

B. F. CROUSE HOUSE

152 West Main Street

This is one of the many houses of Westminster's West End built by, or at least associated with, the Crouse family. The house is an interesting combination of regularity and chaos: its principal facade is a full 3 stories tall and 3 bays wide, and its basic shape is a standard L. Yet sometime in the late-Victorian era a large bay windowed section was stuck in the open space of the L giving the appearance of a ship run aground. Further, and perhaps more interesting, is the bowed railing of the porch that enwraps the southeast corner of the house, a railing that resembles a rib cage, and then makes marvelous light-shade, solid-void rhythms as one walks by it and by the white aluminum siding covered house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0704584604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

B. F. Crouse House

AND/OR COMMON

Harlow House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

152 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

Gene Harlow Barre

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

152 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 #: 460

Folio #: 507

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"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 152 West Main Street is located on the north side of that thoroughfare (St. Route 32) about 60' west of its intersection with Maryland Avenue in Westminster. Although the house is of extremely irregular plan, two of its facades are fairly calm. These facades consist of the visible sections of 2 perpendicular pieces of the house. The front section is a 3-story, 3-bay single pile; the other is similar, but is 3 bays long, not wide. The entrance facade of the principal section consists of a western ground story entrance door (half two-paneled wood, half glass below a smaller rectangular transom, and within an enframing consisting of smooth pilasters, a two-part denticulated entablature, and extremely elaborately scrolled pelleted brackets). There are 8 double-hung sash 2/2 windows on this facade (2 on the ground floor, 3 each on the other stories). Windows have white wooden sills, and are simply enframed between their black louvered shutters. The section is sheathed in white aluminum siding, and is topped by a simple denticulated cornice, which is supported by pairs of scroll brackets which are placed alternately with the windows. The cornice extends about 2' around the corner of the west facade (which is blind except for a small two-light attic window within the gable) and across the entire section's east facade. This facade is also blind, but has "cornice" trim all around the gable creating a pediment below a central inside brick chimney. Besides the pedimented gable, the east facade is further enlivened by a porch in the space created by the wall of the east facade and the protruding bay of the rear section. The flat roof of the porch is supported by turned columns which have a row of spindels strung between them. More interesting is the bowed railing, a railing that resembles a rib cage, and that makes marvelous light-shade, solid-void rhythms as one walks by it.

The original section of the north piece of the building has three -2/2 windows on both floors of its west facade, and four 2/2 windows in the northern half of its east facade's upper floor. The southern half of the east facade has another gable-roofed section stuck perpendicularly over it, giving the building an appearance consisting of two parallel houses. This section extends a few feet further east of the Main Street section; this protuberance has one 2/2 window on its second floor (above the already discussed porch) and a half-wood and half-glass door leading to the porch. The east front of the extension has a two-story, 3-sided bay window across its entirety; 6 windows on this bay window are all 2/2 paned, and have similar enframements to the other windows on the building but are lacking shutters. The gable of the section is blind and has very simple eaves. The north front of the building, of the original extension across the rest of the facade. This may have once been a two-tier porch, (the ground floor still is a porch) but the second floor now has three 2/2 windows evenly spaced across it.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the many West End houses built by, or at least associated with, the Crouse family, and, like the others, its primary significance is architectural. Although the house is basically composed of the usual two, perpendicular, gabled-roof sections, there are a variety of variations about the place. Although the bay-windowed section may give the appearance of a ship run aground, it gives an undeniable interest to the east facade of the wall, and to the overall floor plan. Also notable is the east facade's pedimented gable; most gables have ornamentation along the roof line, but few in Westminster complete the triangle. But for all this, undoubtedly the house's main attraction is its southeastern porch. The relationship between straight and curved lines is a delicate one in the City, curves being rare and normally consisting of bowed fronts of whole buildings (such as the row 110-110½-121 West Main Street), and a separate, unnecessary curve, such as this porch, is a rarity. Moreover, the curve is double, in that the porch itself is rounded, and the "rib-cage" ballisters have bowed bases. These bends are pleasant in themselves, and also form agreeable introduction to the bowed front of the building's neighbor, 148-150 West Main Street.

Ira Crouse acquired two adjacent lots in the City; one from David Geiman for \$300 on April 30, 1844 (Carroll County Deed Book 3, Page 270) and another, our property, from Thomas Shepard on March 28, 1853 for \$350 (15/35). His heirs sold both lots to Benjamin F. Crouse, another heir, for \$4000 on May 12, 1888 (68/15); the house left the family on Columbus Day 1911 when Ira E. Crouse sold to David M. Young for \$3800 (120/293). Young then sold to Richard B. Harlow and his wife, Naivette, on September 20, 1930 (154/391). Richard died on April 25, 1962, and his widow sold to the present owner, G. Harlow Barre, on May 20, 1970.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot no. 2 of B. S. Pigman's Addition to the City of Westminster as shown on an 1877 plat of the City.

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 & 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



CARR-458

~~4/77~~

4/77

CARR 458

152 W. MAIN ST.

WESTMINSTER

SW facade

C. Useh 4/77

44%



447

F-4

CARR 458

152 W. MAW ST.
WESTMINSTER

SE facade
C. Weath 4/77



CARR 458

152 W. MAW ST.

WESTMINSTER

Detail - W. FACADE

C. Wick 4/77