

JOHN CHRISTMAS RESIDENCE AND RESTAURANT

7 EAST MAIN STREET

The building that, around the turn of this century, housed John Christmas' Restaurant and House, is an interesting variation on the usual local theme. Most buildings built in the City contain an odd number of bays - 3 or 5 - but number 7 East Main Street contains 4. Of course, buildings do exist from this era, c. 1870, with an even number of bays but they were almost built as "duplexes"; a six-bay building, such as 53 West Main Street, would have been built specifically to house two tenants. When ownership or use was individual, invariably the number of bays would be odd. It might be possible to argue (somewhat seriously) that this odd-even distinction has a sensible symbolism. A building of three or 5 bays automatically creates a central axis, and it could be argued that this centrality, this creation of a single central axis, (unintentionally?) symbolizes the singleness of ownership, just as two or more axes might symbolize dual ownership or use. In any event, the three-story, four-bay brick structure now houses the Westminster Rescue Mission Store.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carr 125
0704204511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Christmas Residence and Restaurant

AND/OR COMMON

Mission Store

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

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 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

Westminster Rescue Mission Inc.

Telephone #: 848-0083

STREET & NUMBER

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 #: 525

Folio #: 353

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Christmas building sits on a low foundation, and faces south towards the north side of East Main Street (St. Route 32) about 30 feet east of that street's intersection with Railroad Avenue (St. Route 27) in Westminster. Basically, a 30 x 90 foot flat-roofed block, the three-story building is virtually unchanged on its upper two floors, but very altered on its ground floor.

This ground floor, which has probably always had commercial associations, has recently (c. 1972) experienced another in a long series of remodellings. At present, the ground floor gives the appearance of a one-story, hipped-roof building that has been all but engulfed by the older brick building, leaving only one facade exposed. This rather unsettling effect was achieved by creating hipped roof - pent-roof which covered a brick and glass store front. There is a central set of double swinging doors flanked by 20-light display windows. Fluted pilasters border the door and give the appearance of supporting the centrally-placed "Mission Store" sign.

Above, 4, regularly-spaced, double-hung sash windows light the second and third stories. Windows are one over one paned, and are, somewhat, enlivened by white wooden sills and by gauged, flat-brick arches (four courses tall on the second floor, and a hidden number fall on the third floor). The flat, tarred roof extends about 2 feet to the south; the extension takes the shape of a two-part entablature, and is supported by 20, highly-carved pendented scroll brackets. The brackets are about 3 feet tall; a wide, white wooden background covers the building for its length and their height.

The west wall is a party wall; the east wall is blind; the north facade is composed of utilitarian, corrugated-tin additions.

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 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 checked="" 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. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The building that, around the turn of the century, housed John Christmas' restaurant and house, is an interesting variation on the usual local theme. Most buildings built in the City contain an odd number of bays - always three or five - but number 7 East Main Street contains four. Of course, buildings do exist from this era with an even number of bays, but they were almost always built as "duplexes"; a six-bay building, such as 53 West Main Street, would be built, specifically, to house 2 tenants. When ownership or use was individual, invariably the number of bays would be odd. It might be possible to argue (somewhat seriously) that this odd - even distinction has a sensible symbolism. A building of 3 or 5 bays automatically creates a central axis; it might be argued this centrality, this creation of a single central axis unintentionally symbolizes the singleness of ownership as 2 or more axes might symbolize dual ownership or use. As first noted, such discussions are dangerous to take too far, or too seriously, but are worth at least briefly raising. In any event, Christmas' restaurant does violate the local norm, as well as the use of hifalutin symbolic interpretations.

On November 2, 1858, Samuel L. Myers bought the 1/8 of an acre the building sits on from Charles W. Webster for \$300 (Carroll County Deed Book 24, Page 482). This low price would certainly indicate an unimproved lot, and we can, with some certainty, credit Myers with building the existing structure, with its smooth walls, and coronet-like band of fine brackets. In its original state, the building had shutters (as an old photograph reveals), but it could be argued that the contrast between smooth brick and the existing cornice is sharper when the windows are shutterless. In any event, Myers sold the building on lot 5 to Joseph Hesson on May 20, 1875, for \$5000 (45/221). Hesson defaulted on a note, and Charles Peifsnider, his trustee, sold the building four years later for \$3500 to Elizabeth Warehime (51/361). A contemporaneous plat shows the building with its party wall, with the Albion Hotel, exactly as it sits today. The place stayed in the Warehime family until Daniel E. Warehime passed title to John Leffert on October 3, 1912 for \$10,000 (120/392). Leffert died, leaving the property to Mary Leffert (in will 11/563), who sold it on January 3, 1919, to Haskill Feldman, et. al. for \$9000 (133/281). The next few years are sad ones for the building, and sadder for its owners, as there is a series of judgements on defaulted mortgages and other deeds of trust until Eli Bachman took title on January 31, 1947

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 30' x 90' southeastern corner of lot no. 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

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall- Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

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

#8

(197/350). (These misfortunes are recorded in deeds 137/173, 143/82, 176/25, and 187/148). Bachman sold the lot, described as being 30 x 90, feet, to Harry LeRoy Yingling, Jr. on January 29, 1963, (355/572); Yingling passed title to the building's present owner on October 28, 1972, in deed (525/353).



Photo by Mitchell

CARR-420

JOHN CHRISTMAS RESIDENCE
+ RESTAURANT

7 E. MAIN ST.
WESTMINSTER

C-2

CARR-420



CARR 420

64°/o



CHRR-420

#185

~~CLXXX~~

P. 104 ¹⁰⁰ 64%

(420)