

255 EAST MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER

ECKLAR HOUSE

Popular feeling is that this was originally a 2-story log house; this is possible, as it is still possible to see, in the cellar, the old log floor beams. In any event, its 2½ story - 3 bay facade was covered with stretcher bond brick probably when the 2 bay western office was added, c. 1840, along with the eastern recessed 2-story porch.

The house is significant in Westminster as one of the (surprisingly) few examples of German folk culture. There was a large Mid-eighteenth century migration of Germans (from Pennsylvania and, to a lesser degree, from other sections of Maryland), one of whom was Ulrich Ecklar, a dyer, and builder of this house. The brick Greek cross-pattern under the eaves, and the front ground floor room's marble mantle (which is richly carved in "Pennsylvania Dutch" patterns) serves to remind many of the area's citizens of their Teutonic past.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ecklar House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

255 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

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 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 RESIDENCES
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

LeRoy Conaway

Telephone #:

848-7339

STREET & NUMBER

255 East Main Street

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 #: 357

Folio #: 105

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminste

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

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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

Number 255 East Main Street, sitting at the northwest corner of the intersection of East Main (Maryland Route 32) and Church Streets in Westminster makes clear why Westminster can be thought of as a City of details, and how some exceptional details can be used to add great interest to an otherwise typical structure. The detail is the brick Greek Cross pattern below the modillion cornice.

Otherwise, the house is a good example of the low fieldstone foundationed 2/3 Georgian plan (with an addition to the west). The original section of the house was 3 bays wide and 2 stories tall. Popular culture has it, the house was originally a 2 story log house. This is possible, as, from the cellar, log floor beams can be seen in certain sections today. In any event, it has long since been covered with common stretcher bond brick.

The entrance (the western of the 3 original bays) has, also in the distant past, been expanded to include a 4 columned 1 story wooden porch with a 5 sided bay window above. The one-over-one double-hung sash windows of the bay are separated from each other by a single elongated pilaster. Below, in the center of the stooped porch, is the entrance door, composed of 2 vertical panels below and a large pane of glass above. The door has broad but single enframement consisting of wide planks laid around it.

To the east are two 1/1 windows per floor regularly placed, with 3 course gauged flat arches. The windows of each floor are identical in their simple enframement and white wooden sills; the ground floor windows are slightly elongated; windows have brown louvered shutters.

The original section's east front is laid in 5 course common bond, and continues the cross pattern under its gable end, below the large flat-capped chimney that rises, flush, from the gable's peak. Below are 2 regularly spaced windows per floor - all windows are identical in size and treatment; 1/1 paned, with white wooden sills, simple enframement, and louvered shutters. To the north, is a long extension complete with a 2 story recessed porch, a feature standard to many of Westminster's Mid-Victorian period dwellings. The porch is supported by 2 square posts per floor (above solid board and batten balconies). The 3 bay porch has the same bay treatment on each story - a central window with flanking doors. Windows and doors are glass and aluminum storm. Flush with the sidewalk, to the north of the porch, is a narrow stretcher bond brick wall with one 6/6 window on each of its 2 floors, the ground floor one being smaller, and modern, the upper having 3 course gauged flat arches, a white wooden sill, and shuttered.

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 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 checked="" 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	c. 1815	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Ulrich Ecklar
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of number 255 is architectural. But it is, as noted, significant more in its details than in its entirety. Westminster was settled by many nationalities, each of which tended to continue, for a time, its traditional folk designs and patterns. There are not many fine examples of the folk styles that the Germanic settlers would have created, despite the fact that the Germans were certainly a vitally important group in the town's (and county's) creation; "Settlement of Carroll County was rather slow until the mid-eighteenth century when a great influx of Germans...greatly increased..." (Warner p. 37). The decoration on the marble fireplace of the Ecklar House and, possibly, the crosspattern under the eaves, could serve to remind a large segment of the area of its Teutonic past.

Although how Ecklar acquired the lot is unclear, he must have had it sometime before 1823, as in that year he had a \$2000 mortgage released that had encumbered the property (Frederick County Land Records JS 18/54). Ecklar died intestate, c. 1836 and, in the series of straw deeds (made for the next 30 years among all Ecklar's heirs), one, dated June 12, 1837, (WWI/158) mentions the "house and lot formerly occupied by Ulrich Ecklar". It finally passed out of the family in 1868 (Deed 35/354), and, as it bordered the bank, was passed back and forth among the town's leading families - Smith, Reese, and Hering - during the 19th century. The present owner, the City's Mayor, took the title March 28, 1963 (357/105).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 City Lot

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 11 as shown on the original plat 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

October, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

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

North of this section is a tin shed-roofed 1 story screened wooden porch. The porch is entered by 2 cement steps; the house is entered by 2 glass and aluminum storm doors. Above are 2 regularly placed shuttered 6/6 windows on the second floor, and a small 4-light attic window in the western section of the gabled end.

The 2 bay western stretcher bond facade of this extension is decorated by 3 step corbelling along the eaves, and is pierced by 2 windows, regularly placed, per floor. The second floor windows are a 6/6 shuttered 4 course gauged flat arched window to the north, and a 2-sectioned casement window to the south. Below the 6/6 window is a modern glass and aluminum storm window; below the casement window is a four-panel door. Both ground floor bays have 3 course gauged flat arches.

There is a 2 story 2 by 3 bay flat roofed extension to the west of the original building. Possibly built as a shop (the proposed builder was a dyer and may have used this as a place to sell his wares), it is now a separate apartment. The south (Main Street) facade continues the cross entablature and has 2 regularly spaced bays per floor. The eastern ground floor bay is the glass and aluminum entrance door; all the rest are 1/1 glass and aluminum storm windows with white wooden sills. All bays have 3 course gauged flat arches. The opposite wall matches bays in number and placement, if not in treatment. The second floor bays are 6 light casement windows: the ground floor has a shuttered 4 course gauged flat arch window with a 6 panel transomed door to the west. The west wall has folded over tin at its roof decoration. The wall's southern bays are regularly placed (2 on each of 2 floors). The northern bays (1 per floor) were placed far to the north; the second floor's is still present, but, for some reason, that on the second floor has been moved a few feet to the south. (It is possible to see the original arch directly below the second story window.) All windows have 6/6 panes, and 3 course flat gauged arches, except for the moved-window, which is now archless.

The interior, much changed in detail, still has the original floor plan (already mentioned). The ground floor front room fireplace is of marble, but, like the outside, is saved from being a type by its unusual decoration: carved symmetrically in the marble fireplace are several patterns associated with the "Pennsylvania Dutch". These Germanic designs can be explained by recalling the builder's name - Ulrich Ecklar, who must have immigrated around 1790, as he suddenly appears in the land records in 1793, is quite active, and is not heard of after 1832 (when he died). Ecklar probably built a German-style 2 story log house for his family; he almost certainly built the fireplaces with their traditional designs.



Wanda Ecklan House

255 East Main

341



ARR 341

253.5 E Main St. Westminster

facade - detail

8/74 - C. Weeks

26

XXX III -  
cornice detail



CARR 341

253-5 E. Main St. ~~Westminster~~

N. Jacaranda

7174, Creek

Eklan House

XXXXII

25

P. ~~22~~ 25

140<sup>07</sup> 10

N. CHURCH ST



RR 341

CARR-341

35 E. Main St.

atmista

06 - C. Wechs

9176

Yacuda

3970

A-18

737.



CARR-341

27

73%

P.23  
25

341

XXXIV - Ecklar House - Main Parlor ~~fire~~ mantel  
with German-influenced designs.