CHARLES WANTZ

101 EAST MAIN STREET

Built around 1875, this is one of the largest houses in the City, a point that the original builders, a family of prosperous merchants, certainly would have intended. The house, for all its size, continued the local norm of having 2 perpendicular-gabled sections with a 3-story, 3-bay facade facing Main Street. Certain features help the house escape grossness; the semicircular, leaded, stained glass transom over the entrance door itself, the finely-carved, pelleted door surround, and, perhaps most especially, the architrave row of brick recessed, Greek Crosses that ease the transition from wall to roof to the east and west. This Greek Cross pattern is an interesting 2-generation-later variation on the cornice of the Ecklar House (255 East Main Street).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0704004504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Charles Wantz House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
101 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
101 East Main Street Corporation

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
101 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Westminster ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 575
Folio #: 310

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-400

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

One of the largest houses in the City, 101 East Main Street faces the north side of that street (Md. Route 32) about 180' east of Longwell Avenue in Westminster.

The south (principal) facade is tall above the low coursed fieldstone foundation, and below the heavy bracketed two part modillion entablature. The deep rust brick, laid in Flemish Bond, is broken by three regularly-placed bays on each of the south facade's three floors. The entrance door, the eastern ground floor bay, is recessed about 3' behind an elaborate, heavy, round arched frontispiece, whose white painted carved wood is topped by a thick cornice supported by a pair of ponderous pelleted, scroll brackets. The door itself is topped by a semi-circle of leaded stained glass. To the west, the two other ground floor bays are double-hung sash windows of one-over-one panes; windows are segmentally arched with flat cornices similar, but smaller in scale, to that over the door. (White wood smoothly fills the space between the top of the arch, and the bottom of the cornice and its brackets.) Granite sills complete the windows' trim. A white wooden 2-part entablature approximates a pent-roof separating the ground floor from the two stories above it. A cast iron balcony tops this pent-roof, and is reached by the second floor's three tall French Doors. e doors have arches and cornices which repeat the theme of those on the ground floor. Third floor windows are similarly treated but with white wooden sills and 2/2 panes.

The east and west facades reveal that 101 was built in the customary two sections. A bit more irregularity marks the east facade. The Main Street section laid in 6 course common bond, has one window to the south of the ground floor bay; except for its 1/1 paning it is similar to those of the south facade. Above the twin 1/1 segmental-arched attic windows, the wall meets the gable roof through an elaborate cornice-corbel table of 3 strata of molded brick. The shed-roofed north wing has two sections. Originally, there was probably a recessed two-tiered porch just north of the Main Street section (i.e. similar to that at 252 East Main Street); now it has been covered with white aluminum siding which has four 1/1 windows randomly placed on each of its two floors. Further north, the thin 6 course common bond section has one 1/1 glass and aluminum storm window per floor, each window has a three course gauged flat arch.

Opposite, the west facade has the same molded brick pattern at the top, but is otherwise very different. The Main Street section has three 2/2 windows on as many floors, with a pair of 1/1 windows in the attic. All windows have three course gauged flat arches and white wooden sills. Two corbelled chimneys flank the peak of the gable roof. To the north, the other section continues the molded brick, but adds an extra fillip - a broad "architrave" row, decorated by recessed Greek Crosses. In the center of this

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CAFR-400

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. 1875 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is nothing subtle about the "Wantz House". Built by a family of prosperous merchants, the house seeks to impress through size, not through finesse. Taken on these terms, its own, the house is a success. It is clearly impressive spatially - walking eastward on Main Street, one views the place for hundreds of feet before finally reaching it. As one stands before the house and looks up, the whiteness, the size and the expertness of the carving of the cornices and entablature is indeed marvelous (rivaling the Fletcher House).

Even for all this size, the house escapes grossness, perhaps because it does have certain innovative features, the molded brick cornice is truly splendid, and the rear section's recessed Greek Cross pattern is an interesting (60 - years later) variation on the cornice of the Ecklar House (255 East Main). Further, the swirling stain glass pattern over the entrance door is without peer in the City.

This is one of the scores of lots that passed through the hands of banker-lawyer John Fisher, whose estate passed title to another speculator, Alexander MacIntosh, for $380 (October 14, 1866, Carroll County Deed Book 33, Page 486). Seven years later, MacIntosh sold the lot to Theodore L. Fritchey for a $700 profit (July 28, 1873); Fritchey's trustee sold the place to Caroline V. Wantz, wife of Charles Wantz (March 20, 1880, deed 53/8). The price, $7100, clearly indicates the present of 101 East Main. The Wantzes kept title for 50 years, until Caroline, now called "widow of Charles" sold the house to Cora Bessie Amprazes on March 3, 1923 (141/326). The Amprazes family kept title for 40 years, through a series of straw deeds (147/73, 147/46, 168/332, 304/432) until Popi Amprazes sold to Basil C. Clark on April 13, 1962 (345/299). Clark then sold the place to Smith A. Eckenrode (November 1, 1968, 445/492) who sold to the present owners, the East Main Street Corporation, on July 31, 1974.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-400

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 27 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

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

DATE

December, 1976

TELEPHONE

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

section is one narrow 1/1 window on each of the three floors, with a one 2/2 window to each side; ground and second story windows are elongates.

From the north, it is possible to see how steeply the shed roof of the northern section slopes to the east. This facade, laid in 6 course common bond, has a screened-in second-story porch, with a 4-panel door in its center, with a similar door in the center of the ground floor. The porch is reached by a double flight of grey wooden steps. A broad corbel-capped chimney is in the center of the roof.

50%

50%

B-39

CARR 400
101 E. MAIN ST.
SW facade WESTMINSTER
Checks 2/77

68 %

CXXXIV

143

88%

P.94

CARR 400
101 E. MAIN ST.
WESTMINSTER
SE Jacobs
1/77 C. Weeks

60%

94 144 ● LINE
O HALFTONE
O DUOTONE 609.

PAGE FIG CAMERA SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CXXXV

144

6070

B.92

CARR 400
101 E. MAIN ST.
Westminster
entrance door detail
(S. facade)
C. Weeks 1/77