

GEORGE W. MATTHEWS HOUSE

13 PARK AVENUE

13 Park Avenue is a two sectioned house which still has a rectangular floor plan, reflecting two distinct periods of construction. The house faces the east side of Belle Grove Square across Park Avenue in Westminster.

Each of the house's two sections is about the same dimension; the thought-to-be original section is a five course common bond brick pile two stories tall, two bays deep, and two bays wide. Only the northern and southern facades are exposed, as asbestos shingled additions go to the east and west. These bays are irregularly placed double-hung sash windows with two over two panes; windows are simply enframed but have 3 coursed gauged flat arches. Modern intrusions on the south facade include small square casement windows, doubtless lighting a kitchen or bath.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHW 49  
MCI #070-0560

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC George W. Matthews House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 13 Park Avenue  
 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 Thomas E. Riggin - J. W. Eckenrode Telephone #: 848-3065  
 STREET & NUMBER 205 Willis 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 #: 406  
 STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 79  
 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(From last alteration)	

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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The principal addition, equal in size, to the original brick building, is covered in asbestos shingles of about the same light tan color as the older brick building. This section is blind to the north and south, but is quite busy on its principal (west) facade which fronts the park. There are two 1/1 windows regularly spaced on the second floor above the shed roof porch. The porch is filled-in for about a third of the distance to the south (where a 1/1 window looks out to the south), has a pair of 1/1 windows in the center, and a glass and enriched panel door to the north. There is an oddly placed central Victorian peak in the center of the porch, centered over one of the supporting posts. This pediment shape is echoed first in the gable end of the roof which faces the street (a great rarity in the City), and in the small gable which covers the triplet set of stain glass and small paned attic windows, which are placed in the center of the gable. This attic group is covered by thin dentiled cornice and is flanked by scroll brackets. The east front of the original brick section is also altered by a shingled two story pile of a very narrow depth. The addition is blind to the north and south but has a two story shed roofed porch running across its east front. There is a glass and panelled door to the south approached by a single flight of wooden steps which rise from the east. Chimneys include a corbel-capped chimney where the main asbestos shingle meets the brick original section and a very broad corbel capped chimney where the brick section meets the thin eastern addition. Placement of these chimneys makes one suspect that the house, the original house meaning the brick section, probably faced to the north or the south, not to the east or west as it does now. There is a house of about this shape located somewhat back on lot 27 of Matthew's Addition, which is this lot.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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. 1870                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 13 Park Avenue is significant in the history of Westminster for its architecture, and for its possible early owner. The building, with its two distinct sections, reflects, not surprisingly, two distinct eras. The older section (the brick rear half is simple in design and layout, and probably antedates the other houses on Belle Grove Square). It, and the other houses, were part of the \$3000 transaction when John Brooke Boyle sold an acre and a half of land belonging to Jacob Mathias to George Matthews on July 24, 1866 (Carroll County Deed Book 33, Page 409). Matthews probably then built the brick house for himself and his wife, as it clearly is shown on the 1876 plat of the City and Matthews is listed as living here in the 1881 City Directory. If this is so, then it is interesting to see that the house of the man who laid out this section of town was very small, one of the smallest, in fact, of the houses that front the Square. Later someone, or perhaps he himself, doubled the house in size, although it still is not large, adding the front clapboard half. This half with its carved bargeboard and the eaves' treatment and stained glass, is a fine representative of the buildings of the late-Victorian Edwardian eras.

Matthews and wife kept title for 30 years until they sold the lot (no. 37) measuring 51' x 151' to Oscar Gilbert for \$1405 on March 31, 1896, (82/218). It may well have been Gilbert who built the clapboard section. Gilbert sold the lot to Virginia Saylor, widow, on March 28, 1923 (141/432). She and her heirs sold the place to Jay William Eckenrode, present owner, on October 12, 1940 (173/561). The lot was divided on May 18, 1966, between Thomas E. Riggen and Eckenrode.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being all of lot number 27 as shown on a plat of G. W. Matthews Addition to the City of Westminster recorded among the Real Estate and Mortgage Records of Carroll County Book 3, Page 55.

**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

August, 1977

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

#7

CARR-480

(See the long answer to question 8).



CARR-480

51<sup>2</sup>/<sub>0</sub>



CANK 480  
13 Park Ave.  
Home

5170

G-13