

## 107 West Main Street

Located on the south side of "The Forks" in Westminster, no. 107 is basically a small L-shaped house that has grown and grown and grown over the years. The north (entrance) facade rests on a low fieldstone foundation, and stretches four bays wide along the south side of West Main Street. Openings in this stretcher bond facade appear randomly: second-story windows were at one time two-over-two paned, but archless above narrow white wooden sills. Three of these windows remain so today, but one has now been converted into a set of French Doors between black louvered shutters - the doors lead to a narrow iron-railed balcony. This house, originally dating from the 1830's, is one of the oldest in Westminster's West End, and was, probably, originally the house (or store) of one Francis Henry Henry, and was built in the tradition of other small house/shops in the City, notably John Beaver's and William Frazier House/Shop, 153 East Main Street.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

107 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 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

Mary E. Hull

Telephone #: 848-4377

STREET & NUMBER

107 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 #: 164

Folio #: 271

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**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" 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

Located on the south side of "The Forks" in Westminster, where Pennsylvania Avenue branches off of West Main Street (St. Route 32), no. 107 West Main Street is basically a small L-shaped house that has grown and grown over the years. The north (entrance) facade rests on a low fieldstone foundation, and stretches 4 bays wide along the south side of West Main Street. Openings in this stretcher bond facade appear randomly: second story windows were at one time two-over-two paned, but archless, above narrow white wooden sills. Three of them remain so today, but one has now been converted into French doors between black louvered shutters -- the doors lead to a narrow iron-railed balcony. The pattern of the second story bays is WWDW, reading east to west. The ground floor is no less confusing - there is a broad 8/8 unarched window to the west, and an elaborately enframed double door to the east of it. The door, a half-wood, half-glass affair, now rests behind a set of double glass and aluminum storm doors. An elaborate two-part entablature crowns the door, an entablature whose frieze is decorated by naturalistic sectional carvings that resemble a cross between a thistle and a tulip. Massive beaded scroll brackets support this entablature and are in turn finished off by germanic carved applique at their bases. Further to the east, where, presumably, once was a window to match the one to the west, now is a two-paned narrow door, between recessed single-pane side lights. The side lights have deep white wooden sills, both doors are approached by a single granite step. There is evidence of alterations under the eaves, an area now filled in by broad boards below a simple cornice which finishes off the low-pitched, tinned, gable roof. The balcony is supported, in part, by three cast iron brackets.

The west wall is flush with its neighboring building; the east wall opens to a 10' alley. Above the alley, the wall is two bays wide, with two windows per floor, with a small 6-light window in the attic in the center of the gable. Windows resemble the 2/2 windows in the principal facade, except for the northerly window of the second floor, which is a three-sided hipped-roof oriel. Each side of the oriel has one 4/4 window between a panelled base and a bracketed cornice. The stretcher bond brick of the wall, and the wood of the oriel are both painted white, as are all other facades of no. 107.

The south side of the building presents a series of additions and alterations. From this vantage point, it seems probable that the original house consisted of the two western bays; the two chimneys which rise from the roof's peak are placed such that they would have been exterior chimneys of the two-bay house, and a two-story, two-bay by two-bay rear addition, perpendicular, in good local style, is also of this width. This white clapboard addition has two 6/6 windows on each of its floors on its eastern facade. Other facades have been covered, or were, such as the

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 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. 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 107 is significant in the Westminster streetscape, both for its architecture (its continuous additions make it a catalog of local vernacular styles for a 100 years), as well as historic (if the house dates from the 1830's, as it seems to, it is one of the oldest houses in this more recent section of town). The diary of Katharine Jones Shellman refers to a house and store of one Francis Henry and of his mother - the diary (loosely) covers the years 1820-1840. Land record research reveals that, in fact, this lot was owned by one "Francis Henry Henry" until an equity case forced its sale in 1837. Although, unfortunately access to the building has not been granted, observing certain exterior features, such as chimney placement as noted in number 7, make it colorable that this once was a 2-bay building which could have been the house, or the store, of Francis Henry "Henry". If so, the building was firmly in the style evidenced elsewhere in the City - such as John Beaver's house and shop, and 153 East Main Street (q.v.). Later owners probably momentarily prospered and felt the desire to add to this simple structure; additions would include doubling it in size, adding the late-Victorian oriel and main door surround, and the (unique for Westminster) cast iron balcony - supporting brackets. Thus, although the house is not conventionally pleasing to the eye, it is certainly not lacking in interest.

These decorative additions, while perhaps a manifestation of a "momentary prosperity", must have strained their builders, as the history of the house is nothing but a series of mortgage foreclosures and equity cases, beginning with the first recorded mention of the lot, in Carroll County Deed Book WW1, Page 150 when John Orendorff, as trustee, sold the real estate of Francis Henry Henry on April 1, 1837 for \$1700 to George Orendorff. (Unfortunately, the Henry family can't be further traced in Westminster or Frederick). Exactly 6 years later, Joseph Orendorff sold the property to Olivia Liester for \$2800 (2/262). The title plods along (26/458, 31/198) until our property is joined with the "Western Hotel Lot" and is sold to David Herring on November 18, 1874 in Deed 44/275; this deed mentions both the Western Hotel and "a two-story brick dwelling". It takes five transfers to get the property in the 20th century; most of these, as noted, deal with foreclosures (54/246, 68/156, 65,551, 73/406, and 81/123). This last deed 81/123 vests title in Emily J. Hull, wife of Jacob, who bought it for \$2350 on July 17, 1895. She

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 western 33 feet of lot 7 of B.S. Pigmans 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, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

TELEPHONE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

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

west facade, blind originally. The shed-roofed addition to the north has three 6/6 windows on its east facade, one on the second story, two on the ground floor, and a modern glass and aluminum storm door, too on the eastern corner of its south facade. The door is approached by a set of concrete steps with simple iron railings that match those of the north facade's balcony. Tall, narrow, flat-capped chimneys rise at the peak of the original section's roof, and in the center of this shed-roofed addition. It is possible that when the eastern two bays were built, a two-story porch was strung across their south facade. This was a very common practice in the area, as has been the practice of later enclosing this porch, which seems to have happened here, as there is a two-story, shingled, shed-roofed addition to the south in the L formed by the original extension and the eastern two bays. This enclosed porch, for such it must be, has two sets of twelve-light sliding windows on its second floor, and two narrow 6/6 windows on its ground floor.

The large, metal, bulkhead, cellar entrance is located at the southeast corner of the shed-roofed extension; north of it the cellar is lighted by three small rectangular windows.

A 8

bought only that section (33' x 198') containing no. 107. Emily's daughter, Prevat Bankhard and her husband then sold the land to the present owner, Mary E. Hull, on July 13, 1936 (164/271).



442  
CARR ~~157~~  
107 W. Main St.  
S. Jacobs  
C. Weeks 2/77

56%



E-5

107

CARR 442  
107 W. Main St.  
Westminster

S. Jacobs  
C. Weeks 3/77