

8 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Number 8 Pennsylvania Avenue, dating from before 1830, is thus one of the most venerable buildings in the City rests relatively unchanged on its site on the north side of the forks in Westminster, being the point where Pennsylvania Avenue branches off of West Main Street in that City.

The compact barn red painted brick structure rests on high coursed fieldstone foundations, and consists of two approximately equal sections. Each section measures about 3 bays by 2 bays, each section is 2½ stories tall, each section has a rolled tin roof, and each section is perpendicular to each other. The principal facade has an entrance door as the easternmost ground story bay. The door, now an aluminum and glass storm door rests below a small rectangular transom. The door is about 4' above the ground, and is approached by a simply railed and balustered porch which rests on thick brick piers. The porch is approached from the west by a set of simple wooden steps and is sheltered by a hipped roof. The other two ground story bays are somewhat elongated 6/1 double-hung sash windows with 3 course gauged flat arches, white wooden sills, and dark louvered shutters. Above, the Flemish Bond wall is pierced by three regularly spaced, regular sized 6/6 windows which are similarly enframed. The west wall is flushed with neighboring number 10 Pennsylvania Avenue, but has a large, exterior chimney rising at its peak. The east wall is blind except for a small four light attic window towards the front within the gable.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leroy W. Shipley

Telephone #: 848-5115

STREET & NUMBER

8 Pennsylvania Avenue

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 #: 534

Folio #: 480

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

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The rear section has undergone some alteration. Probably originally a two tier porch shaded the eastern (exposed) wall. Now a pair of 6/6 windows rests in the center on each floor of what seems to be a clapboard and brick infill. The north facade of that section is similar altered but betrays, in roof line, the presence of the porch.

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 checked="" 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 Before 1830 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Despite the confusing early history of this house, the significance to Westminster, both architecturally and socially, is great. It marks the Zenith of building in the traditional vernacular pattern in the west end of the City, and is one of the finest in proportion and detail in the City. Further, the place may have once been the residence and/or shop of Jesse Reifsnider, local progenitor of the family that would later have an unsurpassed influence on Westminster's architecture, and as well as the City's exonomic history.

Whoever owned the place before one John Rose title is a mystery the land records of Frederick and Carroll County will not reveal however, in that year Rose sold part of "lot 6 bordering lot 5" to Jessie Reifsnider for \$1050; the deed took place July 11, 1838 and is recorded among the land records of Carroll County in Book WW2, Page 319. Five months later, Rose sold the rest of lot number 6 to Mordicai Price for \$350 WW3/416. Price seemed to take control of both of these lots and pass them on to William Zepp who sold them to William H. Gernand for \$750 (note the price) on March 30, 1852 (13/236). All of lot 6 was sold by the William H. Gernand's executor, Harry M. Gernand, to George W. Sherman on October 16, 1883 for \$1200 (61/377), and Sherman's executor sold the lot to Roy A. Shipley on October 27, 1928 (151/329), whose widow, Ethel, sold to LeRoy W. Shipley, the present owner, on March 1, 1973.

While its clear from the 1876 tax plat that our building existed then, the very early history, as noted is unclear. The 1881 directory is some interest, noting that Charles A. Lauver occupied the place.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being a part of lot number 6 of B. S. Pigman's Addition to Westminster, and located on the north side of "The Forks" in that 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

August, 1977

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

1000 8/0



CARR-487

HOUSE

8 Pennsylvania Ave
Westminster

E-19

100%



CARR-487