JAMES A. C. BOND HOUSE

202 EAST MAIN STREET

The large L-shaped house built as the residence for James A. C. Bond, a prominent local lawyer, is a fine example of a style once popular in Westminster. Facing north onto Main Street, the house is made of two distinct 2½-story, perpendicular sections, each with a gabled roof, with a 1-story, shed-roofed porch across the front between the wooden bay window of the eastern gabled section and the western end of the house. This house has many echoes in the City, such as 189 East Main Street (Wagner House), but probably none can, or could, match the "Early Bull Moose" atmosphere of Bond's house, as evidenced in photographs taken soon after the house's completion in 1909.

CARR-368
0703684704

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
James A. C. Bond House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
202 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
Charles H. Bowers, Jr.

Telephone #: 848-5709

STREET & NUMBER
202 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 546
Folio #: 747

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

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

CASR: 362

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The large formerly L-shaped house numbered as 202 East Main Street, Westminster, is, despite its present seedy condition, a fine example of a style once popular in the City.

Facing north onto Main Street, the house is laid in stretcher bond brick above a low coursed fieldstone foundation. Two distinct 2½ story sections present themselves, each with a gabled roof, but perpendicular to each other; the 10 foot projection of the eastern section has been "filled in" by a flat roofed porch. The porch's roof is supported by four white square wooden posts on brick pedestals. White wooden trim creates round arches with spandrals between theposts; these arches have urn pendants at their centers.

The section of the house perpendicular to Main Street is 2 bays wide, with a 3-sided bay window on the ground floor. Each section of this bay window is topped by a full cornice supported by four small brackets between larger end single "cabriole" brackets. Below is a two over two double-hung sash window with simple enframement; below each window is an enriched recessed panel. The entire bay window is of wood. Above the bay are two 2/1 simply enframed windows between white wooden sills and cornices supported by end brackets with, between the brackets, a row of covered wooden flat pendents that look like ducal strawberry leaves. The attic is lighted by a 2/2 window sheltered by a round arched brick hood mold. Mild gingerbread, similar to that of the 202½ cottage (q.v.) decorates the gable.

To the west, the rest of the facade stretches out 3 regularly spaced bays long. On the ground floor, behind the porch, is a modern glass and aluminum storm double door, with two 2/2 windows to the west. These, and all of the windows in this section, have three course gauged flat arches and black louvered shutters. There are three 2/2 windows on the second floor, below a heavily molded cornice. The dark green painted sheet metal covered roof has a recent (c. 1950) asbestos shingle covered box dormer at the junction of the two sections.

The west facade is dominated by the broad gable end of the section parallel with Main Street (the porched section), which, laid in stretcher bond, has two 2/2 attic windows below a continuation of the Main Street cornice, which here projects about two feet from the wall. A large corbel-capped chimney is at the ridge of the gable end. As mentioned, the house originally had an L plan, open to the southwest. During the 1930's, this open area was filled in with a large shed roofed addition, also in stretcher bond but with no eave treatment. The addition has two 1/1 windows towards the nor of its second floor, with a 272 window below them and a 1/1 window to the south of that. All these windows have simple enframement with white wooden sills and 3 course gauged flat arches. However, the 1/1 windows are, curiously

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Photos - see 202 E. Main Street CRSR 568

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	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James A. C. Bond

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built on the residence for James A. C. Bond, a prominent local lawyer, early photographs show that the house, in its prime, reeked of an atmosphere that might be described as "Early Bull Moose." Certain rooms, filled with stuffed heads of what could pass as water buffaloes, and with heavy rosewood/mahogany furniture, have such a masculine atmosphere that one wonders where the brandy bottle is, and assumes that it was only due to the curdeness of the cameras that no cigar smoke is shown.

The lot itself is less firmly established, being something of an orphan: it was part of a 400' x 180' right triangle between "White's Level," and "New London", and thus, not part of either of Westminster's early "boroughs". Early title information is, therefore, somewhat sketchy Katharine Shellman suggests that "Old Kiz (Kehiah) colored" lived near the present location of no. 202; the Historical Society has a very old photograph of a log cabin standing "at the intersection of Court and Main Streets" which could well be our property. Number 202's neighbors, the Shellman House and no. 198 both antedate the 1830's; Katharine Shellman lists both of these houses, with "Old Kiz" in between. The lot was sold (Deed 30/445, March 5, 1864) by the heir of John Fisher (Fisher seems to figure in every lot's transfer history) to trustees for the benefit of Katharine Shellman, for life, and then for her children. Mrs. Shellman did not die until 1898, but her children divested themselves of this future interest as early as June 11, 1870 (39/307), which Bond acquired 8 years later, October 2, 1878 (50/293). After Mrs. Shellman's death, Bond, after an equity suit between two of her heirs (Ann and Fred Reese, Eq. $4449), took full title on March 13, 1909, and, presumably, then built the house we see. It is difficult to see how, legally, he could have built at any other time. However, it is also clear that someone, at sometime, built a Greek Cross plan house, much smaller than Bond's place, as it is clearly shown on an 1877 plat of the City. Furthermore, the 1887 City directory lists nos. 202-204 as "Bond, James A.C., residence and office."

Further evidence for the earlier date is the house built by Orlando Reese at 189 East Main c. 1880, which in plan and main facade treatment is almost an exact, (if small scale) replica.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-365

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the westerly half of lot 46 of "White's Level" as ammendened, located about 40' west of the intersection of Sycamore Street and East Main Street, Westminster.

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
November, 1976

ORGANIZATION
Westminster Historical Sites Survey

TELEPHONE

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

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

extremely elongated and narrow; one almost expects to see archers behind them, aiming their bows at Maybelle's Antique Shop.

The south front of this addition has one 2/2 similarly arched window in the center of each of its two floors. To the east, above a miasmic junkyard heaped with old cars and washing machines, is the rear of the "perpendicular" section - 2 stories tall, shed roofed behind a 2-tiered porch. The porch, which helps separate the building from its environment, is supported by slender turned columns and creates a second story balcony and top desk with XXX railings. Each floor of this 3 bay section is identical - a door to the west and two windows to the east; all windows and doors are of glass and aluminum, designed to keep out storms.

The east front's deep green roof is pierced by a 2/2 window within a shed roofed dormer; the dormer is covered with green imbricated shingles. Below are two 2/2 simply enframed windows on the second floor, and one similar window to the north on the ground floor. Towards the south of the ground floor is a white wooden box oriel window. The oriel has a full cornice and four identical 2/2 windows - two to the east, one on the north and south. Beyond, the eastern edge of the rear porch has been filled in, with glass on the second floor, and with clapboard on the ground floor; the latter has two openings - a 2/2 window to the south, and a half-glass (two-paned) half-wood door to the north.

In any event, Bond's widow sold the place on July 1, 1943, (181/374) to Charles M. Bowers, Sr. & Jr. as tenants-in-common; the younger Bowers has full title today.

In its present seedy state, Bond's house has lost much of its former swagger. Where it once must have jostled its more traditional 3 and 5 bay neighbors for position, today it actually seems to cower back from their almost feminine respectability. Still, its set-back makes a nice street rhythm, as does the pointed white peak of its perpendicular section's gable.

CARR 368

202 E. Main St.
Watrousville

interiors

c. week 10/76

c. 1910