

PH0098493

# DATA SHEET

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	MAY 2 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:

The Elliott-Bester House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

205-207 South Potomac 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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Restoration in progress</b>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted (upon completion of restoration work) <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mary K. Bowman

STREET AND NUMBER:

951 The Terrace

CITY OR TOWN:

Hagerstown

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

West Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

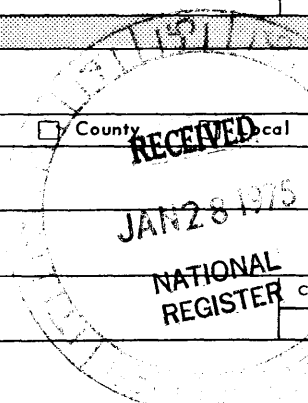
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Washington
ENTRY NUMBER	MAY 2 1975
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

The Elliott-Bester House is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Baltimore and South Potomac Streets in Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland. Its facade faces east, toward Potomac Street.

The two-story brick dwelling is seven bays in length, including a two-bay addition at its south end. It is painted yellow and is trimmed with black and white. A two-story four-bay ell extends to the rear or north of the main structure. To this ell is attached an early twentieth century concrete block addition which housed the Bester florist business.

Set on low stone foundations, the bricks of the original section of the facade, or east, wall and the north gable wall are laid in Flemish bond. Other walls display common bond brick work. A quarter round molded brick water table extends along the facade.

The windows, under segmental brick arches contain two over two pane Victorian period sashes. They are flanked with paneled shutters at the first story and louvered shutters at the second floor level. A large store window has been installed in the bays north of the main entrance.

The two entrances in the facade are topped with late nineteenth century bracketed hoods. Wide transoms are present over the doors. The original front door is in the second bay from the north end of the house.

Three chimneys are present, of varying size but all with corbeled caps. They rise from inside the north and south gable ends with a large flue projecting from the original south gable end. The slate roof is broken by two projecting gables with carved decorative trim. Other exterior woodwork associated with the eaves is of the Victorian period.

The original appearance of the house was altered greatly during the late nineteenth century. Changes to the building include replacement of original windows, frames and doors, the addition of an entrance in the facade, the construction of the two projecting gables in the roof line at the front of the house and the addition of the two south bays.

Much of the interior of the house has also been altered. Changes have been made to the woodwork and floors as well as to the floor plan of the building. The major alterations appear to date from the late nineteenth century.

Some original interior woodwork is present in all rooms and in the stair hall. Most of the alterations to the woodwork occur at the first story although some original molded cornice (of wood) and doors with six raised panels remain. At the second story level the southeast room has original wood sheathing on the fireplace wall, consisting of raised panels with plain quarter round molding. The southwest room is treated similarly with paneling confined to the chimney breast and adjacent cupboards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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>Boyhood home</u>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>of Com. Jesse</u>                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>D. Elliott</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Elliott-Bester House lies in its architectural and historic merit. With its remaining original woodwork and interior and exterior detail reflecting eighteenth century formal design, the house is an excellent example of a dwelling built early in western Maryland's architectural history. Since bricks apparently did not become a prevalent building material in Washington County until after 1800, the Elliott-Bester House with a probable late eighteenth century building date is particularly outstanding.

Historically, the house is important for its association with Commodore Jesse D. Elliott who spent his boyhood years there. Elliott is remembered in military history for his distinguished role in the Battle of Lake Erie with Commodore Oliver H. Perry during the War of 1812.

Jesse Duncan Elliott was born on July 14, 1782. The Elliotts were a Scotch-Irish family who migrated from Donegal in the north of Ireland to Pennsylvania.

After studying law at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Elliott received a commission in the navy as a midshipman. During the Battle of Lake Erie, on September 10, 1813, Elliott commanded the "Niagra" where his strategic actions are recognized as leading to victory in the battle.

By 1818 a controversy had begun concerning Elliott's conduct during the Battle of Lake Erie which subsequently resulted in a court-martial and his suspension from the navy in 1840. In 1843 Elliott's case was reheard and he was reinstated at his former rank. He was appointed to the command of the Philadelphia Navy Yard and died there December 10, 1845.

In addition to his role in the Battle of Lake Erie, Elliott served in the Mediterranean. He was put in command of the naval forces in the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico in 1829. He led naval forces at Charleston, South Carolina, and later took charge of the Boston Navy Yard. Elliott then sailed to the Mediterranean again where he was in command of the navy squadron there. In 1839 he returned to the U. S. where he remained until his death.

An account of the Battle of Lake Erie from Elliott's memoirs along with biographical information is printed in Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Primary Sources

Land Records of Washington County, Maryland

Probate Records of Washington County, Maryland.

Report on the Committee of Claims, the Petition of Anne Elliott, February 15, 1804.

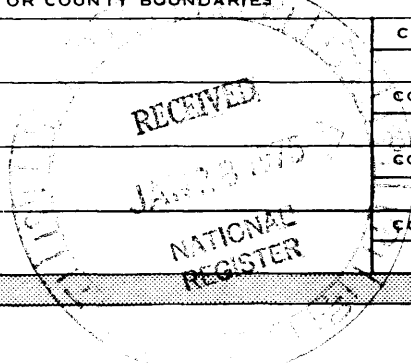
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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 ' 19 "	77 ° 43 ' 23 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 83' x 155' less than 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Paula Stoner Dickey**

ORGANIZATION: **Consultant, Architectural History**      DATE: **April, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**335 South Ridge Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Greencastle**      STATE: **Pennsylvania**      CODE: **03**

**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: Arthur C. Townsend  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 1/27/75

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

Ed Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/2/75

ATTEST:  
Mark Atung  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.1.75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1975

(Number all entries)

The Elliott-Bester House

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Original doors and wood sheathed chimney walls have raised panels trimmed with plain quarter round molding. Numerous wrought nails and screws have been found. In the cellar heavy joists apparently of split logs carry a layer of stone and mortar below the floor boards.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Speech of Commodore Jesse Duncan Elliott, U.S.N., delivered in Hagerstown, November 14, 1843, Philadelphia: G. B. Zieber and Co., 1844.

Tax Records of Elizabeth Hundred, 1783, 1803.

Secondary Sources: (references to Com. Jesse D. Elliott)

Sharf, Thomas, History of Western Maryland, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

Williams, Thomas J. C., A History of Washington County, Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

