

JOHN C. COCKEY HOUSE

177 EAST MAIN STREET

The variety of Westminster's basic 3-bay structure does, at times, seem infinite. Number 177 East Main Street is located on the north side of that thoroughfare, a few feet east of its intersection with Center Street. It is one of a score of two-story, side-hall, double-parlor houses executed in brick, laid here in a crisp Flemish Bond. The house is, in fact, as perfect a "norm" as can be found - some are larger scale, some smaller; some have finer brick work, some coarser; some are better preserved, some worse. Probably built by members of the Mathias family, around 1800, it passed into James Cockey's hands in 1818. Cockey was one of the first school teachers in Westminster, and was also instrumental in organizing the Westminster Volunteer Fire Company. The house has recently been adapted, successfully, into attorneys' offices.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC John C. Cockey House
 AND/OR COMMON Walsh House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 177 East Main Street (MD 32) 6
 CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Local |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Charles O. Fisher Telephone #: 848-5848
 STREET & NUMBER 51 North Court Street
 CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 381
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Office Building FOLIO #: 712
 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"/> MOVED | DATE _____ |
| <input 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

The variety of Westminster's basic three-bay structures does, at times, seem infinite (despite an occasional feeling of staleness). Number 177 East Main Street is located on the north side of that thoroughfare (Maryland Route 32), a few feet east of its intersection with Center Street. It is one of a score of two-story, side-hall, double-parlor houses, this time executed in brick laid, in Flemish Bond, on the principal facade, above a low-uncoursed fieldstone foundation. The entrance door is the eastern ground floor bay and is chastely, diminutively elegant in its small three part modillion entablature supported by fluted orderless pilasters. A four-light transom tops the door itself, which has eight-panels above two brick steps. The facade's other five bays are six-over-six, double-hung, sash windows (two on the ground floor, three on the second). The windows all have flanking black louvered shutters, white wooden sills, and flat gauged arches (three courses on the second floor, four on the first). The eaves of the unpainted, corrugated, sheet metal covered roof are of four-step corbelled brick with two staggered rows of perpendicular brick "dentils".

The west facade, which overlooks and is, in part, adjacent to a building acting as offices for a tombstone company, is laid in four course common bond with a flat brick chimney flush with the wall, rising at the gable's peak. Two small four-light windows flank the chimney and light the attic. There is only one window in this section of the building - it is to the rear, on the second story and has 6/6 panes. In good Westminster style, there is a small scale, four course common bond, two-story extension; this one has three-step brick corbelling at the eaves with two regularly placed 6/6 windows on the second floor. These windows are aligned with the Main section's window and are treated the same, i.e., with three course gauged flat arches, white wooden sills, and black louvered shutters.

Originally, there was probably a double tier porch along the eastern side of this rear wing. It has recently (c. 1955) been enclosed by white clapboard leaving one glass and aluminum storm door on its second floor. The door is approached, by a single flight of wooden steps, from the north. The north front of this former porch has a 4/4 simply-enframed window in the center of its second floor. The remaining north facade of the building is the four course common bond wall of the "wing". This gable end wall has two second-story 6/6 windows; the windows are archless and shutterless, but do possess white wooden sills. There is a wooden bulkhead cellar entrance in the center of this facade.

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 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. 1800 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Mathias Family |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is a certain continuity of normalcy about 177 East Main Street. Architecturally, the building is a fine, quiet example of the 3-bay side-hall, Westminster house. It is, in fact, as perfect a "norm" as can be found - some are larger scale, some smaller, some have finer brick work, some coarser, some are better preserved, some worse. Probably built by members of the Mathias family, it somehow passed among that family's various members until James Cockey took title March 30, 1818 for \$2000 (Frederick County Deed Book JS 6, Page 655). Cockey, mentioned by Mrs. Katharine Shellman as a "school teacher", was also instrumental in organizing the Westminster Fire Company (according to the Fire Company's 150th anniversary pamphlet). After Cockey's death, his trustee, John Fisher, sold the house to Thomas Gurley (Carroll County Deed WW6/86 - July 13, 1841). Four changes in title now occur until the next major family takes title: Gurley sells to David Boyd (6/32, March 26, 1841); Boyd sells to John Malambra (12/303, March 10, 1851), Malambra sells to George Fourke (25/131, October 7, 1858), and Fourke sells to Rosanna Walsh (83/138, July 6, 1896). The house stayed in the possession of her family until her children sold on July 30, 1940 (173/282) to Alice N. Hiltabridle, who sold to Charles O. Fisher, the present owner (381/712), November 20, 1964). Fisher is a younger partner in the law firm headed by D. Eugene Walsh (son of Rosanna) who was born and reared in the house now (happily) adapted into his law offices. Circles, circles, circles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the eastern half of lot number 3 of the town of New London.

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

November, 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

S.S. 9 58% B 27 P.14



23-18

DATE 1900 CAMERA

3 O LINE
O HALFTONE
O DUOTONE

S.S. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

XXVI

B

S.S.

History section) p. 26
23

58% - Inventory Section 'B'
(p. 15) B-27

CNR 384(A)

~~177~~ E. MAINT.

Wentworth

S. Jacobs

c. week 1/22



CARR 371

177 E. Main St.
Westminster

N. Parade

C. Wechs 12/26