

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 6 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Rohrer House
AND/OR COMMON
Silsby House

LOCATION E of Hagerstown

STREET & NUMBER
1/4 mile north of Trovinger Mill Road, Route 1
CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown vicinity
STATE
Maryland
VICINITY OF
24
COUNTY
Washington
CODE
043
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Oliver M. Silsby and Dr. Margaret Silsby
STREET & NUMBER
7506 Connecticut Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Chevy Chase
VICINITY OF
STATE
Maryland 20015

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street
CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown
STATE
Maryland 21740

Liber: 643
Folio: 630

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located about 1/4 mile north of Trovinger Mill Road, approximately 1 1/4 miles from its junction with Jefferson Boulevard (Maryland Route 64) in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a bluff above the Antietam Creek and faces south.

The structure is a three-bay, two-story brick dwelling painted white with black trim. A two-bay frame extension extends to the rear of the building.

The house is set on fieldstone foundations. Brickwork at the facade is Flemish bond while other walls display common bond. Flat brick arches are located over the window and door openings.

Windows, containing two-over-two pane Victorian period sash are present on all sides of the house. At the facade they are flanked by louvered shutters. The window framing is finished with simple molding.

The front entrance is located in the center bay of the south wall. The doorway is quite plain, with molded edging providing the only decorative work at the jambs. A narrow transom is present above the door. Other entrances are located in the frame extension to the rear and at the cellar level in the west side of the foundation.

Evidence remains of a one-story porch along the facade which has been removed. Porches shelter the entrances to the rear frame extension. They are supported by square wooden posts.

The roof is covered with slate. According to a previous owner, the house received a new roof about 1898. Small brick chimneys rise from inside each gable end. The cornice consists of a simple band of molding.

Although the general exterior appearance of this house suggests a late 19th century building date, closer examination (made in 1977) reveals an 18th century building which was enlarged and extensively renovated during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Flemish bonding at the front elevation ends just above the first story windows to be replaced by common bonding showing six courses of stretchers between header rows. At the gable ends careful scrutiny revealed the outline of gables of a former one story building which had been raised in height to the present two stories. The older brickwork at the first story level was in common bond with three rows of stretchers between header courses. The common bonding above it, being the addition is already noted was laid in a six-to-one ratio.

The interior of the house reveals further evidence that an earlier, and apparently 18th century, house was enlarged. The first story has massive interior doors, most with four raised panels with quarter round trim. The door leading from the west room to the circa 1900 kitchen addition was apparently at one time an exterior door having raised panels on its front surface and battens sheathing the brick. It is secured with long strap hinges. Door frames are heavy, with quarter round trim. Early chair rail also remains in the first story. The first floor plan would appear to be Germanic in origin having a large room with a fireplace and corner stair taking almost half the house. Two smaller rooms utilize the remaining area. The fireplace in the west wall has been rebuilt.

The house is in excellent condition and is located on the property containing 27.88 acres. It is not at present in danger of destruction. Included in the acreage is a late 19th century frame bank barn.

An old road which led from Hagerstown to several mills and forges along the Antietam passes through the property. The road was in use during the 18th and early 19th centuries with portions remaining in service today as farm lanes. The road forded the Antietam behind the house.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant for its architecture. In its present form it represents a frequently seen type of brick building which dates in Washington County generally from the second half of the 19th century. The structure apparently began life, however, as a one-story, late 18th century brick building, and was enlarged during the late 19th century to two full stories. The exterior reveals the contrast between 18th and late 19th century construction, and the interior displays the same contrast with a remarkable amount of 18th century work remaining in the main story and in the cellar.

The property is worthy of note for its association with the early road which led west to "Rohrer's Mill" and to Hagerstown. Although the road is no longer in use, much of its path can be traced and it should be considered for preservation. (See description.)

The Rohrer family, who operated a nearby mill, originally owned the property on which this house stands, selling it in 1792. It was probably the Rohrers who built the 18th century portion of this house.

In its situation along Antietam Creek, the property also has great scenic value.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 15 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	[1,8]	[2 7,1 8,5,0]	[4,3 9,2 9,2,0]	B	[1,8]	[2 7,1 7,8,0]	[4,3 9,2 7,0,0]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[1,8]	[2 7,1 5,5,0]	[4,3 9,2 8,0,0]	D	[1,8]	[2 7,1 6,2,0]	[4,3 9,3 0,6,0]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at a point on the south bank of Antietam Creek about 1.25 miles southwest of the point where Old Forge Road crosses Antietam Creek; thence, south southwest about 600' to a point; thence, northwest about 300' crossing the driveway, to a point on the north side of Antietam Creek; thence, following said creek northwest for about 400' to a point; thence, north about 1,000' to a point on the south side of Antietam Creek; thence, following said creek east about 1,000' to the point of beginning, containing approximately 15 acres.

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 CS

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION DATE
 Washington County Historic Sites Survey 1974 & 1977

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
 33 West Washington Street (301) 791-3065

CITY OR TOWN STATE
 Hagerstown Maryland 21740

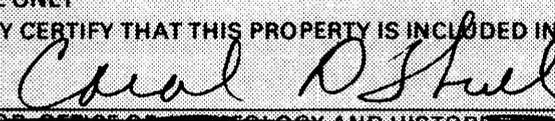
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

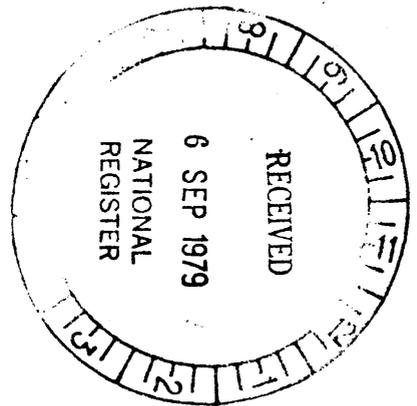
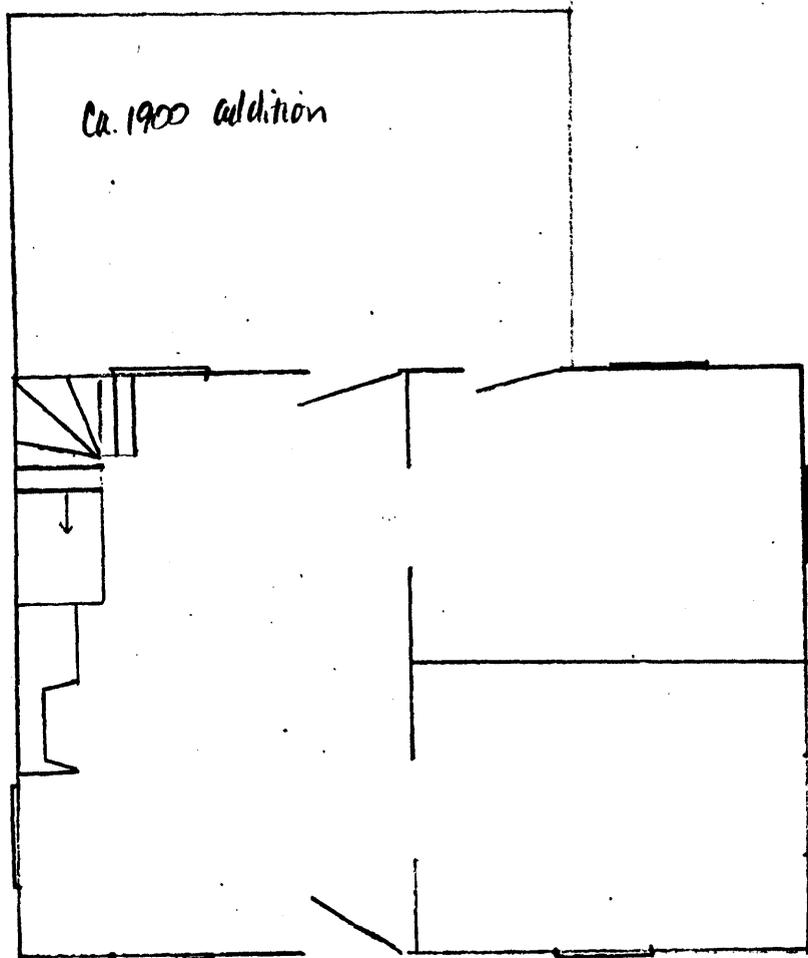
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  8-31-79
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE <u>11-7-79</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: 	DATE <u>11-7-79</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Regional Coordinator	



LA-I-060 Approximate floor plan.