

CARR-17

Old Main, (New Windsor, Calvert, and Blue Ridge Colleges)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 04-16-2004

In excellent condition, "Old Main" the oldest college building left standing in Carroll County, accomodates the SEERV International Gift Shop. The gabled roof tops a unified structure of Victorian, Classic, and Italianate motifs. It's site on "Campus Hill" overlooking New Windsor and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance creates "Old Main" as a focal point of the town.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

PAEI #070074422

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC "Old Main"

AND/OR COMMON "Old Main"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Windsor

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 c/o General Brotherhood Board
: Brethren Service Center

635-6464
848-0990
Telephone #: 876-2263

STREET & NUMBER

College Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Windsor

___ VICINITY OF

Md. STATE, zip code 21776

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE. Carroll County Office Building
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. (exempt records)

Liber #: None
Folio #: None

STREET & NUMBER

225 North Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

7 DESCRIPTION

CRR

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 <u>10/2/69</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Main is the oldest building still standing related to the college community in New Windsor. Because of this and its prominence, then and now, it will be dealt with separately.

The building sits atop a hill about 150 yards from Springdale Road and Maryland Route 31 to Westminster. It faces south/east and is the present focal point of the Brethren Service Center campus. Its back faces towards Union Bridge, and is beheld uncluttered by trees; the front facade is surrounded by trees & barely visible from the roads.

The coursed, low stone foundation is painted gray and supports a Flemish bond, four story building, with working basement that currently houses the SEERV International Gift Shop. The building is 10 bays long (front facade) and four bays deep. Windows are all 6/6, plainly trimmed, save for basement windows, which are of the same trim, but 3/3.

The original Mansard-style roof was destroyed in 1860, and a Victorian style gabled roof was added. It is covered with asphalt shingles. The cornice is supported by decorative wood brackets - fourteen pairs across the front and back facade. In between the brackets is one row of dentils. Four pairs of brackets support an end gable shaped roof. Atop the roof in a central position is a square cupola with three arched windows, four sets of decorative brackets supporting a heavy cornice and a row of dentils, on each side of the square. The exterior of the cupola appears to be covered with weather siding.

The cornice on either end of the building extends to form a broken triangle shape.

On either side of the back gable are shed dormers, with two sets of 3/3 windows. From an 1861 etching, we can see four pairs of single interior chimneys, along the roof line, one of each pair on either side of the pitch.

Under the gable structure on each facade are three arched windows, 2/2 palladian-like accents.

Two entrances grace the front of the building, symmetrically placed. Each has stone and brick stoops. A protruding entablature-porch is supported by Greek Doric (fluted) columns. The mode is very much Greek Revival, classic horizontal and vertical lines. The cornice has two rows of dentils. The doors are recent pane and panel with side-lights, and a rectangular transom. The square archway which protects entrance door is decoratively panelled.

The interior has been renovated at different times. It now consists of contemporary meeting room, guest housing and the basement store.

In excellent condition, "Old Main" the oldest college building left standing in Carroll County, accommodates the SEERV International Gift Shop. The gabled roof tops a unified structure of Victorian, Classic, and Italianate motifs. Its site on "Campus Hill" overlooking New Windsor and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance creates "Old Main" as a focal point of the town.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAEI #070074402

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC "Old Main"

AND/OR COMMON "Old Main"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Windsor

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

___PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES, RESTRICTED

___YES, UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME c/o General Brotherhood Board
: Brethren Service Center

635-6464
848-0990
Telephone #: 876-2263

STREET & NUMBER

College Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Windsor

___ VICINITY OF

Md. STATE, zip code

21776

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COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. Carroll County Office Building
(exempt records)

Liber #: Folio #: None

STREET & NUMBER

225 North Center Street

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

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 <u>1-2-49</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

CARR-17

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1849 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Old Main" has the distinction of being the oldest college building left standing in Carroll County.

The first attempt at advanced education in New Windsor was conducted in the Dielman Hotel by Rev. A. P. Carter, pastor of the Union Church in 1839. In 1843, he received a charter from the Maryland Legislature for the founding of New Windsor College. Apparently he never used the charter and did not build a building. In 1849, Andrew Baker, a graduate of Mt. St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, purchased land for the purpose of establishing an accredited Roman Catholic College in New Windsor. Old Main, begun in 1849, was finished in 1850 and opened in October of that year. In 1852 Baker secured a charter for the college, and named it Calvert College, in honor of the founder of Maryland. Baker became its president. The college for "boys and men" was not owned or controlled by the Catholic Church, but at the time before the Civil War, it was influenced by the Catholic Church because it was Mr. Baker's religion. The war financially and spiritually put a damper on the school.

In 1873, the Presbytery of Baltimore purchased the land and buildings and changed the name to New Windsor College. A Rev. A. M. Jelly took over and conducted the school with success until 1894. He gave it a more advanced college environment, rather than preparatory, and made it coed in the strictest sense of the word.

Around this time the church of the Brethren in Maryland was pushing for the establishment of a college in the state. A school was opened in 1899, results were good, and a charter was secured in 1900. Land was bought in Union Bridge and buildings erected. Although the first work was high school, in 1910 a charter from the Maryland Legislature produced authority for college dorms. Because of the growing community, the school decided to relocate. New Windsor college, which happened to be for sale at the time was bought by the Church of the Brethren, and renamed Blue Ridge College. This was the name of the college which had been in Union Bridge. Apparently from the campus hill, the Blue Ridge Mountains, eighteen miles away, were visible. The trustees of Blue Ridge re-modeled Old Main at this time. In 1913, Windsor Hall, west of old Main, a dorm for girls was constructed. It accomodated forty-eight girls, a chapel, two parlors, dining hall and kitchen. In 1919, Becker Hall, east of Old Main, a dorm for boys, was constructed, accomodating sixty-six boys, classrooms, social room and another large room, in the basement. In general, between 1913 and 1920, a series of expansions took place in the physical facilities.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Westminster Times Fri July 2, 1937
"Dr. Edward C. Bixler tells history of Blue Ridge College"
"Old Main" Dedication 1847-1977 pamphlet
"History of Blue Ridge College" compiled by Edward Grill Church of the Brethren

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY - continued -

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Carroll

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Fredi Eckhardt historic site surveyor

ORGANIZATION Carroll Co. Committee of the Md. Historical Trust DATE Fall - 1978

STREET & NUMBER 210 East Main Street TELEPHONE 848-6494

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

about enlarging the school to four rooms. In September 1898, he succeeded in getting the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the school. On September 19, two Sisters began school with 92 pupils. Before long, this number increased to 100.

According to an advertisement in the *Democratic Advocate* of October 1876, the school offered "Classics and Mathematics" with "Particular attention paid to English Composition." A special feature was "a Night School for young men . . . open 7 to 9 P.M. on Monday and Thursday of each week beginning October 16th, 1876." Numerous scholarships were available to students at St. John's and at such other local institutions as Manchester Academy and Western Maryland College.²⁴

Known as the first co-educational college south of the Mason and Dixon Line, Western Maryland College was



WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE, WESTMINSTER MD.

incorporated by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1868 with the objective of providing first class education to both men and women regardless of religious affiliation. The college, the brainstorm of Fayette Buell, teacher at the Male and Female Collegiate School in Westminster, received its first financial support from John Smith and Isaac P. Baile. Shortly thereafter the Board of Trustees, which had close ties with the Methodist Protestant Church, purchased the college for \$22,000.

"Old Main," begun before the college was chartered, provided living facilities and classrooms for the first student body and every one thereafter until its demolition in the 1940s. "Old Main" was "a combination of Italian and Romanesque style of architecture . . . large, rough, and massive in appearance . . . of brick on a solid stone foundation 66 ft. by 64 ft. and . . . five stories high."²⁵ Little Baker Chapel, Alumni Hall, and the President's house were constructed before the turn of the century. College functions were held both in "Old Main" and in the Odd Fellow's Hall in downtown Westminster.

Westminster Seminary was established on grounds adjacent to the college in 1882 by Thomas Hamilton Lewis as the School of Theology. The seminary was founded largely because many of Western Maryland's students wished to prepare for careers in the ministry.

New Windsor College, which consistently had more financial difficulties than Western Maryland College, was sold in 1876 to the Calvert Educational Society of Carroll County. L.B.W. Shryock, followed by George H. Birnie, led the school until 1878, when it was again

Warner, Nancy M., Ralph B. Levering, and Margaret Taylor Woltz
1976 Carroll County Maryland: A History 1837-1976.
Haddon Craftsmen.

sold to Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Jelly, Presbyterians, who tried unsuccessfully to sell the school to the Presbyterian Synod of Baltimore.²⁶

Under Reverend Jelly's direction, the quality of instruction was raised and the school was organized into three divisions: New Windsor College, Windsor Female College, and Windsor Business College. The facilities for female students were in buildings adjacent to those of the male students, the entire student body meeting only in the dining hall and for the Friday night "monthly socials" chaperoned by the faculty. The New Windsor community supported and enjoyed the literary, musical, and academic presentations of the college's societies at the Dielman Inn.

Mrs. Jelly operated the college for eleven years after Reverend Jelly's death, selling it in 1896 to the New Windsor College Company. It was again sold in 1901 to Dr. and Mrs. James Fraser, who unsuccessfully tried to interest the Presbyterian Church in its purchase.

Blue Ridge College, under the auspices of the Brethren Church, began giving classes in Union Bridge in 1899 at the high school level. In 1910 the Maryland Legislature granted the college a charter to offer college-level courses. The Tidewater (later Lehigh) Cement Company, also recently established at Union Bridge, disrupted the campus, resulting in the takeover of New Windsor College by Blue Ridge College. Until ceasing operations in the 1940s Blue Ridge College offered four and then two year programs at its campus in New Windsor, which subsequently became the Brethren Service Center.

4. Communication and Transportation Advances

Although designated as "rural" by metropolitan standards up to the 1970s, Carroll County was continually abreast of advances in communications which would encourage community awareness, improve marketing techniques and industrial growth, and link the county with the outside world.

Railroads

It cannot be overemphasized that the Western Maryland railroad was conceived in Carroll County and funded almost wholly by the county's citizens. Union Bridge, the terminus for several years, housed the railroad's machine shops, where some of the finest railroad cars were built. A disastrous fire struck these shops on 3 December 1868, but the buildings were soon rebuilt. The road continued westward to Keymar and Double Pipe Creek (later called Detour). In the late nineteenth century, although the Carroll County section of the road became of less financial importance to the Western Maryland Railroad Company, the value of it to county citizens was immeasurable.

Also providing convenient transportation to all parts of the county were a branch of the Western Maryland through Hampstead, Millers, and Alesia, a branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad through Taneytown and Keymar, built in the 1870s, and the B & O on the county's southern border.



"Old Main"

Nov. - 78

Jan. - 17

corner - N/W back facade, N/E side
Fred. E.



"Old Man"

Nov. - 78

Can. - 17

S/E elevations, W/E side
Fred E.



"Old Man"

Nov. - 78

Can. - 17

S/E elevation

Indic E.

8 Significance

In 1927, the status changed, and it became a four-year system called "Blue Ridge Junior College, and Preparatory School." A Dr. Ed C. Bixler was president from 1927 until the school was sold in 1937. After several years under private management as Calvert and later Blue Ridge again, the property returned to the Church of the Brethren. In 1944, the Brethren Relief Center was established on the college grounds, and shortly thereafter the Church World Service was integrated into this.

Today "Old Main" serves as a central conference and retreat building, as well as the home of the SEERV International Gift Shop.

It stands as the oldest college building in Carroll County, as well as evidence of a then current concern for advanced education in Maryland.

9 Major Bibliographical References

Blue Ridge College Bulletin catalogue 1938-1939

"Blue Ridge College Reflector" booklet October 1926

NEW WINDSOR

New Windsor is somewhat different from other Western Maryland farming communities in that it is not clustered on one long 'Main Street' (like Sharpsburg or Middletown). When approached from Frederick (from the south west) the road dips down a ~~small~~ hill and over railroad tracks and then up a slightly curved stretch to High Street, New Windsor's main thoroughfare. The approach from Westminster involves a sharp, 90 degree left hand turn onto High Street from Main Street; this avoids the monotony of a long straight street and also saves the town center as a 'surprise'. High Street is further~~er~~ blessed in that it is not absolutely flat -- it slopes downward toward the Frederick end of town -- which helps to break^{the} tedium, plus the fact that there are many large shade trees lining High Street.

The less substantial (architecturally) part of New Windsor lies below High Street, towards the railroad tracks. Church Street, below High Street, is perfectly straight, and a bit too wide to be interesting; architecturally there are some fine brick houses at the High Street end. Newer houses (late 19th century and 20th century) lie above High Street, with the exception of several early structures that line Main Street, the road in from Westminster.

The chief contributor to New Windsor's character is the group of brick houses on High Street. These are all fairly similar (except for one with a hipped roof and balustrade). These are early to mid 19th century houses, several of which have a rather unique cornice -- probably the mark of a local builder, or at least, all were built at about the same time. The quality and workmanship of these buildings is fairly high for a rural community.

The gently bowed High Street with its shade trees and period collection of brick houses gives the older part of New Windsor the quality of a 'charming' country village, which, except for the basically linear layout of the town, is not unlike villages of the same period in New England; it is probably similar to the villages that New Englanders were laying out at this time in Ohio and the Midwest.

W.M. June 10, 1970