

210 EAST MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER

KIMMEY HOUSE

The "Kimmey House" as it is popularly known, has been put to a variety of uses since its first section was built c. 1800. It was first a home, then a home-cum-doctor's office; since 1966, it has been the headquarters of the Carroll County Historical Society. The house was begun as a standard (for Westminster) 3 bay dwelling; it was then (c. 1811) expanded, following local prejudices, to a 5 bay width, another popular form. Although certain traditions are respected, the house was also a bit avant-garde in its use of arched windows and an acknowledged third story.

Freedom
0700594303
CAP 159

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Colgate House

AND/OR COMMON

KimmeY House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

210 East Main Street

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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 (office hours)	<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

Historical Society of Carroll County

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

210 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 #: 421

Folio #: 725

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial

DATE

October 1964

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 building now used as headquarters for the Carroll County Historical Society is involved in both plan and history. It seems likely that the building was originally, a 3 bay - 3 story L-shaped structure on a low coursed fieldstone foundation, this building forms the western section of the existing edifice.

The entrance door, the eastern ground floor bay, rests below a 5-light transom, and between 3-pane sidelights. The door itself is a late 2-panel mid-Victorian door. All this is sheltered by a small pedimented porch, supported by slender Roman Doric columns that echo the pilasters that enframe the door. The other 2 ground floor bays, and the 3 aligned second floor bays are all elongated single pane double-hung sash round arched windows, with matching brick rounded arches above white wooden sills below, and flanking rounded green louvered shutters. On the third story, and aligned with the other bays, are three 1/1 "standard" sized flat topped windows with 3 course gauged flat arches and with trim similar to the other windows. The entire wall is laid in Flemish Bond, and is topped by a 2 part denticulated entablature.

The western facade is composed of the 3 story gable end section of the north facade, and a 2 story 3 bay contemporaneous wing. Both are laid in 5 course common bond. Crowning the western facade is a flush corbelled chimney at the peak of the asbestos shingled gable roof. Below, on the third floor, are two 1/1 windows similar to those on the ground floor of the north facade, but without the relieving arches. To the north of this section is one window per floor, identical to their Main Street counterparts. To the south, on the second floor, is a rectangular white wooden oriel window with a modillion cornice. The oriel has two 2/2 windows to the west and single 1/1 windows to the north and south. The bottom of the oriel is corbelled, with a spade-shaped finial flush with the wall. There is one 6/6 unarched ground floor window to the south. Two widely spaced cellar windows have 3 course gauged flat arches. There is one small 3 light window in the northern third of the second story east front.

The service wing has three 6/6 windows on the ground floor and one 6/6 in the center of the second floor. South of this second story window is a rectangular oriel window, similar to the one to the north, but of slightly smaller scale. Only the 2 southern ground floor windows have 3 course arches. There is a modern smaller window in the southern section of the second floor. Foundations, brick seams, and the cellar remains of a once end-wall chimney indicate that these were the dimensions of the house at one time.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY (more or less)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 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. 1800 c. 1811; 1967 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Andrew Reese/George Colgate

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As noted earlier, what information is extant on "The Kimmey House", as it is popularly known, is confusing and, generally, inaccurate.

Andrew Reese bought lots 44 and 45 from William Winchester on October 22, 1788 for a total price of 20 pounds. (Frederick County Deed WR8/273). The difference between this price and the \$1600 Reese got for lot 45 in 1810 (Frederick County Deed WR38/453) would indicate that a fairly imposing structure had been built. (Around the turn of that century the rate of exchange, in Westminster, seems to have been about 1 pound = \$2.70 - a figure arrived at after noting that the 7/6 ground rents were translated into \$1.00; the change from 20 pounds to \$1600 in 22 years was probably not entirely due to inflation/appreciation). The foundations, as noted, indicate that the oldest section of this house was the 3 story western section, and was very deep. Thus the Kimmey house represents a remarkable amount of affluence early in Westminster's history.

But then, the house had similarly grand neighbors. What also makes the house interesting is its architectural details and implications, such as the round arched windows. If they actually do date from before 1810, they become truly wonderful in their uniqueness and in their perfect execution. Fortunately, Colgate retained the curves in his addition, and a related motif is used on the modern auditorium entrance door. At first the size of the modern arch is disconcerting; it becomes less so when one realizes that the other ground floor sections had 2 small arches and that it was probably felt necessary to have one very large one here so as not to be too overshadowed. The heights of the three steps (auditorium - office - house) form an interesting rhythm.

The house has played a part, however indirect, in the Civil War Battle of Westminster. In his book, Just South of Gettysburg, Frederick Shriver Klein notes that Confederate officers asked the then owner of the house, Nathan Gorsuch, who ran a clothing store, for some cloths or some - cloth clothing, which was badly needed. Gorsuch refused and asked the troops not to harm his store. Amazingly, his wishes were granted.

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 western section of lot 45 as shown on a map of the original town of Westminster as recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Book L, page 472; located on the eastern corner of the intersection of Sycamore Street and Main Street (Maryland Route 32).

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, 1976

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

Sometime later, a gable roofed 2 bay 2 story 7 course common bond extension was added to the north (Main Street) front making it, at least for 2 floors, a good Westminster 5 bay facade. Windows, one on each floor on the east facade, and the four Main Street ones, kept the same arched shape present on the older Main Street windows. A small corbelled chimney is at the western gable of this addition. The house, built around the turn of the 19th century, was purchased by a doctor in 1810; it is likely that he added this eastern wing as an office. Later still, the "service" wing had a 2 bay 2 story addition (the extension is laid in 7 course common bond); windows are randomly placed.

The south facades of all sections were relaid in stretcher bond in 1967 when a large auditorium was added to the east. The old service wing has two 6/6 windows with 3 course gauged flat arches on its two floors, with a louvered cellar vent to the west, and a 6-light cellar window to the east. To the west is a section added to house a smaller meeting room, stairs to the cellar library, and rest rooms. Its south wall (flush with service wing) has a set of 2-panel 6-light double doors under a tall brick round arch, with a 6/6 window above.

The auditorium is set back from Main Street, but an illusion of continuity is created by a trellis that fills the void between the auditorium's north side and the older facade. (See question 8) The auditorium's entrance door is identical to that on the rear (south) side, except that a fanlight is present between door and arch. Two 6/6 windows with 5 pane side lights light the auditorium from the south; 3 similar windows are on the rear of the east wall, south of the two 6/6 windows that light the auditorium's lobby. Although attempts were made, in height and set-back, to help blend the auditorium with the existing building, the color of the bricks was particularly unfortunate. However, this unfortunate choice in color can't compare with the unfortunate results of the sandblasting that the old building has recently suffered.

In plan, the building originally had a side stair hall, with a suite of rooms to the west. The third floor has 3 rooms about the top landing in an L-shape. Woodwork (doors, window enframements, mantels, stairs) is all simple and unexceptional.

More significantly, the house shows what liberties can be taken with the still-rural basic house plan. The local norms seemed paramount in the builders' minds: Reese built a standard 3 bay house which was enlarged to a standard 5 bay width. When the auditorium was added, it was recessed 20' an action that may have been taken so as not to violate the 5 bay width. Although the arched windows were unheard of, and the oriels and acknowledged third floor rare, the aesthetic bases for the house are clear and definite.

The house had a succession of owners until the County Historical Society, under James Shriver, bought the place on December 2, 1966 (421/735) and turned it into a museum, library, and education center.

Carroll County Ec



RESTORATION ORDERED—This old house which will supplement the Home of the Historical Society of Carroll County, is in for \$50,000 in restoration. The edifice, at 210 E. Main St., in Westminster, was purchased for \$30,000 by the Board of County Commissioners. County artifacts now in the County-Office Building will be displayed.



140% + 45%



59

Case 57

210 E. Main St.

"Kimney House"

"A" Section

A-3 Inventory → 4570
Sec. A

History 14090
Ch. 4

p. 27-29

38



CARR 59

210 E. MAIN ST. WESTMINSTER

N. JACADE

10/76 C. Weeks



Carr 59

210 E. Main Street, Westminsh

SW Jacades

10/76 C. Weeks



CARR 59

210 E. Main St.

Westminster

NW arcade

10/76 C. Weeks