

DEMOCRATIC ADVOCATE BUILDING

Number 167 East Main Street, the former offices of the Democratic Advocate, has played a significant role in the architecture and the political-literary life of the community. As is true with many of the buildings in town, this is yet another example of the adaptive qualities of the Pennsylvania farmhouse building that so dominated Westminster's architecture in its first 100 years. We have seen how the building form can be used for residences, for banks, for hotels, and for shops; now we see it used as a newspaper office. However it is important to note that certain freedoms are now (c. 1875) being taken with the form; that octagonal bay windows are accepted. It's also interesting to note, when comparing the present building with an old photograph of the building as it must have looked originally, to see that there is at least one example of unpainted brick in Westminster, thus a refutation of the arguments that Victorians uniformly enjoyed painted brick.

A 1910 account of the newspaper's history notes that: Carroll Hall, a half block east of the present office, is the site of the first home of this paper. The advocate Building corner of Main and Center Streets was finished and occupied in October, 1877. This building was constructed to meet the needs growing out of the increased patronage the paper then enjoyed. The building is of substantial construction with, appointments and equipment superior to those enjoyed by most newspapers and printing offices. One of the best linotype composing machines is a part of the complete equipment.

WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUST
 FEB 16 1978
 R. P. Green

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CPR # 544
 INDCI # 070544511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Democratic Advocate Building

AND/OR COMMON

Demolished
 1951

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

167 East Main Street (MD 32)

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" 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

Westminster United Methodist Church

Telephone #: 848-8325

STREET & NUMBER

165 East Main 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 #: 456

Folio #: 501

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	(Basically)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Democratic Advocate building, built in 1872 sits in relatively unchanged form at the northwest corner at the intersection of East Main and Center Street in Westminster.

The building rests on uncoursed fieldstone foundations and consists of two two-story gable roof sections which are perpendicular to each other. The principal section measures 6 bays by 2 bays and runs along East Main Street; the other section is approximately identical in size and run along Center Street. The front section presents a rather irregular facade, and is dominated by a two story flat roofed octagonal bay window. Three exposed sides of the window on each floor possess a 1/1 window. The entire bay window is covered in white painted cusped shingles. The ground story of the principal facade is punctuated DWDW, reading to the east from the bay window. The door closer to the bay window is more elaborately enframed, resting within white smooth pilasters and below a two section modillioned entablature. The other door has always been simpler; now it consists of a smooth door with an air-conditioner placed on the former two light transom. The original 4/4 windows now consist of two over two panes simply enframed. Above and regularly aligned are four 2/2 windows. All windows on all facades are similarly paned and framed below three coursed gauged flat arches and above white wooden sills.

A 1910 photograph of the building shows window placement to be the same, however they were then more elaborately treated being flanked by uniformly louvered shutters. The building is now painted grey; however it was originally plain brick. The bracketed modillioned cornice which runs about the principal facade seems unchanged from its original condition. A flat capped chimney pierces the ridge of the principal sections roof about half-way down the ridge. The east section of the principal facade consists of two 2/2 windows regularly placed on each of the two floors with a round arched 2/2 window in the center of the gable to light the attic. This arrangement seems unchanged from the original. Strung out on line with the windows of the two floors of the principal section are the seven bays of the rear section. All these are 2/2 windows except for the first (moving to the north) bay on the ground floor which is a plain door sited below a three light transom and above a flight of three concrete steps. A thick flat capped chimney rises between the fourth and fifth bays near the exterior wall of the building. This chimney is shown in the old photograph of the building, however it originally had a rounded brick arch over which is now missing. The other two facades of the building are more utilitarian in appearance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

Being all of lot number 42 of the town of New London as shown on a plat recorded among the Land Records of Carroll County.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

January, 1978

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

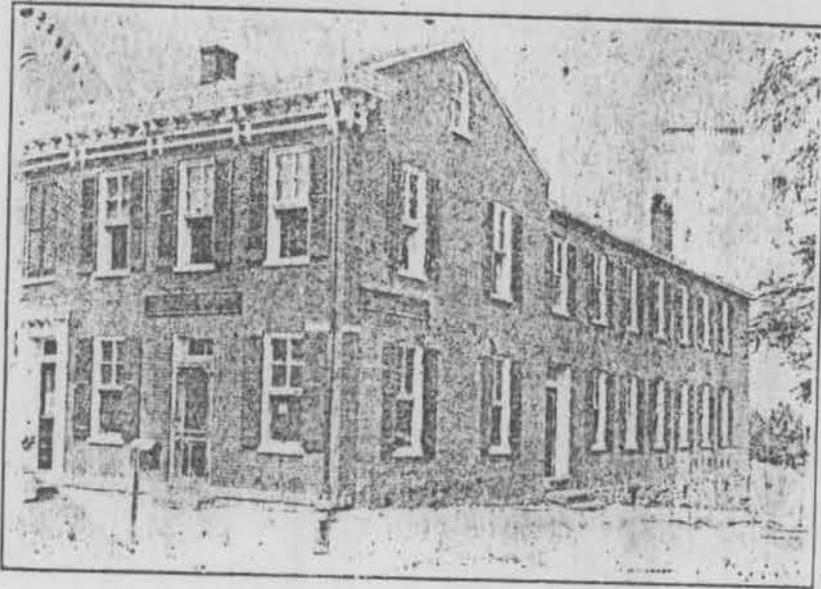


Photo by Lewis

THE DEMOCRATIC ADVOCATE,

A Strong Factor for Nearly Three Quarters of a Century in Carroll County's Economic, Educational, and Social Progress.

In February, 1838, about nine months after the inauguration of the county government, William Shipley founded "The Democrat and Carroll County Republican" which he continued to publish in Westminster until 1840, when he sold it to the late Joseph M. Parke, the father of Mr. George M. Parke, who was a man of wide experience, liberal education and strong Democratic principles. His ability was soon recognized and in 1846 the paper had grown until a partnership was desirable. He then sold a half interest to Mr. Josiah T. H. Bringman and the paper became "The Carroll County Democrat." The partnership continued until 1848 when Mr. Bringman became sole owner. On October 2, 1851, Augustus C. Appler purchased the paper and published it until May 15, 1855, when the ownership passed to George H. Randall, who published it until July 3, 1855, when he sold it to Joseph Shaw.

Mr. Shaw conducted the paper until 1861 when he sold it to W. Scott Roberts, who changed the name to "The Western Maryland Democrat." Shortly afterwards Mr. Shaw again became owner and fearlessly published it during the Civil War until his death in 1865.

During the dark days of the war when sectional feeling governed the actions of men, when might constituted right and civil liberty was denied, Joseph Shaw bravely exercised his rights of free speech. When President Lincoln was shot on April 14, the excitement spread over the country and in Westminster, as in many other parts of Northern and border states, and the lives of Democrats were imperiled. The Republicans held a mass meeting in the court-house and a resolution was adopted to notify Mr. Shaw "that the publication of his paper would no longer be permitted." Sometime after midnight of the same night, the office of the Democrat was raided and the entire equipment, including presses, books, papers, type, and furniture, was destroyed and burned in the street in front of the office about a half block east of its present location.

The writer is credibly informed that Mr. Shaw then went to Baltimore and issued his paper. He returned to Westminster, contrary to the advice of friends, and while asleep in his hotel a few nights after the destruction of his office, a number of men forced an entrance to his room. He offered resistance and was shot, beat, stabbed and thrown down the steps from the effects of which he shortly after died. A bullet hole in the pillar of a door on Pennsylvania avenue at "The Forks" is said to have been made by a stray bullet fired in this fight. The wrongdoers were tried, but acquitted in those days when men looked upon death only as one of the evils of war.

Mr. W. H. Davis took charge of the debris of the office and in November

following he published the first number of the Democratic Advocate. In February, 1866, Mr. Joseph M. Parke again bought the paper, but in November of 1867 he was elected Register of Wills and in the latter part of the month Mr. W. H. Davis again became owner. In the following March he sold it to the late William H. Vanderford and the Democratic Advocate entered upon its long career of uninterrupted success as the strongest factor in Carroll County's economic, educational, and social progress.

Mr. William H. Vanderford was assisted by his father, Henry Vanderford, editor and journalist, who was widely recognized as "one of Maryland's best newspaper men," until 1878, when the former sold a half interest to his brother, Charles H., and their father retired from active editorial and journalistic work. For nearly half a century this family gave Carroll county one of the best home papers enjoyed in Maryland.

In 1906 shortly after the death of Charles H. Vanderford, the present company was formed with Dr. J. Howell Billingslea as its president. Dr. Billingslea possesses those attributes of character that will maintain the high standard attained by this paper. (See Smith-Yingling Company).

William H. Vanderford conducted the paper for the company until his death in June of the same year. For a time Mr. Paul Winchester became the editor, who was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Wilkinson. At present Mr. Guy W. Steele, the well known attorney who recently served the county as State's Attorney, is editor.

Mr. E. O. Diffendal is the able manager, who has had a long career in this office and is well acquainted with every detail of the work. He came to the Advocate in November, 1891.

Carroll Hall, a half block east of the present office, is the site of the first home of this paper. The Advocate Building, corner Main and Centre streets, was finished and occupied in October, 1877. This building was constructed to meet the needs growing out of the increased patronage the paper then enjoyed. The building is of substantial construction with appointments and equipment superior to those enjoyed by most newspapers and printing offices. One of the best linotype composing machines is a part of the complete equipment.

Good Life, Long Life.

It is not growing like a tree,
In bulk, doth make men better be;
Or standing long an oak, three hundred years,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald and sear;

A lily of a day
Is fairer far in May,
Altho' it fall and die that night,—
It was the plant and flower of light.

In small proportions we just beauties see,
And in short measures life may perfect be.

—Ben—Johnson.

Better to die ten thousand deaths
Than to wound my honor.—Addison.

Note.—The following was slightly abridged and modified by a former publisher from the copy book of Miss Mary Bostwick Shellman, who recorded the story as a school girl in 1868. She learned the tradition from most reliable sources. A few years ago the fine old well mentioned herein was filled with earth. Its sight is on Main street at the Shellman homestead directly opposite the Hotel Main-Court.

Many years ago, in the northwestern part of Maryland, there stood a little village bearing the proud English name of Winchester, now the beautiful city of Westminster. For a long time peace and plenty had smiled upon its inhabitants, and they dreamed not of coming evil. It was in the midst of summer when God saw fit to send a mighty drought upon the land. For many days the scorching rays of the sun looked down upon the earth, burning and blighting the vegetation, and threatening to bring famine upon its track. Flowers drooped and died, and water—one of God's best and most necessary gifts to man—began to fail. In vain the people prayed and cried for rain. The citizens of Winchester became alarmed, and many of them locked their pumps, and refused even a cooling drink to the thirsty traveler or the famished beast, lest they should not have enough for themselves. Near the eastern end of the village dwelt two maiden ladies, aged and respected, who believed God would not forsake them in their time of need. Unlike their neighbors they did not refuse water to any, but unlocking their gate, placed a placard near the well bearing the following words—"Free admittance to all,—Water belongs to God!" In these ancient days railroads were unknown, and all the traveling was done by stages or wagons. Emigrants were seen passing daily on their road to the great West, and the demand for water was constant. The doubting citizens advised these two Christian ladies to tear down their notice and close the entrance to prevent the water being carried away, or they would be left without, but their answer was always the same, "The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not want. We have no right to refuse, for water belongs to God." Soon all the wells and springs in the village began to fail, and only two remained to supply the demands of the famishing citizens. One of these was the well which had been free to all. The other belonged to an old gentleman, who, as soon as he saw how great was the demand for water, guarded it and refused even a drop. All flocked to "God's Well," as it was now called, and its old fashioned moss covered bucket was never idle. And still the sky was cloudless, and the unrelenting rays of a July sun scorched and burned the earth. A few more days passed, and he who had so cruelly refused to give a cup of cold water from his plentiful store was obliged to go and beg for himself from the unfeeling fountain of "God's Well." The demand on this well became greater day by day, but still its sparkling waters refreshed the thirsty traveler and the famishing beast. At length a small dark cloud was seen in the sky, and how eagerly it was watched! Larger and larger it grew, till at last the whole sky was overcast. The thunder pealed, the lightning flashed through the heavens, and the flood-gates were opened. The clouds rolled away, and once more the whole face of nature smiled and the grateful citizens of Winchester thanked God for the glorious rain, which had come just in time to save them from perishing. Time has passed rapidly leaving many traces of its flight. Little Winchester is now a promising and thriving city, bearing the name of Westminster. The two noble-hearted christian ladies, who in the time of need trusted in the Lord and shared with their suffering neighbors, have long since found their reward in heaven. Their old home has been torn down, but the "well" still remains on the old lot of Mrs. Col. James M. Shellman, and though now covered over and out of repair, has never been known to fail, but to this day is filled with excellent, pure water.

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Photo by Lewis

THE DEMOCRATIC ADVOCATE,

following he published the first num-
ber of the Democratic Advocate. In

CARR-544



CARR-544

DEMOCRATIC ADVOCATE
BLDG.

167 E. Main St.
Westminster