

## THE METHODIST PARSONAGE

152 EAST MAIN STREET

The two-story, deep red brick building no. 152 East Main Street fronts the south side of that thoroughfare about 180' west of its intersection with Center Street in Westminster. Built during the 1890's for Westminster's Centenary Methodist-Episcopal Church, the parsonage is a fine example of continuity of style - of how a traditional design can be retained, but modernized to fit current aesthetic needs. The traditional design is clear - the 2-gable roofed symbolic. The Weaver family, who had owned the land the garage sits on since the Civil War, chose to build a garage/service station in this flamboyant, somewhat Romanesque style. Their action would certainly indicate a feeling of optimism about the then - dawning Automobile Age. (It seems comparable, if not identical, with the spirit which made the railroad company build their grand stations a generation or so earlier.) The City Garage may not be larger than strict utilitarianism would require, but it is certainly elaborate, with its pilasters, urns, and arched corbel table. Its 1976 decaying condition seems just as open to symbolic interpretation. We have **lost** our enchantment with the automobile - it is, to say the least, no longer an object of wonder and love. Thus, present day garages are generally more functional, **less** romantic in design, as benefits the automobile's new status.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Methodist Parsonage

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 152 East Main Street (MD 32) 6

CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Carroll

STATE Maryland COUNTY

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE S
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 Arthur N. Samios Telephone #: 876-1644

STREET & NUMBER 152 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 #: 184  
Folio #: 71

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**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<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**

The 2 story, deep red brick building numbered 152 East Main Street fronts the south side of that thoroughfare about 180' west of its intersection with Center Street in Westminster. The north (principal) facade of the building presents it as a slightly taller than normal version of a standard 3 bay Westminster house, above a low coursed fieldstone foundation. As the western ground floor bay, the double entrance doors sit above a flight of brick steps. As a unit it is topped by a cornice supported by nice, wide, fluted scroll brackets above plain pilasters. The double doors are of dark oak; each has a large single bevelled glass pane. A single-light transom tops both doors. The other five bays are double-hung sash windows (two on the ground floor, three, vertically aligned, above) that have two-over-two panes. Except for the ground floor's windows being elongated, all windows are identically treated with white wooden sills, black louvered shutters, and five course gauged flat arches. The stretcher bond wall is topped by a two-part modillion cornice supported by four pairs of scroll brackets.

The cornice projects about two feet from the wall, which is especially noticeable on the east and west facades. The latter are made of two sections - to the north, the gable ends of the Main Street section, and a four bay deep perpendicular rear wing to the south. Both sections are laid in six course common bond. The northern section has one northern four-light attic window and a simple box cornice. The rear section has seven 2/2 windows regularly placed on its two floors (the third, from the north, second floor window is missing). Windows are similar to those on the north facade's second floor. There is a small (15' x 20') one story flat-roofed common bond addition to the south. It has one 2/2 window in the center of its east and west facades, and two 2/2 windows to the south. A single flight of grey wooden steps rises across the addition's south facade to a second story balcony.

The flat roof of this addition is used as a balcony and is approached from the garden, by a single flight of grey wooden steps rising from the east. It is approached from the building by an awning covered glass and aluminum storm door, which is west of a 2/2 window. The window has a white wooden sill and black louvered shutters, but no arches. Above, and below the roof's box cornice, two 4-light windows flank the interior corbel-capped chimney (located at the roof's peak).

The eastern facade is, in basic form, similar to the western (that is, it shows the two perpendicular sections). The Main Street section, laid in six course common bond, has two 2/2 windows on each floor similar to those on the west. The roof has a large, interior flat-capped chimney at the gable's peak, below the large box cornice that finishes the eaves. The perpendicular section continues the box cornice. (The southern half of this section has two 2/2 second floor windows treated similarly - white wooden sills, black louvered shutters, flat arches 3 courses high.) The ground

**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 checked="" 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 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 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. 1895	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The parsonage, built, during the 1890's for Westminster's Centenary Methodist - Episcopal Church is a fine example of continuity of style, of how a traditional design can be retained, but "modernized" to fit current aesthetic needs. The basic Westminster house is a unit made of two (usually contemporaneous) perpendicular sections. Whether the result is an L-shape (e.g. 296 East Main) or a rectangle (e.g. 226 East Main) depends solely on whether the owner/builder was able to make the front (Main Street) section 5 bays or 3 bays wide; if the former, the result was an L, if the latter, a rectangle. The popular aesthetic demanded (and still to a degree demands) that the principal facade not be topped by a gable end. Such a requirement is natural enough when the principal section is far wider than it is deep, as at 296; its only excuse for being when the entrance section is nearly cubical, as it is here, is the power of custom. (An aside - perhaps this love of seeing a broad roof on the street side explains why the City so eagerly succumbed to Mansard roofs, during their periodic spurts of fashionableness.) So, while the building has certain contemporary features - its elongated double pane windows, its heavy bracketed cornice - it is essentially built from an already - century old design.

Typically, there is near complete title data on the house (on houses of questionable data - is it 1820 or 1790? - title data seems to stop in the 1860's). On November 23, 1798, Henry Stevenson sold four lots, nos. 10, 11, 12, and 13, in New London to Josiah Stevenson (Frederick County Deed Book WR 17, Page 458). Josiah (also called "Josias") sold the same lots to Jacob Mathias for \$2700 on April 23, 1811; Stevenson had purchased them for 4 shillings, plus a yearly rent of 20s. (WR 40/85). They stayed in the Mathias family until 1866 - this acre of land was referred to by Mrs. Shellman as Jacob Mathias' tanyard and residence c. 1830. (Carroll County Deeds 21/80, 26/280) John Boyle, the executor of William Mathias (LWT 3/277) sold 3 of the lots to David Shriver "together with the brick house" on June 7, 1866 (33/277). It is all but certain that the house referred to is not 152, but is 156-8, which is on lot 9, and clearly antedates no. 152. This land, stretching 112 feet along Main Street, was sold as a unit between Shriver's executor, J.W. Herring (Feb. 23, 1881, 53/321), and James Howell Billingslea (Feb. 23, 1881, 53/323).

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 easterly two-thirds of lot 10 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 &amp; 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

floor, below the windowed section, has a central glass and aluminum storm door between modern 1/1 windows. The other half of this section is dominated by the second floor loggia, approached from within the house by a late Victorian half-wood, half-glass door. Below is a central glass and aluminum storm door flanked by a pair of double 6/1 simply enframed windows.

The Methodist Episcopal Church bought the western 30' of the land for \$1000 on June 23, 1891 (73/154) - the 1881 price for the whole tract was \$5000 - and presumably then built their parsonage. (The building does not appear on the 1887 City map, or in the 1887 City Directory.) The Church sold the land to an intermediary, Clarence M. Schaeffer (Sept. 23, 1941, 176/392) who sold it to the present owner on July 7, 1944 (184/71).



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CARR 385

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