

01/15/02

MONTOUR HOUSE

59 WEST MAIN STREET

The 3 story, 5-bay, 2-sectioned Montour House is one of the last remaining vestiges of the buildings that once made Westminster a city of hotels and inns. Several of the oldest have gone to make a way for gas stations and used car lots, and those that remain have all been more or less relieved of their hostelry roles. Of the few that are left, perhaps the Montour House, built in 1868, comes closest to maintaining any sense of continuum, as it still has dining facilities on the ground floor and apartments above.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Montour House

AND/OR COMMON

Montour House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

59 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Albert K. Ross

Telephone #: 829-1770

STREET & NUMBER

101 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Airy

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 577

Folio #: 400

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE

October, 1964

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Society of Carroll County

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Montour House, a 3-story, L-shaped building, stretches its 5 bays along the south side of West Main Street (St. Route 32) about 60' west of that street's intersection with John Street in Westminster. Although its residents today are permanent, not transient, the building's blue-grey painted bricks form one of the sharpest reminders that Westminster was once a City of hotels.

The ground floor on the north (principal) facade has recently undergone drastic alterations. The ground floor can be read in two sections, each section 10' tall: the lower 10' consists of a metal "linen-fold" arrangement with a glass and aluminum entrance in the center; an equal-sized, shake-shingle "roof" extends about a foot beyond the linenfold. This arrangement runs the entire length of the north facade's ground floor, and wraps around about 10' to the east and west. The name of the restaurant, "Montour House", appears on the shingled section on each of the three sides, written in Ye Olde English Manner. The other two stories of the north facade have 5, double-hung sash, 2/2 windows per floor. The windows have white wooden sills, and those on the second floor have white wooden lintels. The brick on this facade is laid in Flemish Bond. Above the brick, easing with the wall's meetir with the gable roof, a molded modillion cornice tops the building.

The east and the west facade of the Main Street section are identical; each has three, 6/6 windows regularly spaced on its 3 main floors and three, 6/6 windows lighting the attic. The main floor windows are all regularly sized, and have white wooden lintels and sills. Those of the attic also have lintels and sills, but range in size from being almost standard size in the center to about half size on either end. The west facade stretches back flush with the west wall of the main section and has 3 windows on each of its 3 stories; windows are treated similarly to those described elsewhere.

The rest of the building is more utilitarian and more altered. The south front of the L has two 1/1 windows on its top floor within the gable, flanking the small flat-capped chimney which rises at the peak about 5' inside the edge. It is probable that a two-tiered porch filled the central part of the L-space (or, one could say that 2 porches met in this space at 90° angles). The porch is still fairly intact on the third floor, having been screened-in, and has its plain balusters. However, the eastern 6 feet or so has been filled in and covered over by aluminum siding; the infill has one 6/6 window on each of the second and third stories of the Main Street section. The original windows on the south facade are also 6/6; there is one of these on each of the second and third stories, and they are both treated similarly to those on the north facade. Matching windows are found on the second and third stories of the east front of the L, towards its rear beyond the porch. The

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CARR-432

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 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 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

1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As mentioned in question 7, the Montour House is one of the last remaining vestiges of the buildings that once made Westminster a City of hotels and inns. Several of the oldest have gone to make way for gas stations and used car lots, and those that remain (e. g. the Montour House, Cockey's Tavern, the Albion, and the Westminster) have all been more or less relieved of their hostelry roles. Of these remaining buildings, perhaps the Montour House comes closest to maintaining any sense of continuum, as the Montour House still has dining facilities on the ground floor and apartments above. Architecturally, the building has interesting reverberations on other buildings in the City. Built in 1868, the pile is contemporaneous with the Smith-Fletcher House at 254 East Main Street. It resembles the Smith-Fletcher in size and in form (their south facades are almost identical), but it is interesting to see how much more exuberant the builder of the Smith-Fletcher was in his use of cornice and bracket carving for ornamentation. By contrast, the Montour House is almost stark, depending on its bulk to impress, and its white lintels for relief. The recent treatment of the principal facade's ground floor is noteworthy; apparently its owners felt that to compete with shopping center business, they ought to give this City building a shopping center appearance. If this scheme works, and if they are able to maintain a sense of history in the rest of the building, one supposes that the move was laudable, although certain questions of value and propriety are certainly raised. The building also works well with no. 53 West Main Street, which matches it in bulk, but excels it in ornamentation. Certain views of this section of Main Street, concentrating on these two buildings' Tuscan Red and Battleship Grey facades create a definite sense of stability (or they did, until one remembers no. 53 is probably scheduled for demolition).

The firm of Orndorff and Lynch leased lot 12 (our property) from the Redemptionists for 99 years on May 13, 1863; their rent was \$18 a year (Carroll County Deed Book 30, Page 23). Evidence is that the Montour House was built 5 years later. On December 27, 1897, George W. Albaugh, as trustee, sold the land for \$1883 to Grove A. Shipley; Shipley was still obligated to pay the \$18 a year rental. Albaugh was associated with the property for the next 20 years as he bought and sold

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 known as lot 12 as shown on a plat of the Catholic Chapel Addition to Westminster, recorded among the Land Records of Carroll County in Book 29, Page 446.

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.

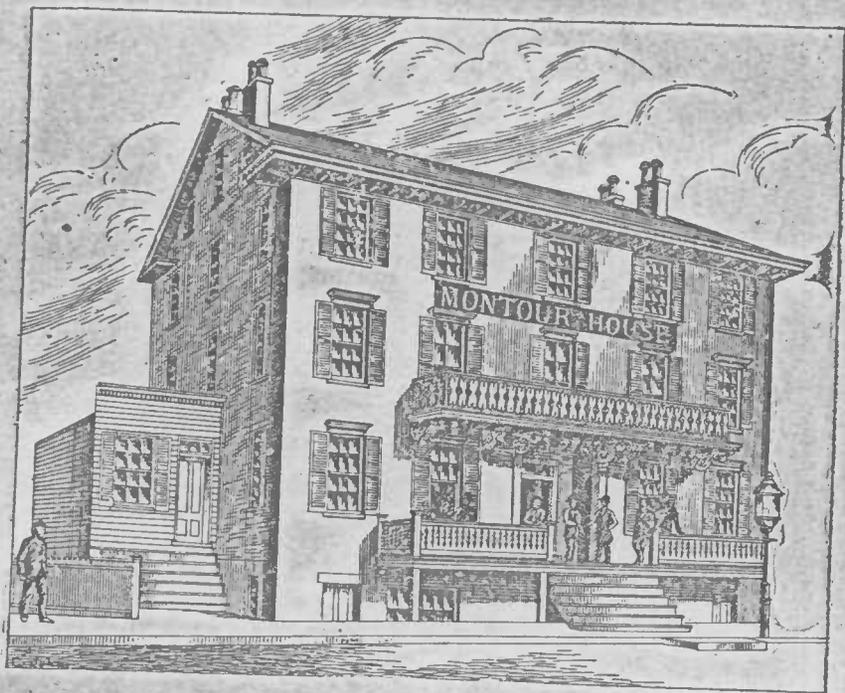
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

#7

ground story has been covered over by a shed-roofed addition which has heating and air conditioning units across its roof. Various iron fire escapes connect the second, third and ground stories.

#8

it, and bought and sold it (Deed 112/180, 134/259, 134/269). Title is divided in half, partly owned by Mary Adams, partly owned by Edward O. Weant, but it all vests in Charles W. Klee by virtue of two deeds; from Weant on January 12, 1924 (143/82), and from Adams on June 25, 1943 (181/345). Klee then sold the land to Benjamin H. Parkinson on January 14, 1946, by deed 188/458, who sold it to Denton A. Arbaugh and wife the same year, October 28, 1946, in deed 192/382. Gladys E. Arbaugh, Denton's widow, sold the land to the present owner, August 28, 1974 in deed 577/400. It is interesting to note that all these deeds mention the \$18 a year ground rent, although the original lease that had this as the rent would have expired in 1962, and there has not been any record of renewal. One supposes that the property's recent owners have all been antiquarians, but antiquarians with a penchant for shake-shingles.



MONTOUR HOUSE.



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44 5/2
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CARR 432

"Montour House"
Westminster

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C. Weeks



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Westminster