

JACOB SCHAEFFER HOUSE

55 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Number 55 Pennsylvania Avenue, the Schaeffer House, is interesting, as it marks a rare, albeit mild, exercise in Richardsonian Romanesque style. The header brick coursed tower, the double segmental arched windows, the reliance on an almost plastic form, the pronounced roof (with its small windows), all indicate that the Schaeffers were looking outside the area for inspiration when they built the house. There are some vaguely similar houses around Belle Grove Square, and a few similarly towered houses exist further up the Avenue (e.g., 67 and 69 Pennsylvania Avenue), but this house probably marks the City's most involved sojourn into that most involved style. We can probably assume that either before his sale to George K. Schaeffer on December 28, 1894 (80/93), or soon thereafter, either Jacob or George tore down the older buildings and erected the present structure. Happily, throughout the continued ownership of the Schaeffer family, the house has suffered few alterations. George K. Schaeffer left the house to Ida Anna Schaeffer when he died (Will 14/55) who left the place to Martha Schaeffer Shaw and C. Russell Schaeffer. These two arranged to have the place owned by Martha Schaeffer Shaw for her life and thence to C. Russell Schaeffer (324/58), dated August 2, 1960).

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jacob Schaeffer House

AND/OR COMMON

Schaeffer House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

55 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
- \_\_\_COMMERCIAL
- \_\_\_EDUCATIONAL
- \_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT
- \_\_\_GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_INDUSTRIAL
- \_\_\_MILITARY
- \_\_\_MUSEUM
- \_\_\_PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- \_\_\_RELIGIOUS
- \_\_\_SCIENTIFIC
- \_\_\_TRANSPORTATION
- \_\_\_OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

C. Russell Schaeffer

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hanover

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 324

Folio #: 58

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

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

Number 55 Pennsylvania Avenue fronts the southwest side of that street about 100 yds. above "The Forks" in Westminster. The brick bulging pile rests on low coursed fieldstone foundations and below an expansive slate roof. This building, known as the Schaeffer House, resembles the Allender-Holy Cross House, but it is executed in brick, not in clapboard.

The resemblance between these two houses is due, in part, to their reliance on protuberances: gables extend in all directions, as do Richardsonian eyelet windows, and towers. Perhaps the best vantage point for looking at the house is on the opposite side of the street, on line with the three story conical roof tower which marks the southeast corner of the building. The tower, executed in header bond, has three elongated 1/1 windows regularly spaced on each of its three floors. Three coursed gauged flat arches top each window, which are otherwise simply enframed. The third story of the tower is slightly smaller in diameter, and is set back above an extension above the modillioned cornice which hugs the building (a similar cornice runs about the top of the tower's third story). A ball finial crowns the tower's roof. Moving out from the tower, one finds the house's two principal facades to be identical. Each is ended by a gable roofed projection, with a pair of segmental arched windows between the projection and the tower. Each projection has a pair of casement windows within the gable, lighting the third story/attic with a pair of 1/1 segmental arched windows below.

A difference is that the Pennsylvania Avenue facade has another ground floor a neo-Georgian fan light double door surrounded by slender door columns and a two part denticulated entablature. The other facade differs, having on the ground floor a three sided bay window which repeats the use of double segmental arched windows on each of its three sides. Similar windows are found, one per floor, in this space between each projection and the tower. Each projection has a narrow 1/1 window on its side. The hipped roof of the house is covered in slate (various rows being shaped) and sits above the denticulated cornice which runs about the tower and the projections. As noted, a smaller Richardsonian half-moon windows slowly rise out of the attic in this hipped-roof between the tower and the projections. The house sits on a large shaded lot with interesting out-buildings to the rear.

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

c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 55 Pennsylvania Avenue, the Schaeffer House, is interesting, as it marks a rare, albeit mild, exercise in Richardsonian Romanesque style. The header brick coursed tower, the double segmental arched windows, the reliance on an almost plastic form, the pronounced roof (with its small windows), all indicate that the Schaeffers were looking outside the area for inspiration when they built the house. There are some vaguely similar houses around Belle Grove Square, and a few similarly towered houses exist further up the Avenue (e.g., 67 and 69 Pennsylvania Avenue), but this house probably marks the City's most involved sojourn into that most involved style.

The history of the lot can be traced back to the mid-1830's when one Albinus Pool sold the ground to Horatio Price for \$200 (Carroll County Deed Book WW1, Page 113). Price may have built something on the lot, as he sold it 14 years later for 6 times the price to Jacob Schaeffer (12/438). This Schaeffer is mentioned as living at 55 Pennsylvania in the 1881 City Directory, and the 1876 tax plat shows two buildings on the lot, but the buildings are not situated where the present house now stands. Thus, we can probably assume that either before his sale to George K. Schaeffer on December 28, 1894 (80/93), or soon thereafter, either Jacob or George tore down the older buildings and erected the present structure. Certainly the locations of the buildings on the tax plat, as well as the style of the present building, would refute any contentions that the house dates from the 1850's. Happily, throughout the continued ownership of the Schaeffer family, the house has suffered few alterations. George K. Schaeffer left the house to Ida Anna Schaeffer when he died (Will 14/55) who left the place to Martha Schaeffer Shaw and C. Russell Schaeffer. These two arranged to have the place owned by Martha Schaeffer Shaw for her life and thence to C. Russell Schaeffer (324/58), dated August 2, 1960).

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 known as lot number 1 of Isaac Shriver's Addition to Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
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STATE	COUNTY
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**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



CARR-493

58%



CARR-493

JACOB SCHAEFFER HOUSE  
55 Pennsylvania Ave  
Westminster.

58 1/2

F-15



CARR-493