



William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Jacqueline H. Rogers
Secretary, DHCD

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Bair House (Bair Property) Survey Number: CARR-1316

Washington Ave, between Quinal + E. Green Sts.
Subject: MD 32 from Longwell Ave to Westminster City limits Agency: SHA

to be visited by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Bair House does not meet any of the Criteria for listing per ~~Inventory~~^{Inventory} form completed by Rita Suffness of SHA.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Inventory Form #

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, SHA

Elizabeth Hamhold Date 3/20/91
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

DF Reviewer, NR program Date _____

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

II. Prehistoric Period Themes:

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption
- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Education
- Transportation
- Cultural
- Recreation

Resource Type:

Category: Multiple Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residence

Known Design Source: _____

CARR-1316

"The Hills"

45 Washington Road, Westminster

Private

1904-05; 1924

Summary:

"The Hills" is located on a portion of the 9.4 acre parcel purchased by Guy Wakeman Steele in September 1904. The son of J. Henry and Ella Wakeman Steele, Guy Steele was born on his father's farm in Eldersburg in 1871. J. Henry Steele was a member of the Maryland and American Bar Associations, and his son seems to have followed in his footsteps, being admitted to the bar in 1894. A Democrat, Steele was elected States Attorney for Carroll County in 1903 and served one four-year term. It was perhaps his recent political success, and continuing aspirations, that induced him to build a home that would be a showplace for entertaining. Even before the deed had been executed the local papers had noted that he "... has the foundation walls up for his new building, about to be erected on the Westminster and Washington turnpike adjoining this city. The plans for the dwelling have been drawn by Mr. Paul Reese, architect, of this city [Westminster]...." Reese studied architecture in the office of Baltimore architect William M. Ellicott, Jr. before attending the Atelier Masqueray in New York City. Professor Masqueray had himself studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, and in this way Beaux Arts design filtered down to small-town America.

Charles B. Hunter, contractor and builder of Westminster, had the building under roof by early November, 1904. By the end of July the dwelling was complete and the Steeles had moved in. In June, 1906, Charles Hunter filed suit against Guy Steele "...for the payment of \$479 due upon contract in the erection of the fine residence of Mr. Steele, and for other sums for extra work not embraced in the contract." The case was moved to Washington County, no doubt because Steele was the State's Attorney in Carroll, and was tried in March 1907. The jury found in favor of Hunter, awarding him \$376. Local tradition claims that the house originally had a third story that was destroyed by fire in 1924, and that the house was rebuilt as a two-story dwelling. However, newspaper accounts of the fire and the charred flooring, joists, and rafters left in place in the attic clearly indicate that the original roof configuration was retained when the house was reconstructed. The Steele's moved to the Westminster Hotel after the fire and Charles B. Hunter began working on the renovations; the law suit of 18 years earlier seems to have been forgotten by both parties. President Woodrow Wilson appointed Steele Surveyor of the Port of Baltimore in 1915 and again in 1919. After his second term in that capacity he practiced law in Westminster until his death at "The Hills" in October 1931, at age 59. The house was purchased by Scott S. Bair in 1945. The Bair family recently sold the house and it is undergoing conversion (1998), with extensive additions, to an assisted living facility.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1316

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "The Hills"

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 45 Washington Road not for publicationcity, town Westminster vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Estate of Scott S. & Anita Bair

street & number P. O. Box 520 telephone no.: 410-848-9100

city, town Westminster state and zip code Maryland 21158

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber 1190

street & number 55 N. Court Street folio 119

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT State Historic Sites Inventory Form

date 1991 federal state county local

pository for survey records MHT

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1316

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attached

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1316

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904-05 **Builder/Architect** Paul Reese

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attached

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1316

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.7A.

Quadrangle name Westminster

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning & Develop date May 19, 1999

street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 386-2145

city or town Westminster state 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

Description

Section 7 Page 1

"The Hills," Guy Steele's residence, is located at 45 Washington Road in Westminster, in central Carroll County, Maryland. The house is a one-and-a-half story, three-bay by three-bay blend of bungalow and colonial revival features, with a raised basement of rubble stone, aluminum siding, and a gable roof of asphalt shingles with a north-south ridge.

The west elevation has a center entrance with double doors. Each door has six lying panels. There are sidelights with diamond shaped lights above the single panel and segmentally-arched fan lights above the side lights. The doorway has a tripartite architrave, a plain frieze, an oval bed mould, and a ogee cornice. To each side of the doorway are triple windows. Each set of windows has a thirty-over-one sash, flanked on either side by fifteen-over-one sash. There is a large porch that wraps around on the north elevation and extends into a porte cochere on the south end. There are wood steps leading from the porte cochere up to the porch. The west side of the porch projects to the west at both the north and south ends. The porch has paired Doric columns on either side of the center stairway and triple Doric columns on either side of the north and south projections. There are also triple Doric columns at the south end of the porte cochere. The porch is reached by 10 centrally located concrete steps, with rubble stone side walls, leading to a landing. There are an additional five concrete steps up to the porch deck, and these steps also have rubble stone side walls. The second story of the west elevation has a projecting screen porch in the central bay with three openings in front and a pediment above with a lunette vent. There are two openings on each side elevation of this porch, and it has a wood box cornice. On either side of the porch is a dormer window with a thirty-over-one double-hung sash and a pediment. There are interior brick chimneys on the ridge at the north and south bays set right behind the dormer windows.

The south elevation foundation has a metal grate over an opening in both of the end bays. The center bay has paired four-over-one sash. On the first story, the west bay has a one-over-one sash, the center bay has no opening, and the east bay, has a fifteen light door with sidelights of four lights over one fielded panel. There is also a fan light with wood keystone. The original siding is exposed here, and is weatherboard with an ogee moulding on the bottom edge. On either side of the side lights is a twelve-over-one sash. There is a portico supported by two thin Doric columns. It has a segmentally-arched soffit with beaded-edge boards. The cornice of the portico returns on either side and these returns shelter the twelve over one sash. The second story has three one-over-one sash. The gambrel end has a short window with paired two-over-one sash. There is a one-story, one-bay, recessed wing on the east elevation. The south elevation of this wing has two eight-light casements with a fanlight above.

On the east elevation, the south bay is the projecting one-story wing. It has a pair of ten-light casements with a fanlight above and a fielded panel below. On either side are two fifteen-over-one double-hung sash. All of these windows are contained in a single frame with an ogee cornice and a wood keystone on the fanlight. The second-story south bay, which is above the

Description

Section 7 Page 2

projecting wing, has a typical thirty-over-one sash in the dormer. The center bay has a cellar bulkhead. The northern half of the first story of the center bay has a one-story projecting room with a concrete foundation and standing-seam metal roof. This room has a one-over-one sash on the south elevation. To the south are a pair of four-light casements between the first and second stories. In the center bay are paired diamond-light sash with a transom and single diamond-light sash to the side, also with a transom. There is a wide wall dormer above this that contains paired diamond-light sash with a fanlight. The north bay is a projecting wing. The first story has a center door with nine lights over two lying panels. There is a one-light sash set to the south and set high on the wall, and a pair of eight-light casements set to the north. The second story projects further east beyond the first story and is supported by three battered wood posts set on stone piers. The stone piers are not of the same stonework as the foundation. This bay has two pair of one-over-one sash and has a gambrel roof with an east-west ridge and a pair of nine-over-one sash in the gambrel end. The south elevation of the second story of this projecting wing has a six-over-one sash set to the west and a one-over-one sash set to the east.

On the north elevation, the east wing is two bays wide. The foundation has steps going down to the west, with a large four light sash in the east bay and a four-light-over-two-panel door in the west bay. The first story has paired eight-light casements in both bays that must be later alterations, as they don't have the typical plain architrave of the other windows. The second story projects to the east and has paired, short, one-over-one sash in the projection. The other two bays have one-over-one sash. There is an interior brick chimney between these two bays. On the main block the porch is only two bays deep. The foundation of the eastern-most bay has a one-light sash. The first story east bay has a bow window with twenty lights. The frame is not like the other frames of windows in this house, and thus the sash appears to be added. The center bay has a five-lying-panel door, and the west bay has French doors, each with ten lights, and a transom with a sunburst pattern. The second story has three one-over-one sash and the gambrel end has a metal louver vent.

The cellar has four pair of brick piers that run on either side of the center passage, from west to east. These piers support ganged-together two-by-ten girts that in turn support the floor joists. The floor joists throughout are two inches wide by nine and 3/4 inches deep, are circular-sawn, and are spaced sixteen to eighteen inches on centers. They run north-south and have bridging between them. They support diagonally-laid sub-floor. The cellar is divided into a series of rooms with doors. The north-center cellar is supposed to have been the wine cellar. It has a crossbuck door with machine-made strap hinges and hasp. Inside this room is a smaller room of circular-sawn vertical boards with another crossbuck door and similar hardware. This inner room still has barrels set on wood cribbing. In the cellar room under the east wing, the north elevation has a brick fireplace with straight jambs and two metal cranes. The window in the east bay has brick infill below it.

Description

Section 7 Page 3

The first story has a center-passage, double-pile plan with the wing to the northeast. The floors are 2 ½ inch wide pine that runs east-west, and the ceilings here are twelve feet high. The passage walls have half-paneling with tall, sunk flat panels and a plate shelf. The top of the paneling is about 5 feet 4 ¾ inches high. The passage is divided in half by a three-center arch with a paneled soffit that is supported by a fluted Ionic column on each side and a full entablature with a denticulated cornice. There are wide openings to the northwest and southwest rooms, with the same fluted Ionic columns on each side of the openings and the same full entablature. The door architrave is symmetrical and is pulvinated in the center with quirked ogees to each side. There are bull's-eye corner blocks for all openings except the large northwest and southwest openings. The passage has a cornice with a bipartite architrave, a plain frieze, an ovolo bed mould, and an ogee cornice. There is a stairway at the east end of the passage. The stair is centrally placed in the passage and has turned balusters that curve out at the base of the stair, forming the newel. It also has a moulded handrail and paneling underneath the bottom half of the stairs. There is an opening beneath the eastern end of the stairs, and the eastern wall is finished here with the typical paneling and shelf found in the passage. The stairway goes up to a landing on the east end, with a window seat set under the grand windows. The landing has shorter paneling with no plate shelf. The north end of the landing has a curved stairway that leads up to the second-story passage, and has a doorway to the northeastern wing on the east side of this curved stairway. The interior doors are all of five lying panels. There are doors on the east end of the passage flanking each side of the stairs.

The northwest room has a baseboard with a quirked ogee on top. There is a fireplace centered on the east wall. It is brick, with splayed jambs and a plastered surround. It has a hearth of loose brick and a wood mantel that has paired, fluted Corinthian columns, a single panel in the frieze, and a dentil cornice. It also has an overmantel with three tiers of paired, engaged fluted half-columns with simple blocks for capitals. This room has a wood cornice and architrave identical to the passage.

The southwest room has the same baseboard, architrave and cornice as the northwest room. It also has a fireplace centered on the east elevation. This is brick with splayed jambs and plastered surround, and also has a loose brick hearth. The wood mantel has Doric columns with one panel in the frieze and a full cornice with an ogee bed mould. South of the fireplace is a door that leads to the southeast room.

The southeast room is carpeted and has the typical architrave and cornice. It has paneled walls that are three panels high, with a plate rail or shelf at the top of the half paneling. The west elevation has a fireplace in the center that has splayed brick jambs, a plastered surround, and loose brick set in the hearth. The wood mantel has paired, fluted Corinthian columns with a paneled frieze and a full cornice with blocks that contain grooves above the columns and in the center. The east elevation has a wide opening with Doric columns that support a full entablature with a

Description

Section 7 Page 4

denticulated cornice. This wide opening leads to a narrow room at the east end that has typical baseboard and a ceiling of beaded-edge boards. The east and south elevations have window walls.

The northeast has typical baseboard and architrave. There is a fireplace centered on the west wall that has splayed brick jambs and a brick hearth that in this instance is set in mortar. There is a brick mantel with corbeled bricks that support a cast-concrete mantel shelf. There is a brick-made overmantel that extends up to the ceiling. This overmantel stair-steps in and back, and has a recessed panel in the center. The mantel is of an Arts and Crafts type with wrought iron hooks in it to hold fireplace tools. The brick is now painted the same green color as the trim. The trim in this room was formerly painted white. To the north side of the fireplace is a closet. To the south side of the fireplace is a powder room with blue-green fixtures. The sink is a Kohler with two chrome legs and chrome towel bars. It is dated "11/7/39". The toilet is dated "9/15/39". The north elevation has a doorway set to the west that leads to the porch. The east elevation has a closet set to the south, with bookshelves to the north of it that are built in and appear to date from a later period, perhaps when the mantel and trim were painted green.

The northeastern wing has a later kitchen and an original winder stair in the southeast corner that leads up to the second story. There is a long, narrow butler's pantry along the east end leading from the northeast wing kitchen to the southeast, which must have been a dining room. On the east side of this pantry is the cellar stairway and a small room south of this stairway that has typical architrave and baseboard, and may have functioned as additional pantry space.

The second story has a center-passage, triple-pile plan. The passage is carpeted and had typical baseboard and architrave. The west elevation has French doors that open out onto the porch, which is one step up. This doorway is flanked by a sixteen-over-one double-hung sash. At the eastern end of the passage is a central stairway that leads up to a landing along the east end of the passage. This stairway and landing have the same balustrade and handrail as the first story, and the landing has a dentil moulding. The landing handrail is ramped, and there are four turned posts, two on each side of the stairway. The posts that flank the stairway are the same height as the room, while the end posts are short and have urns on top of them. At the north end of the landing is a doorway to the attic over the northeast wing. The stairway from the first story landing comes up at the north side passage and has urns on top of the newel posts on either side of the staircase. North of this stair landing is a closet and bathroom in the northeast corner of the main block. This bathroom has pink fixtures marked "STANDARD" that are virtually identical to the first floor powder room. The sink is dated "11/14/47", and the toilet tank lid "8/18/47". This room has creme-colored tile with black bands at the top and bottom, and a floor of black linoleum with white inlay.

The southeast chamber is carpeted and has typical baseboard and architrave. There is a

Description

Section 7 Page 5

paneled window seat in the west window. The east elevation has a fireplace centered on it that has splayed brick jambs and plastered surround. It also has loose brick in the hearth. The wood mantel here has a tapered column on each side that is a free interpretation of a Doric, with a bulbous capital. It has a full entablature with a plain frieze and an ogee cornice. There is a closet to the south of the fireplace, while to the north of the fireplace is a bathroom. This was probably originally another closet, but this room has now been enlarged to extend into the south-central room. This bathroom has creme-colored fixtures. The sink is dated "5/12/48" and is identical to the sink in the northeast corner bathroom. The toilet is new. The room has pink tiles, with black bands at top and bottom, and black linoleum with white inlay on the floor. The walls above the tile are plywood.

The northwest chamber is identical to the southwest chamber, with the same window seat on the west and the same fireplace and mantel on the east. South of the fireplace is a closet. North of the fireplace is a bathroom that has been built out into the room slightly and has new doors and trim. This bathroom has a shower and has light green tile with medium green bands. The blue-green fixtures are by American Standard. The toilet is dated "October 7", but has no year. The sink date is not visible; however, these fixtures appear newer than the 1947 - 1948 vintage fixtures.

The south-center chamber is carpeted and has typical baseboard and architrave. It has a closet on the east elevation and a door to the southwest chamber bathroom on the west elevation. While the door is typical for this house, the architrave is similar but not identical to typical architrave in the house. The wall here extends into the room and was probably built out at a later date.

The southeast chamber is carpeted and has typical baseboard and architrave. The east elevation window has a paneled window seat. The west elevation has a closet near the center. There is a recess off of the passage, with a bookshelf built in on the south side and the door to this room on the east side of this recess.

The north-center chamber is also carpeted and has typical baseboard and architrave. The west elevation has a closet. There is a door on the east elevation, set to the north, that leads to a bathroom. This doorway is narrow and has three square panels, but the architrave is typical for this house. The bathroom has cream to pale yellow tile with burgundy bands, and black linoleum with white inlay on the floor. The slate-blue fixtures are marked "Standard". The toilet is dated "December 15, 1947", and the sink is dated "December 01, 1947". The room has a tiled shower rather than a bathtub.

The attic over the northeast wing has circular sawed rafters that are 1 3/4 by 5 3/4 inches, are spaced 24 - 25 inches on centers, and support beaded-edge-and-center board sheathing.

Description

Section 7 Page 6

There was a wall between the center and east bays of this wing, and the wall only survives at the north and south ends. This wall had lath and plaster on its interior side and diagonal board sheathing on the east side. The rafters have a center ridgepole that is in two pieces, being broken where the original wall was. The rafters in the east bay are 1 3/4 by 5 1/2 inches and are also spaced 24-25 inches on centers.

The main block attic is only accessed by a small crawl space on the west side of the ell attic. The rafters are 1 3/4 by 5 1/2 inches and are spaced 24 inches on centers, with a ridge pole. They support beaded-edge-and-center board sheathing. The rafters are supported by 2 by 6 purlins with posts and diagonal braces beneath them. The rafters end at the break in the gambrel roof. The feet are cut off and are nailed to scraps of 2 by 4 set on top of the flooring. There is extensive evidence of fire in the attic. The floor boards have charring on the top as do a couple of purlin braces in the southeast. Most of the flooring here is gone. The north end floor is missing and the joists and the north wall sheathing are charred, as are some of the purlin posts. Some of the roof sheathing on the east side is charred. This sheathing is not the beaded-edge-and-center board found elsewhere. In addition, some of the east elevation rafters have been sawed off, with the rafter feet still attached to the floor, and with new rafters added next to these surviving remnants. The north chimney has plaster on its south face that is blackened. The north elevation window is in place and has paired two lights over one, all set in a single sash.

Southeast of the house is a frame carriage house. This is a two-story, four-bay by three-bay structure, with a rubble stone foundation and a jerkin head gambrel roof of wood shingles with a north-south ridge. The northern bay is a recessed one-story shed with a shed roof that slopes down to the north.

On the west elevation the north bay is recessed about 5 feet and has a pair of crossbuck wagon doors hung on small, machine-made strap hinges on the first story. Above these doors is a wood louvered vent. The three south bays have about a one-foot cantilever on the second story that continues around the south and east elevations. On the first story, the north-center bay has a pair of crossbuck wagon doors hung on machine-made strap hinges, with three four-light casements set to the south. The second story has a six-over-six sash with a wood louver vent on each side of it in the two end bays. The center bay has a vertical-board door on "T" hinges with a gabled wall dormer above that has no opening in it.

The south elevation, first story, has a vertical board door on "T" hinges in the center bay. The second story has a six-over-six sash in each of the end bays. The gambrel end below the jerkin head has a wood louvered vent in the center. On the east elevation, the first story has a six-over-six sash in the north and south-center bays. There is a vertical-board Dutch door in the south-center bay. The second story has a six-over-six sash in the south and north-center bays and a pair of vertical-board doors on "T" hinges in the south-center bay. There are no openings and

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1316

Description

Section 7 Page 7

no cantilever on the north bay. The north elevation has two six-over-six sash on the first story.

The northern room is sheathed inside with beaded-edge-and-center boards on the walls and ceiling. The carriage house is constructed of a circular-sawn, heavy timber frame that is mortised, tenoned, and pegged, with two-by-four studs between the heavy timber sills and plates that are wire nailed. The interior is unfinished and has a dirt floor on the lower story. There are stalls on the south end that are built of reused material. There is a staircase along the east wall, in the northeast corner, that goes up to the north. The upper story is one large room open to the ceiling and open over the north shed as well. A large truss runs north-south. Iron tie rods are connected between this truss and the joists of the floor, helping to support a suspended floor above the lower story.

Northwest of the carriage house is an oval in-ground pool.

Contributing Resources: 2

Significance

Section 8 Page 1

"The Hills" is located on a portion of the 9.4 acre parcel purchased by Guy Wakeman Steele in September 1904 from Lewis P. Manning. The son of J. Henry and Ella Wakeman Steele, Guy Steele was born on his father's farm in Eldersburg in 1871. J. Henry Steele was a member of the Maryland and American Bar Associations, and his son seems to have followed in his footsteps. Steele attended Springfield Institute in Sykesville, graduating in 1892, and subsequently studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1894 and later attended Rock Hill College, from which he received an A.M. in 1900. A Democrat, Steele was elected States Attorney for Carroll County in 1903 and served one four-year term. It was perhaps his recent political success, and continuing aspirations, that induced him to build a home that would be a showplace for entertaining. Even before the deed had been executed the local papers had noted that he "... has the foundation walls up for his new building, about to be erected on the Westminster and Washington turnpike adjoining this city. The plans for the dwelling have been drawn by Mr. Paul Reese, architect, of this city [Westminster]...."

Steele could have chosen a Baltimore architect, but probably liked the idea of promoting Carroll County's first native professional architect. Reese was, like Steele, still young, having studied architecture in the office of Baltimore architect William M. Ellicott, Jr. before attending the Atelier Masqueray in New York City. This school of architectural design was conducted by Professor Masqueray, who had himself studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. In this way, Beaux Arts design filtered down to small-town America. Reese remained there at least until April 1900, but seems to have left shortly afterward and soon had made a splash in Westminster with the design of the Bank of Westminster (CARR-373) in 1900-01. Little more is known of Reese and his work in Carroll County at this point, however he would eventually give up the practice of architecture to become an Episcopal minister in Oklahoma and Texas.

Charles B. Hunter, contractor and builder of Westminster, had the building under roof by early November, 1904, and ready for the plasterers. There seems to have been some delay at this point, as the plasterwork, which was executed by Classen Brothers, of Taneytown, was not completed until around the first of May, 1905. By the end of July the dwelling was complete and the Steeles had moved in. The design and construction of "The Hills" must have been trying for Paul Reese, for it was noted that he "...sailed on the bark 'Good News'...from Fernandino, Florida, on Tuesday, August 22nd, for Rio de Janeiro.... Mr. Reese is taking the trip for the benefit of his health, and will return about December 20th."

The construction of "The Hills" was apparently trying for Charles Hunter, too, for in June 1906 he filed suit against Guy Steele "...for the payment of \$479 due upon contract in the erection of the fine residence of Mr. Steele, and for other sums for extra work not embraced in the contract." The case was moved to Washington County, no doubt because Steele was the State's Attorney in Carroll, and was tried in March 1907. The jury found in favor of Hunter, awarding him \$376. Steele tried to move for a new trial, then for an appeal, but these attempts apparently failed. The records of the court case do not survive in either county, so the details of the dispute are not known, but the Washington County Docket does not indicate that the claim was ever satisfied. Since the case involved out-of-county people, the records may not be complete, however.

Significance

Section 8 Page 2

Local tradition claims that the house originally had a third story that was destroyed by fire in the 1920's, and that the house was rebuilt as a two-story dwelling. However, the evidence in the attic, and newspaper accounts of the fire, indicate that this is not exactly true. While the reports note that the fire was discovered in the third story, they also make clear that this was an attic, where there "... was stored many valuable pieces of furniture, china and other articles, many of them heir looms...." The charred flooring, joists, and rafters, and portions of rafters left in place in the attic clearly indicate that the original roof configuration was retained when the house was reconstructed. During the fire, "a large crowd soon gathered and assisted in carrying out the furniture and household goods from the first and second floors, most of which was saved, but some damaged by water and breakage." Some articles were also apparently stolen, including some guns. The first and second stories did not suffer any fire damage, but were apparently very damaged by water.

The fire occurred on 19 March 1924. The Steele's moved to the Westminster Hotel and Charles B. Hunter began working on the renovations before 4 April, at which time it was noted: "The mansard [actually a gambrel] roof has been removed preparatory to having a suitable and attractive roof replaced. The balance of the house will also be gone over." The law suit of 18 years earlier seems to have been forgotten by both parties. By 18 April the house was under roof, but work was still being carried out at the end of May. There is no indication of what changes may have been made to the lower stories, if any, though there do not appear to be any significant alterations.

Following his term as State's Attorney, Guy Steele served as city solicitor for Westminster and Editor in Chief of the *Westminster Democratic Advocate*. President Woodrow Wilson appointed him Surveyor of the Port of Baltimore in 1915 and again in 1919. After his second term in that capacity he practiced law in Westminster until his death at "The Hills" in October 1931, at age 59. Steele's widow, Cora [nee Rogers] sold the house in 1933 to John Byrd Norris, Jr., who in turn sold it to Scott S. Bair in 1945. The Bair family recently sold the house and it is undergoing conversion, with extensive additions, to an assisted living facility.

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture

Resource Types:

Suburban Dwelling

Known Design Source:

Paul Reese

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1316

Bibliography

Section 9 Page 1

Carroll County Land Records

Westminster American Sentinel, 9 September 1904, p.3, c.1; 11 November 1904, p.3, c.1; 5 May 1905, p.3, c.2; 28 July 1905, p.3, c.2; 25 August 1905, p.3, c.2.

Westminster Times, 21 March 1924, p.1, c.1; 9 October 1931, pp1-2.

Westminster Democratic Advocate, 28 January 1899, p.3, c1; 3 June 1899, p.3, c.1; 7 April 1900, p.3, c.2. 21 March 1924, p.1, c.7; 28 March 1924, p.4, c.1; 4 April 1924, p.9, c.2; 18 April 1924, p.3, c.1; 30 May 1924, p.9, c.1. Supplement, 21 October 1910.

Weeks, Christopher *The Building of Westminster in Maryland* Westminster, MD: The Mayor and Common Council of Westminster, Maryland, 1978, pp. 85-7.

Westminster American Sentinel, 22 March 1907, p.3, c.2.

Westminster Democratic Advocate, 22 March 1907, p.3, c.2.

Washington County Circuit Court Docket G.B.D. 1907, folio 18, 38. February term, 1907, Case no. 35.

CARR-1316
 "The Hills"
 45 Washington Rd- Westminster

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John Byrd Norris, Jr. & wife Mabel B.	Baltimore City	Scott S. & Anita B Bair (wife)	Carroll	17 May 1945	EAS 186	443	Deed fee simple	2.70 ac \$10.00 "middle lot" on survey. Norris agreed not to keep hogs or livestock on his remaining land. Both parties agreed "that no part of said remaining land or the land hereby conveyed shall ever be rented, sold or leased to persons of Mongolian, Jewish or Negro races or descent."
Cora, R. Steele Widow	Carroll	John Byrd Norris, Jr.	Carroll	12 July 1933	EMM 159	28	Deed	\$5.00 9 4/10 ac.-35,175 sq ft Guy Steele d. 7 Oct. 1931 Plat DPS 100-233
Lewis P. & Emily J. Manning (wife)	Carroll	Guy W. & Cora R. Steele (wife)	?	19 Sept 1904	DPS 100	231	Deed Fee Simple	\$1100 pt. Friendship Completed 9 4/10 ac. boundaries adjusted according to agreement.
Lewis C. Trumbo & wife Olivia	Carroll	Lewis P. Manning	Carroll	24 Sept 1884	FTS 61	279	Deed Fee Simple	\$1000 8 + ac

1/1

45 Washington Rd
Moulding Profiles

CARR-1316

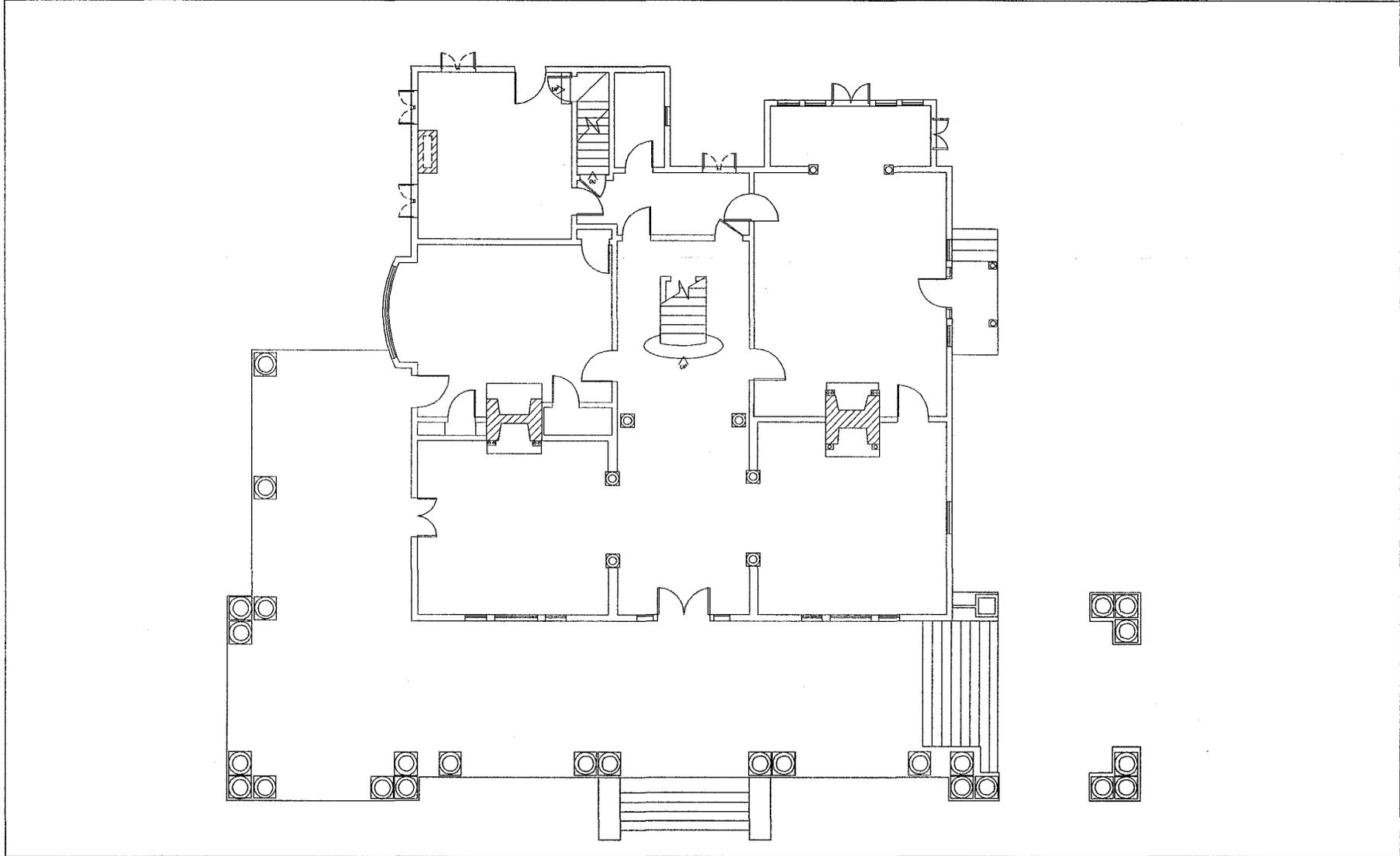
KMS
27 Mar '98



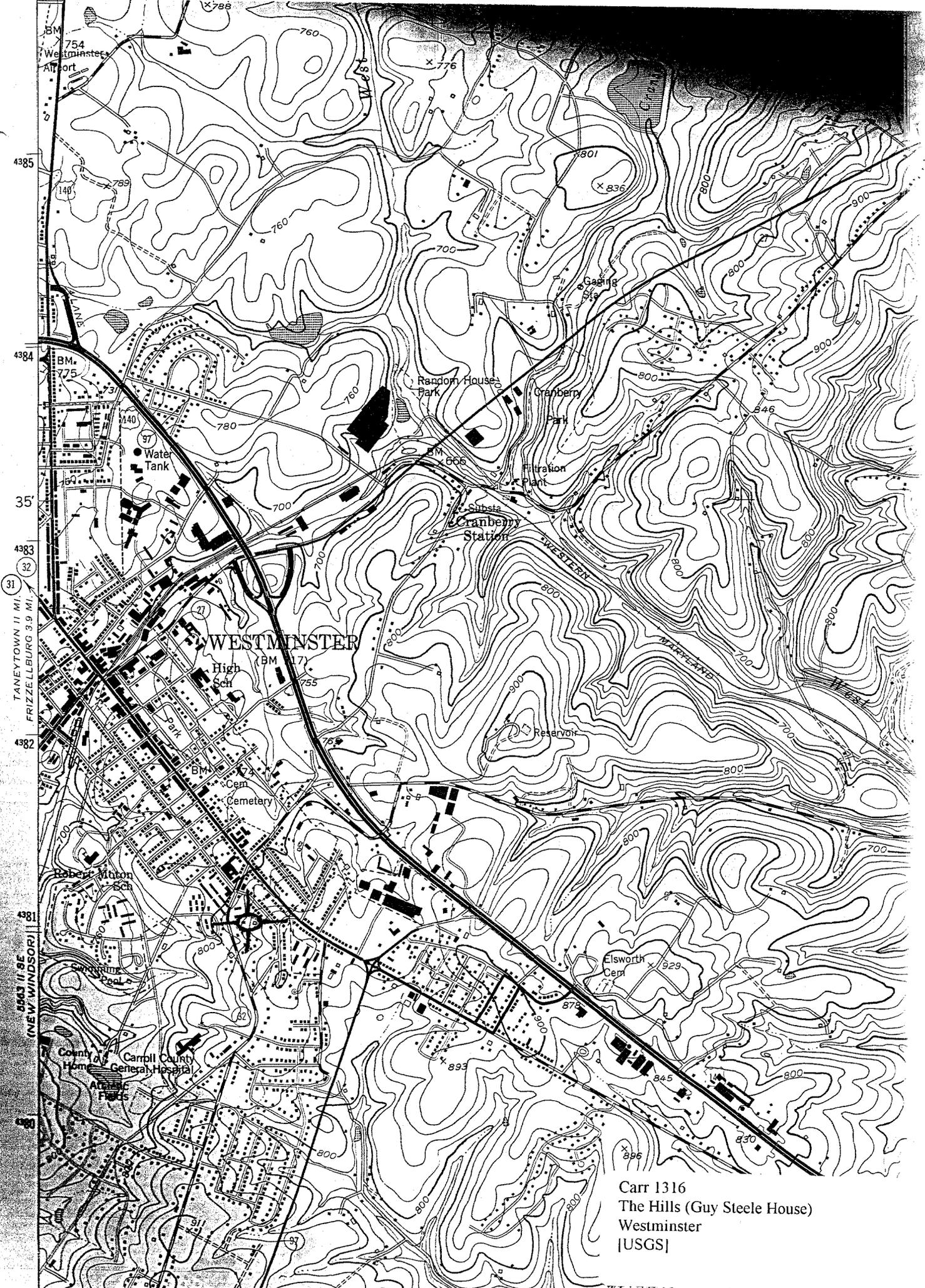
Secondary
Architrave



Primary
Architrave



CARR- 1316	"THE HILLS" 45 WASHINGTON ROAD - WESTMINSTER	MEASURED BY KEN SHORT AND BOBBI NOSEB DRAWN BY KEN SHORT	FIRST FLOOR PLAN JUNE 1998		 012315
---------------	---	---	-------------------------------	---	---



4385
4384
35
4383
32
31
TANEYTOWN 11 MI.
FRIZZELLBURG 3.9 MI.
4382
4381
5603 (11-SE (NEW WINDSOR))
4380

Carr 1316
The Hills (Guy Steele House)
Westminister
[USGS]



"The Hills"

Gay Steele House

45 Washington Rd, Westminister

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

W. Elev



"The Hills"

May Steele House

45 Washington Rd

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Ghort

Date: March 1998

NEGLOC: Maryland Historical Trust

E. Elevation



Carr - 1316

"The Hills"
Guy Steele House
45 Washington Rd
Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Elort

MPS NO 25082 2 * 1998 N N-6-242

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust
S & E Elms

13 DE 17



"The Hills"

May Steele House

45 Washington Rd

Westminster

Cannell County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Dhore

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

N. Elev.



"The Hills"

Amy Steele House
45 Washington Rd
Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

W & S. Elevs.



Carr-1316

"The Hills"

Huff Steele House

45 Washington Rd

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

MPS4N0.36A0324 21** W
Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Passage - VW. N From Landing



Carroll-1316

"The Hills"

Huy Steele House

45 Washington Rd

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

MPS No. 349824 21**

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

2nd St Passage

V.W.E.





Carr-1316

"The Hills"
Guy Steele House
45 Washington RD
Westminster

Carrall County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Shord

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust
Passage - VWE



Car-1316

"The Hills"

Guy Steele House

45 Washington Rd

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth H. Short

MPS4NO. 00033 * 1998 N N-B 142

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

SE RM. VW SE



Carr - 1316

"The Hills"

Guy Steele House

45 Washington Rd

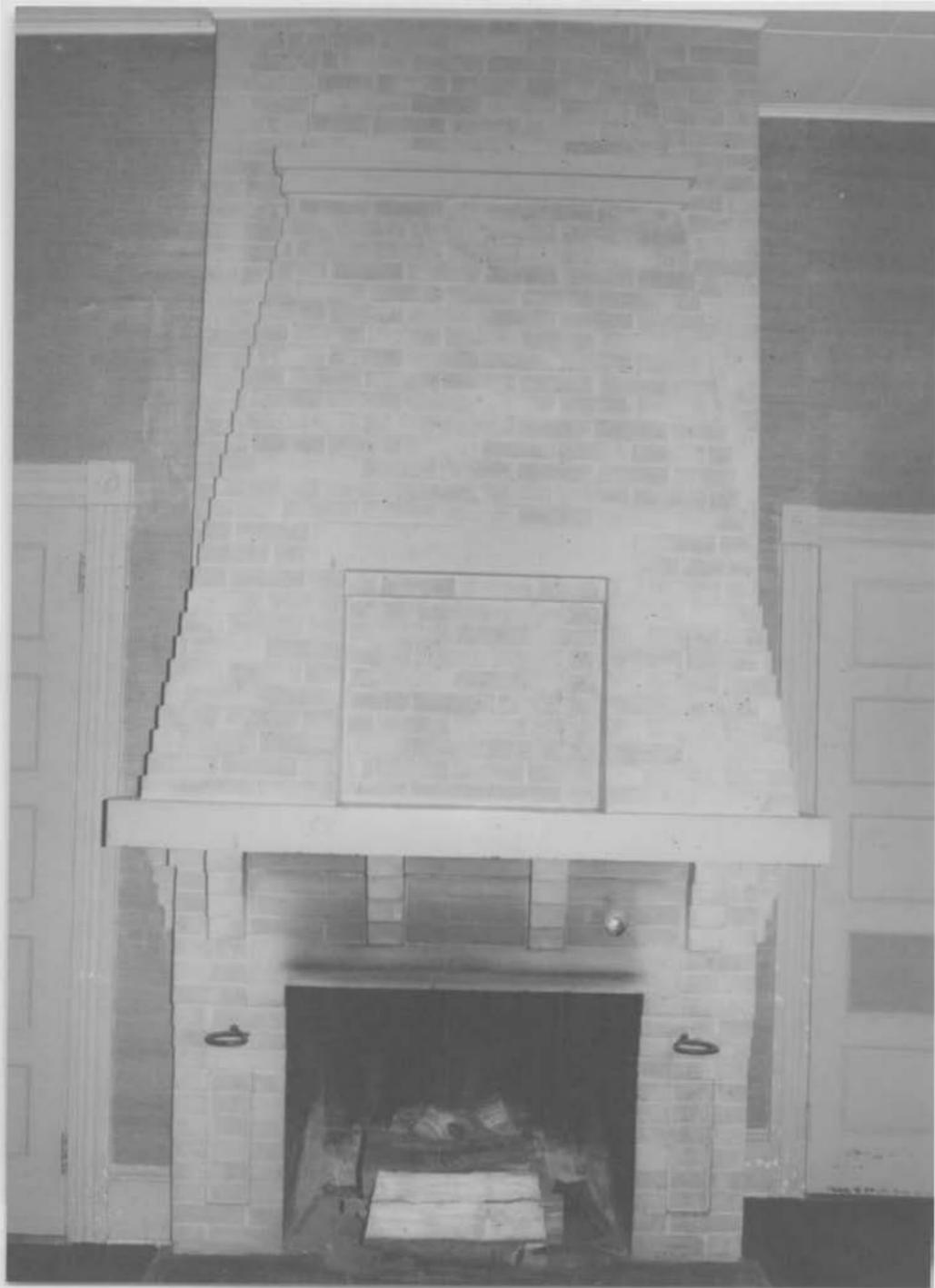
Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Clark

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

SE RM Mantel



Carr -1316

"The Hills"

Guy Steele House

45 Washington Rd

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

NE RM Market

MPS410.33P1024 21*



Carr -1316

"The Hills"

Huy Steele House
45 Washington Rd

Cannell County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth H. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

NW RM Mantel

MPS4NO.29A0324 21.** INZ



Carr-1316

"The Hills"

Guy Steele House
45 Washington Rd

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Clark

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust
SW Chamber

E. Elev

MPS4No. 00000001** N N N-7-822



"The Hills"

May Steele House
45 Washington Rd
Westminster

Carrick County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Carriage House
W. Elev.

MPS No. 24A 000 23** N N N-7-822



"The Hills"

Guy Steele House

45 Washington Rd
Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

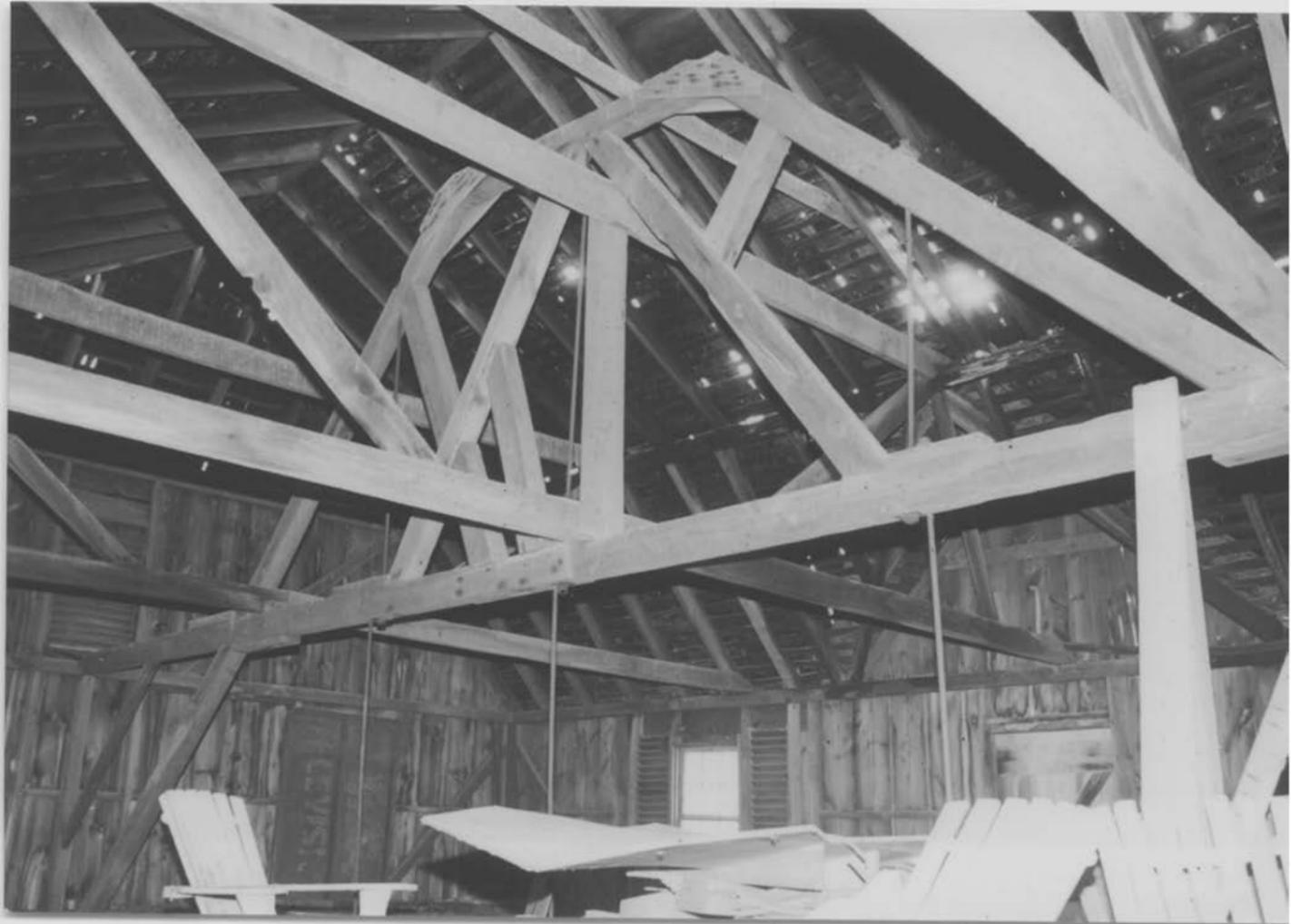
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Carnage House

E. Elw



"The Hills"

Luy Steele House

45 Washington Rd

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Chort

MPS No. 2024 * 1998 N-5 262

Carrriage House

Upper sty. Truss

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR-1316

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Steele House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Washington Avenue, between Quintal and E. Green Streets

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Carroll

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 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 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
Scott Bair
STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 520

Telephone #:

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

STATE, zip code
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CARR-1316

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

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Colonial Revival Steele House is a large gambrel-roofed, frame, two story structure located on a rise on the east side of MD 32 in the southeastern part of the incorporated city of Westminster. The principal facade faces west and overlooks a valley teeming with numerous subdivisions, Carroll County General Hospital and the Carroll County Farm Museum. The 2.75 acre tax parcel is surrounded by dense suburban development, including garden apartments immediately north of the site (as well as northwest of it on the opposite side of the road), plus a recently constructed large, medical complex on the south, and subdivision housing north of it on E. Green Street and Carroll View and Colonial Avenues. Most of these areas were undeveloped and open until growth occurred within the last thirty years.

From the front, the dwelling seems contained by the dominant gambrel roof, despite its extension forward to the west to form a full width one-story porch carried on paired columns and the extrusion of a large, three window gabled dormer, centered between two small ones, from the lower slope of the roof. From the southeast, however, all sense of rigid compression of the forms within a strict symmetrical shell is lost. On the south and east sides, forms extend from the sheltering roof -- a porte cochere extends from the south side, and a jumble of one and two-story additions project from the rear, along with dormer windows boldly projecting from the roof.

The entry, centered on the principal west facade between two sets of triple, multi-paned windows, has diamond-paned sidelights topped by semicircular windows located between attached pilasters. This three-part entry with double doors is surmounted by a bold, oversized cornice. A large, three-window dormer which extends from the corner slope of the dormer roof onto the porch roof is located immediately above it.

In addition to a swimming pool, a large frame barn on a fieldstone foundation is located southeast of the house. It was built in the early decades of the twentieth century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Steele House Description cont'd. (Page 2)

The house was constructed by Guy W. Steele, a Westminster lawyer, in 1905 shortly after he purchased the property. Prior to his heir's sale of the property in 1933, the top two floors burned, and it was rebuilt without a full third floor. Evidently the interior of the new second floor differs appreciably from the original. When the property was sold again in 1945 to the current owners only one-third of the original parcel of land conveyed. Six acres on the periphery of the site retained by the seller had been planted prior to the sale in orchards tended by a local farmer, Henry Frost. These portions were sold off in the 1960's and utilized for the garden apartments located to the north of the Steele house, and the medical complex located on the south.

Although at the time it was constructed the Steele house was just inside the corporate limits of Westminster, it was largely isolated as the area bordering MD 32 south of town was dominated by large farms until the middle of the twentieth century.

The expansion of Westminster in the waning years of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth centered on the streets that intersected the spine (Main Street) of the heretofore predominantly linear town. Before 1918 town development terminated roughly at the intersection of Green Street and MD 32. The town had expanded east-and westward from Main Street with Matthew's (1866), J. J. Mathia's, J. Baumgartner's, Lynch's, S. P. Everhart's and Frizell's Additions. Expansion in the later decades continued that trend with Lynch-Orendorff's addition (1897), Lynch's Additions (ca. 1878), and the division of Joshua Smith's land (1881). Development continued in the early decades of the twentieth century with Cunningham's Addition's (1924, 1929), Sullivan's Addition (1920), George Albaugh's Addition (1921), Buckingham View (1924), Alto Vista (1926), Vaughn's Addition (1927), Fishers Addition (1928), and, most importantly, Longwell's Addition (1907). The only development in the vicinity of the Steele house was above it to the northeast along Main Street (or Old Westminster Pike) with Friendship Heights (1914). Sanborn's Fire Insurance Map of 1918 neither shows the area nor lists the streets, so its actual settlement must have occurred well after the subdivision was platted.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, there appears to have been little real estate activity in the MD 32 area just south of Westminster in general, especially between the Steele house and Margaret Avenue, approximately 2-1/4 miles south. Other than the Steeles, it appears the only other family drawn at the time to relocate to MD 32, which follows a ridgeline and overlooks the valley, were the Thomas' who built a large Colonial Revival house downhill and across the road from the Steele house in 1916. It has been expanded and is now the Pritt Funeral Home complex. The area was dominated by farms well into the 1950's and was not built up with subdivisions until the American

MHT Form Description, cont'd (Page 3)

soldiers returned after World War II (Colvilla Subdivision, 1951-64). The few isolated farmhouses that existed along MD 32 within 2 miles of the Steele house were gradually removed in the second quarter of the twentieth century, and individual homes erected by the Wards (?) at 501 MD 32, the Dittmans, 505 MD 32, Kyler's (511 MD 32), Zimmermans, Elderdists (535 MD 32), Stoners (301 Stoner Avenue), and others. The Stoner Nursery is a case in point. It was a family run nursery evidently occupying much land on MD 32. It was subdivided after World War II when the land values rose up appreciably. Thus, a number of conditions in addition to those largely responsible for the suburbanization of other parts of Westminister were necessary for the MD 32 area to be developed: for one; the greater opportunity of employment in Baltimore with the opening of MD 140 in 1956; the greater availability and use of the automobile for commuting; and the widespread availability of guaranteed housing loans to returning American servicemen.

The Steele house has stylistic affinities to a few houses of Westminister built around the same time, such as the Shriver-Wisner House (145 Willis Street), the ca. 1915 Shriver-Babylon House (Carr 537-131 Willis Street) and the ca. 1910 Zepp-Myers House (Carr 546, 101 Willis Street). Unlike those, however, it was an isolated phenomenon, not built as a part of unified whole as those of Longwell's "Emerald Hill" which were subdivided in 1907 and sold at public auction as "mansion sites" near the Court House for the homes of local dignitaries like doctors, lawyers and judges.

Its closest parallel in terms of setting is the Fitzhugh house on Ridge Avenue which now houses Dr. Vietz's medical quarters. The mammoth brick structure, in the Georgian Revival style, dwarfs the Steele house in size. Both structures were largely outside the mainstream of Westminister suburbanization in the first half of the twentieth century in Westminister and as such they shared their lovely views of the city with few neighboring structures in the decades immediately following their construction. Although the western end of Ridge Avenue has a few bungalows and foursquare houses, the rest of the road in the vicinity of the Fitzhugh house and beyond it to the west was unsettled until the last few decades when contemporary ramblers and ranch houses were constructed.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance

This early 20th century, Colonial Revival house was built by a local lawyer, Guy W. Steele, in 1905 on the outskirts of town rather than in the vicinity of the Court House, the usual choice for the well-connected Westminster professionals at the time. It is anomalous as well as for the fact that its construction on the outskirts of town did not signal a general trend toward development of the MD 32 corridor, a major thoroughfare connecting Westminster and Washington, but rather it remained isolated among mostly farms and scattered dwellings until suburbanization overtook the area in the 1950's.

The house evidently incurred considerable loss of integrity when the top two floors burned in the 1920's and only the second floor was rebuilt, reportedly with an altered plan.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CARR-1316

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rita Suffness + Historic Sites Surveyor

1-24-91

ORGANIZATION

Maryland State Highway Administration

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

707 N. Calvert Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 333-1183

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

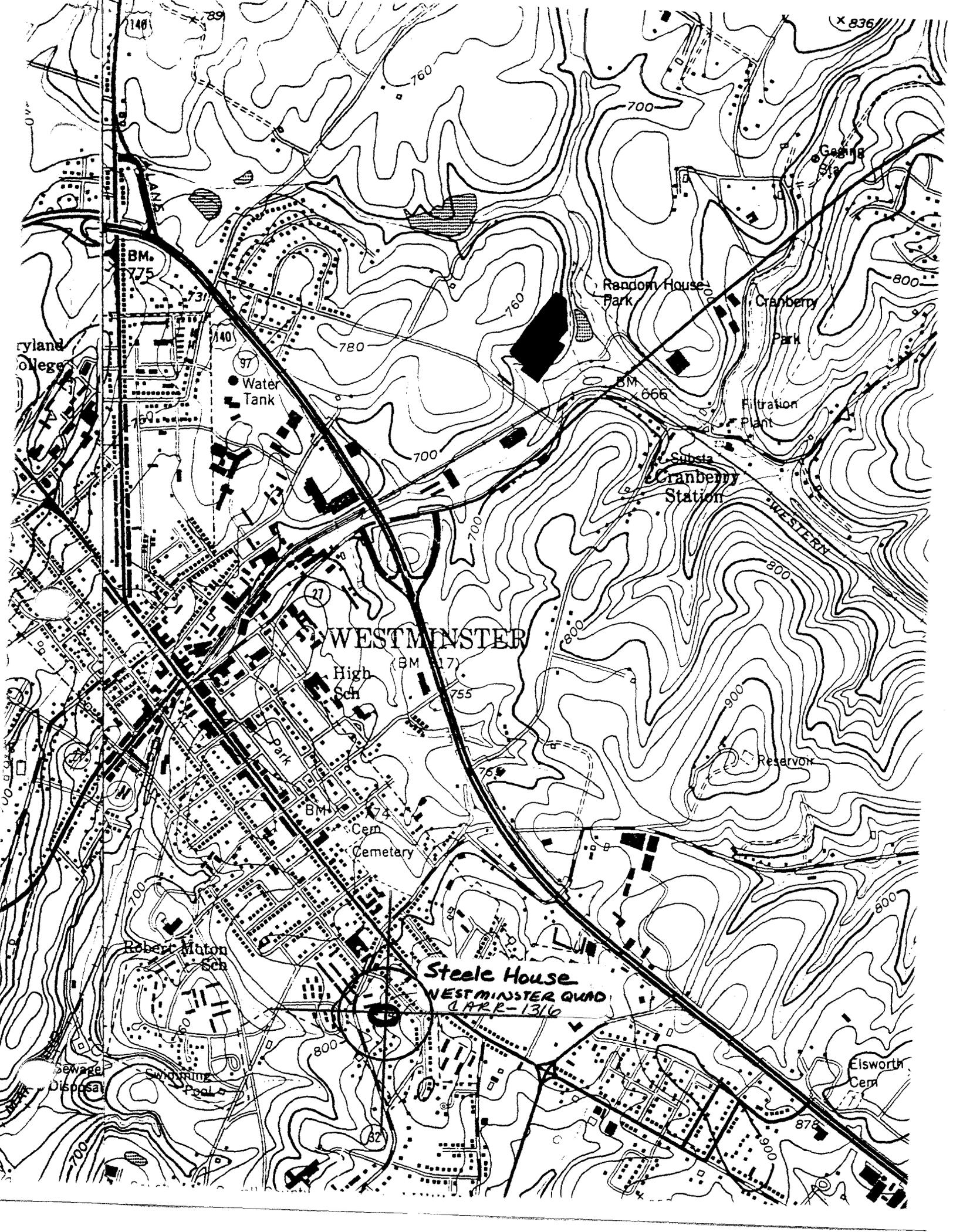
STATE

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





CARR-1316

Steele House

1905

Entrance (West)

Facade



CARR-1316

Steele (Baer) House

South facade seen from
Medical Center



CARR-1316
Steele House

Barn, West
Elevation, ca. 1920's



CARR-1316

Steele (Baer) House

Barn - 20th c.

South facade seen from
Medical Center

Kodak
Processing Service
JAN 91 N

Kodak
Processing Service
JAN 91 N



Washington Heights

CARR-1316

Steele House

MD 32 - Westminster

S.W. corner as seen from
Washington Heights Medical Center