

## GEORGE W. MORNINGSTAR HOUSE

38 WEST MAIN STREET

Originally built around 1880 as a store-cum-residence, the building has maintained these original functions. In its three full stories of height three bays of width, and L shape, the building fits firmly in the mainstream of the area's architecture. The principal facade divides itself into two sections, a commercial ground floor and two residential stories above; the whole is covered by a gently-sloping gabled roof which meets the wall at a wooden cornice with brick dentils below.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

George W. Morningstar

AND/OR COMMON

Union National Bank

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

38 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**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 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

Westminster Hardware Company

Telephone #: 848-4280

STREET & NUMBER

18 West 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 #: 335

Folio #: 669

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**

CARR-425

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
 

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Number 36-38 West Main Street looks south towards the north side of that street about 60 feet east of that street's intersection with John Street in Westminster. Originally built, an assumption deduced from information in the 1887 City Directory, as a store-cum-residence, the building has maintained these original functions.

The building is 3 full stories tall, three bays wide, and has an L-shape, thus fitting it firmly in the mainstream of the area's buildings. The south (principal) facade divides itself into two sections; a commercial ground floor which rests on a low stone foundation, and 2 residential stories above. The whole is sheltered by a gently-sloping, gable roof (covered in tin) which meets the wall at a wooden cornice with brick dentils below.

The western two-thirds of the ground floor present an interesting variation on the standard commercial storefront. It keeps the form of a recessed entrance door and display windows below a pent roof, but executes it all in aluminum and mid 20th century-size plate glass. The double entrance doors to the bank are to the west. The eastern third of the ground floor contains a 15 pane door which leads, by way of staircase, to the upper stories. This door has a fine neo-18th century door surround, consisting of fluted supporting pilasters and a broken pediment, with central acorn.

Above, the facade's Flemish Bond wall is pierced by six, regularly-spaced, 6/6 double-hung sash windows (3 per floor). All windows are similarly treated, with dark olive, wooden sills and 4 course gauged, flat arches. All trim on this facade - eastern door surround, window sills, modillions and transoms - is painted a flat olive green; the brick is painted pale green, except for the eastern two-thirds of the third floor which is paler still, possibly because the owners ran out of paint. Two corbel-capped chimneys rise out of the gables' peaks. Originally, both were probably flush with their respective walls (the western still is); after the main section of the building was built, however, a two-bay, 3-story extension was added to the east making the eastern chimney an interior one. This extension continues the cornice line and window treatment and placement on the second and third floors. These 2 floors are sheathed in a medium green-gray clapboard, and the ground floor is used for commercial purposes. This ground floor has a central entrance door recessed between plate glass display windows; a dark green wooden sign is above, in traditional fashion.

The eastern wall of this wooden extension is flush with its neighbor. To the west, the west wall of the original section is blind. The building's L-shape is caused by the brick section's extending to the north beyond the wooden portion. A two-story, shed roof, blind, storage

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 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

c. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building now housing a branch of the Union National Bank, numbered 38 West Main Street, has an interesting relationship with other buildings in the City. The (for the area) excessively correct eastern door surround, with its broken pediment, echoes the correctness of the original building of the Union National Bank, 249 East Main Street. Furthermore, its window placement, specifically the inharmonious quality existing on the second and third floors between solid and void, resembles other buildings of the era, such as nos. 15-17, East Main Street; why the not-to-difficult tricks of balancing window to wall were lost on those educated in mid-victorian times is a mystery. Perhaps more interestingly, is the echo that the bank's entrance creates, an echo that harkens back to a basic local form. Nearly all commercial establishments of the 19th century seem to have had a side entrance door recessed behind display windows, with a pent roof sheltering this, and, more often than not, a sign above the pent roof and fastened to it. This building can be used as evidence that the City's traditional form continued into the mid 20th century; the entrance to the present bank, which must postdate World War II, follows the old form (in spirit) to the letter.

The lot our building now sits on was part of the Jacob Mathias estate. (Mathias bought, among many other parcels, lots 15, 16 and 17 of "Winter's Addition" as soon as Winter laid out this section of the town.) Mathias' executor, John T. Mathias, sold lots 15, 16 and 17 to Hoppe and Cover for \$1404 on April 2, 1862 (Carroll County Deed Book 28, Page 56). The lot was then sold three days later to George Orndorff, in whose family it was to remain for almost 80 years. The 1877 plat of Westminster does not show a building on the site of 38 West Main Street, however the 1887 City Directory lists George W. Morningstar as having a store at this address; therefore, we could estimate the building's creation as having taken place about 1880. Orndorff sold the land to William F. Thomas for life and then to the Union National Bank in Deed 177/443 (dated April 17, 1940). Trouble ensued, as Norman B. Boyle, trustee, sold the land to the Westminster Hardware Company, present owners, on the last day of June, 1961 (Deed 335/699).

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 section of lot 17 as shown on a plat entitled "Winter's Addition to Westminster" located among the Land Records of Frederick County in Book JS 2, Page 197.

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

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; 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

building fills most of the L, below a centrally-placed, 6/6 window in the north facade in the addition. The ground floor of the original brick section has a pair of 6/6 windows to the west of a small shed-roof addition, the second floor has a 6/6 window; the attic is lit by two evenly-spaced, four-light, square windows. The entire north facade of this building is laid in 5-course common bond beneath a red rolled-tin roof.

4170



417

① -15

CARR 425  
36-38 W. Main St.  
Westminster  
S. Jacobe 2/77  
C. W. W. W.