

PH0031348

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 5 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hager House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hager's Fancy or Hager's Choice

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
19 Key Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 043

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mayor and City Council of the City of Hagerstown

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State

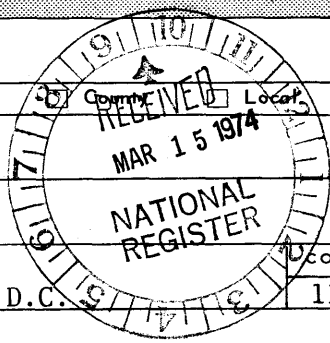
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Maryland	STATE
Washington	COUNTY
NOV 5 1974	ENTRY NUMBER
_____	DATE
_____	FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hager House, 19 Key Street in Hagerstown, is a two story house, plus an attic, that sits on a high, stone foundation. The front, or southern, facade is three bays wide with the west bay being larger than the others. The entrance is in the west bay with a single window in each of the other bays. On the second floor are three windows directly above the first story openings. All the windows in the first and second stories have twelve over twelve lights and three panel shutters. Above each window is a flat arch with stone voussoirs. The stone on the first story level has been white-washed. A porch extends across the first story and rests on a stone foundation. Under the porch is a Dutch door with its original iron shop hinges. Between the west and center bays a chimney pierces the roof near the ridge.

The east end, two bays wide, is also constructed of uncoursed stone. Centered in the gable is a nine light casement window. The second floor has a window in each bay while the first story has one, narrow window in the south bay. Beneath this window is one in the cellar with six lights.

The north side has a window in each bay on both the first and second stories. Below the east bay is a small cellar window with vertical wood bars.

The west end has an irregular window placement. There is one window in each story. The first story window is slightly to the right of center while the one in the second story is centered in the end. Centered in the gable is a nine light casement window above which is a small, segmental arch recess.

Originally the Hager House was one-and-one-half stories. The Hager House is two rooms wide and two deep with an identical arrangement on the second floor. In the southwest corner is the entrance hall with a steep, enclosed stairway with black walnut risers and treads. Northwest of the entrance is the kitchen with a large brick fireplace laid in Flemish-common bond. Across the top of the rectangular opening is a large, well-worn beam.

East of the entrance hall is the fur trading room. This is a very plain room with a simple chair rail around it.

The northeast room is also very simple.

The southeast bedroom, on the second floor, has a small fireplace. The wood mantelpiece has an arched opening. A simple chair rail surrounds the room.

The small northwest bedroom has a built-in cupboard with two doors, with H-L hinges, above four drawers. At the top of the stair perpendicular to the panelled rail, is the whimsical profile of a face.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

circa 1740

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hager House has been well-restored and retains much of its original wood-work and hardware. This is one of the earliest stone houses in Washington County.

Built circa 1740 by Jonathan Hager, one of the first settlers in Washington County, Maryland. A native of Westphalia in Germany, he came to Philadelphia in 1736. He stayed in Pennsylvania for a short time and then pushed on to western Maryland. In December 1739, he received his first patent from Lord Baltimore for two hundred acres which he called Hager's Fancy or Hager's Choice.

Before building his house, Hager lived in one of two log houses which stood on the property when he acquired it. These houses are thought to be two of the oldest in this part of Maryland. They are described as "sorry" houses in the surveyor's certificate for Hager's Fancy, a term which H. Chandlee Forman defines as "meaning cheap, poor, mean of miserable houses." One of these houses was excavated in 1953 under the direction of Forman. Known as "The Johathan Hager Foundation," it is described as a "very crude stone foundation which appeared, from what evidence that remained, to have been probably a small log house of two tiny rooms, a fireplace, and casements with quarrel panes."¹

In 1739-1740, Hager built a one-and-one-half story stone house over the springs on his property. Although it made his cellar very damp and even wet, this protected his water supply from the Indians. The loop windows, narrower on the outside of the thick cellar wall than they are on the inside, also provided protection from hostile Indians.

Hager married Elizabeth Kershner (or Grischner) in 1740. Four years later he had Hager's Fancy resurveyed, adding three hundred acres of land to it, because he was "apprehensive about some vacant land thereto contiguous."²

¹Forman, H. Chandlee. Maryland Architecture, A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War. (Cambridge, Maryland. Tidewater Publishers, 1968), p. 52.

²Washington County Land Records, Patent T. I #3/281.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HB
 2-1-73
 E 225-670
 100/100

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cunz, Dieter. The Maryland Germans, A History. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1948.

Forman, H. Chandlee. Maryland Architecture, A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.

Mish, Mary Vernon. Jonathan Hager, Founder. Hagerstown, Maryland ASC Creative Printing, 1972. (Reprint)

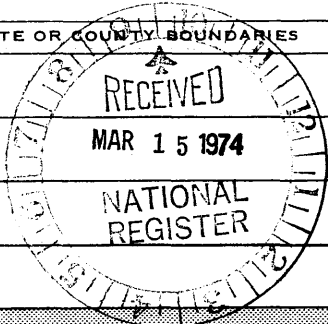
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 38 ' 23 "	77 ° 43 ' 50 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: two

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ann Hill, Pamela James, Summer Interns

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
 Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date September 24, 1973

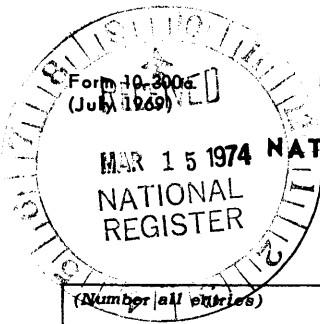
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/5/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-5-74



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	Maryland	
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DATE		

(Number all entries)

Hager House

No. 7. Description continued.

The rafters in the attic have mortise-and-tenon joints fastened with wood pins. Between the three principal rafters are purlins with wind braces. The purlins are mortised into the principal rafters.

In the cellar are three rooms. The west room has a high, stone, fireplace with a large beam across the top of the rectangular opening. In the south-east and northeast rooms are two springs which flow out through the east end. The rye straw insulation can be seen in the low ceiling. There are loop holes in the twenty-two inch stone walls.

No. 8. Significance continued.

In 1747, he transferred his right to this land to Jacob Rohrer, who then had it patented in his name. It is possible that it was Rohrer who enlarged Hager House to its present two full stories and attic.

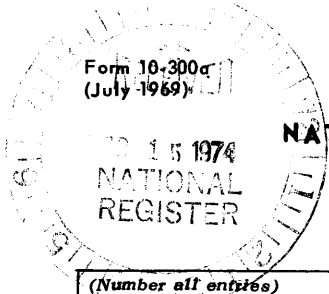
In 1753, Hager acquired a patent for another tract called Hager's Delight which consisted of one thousand, seven hundred eighty acres. On this land, he built what T. J. C. Williams describes as a "large log house, a fine building in those days. There were two large log pens far enough apart to constitute a hall."³ Hager's children were probably born in this, their parents' second home, Rosanna in 1752 and Jonathan, Jr. in 1755.

In the years following, Hager obtained patents for six more tracts of land, the last of which was called New Work. It was on these seven hundred fourteen acres which he acquired in 1765 that Hager laid out Elizabeth Town, named after his wife who had died in 1765. The extent to which it had grown by 1722 is evident in this description written by William Eddes, the English Commissioner of the Land Office in Annapolis:

About thirty miles west of Fredericktown, I passed through a settlement which is making quick advances to perfection. A German adventurer, whose name is Hager, purchased a considerable tract of land in this neighborhood, and with much discernment and foresight, determined to give encouragement to traders, and to erect proper habitations for the

³Williams, T. J. C. A History of Washington County Maryland,..., Reprint of 1968 edition (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), p.23.

(see continuation sheet #2)



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 5 1974

(Number all entries)

Hager House

No. 8. Significance continued.

stowage of goods, for supply of the adjacent country. His plan succeeded; he has lived to behold a multitude of inhabitants of lands, which he remembers unoccupied; and he has seen erected in places, appropriated by him for the purposes, more than an hundred comfortable edifices, to which the name of Hager's Town is given in honour of the intelligent founder.⁴

Hager was naturally the new town's foremost citizen and as there were still few towns so far west, he held a position of some importance. He was one of the eleven Maryland managers (there were also eleven from Virginia) of George Washington's project to promote the development of navigation on the Potomac River. In 1771, he was elected to represent Frederick County at the General Assembly in Annapolis. Although he had taken out naturalization papers in 1746,⁵ Hager's eligibility for this position was called into question because he was neither a "natural born" English subject nor decedent from one. The Assembly voted by a narrow margin that Hager could not serve, but nearly within the week they passed a law making him eligible. When he was re-elected in 1773, the same problem was encountered because the last Lord Baltimore had died and the Assembly doubled the validity of the laws passed under him. The question was not resolved in the 1773 session but Hager was allowed to retain his seat for that period. He died the following year in an accident at the new German Reformed church for which he had contributed the land.⁶ Just the year after his death, Hager's Town (legally still Elizabeth Town) was made the county seat of the newly formed Washington County.

Jacob Rohrer, to whom Hager sold Hager's Fancy in 1747, had it resurveyed with several other tracts of Land of Prospect in 1789. He left this to his son Frederick in 1804 and the latter sold it to Michael Hammond in 1813. It remained with his heirs until 1890, after which it went through a succession of owners until the Hager House and some of the land around it was acquired by the Washington County Historical Society in 1944. The house has been restored and is now situated in Hagerstown's city park.

⁴ Williams, T. J. C. A History of Washington County, p. 27.

⁵ Mish, Mary Vernon, Jonathan Hager, Founder. (Hagerstown, Maryland, 1972), p.24.

⁶ Mish, Mary Vernon, Jonathan Hager, Founder. (Hagerstown, Maryland.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 5 1974

(Number all entries)

Hager House

No. 9. Major Bibliographical References Continued.

Williams, T. J. C. A History of Washington County Maryland, from the Earliest Settlements to the Present Time. Reprint of 1906 edition. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Washington County Land Records and Wills. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

