

GEORGE W. SULLIVAN HOUSE

161 West Main Street

The four bay by two bay, two-section, yellow clonboard built by Samuel Hughes at about the time of the Civil War, looks north onto West Main Street (St. Route 32) about 60' east of that street's intersection with Rush Alley in Westminister. The spacing of the eight bays (two per floor) on the north (principal) facade gives the impression that the house was built in halves, but there is nothing else about the place to encourage such a belief. All windows are simply enframed, are 6/6 paned, and are bordered by black louvered shutters.

Number 161 West Main Street brings to mind thoughts expressed elsewhere about the relationship between singular axes and singular ownership. When Samuel Hughes built the place he apparently wanted something larger than a 3-bay house, but could not afford something 5 bays wide, so not surprisingly, he settled on 4. Nevertheless, the principal of having symmetrical facades on Main Street was still a principal generally accented in Westminister in the 1860's and Hughes seems to have desired to stick to it. He, also naturally, would run into problems creating a symmetrical facade with an even number of bays, and sought to achieve symmetry a few tricks: he grouped two eastern and two western bays close to the other with a broad space between the two groups in the exact center of the building. This space is also the exact width of the space between the edges of the facade and the edges of the first shutter end, creating, an effect, three strong vertical lines and, thus, a central axes.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

COPY 447
0704494504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
 HISTORIC George W. Sullivan House
 AND/OR COMMON _____

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER 161 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 Dale LeRoy Sell Telephone #: _____
 STREET & NUMBER c/o 161 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 #: 471
 STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 464
 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 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four bay by two bay, two-section, yellow clapboard built by Samuel Hughes at about the time of the Civil War, looks north onto West Main Street (St. Route 32) about 60' east of that street's intersection with Push Alley in Westminster.

The spacing of the eight bays (two per floor) on the north (principal) facade gives the impression that the house was built in halves, but there is nothing else about the place to encourage such a belief. All windows are simply enframed, are 6/6 paned, and are bordered by black louvered shutters. The door, the second bay from the east, is a late-Victorian, many-paned glass door--it is now tucked behind a modern glass and aluminum storm door. The door is approached by a set of two cement steps which lead to a small porch, also of cement, railed by the simplest of iron railings, and sheltered by a small, wooden, shed-roofed porch. The clapboarding which covers this front section is all painted a bright yellow, the silver-colored tin roof which covers the section is pierced at the east and west ends by small corbel-capped chimneys which are placed a few inches inside the wall at the roof's ridge.

A single, four-light window lights the attic to the west of the main section; four 6/6 windows are placed two per floor in the clapboard addition to the rear. The broad gable to the south has been covered in green asbestos shingles; a shed-roofed addition of yellow clapboard covers the ground story, with a central four-panel door and eastern pair of two-light windows. The addition is roofed in corrugated sheet metal. Two four-light attic windows flank the chimney to the east of the main section which also has one 6/6 window on the north of the main section and two below.

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. 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Samuel Hughes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 161 West Main Street brings to mind thoughts expressed elsewhere about the relationship between singular axes and singular ownership. When Samuel Hughes built the place he apparently wanted something larger than a 3-bay house, but could not afford something 5 bays wide, so, not surprisingly, he settled on 4. Nevertheless, the principal of having symmetrical facades on Main Street was still a principal generally accepted in Westminster in the 1860's and Hughes seems to have desired to stick to it. He, also naturally, would run into problems creating a symmetrical facade with an even number of bays, and sought to achieve symmetry a few tricks: he grouped two eastern and two western bays close to the other with a broad space between the two groups in the exact center of the building. This space is also the exact width of the space between the edges of the facade and the edges of the first shutter end, creating, an effect, three strong vertical lines and, thus, a central axes. Whether or not he needed flanking chimneys (presumably he did), their presence heightens this effect of symmetry. (Certain disadvantages to this grouping of windows arouse, most noticeably, the overlapping of shutters, as a quick examination of the building will indicate.) Otherwise, in form, the building with its two perpendicular L-making sections, its gable roofs, and presumed original rear porch, fits snugly into the local traditions, achieving its builder's desires.

Elijah Wagoner bought the entire block between Rush Alley and Clay Alley from George Wagoner on June 11, 1953 for \$800 (15/157). This block consisted of 5 lots numbered 16-20 and our lot is no. 19 among them. It was sold by Elijah Wagoner to Samuel Hughes on February 26, 1862 for \$200 (28/403); Hughes must have then built the house, as he got \$1700 for the same lot only 6 years later on March 31, 1868, when he sold to George W. Sullivan (35/481). It is Sullivan's house that shows up on the 1877 map and it is Sullivan that is listed in the 1887 City Directory (the outline on the map matches exactly the present outline of the building, except for the rear infill). Sullivan died in 1892, and his children and heirs sold the place on September 15, 1925 to John H. Smelser (146/91). Smelser's widow, Maggie, sold the land to Elmer T. Buffington exactly 18 years later to the day (182/41). Buffington sold the part of the lot containing the building (the lot measuring 26.7' x 198') to Charles D. Wagoner on August 5, 1944 (184/199); Wagoner then sold to Walter F. Hutchins and wife on May 15, 1945 (186/394). Her husband died in the interim, as by way of straw

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 westerly 26' of lot 19 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

April

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

#8

deeds to and from Charles O. Fisher (405/300, 405/311), Mrs. Hutchins and Mary A. Lambert took joint tenancy on May 3, 1966. The present owner took title on July 6, 1970 (471/464) when Mary Lambert sold him the house, reserving the life estate for herself.

507.



161

5070

E-12

CARR 449
161 W. MAWST.
WESTMINSTER.
N. FACADE. 3/77
C. LOGGERS