

HANNAH REESE HOUSE

44 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

The Flemish Bond brick, and white aluminum bulk of 44 Pennsylvania Avenue rests on the northeast side of that thoroughfare in Westminster. Originally the house seems to have consisted of identical (in size) gable roofed perpendicular units. However, some time towards the end of the 19th century, the front section (which is laid in Flemish bond brick) seems to have had a single story common bond third story added to it. This new third story has three regularly spaced small double-hung sash windows (2/2 panes) and are simply enframed between narrow white wooden lintel and sills and louvered green shutters. The remaining two stories are similarly altered, when a (presumably) wood two story bay window was added to the east. The bay window has since been altered and covered in aluminum siding with tripartite picture windows. The small modillioned cornice seems to be original.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Hannah Reese House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

44 Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Franklin H. Smith

Telephone #: 848-1285

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 419

Folio #: 20

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Flemish Bond brick, and white aluminum bulk of 44 Pennsylvania Avenue rests on the northeast side of that thoroughfare in Westminster. Originally the house seems to have consisted of identical (in size) gable roofed perpendicular units. However, some time towards the end of the 19th century, the front section (which is laid in Flemish bond brick) seems to have had a single story common bond third story added to it. This new third story has three regularly spaced small double-hung sash windows (2/2 panes) and are simply enframed between narrow white wooden lintel and sills and louvered green shutters. The remaining two stories are similarly altered, when a (presumably) wood two story bay window was added to the east. The bay window has since been altered and covered in aluminum siding with tripartite picture windows. The small modillioned cornice seems to be original.

What's left of the original building is a 2/2 window above the entrance door and directly below the northernmost third story window. The window is an exact copy of that third story window (or, rather, the third story window is an exact copy of the second story window) except that the older window is twice the height. The door, now glass and aluminum storm door, is surrounded by smooth white boards and topped by a simple bracketed cornice. Dark rolled tin covers this gable roof, which is pierced by flat-capped brick chimney at the gable's peak to the southeast. Both end walls, laid in five course common bond, are blind. The rear section is still two stories tall and has since been covered in white aluminum siding. There are glass and aluminum storm windows along the side (two on each of the two floors, regularly spaced). A modern glass and aluminum storm doors leading to a second story apartment is found towards the front of this section on the southeast facade; the door is approached by a single flight of wooden steps rising from the front or main facade.

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 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. 1840                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 44 Pennsylvania Avenue is architecturally interesting in Westminster for a couple of reasons. Both these reasons seem to have to do with the extensions that the building has experienced: the raising of the roof, and the main facade's square bulge. The roof raising is perhaps more interesting in the way the resulting windows work within the new section. Rather than raise the roof a full story, one can assume that the expense would have been prohibitive), half size windows were put in and the resulting third story has sloping ceilings. These small windows (not quite eyebrow windows) are certainly individualistic: nothing quite like them exists in the City. Further, of interest is the way the windows work with the brackets. Generally speaking the brackets would run above the windows, even above any restraining arches. However, here they run half way down their length, creating an interesting rhythm of texture and shape with the narrow wooden brackets alternating with the wide glass windows.

The early title history is bound up with that of the lot upon which was built 34 Pennsylvania Avenue (q.v.). On January 13, 1841, Harry Oursler sold lot 11, our property here, to Emanuel Germand for \$750 (Carroll County Deed Book WW5, Page 221). Germand sold the property to Andrew Reese on March 27, 1866 for \$1900 (33/25). The fabric of the building, and the price, and an examination of the 1876 plat of the City all indicate that the original sections of the house had already been built. The 1881 City Directory lists Mrs. Hannah Reese as living at 44 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Reeses would keep title (Andrew's heir, William H. selling to Andrew J. 1892: 74/545) until an equity case forced the sale out of the family on March 31, 1977 when the present owner took title. It is thus probable that the structure was its basic shape before the Reese's and that the Reese's added the third story and the bay window.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the northerly half of lot number 11 of B. S. Pigman's Addition to Westminster.

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

76%



CARR-491

HANNAH REESE HOUSE

44 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Westminster.

E-23

12/11



CARR-491