

THE WHITE PALACE

47-49 EAST MAIN STREET

Although in form, the White Palace is basically of, a size and form very popular in the area, above the first floor the building explodes into a riot of the City's most fanciful brickwork. One obvious answer to give when asked to state a reason for attempting to catalog an area's past building norm, is that, ideally, the resulting understanding might be useful to present day architects. John Bower's store, or "The White Palace", is a clear example of how "a present day architect" of the past adapted the local norms (of mass and decoration) to fit the needs of his late-Victorian era. (The house was built around 1870.) By including the top half story, making the building a commonplace 2½ stories, the designer was true to local standards; but by taking out all of the windows, and by switching the usual gable roof to a flat roof, he was able to fill this space with a riot of brickwork, and thus be true to current taste. Each of the many designs in the brickwork present is a reproduction of a design found elsewhere in the City - making the place a museum of Westminster decorative brickwork. This "in toto" presentation of all these various designs is unprecedented, and doubtless satisfied both the architect and the owner.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR-415
0704254511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

"The White Palace"

AND/OR COMMON

John D. Bowers' Store

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

47-49 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

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

The Link (c/o Herman Posenberg)

Telephone #: 848-4360

STREET & NUMBER

7 Locust 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

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 190

Folio #: 570

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (Slightly)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although in form Bowers' store is basically a 2-story, 3-bay structure, a size and form very popular in the area, above the first floor the building explodes in a riot of the City's most fanciful brickwork.

Fronting the north side of East Main Street (St. Route 32), about 40 feet east of that road's intersection with Locust Street in Westminster, the ground floor (entrance and display area) is little changed from its original appearance. It consists of a centrally-placed door, diagonally recessed a few feet behind a large, plate glass display window. To the east, another recessed door beneath a square transom acts as a private entrance to the second story. A modillioned protruding cornice (in the manner of a pent-roof) separates the first and second floors; this divider is "supported" by end pilasters which are topped by cabriole-shaped brackets.

Four brick pilasters rise out of this pent-roof cornice, dividing the rest of the facade into 3 equal sections. The second floor has one, Romanesque, arched 6/6 casement window in each section. The arches are formed by 3, staggered rows of bricks; windows have white wooden sills and have an angular recessed pattern between them and the first floor cornice. Above the window is a broad band of recessed Greek Crosses (this and all the other decoration on the building is executed in brick). There is something that resembles a string course above this band, and running over the pilasters as well. Each pilaster here is decorated by a rectangular finial suspended from the string course. About 10' above this is a 4-step, corbel table, which, like the string course, is continued across the pilasters; pilaster decoration takes the form of inverted corbelled pyramids. Between the pilasters, 5, dagger-shaped pendants hang from the corbelling. The central section has a skyline of a pedimental shape; east and west of it the roof is flat, except for the black pyramids which surmount the corbelled tops of each of the four pilasters.

Originally, rounded awnings shaded each of the second story windows; these have been removed. The awnings provided a method of advertising, as the name of the second story tenant appears to have been embroidered (or sewn in some fashion) on each awning. Other early methods of advertising included a painted, long, rectangular sign above the pent-roof, and the name painted on the transom of the entrance door. The use of suspended signs is still much in evidence.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

c. 1870

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One obvious answer to give when asked to state a reason for attempting to catalog an area's past building norms, is that, ideally, the resulting understanding might be useful to present day architects (assuming they would wish to maintain the local traditions). John Bower's store presents a clear example of how "a present day architect" of the past adapted the Westminster norms (of mass and of decoration) to fit the needs of his era. By including the top half story, making the building a commonplace 2½ stories, the designer was true to local standards; but by taking out all the windows, and by switching the usual gable roof for a flat roof, he was able to fill this space with a riot of brickwork, and thus be true to current tastes. Each of the many designs present is a reproduction of a design found elsewhere in the City (making the place a museum of Westminster brickwork) - this again shows the strength and adaptability of these local customs. The "in toto" presence of the various designs used to create the "White Palace" is unprecedented and doubtless satisfied both the architect and the owner.

The title information for the Bowers building is as involved as the building's brickwork. As a part of lot no. 6 in John Winter's Addition to Westminster the history is the same as that described in the report of 43 East Main Street, until the land the "White Palace" is on was sold as an off conveyance by Mary Jane Bowers, widow of John H. Bowers, to John D. Bowers on April 20, 1900, as recorded in Carroll County Deed Book 93, Page 17. The price of the lot was \$3500, and we could certainly infer that a building was standing; there is no reason not to think that the building existing then is the building we see today. The 1887 plat of the City shows a building of about the right dimensions in the right place on lot no. 6, and the 1887 City Directory lists John D. Bowers as a grocer having a shop at 45 East Main St. - it even includes an ad for the store. Brief research has unearth a post card with the postmark December 22, 1908; the front of the post card is decorated by a photograph of Bower's store showing essentially the same picture we see today - a copy of the photograph is attached to this report. The Bowers to Bowers deed (93/17) has, in its description, frequent references to party walls and so on; there is also, as clinching evidence, the phrase that this is "the same premises occupied by Mary Jane Bowers as tenant".

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 third of lot no. 6, John Winter's Addition, as shown on a plat recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Book JS 2, Page 195, 196.

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

February, 1977

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

Fifteen years later, on January 7, 1915, Bowers sold several lots, including this one, to Oscar Gilbert (126/135). The next 20 years (1915-1934) is a time of unceasing chaos as far as building ownership is concerned - during this relatively brief period of time, no fewer than 7 equity suits occurred as owner after owner defaulted in mortgages, deed of trust, and other instruments of indenture. On May 14, 1934, the Birnie Trust Company sold the land to Howard Carlisle Mackenzie and wife (160/371) who then sold to Edward O. Cash on January 14, 1937 (165/305). Cash sold to Solomon Rosenberg on April 19, 1939 (170/321); Rosenberg and his brothers formed the Link, Inc., which took title on March 28, 1946, by deed 190/570.

47-49 East Main
CARR-415

W-1 - Feb 24



CHILDREN'S PHOTOS A SPECIALTY

J. D. MITCHELL,
PHOTOGRAPHER

49 E. MAIN ST., WESTMINSTER, MD.

Above Bower's Store.

PICTURES MADE BY ELECTRIC LIGHT

47-49 East Main

W-1
Feb 24

CALL UPON

John D. Bowers,

47 E. MAIN STREET,

The White Palace,

FOR THE

BEST 5-CENT CIGAR

SOLD IN

Westminster, Md.

43%



437

Q-7



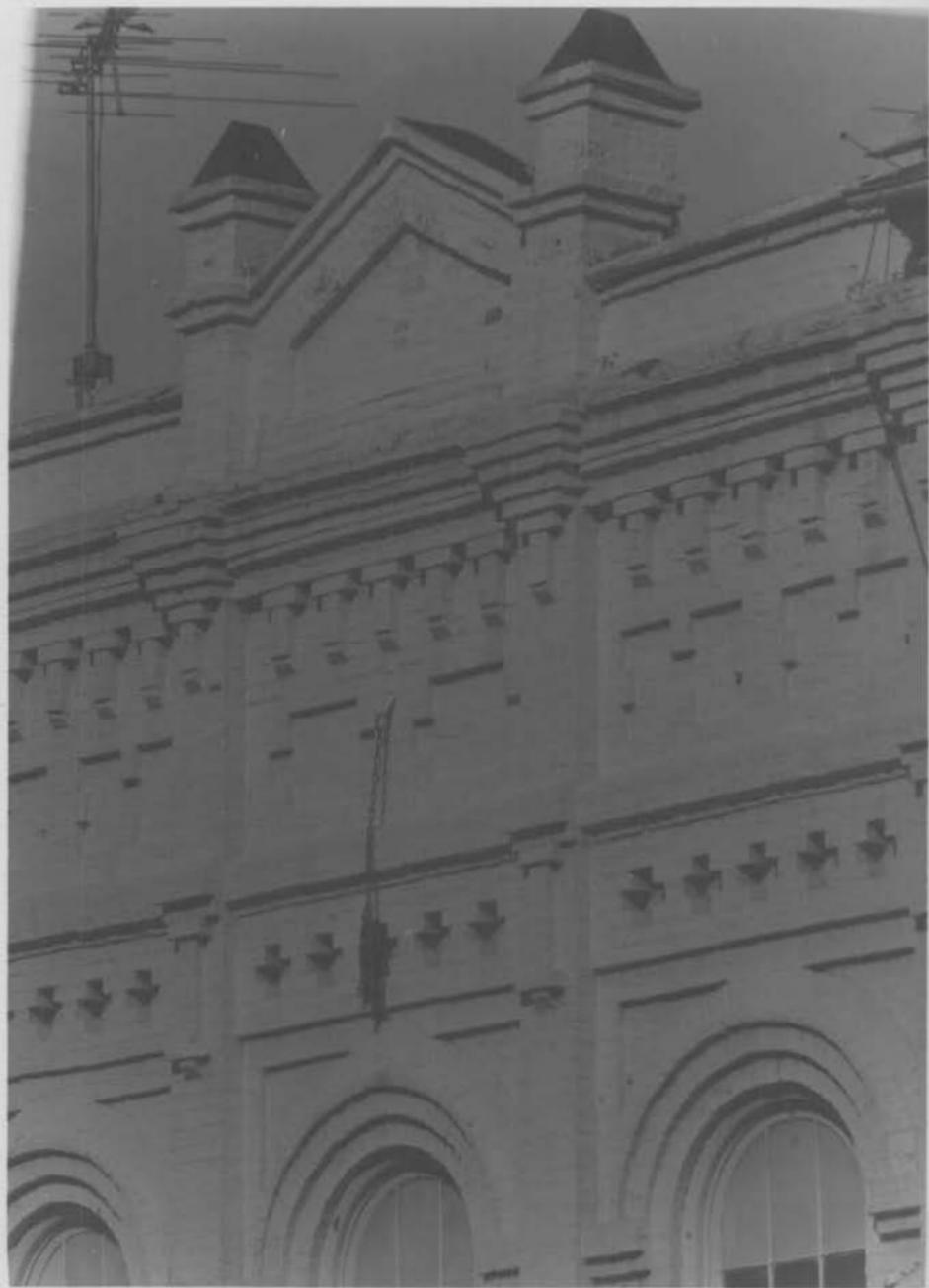
CARR 415

45 E. Main St.

Westminster

S. Jacade 2/77

C. W. W. W.



CARR 415
45 E. Main St.
Westminster 2/77
S. Jacobi C. Wlecker



CHILDREN'S PHOTOS A SPECIALTY

J. D. MITCHELL,
PHOTOGRAPHER

49 E. MAIN ST., WESTMINSTER, MD.

Above Bower's Store.

PICTURES MADE BY ELECTRIC LIGHT

144 7/8

X

CRMR-415

117

P. 79

~~1/4~~ 1/4 %

make mask

~~CRMR~~ P. 79

"The White Palace"

415