CARR-128

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

17 ~~22~~ North Church Street

Located at the end (or beginning) of Church Street at the gates of the Westminster Cemetery, this plain brick building probably dates from around 1840. Local historian Bradford Gist Lynch credits a Professor John A. Munroe with conducting "a private school in the brick building located at the gates of the Westminster Cemetery, and conducting the school at an early date." Munroe's co-educational school was called the "Female Collegiate and Male Academic Institute" and flourished until just after the Civil War. Its barracks-like appearance marks an early deviation from the vernacular farmhouse style. Of interest today, with our present concern about "fuctional illiteracy", one of Munroe's early brochures notes that the school "will not admit to its higher classes of Mathematics, Sciences, etc.., those who are deficient in the element of common English..."

The building now houses the caretaker for the Cemetery.

0701287904 Carr ~~[illegible]~~ 128

Form 10-445
(5/62)

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

1. STATE Md
COUNTY Carr
TOWN West.
VICINITY
STREET NO.

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

2. NAME ~~Union~~ 17 ~~23 N.~~ Church St.

DATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

1st. School house - Tho. Gurley School Master
1964 Caretaker's home (Cemetery)

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.
West. Bilent Program
10/4/24

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

DATE OF RECORD

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

CARR-128
Westminster Cemetery Superintendent's House

Summary:

The earliest history of this structure is anecdotal, as no records could be found to verify its history. About 1790, a log Union Meeting House was constructed and a graveyard created around it on the site that is now the Westminster Cemetery. Both the 1862 and 1877 maps show the Union Church with this school house in close proximity. Whether there was a connection between the two is not known, though it seems likely since the school was on the cemetery grounds. In 1937 Bradford Gist Lynch wrote that Professor John A. Monroe taught "a private school known as the "Female Collegiate and Male Academic Institute. Nor is it known when the County acquired the school. The 4 June 1888 meeting of the School Commissioners noted: "the Board agreed to quit claim to the old school property adjoining the cemetery quieting the title to said property now held by said Cemetery Company." Eight days later the cemetery board minutes record that: "steps would be taken to improve the property by making a dwelling of it, the 1st Room to be 13½ + 17 feet stairway 3½ feet wide 2nd Room 12 + 17 feet with pantry underneath stairway. Kitchen 12 + 17. Partition to be removed back stairway remain first chimney to remain but second to be placed between kitchen and dining room." The work was obviously carried out, as the building now mirrors this description, and it was noted in a January 1889 summary of buildings in Westminster that the "Westminster Cemetery Company have improved and remodeled the old school house on Church Street. The superintendent occupies it." It is currently undergoing extensive restoration.

Survey No. CARR-128

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Westminster Cemetery Superintendent's House

and/or common Old Schoolhouse

2. Location

street & number 17 N. Church St. ___ not for publication

city, town Westminster ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	X 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
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Patrick & Charis Sgro

street & number 41 West Moreland St. telephone no.: 848-0258

city, town Westminster state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liberLWS 1647

street & number 55 N. Court St. folio 727

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-128

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The Old Schoolhouse is located at 17 North Church Street in Westminster in central Carroll County, Maryland. It is located on the south side of the street at the west end of the cemetery and faces west. The building is currently undergoing substantial renovation. It is a two-story, four-bay by one-bay structure of 4-to-1 and 5-to-1 common bond brick on a rubble stone foundation with a gable roof of standing-seam metal that has a north-south ridge and has 6/6 sash. The cornice has three corbelled courses of brick. There is a two-story frame addition on the south end that is one-bay by one-bay. The addition has German siding with corner boards. The shed roof has standing-seam metal and slopes to the south. The cellar was originally just a crawl space. The front door on the west elevation was apparently originally a window, as the bricks are cut through at the bottom. There is an entrance hall at the foot of the steps inside the front door. The building has an enclosed central stairway with one room to the north and two rooms to the south. The north room is about 13 feet 11 inches wide by 17 feet 8 inches deep; the stairway is 3 feet 5 inches wide; the center room is 11 feet 2 inches wide by 17 feet 8 inches deep, and the south room is 11 feet 4½ inches wide by 17 feet 8 inches deep. There is an enclosed winder stair in the southeast corner. The central staircase leads to a transverse passage on the second story. This passage runs north-south along the eastern wall and connects to the winder stairs in the southeast corner. The attic is not and was never accessible, apparently, and is completely unfinished.

Contributing Resources: 1

The Old Schoolhouse is located at 17 North Church Street in Westminster in central Carroll County, Maryland. It is located on the south side of the street, at the west end of the cemetery, and faces west. The building is currently undergoing substantial renovation. It is a two-story, four-bay by one-bay structure of 4-to-1 and 5-to-1 common bond brick on a rubble stone foundation with a gable roof of standing-seam metal that has a north-south ridge.

On the west elevation, the foundation has a metal vent in the north bay and an opening for another one in the south bay. The first story has, from north to south, a 6/6 sash with a wood sill, a bullnose frame, and a splayed-brick jack arch. This window had blinds. The west elevation has two vertical breaks in the brick between the north and north-center bays. This may have been a door opening, but because the brick is now painted white, it is not entirely clear. The opening has been bricked in and several bricks are toothed into the wall. Next there is a new door with a splayed-brick jack arch. This bay has

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-128

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	X education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1888 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C X D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary:

The earliest history of this structure is anecdotal, as no records could be found to verify its history. About 1790, a log Union Meeting House was constructed and a graveyard created around it on the site that is now the Westminster Cemetery. Both the 1862 and 1877 maps show the Union Church with this school house in close proximity. Whether there was a connection between the two is not known, though it seems likely since the school was on the cemetery grounds. In 1937 Bradford Gist Lynch wrote that Professor John A. Monroe taught "a private school known as the "Female Collegiate and Male Academic Institute. Nor is it known when the County acquired the school. The 4 June 1888 meeting of the School Commissioners noted: "the Board agreed to quit claim to the old school property adjoining the cemetery quieting the title to said property now held by said Cemetery Company." Eight days later the cemetery board minutes record that: "steps would be taken to improve the property by making a dwelling of it, the 1st Room to be 13½ + 17 feet stairway 3½ feet wide 2nd Room 12 + 17 feet with pantry underneath stairway. Kitchen 12 + 17. Partition to be removed back stairway remain first chimney to remain but second to be placed between kitchen and dining room." The work was obviously carried out, as the building now mirrors this description, and it was noted in a January 1889 summary of buildings in Westminster that the "Westminster Cemetery Company have improved and remodeled the old school house on Church Street. The superintendent occupies it." It is currently undergoing extensive restoration.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
Chronological/Development Period: Agriculture-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870; Industrial-Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Education
Resource Types: Rural vernacular, School

The earliest history of this structure is anecdotal, as no record could be found to verify its history, since the deeds do not provide a clear chain of title. According to Christopher Weeks, this was believed to be the earliest school in Westminster. About 1790 a

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-128

Land Records
1862 & 1877 maps
School Board minutes, 4 June 1888
Westminster Cemetery Co. minutes, 12 June 1888
Democratic Advocate, 5 Jan. 1889, p. 3, c. 6-7
Chris Weeks, The Building of Westminster, pp. 128-30, 64.
Scharf, History of Western Maryland, p. 935
Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps, 1910, 1918

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .123 acres

Quadrangle name Westminster **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning **date** 9/20/95

street & number 225 North Center St. **telephone** (410) 857-2145

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

a one-bay porch with four square boxed posts, a wood box cornice with an ogee bed mould, and a half-hip roof of standing-seam metal. The railings have horizontal top and bottom rails divided by a single center post, and smaller infill in the two openings created by this arrangement. The infill consists of two horizontal pieces separated by a single center post. The remaining two bays to the south each have a typical 6/6 sash. The second story has four typical 6/6 sash. The cornice has three corbelled courses of brick. There is an interior brick chimney set between the south-center and south bays.

There is a two-story frame addition on the south end that is one-bay by one-bay. The addition has German siding with corner boards. The shed roof has standing-seam metal and slopes to the south. The west elevation of the south addition has paired 6/6 sash on the first story and a porch on the second story that has square vertical balusters, beaded-edge-and-center boards on the porch ceiling, and German siding to the rear. The south elevation has a new door on the first story, set to the west of the addition. The east bay in the addition has a 6/6 sash and a plain architrave. The second story has a pair of six-light casements. There is a brick chimney in the southeast corner.

The east elevation of the brick school has no openings in the south bay of the first or second stories. The remaining three bays have a typical 6/6 sash on both the first and second stories. The cornice is identical to that on the west elevation. The north bay of the foundation has a vent. There is a brick interior chimney between the north-center and north bays on the east wall. Several shell-pattern cast iron shutter holdfasts survive. The north elevation has a typical 6/6 sash centered on both the first and second stories. There is a wrought iron fence with square, pointed pickets on the north and east elevations.

The cellar was partially excavated at some time after construction, but was originally just a crawl space. There are two ¾-round joists running east-west, but the rest of the joists are circular sawn, and are 2½ by 8¼ inches. The floor above is circular-sawn, random-width, and runs north-south.

The front door on the west elevation was apparently originally a window as the bricks are cut through at the bottom, but not at the top half. The top of the door is below the wood lintel by about 8 inches, and this lintel is in line with the tops of the windows. The cut bricks line up roughly with the sill height of the rest of the windows. There is an entrance hall at the foot of the steps inside the front door. The front door and frame are completely new. The architrave on the north wall of the hall has a beaded interior edge and mitered corners. The wall on the south has circular-sawn 2 x 4 studs, and circular-sawn lath on the wall and ceiling that is fastened by cut nails. The building has an enclosed central stairway with one room to the north and two rooms to the south. The north room is about 13 feet 11 inches wide by 17 feet 8 inches deep. The stairway is 3 feet 5 inches wide, the center room

is 11 feet 2 inches wide by 17 feet 8 inches deep, and the south room is 11 feet 4½ inches wide by 17 feet 8 inches deep.

The north room has linoleum on the floor and paneled walls. There are two exposed north-room floor joists on the first story that are circular sawn, are 2 inches by 5¾ inches, and are spaced 16 inches on centers. The baseboard is plain. The window architraves match those found on the door. The south wall of this room has circular sawn 2 x 4 studs with cut nails, and circular-sawn lath fastened with cut nails. The stair carriage, however, is mill sawn. The east wall has corbelled brick near the top of the wall near the south corner that supports the chimney on the second story.

The center room has 1½-inch-wide oak flooring that runs east-west. The floor underneath the stairway is random width, between 3½ and 5¼ inches, and runs north-south. The center room has typical architraves and baseboard. There is a door that leads to underneath the stairs. It has the same typical architrave on both sides. The door has four panels with sunk fields and ogee panel moulds. It has butt hinges that are heavily painted and have a norfolk latch. There is a window under the stairs that has a typical architrave. Beneath the stairs are two separate ceilings, both of which have lath and plaster. There is a mantel in this room that is loose, and its original location is unclear. The wood mantel has plain pilaster strips, a plain frieze, and a cavetto bed mould. It was put together with cut nails. It was nailed to the wall with both cut and wire nails and may have been moved from another location. On the back of the mantel, written in pencil in script, appears to be "Frunt". The south wall of this room has the typical circular-sawn studs and lath. There is also the brick rear wall of the fireplace now exposed on this wall. A door now removed from its hinges in this room has four panels with double sunk fields, ogee panel moulds, and plain cast iron butt hinges and rim lock. One side of the door is a bronze foliate knob. There is a doorway on the south wall, to the west, that leads to the south room.

The south room has a later floor and the same typical architraves. There is beaded-edge-and-center, tongue-and-grooved, vertical-board half-wainscot that is mill sawn and facenailed with wire nails. The fireplace or chimney on the north wall has been enclosed in a recent brick veneer. There is an enclosed winder stair in the southeast corner that has a typical architrave. It had a door and three stairs below it, but these features have been removed and a new wall put up. This new wall is in the process of being removed. The floor under the stair runs north-south, and is random-width pine approximately 3½ to 5¼ inches in width. The lath under the stair is circular sawn. The wainscot does not go behind the stair. It appears that the plaster does not either. The plaster is laid right on the brick on the outside walls. The second-story joists were originally lathed and plastered. They are now exposed. They run east-west, are mill sawn, and are 2¾ inches by 8 inches. The joists have bridging between them and they support mill-sawn flooring above that runs north-south.

The south wall of the south room has a doorway on the east that leads to the southeast corner of the addition. This doorway is later, and has plain trim, as does the southeast room. The west wall of this addition has a three-light over three-panel door with a three-light transom. The south wall of the south room has another door set to the west. This appears to be an original opening with a typical architrave and four-light and two-panel door. It leads to the southwest corner which is now an enclosed porch with a door in the floor that leads to the cellar.

The central stair case leads to a transverse passage on the second story. This passage runs north-south along the eastern wall and connects to the winder stairs in the southeast corner. The chamber on the north has typical studs, lath, nails, and architrave found throughout the building. There is a four-panel door with sunk, double fields and ogee panel moulds, a cast iron rim lock is marked with "RECo" and has a mineral knob. The door is hung on plain butt hinges. The east wall of the north chamber has a flue with a closed up stove pipe opening. There is a plain baseboard. The random-width pine floor runs north-south and has 3½ to 5½-inch-wide boards. The room is now being divided in two. The south wall has a door to the passage at the east end and a door to the center chamber at the west end. The latter door is identical to the former door, but has a plain rim lock and plain trim on both sides.

The center chamber floor is identical to that in the north chamber, and it appears to have the same studs. There is a door on the east wall to the passage that is the same as the others on the second story, and has a plain rim lock and a typical architrave. There is a door on the south wall that leads to the south chamber. It has a symmetrical architrave that is wire nailed. This architrave has two beads in the center with an ogee to each side, and a quirked field and a bead at the outer edge. It also has bullseye corner blocks.

The south chamber has the same floor and baseboard as found in the north chamber. There are studs on the east wall that separate it from the winder stair. These studs are mill sawn, are very irregular with waney edges, and are about 2 inches by 3 to 3½ inches. They are spaced 15 to 17 inches on centers, and are set with their narrow sides as the depth of the wall. They appear to be an original or earlier wall frame. The studs all along the passage and the top of the center stairway are set the same way, though they can only be observed at the feet of the studs where the baseboard has been removed. The east wall has a typical door that leads from the south chamber to the transverse passage. There are two doors on the south wall that lead to the addition. The architraves on both have a sunk center field. The east door has five lying panels. It leads to the southeast second-story room, which is a bathroom with a claw foot tub. There is plain architrave in this room, and the baseboards have quirked ogee on top. The west door in the south chamber has three lights over three

lying panels and leads to an open porch. The south chamber has a flue. The stove pipe hole is now closed off. The ceiling lath in the south chamber appears to be circular sawn.

The attic is not accessible, but is visible through a hole in the ceiling. It was never accessible, apparently, and is completely unfinished. The attic joists run east-west, and appear to alternate between being hewn on all sides and being sawn. The rafters are hewn on all four sides and are mitered at the ridge. They also have a birdsmouth cut at the foot that laps over a narrow false plate. One rafter was accessible for measuring it is 3½ inches wide by 4½ inches deep. The rafters support lath and circular-sawn shingles.

KS/lc:5-15-95:Carr128.des

log Union Meeting House was constructed and a graveyard created around it on the site that is now the Westminster Cemetery. The log structure was replaced with a brick building in 1818. This structure became known as the "Old Union Meeting House" and was still standing, though quite deteriorated, in 1877. Both the 1862 and 1877 maps show the Union Church with this school house in close proximity. Whether there was a connection between the two is not known.

When the school was built is also unknown. The use of 4-1 and 5-1 common bond brick probably dates the building to c. 1820-1840. The corbelled brick cornice suggests the building was constructed after 1820. The rafters, which are mitered at the ridge, and not pegged, suggest a later date, after 1840. These rafters may not be original, of course. In 1937 Bradford Gist Lynch wrote that Professor John A. Monroe taught "a private school in the building located at the gates of the Westminster Cemetery, and conduct[ed] the school at an early date." According to Lynch, the school was known as the "Female Collegiate and Male Academic Institute." This, however, seems to be in error according to research by George Billingslea. An article from 1866 uncovered by him notes of Munroe's School:

> The school rooms of the Institution are five in number conveniently arranged upon the first floor of the Odd Fellow's Hall.

The latter building was apparently the structure at 140 East Main Street (CARR-382). According to Weeks, this building was constructed in the 1850's.

Nor is it known when the County acquired the school, though it may have been around 1865, after the creation of the Carroll County School Commissioners. At the same time, the burial ground was incorporated as the Westminster Cemetery.

The 4 June 1888 meeting of the School Commissioners noted:

> At the request of Dr. J. W. Hering, John L. Reifsnider, John J. Reese, and others, representing "The Westminster Cemetery Company," the Board agreed to quit claim to the old school property adjoining the cemetery at the east end of Westminster, to aid in quieting the title to said property now held by said Cemetery Company. To this end the following resolution was unanimously passed:
>
> Resolved, That this Board quit and relinquish to "The Westminster Cemetery Company" all the right, title, claim and interest of said Board, or arising from or under them, in and to certain lot of land, with the improvements thereon, lying and being in the east end of Westminster, Maryland, adjoining lands of said company and heretofore used for school purposes; and that the president and secretary be, and they are hereby,

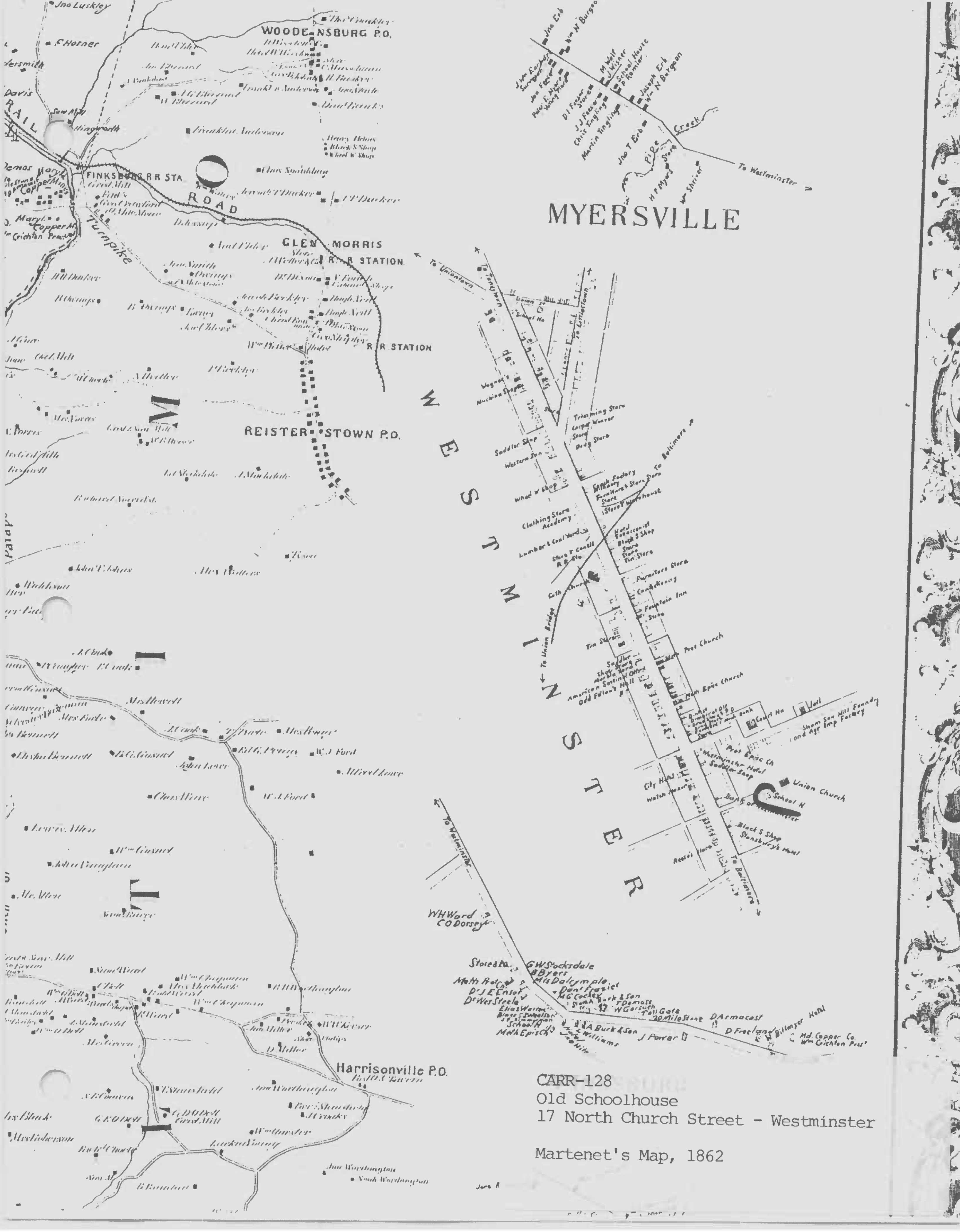
> authorized and directed to do all things necessary to carry this order into effect.

This suggests that the School Commissioners never owned the land, but only had use of, or ownership of, the building. The implication in the wording is that the school was part of the cemetery land, but it will require greater research into the deeds of that portion of Westminster in order to resolve the question. The deed from the School Board to the Cemetery Company notes that the 18 x 42 foot building was used as a public schoolhouse for a long number of years but had been abandoned for a number of years. It also states that the school was ". . . enclosed within the Cemetery owned by said Company . . . ." In any case, on 12 June 1888, the cemetery board minutes record that:

> The board met in the School House at the Cemetery . . . On motion it was agreed that as soon as a valid title could be procured from the School Commissioners, steps would be taken to improve the property by making a dwelling of it the 1st Room to be 13½ + 17 feet stairway 3½ feet wide, 2nd Room 12 + 17 feet with pantry underneath stairway. Kitchen 12 + 17. Partition to be removed but stairway remain first chimney to remain but second to be placed between kitchen and dining room.
> On motion the improvements of property was left with the President and Secretary.

The work was obviously carried out, as the building now mirrors this description, and it was noted in a January 1889 summary of buildings in Westminster that the "Westminster Cemetery Company have improved and remodeled the old school house on Church Street. The superintendent occupies it." It would appear that the alterations did not remove much, but instead inserted walls and subdivided what were formerly large open spaces. According to the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the addition on the south was one story. It was most likely added after the conversion in 1888, as its trim work is different, and was probably raised to two stories after 1918. There was also a one-story shed building south of the school house. The cemetery sold the house in 1994. It is currently undergoing extensive restoration.

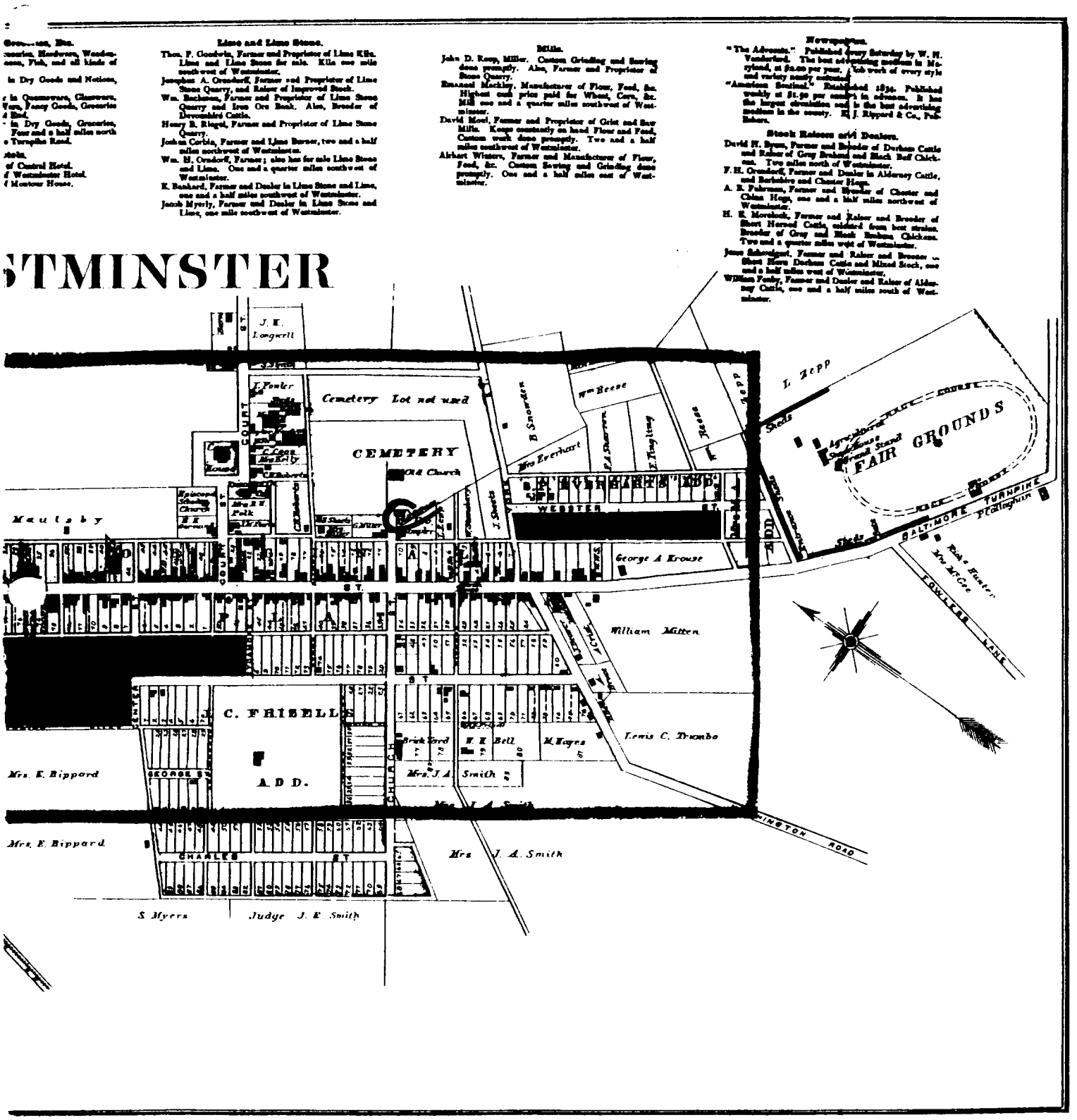
KS/lc:5-11-95:Carr128.sig



CARR-128
Old Schoolhouse
17 North Church Street - Westminster

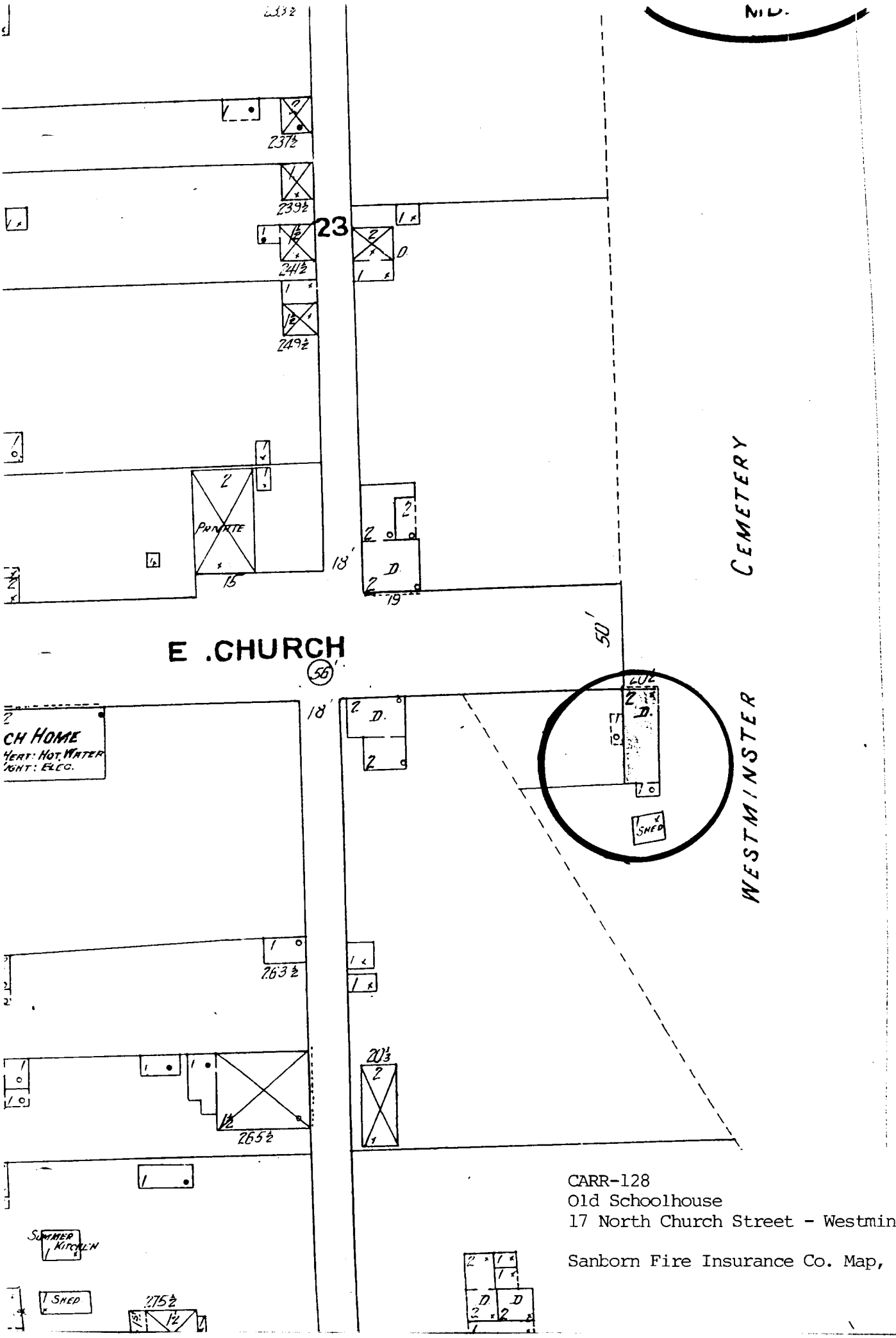
Martenet's Map, 1862

CITY OF WESTMINSTER



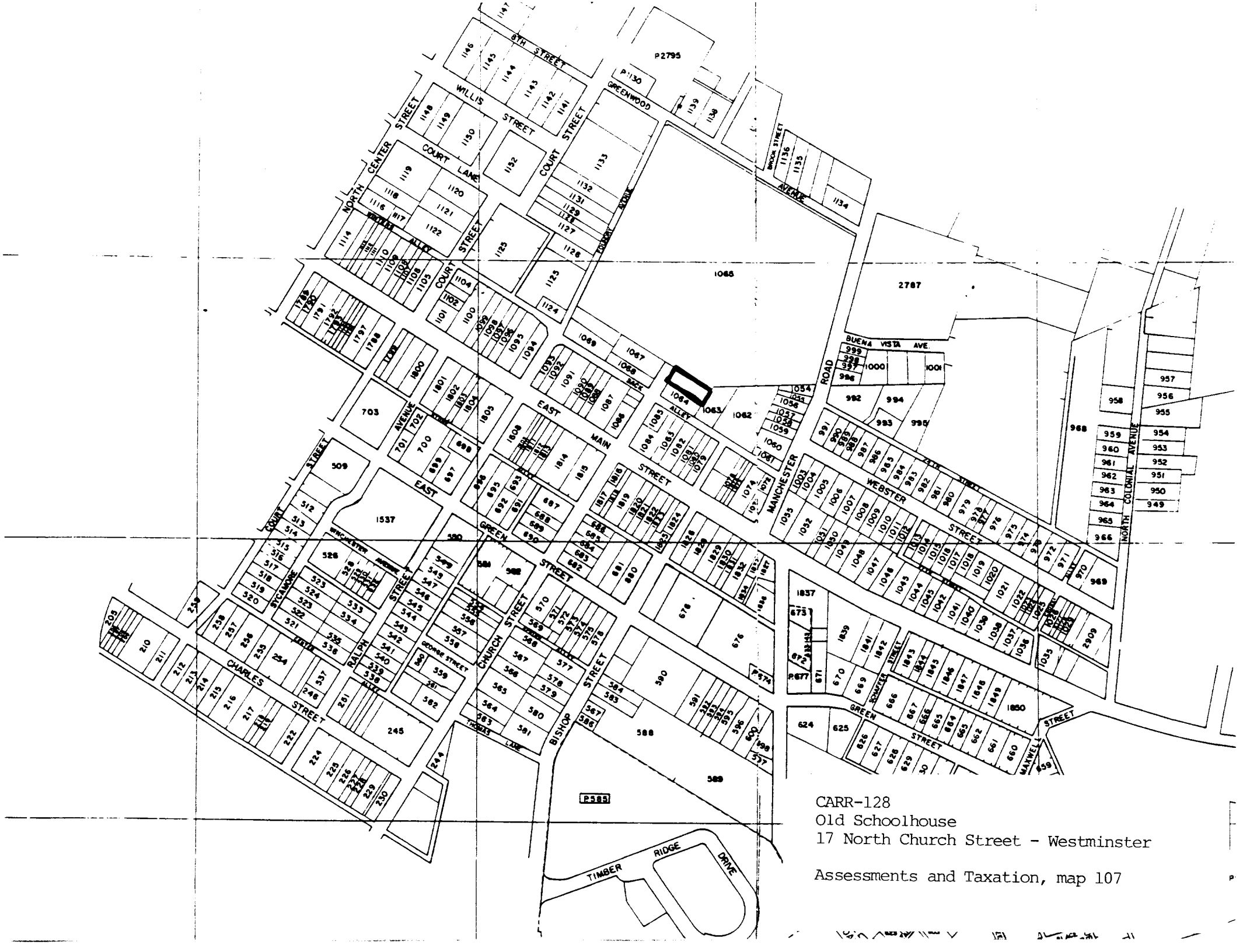
CARR-128
Old Schoolhouse
17 North Church Street - Westminster

Lake, Griffin & Stevenson Atlas, 1877



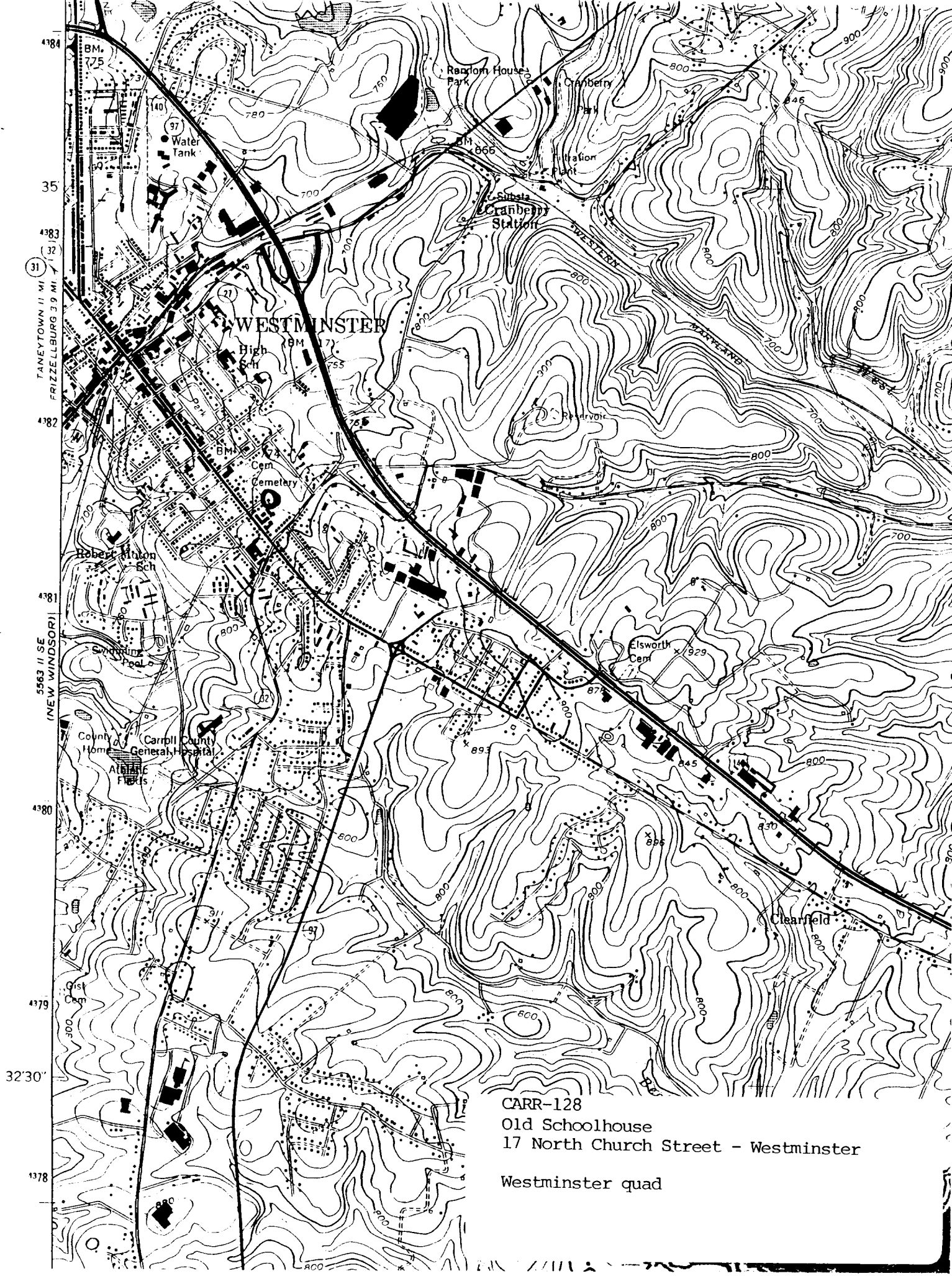
CARR-128
Old Schoolhouse
17 North Church Street - Westminster

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Map, 1910



CARR-128
Old Schoolhouse
17 North Church Street - Westminster

Assessments and Taxation, map 107



CARR-128
Old Schoolhouse
17 North Church Street - Westminster

Westminster quad

[illegible]

N. N. Church St. - Westminster
Carroll County, Maryland
Photo Kenneth M. Short
Date Jan. 1995

[illegible]

Neg Loc. Maryland Historical Trust
north & west elev.

1/2

CARR-1[illegible]

17 N. Church St. - Westminster
Carroll County, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

MPSC 464 21** N N N N2

Date: Jan 1995
Neg. Loc. Maryland Historical Trust
South & East Elevs.
2/2