

JOHN T. ORENDORFF HOUSE

72-80 West Main Street

In plan, this c. 1875 house is basically a Greek Cross (with its western member missing) composed of two, small, pediment-roofed, clonboard buildings. This strict geometry is broken at the southeast corner by a hexagonal, 2-story, conical roof tower, and by a glassed-in entrance porch. Nevertheless, the Greek Cross plan of the house makes the building unique in the City, in that it brazenly presents gable ends to the street. The building also nicely serves, with its intersecting members, to represent the fact that the lot it sits on is made up of an intersection of two of Westminster's thoroughfares, Carroll and West Main Streets.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAR 440
0704404504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John T. Orendorff House

AND/OR COMMON

Thomas Insurance Agency

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

78-80 West 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

Thomas Insurance Agency, Inc.

Telephone #: 848-6600

STREET & NUMBER

78 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 #: 414

Folio #: 232

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

Resting on its fieldstone foundation, the Orendorff house fills lot 1 of "Pigman's Addition", a lot located at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Main Street (St. Route 32) and Carroll Street in Westminster. The lot is angular physically, as it slopes southward towards Main Street, and politically, fittingly, as well, as Carroll Street cuts it diagonally to the southeast.

In plan, the house is basically a Greek Cross (with its western member missing) composed of two, small, pediment-roofed, clapboard buildings. This strict geometry of form is broken at the southeast corner by a hexagonal, two-story, conical-roofed tower, and by a glassed-in entrance porch. The tower has 5 double-hung sash windows on its eastern three sides -- three on the second floor, and two below. Windows are similarly treated, in that they have central pieces of clear glass surrounded by small squares of stained glass on their upper sashes, with clear glass below. However, a difference is that the lower sash of the ground floor windows is a single pane, but above there are two vertical panes.

Although the ground stories differ markedly one from another, the second stories are very similar in each section, as are the pedimented gables. Basically, each limb of the cross has one bay per side on the second story. Further, these are, nearly without exception, 2/2 windows; the exceptions are to the south of the central member which has a pair of 2/2 windows, to the north of the cross member which is a glass and aluminum door, and to the east of the rear of the central member which is a small modern 1/1 window. All gables have central 1/2 windows centrally placed - each window has central surrounded upper pane. Gables are covered in octagonal shingles; the area of the pediment above the window is slightly raised.

Black tin covers all roofs, including the shed roof that covers the already mentioned second-story door - a door which is reached by a single flight of wooden steps rising from the north. Various other shed-roofed additions cover the ground floor of the northern member. The largest of these small porches is approached by a modern glass and aluminum door on the ground floor.

Otherwise, ground floor openings consist of a pair of 2/2 windows on the pedimented side of the eastern member's ground floor, and a modern, multi-paned, hip-roofed addition gutting out of the Main Street side of the central member. Black louvered shutters flank all windows on the ground and second stories except those on the tower and the modern one to the south towards Main Street. The shutters contrast nicely with the crisp, newly-painted, white, wooden trim, compliment the black of the roof, and help, along with the trim, set off the deep olive green that the clapboard is painted.

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 lot no. 1 of B. S. Pigman's Addition to 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

March

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

residence at 76 West Main Street, and that Orendorff had a store a couple of blocks to the east, at 20-22 West Main Street. So we know that the house existed in 1877, but its probably safe to assume that the place was fairly new then; it seems highly unlikely that Westminster would have had a tower like this and implicated shingles on gables much before 1870. (There is no evidence to suggest that these are additions to an earlier building.) Orendorff's Will (Book 7, Page 262) left his property in trust in benefit of the St. Paul's Reformed Church; but problems ensued and an equity case (No. 8103) resulted in Carroll County National Bank's being appointed trustee to sell the land. It did this on June 29, 1949; the buyer was D. Sterling Young and wife, and the price was \$29,000. Young sold the land to the present owner on December 11, 1966.



CAMP 440

78-80 W. Main St. Westvinst

C. Weck 2/77

E. Jacobs

5th/₁₀



508/2

E-1

CARR 440
78-80 W. Main St.
Westminster
check 2/77
S. Fucido