ASCENSION EPISCOPAL RECTORY

35 COURT PLACE

The Old Ascension Episcopal Rectory still sits at the spot in the City of Westminster where Court Street fans out to become Court Square. The house is basically an L-shaped house, a popular style here in the late 19th century, with such other fashionable deviations as a three-story mansard roof tower at the formation of the L. The east front of the building, facing Court Street, shows a three bay extension to the north, with a gable end of the L spacing. Originally a porch was strung from the end of the gable roof section to the end of the stroke, but the porch has recently been filled in and is now used for offices. The door is in the center of this facade (a concession to the demands for symmetry); it is a double door of many panels below a fine stained glass transom. Smooth pilasters flank the door and scrolled pelleted brackets flank the transom. The porch was covered by a flat in roof, which still exists, having a bracketed molded cornice. One carved post sits at the edge of the porch to the north today.

CARR 765
MACI # 0704653608

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Ascension Episcopal Rectory

AND/OR COMMON
L. Awalt Weller Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
35 Court Place

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
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__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
L. Awalt Weller

Telephone #: 848-4478

STREET & NUMBER
Willis and Center Streets

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 #: 524
Folio #: 38

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

CARF-465

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Ascension Episcopal Rectory still sits at the spot in the City of Westminster where Court Street fans out to become Court Square. The house is basically an L-shaped house, a popular style here in the late 19th century, with such other fashionable deviations as a three-story mansard roof tower at the formation of the L. The east front of the building, facing Court Street, shows a three bay extension to the north, with a gable end of the L spacing. Originally a porch was strung from the end of the gable roof section to the end of the stroke, but the porch has recently been filled in and is now used for offices. The door is in the center of this facade (a concession to the demands for symmetry); it is a double door of many panels below a fine stained glass transom. Smooth pilasters flank the door and scrolled pelleted brackets flank the transom. The porch was covered by a flat in roof, which still exists, having a bracketed molded cornice. One carved post sits at the edge of the porch to the north today.

The tower gives the impression of rising out of the door, and has one rounded, arched 2/2 window in the center of each of its two stories, to the east and south. The windows are enlivened by white wooden sills and molded round arched brick hoods. The string course, decorated by a recessed brick panel, runs between these two stories. The mansard roof of the tower, also covered in green tin, has a bracketed cornice similar to the porches, and a fine crown molding. Originally there were two 2/2 windows per floor to the south of the tower-door; two still exist on the second floor. These have 3 coursed gauged flat arches and gray louvered shutters. The infill of the porch has a pair of 2/2 archless green shuttered windows in its center.

Towards the Court House, to the north, is a 3-sided bay window on the ground floor. This window has one 2/2 window on each of its facades above a recessed brick panel below and a bracketed cornice above. Fine elongated turned columns are placed between each window. A "Swiss Style" railed balcony surrounds the flat roof of the porch to protect those who wander from the double set of French Doors in the center of the second story. These doors are sheltered by a single denticulated cornice and flanked by green louvered shutters. On the third floor the attic has a pointed, arched two-light window in its center within the gable end; as the brick molding of the hood is round-arched over the round arched windows, so it is pointed here. A simple pendent bargeboard marks the peak of the gable with a pendent dropping off in front of the attic window. The attic of the other section has an interesting of pointed arched elongated windows with a diamond-shaped stained glass piece between their tops creating the impression of a single pointed arched window. This window, as are the attic windows in the mansard roof tower, is finished by a carved, turned spindel. A similar spindel marks the peaks of various gables in the house, that to the east and that to the south. The south gable resembles the gable near the Court House; it has the same spindel on top, the barge-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-465

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	X 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
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1880 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical and religious significance of 35 Court Place, the old Ascension Episcopal Church Rectory is bound up with and dependent upon the history of the Church itself (see Md. Historical Trust Number CARR 66). John Fisher's widow, Anna E. M. Maulsby, sold this 30,000 square foot plot to the Vestry of the Parish of Ascension on February 23, 1876 for a thousand dollars; the Church began work on the rectory building in that year. The building remained a rectory until the church sold it on May 7, 1912 for $5200 to Vincent W. Power (Carroll County Deed Book 119/493). It stayed in his family for thirty more years; Power willed it to his daughter, Regina Tubman, and her heir, Vincent Tubman, sold the place, less the chapel lot, to D. Sterling Young on September 17, 1946 (191/487). Young's personal representative, Louise Y. Thomas, sold the place to its present owner, L. Awalt Weller, on October 6, 1972 (524/38). Weller built several additions to the property to better house the building's new legal occupants.

Architecturally, the old rectory is significant in Westminster for its singular appearance. Its basic plan, that of an L with the gable of one L facing the street, is not at all unusual; several other buildings in the City of that era share the same plan. What distinguishes this pile, however, is its Gothic detail (a result of the fine Gothic Church itself?), and, perhaps more especially, the three-story, mansard-roofed tower. Number 202 East Main Street, the former residence of James Bond, shares plan and scale with the rectory (and even approaches it in detail) but stops short of this tower. Of course, buildings elsewhere in the country had been employing towers for a generation before the rectory was built, but this is the first instance of such a use in Westminster. As such, it bespeaks some acceptance in the City of outside trends, and indicates, for better or worse, that the City was losing some of its provincialisms. (Of course, it also meant that the City's traditional building form was weakening its grip.) It is worthy of mention that it took an institution as strong as the Episcopal Church to introduce such modernisms into the Westminster's streetscape; the only private houses built at this time that departed from the norm, were the two Reifsnider mansions, and, perhaps, to a lesser extent, the Roberts-Brown-Adams House (also located on Court Square).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR-465

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the northerly half of a lot described as Episcopal School Church on an 1877 plat of Westminster located at the southwest corner of Court Square in that City and containing approximately 17,000 square feet.

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: August, 1977

ORGANIZATION: Westminster Historical Sites Survey

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

PS-1108

board decorations, the same attic window, the same second story double-hung windows (windows here, not French Doors) and the same three-sided bay on the ground floor.

A modern cinder block addition extends to the west here. It is one story and is with 2/2 windows in its center. The north front of the building, facing the Court House, has also been altered; it originally extended back three bays with a two bay recessed porch to the rear; this front section still exists pretty much as originally built with a bay window - French Door - Swiss railing, similar to that on the eastern and the western section of this building. Four 2/2 windows, two per floor are spaced to the east. Ground story windows have denticulated cornices, second story windows have three coursed gauged flat arches. All windows have white wooden sills and green louvered shutters. The attic pedimented dormers contain a pair of 6/6 windows each (there are two dormers) and the dormers are covered in grey asbestos tile. The rear section, which was originally a porch, is still a porch on the ground story having a central rectangular transomed panel door with a 2/2 window to its east and two 2/2 windows above the tin roofed shed. The porch has simple railings and posts with modestly carved brackets. An extension dating the same time as the cinder block extension extends to the west; it is sheathed in clapboarding and is lighted by three sets of 2/2 grey shuttered windows, two sets to the north and one to the west. The entire building sits on low coursed fieldstone foundations, except for the modern extensions which rest on cinder blocks. Despite the many additions to the exterior of the building, and to the interior (as it has been divided up to be used by a multitude of legal-banking organizations), the house, with its fine locust and maple trees, retains much of its original quiet air, as can be gleaned for a comparison of the present building with an 1887 engraving of the place.

~~S.S.~~ 4 68% J6

~~CLXXIV~~

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S.S.

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~~#465~~ - Inventory Sec. 'J'

~~p. 49~~

J-6

68%

CAAR 465

35 N. County St.

Westminster

E. Jacobs

5/77 C. Weeks