

233 EAST MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER

TURFLE HOUSE

The "Thomas Turfle House", built c. 1870, is an interesting example of how it is possible to retain an old form, (the 2-or-3 story, 3-bay house) but to "personalize" it in detail. The carpenters who chisled, sawed, and gouged Turfle's cornices, beading, brackets, and applique served him well in setting apart his dwelling from the scores of similar ones in the City. The house is also important as an integral element in the city scope, providing, in its rosey 3 brick stories, a necessary vertical and chromatic counterpart to a section of a block otherwise composed in 2 story creams.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carroll 358  
0703584504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Thomas Turfle House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

233 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 RESIDENCE
<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 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

Stephen Bourexis, Esq.

Telephone #: 848-0123

STREET & NUMBER

235 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 #: 586

Folio #: 595

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A few feet to the east of the intersection of Main and Ralph Streets in Westminster is number 233 East Main Street (Md. Route 32) - a 3½ story rose stretcher bond brick building that towers above its immediate neighbors. The street (north) facade is 3 bays wide. Windows on the top floor have 6 over 6 double-hung sashes, those on the second and ground floor have 6/1. These and all windows are simply enframed and are topped by 3 course gauged flat arches. All bays are regularly placed. The entrance door, above 2 brick steps, is the eastern ground floor bay, and is one of the house's nicest features. A beautifully molded cornice is supported by 2 fancifully carved flanking giant scroll brackets decorated by pellets along their centers, and by swirling applique at their bases. The white painted door has a typical 4 panel pattern, but with the upper half consisting of a single glass pane. A similarly deeply molded cornice with dentils projects a foot at the roof's eaves. The cornice is also supported by scroll brackets, which are, however, a bit more restrained. The red and white of the brick and trim is complemented by the green of the louvered shutters which flank all windows.

At the gable (east and west) ends, we see the fine 4 course brick corbelling that is prominent here, and that is an often used feature on Westminster's domestic architecture. The west front is laid in 5 course common bond and has one 6/6 window, vertically aligned, in the northern section of each of the three stories. A wide, flat-capped chimney is flush with the gable's peak, with 2 small 4-light attic windows flanking it.

There is a 2 story section smoothly extending to the north. Brick work and windows (2 regularly placed on each floor) repeat earlier patterns. Two corbelled chimneys, one interior, one flush with the north wall, enliven the skyline. The north front of the extension consists almost entirely of the near-blind 5 course common bond wall (marked only by a 4/4 attic window in the gable, and by a large bulkhead cellar entrance. To the east and west of the extension's roof peak, flanking 6/6 Main Street section windows provide symmetry and overlook the unpainted tin roof. (The Main section is similarly covered.)

The east front is the only facade that has changed very much since the house was built, and these changes have been confined to the north wing of the building. On the original home, it is probable that a recessed 2 - tiered loggia filled the southerly 2/3 of the rear section. This area was enclosed c. 1955 and covered with red wooden shingles. There is one door - a modern glass and aluminum storm door - on the middle of the second story, approached by a stair rising diagonally from the north. The door, sheltered by a red and white aluminum awning, is the northernmost of the second story's

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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1870	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of 233 East Main is architectural. The building is important to Westminster's old east end for the variety it adds to the skyline and streetscape. Rising as it does, one or one-and-a-half stories higher than the buildings which surround it, the house creates an important vertical rhythm. Its weathered rosey brick and dark shutters, also add a splash of color to a section of the block otherwise composed in whites and creams.

Beyond this, the house defines a size limit for the classic Mid-Atlantic (urban) farmhouse. (Urban is inserted here as its rural antecedents are clear.) When larger scale versions of this type are created (as they are, in fact, in Westminster), they become ungainly.

Further, the house is a good example of the absolute conservatism of Westminster's psyche - number 235 is roughly contemporaneous with the Reifsnider house across the street, but it makes no concessions to modern trends - Glassie notes that his type "continued to be built throughout the nineteenth century, long after it had ceased to be fashionable" (p. 54). He is right - this house could have been built in Westminster anytime during a 100 year time span.

Lot 15 of the original town of Westminster (the lot number 233 occupies) remained vacant for most of the 19th century. The lot was sold by the heirs of John Fisher to Thomas Turfle for #340 on November 16, 1867 (Deed 35/105). The price clearly indicates the lack of a building of the present scale. Turfle was the probable builder and he built the place within the next 10 years as a mid-1870's plat of the lot shows a house of approximately the same size and shape as the present structure. Turfle and his wife sold the place to Morris, Mitten for \$2500 on September 26, 1904 (100/275). The house changed hands several times in this century until its present owner, Stephen Bourexis, took title on January 29, 1975 (586/595).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 15 as shown on the plat of the original town of Westminster as 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

four bays (the other bays are all 6/6 windows). On the ground floor there is a 6/6 window beneath the door and a pair of 6/6 windows in the southerly section. All windows are simply enframed. The remaining 1/3 of this section, probably original, is laid in 6 course common bond with one window per floor (vertically aligned) - 4/4 window above and a 6/6 below. A heavily molded cornice runs over the entire wing and finishes the eaves of the tin roof. The suggestion that there was once an open loggia in this section is supported by various bits of evidence; there is ample local precedence for such an arrangement, and the section is still recessed about six inches, with the bricks of the (original) northern third of the section turning a very firm corner.

The interior, except for the closing-in of the porch, is also little changed. All three floors have the same plan; the main section has a typical 2/3 Georgian plan with a side hall and a double parlor to the west, with two rooms in a line to the north of the double parlor. The rounded stair is unchanged, with its heavy but simply turned newel post and balusters, and broad bannister. There is a black marble round arched late Victorian fireplace in the southern ground floor room; it is the only remaining one in the house.



CARR 358

233 E. MAIN ST. WESTMINSTER PA

N. Jacard

10/76 C. Wechs

580



CARR 358

233 E. Main St.  
Westminster

S. facade  
10/76 C. Weeks

5870

(A-14)