

## ZEPP-MYERS HOUSE

101 WILLIS STREET

The c. 1910 Zepp-Myers House is architecturally very interesting in its moderate size, and in its gable-end-to-the-street innovation. The device created, and still creates, a series of implications. A fine Doric-posted porch which shades the principal facade, and has octagonal pavilions at each end. Only one pavilion still has its roof, which is on line with the gable roof of the main section of the house forming an isosceles triangle. Certain ecclesiastical implications exist: City churches generally have their gable end to the street (to create the center aisle); this house also has matching full length single dormer windows to create a cross-shaped roof. Of course all these attributes may be accidental, and may be in the mind of the historic sites surveyor. Despite these rather novel, and possibly unattended effects, the house generally resembles the unquestionably temporal Shriver-Babylon House a few doors up Willis Street, built about the same time.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Zepp-Myers House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

101 Willis 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	<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

J. Richard Myers

Telephone #: 848-7288

STREET & NUMBER

101 Willis 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 #:

Folio #:

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 101 Willis Street, the Zepp-Myers House, faces the north side of Willis Street about 100' east of that street's intersection with Longwell Avenue in Westminster. Resting high up on the crest of a hill, the house rather resembles, in siting a Rhine valley Castle; when the lot was auctioned off after the death of Sallie Longwell in 1908, the lot was advertised as a "Mansion site".

When James Zepp bought the site for \$381, he apparently took the bit of advertising to heart, for he erected a residence that is both commanding and comforting. Perhaps for reasons of privacy, perhaps for impression, he had the house built with the gable end facing the street, a rarity in the City. Except for this innovation, the house is very similar to its neighbor down the street, the Shriver-Babylon House (q.v.). The exterior walls are pierced by windows and doors of various shapes and forms as the interior need for them demanded; that is, they were conceived in terms of interior function, rather than exterior appearance. By the turn of the century, when this house was built, the vernacular Pennsylvania style had been abandoned and builders felt free to follow their own or natural whims. The principal (south) facade, approached from the street by several flights of steps across its steep slope, is sheltered by a wrap-around Doric columned one-story flat-roofed porch. The entrance door is placed just west of center and windows are placed about the door as needed to provide light to the interior ground story rooms. The porch has the effect of two pavilions, one at each end; the western pavilion has a hexagonal conical top topped by a small pyramid; the lines of this roof follow exactly the lines of the house's gable roof creating an isosceles triangle effect. Interpretation and imagery play a big part in this house; while nothing is overstated, implications, which might be fairly derived from the use of the gable front principal facade, can be seen. Above, a double-hung sash window lights the room on the second floor to the west, and a deep three-sided second story oriel window, each of which sides has a 1/1 window in it. A pair of double hung sash windows is placed within the gable. All windows have flanking dark louvered shutters to contrast with the white clapboard of the house. The east wall of the principal section has the three sided window placed on the ground floor, and double-hung sash windows placed one to its south two on the second floor directly aligned with the windows below. An illusion of axial symmetry is present here as a pedimental capped dormer window rises from the roof halfway down the section; the plane of the dormer window is on line with the plane of the exterior window of the house.

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As discussed in the long answer to question 7, the c. 1910 Zepp-Myers House is architecturally very interesting in its moderate size, and in its gable-end-to-the-street innovation. The device created, and still creates, a series of implications. A fine Doric-posted porch which shades the principal facade, and has octagonal pavilions at each end. Only one pavilion still has its roof, which is on line with the gable roof of the main section of the house forming an isosceles triangle. Certain ecclesiastical implications exist: City churches generally have their gable end to the street (to create the center aisle); this house also has matching full length single dormer windows to create a cross-shaped roof. Of course all these attributes may be accidental, and may be in the mind of the historic sites surveyor. Despite these rather novel, and possibly unattended effects, the house generally resembles the unquestionably temporal Shriver-Babylon House a few doors up Willis Street, built about the same time. On January 16, 1909 John W. Hering, executor of the Last Will and Testament of Sallie Longwell, sold this site, lot 69 of Longwell's Addition to James A. Zepp for \$381 (Carroll County Deed Book 110, Page 318). The lot was described in an advertisement for the sale as a "Mansion site", and Zepp took this phrase to heart. Nine years later he sold the place to J. Edgars Myers for \$6200 (32/155); it has been in the Myers family since, now belonging to J. Richard Myers, who purchased the title from Mary N. Myers on April 1, 1944.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot number 69 of Longwell's Addition to Westminster as shown on a plat of that subdivision made May, 1908.

### 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 December, 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

An identical pedimental capped dormer is placed on the house's west facade, creating a cross shaped roof. Beyond the main section is a two story section probably intended for service, which possesses a regular roof line with fenestration to match. Out buildings, located to the rear of this second section, beneath a fine old shade trees which cover the lot, are in fine, useful shape today.

51%



CARR 546

101 Willis Street

Zepf-Meyh, Horn

51910

J-14





CARR-54b



CARR-546



CARC-546