

## 55½ LIBERTY STREET

Built around 1890, number 55 Liberty Street is a simple two bay house, consisting of traditional mid-Atlantic vernacular features embellished by now safely fashionable Second Empire decoration. The narrow elongated nature of the house makes it particularly successful in that, on the front, it passes as a very successful hotel de ville. The title to the lot goes back well into the 1860's, but it is not of interest or relevance until September 4, 1888, when Abram Price sold this narrow strip of land to John Fuss for \$100 (Carroll County Deed Book 58, Page 296). Price had already built the adjoining house for himself, number 55 Liberty Street, a description of this sold lot refers, indeed, to "Abram Price's new brick house". We can assume that Fuss built the house soon after purchasing the lot. Fuss sold the house and lot 50 years later on March 31, 1923 to David Roull (142/23) who sold it 20 years later to Mahlon Lambert and his wife, Bessie (180/369).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 515  
MAHI #0709155604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

55½ Liberty Street (MD 27)

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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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

Mary E. Groft

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

55 Liberty 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 #: 564

Folio #: 182

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		

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

Two and one-half stories in height, two bays in width, number 55½ Liberty Street, fronts the east side of that street about halfway between its intersection with George and Green Streets in Westminster. The pile is an interesting example of how a builder, concerned with economy, could achieve a fashionable result.

The house is a collection of several standard features of Westminster, the scroll bracketed supported cornice doorway, the elongated double hung sash windows, (paned two over two), the use of a simple cornice to mark the division between roof and wall, and the late 19th century vogue for single pitched roofs. Furthermore, the house shows how well established the Second Empire style was in the City, as the style is firmly enough established to have filtered down to modest dwellings, dwellings that, while they follow other vernacular patterns, could safely boast a modified mansard roof complete with crown molding and dormers. No matter that the dormers are pedimental capped, and no matter that the mansard roof exists more in spirit than in execution (i.e., only on the principal facade). Chromatics aid in the illusion of elegance that must have been on the builder's mind; the brick is painted a fine oyster grey which is set off nicely by the black shutters and the white trim of the first two stories and of the mansard roof.

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. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built around 1890, number 55 Liberty Street is a simple two bay house, consisting of traditional mid-Atlantic vernacular features embellished by now safely fashionable Second Empire decoration. The narrow elongated nature of the house makes it particularly successful in that, on the front, it passes as a very successful hotel de ville. The title to the lot goes back well into the 1860's, but it is not of interest or relevance until September 4, 1888, when Abram Price sold this narrow strip of land to John Fuss for \$100 (Carroll County Deed Book 58, Page 296). Price had already built the adjoining house for himself, number 55 Liberty Street, a description of this sold lot refers, indeed, to "Abram Price's new brick house". We can assume that Fuss built the house soon after purchasing the lot. Fuss sold the house and lot 50 years later on March 31, 1923 to David Roull (142/23) who sold it 20 years later to Mahlon Lambert and his wife, Bessie (180/369). Richard W. Stem, executor for Bessie Lambert Michaels, sold the house to Francis Lambert on August 31, 1962 (350/193) who sold it to Ethel Rill on November 27, 1970 (178/296). Rill sold it to John Hempee on August 3, 1972 (518/322) who sold it to the present owner on February 27, 1974.

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 the southern half of lot number 2 of E. Lynch's Addition to Westminster as shown on an 1876 plat of 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

October, 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

56%



1

1

CARR 515

SS to Liberty Street

#4

56 2