

MORELOCK HOUSE

140 West Main Street

The large 3-sectioned house of the Morelock family faces the north side of West Main Street about 100 yards west of the point where that street and Pennsylvania Avenue meet forming "The Forks" in Westminster. The building is one of the finest still standing in Westminster's West End of the vernacular form that, generally speaking, rules the City's buildings: L-shaped, two sections with a rear side porch, the house could have been built anywhere here or in central Pennsylvania. However, it was built here in Westminster around 1870 on a parcel of land reserved by the Shriver family for themselves and their friends, when Isaac Shriver laid out several acres of land in the West End of the City.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAN 757  
0704544504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Morelock House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

140 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

Denny W. Kephart

Telephone #: 848-2343

STREET & NUMBER

140 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 #: 213

Folio #: 299

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The large 3-sectioned house of the Morelock family faces the north side of West Main Street about 100 yards west of the point where that street (St. Route 32) and Pennsylvania Avenue meet forming "The Forks" in Westminster. The main section of the house is a tall, 3-story, single pile building, which has nine bays (3 per floor) on its south (principal) facade. The eastern bay of this facade's ground floor consists of an elaborate entrance door arrangement: the door itself, a half-glass, half-wood, mid-Victorian affair, rests below a rectangular transom and behind a pair of double 12-light storm doors. A tall, two-part denticulated and bracketed entablature crowns the door above flanking plain wooden pilasters. The door seems to have its original ornate brass hardware, including a double scroll doorbell surround that resembles that found at "Terrace Hill", and at the Fisher-Smith-Fletcher House. The other 8 bays on this facade are double-hung sash windows; there are three such windows on each of the second and third floors, and 2 to the west on the ground floor. All windows are identical (except that those on the ground floor are slightly elongated), and consist of two-over-two panes surrounded by black louvered shutters, white wooden sills, and a two-part entablature. The entablatures over the second and ground story windows are identical, complete with dentils, but those on the third floor are less elaborate. A very thick, tall, white wooden cornice crowns this facade, extending about two feet out from the building and about three feet along the east and west facades. The entablature is supported by 6 pairs of frond-shaped white brackets - four spaced alternately with the main facade windows, and one each on the east and west facades. Rows of finely-carved thin modillions are strung between these pairs of brackets. The brick on the main facade appears to have been relaid early in this century, and now consists of finely-mortared stretcher bond. The east and west facades are blind in their 5 course common bonding, except for a round, louvered, attic ventilating hole placed on the west facade directly under the gable's peak. Two corbel-capped chimneys rise flush with that west wall about a foot from the gable's peak.

The second section of the house makes the place into an L, and consists of a three bay long, gable-roofed section perpendicular to the main section. That section is shaded from the morning sun by a two-tiered, shed-roofed porch, which runs along its eastern facade. There are two many-paneled doors on the ground floor flanking a 4/4 window, and the pattern is reversed on the second floor. These windows are treated similarly to those on the principal facade. There are four, regularly-spaced, simpler 2/2 windows (two per floor) on the west facade. A broad corbel-capped chimney rises at the roof's peak halfway back into the section. This second section is covered on its north facade by a shed-roofed, 2-story addition, which is blind on all but the west side where its 5 course common bond wall is broken by one small 4/4 window per floor. In plan, the front section has a typical side hall double-parlor plan, with

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 two parcels containing in aggregate 7172 square feet and bordered, as shown on a 1877 plat of Westminster, by West Main Street to the south, by the land of Francis Shriver to the west, by a back alley to the north, and by the land of Mrs. E. Cassell to the east.

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

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

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

# 7

rooms in the additions stringing off behind it in a row. Two fine staircases still exist, and there is evidence of a third. Red rolled tin covers all sections' roofs.

4 8

He sold it to Grove A. Shipley for \$2775 on April 29, 1882 (Carroll County Deed Book 57, Page 182); indexing does not help trace this Morelock lot. Another equity case, Elias G. Shipley versus Lloyd B. Shipley, resulted in the plaintiff's having been appointed trustee to again sell the land - this time on November 28, 1906 to Oliver M. Crouse, for \$3000 (105/236). Crouse sold the land to the daughter of Dr. Charles Foutz, who lived nearby at 148-150 West Main (q.v.); she married Paul E. Lawyer, who sold the lot to the present owner on August 9, 1952 (Deed 213/299). Perhaps the mysterious title history of the place is fitting, as its place in the City's architectural history is so clear.



CARR-454

CARR 454

140 W. MAIN ST.  
WESTMINSTER

S. Jacade  
3/77 Cheryl

680/0



CARR-4154

F-1

CARR 457

170 W. MAIN ST.  
WESTPORT

2 juncos

C. West 2/77



CARR 454

170 W. Main St.  
Westville

500 Jacobs  
3177 Cheek