

JOHN BEAVER'S SHOP AND HOUSE

126 EAST MAIN STREET

Probably built by the Weaver Family around 1845, the small 2-bay, gable-roofed building, with its adjacent studio, were owned by 3 generations of the sculpting Beaver Family between 1858 and 1910. (The house has, in fact, only been owned by 3 families.) The exterior of the house is of interest for its diminutive size, and for the rich granite sills and steps, the latter doubtless a result of the occupation of the owners. This abundance of fine stone and talent also would help to explain why this 5 room "British Cabin" brick house has such an elaborate ground floor marble mantel - mantels which bear strong resemblance to the ones in the Blizzard House (no. 295 East Main Street) which was being remodelled during John Beaver's era. John Beaver was in the employ of Joseph L. Mathias, founder of a tombstone company that still flourishes; one of Mathias' descendants, F. Kale Mathias, is the present owner of the building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0703 764411

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Beaver's Shop and House

AND/OR COMMON Spring House Kitchen, Inc.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 126 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6

STATE Maryland COUNTY Carroll

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input 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	<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 F. Kale Mathias Telephone #: 848-4244

STREET & NUMBER 198 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 #: 364

STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 758

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

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 126 East Main Street, Westminster, (Beaver's House and masonry yard) fronts the south side of Main Street about 180' east of that street's intersection with Westminster Avenue. The house is a small 2-bay, gable-roofed building that must have been typical lodgings for a skilled worker a century and a half ago.

The north facade is laid in Flemish Bond above a low, roughly coursed fieldstone foundation. The entrance door, the eastern end of 2 regularly-placed, ground-floor bays, is approached by a flight of four marble steps (a rarity, and a seeming extravagance until we recall that Beaver was a master mason and doubtless had much "extra" marble). Today's door is a modern, single-pane glass and aluminum door topped by a 3 course gauged flat arch; a similar arch tops the other ground-floor bay - a one-over-one double-hung sash window with a marble sill - and the small, 3-light, casement window located below the ground-floor window, used to light the cellar. Vertically-aligned, second-floor windows are also 1/1 paned, but have wooden sills (painted white) and 2 course gauged flat arches. Two corbel steps lead to the tarred, tin roof.

The west facade displays the building's two sections - the gable roofed north section, a shed-roofed section to the south. The gable-roofed section has four regularly-placed 1/1 windows (two per floor): windows have 3 course gauged flat arches; those on the ground floor have stone sills similar to those on the main facade. The wall is laid in 6 course common bond and is crowned by a large, flush, corbel-capped chimney at the roof's peak. Simple, metal, architrave trim is at the roof line. (The northern section is largely hidden by a late 19th century, one-story, clapboard building that sets its 3-sided bay window front towards Main Street; it covers what must have been the work yard.) The shed roof of Beaver's house's south section slopes gently to the south and has architrave trim at its edge, similar to the gable's. A small corbel-capped chimney rests a few inches inside the wall, near the gable-roof section.

The south facade was probably once covered by a two-tier porch, 1/4 of which remains (on the west of the second floor). The rest of the second floor porch has been filled-in and covered by sheet metal which is pierced by a single-light casement to the south, and by a board-and-batten door (leading to the porch) to the west. Below, the porch has been enclosed by glass and clapboard - entirely by many panes of glass to the west, and by clapboard, with two 6/6 windows, to the east. There is a central 4-panel door.

In plan, the house originally had 3 rooms in a row per floor, each heated by a fireplace. Two of these marble fireplaces still exist and are extremely handsome (see photos). The house is presently undergoing dras interior remodelling in preparation to becoming a restaraunt-caterer, but the owner is preserving the fireplaces and as much of the fabric "as possible".

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 checked="" 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. 1845

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Weaver Family

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

If Paul Reese's Bank Building (no. 195 East Main) is valuable for the insights it gives us to the life and mind of a turn of the century provincial architect, so no. 126 might give us a view of a contemporaneous sculptor. John Beaver, whom the Westminster Bicentennial Committee called "Our master stone cutter" owned the house between 1878 (Carroll County Deed Book 50, Page 465) and 1910 (115/271). Beaver was the third generation of his family to sculpt, according to an article in the September 19, 1912 edition of the "American Sentinel"; "Jackson, the first, Andrew, his son, and John Beaver, his grandson. The latter learned the business with his father, and had his marble yard, as it was called for many years, on East Main Street." As time permits, effort will have to be spent tracking down examples of his work which, according to the Committee, "still exist in Westminster and throughout the county", but which aren't enumerated. However, the mantels in Beaver's house lead to speculation. In their choice of marble and in the delicacy of the carving and design, these mantels bear strong resemblance to those in the Blizzard House (no. 295 East Main) which was being remodelled during Beaver's era.

Beaver must have led a fairly penurious life, not to say melodramatic - living in the five room "British Cabin" brick house and working in the "semi-detached" stove-heated studio. His LWT indicates that his mother and sisters were in constant attendance on him in his bachelorhood. Therefore, despite the Committee's assurances that examples of his work are ubiquitous, it is easy to imagine that a sculptor was not in great demand, and, therefore, that he could well have spent much of his time making tombstones. (After his death, Joseph L. Mathias, founder of a "Monuments" company that still flourishes, bought the land; the "Sentinel" article notes that Mathias had Beaver in his employ for some time prior to that.)

The house itself was probably built by the Weaver family. David Weaver sold the 30' x 198' plot to George Weaver for \$125 on March 13, 1838 (WW 2/48), who sold it to Andrew Beaver, John's father, for \$8000 (March 29, 1858, 24/1). The increase in price is significant, as is the phrasing "together with the newly erected improvements". Andrew sold the place to his son, John, 20 years later (Dec. 12, 1878, 50/465) for \$900. When John died (LWT 9/583) his mother, as executrix, sold to Mathias (115/271, Sept. 15, 1910) who sold to F. Kale Mathias, its present owner, on September 24, 1963 (364/758). Thus the 130 year old house has only been owned by 3 families.

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 westerly half of lot 17 of the Town of New London,
later incorporated into 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

December, 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
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From the 1907 Westminster City Directory



A marble fireplace at 126 E. Main Street.

Stonecutter Leaves His Mark

By PATTI BAIR
Times Staff Writer

"If Paul Reese's bank building at 195 E. Main St. is valuable for insights it gives us to the life and mind of a turn-of-the-century provincial architect, so number 126 (E. Main St.) might give us a view of a contemporaneous sculptor," remarked Chris Weeks, Westminster's architectural historian.

There lived John Beaver, billed by the Westminster Bicentennial Committee as "our master stonecutter."

Beaver was the third generation of his family to sculpt, Weeks notes, having learned the business from his father, Andrew, and operated a marble yard in Westminster.

Weeks says Beaver's small, two bay, gabled-roofed home, built about 1845, "must have been typical lodging for a skilled worker a century and a half ago." What sets the home apart, perhaps, are the marble fireplaces, known for their delicacy in carving and design.

Beaver did his work in a semi-detached stove-heated studio, often accompanied by his mother and sister, since he was a bachelor, according to Weeks.

While it is believed examples of Beaver's sculpture "still exist in Westminster and throughout the county," Weeks suspects much of the stonecutters time was devoted to making tombstones.

In fact, Joseph L. Mathias, founder of

the Monuments company which continues to thrive here, reportedly employed Beaver for some time, Weeks reported.

Mathias then purchased the property in September, 1910, after the death of John Beaver. Its present owner, F. Kale Mathias, bought the property in 1963.

Today, the building is being put to a modern application as the Spring House Kitchen, serving vegetarian meals.

(This is part of a continuing series of reports about the research of Westminster's architectural historian. Weeks says he welcomes comments on the information, acknowledging much is derived from second-hand sources.)



124

COUNTY
RENTR
6517

CARR 374

126 E. Main St.

Westminster

W. Jacard

C. Weech 12/76

50%



CARR 375

~~126~~

126 E. Main St.

Westminster

N. Juanda

c. week 11/76

B-9

126 E. Main St.

11/76



95%

CAPF 376

~~376~~ (92)

95% ~~376~~.

P. 5660

LXXXV - A

376

Beaver House (brick) and
studio (wooden section
under awning).



CARR 324

126 E. Main St.

Westminster

S. Jucaide

C. Wechs 12/74

53 ~~10~~ / 10



60 91

FIG. CAMERA

• O LINE
O HALFTONE
O DUOTONE

532
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

91 P 60

~~96~~

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53% p. 56 60

~~LXXXV~~

~~LXXXIX~~

Slate and Marble

~~DB~~ Mantel in Beaver House

CARR 376

126 E. Main St.

front ground floor
room - fireplace

(J. Beavers, sculp.?)

C. Week 12/76

94% ~~94%~~ ✕



3

(376)

90

~~94%~~
~~100%~~

p. 55-60

LXXXV

Beaver House + studio c. 1910

as part of Joseph C. Mathias
Monuments Co., showing Mathias,
Company's founder.

(Crop out insert of Mathias?)

A. J. Beaver
Westminster

LXXVIII

CARR
376

97

Detail of Beaver-sculpted
tombstone for Jacob Root;
stone is dated 1861.