

CROUT HOUSE

127 EAST MAIN STREET

Built by Sara M. Crout around 1877, no. 127 East Main Street breaks no new ground in Westminster's architectural history; indeed its significance is not as an innovator, but as a retainer of tradition. It is easy to glance up and down Main Street to see every step that had to be taken to arrive at 127's main facade - which houses first employed the three-bay side-door scheme, which first introduced double doors, which introduced corniced door surrounds. It is just as easy to trace the development of the style after no. 127. But, as it is, this building forms a nice breathing spot in the styles and in the City's development - certain heavy, mid-century features had crept in, but certain early delicacies remain (such as the simple two modillion entablature). The style had lost its early pleasant small scale, but had not yet acquired coarsness. The house has recently been adapted into attorneys' offices, a use not quite commercial, yet not residential, and thus fitting, as the entire block makes the transition in the City scape between the older, largely residential sections of town to the east, and the western Victorian commercial area.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Crout House

AND/OR COMMON

Offices of Dulany and Davis

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

127 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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

William B. Dulany

Telephone #: 848-1363

STREET & NUMBER

127 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 #: 595

Folio #: 267

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

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 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

Number 127 East Main Street is joined to its neighbor, no. 123, by means of a modern office-connector. This connector's clean design and Modrian-like window placement are laden with implications - from the north, looking at its liver-colored stretcher bond wall, one can read that the connector is apportioned between the two larger, older buildings; a recessed metal strip runs smack in the center of both floors; on the ground floor it goes through a large single-paned window dividing it in half. This strip, therefore, creates two equal sections; windows in each form a triadic composition; the split window is one of two bases (the other being bled into either 123 or 127), the top is a second floor window centrally placed between the two ground floor panes. All windows are the size of half the large center window (i.e., the resulting size after the division).

The recently sandblasted south (main) facade of 127 is three bays wide and three stories tall between a low uncoursed fieldstone foundation and a simple two-part modillion entablature that resembles no. 123's. The entrance door, the eastern ground floor bay, is a double door (no longer used) that is enframed by plain pilasters and a simple 3-part denticulated entablature. The other eight bays are double hung windows with one pane per sash. Windows (three on the second and third floors, two on the ground floor) all have wooden sills painted the same seal brown color as the door and cornice, and all have three course flat arches; however, the arches of the ground floor are cauged, those of the other two floors are Dutch:

The east six course common bond facade is blind below its gable end roof; the edge of the roof is marked by simple architrave trim. As one progresses to the north, down a slight hill, and then around to the rear, one passes additions and changes, handsome in themselves, but having little to do with the rest of the building or with the City. These additions date from 1971 and were designed by an architect named Jewels. The north front of this building is united with no. 123 by new patterns made of poured concrete, liver-colored brick, and tall panels of smoked glass. Little remains of the original floor plan as the architect and client have yielded to the space - design pressures of a modern law practice.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 c. 1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 127 East Main Street breaks no new ground in Westminster's architectural history; indeed its significance is not as an innovator, but as a retainer of traditions. It is easy to glance up and down Main Street and see every step that had to be taken to arrive at 127's main facade - which houses first employed the three-bay side-door scheme, which first introduced double doors, which introduced corniced (but still simple) door surrounds. It is just as easy to trace the development of the style after 127. But, as it is, this building forms a nice breathing spot in the style's development - certain heavy, mid-century features had crept in, but certain early delicacies remained; the style had lost its early pleasant small scale, but had not yet acquired coarseness. This is important for the City, and it is especially important for the entire center of this block (131, and the old Methodist Church, besides 127) have similar qualities and thereby reinforce each other. The 1877 plat of the City shows the block to be solely filled by 123, 127, the Church, and 131; this core still sets the block's tone, and makes a key transition between the older largely residential sections of town to the east, and the western Victorian commercial area.

Although the lot's title can be traced back to 1813 (Deeds Frederick County WR44/560, and Carroll County 3/169, 15/161) it is not until March 7, 1876 when Sarah M. Crout bought the land from Francis H. Orendorff (for \$250) that the history is of real concern (46/194). When Miss Crout died (LWT 11/573) her executor, Ralph G. Hoffman, eventually passed title to Warren H. Hook (212/435, May 21, 1952). Hook sold the place to William B. Dulany and wife (439/618, June 27, 1968) but title has since vested in William alone (595/267, April Fool's Day 1975). It was Dulany, as a partner in a law firm, who made the exquisite (from Main Street) connection between 127 and 123.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 33 of the town of "New London", later a part of Westminster.

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

December, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

Maryland

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

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

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



CARR-~~27~~-378

123-127 E. Main St.

Westminster

N. facade

C. Weeks 12/24



CARR 378

127 E Main St.

Westminster

S. Jacaranda

C. Weck 11/76