255 EAST MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER

ECKLAR HOUSE

Popular feeling is that this was originally a 2-story log house; this is possible, as it is still possible to see, in the cellar, the old log floor beams. In any event, its 2½ story - 3 bay facade was covered with stretcher bond brick probably when the 2 bay western office was added, c. 1840, along with the eastern recessed 2-story porch.

The house is significant in Westminster as one of the (surprisingly) few examples of German folk culture. There was a large Mid-eighteenth century migration of Germans (from Pennsylvania and, to a lesser degree, from other sections of Maryland), one of whom was Ulrich Ecklar, a dyer, and builder of this house. The brick Greek cross-pattern under the eaves, and the front ground floor room's marble mantle (which is richly carved in "Pennsylvania Dutch" patterns) serves to remind many of the area's citizens of their Teutonic past.

CARR 341

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0703415304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Ecklar House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
255 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 RESIDENCES
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
LeRoy Conaway Telephone #: 848-7339

STREET & NUMBER
255 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 #: 357
Folio #: 105

STREET & NUMBER
Center Street

CITY, TOWN
Westminste

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

CARR-241

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 255 East Main Street, sitting at the northwest corner of the intersection of East Main (Maryland Route 32) and Church Streets in Westminster makes clear why Westminster can be thought of as a City of details, and how some exceptional details can be used to add great interest to an otherwise typical structure. The detail is the brick Greek Cross pattern below the modillion cornice.

Otherwise, the house is a good example of the low fieldstone foundationed 2/3 Georgian plan (with an addition to the west). The original section of the house was 3 bays wide and 2 stories tall. Popular culture has it, the house was originally a 2 story log house. This is possible, as, from the cellar, log floor beams can be seen in certain sections today. In any event, it has long since been covered with common stretcher bond brick.

The entrance (the western of the 3 original bays) has, also in the distant past, been expanded to include a 4 columned 1 story wooden porch with a 5 sided bay window above. The one-over-one double-hung sash windows of the bay are separated from each other by a single elongated pilaster. Below, in the center of the stooped porch, is the entrance door, composed of 2 vertical panels below and a large pane of glass above. The door has broad but single enframement consisting of wide planks laid around it.

To the east are two 1/1 windows per floor regularly placed, with 3 course gauged flat arches. The windows of each floor are identical in their simple enframement and white wooden sills; the ground floor windows are slightly elongated; windows have brown louvered shutters.

The original section's east front is laid in 5 course common bond, and continues the cross pattern under its gable end, below the large flat-capped chimney that rises, flush, from the gable's peak. Below are 2 regularly spaced windows per floor - all windows are identical in size and treatment; 1/1 paned, with white wooden sills, simple enframement, and louvered shutters. To the north, is a long extension complete with a 2 story recessed porch, a feature standard to many of Westminster's Mid-Victorian period dwellings. The porch is supported by 2 square posts per floor (above solid board and batten balconies). The 3 bay porch has the same bay treatment on each story - a central window with flanking doors. Windows and doors are glass and aluminum storm. Flush with the sidewalk, to the north of the porch, is a narrow stretcher bond brick wall with one 6/6 window on each of its 2 floors, the ground floor one being smaller, and modern, the upper having 3 course gauged flat arches, a white wooden sill, and shuttered.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-341

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	__COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1815 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ulrich Ecklar

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of number 255 is architectural. But it is, as noted, significant more in its details than in its entirety. Westminster was settled by many nationalities, each of which tended to continue, for a time, its traditional folk designs and patterns. There are not many fine examples of the folk styles that the Germanic settlers would have created, despite the fact that the Germans were certainly a vitally important group in the town's (and county's) creation; "Settlement of Carroll County was rather slow until the mid-eighteenth century when a great influx of Germans....greatly increased...." (Warner p. 37). The decoration on the marble fireplace of the Ecklar House and, possibly, the crosspattern under the eaves, could serve to remind a large segment of the area of its Teutonic past.

Although how Ecklar acquired the lot is unclear, he must have had it sometime before 1823, as in that year he had a $2000 mortgage released that had encumbered the property (Frederick County Land Records JS 18/54). Ecklar died intestate, c. 1836 and, in the series of straw deeds (made for the next 30 years among all Ecklar's heirs), one, dated June 12, 1837, (WWI/158) mentions the "house and lot formerly occupied by Ulrich Ecklar". It finally passed out of the family in 1868 (Deed 35/354), and, as it bordered the bank, was passed back and forth among the town's leading families - Smith, Reese, and Hering - during the 19th century. The present owner, the City's Mayor, took the title March 28, 1963 (357/105).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ½ City Lot

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 11 as shown on the original plat of Westminster 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	October, 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

North of this section is a tin shed-roofed 1 story screened wooden porch. The porch is entered by 2 cement steps; the house is entered by 2 glass and aluminum storm doors. Above are 2 regularly placed shuttered 6/6 windows on the second floor, and a small 4-light attic window in the western section of the gabled end.

The 2 bay western stretcher bond facade of this extension is decorated by 3 step corbelling along the eaves, and is pierced by 2 windows, regularly placed, per floor. The second floor windows are a 6/6 shuttered 4 course gauged flat arched window to the north, and a 2-sectioned casement window to the south. Below the 6/6 window is a modern glass and aluminum storm window; below the casement window is a four-panel door. Both ground floor bays have 3 course gauged flat arches.

There is a 2 story 2 by 3 bay flat roofed extension to the west of the original building. Possibly built as a shop (the proposed builder was a dyer and may have used this as a place to sell his wares), it is now a separate apartment. The south (Main Street) facade continues the cross entablature and has 2 regularly spaced bays per floor. The eastern ground floor bay is the glass and aluminum entrance door; all the rest are 1/1 glass and aluminum storm windows with white wooden sills. All bays have 3 course gauged flat arches. The opposite wall matches bays in number and placement, if not in treatment. The second floor bays are 6 light casement windows: the ground floor has a shuttered 4 course gauged flat arch window with a 6 panel transomed door to the west. The west wall has folded over tin at its roof decoration. The wall's southern bays are regularly placed (2 on each of 2 floors). The northern bays (1 per floor) were placed far to the north; the second floor's is still present, but, for some reason, that on the second floor has been moved a few feet to the south. (It is possible to see the original arch directly below the second story window.) All windows have 6/6 panes, and 3 course flat gauged arches, except for the moved-window, which is now archless.

The interior, much changed in detail, still has the original floor plan (already mentioned). The ground floor front room fireplace is of marble, but, like the outside, is saved from being a type by its unusual decoration: carved symmetrically in the marble fireplace are several patterns associated with the "Pennsylvania Dutch". These Germanic designs can be explained by recalling the builder's name - Ulrich Ecklar, who must have immigrated around 1790, as he suddenly appears in the land records in 1793, is quite active, and is not heard of after 1832 (when he died). Ecklar probably built a German-style 2 story log house for his family; he almost certainly built the fireplaces with their traditional designs.

Ulrich Ecklan House

255 East Main

341

CARR 341

253-5 E. Main St. Westminster

E. facade - detail

9/74 - C. Weeks

(26)

XXX III -

cornice detail

140 9.

CARR 341

253-5 E. Main St. Westminster

N. Jacade

9/76 C Weeks

25 p. ~~23~~ 25

140%

Eklan House

XXXII

N. CHURCH ST

RR 341

CARR-341

3 & E. Main St.

tminster

06 - C. Weeks

9/76

Jacade

A-18

937.

CARR-341

27

73%

P.~~23~~ 25

XXXIV - Ecklar House - Main Parlor ~~fox~~ mantel with German-influenced designs.