28-30-32 West Main Street

The buildings 28-30-32 West Main Street stretch along the north side of that thoroughfare in row house fashion. It is probable that the center is the oldest of the three, dating from around 1875, and that the others were added c. 1880, and c. 1900. In any event, this conscious striving for facade repetition makes the row rare in the City. Each building takes a similar 2-story, 3-bay, brick shape, and all have florally-decorated plaques under their eaves.

Carr 426
0704264611

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: John H. Keen, Store - R. C. Matthews Bazaar

AND/OR COMMON: Maryland Saddlery - Sew Business - Colonial Jewerly Company

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 28-30-32 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN: Westminster ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7

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: George W. Albaugh Estate Telephone #: 848-4010

STREET & NUMBER: c/o Albaugh and Babylon Grocery Company - 10 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN: Westminster ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 119
Folio #: 49

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

CA88-166

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
X_GOOD	__RUINS	X_ALTERED (On ground Floor only)	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The buildings 28-30-32 West Main Street stretch along the north side of that thoroughfare (St. Route 32) in row house fashion. It is probable that the center (no. 30) is the oldest of the three; in any event, this conscious striving for facade repetition makes the row rare in the City.

It seems the brickwork, between the buildings, makes it clear that each was built separately, following the lead of no. 30. The basic form is a shed-roofed, two-story box with shops on the ground floor and apartments above. The ground floor facade on each building consists, basically, of a more or less central door between large plate glass display windows, with a sign above; the size of these display windows varies a bit, with no. 32, the jewerly store, having the smallest. Between nos. 30 and 32, a half/glass half/wood door leads to apartments above. The door has a squarish, three-paned transom above. Each building's second floor is identical; five course common bond brick painted white, pierced by 3 elongated, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows with white wooden sills and three course gauged flat arches. (The south facade of no. 32 has a fourth bay because of the presence of the door - stairway hall.)

Above, between the top of the arches and the roof, is the building's most intriguing feature. A white wooden cornice runs the length of all three buildings and is supported by long, cabriole-shaped brackets which are united at their bases by a narrow continuous string course of turned wood. The brackets are placed alternately with the windows, and the space between the brackets is enlivened by a board the same width as the window, but only about 4" tall. Each board has chamfered corners with gouged designs on its face, designs which display the area's Pennsylvania German Heritage; a central four petal (Greek Cross) flower with a slender arrow pointing out on each side. As noted, the intention seems to have been to have these plaques placed above each window; this was achieved on all buildings but no. 28, where they are slightly off-center.

The east and west walls are flush with their neighbors', and are, therefore, blind; to the east it is possible to see the northward sloping shed roof which covers all three buildings. The north facades of all three buildings are confused in a jumble of additions; one odd-sized shed leads to the next, which leads to the next, and one's eye becomes confused by the cement blocks, concrete blocks, corrugated sheet metal, wood, and rolled tin surfaces one sees. All this, of course is to be expected on the service ends of a trio of hundred-year-old commercial buildings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-426

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

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1875; c. 1880; c. 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural (and decorative) significance of nos. 28-30-32 West Main Street has been hinted at in question 7. It is rare to find rows of identical buildings in Westminster. It is rare, but not unheard of; some other examples are 132-132½-134 East Main Street, and 183-185-187 East Main Street, but neither of these examples now has the mixed-use interest of nos. 28-30-32. (Of course 132-132½-134 originally had one of its buildings used as a shop.) The other main feature of interest is the series of carved plaques located between the cornice's brackets. Other buildings in the City have also used this area for added decoration, and some have even incorporated geometric Germanic designs, as are found here. But the "elegant simplicity" of the carved design here is striking and relates back to both the Germanic origin of many of the town's inhabitants, as well as to the minimalist nature of the finest of the town's basic forms of building, and how these buildings create their attractive and quiet statements through the use of a few basics.

The land these three structures were built on was part of the Mathias-Orndorff transactions described in the write-ups for 36 and 32-34 West Main Street, q.v. This row of buildings is built partly on lot 16 and partly on lot 17 of the land that repeatedly passed back and forth during the 19th century. The 1877 plat of the City shows the building in approximately the right position on lot 16 to be number 30 here, and, in fact, the 1887 City Directory has one John H. Keen having a store at no. 30 West Main Street. The Directory has no one living at no. 28, and lists, intriguingly, one R. C. Matthews as having a "Bazaar" at no. 32. If a Persian Bazarr could have taken place in such a staid building as today's no. 32, that would place its date at the mid 1880's; no. 28, so far unaccounted for, could not date from much after the turn of the century. Our three buildings were sold out of the Orndorff estate by Joseph D. Brooks, trustee, to George W. Albaugh on March 26, 1910 (see equity record 4396, and Carroll County Deed Book 114, Page 49). Albaugh, whose estate presently controls the lots, paid $8000 for them.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-426

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 16 and the easterly third of lot 17 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

DATE
February, 1977

ORGANIZATION
Westminster Historical Sites Survey

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER
c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

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

PS-1108

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MARYLAND S

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28-30-32 W. Main St.
Westminster
2/77 S. Jacobs
C. Weeks

CARR 426
28·30·32 W. Main St.
Westminster
N. facade 2/77
C. Wecker

45 1/0

C-14

CARR 426
28-30-32 W. Main St.
Westminster 2/77
S. Jacobs
C. Weeks

MARYLAND SADDLERY, INC.
28 WEST MAIN ST
548-1239
NESS

CARR 424

28-30-32 W. Main St.

Westminster 2/77

S. Jancsko

C. Weeks