

CHAPTER NEWS

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Members of Potomac Valley Chapter, AIA, are reminded that in accordance with the bylaws there will be no Regular Meetings in the months of July and August. Meetings will resume in September with ample notice provided.

POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

MAY/JUNE 1968

VOL. 11, NO. 6

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Published bi-monthly by the Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, American Institute of Architects, 912 Thayer Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. Subscription price: 50c per copy, \$2.50 per year. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Change in advertising copy should be directed to: Mr. Leo Sugrue, 11111 Lund Place, Kensington, Maryland.

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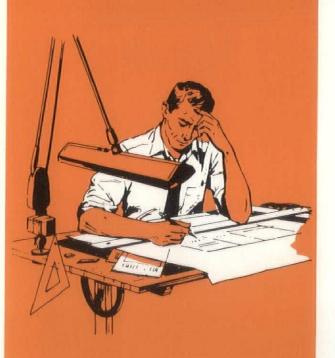
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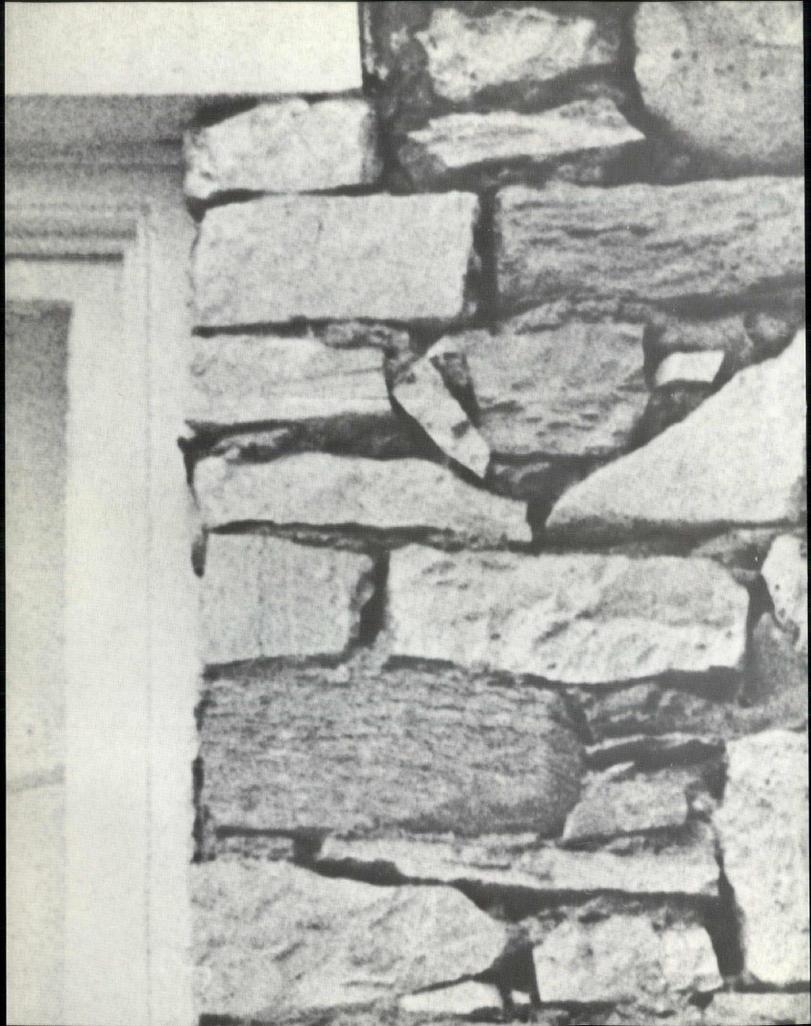
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STONE
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OF
THE
18TH
AND
19TH
CENTURY
BUILDER



Understanding of 18th and 19th century American character and thought provides insight into the architectural order and consistency bound to the inherent social structure of the time.

It is a period dealing with strong solids and cavities spoken in a uniform architectural language, expressing the prevailing character of the people. Remaining buildings and bridges provide visual and tangible means of understanding an architecture solving practical and functional problems. It must be felt within its own environment — among the elements supporting its very existence.

"Architecture" could well be the word substituted for "painting" in this description of Andrew Wyeth's work, which so aptly states the message one receives in experiencing the stone structures of Western Maryland. "The painting made of that moment contains the meaning of a day, a place, a season of the year, a phase of America."

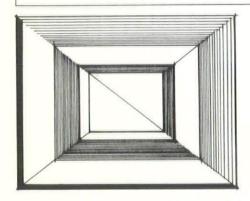


German immigrants, landing in Philadelphia, brought to America a stone architectural expression strongly reflecting the stone structures found in the villages clustered along the banks of the Rhine. A solid, vigorous, practical, sound character is evident in what may be called a sensible job of building.

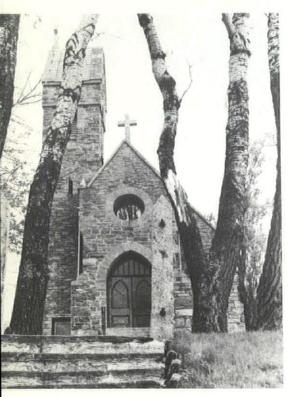
The regional character of these stone villages, houses, barns, mills and bridges form a sharp contrast to the degree of elegance and refinement found in the brick manor houses built by the English in Tidewater Maryland. Social and cultural differences are clearly defined.

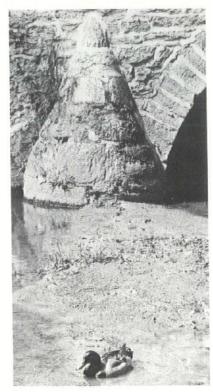
Jonathan Hager, the founder of Hagerstown, attracted many German artisans to his new settlement. "Hager's Town" became a village of artisans representing many crafts and trades; and among them, the stone masons.

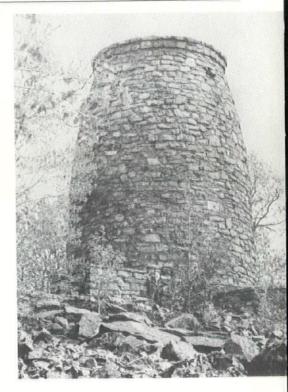
Hager, a fur trader, blacksmith and gunsmith, built a stone house in 1739, the oldest known existing stone house west of the Blue Ridge. Architecturally, it authentically states a solution to problems of function encountered by the self-sufficient settler.

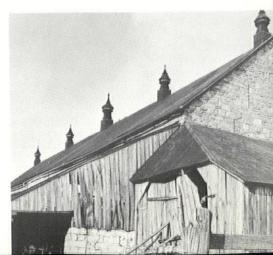












CHARACTERISTIC
ARCHITECTURAL
FEATURES AND
DETAILS FOUND
IN EARLY STONE
STRUCTURES

SITE:

Houses were built over one or more springs

- · to assure water supply during Indian attacks
- · for fire protection
- · for convenience

CONSTRUCTION:

They were constructed for defense in a fort-like manner

- · of field stone found on or near the site
- usually not of "dressed" stone
- · with brick chimneys
- · wood shingles for roofing
- · heavy timber framing
- · a central flue in middle of dwelling

DOORS & WINDOWS:

Both the flat ''jack arch'' and the slightly rounded arch were used

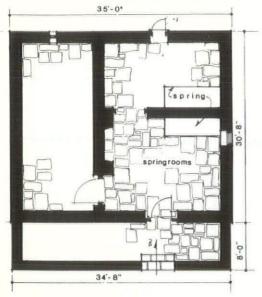
- · over both doors and windows
- · doors were deep-set and heavily paneled
- · wood pinned door jambs and window sash
- window sash were divided into nine lights in the top sash, and six lights in the lower sash

INTERIOR FEATURES:

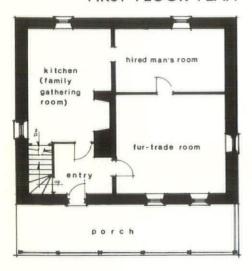
Paneled enclosure surrounds stairwells
Simply detailed wood trim and paneling
Wide floor boards
Heavy chair rails
Immense fireplace openings and corner fireplaces
Plastered wall and surfaces

- plastered with a mixture made from plaster of Paris, mud and straw
 Hardware was varied
- · rat tail, "Holy Lord" and strap hinges
- · thumb latches, sliding bars
- wooden box latches (wood because of English tax on metal locks)
 Colors used:
- · natural plaster and natural wood
- · mustard yellow, earth red and rich blue

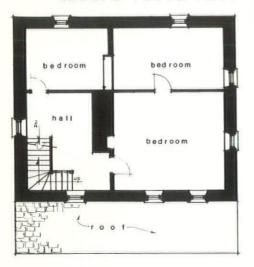
BASEMENT PLAN



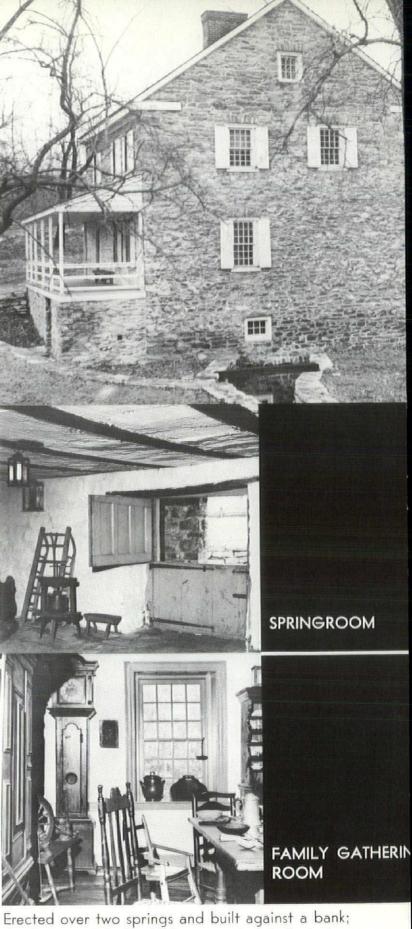
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

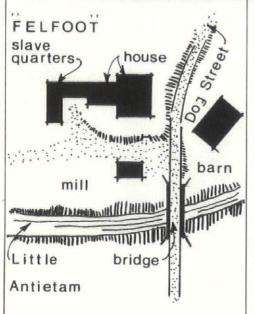


"HAGER'S FANCY"
I 7 3 9



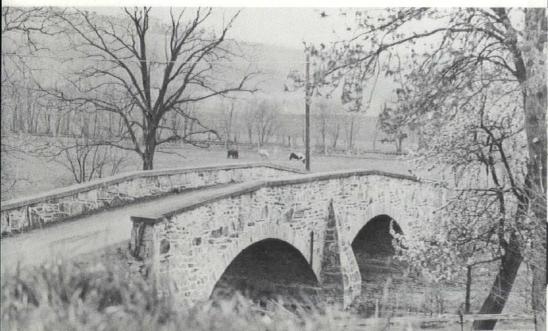
Erected over two springs and built against a bank; the house originally had one and a half stories. Hager added the second story prior to 1745.



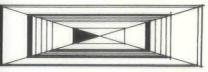


The van Swearingtons, Holland Dutchmen, came from New Amsterdam to Felfoot in 1752. This cluster of stone buildings along the Little Antietam was originally surveyed in 1734. A datestone of 1754, surrounded by unusual diamond-shaped stones is located high in one end wall of the gabled barn. It is believed that the barn was constructed in preparation for the outfitting of Braddock's expedition in 1755.

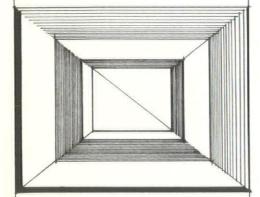




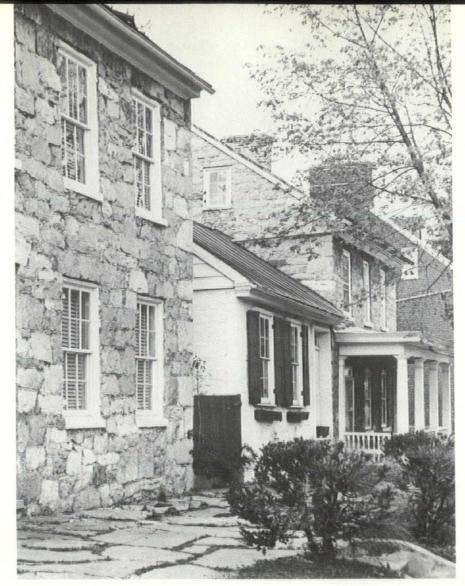
"Felfoot Bridge", possibly one of the earliest stone bridges in Washington County, is unique in the squared-off piers at the base of the arches.

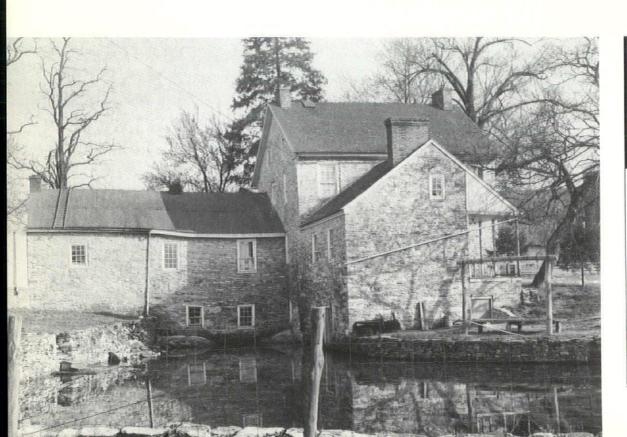


Stone houses on the corner of Main Street and Hall Street in Sharpsburg, Maryland, a town originally laid out by Joseph Chapline in 1763.



Of interest is the early halftimbered and squared-log wing attached to the stone house at the corner. This form of medieval construction was brought to America by German and English settlers.



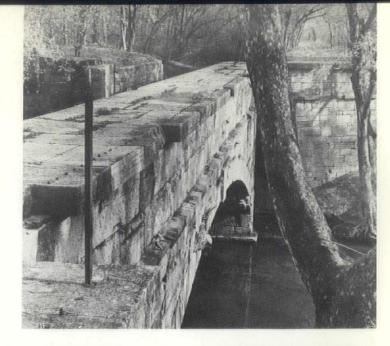


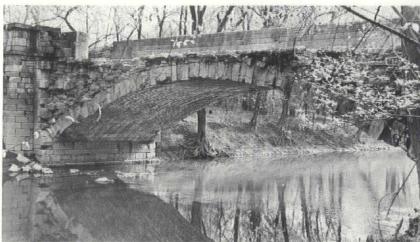
The Peter Mong house was built over a spring and added to in four stages. The main house bears a date stone of 1810, but is predated by other sections of the structure.

These handsome dressed stone structures were built by immigrant Irish workmen to carry the C. & O. Canal over tributary streams to the Potomac River.

Classical Roman influence is especially evident in the squared pilasters and techniques of arch construction. Of interest is the fact that "keystones" were employed at the center of arches in aqueducts, but they were not used in stone bridges built for vehicular traffic.

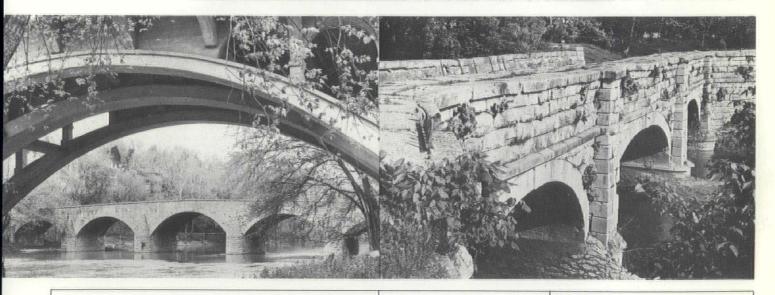
Licking Creek Aqueduct near Park Head. The overall length of the single arch span is over 120 feet, at one time the largest aqueduct arch in the United States.





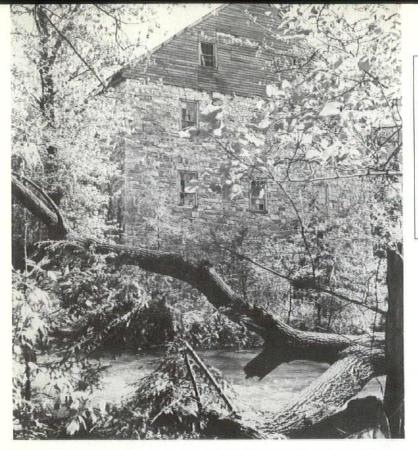


The damaged side of the aqueduct showing the arch construction

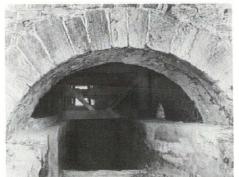


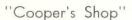
Wilson's Bridge spans the Conococheague Creek with five graceful arches. Erected in 1819, at a cost of \$12,000, it extended the National Road westward.

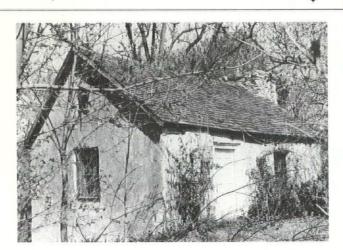
Antietam Aqueduct near Antietam Furnace, built in 1834.

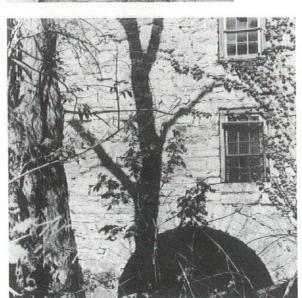


Beaver Creek, a tiny community of stone buildings is close to Route 40 and lies several miles south of Hagerstown. A few buildings have since disappeared, but most of them remain intact. Houses, barns, outbuildings, springhouses, a mill, a tannery, a blacksmith, a cooper's shop (barrel maker) and a shoemaker's shop formed the neucleus.

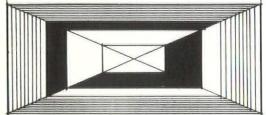




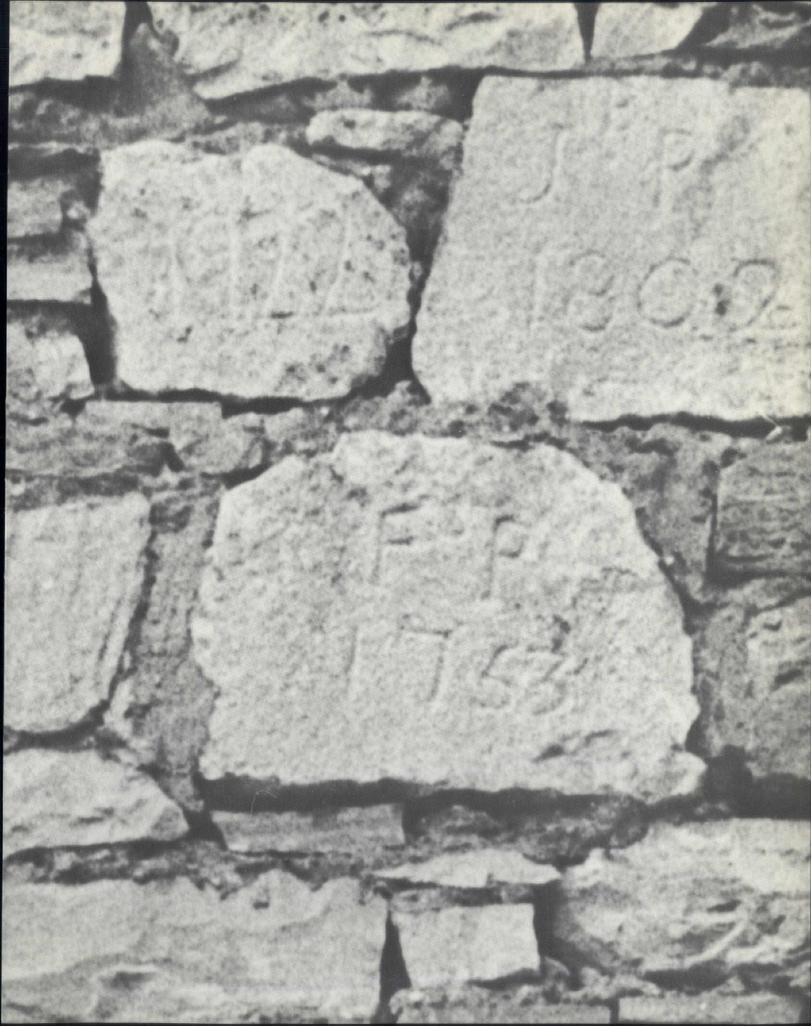




The Trovinger Mill, located on Trovinger Road near Chewsville. Originally Rohrer's Mill, it has a date stone marked J. R. — 1771.







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mrs. Frank W. Mish, Jr.

It was through the untiring effort and determination of Mrs. Mish that the restoration of the Hager House became a reality. She is a trustee of Maryland Historical Trust, National Park Service Historic Buildings Survey and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

We want to express our appreciation to Mrs. Mish for her interest and guidance.

David T. Cottingham

Mr. Cottingham is the Chief of Photography and Engraving for the Daily Mail and the Morning Herald daily newspapers in Hagerstown, Maryland. We wish to thank Mr. Cottingham for photographically documenting all the stone structures used in the preceding article.

Denver Wyand

The stone mason who appears in the photograph on the title page.

Eleanor V. Lakin

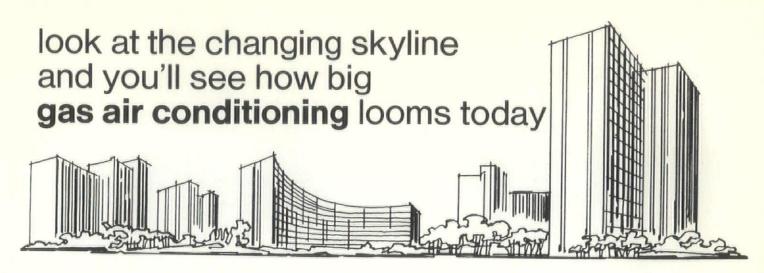
Cover design and graphics

A map giving the location of the structures included in this issue is available from the office of

Bushey • Chapman • Burrey 49 Summit Avenue Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

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