

EVANGELICAL LUTHERN CHURCH PARSONAGE

61 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

The house itself, while displaying some later additions, is basically the common well-to-tradesman's home of the 1850's, built in brick along the general lines of the popular Greek Revival style (see Photo 1). The Greek Revival canon of quietly dignified, simple overall design is evident. The practice of utilizing lightly-decorated or even blank pilasters and a simplified cornice is illustrated by the front doorframe. A door with a large glass pane was fitted in the 1920's, but has recently been replaced with a solid panelled door which much resembles the original type. The date of the transom lights is uncertain; the steps are modern concrete. The greatest obvious addition to the original structure is the bay window and turret, which was added to conform to current fashion circa 1885. On the interior the bay window forms two octagonal, unpartitioned additions to the southeast corner of the attic. It should be noted that, on the whole, the second floor and the attic are still in the process of restorations.

In 1854 the owner was approached by representatives of the Lutheran Church who had been deputed to secure a parsonage for the minister that would head the "Westminster Charge". This was the circuit formed by the five Lutheran churches in the area St. Benjamin's (usually called Kreider's or Cryder's, formerly Kreiger's), St. John's (referred to as Leister's, 4 miles east of town), Emmanuel's (Baust's, 6 miles northwest), Winter's (9 miles west of Westminster and 1½ miles from New Windsor), and Grace Lutheran in Westminster. For a while the area had been without a parson, but increasing numbers of German Lutherans required overall guidance. A subscription was taken up from the congregations of the member churches and 61 Pennsylvania Avenue was purchased for \$1,000.

The house served as parsonage for fifteen years, during which it was occupied by the households of four successive ministers. In 1870 it was sold to Father George Schaeffer, "a former devoted member of Grace Church." His son, Charles Schaeffer, "remodeled and improved it;" presumably including the bay window and turret in his efforts.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAD 406
MAGI # 01403404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Evangelical Luthern Church Parsonage

AND/OR COMMON

King House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

61 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Miss Emma King

Telephone #: 848-5599

STREET & NUMBER

61 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 #: 140

Folio #: 507

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 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		

(From last alteration)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See Attached Term Paper

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CARR-496

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 checked="" 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. 1838

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Attached Term Paper

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 all of lot number 2 of Isaac Shriver'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

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall- Public Works Department

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

NUMBER 61 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

(Westminster, Md.)

Construction and History

I must admit that the subject house for this report was found by accident, or rather coincidence. After a routine shopping expedition into Westminster, my roommate and I were coming back to the college along Pennsylvania Avenue. We were casually pointing out to each other, from among the wealth of old dwellings, suitable structures for the report. The occupant of one of the houses, Number 61, who happened to be outside, noticed what was probably our obvious interest and we began talking. It developed that Miss King herself had an interest in the previous history of her home, and I decided on it as a suitable and interesting topic.

The house itself, while displaying some later additions, is basically the common well-to-do tradesman's home of the 1830's, built in brick along the general lines of the popular Greek Revival style (see Photo 1.) The Greek Revival canon of quietly dignified, simple overall design is evident. The practice of utilizing lightly-decorated or even blank pilasters and a simplified cornice is illustrated by the front doorframe (Photo 3.) A door with a large glass pane was fitted in the 1920's, but has recently been replaced with a solid paneled door which much resembles the original type. The date of the transom lights is uncertain; the steps are modern concrete.

The chief deviations from the standard are found in the pitch of the roof -- usually much less -- and the mounting of the chimney flush with the vertical face of the gable. A matching chimney at the opposite end was removed, and the flues

taken out, in the twenties.

The greatest obvious addition to the original structure is the bay window and turret, which was added to conform to current fashion circa 1885. On the interior the bay window forms two octagonal, unpartitioned additions to the southeast rooms (Photo 7) and increases the floor space at the southeast corner of the attic. It should be noted that, on the whole, the second floor and the attic are still in the process of restoration.

One interesting feature of the turret is the multicolored upper panes of the attic-level windows, containing mixed squares of yellow, scarlet, blue and violet glass. These were installed as an integral part of the turret itself. The unusual celestial globe-like motif surmounting the cupola is also of interest (Photos 4 and 5.) The dormer windows for the attic were added in the 1930s.

There are several intriguing instances of original construction details still visible inside. The turned bannister posts and spindles are apparently all original and in excellent condition, although the step risers and flats are modern (Photo 8.)

The kitchen boasts a so-called English oven, a large (approximately 5'hx3'wx2½'d) brick-lined recess with several shelves, on which bread and other items were placed and heated in the confined space from the stove, nestled close in below. Miss King has restored the oven (it was previously boarded up) and installed a cast-iron woodburning stove generally similar to the type used by the original occupants (Photo 9.)

Next to the oven recess are two doorways; the closer is a storage closet, while the far one, when opened, reveals a tightly-wound wooden staircase to the second floor -- with its projecting bottom step and lefthand twist, surprisingly like the stairs featured in the Staircase Portrait by Charles W. Peale.

Original construction is also evidenced in the basement, where heavy split-log rafters are visible (Photo 11) The foundation is roughly broken rock; although some sections were reinforced with plaster in the 1920s, most was evidently laid with little or no mortar at all (Photo 12.) The wall separating the north and south bays of the basement is approximately two feet thick.

History of Number 61:

The farthest back the ownership of the site of No. 61 can be traced is 1836, when a quarter-acre parcel of land referred to as "Lot No. 2", "fronting on the turnpike road to Chambersburgh," was sold to Henry and Nancy Mourer for seventy-five dollars. An interesting sidelight on the transaction was the examination of the selling party's wife by the two justices who administered the deed:

. . . the said Polly Shriver being also by us privately examined apart from and out of the hearing of her husband whether she doth make her acknowledgement of (the transaction) willingly and freely and without being induced thereto by fear or threats of, or ill usage by her husband, or fear of his displeasure. . . . (H.S. #3 folio 134-135 Frederick County Court House, Frederick, Md.)

Satisfied on this matter, the justices concluded the process.

The Mourers' ownership did not last long, however; two days later, Mourer and his wife were forced to sell the land as payment of a debt to one J. Henry Hoppe, who subsequently proceeded to increase the value of his property by building a house on it the next year. In 1839 Hoppe sold the house and lot to a couple named Trumbo; in 1841 it changed hands to Mrs. Nancy Cook, a widow.

In 1854 Mrs. Cook was approached by representatives of the Lutheran Church who had been deputed to secure a parsonage for the minister that would head the "Westminster Charge." This was the circuit formed by the five Lutheran churches in the area -- St. Benjamin's (usually called Kreider's or Cryder's, formerly Kreiger's), St. John's (referred to as Leister's, 4 miles east of town), Emmanuel's (Baust's, 6 miles northwest), Winter's (9 miles west of Westminster and 1½ miles from New Windsor), and Grace Lutheran in Westminster. For a while the area had been without a parson, but increasing numbers of German Lutherans required overall guidance. A subscription was taken up from the congregations of the member churches and 61 Pennsylvania Avenue was purchased for \$1,000.

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The house was subsequently sold to Albert Schaeffer; this was one phase in what evidently later became a minor family feud. According to Miss King, Albert's brother George retained ownership of the quarter-acre parcel adjoining No. 61, and later built on this lot (the "Lot No. 1" referred to in the original deeds) a bigger and better house that overshadowed No. 61. Miss King said the neighbors usually referred to it as "The Spite House." (See Photo 2.)

In 1922, No. 61 was sold to Melvin L. King, who has remained the owner until the present day. Miss Erma King the present resident, is restoring it where possible to an earlier form.

Melvin L. King died in 1972, leaving a son, and heirs Erma King, as heirs.

56%



CARR-496

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PARSONAGE

61 Pennsylvania Avenue
Westminster.

F-16

50%

2



BARC-496



CARR-496