Start Here

Scan One Time Only

And
Copy for Multiple Numbers

CARR-122A

AND

CARR-122B

CARR 122A+B

Form 10-445
(5/62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

1. STATE Md
COUNTY Carroll
TOWN Westminster VICINITY
STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

2. NAME 292 – 290 E. Main St. (MD32)

DATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

Original jail, 1837 (rear, second floor)
Owned in 1964 by C & O Company – (+ apartment)

(See CARR-122A + CARR-122B)
For additional information)

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
Westminster Bi Cent Program
10/4/1964

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Rivoire
MHT 10/70

DATE OF RECORD

CARR 122 A + B

290-292 E. Main St. Westminster

N. facade

10/76 C. Weeks

CARR 122A+B

290-92 E. Main
Westminster

S. Jacarle

9/76 C. Weeks

Carr 122 A + B
~~Carr~~ 290-292 E. Main St.
Westminster

S. facade

10/74 - C. Weeks

WILLIAM REESE'S HOUSE

290 EAST MAIN STREET

Facing north onto Maryland Route 32 (Westminster's Main Street), the four-bay wide, three-story tall, bulk of this building towers above its immediate neighbors. The building was originally built, c. 1850, as the residence for shopkeeper William Reese (his shop being the adjacent 292 East Main Street, q.v.), but has since served a variety of uses, including, in the 1920's, an automobile showroom and gas station. An indication of the early prosperity and sophistication of the Reese family is the fine wooden mantel and cupboard now installed in the auditorium of the Carroll County Historical Society.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 070122 4404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
William Reese's House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
290 East Main Street (MD 32) 6

CITY, TOWN
Westminster ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Carroll

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John W. Humbert Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
3502 Littlestown Pike

CITY, TOWN
Union Mills ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 387
Folio #: 104

STREET & NUMBER
Center Street

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE
October, 1964 __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

STATE
Maryland

CARR-122a

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing north onto Maryland Route 32 in Westminster (Main Street) No. 290 East Main Street, "William Reese's House", towers above its immediate neighbors. Made of a brick laid in Flemish Bond above a very low fieldstone foundation, the house is painted a rich red (on its North - entrance - facade). This entrance facade is 4-bays wide (with the door as the easternmost bay) and three full stories tall beneath a shed roof gently sloping to the rear.

Decoration is prominent on both the top and bottom of the facade; the roof's deeply molded cornice supported by a large richly carved scroll bracket at either end with several smaller brackets between. The door, flanked by wide, dressed boards, makes an exaggeratedly strong cornice supported by "giant" brackets with swirling flat applique beneath them. The door itself is composed of 4 vertical panels with a single-pane elliptical transom. All bays are regularly spaced on the second and third stories which have 6/6 double-hung sash windows topped with 4 course gauged flat arches. All trim - cornice door, windows - is painted a pale beige.

To the west of the door on the ground floor, serious alterations have taken place; the (presumed) 3 original windows have been taken out. In their place, a wide molded wood strip extends from the door (where it roughly leads into the cornice) forming a quasi pent-roof" and all trim in this section is painted a yellow beige. (These alterations date, according to the present owner's wife, who created them, from 1968.)

The entire east front is blind and consists of unpainted brick laid in 4 course common bond (as, unless indicated, is the rest of the building) which meets the roof at a very simple cornice. There is no chimney.

The south front is extremely altered. An 1877 plat of the City shows # 290 and 292 to form a U, open to the south, as they still do. Today the south fronts of the 2 buildings are unified in, if nothing else, confusion; therefore, the description of both will be found with the report on the older # 292.

The west facade of the building raises several dating problems which could merit further study. The bonding here is both 6 course common bond and Flemish Bond. A wide flat-capped chimney is located midway back

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CAPR-22a

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See findings for No. 292 East Main Street.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-122a

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Westerly half of lot 26 as shown on a Plat of Westminster recorded among the land records of Frederick County in Book L, Page 472 (Date Agust 31, 1778).

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	September, 1976
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Westminster Historical Sites Survey	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
c/o City Hall - Public Works Department	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Westminster	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

PS-1108

on this side, flush with wall, and a 6/6 window is located in the southern section of the facade on the main floor; the window retains the buff-wood motif, but has no arch. The dating problem is that the outlines of a chimneyed gable end roof are very evident on the facade; this "chimney" is directly beneath the existing one. Whether this indicates (1) that the present shed roof is a later addition or (2) that this is the outline of the gable roof that once (might have) existed next door at no. 288, has not been determined. As the builder had 10 children, perhaps he first built a gable end I house, and later enlarged it by raising the 3rd story roof. (The house remained in the family until the 1920's; an elderly neighbor and Westminster native, said that the house had its present roof - "always".)

Note: research will have to be done in a circuitous manner as the present residents (9/18/76) are very chary about letting strangers into their apartments.

92% X

CARR-122 A

(52)

P.32
34

~~8~~ ~~27~~
~~62~~

XLXIII Reese House
c.1420, Photo
courtesy Mr. Dennis
F. Blizzard

122 A

86%

CARR - 122 A

35

p. 33 #53

XCXIV Reese House as auto showroom c. 1925. Photo courtesy Mr. Dennis P. Blizzard.

50%

35 51 % O LINE O HALFTONE O DUOTONE 50%

FOR CAMERA

#51 | P.35

CARR-122 A

XLXII Woodwork in Reese House -
Detail of riser decoration

35
P33

51

5070

50%

#22 p 23

23-22

% O LINE
O HALFTONE
O DUOTONE

CARR - 122 A

(72)

50%

P. ~~21~~ 23

~~XXIX~~ -

wood work

122 A

340/0

A-27

Carr 122 (A)

290 E Main St. Westminster

N. facade

10/76 CWeeks

WILLIAM REESE'S STORE

292 EAST MAIN STREET

This two-story, four-bay-by-two-bay, gable-roofed pile has played an important role in the economic and political history of Westminster since the late 18th century. Its exact date of construction is unknown, but it may well have been built in the 1780's, as a 1791 deed reveals the purchasing of the lot for an excentionally high price (90 pounds). In 1837, when Carroll County was first organized, and when Westminster was chosen as County seat, no 292, "a thriving grocery", had its second floor converted into the County's first jail. A 1913 newspaper article in the American Sentinal notes that "the jail never had but one prisoner, a colored man, and he escaped by climbing down a rainspout." (A more invincible jail was soon built.) An early diary reveals that in 1830, one Andrew Powder operated the store on this site. William Reese, who was born in Baltimore City where his father had kept a grocery store on the corner of Howard and Clay Streets, moved to Westminster and bought this building in 1849 and, literally, set up shop. The same newspaper article comments that "shortly after moving here he bought the land and building and soon later on the lot adjoining erected what was then considered one of the finest private residences in the County. "Reese flourished in Westminster and was once President of the School Board. County historian Frederic Shriver Kline notes that wehn Confederate troops passed through the town in 1862, they sought out Reese especially, as he was known to be a prominent Union supporter. This store remained in the Reese family until 1951; it has now been divided into several small apartments.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0701224404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
William Reese's Store

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
292 East Main Street (MD 32)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

__ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Carroll

STATE
Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John W. Humbert

Telephone #: 346-7261

STREET & NUMBER
3502 Littlestown Pike

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 387
Folio #: 104

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Carroll County Office Building

STREET & NUMBER
Center Street

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE
October 1964

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

STATE
Maryland

CRR-1226

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

William Reese's Store, No. 292 East Main Street, Westminster, faces the south side of that thoroughfare about 100' from its intersection with Washington Avenue.

Several building periods are evident; the original building was probably the same size and shape as the existing structure, but the surface seems to have been altered at various times. This alteration is especially noticeable on the entrance (north) facade. The original buildings probably had four bays on each floor (the two western ground floor bays being doors). This arrangement could be explained by remembering that this building was a store - one door would have led to the emporium itself; the other to a little flat above. Now, the Flemish Bond of this facade is broken by another door on the ground floor, flush with the sidewalk (creating a WDDD pattern), and by 3 windows on the second floor.

The two western bays on each floor are probably originals in location and appearance. The windows (second floor bays) are 12 over 6 double-hung sash with single molded trim, with wooden sills below, and 3 course gauged flat arches above. Many of the panes are held, by the present owner, to be original. They are certainly old. The doors' that are located squarely beneath these windows are half/wood half/glass (2 vertical recessed panels on the eastern door, 2 horizontal recessed panels on the western) beneath single-light transoms; there is only the slightest enframement, but arches above the transoms are identical to those above the windows. The western door still leads upstairs, but the eastern door now leads to a, via a newly (c. 1955) built hall, rear apartment.

The eastern end bays on each floor (the only remaining one on the second floor) are vertically aligned twin 6/6 windows. These windows have brick header sills and no arches; enframement is of the same simple design. The remaining ground floor bay is an archless, transomless solid door (behind a glass and aluminum storm door), also with no enframement. Those 3 last discussed bays are all part of the c. 1955 changes. Nervous tenants make first-hand observation difficult. The top of the new door is several inches below the tops of the transoms of the other doors. Windows and doors are roughly horizontally aligned with the bays of No. 29 ; however, it doesn't quite come off as the windows of Reese's store are squarer.

This facade, and the entire building, rests on a roughly coursed fieldstone foundation and under a tin-covered gable roof whose eaves are finished by a simple molded cornice. The paint scheme here is the same as

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-1226

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1785 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although Nos. 290 and 292 East Main Street are different buildings, the history, use, and ownership of them is so intertwined it would be best to discuss their significance jointly, not individually.

No. 292, the "store" has played an important role in the economic and political history of Westminster. Its exact date is unknown, but it may have been built in the 1780's, as a 1791 deed has Jacob Powder purchasing the lot #26 and improvements from the heirs of William Winchester for 90 pounds (Frederick County book JS, page 359, dates October 7, 1791). In 1837, when Carroll County was first organized, and when Westminster was chosen as County Seat, No. 292 "a thriving grocery store" had its second floor converted into the county's first jail (Scharf). A 1913 newspaper article on Mr. Reese notes that "the jail never had but one prisoner, a colored man, and he escaped by climbing down a rain spout" (American Sentinel, 1913). (A more invincible jail was soon built.) The diary of Katharine Jones Shellman reports that in 1830 Andrew Powder operated a store on this site; Mrs. Shellman is not free from fault, but it is safe to assume that Andrew is the son of Jacob.

William Reese bought all of lot 26 from John Grammar on June 11, 1849; he paid $800 for the lot and store. Reese was born in Baltimore City where his father had kept a grocery store on the corner of Howard and Clay Streets. Westminster was a thriving village in the 1840's, and Reese decided to move there, and literally, set up shop.

The Sentinel article notes that "shortly after moving here he bought the land and building and soon later on the lot adjoining on which he erected what was then considered one of the finest private residences in the county."

Reese flourished in Westminster, and was once president of the school board. Frederic Shriver Klein notes that when J.E.B. Stuart's division came through town in 1862, they "inquired for several prominent Union men of the place, and went to their houses after them." Shriver lists four, one of whom was "William Reese, the enrollment and commissioner" (Just South of Gettysburg).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-1226

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The easterly section of lot 26 as shown on a plat of Westminster dated August 31, 1778, and recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Book L, Page 472.

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

DATE
September, 1976

ORGANIZATION
Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER
c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Westminster

STATE
Maryland

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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

on No. 290 - deep red brick with beige trim. A flat-capped chimney protrudes from the peak of the roof, about 3 feet from the western edge (which is flush with No. 290) of the building.

The eastern facade is blind except for a small 4 pane window which serves to light the attic; the window is located directly beneath the gable. The wall is laid in 4 course common bond.

Although the south facades of the William Reese store and house (Nos. 290 and 292) were built a few years apart, they give (and probably were intended to give) a single impression. This is true despite the massive bay jumblings that have taken place in the last 40 years. The two are different in height (the house is 3 stories, the store 2) but certain features tie the two together. Foremost among these are the two end shed roofed extensions; both are 1 bay wide, 2 bays deep, both roofs slope to the west, both are of a random bond, and both have flat-capped chimneys flush with the center of their south wall. Further, in each case the spatial-size relationship between main building and annex is the same - the house is slightly wider and a story taller than the store, as are their respective additions.

Between the 2 additions a 2-tier porch runs the entire length of both facades. The porch has a flat tin-roof supported by square posts with a railing consisting of three 2 x 4 boards between each post.

The top story of the house has regular window placement - four 6/6 windows each with very simple enframement and topped with a 3 course flat gauged arch. The eastern window in the store also seems to be in its original location and is identical to that of the house except that its panes are 2/2. Otherwise, windows and door treatment, in position and design, are totally chaotic.

The 1877 plat of the City shows the two buildings as forming a U, open end to the south. This they still do, despite all the change, including the current construction of a cement block 1-story addition to the south of the house's extension.

One individual who prospered under Reese was George Miller, whom Reese hired as a huckster and who, in 1903, was able to purchase the Catharine Yingling (No. 296) House next door.

William Reese died in 1883, but his descendants kept up the business. One of Reese's sons, John J. Reese, was secretary of the Baltimore County Mutual Insurance Company. The store, notes the Sentinel, dealt "strictly in family groceries, butter, eggs, salt, meats, and candy....It is remarkable how the small sales mount up in cash".

Reese married Sara Jane Yingling, daughter of Jacob, the tanner, and they had 10 children.

The store remained in the Reese family until 1951 when the Mason Order bought it; the Masons sold it to its present owners in 1954. The Reese house was sold out of the family in 1921 for $2750, it changed hands several times until the present owners took title March 31, 1965. The present owner's wife reported that in 1965 a pet shop had been located on the ground floor, and that "prostitutes lived upstairs." The present owners then ended the 2 buildings' long prominence as merchandise vendors when they converted both structures into apartments.

CARR 122 (3)
292 E. Main St. Westminster
N. Jacobs
10/76 C. Weeks

CAPR 127 (4)

292 E. Main St.

"Billy Reese's Store"

c. 1925

(C. C. Historical Society)

CARR 122 (b)

242 E. Main Street

Westminster

SW

NE facade

9/74 C. Weeks

End Here

Scan One Time Only

And

Copy for Multiple Numbers

CARR-122A

AND

CARR-122B