

THE YELLOW ASTER

117 West Main Street

This pile, probably built by William H. H. Zepp, looks north onto West Main Street very near where Pennsylvania Avenue forks off to the northwest. The yellow-painted, 5-course common bond brick wall rests between a low fieldstone foundation and a slate mansard roof. The two floors in the brick section of the three-bay wide principal facade are regularly spaced and display little change since the house was built in the 1890's. The house, when contrasted to the more high-style Blizzard House, no. 205 East Main Street, is a fine example of how a less-than-oligocratic family would go about building in a fashionable style. Rather than paying for the skilled carpenters necessary to create the excellent curves that mark the woodwork of the Blizzard House, window trim here is simple and angular. Further, the Blizzard House strives for a certain urbanity: here, the rural nature of the community is clear in a broad front porch, and in that porch's gable, a necessary adjunct to any late 19th century rural house in the area. But this is not to demean number 117, a building of fine proportions and noble ambitions.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Yellow Aster

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

117 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

Richard Best Billinger

Telephone #: 795-4106

STREET & NUMBER

4430 London Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Sykesville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21784

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 643

Folio #: 562

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 checked="" 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

Number 117 West Main Street looks north onto that street (St. Route 32) very near where Pennsylvania Avenue forks off to the north-west. The yellow-painted, 5 course common bond brick wall rests between a low fieldstone foundation and a slate-covered mansard roof. The two floors in the brick section of the three bay wide principal facade are regularly spaced and display little change since the house was built in the 1890's. The three elongated 1/1 windows on the second floor are somewhat enlivened by white wooden sills and recessed segmental arches. The windows are now composed of glass and aluminum, and are storm. The ground floor has two half-wood, half-glass doors to the west, and a 1/1 window (similar to those above) to the east. The doors are now protected by glass and aluminum storm doors and are topped by rectangular single-light transoms. A black, tinned, hipped-roof porch shades the ground floor. It is supported by 4 slender turned posts which have delicate, slightly-bowed railings between them. As acknowledgment to the Gothic Revival, a small pediment rises out of the front of the porch on line with the central bay. The angle of the pediment is somewhat echoed in the three pediment roof dormer windows which are regularly spaced in the shingled roof. Small 90° - turned modillions support the pediments and flank the dormers' 1/1 windows. The dormer windows' enframingent is painted white, as are the porches railings, bannisters, and pediments. Suitably, a crown molding, containing the gutter, crowns the roof of the building. The east and west walls are flush with the neighbors.

Beyond where 117 is flush with no. 115, a shed-roofed, two-story clapboard addition has been built. This has one 6/6 window to the east, and a second-story, south-facing porch which is approached by a single flight of wooden steps. Steps lead to a glass and aluminum storm door to the east and a 2/2 window to the west. A shed-roofed dormer is also to the south having a pair of 2/2 windows.

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. 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the same time the Blizzard House, no. 295 East Main Street, was being remodeled, the owners of this property erected a completely new house on this section of lot 9 on Pigman's Addition. Their result, no. 117 West Main Street, is distant, yet related, to the Blizzard House, physically and spiritually. The Blizzard House, and those that lived in it, attempted high style, and could afford skilled carpenters and other craftsmen to make out of wood and brick the curves necessary for the building they wished to create. Here, however, money was not so free, yet the desire to have something up-to-date was no less strong. Thus, we have at 117 a rather modest crown molding, simple angular dormer windows, small brackets, and no ornamental woodwork, only metal arches, over the second-story windows. Further, the Blizzard House strives for a certain urbanity; here the rural nature of the community is clear in the broad front porch, and in the porch's gable, that necessary adjunct to late 19th century rural domestic architecture. But this is not meant to demean no. 117, a building of fine proportions and noble ambitions.

The small section of lot 9 our property sits on, was sold by Bear S. Pigman to John Murray on May 16, 1832 (Frederick County Deed Book JS 49, Page 161) as part of a much larger transaction. Murray's heirs ran into financial difficulties and trustees had to sell all his property (a 100 acre farm plus this lot in town) for \$400(!) in 1850 to John Schweighart (10/72). His descendants sold all of lot 9 to David Zepp on March 27, 1854 for \$823. William H. H. Zepp, executor of David Zepp, sold our 20' lot, 1/3 of lot 9, to Ephriam Bankhert on June 1, 1893. The description says that this 20' strip is between the lots occupied by Jessie Yingling and William H. H. Zepp (see no. 115). The same day, William H. H. Zepp took title to the strip, paying \$495 for it (77/96); from this price we can assume that this lot was still unimproved. On January 14, 1907, Zepp sold the lot to Lawrence A. Eichorn for \$975 (105/398), which may indicate that the building was then built. But Eichorn sold the lot three years later to John F. Reinhaeult for \$2200 (115/357). It seems unlikely that the house is that recent, but of course it is possible; rather, one might assume that Eichorn was a good businessman. Reinhaeult sold the land to E. Frank Tracey on January 23, 1918 (132/502), and his widow (who had remarried), Helen E. Morrell, sold it to Dr. Lelah E. Barker Ashby on April 16, 1951 (208/394). Ashby kept title until February 12, 1959, when the land was sold to Harold L. Sharpes for \$10,000.

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 easterly 20' of lot no. 9 shown on a plat of B. S. Pigman's Addition to Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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

(300/413). Sharnes sold the land to Donald F. Elwood Richards on June 16, 1963 (361/390), who sold it to the present owner on November 1, 1976.

53%



E-7

53 1/2

17

CAMP 413  
117 W. Main St.  
Westminster  
N. York  
E. March 3/77