571

city, town Cumberland state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Lonaconing National Register Historic District

date \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

---

## 7. Description

Survey No. AL-VI-B-339

---

**Condition**

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved        date of move \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

This building is located at 14-16 Jackson Street on the east side of Georges Creek near the center of Lonaconing in Allegany County. The building is a large light weight frame L-shaped structure with three discernable parts, all of which appear to date from the 20th century. The building occupies a corner lot at the intersection of Jackson and Front Streets. The topography of the land around Lonaconing is created by intersecting narrow stream valleys where Jackson Run and Koontz Run enter Georges Creek. These narrow gorges separate mountain knolls, among which the town is laid out. The first business district in Lonaconing was along Jackson Street, which parallels Jackson Run. The corner of Jackson and Front Streets is at a sharp angle which affects the angle of the L shape of the building. The building has seven bays along its Jackson Street facade and twelve bays along its front street facade. The building is covered with a combination of asbestos shingle siding, lapped wood siding and insul brick siding. All windows and doors were removed prior to the site visit to this property. Architraves remaining on the rear extension have molded flat tops and are of a type used in the 1920s and 1930s.

The building has three components. Occupying the corner is a two bay-wide by four bay-long hip roofed section with a diagonal corner entrance. It has overall characteristics of an elongated foursquare style building. Attached to the south side of this is a two story, five bay gable roofed section. It had a central entrance flanked by two plate glass "picture"-type windows. These are probably alterations from the 1950s. The Jackson Street facade is unified by a projecting cornice separating the first and second stories. The third section is attached at the rear. It is gable roofed with irregular window and door placement. The interior of the building was difficult to assess because demolition was in progress and interior partitions had for the most part had been removed. The building functioned as apartments and as a restaurant.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. AL-VI-B-339

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

### Summary:

This property is being recorded prior to demolition due to severe flood damage which occurred in 1996 when Jackson's Run overflowed. The building is a two story frame apartment building dating from the 1920s, and displaying little stylistic influence. It reflects Lonaconing's decline in population which occurred after World War I, and the shift of commercial activity away from Jackson Street to concentration along Main Street. The building replaced the Jackson Hotel, Lonaconing's first, built during the late 19th century on this site. The hotel had been built by John Helber who acquired the property from the Georges Creek Coal Company in two transactions in 1865 and 1867. The heirs of John Helber sold the hotel property to John S. Phillips in 1901. Phillips built the subject building some time later.

### Historic Context:

The history of Allegany County was powered by the development of industry and transportation in western Maryland. The discovery of iron ore and coal in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the western mountains of Maryland intensified the growth of the area already begun to a small degree through hunting and farming. Not until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, did the need for high quality coal and iron, and the ability to transport them efficiently, spur the development of the company towns which are spread throughout Allegany County, Lonaconing among them. The crude National Pike begun in 1806, was improved with macadam surface in 1831. The network of railroads radiating from Cumberland on the eastern edge of Allegany County, began to take shape in the 1840s and 50s.<sup>1</sup> These improved routes of transportation, along with the development of the C&O Canal, intensified the mining boom in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in western Maryland.

The mineral rich George's Creek Valley, running south from Frostburg to the Potomac River at Westernport, and bounded on the east by Dan's Mountain and on the west by Big Savage Mountain, was the setting for much of that development. Home of the Big Vein, a prodigious deposit of high quality coal, the valley provided for the development of many independent mining companies. About halfway down the valley, between Frostburg and Westernport, the George's Creek Coal and Iron Co. put down its roots.

The village of Lonaconing, its name derived from Lonacona, the native name for George's Creek, was established in 1837 by the George's Creek Coal and Iron Co. At the new village was an iron furnace, still standing today. The company built houses for the workers, established rules to live by, and created a road to connect their town with the National Pike at Frostburg. By 1856 the iron furnace was abandoned in favor of the

<sup>1</sup>Donna M. Ware, Green Glades and Sooty Gob Piles, Maryland Historical Trust, pp 22-28..

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AL-VI-N-339

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

Section Number 8 Page 2

---

more profitable extraction of bituminous coal. By this time the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad had purchased the Company road to Frostburg, establishing a line straight through the coal rich George's Creek valley from Piedmont, West Virginia to Cumberland, Maryland.<sup>2</sup> The advent of the railroad connection with Cumberland was crucial to the continued development of the town of Lonaconing and the surrounding area. The railroad linked Lonaconing to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as well as the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, both important connections with coal markets in the industrialized east.

In 1881, Lonaconing was thriving with a population of 5,000 and a well established business district running from the original village along Jackson Street to Main Street on the other side of the railroad tracks.<sup>3</sup> On the corner of Jackson and Front Streets, was the location of the first hotel in Lonaconing, the Jackson House. On September 7, 1881, fire destroyed many of the businesses along the Main Street district. The town was prospering, however, and recovered from the fire. In 1890 Lonaconing was incorporated as a town, its growth continuing into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, attracting a population of immigrants, skilled in mining, from Germany, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.<sup>4</sup>

By the turn of the century, Lonaconing had its own water and electric companies. In 1907, a new industry, silk milling, arrived with the Klot's Throwing Co.; and in 1914 the Lonaconing Glass Co. was established.<sup>5</sup> The new industries lent themselves well to the town's immigrant workforce, originally attracted by the mining of coal and iron ore.

Following World War I the town of Lonaconing began to decline. Fire, floods, flu, and the Great Depression disastrously impacted the industries which had made the town prosperous. From a population high of around 9,000 at the start of World War I, it had fallen to approximately 1,500 in 1996.<sup>6</sup>

### Resource History:

The property is located in the Jackson Street business district, on the corner of Jackson and Front Streets at 14-16 Jackson St. It was at this location that the Jackson House, the first hotel in Lonaconing, was built by John Helber sometime in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Helber purchased the property from the George's Creek Coal and Iron Co. in two lots, lot 2 in 1865 and lot 3 in 1868. In 1901, Helber's widow, Rosina Helber sold the property to John Phillips for \$3,000, indicating a building probably still stood on the property. In 1954, A.A. McCormick and H.F. Whitworth, handling the estate of John Phillips, conveyed the property to John James Phillips, probably the son of the deceased Mr. Phillips. The building which stands at 14-16 Jackson St. today is clearly not the 19<sup>th</sup> century hotel constructed by John Helber. The frame apartment building now standing appears to date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, most likely ca. 1920. Parts of the building may date from as recently as the 1930s. In

---

<sup>2</sup>James W. Thomas and Judge T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany Co., Maryland, Vol. 1, pp. 536-38.

<sup>3</sup>Ware, p.74.

<sup>4</sup>Thomas, pp. 536-542.

<sup>5</sup>Thomas, p. 545.

<sup>6</sup>William M. Maury, "River Rats" put Westernport on the Map Early, Towne, Vol 4, Number 2, Oct 1996, p. 12.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AL-VI-N-339

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

Section Number 8 Page 3

---

1957, the property was sold to Patrick McDonough by Mary E. Phillips (see map from 1957 deed showing current building dimensions). The McDonoughs operated a restaurant on the first floor of the building until the 1980s. The building housed apartments until the 1996 flood which made it uninhabitable. The 1996 flood resulted in severe damage to the building which is being recorded prior to demolition.

## Resource Analysis:

The building located at 14-16 Jackson Street is an example of an apartment and commercial property dating from the 1920s and '30s in Lonaconing. The building was constructed after the time that Lonaconing began to decline in population. It replaced a hotel, Lonaconing's first, which was demolished or destroyed prior to the construction of this building. The construction of this building which was primarily residential, may reflect the reduction of commercial activity in Lonaconing which began to occur after World War I, and the shift of the commercial district from Jackson Street to Main Street.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AL-VI-N-339

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

Section Number 8 Page 4

---

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

### **MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture/Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

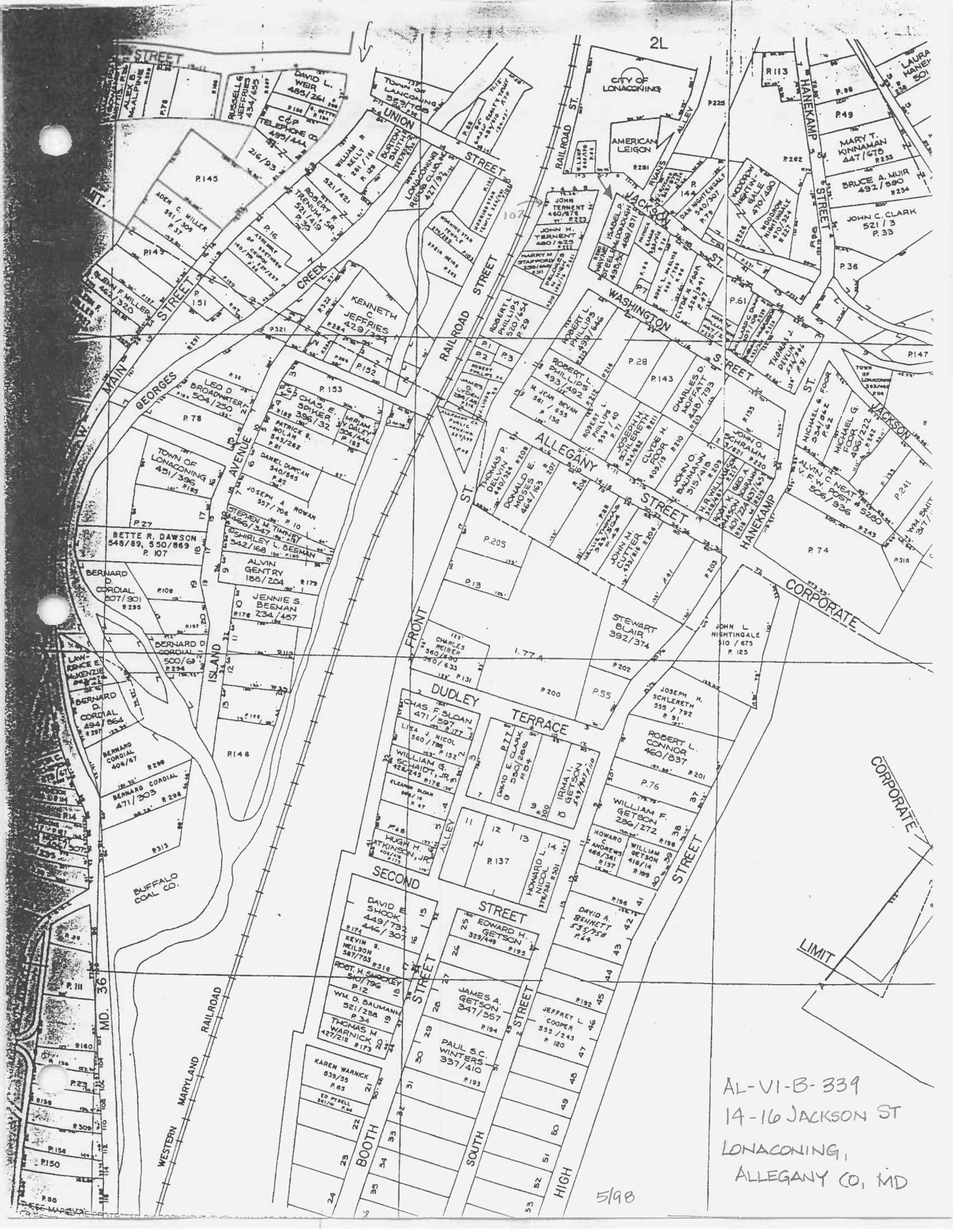
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown









AL-VI-B-339  
 14-16 JACKSON ST  
 LONACONING,  
 ALLEGANY CO, MD

5/98

4387000m N.

4386

4385

400 000 FEET  
(W. VA.)

4384

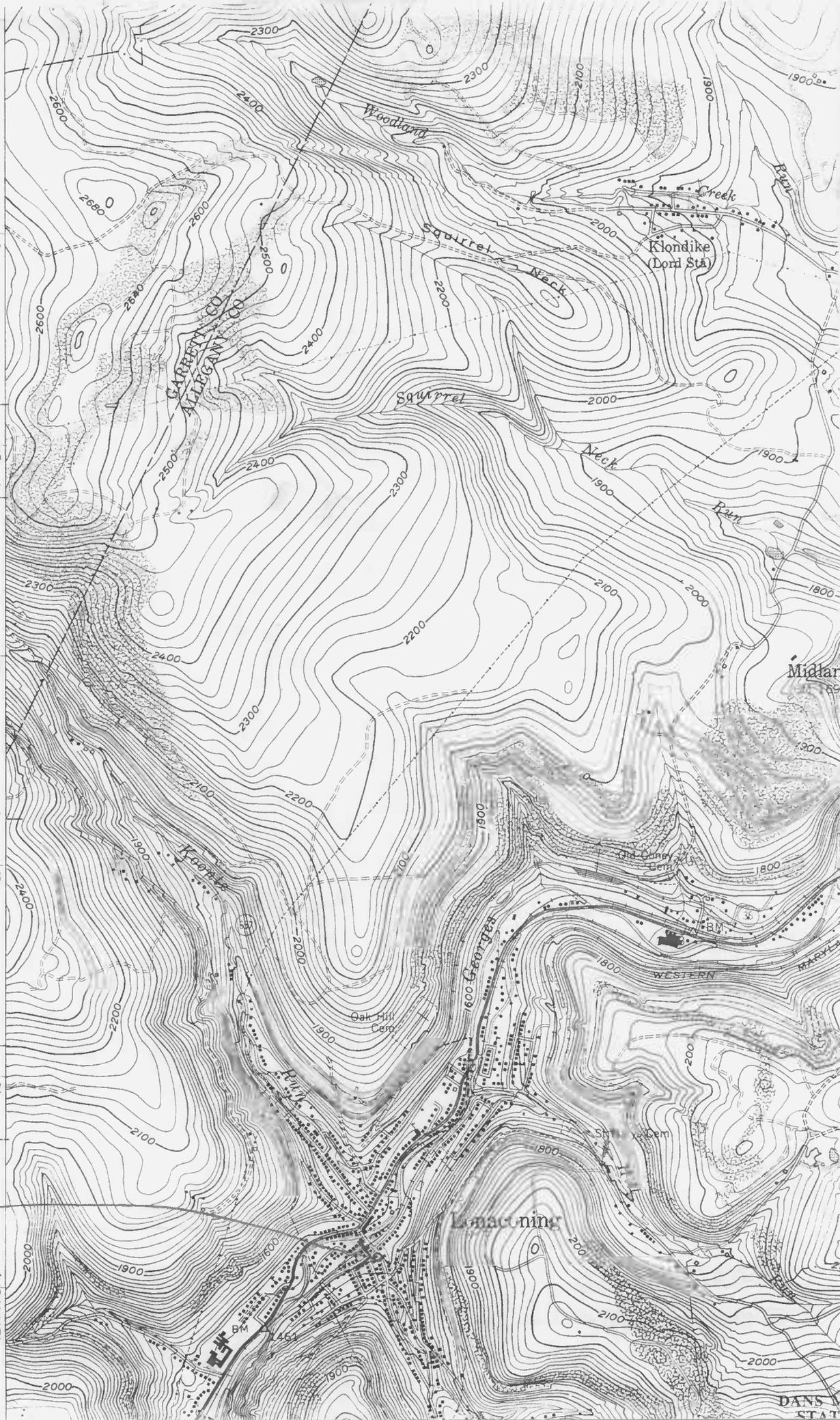
35'

4383

4382

5163 II SE  
(BARTON)

LONACONING QUAD  
AL-VI-B-339  
14-16 JACKSON ST  
LONACONING, ALLEGANY  
CO, MD



DANS  
STAT



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St. Lonaconing, MD

Allegany Co.

photo by P. Reed

4/98

reg. loc. P. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

NW. view

#1



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St, Lonaconing, MD  
Alleghany Co.

photo by P. Reed

4/93

neg loc: P. Reed & Assoc. Inc  
Hagerstown, MD

SE view

#2



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St, Lonearing, MD

Alligany Co.

Photo by P. Reed

4/98

neg. by P. Reed + Assoc. Inc

Hagerstown, MD

SE view, detail

#3



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St. Lonaconing, MD

Alleghany Co.

Photo by P. Reed

neg. loc. P. Reed + Assoc.

Hagerstown, MD

4/98

SE view, detail

#4



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St. Hardecoring, MD  
Allegheny Co.

photo by P. Reed

4/98

Req. Loc. P. Reed + Assoc., Inc.  
Hagerstown, MD

NE view

#5



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St., Lonaconing, MD  
Allegheny Co. MD

photo by P. Reed

4/98

neg. by P. Reed + Assoc. Inc.  
Hagerstown, MD

NE view, detail

#6



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St. Loraconing, MD  
Allegheny Co.

photo by P. Reed

4/98

ing. loc. P. Reed + Assoc. inc.  
Hagerstown, MD

SE view, detail

#7



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St. Lonaconing, MD

Allegheny Co.

photo by P. Reed

4/98

neg. loc. P. Reed & Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

S. view, detail

#8



AL-VI-B-339

1A-16 Jackson St. Lonaconing, MD  
Allegheny Co.

photo by P. Reed

4/98

req. loc. P. Reed & Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

Interior, detail, 1A, Jackson St.  
front room

#9



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St. Lanacoring, MD  
Allegany Co.

Photo by P. Reed

4/98

Neg. loc. P. Reed + Assoc. Inc.  
Hagerstown, MD

Interior, detail, 16 Jackson St., 1st  
floor

#10



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St. Lonaconing MD

Allegheny Co

photo by P. Reed

4/98

neg. loc. P. Reed + Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

interior, detail, first floor, 16 Jackson St

#11



AL-VI-B-339

14-16 Jackson St., Lonaconing, MD

Allegheny Co.

photo by P. Reed

4/98

neg. loc. P. Reed & Assoc. Inc.

Hagerstown, MD

interior, 2nd floor, S. view

# 12