JACOB UTZ, JR. HOUSE

143 EAST MAIN STREET

The Jacob Utz, Jr. residence is one of many examples of how superlative detailing can make an otherwise standard building a landmark. At first impression, the Utz house is merely another brick, 3-bay, two sectioned, small house. Although the shed-roof porch, which embraces the building on two sides, provides some identity, some touch of individuality, the building might still be overlooked if it weren't for the south facade entablature. Other brick, 3-bay houses in the City have fine wooden cornice work (some with dovetail designs, some with a mild fretwork) but no. 143's is outstanding; with its extremely detailed cornice dentils, and with a band of gouged circles that is strung across the architrave.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 0703844304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Jacob Utz, Jr. House

AND/OR COMMON: Ecker's Insurance Agency

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 143 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN: Westminster ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X 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: Vernon R. Ecker Telephone #: 848-8350

STREET & NUMBER: Pennsylvania Avenue Extended

CITY, TOWN: Westminster ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 380
Folio #: 105

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

CARR-384

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
X_GOOD	__RUINS	X_ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 143 East Main Street (Md. Route 31) sits on the northeast corner of the intersection of that road with Lincoln Road; it warms itself by facing south, diagonally across from the City's old Opera House. It is built in two (contemporaneous) gable roofed sections, one facing Main Street, the other, of almost equal size, perpendicular to it, to the north.

The Main Street (entrance) facade is 3 bays wide between a low coursed fieldstone foundation and a high roof covered with silver-painted corrugated sheet metal. The roof meets the Flemish Bond wall at a delicate 3-part entablature, with a cornice decorated by extremely small (to the point of being invisible) dentils, and an architrave decorated by open-circle molding. Below this are three double-hung sash windows with two-over-two panes; windows are decorated by three course gauged flat arches, white wooden sills, and has a large 2-bay-wide display window to the west, and a single pane glass and aluminum door to the east. The ground floor is sheltered by a 3-sided tin-covered hipped roof porch (its fourth side, of course, is "inside" the building), interrupted only by a pedimental rise to the east, marking the entrance door.

Although the porch is supported by cast iron tracery on the south side, it continues around to the east where it is supported by 4 wooden turned unfluted Doric columns. The ground floor of this facade has a 1/1 window to the south and a glass and aluminum storm door far to the north. The second floor of both sections is blind except for a flat roofed more or less cubic addition (10' x 10' x 10') built over the porch at the extreme north; it has one centrally placed 1/1 window in each of its southern and eastern and northern walls.

Elsewhere on the north facade, it is clear that the building was originally L-shaped, open to the southeast. The original porch has long since been bricked in (clapboard to the north); the present porch was built off of this infill, which has (besides the already mentioned cube's window) one 6/2 ground floor window and one second floor 2-light casement window - both in the clapboard section. The original five course common bond brick north wall is blind below a broad corbel-capped brick chimney located at the gable's peak, flush with the wall.

To the west, the rear section has one centrally placed window per floor (6/6 above, 2/2 below). The Main Street section is more open with four full size windows (two per floor regularly spaced, all but the 6/6 rear second floor windows having 2/2 panes); small one-light attic windows flank the large, brick, flat-capped chimney located, again, flush with the wall at the gable's peak. All windows on this facade continue the treatment foun on the south facade, i.e., 3 course gauged flat arches and white wooden s s. There are 3 randomly placed (2 in the front section, 1 to the rear) cellar windows that also have 3 course gauged flat arches; the windows are now boarded over.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-384

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	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1820 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jacob Utz, Jr. residence is one of many examples of how superlative detailing can make an otherwise standard building a landmark. At first impression, the Jacob Utz house is merely another 3-bay, 2-sectioned, small house. Although the shed roof porch, which embraces the building on two sides, provides some identity, some touch of individuality, the building might still be overlooked if it weren't for the south facade's entablature. Other brick 3-bay houses in the City have fine wooden cornice work (some with dovetail designs, some with a mild fretwork) but no. 143's is outstanding, with its extremely detailed cornice dentils, and with the band of gouged circles that is strung across the architrave.

The diary of Katharine Jones Shellman indicates that, c. 1830, near this spot was the "residence" and "saddle shop" of Jacob Utz (Jacob Utz, Sr. lived further up Main Street). There is less doubt as to location when, in Carroll County Deed Book 32, Page 455, Charles Martin, Utz's executor, sells lot 37 in New London, "being all the land which Jacob Utz died siezed" to Henry Grammar for $3,000 (November 8, 1865). Grammar then sold the lot to Isaiah Nusbaum (41/301, May 31, 1872) who divided the lot, selling the western 28' to Winifred K. Fringer on April 13, 1881 (55/32) for $1,975. This is our property, and it almost certainly is Utz's residence, the "saddle shop" having been torn down to make way for 147 East Main (q.v.). Due to a mortgage default, the house was sold at a public sale to William A. Krouse (69/392, April 23, 1889) for $1,870. More sheriff's sales would occur (103/363, 147/445, 156/151, dated 1906, 1926, and 1931) until title vested in J. Daniel Englar on October 23, 1953 (226/206). Englar sold the property to Mary F. Fleming on October 25, 1963 (366/110), who gave a Power of Attorney to Helen F. Redmiles who sold to the present owner on October 21, 1964 (380/305).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-384

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 37 of the town of New London, later incorporated into Westminster, on the northeast corner of the intersection of East Main Street and Lincoln Road.

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

88% + 52%

CARR 384

143 E. Main St
Westminster

S. Jacob

C. Weck 12/76

History
Ch. 4 - 88%

70

P. ~~24~~ 26

Inventory # ~~384~~ B-17
Section B-(~~p. 13~~)
52%

XXXVII

31 out?

CARR 384
143 E. Main Street
Westminster
S. Jacob, comic
detail
C. Weck 12/76

XXXVIII

detail -

(please crop)

CARR 384

143 E. Main St.

N. facade

C. Weeks 11/76