

JOHN WAMPLER MANSION

257 EAST MAIN STREET

This house, built in the early 1830's, is significant in the architectural and social history of Westminster. The 1832 diary of Katherine Jones Shellman relates that this property contained the "Garden of John Wampler, farmer and surveyor, whose brick dwelling was in the course of erection on the corner of Main and Church streets." An early, c. 1880, photograph of the house shows a large five bay by two bay pile that reflects influences of central Pennsylvania as well as the narrower, taller, I-house of the South. The large, slate, hipped roofs and the mouse-toothed cornice are all, for this area, unusual. The family and house were of such prominence that the County's original Orphans' Court used the home as its first headquarters in 1837, before the present Courthouse was built. The house stayed in the Wampler family until 1895 when it was bought by the Methodist Church which used it for an old-age home, and built the long extensions to the east and north. The building now, radically altered on the interior, serves as an office building and apartment house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carroll
670127411

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Wampler Mansion

AND/OR COMMON Chur-Main Apartments

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 257 East Main Street (MD 32) 6

CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF Carroll CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME C. Kenneth Crum Telephone #: 848-7151

STREET & NUMBER Littlestown Road

CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Office Building Liber #: 469

STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 381

CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Westminster Bicentennial

DATE October, 1964 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The broad, sweeping facade of 257 East Main Street, known as the "Wampler Mansion" fills the northeast corner of Main and Church Streets in Westminster. Although several periods of buildings are evident, the owners/builders have, until recently, striven for a unified effect. They have, in large measure, succeeded. The Carroll County Historical Society possesses a photograph showing the house, before Main Street was paved. It is additionless then, proud, having a 2 chimneyed hipped roof, 6/6 double-hung sash windows (with louvered shutters), and an eight-panel transomed door.

The main entrance facade (south front) presently consists of a 2 1/2 story 5 bay section, and a 2 story 2 bay addition to the east. Both rest on a rough coursed fieldstone foundation; both have the same mouse-toothed cornice line, and both have 1/1 double-hung sash windows with, on the ground floor, 5 course flat gauged arches and white wooden sills. However, there are differences, most noticeably the roof; the main section is now covered with a slate roof punctuated by five pedimented roofed dormer windows. The gables are finished with simple sawed bargeboards. The roof of the addition is flat with a heavy molding at the eaves, above the mice teeth. Another difference between the two sections is the bonding pattern, the original section is laid in a precise Flemish Bond, the other in 7 course common bond. The original possesses certain other features, the addition does not, such as an entrance door. The door, the middle bay in the original section, now has 2 vertical recessed panels beneath 6 small lights. A modillion corniced flat roof shelters the door. This hood is a later touch; the brackets place it, loosely, in the era of the new mansard roof.

A 5 course common bond pattern is found on both sections of the west (Church Street) facade, a facade enlivened by a large arch (enclosing the door to the rear addition). The arch is 3 courses wide and creates a thermal window effect, with the door acting as the central pane. The arch is located at the junction of the 2 sections. Otherwise, the facade is fairly routine. This addition may antedate the east extension; an 1877 plat shows the house to be L-shaped, but with the Main Street section being shorter than it is now. Four variably sized windows are on each floor in the sequence, from the north, large, small, large, large. The pattern is the same for both stories, except that the arch crowds the ground floor windows. The large windows have 3 course gauged flat arches but all small windows are archless; all windows here are 1/1. It is clear from the early photograph that the main section originally had 4 windows per floor with the first 2 keeping the close spacing of the south front and with the rear 2 being

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1830	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	John Wampler
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wampler Mansion is significant in the architectural and social history of Westminster. The house was built in the early 1830's; the diary of Katharine Jones Shellman relates that lot 10 contained the "garden of John Wampler, Farmer and Surveyor, whose brick dwelling house was in course of erection on the corner of Main and Church Streets." (The diary covers the years 1822-1832). An early photograph of the house shows a house elegant and large for this time and place. The Wampler family was prospering in the 1830's and probably wished to separate itself from the popular farmhouse style of the Mid-Atlantic Region. The large slate hipped roofs and the mouse-toothed cornice are all, for the area, unusual. (However several other buildings on this block possess a similar cornice. Unfortunately, the land records and other court papers in Frederick County and Carroll County provide little help in deciding which house set the style for muisetanden.)

The family and house were of such prominence that the County's original Orphans' Court used the home as its first headquarters in 1837, before the Court House was built.

After Wampler died, and after numerous disputes and sales among his heirs, the house and garden passed to his son, William A., deed 24/1 dated May 18, 1858. William A. lived here (the 1887 City Directory lists him as living at 257 East Main Street) until he got into debt, forcing his creditors to sell the place to the Methodist Church (June 16, 1895, Deed 81/186). The Church used it as a house for the aged and, probably, then built the additions (both of which have central halls with rooms off in a dormitory fashion). The Methodists kept title until 1950; the present owner took title on May 12, 1970, (Deed 469/381). Between 1950 and the present, the interior has been almost continuously rearranged.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 10 is shown on the original plat of the City of Westminster,
recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Book L, Page 472.

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

September, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

further apart. Originally, all panes were 6/6; now they are 1/1. Further, there have been several alterations to the window pattern; assuming the south bay to be the beginning, the ground floor has a small 1/1 window between bays no. 2 and 3, a set of twin windows replaced the 4th bay, with a recent "normal" size 1/1 window between it and the 3rd bay. The second story has had a small 1/1 window inserted between the 3rd and 4th bays. All original windows have 3 course gauged flat arches and simple enframement; new windows also have simple enframement, but are archless. Four dormer windows, identical to those on the south front, are spaced following the original spacing pattern of the ground and second stories.

The east facade of the Church Street addition is 7 bays long. Although all bays have 3 course gauged flat arches, and all windows are 1/1 with simple enframement, all order ends there. The second floor has all equally sized windows randomly placed; the ground floor has a pair of porches at the south end - a 10' x 15' tinned flat roof glass and board porch to the south, and, beside it, a 10' x 15' red tin shed roofed open porch. Beyond, to the north, are a door and 2 elongated windows with a "standard" size window between them. The glassed porch is entered from the north through a screen door.

A 2-tiered flat roof porch supported by finely turned elongated columns runs along the entire length of the original house's Church Street section's 4 bay east front. The building can be entered, from the second story of the porch, by 2 doors, one the south bay of the Church Street section, the other the west bay of the Main Street section. (The house has, apparently, always had a L-shape.) The Church Street section has 3 regularly spaced windows to the north. On the ground floor of the porches is a 10' cinder block cube in the south section, with two ground floor "standard" size windows not aligned with the second story's. Four regularly spaced pedimented dormers are in the mansard roof, but here the 2 rear (north) ones are doubled in size.

The Main Street addition's north front has a 2nd story double window towards the eastern edge, with a standard window beneath it. A flat-capped chimney is flush with the east wall; the wall depends solely on its bonding pattern for decoration.

The north 5 course common bond front of the Church Street section has a standard window in the center of the second story, with a single light transomed door beneath. The door is sheltered by a white asbestos-shingled shed roofed awning. Sharply cut (45^o) wood boards "decorate" the awning; their pointed edges, parallel (at their tips) with the roof of awning seem to, in a remote way, continue the sharpness of cornice's teeth.

Unless stated otherwise, all windows are 1/1 sash with simple enframement and wooden sills; the mouse-toothed cornice is on all additions (except, of course, the cinder block cube).

Although severely altered by the many varied uses the building has served (private residence, old-age home, and now offices and apartments), the interior still has a few items of interest. The entrance hall (from the south) has a fine panelled staircase with cusped applique on each riser. The stair hall was a through hall allowing for (originally) 5 rooms per

floor; a rear stair case was removed by the present owner. Other original features include a 6 panelled door, just to the left of the entrance. This door displays definite Georgian influences, as does the panelling. The door seems also to possess its original diminutive hardware. A simple chair-rail, presumably present in and linking together all rooms, is now found in the stair well, and in the northwest room of the Main Street section.

1. STATE <i>MD</i> COUNTY <i>Carr</i> TOWN <i>West</i> VICINITY STREET NO. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME <i>257 E. Main St.</i> DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

*Ea. 19th. Cent. home of Jno. Wampler, Attorney
 Orphan's Court sat here, April 1837
 1964; offices & Hoff Apartments*

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE *Endangered* Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
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8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

*West. Bi Cent Program
 10/4/64*

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

*Rivins M/T
 10/70*

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



127
E. Main Street, Westminster
C. Weeks

CARR-127

257 E. Main St.

9/76

Chris Weeks



LARR 127

257 E. Main St, Westminster

52 Jacade

7/26 C. Weeber



~~CAR 125~~

CAR-127

257 E. Main St. Westminster

NE facade

9/76 C. Wechs

72% ✕



Wampler Mansion

(127)

CHRR-127

LV III

(67)

72%

p. 45

Wampler Mansion

ca. 1850

Photo courtesy Hist. Soc. of Cass Co.

130 7/8 ✕



(127)

CARR-127

(68)

13070

p. 43-45

LVIX "Vauxle Mansion" after
remodelling by Methodist Church to
be used as Old Age Home. Photo
c. 1915, ~~copy~~