

NOAH ZIMMERMAN HOUSE

57-59 UNION STREET

The double house 57-59 Union Street fronts the west side of that street about 50' from its intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue in Westminster. The frame building sits on low fieldstone foundation, and consists of two sections. There is a gable roofed two story four-bay-by-two-bay section closer to the street, with a two-story full-length shed-roofed addition to the rear. Numbers 57-59 Union Street are fine relatively unchanged examples of the houses built c. 1845-1855 to house Westminster's black population. (In the sense of being unchanged, the white clapboard shell of 57 is a greater interest than 59, the latter of which has recently been covered in aluminum siding.) The small, two-bay-by-two-bay two-story front sections are much as they must have been built originally: an old photograph, taken from College Hill looking towards Union Street and Westminster beyond (photograph dating from the very early 1870's) shows at least two other such units on the street. The units are similar to these, in their length, in their dimensions, and in their clapboarding.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Noah Zimmerman House
AND/OR COMMON William Brown House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 57-59 Union Street
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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 (a) William C. Brown Telephone #: 848-4079
STREET & NUMBER 57 Union 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 #: 373
STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 103
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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The double house 57-59 Union Street fronts the west side of that street about 50' from its intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue in Westminster. The frame building sits on low fieldstone foundation, and consists of two sections. There is a gable roofed two story four-bay-by-two-bay section closer to the street, with a two-story full-length shed-roofed addition to the rear.

Fundamentally, each half of the "house" is identical, but the owner of 59 Union Street has made certain superficial cosmetic changes which we will discuss later. The front section of each unit has blind end walls. The principal facade of each is two bays wide, with a door for each side by side towards the center. The doors are simply enframed and consist of many glass panels. A one story hipped roof porch shades the ground floor of each unit; the porches have square Doric columns as supports and are simply balustered. The porches are on sidewalk level. The rest of the bays on the principal facade consist of double-hung sash windows; those on the ground floor are slightly elongated while those on the second floor of 57 are squatter and are probably original, while those on the second floor of 59 are also elongated. Double-hung sash windows of both units are two-over-two paned, all windows on 57 are flanked by black louvered wooden shutters, which are missing on the second floor of 59. There is a corbel capped chimney flue rising at the interior end of 57's gable. Both sections are roofed in simple rolled tin, with simple eaves treatment. Each unit's rear addition, which extends about three feet to the north and south, has one 4/4 window per floor facing Union Street, and three on the south facade. The second story bay has a small modern (bathroom) window. Number 57 Union Street is still covered in its original weather-boarding, while 59 has recently been coated in aluminum siding. In plan, the units are identical: the original (front) section is a hall and parlor type.

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. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Numbers 57-59 Union Street are architecturally and socially significant for Westminster in that they are fine relatively unchanged examples of the houses built c. 1845-1855 to house Westminster's black population. (In the sense of being unchanged, the white clapboard shell of 57 is a greater interest than 59, the latter of which has recently been covered in aluminum siding.) The small, two-bay-by-two-bay two-story front sections are much as they must have been built originally: an old photograph, taken from College Hill looking towards Union Street and Westminster beyond (photograph dating from the very early 1870's) shows at least two other such units on the street. The units are similar to these, in their length, in their dimensions, and in their clapboarding.

Although 57-59 is too far to the north to be included in the photograph, land records reveal the early date of the structure. On October 31, 1854 Frances Weaver bought lot 15 (our property) for \$125.00 (Carroll County Deed Book 17, Page 323). In the description for the deed, is the phrase, ("beginning for the same at the center of the partition wall at the front of the double house recently erected on said lot 15".) Although built as a single structure, as a double house, 57-59 (and the other double houses on the street) have always maintained a dual ownership. This is reflected by the residents' use of color, if by nothing else: color is used up and down Union Street to define ownership, half of a house, for example, being painted white, the other half in blue.

The 1854 price of this half house, \$325.00, is remarkably low, as the price has been for houses on the street for the past 120 years. Number 57, as well as several other dwellings on the street, reveal that low cost is not necessarily low quality mean. The clapboarding of 57's original, and is extremely finely done, the roofs of both sections are in similar good repair, as is the ground level front porch. In fact it is details just like the hipped roof porch and the fine solid-void treatment of the principal facade, that

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

Acreege - 57 Union Street is owned by William Brown; 59 Union Street is owned by David Brown, Deed 296/232.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 15 Union Street as shown on a 1876 plat of 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

makes 57 a stellar example of what "low cost housing" has been and could still be.

The next few years of the house's ownership are uncertain. However, it is clear from the examination of the 1876 plat of the City that 57-59 is but one of five such houses, that were built at about the same time, that front side by side the western half of Union Street, and sit on lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, Union Street. Some of these homes have been destroyed, but one still exists, beside 57-59, notably 49-51 (q.v.), which sits on 13. The 1881 City Directory notes that Noah Zimmerman was then living at 57 Union Street with Joshua Ditman at 59. Land Records reveal that Zimmerman bought the property on February 8, 1886 from Annie E. Gilbert for \$500 (64/118). Zimmerman sold the house to George A. Snyder for \$450 on February 17, 1891 (72/282). An equity case resulted in the County sheriff's selling the house to the George Washington Albaugh Real Estate Brokerage Company in 1907, which sold, three years later, to Leander Gladhill. Gladhill kept title until July 31, 1919 when he sold to Hiram Jones for \$700 (137/518). Jones' widow, Harriet, sold 57 to Rosey Brown on February 28, 1930 (153/456); the house has been in the Brown family ever since.



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59-57

67 1/2 & 42 1/2



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84

History Section

6770

P.5557

LXXVIII

57-59 Union Street

Inventory Section F21

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