

ALBION HOTEL

WESTMINSTER

The Albion Hotel, perhaps the City's only, certainly the finest, essay in the Queen Anne style is important for its uniqueness, but is also a critical actor in the town's streetscape. The building's shell presents a superbly solid mass, which is prevented from being too heavy and earth-bound by five strongly ascendant chimneys. In a planning sense, it would be difficult to imagine a better building for the site, one that could better define this important multi-vehicular intersection. The building was once approached, diagonally, by train and (as it still is) squarely, by carriage (horse and horseless). Either way, the old Hotel arrests the eye, making it stop and admire the building for its own sake, as well as causing the eye to make the mind wish to turn the corner formed by the intersection of two state roads at the two-story tower.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carr 4.9
0704194611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

National Hotel; Albion Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1-3 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

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 checked="" 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

Bernard L. Rosenthal

Telephone #: 848-8686

STREET & NUMBER

77 John 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 #: 352

Folio #: 278

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It was once noted, in describing the more residential east end of Westminster, that that City is generally fortunate in having good buildings at its key intersections. The point is again valid here; 2 state roads Rts. 32 and 27 meet here, and their intersection is crossed by the main line of the Western Maryland Railroad, so it is fitting that at this junction there is such a superb Queen Anne pile as the Old Albion Hotel.

The building is dominated by a massive round tower at the building's southwest corner. (The location of the tower is not surprising, as this is also where the roads form the corner that the tower manages to turn so well.) The Main Street facade stretches eastward from this tower about 30 feet. Its ground floor is now modern (or moderne) consisting of large, plate glass windows which flank the centrally-placed entrance - originally, one assumes, the entrance door was parallel with Main Street, now each of the two, ground floor shops has its own entrance door perpendicular to the old one. This commercial area is enframed by white painted brick, and sheltered by a black pent-roof, which continues around the corner about 4 feet along the Railroad Avenue facade. The easternmost five feet of the south facade contain a large, plate glass door (with its almost square transom) which leads to apartments upstairs. The shell of these apartments, at least on the second floor, is marked by curves and balconies. The second floor seems to divide itself in half, the easternmost section contains two, tall, round-arched glassy doors which lead to a narrow, brown and white railed balcony. This section is done in painted brick; the section around the openings is emphasized by being recessed by means of 3-step corbelling, other ornamental brick work, a raised track-like pattern in the center of the section, and dentilling above. This eastern section is capped by a slate Mansard roof, which has a set of double windows in the southern section of its south front, more or less forming a shed-roofed dormer. Windows are double-hung sash, with the upper pane consisting of a single central pane surrounded by smaller panes. The western half of the building has a broad shed-roofed porch across its second floor. Porch decoration includes highly-carved posts with wide, round-arched arches and delicate lattice work. The brown and white paint scheme found on the smaller eastern portion is also present here. A pair of panelled doors opens onto the porch. Above, coming out of the roof, is a shed-roof dormer similar to that described in the eastern Mansard roof. Centrally placed, a smaller shed roof dormer pierces the hipped roof which covers the entire building; the dormer has 2, small, square, single-pane windows. The Hotel's eastern facade is a party wall, but is accented by two chimneys - the northerly one appears to have crumbled, but the more southerly of the two is broad and bulging at its top; three rows of recessed stripes decorate its outer (eastern) side.

Three similar chimneys form the skyline on the western facade, which stretches along Railroad Avenue for 8 bays. All the openings on the ground floor have been covered over, except for a small three-sided bay window to the extreme north, which has on each side, one 1/1 window. On the

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 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 checked="" 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.

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As already indicated, the Albion Hotel is architecturally significant in its own right, and also plays a critical role in the town's streetscape. Queen Anne, a style which found great favor elsewhere in the country, is not very popular in Westminster; the Hotel is, perhaps, the only (certainly the finest) "essay in the style" in the City. The building's shell presents a superbly solid mass, which is prevented from being too heavy and earth-bound by the five strongly ascendant chimneys. In a planning sense, it would be difficult to imagine a better building for the site, one that could better define this important multi-vehicular intersection. The building was approached, diagonally, by train, then squarely, by carriage (horse and horseless); either way, the old hotel arrests the eye-making it stop and admire the building for its own sake, as well as causing the eye to make the mind wish to turn the corner at the tower.

On February 3, 1846 David Englar sold a 50' x 198' lot to Charles W. Webster for \$700 (Carroll County Deed Book JS 5, Page 436). Webster sold the lot to Francis Butler on March 25, 1865 for \$4000 (31/546). This price would certainly indicate the presence of a building; the building was the "National Hotel" and was, according to Mary Bostwick Shellman's essay "The Early Pioneers", pulled down (but when?) to make way for the Albion. Butler's wife, Jane, serving as executrix sold the lot to William B. Thomas and Elias G. Grimes for \$5500 on May 26, 1886 (64/419), then the two of them sold the land, mentioning the Albion Hotel, to W. Frank Thomas on February 30, 1908, for \$10,000 (108/158). The land stayed in the Thomas family until the Union National Bank of Westminster, Thomas' executor (Will 15/545), sold the land to the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore on August 30, 1947; the land is described as being 40' on Main Street and 99' on Railroad Avenue (196/19). The bank sold the property to its present owner, Bernard Rosenthal, on June 25, 1959 (306/292) for \$38,000; Rosenthal reasserted his ownership in a pair of straw deeds - 352/278, and 352/276.

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 western half of lot 12 as shown on a plat of "Winter's Addition to Westminster", recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Book JS 2, Page 195, 196.

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

February, 1977

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

#7

second floor, three, 1/1 windows form the second floor of the tower; there are seven more of them between the tower and the bay, which has, on this floor, a 1/1 window to the north and another one to the south, then a pair to the west, below a shed roof. The Railroad Avenue roof, originally covered with slate, has, as have all the other roofs, been tarred over; it is pierced by three, shed-roofed dormer windows, whose panes resemble those found on the dormer windows of the south facade. The first and third (from the south) dormers have double windows, the second a single, the fourth a triple. The north facade is utilitarian, but has some interest in its single chimney which resembles, in its bulbous shape, the other chimneys. A three-tier fire escape runs over all this facade.

From all sides (except, perhaps the north), varieties of color and texture characterize the building. From the south, one is struck by the deep Tuscan red of the foundation brick, by the white brick, by the brown and white porch, and by the black roof, as well as by the intermingling of shingle, tar, glass, wood, and aluminum. Similarly, from the west, one is impressed by the horizontality of the building, an appearance created almost entirely by color; the continuous deep red foundation creates one stripe, the battleship grey which covers the second and ground floors creates a second, and the black of the roof creates a third. The peeling, white-painted chimneys provide an absolutely necessary vertical element on this facade.



CARR - 4109

CLXXVIII

(612)

12-2



CARR 419

3-5 E. Main St. (et al.)

Waltham, MA

c. 1900

C.C. Hittell Sails



CARR 419
3-5 E. Main St.
Westminster
2/77
C. Weech
S. Jacard



CARR 419

3-5 E. Main St. (et al.)

Westminster

c. 1900

C.C. Hilbert Smith