

THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

180 West Main Street

It is often stated that Westminster's buildings consist of two sections; no. 180 West Main Street does not only consist of two sections, but that address has served two separate buildings, built with the same bricks, a true case of recycling. In 1853 the School Commissioners of the City bought this lot with a clause in the deed stating that they were to erect a school for the benefit of the citizens of the West End of the City, and they did. However, in 1888, William Rinehart bought the building and lot, tore down the most of the old schoolhouse, and built the present structure as residence for his daughter, Caroline, and her husband, James Pearre Wantz, Sr. The resulting building was fashionable for that time, consisting of two perpendicular sections creating a small T, the gable end of one section being exposed to the street. However, the trim of the building, delicate porch molding, the fine woodwork on the two-story bay window, and the almost unheard of attic lancet window, separate this house from its contemporaries.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Old Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

180 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 type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jason C. Bowen

Telephone #: 848-2857

STREET & NUMBER

1326 Pinch Valley Road

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 #: 618

Folio #: 631

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

It is often stated that Westminster's buildings consist of two sections: here, however, that is even more true. The original part of the place consisted of two, single-pile, 3-bay, gable-roofed sections which were perpendicular to each other, in the usual manner. This was built as a schoolhouse, and, still remaining, are 4 (2 per floor), 6/6, double-hung sash windows with white wooden sills on the north of the west facade, and a small 4-light attic window in the gable of that facade. However, in 1888 the building passed out of the hands of the School Commissioners and into the hands of William G. Rinehart, who built the Rinehart-Wantz House across the street. Rinehart created the building we see today, after, according to his grandson, J. Pearre Wantz, Jr. tearing down most of the fabric and re-using the bricks. He put a 10' square two-story, gable-roofed section across half of the building's south (principal) facade and a two-story porch across the rest. The gable-roofed section he covered with a two-story, 3-sided bay window: the south window on each story is larger an elaborate, two-part, denticulated, bracketed entablature separates the two stories. Further, the entablature runs about the pedimental end of the gable, surrounding the 1/1 lancet window in the gable's center, and runs across the roof of the porch. The porch is supported by simple square posts, but the bannisters of the porch consist of small wooden turned columns. The porch is approached from the ground floor by a wooden many-paneled Victorian door, and on the second story by a set of French Doors, which are flanked by black louvered shutters as are all windows of the bay window. These black shutters create, with the grey flemish bond brick of the wall and the white of the wooden trim a very elegant chromatic appearance. The original floor plan of the old schoolhouse is an L-shape. The L extension was to the west, and its north facade has since been covered over in clapboard; the clapboard shed-roof addition has one 2/2 window on the second floor of its facade, a 6/6 window to the east of its north facade, a 6-panel door to the west of its north facade (approached by a single flight of wooden steps rising from the east) and 2 twin windows below the door on the ground floor. The north facade of the original section has one 2/2 window regularly aligned per floor.

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 checked="" 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. 1853, c. 1890                    BUILDER/ARCHITECT                    School Commissioners; William Rinehart

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Adapted use is quite the rage nowadays: magazines and other periodicals are filled with articles on changing houses to doctors' offices, to boarding schools, etc. 180 West Main Street shows that such ideas are not new, and, perhaps more interesting, that buildings built for public use, i.e. schools, have been (or, at least, have had their bricks) adapted for private use. On August 16, 1853, Jacob Maring sold a 32 foot wide part of lot 9 of Isaac Shriver's Addition to the Trustees for School District No. 6, which was known as the Upper Westminster District (The trustees were Francis Shriver, Joseph Shaffer, and Joshua Yingling.) These gentlemen paid \$55 for the piece "For the express purpose of erecting a primary school thereon for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the above-described school district." (Carroll County Deed Book 15, Page 386.) They accomplished this task by building the school, for the 1877 plat of the City shows a building recessed from the street on a part of lot 9 and labelled "School", one of the first in the City. On August 1, 1888, the School Commissioners of Carroll County sold the lot to William G. Pinehart who lived at that time in his own, much larger, house (the Pinehart-Wantz House) across the street. Pinehart paid \$375 for "the West End School" (68/205). Pinehart's apparent willingness to spend money on buildings, the dates involved, the style of the additions to the school lot building, as well as his grandson's testimony, confirm that it was he who added the front section to the building and, in general, "gussied" the place up a bit. After all, it was to be lived in by his daughter, her husband, and their children. The cornices of the building, especially those of the two-story bay window, are superb, as is the porch, as is the gable-lanced window (a rarity in the City). Other forms note the fact that many late-Victorians built new houses by adapting the local building pattern to fit their desires, here is an example of how one such man took an older building and made it up-to-date and, at least, in his eyes, elegant. Pinehart's daughter, Caroline, married the son of Charles V. Wantz, James Pearre Wantz, and, upon the death of Rinehart and wife, family squabbling broke out over the lot, resulting in an equity case in which James Pearre Wantz was appointed trustee, Wantz sold the building (he had moved across the street to the Big House) for \$4250 to Carl C. Twigg on March 28, 1925 (145/170). On January 28, 1943, Twigg sold the place, calling it 180 West Main Street to Harry M. Young (180/334) who sold to Elsie Y. Meledin and Ralph Young (his children?) on April 17, 1967 (419/450). Meledin and Young then transferred title to Jason C. Bowen and

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 32' of lot no. 9 of Isaac Shriver's addition to the City of Westminster as shown on a plat of the City dated 1877.

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 &amp; 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

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Patricia S. Bowen on August 11, 1972 (519/50); Patricia Bowen then sold to Jason this, and several other lots, on March 16, 1976 (518/631). Bowen is the building's present owner.

74%



747

180

F-9

CARR 441

180 W. MAIN ST.

WEXMINSTER

S. FACADE

C. WEEKS 3/77