

MARY MATHIAS HOUSE

142 EAST MAIN STREET

The north facade of this house can be read as a three-bay, 2½-story, gable-roofed, white clapboard house, with the western most bay an hexagonal tower. As such, as an abstraction, the house acts as a first step away from the civil 3-bay Westminster house, to one of greater freedom. Stripped of its tower, the building is merely a less crisp version of, say, 226 East Main Street. No. 226's cornice dentils have given way (voguishly) to modillions and brackets, and its simple door has become aswirl with applique. But, for all these trappings, it retains a simple soul - its builder felt the need to experiment, but did not see the need to abandon the basic form. Nor did she find it desirable to be as free with the old form as would later happen at no. 228 East Main Street, which could be interpreted as the next logical step beyond no. 142. The house was built around 1870.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mary Mathias House

AND/OR COMMON

R.T.F. Inc.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

142 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER Surveyors

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

R.T.F., Inc.

Telephone #: 876-1222

STREET & NUMBER

142 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 #: 617

Folio #: 717

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

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 142 East Main Street sits on the southeast corner of the intersection of that street and Lincoln Road in Westminster. Its north (entrance) facade could still be read as a 3-bay, 2½ story, gable-roofed white clapboard house, with the westernmost bay a hexagonal tower. Three sides of the tower are exposed; each side has a double-hung window with a single pane per sash, above a white wooden sill. The windows are set off by black louvered shutters. There is a crude cornice (almost a string course in wood) to divide the tower's first and second stories and a slightly more elaborate bracketed one to divide the second from the third stories, the third story also having three 1/1 windows, but with upper panes of a small central clear pane surrounded by 3 stained glass panes. The pointed roof of the tower is covered with green wooden shingles and topped with a metal flame finial.

The tower's upper cornice is continued across the rest of the building's north facade, separating it from the green tin roof. Below the cornice are four regularly placed bays (two per floor). The 6 panel entrance door, the eastern ground floor bay, is striking not for the door itself, but for its enframingent. The door is flanked by 10 sidelights and topped by 8-light transom which, in turn, is topped by a full denticulated entablature supported by two scroll brackets. The brackets are covered with, and are finished at their bases, by some of the City's finest applique. The other 3 bays (one on the ground floor, two above) have 1/1 windows with white wooden sills and green louvered shutters.

The east facade, on Lincoln Road, has a front gable roofed section to the north, blind except for a 4 light attic window and a 2-story 3-bay extension to the south. The five windows of this section (there is no central second floor window) are 6/6 paned and are treated; identically to the north facade's. Both sections of the facade are crowned by a full massive cornice with a two-foot overhang. At the gable's peak is a large flat-capped chimney flue.

The north front is made up of the extension's gable end, which has two small 6/6 attic windows flanking a flat-capped chimney flue located at the gable's peak. There is a glass and aluminum storm door to the west of the ground floor, but it, and all but the easternmost 10' of the ground floor, is sheltered by a 3-sided shed-roofed clapboard covered shed open to the east. This shed has a 6/6 window on its south wall, and is covered by green asbestos sheets.

The east facade is similar to the western wall, except that the rear extension is nearly filled with a two-tiered loggia. Each floor, behind the loggia, has a southern 6/6 window, and two, four panel doors. That portion of the extension not "loggiaed" has one elongated 4/4 window per floor. The east gable end of the main section has a 4-light attic window, and one 6/6 green louvered shutter on each floor to the south.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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. 1870	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Mary Mathias" house quietly fulfills dual purposes, architectural and city planning, for the City of Westminster. Taken by itself, as an abstraction, the house acts as a first step taken away from the simple 3-bay Westminster house, to one of greater freedom. Stripped of its tower, the building is merely a less crisp version of, say, 226 East Main Street. No. 226's cornice dentils have given way (vogueishly) to modillions and brackets, and its simple door has become a swirl with applique. But, for all these trappings, it retains a simple soul - its builder felt the need to experiment, but did not see the need to experiment, but did not see the need to abandon the basic two-part form. Nor did she find it desirable to be as free with the old form as the Zimmerman's were at no. 228 East Main, which would be interpreted as the next logical step beyond no. 142.

But even if it were harder to find the ancestors and descendants of no. 142, it would have an important role to play - that of attempting restore the streetscapes equanimity after the jolt of no. 140's, the "Opera House" intrusion. Having a street to act as an absolute physical barrier between the "Opera House", and the City's old East End is a help. But no. 142 is a perfect structure to sit on the other side of the street as its prominent round tower and the curves of the house's other decoration (brackets, applique, etc.) is a good bit of gemutlid contrast to the "Opera House", starkness.

Early title information is sketchy. However, Carroll County had agreed to sell the lot to Louisa Shipley for \$475 on February 15, 1869 (the deed is dated February 17, 1873). On February 3, 1873 Louisa and Robert Shipley took out a \$2000 mortgage on the land, certainly indicating the presence of a building (mortgage book 4, page 437). The Shipley's sold the place to Joshua Herring for \$2650 (February 21, 1873, 42/117), who sold it to Joseph Waescke, whom the 1887 City Directory lists as living at 142. The building remained in his family for 90 years (his sisters and grandchildren - Clarice V. Waddell, Katharyn W. Waddell, Maude E. Waddell) through various straw deeds until the present owner took title on March 1, 1976, Deed 617/717.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

50%



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142 E. Main St.

Westminster

N. Jacaranda

C. week 12/76

B-16

53/10



CARR 383

142 E. Main St.
Westminster

S. Jacard

C. Welch 11/76