

## GEHR HOUSE

### 20 BOND STREET

Thus the view one gets of 20 Bond Street, and the impression one takes away from it, depends on whether one sees the pile from Bond Street through the leaves of Belle Grove Square or from West Green Street. In either event, one takes away impressions of movement, of the basic local style punched and pushed and stretched in all directions still it becomes a very sculptural piece. The progress from 226 East Main Street to 228 East Main Street (both q.v.) is maintained, and further, here. The broad gables and wealth of decoration thereon, and the tower, all add enormous interest to the pile.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC Gehr House  
 AND/OR COMMON \_\_\_\_\_

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 20 Bond Street  
 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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 Oscar C. Essich (Albert Essich) Telephone #: 848-5781  
 STREET & NUMBER 41 West Green 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 #: 242  
 STREET & NUMBER Center Street Folio #: 349  
 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**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(From last alteration)	

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This is another important building, due to its location, on the Westminster streetscape. It is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Bond and West Green Streets in Westminster, across from the northwest entrance to Belle Grove Square. This site means that building will have two full street facades.

The Bond Street (east facade) is an example of how plastic the basic three bay clapboard house became as the 19th century wore on into the 20th. The first two floors are ordinary: a southern many-paned glass door within a simply-enframed rectangular-transomed scroll pelleted bracket cornice. The five double-hung sash 1/1 windows (three on the second floor, two on the first floor) all regularly align. Windows have white wooden sills and flat louvered shutters; those on the first floor are ennobled by a simple denticulated cornices. Above the white weatherboard facade, a large gable covers the entire facade. The gable possesses three elongated windows in its center; windows are basically one over one paned, the upper pane of which consists of a central stain-glassed panel, surrounded by smaller stained glass squares. Extremely elongate brackets run in an almost Mannerist way, along the entire height of these windows to the upper Isosceles triangle, the top of the dormer. This has a central X in the center and wooden sunbursts around. The gable below is covered with imbricated shingles. (Interestingly, this dormer is a model of geometry; three windows form a perfect square, with congruent Isosceles triangles to the side and above.) There is one 1/1 window on the second floor of the south facade.

The north facade of this section consists of a three story conical roof octagonal tower. The tower, on its three exposed sides, has one elongated 1/1 window; these are simply enframed on the first and second floors but are somewhat enlivened by round arches in the third story. The section of the tower on the third story that rises from the roof, yet is not large enough for a window, is sheathed in imbricated shingles.

Despite the fact that this house ought to work according to streets (one main facade for each of two main streets which form the lot) it is actually formed in halves east and west - not, as one might expect, north and south, which the streets would dictate. The western half is approached from West Green from the north. The Green Street facade can be thought of as halves: there is a two story squared bay window to the east which has three 1/1 windows to the north and one each to the east and west. The rest of the facade on the two stories has one 4/4

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 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                      Several                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

We often noted elsewhere that most of Westminster's intersections have buildings worthy of their locations. This is true here, although the approach is rather different. Where most buildings, such as the Albion Hotel at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Main Street, attempt to serve their role as corner pivots by maintaining a smooth flowing, yet single facade on one building, here the facade is split among what seems to be two equal buildings, one fronting Green and one fronting Bond Street. Interestingly, this is the same thing that happened across the park in another two buildings. Thus the view one gets of 20 Bond Street, and the impression one takes away from it, depends on whether one sees the pile from Bond Street through the leaves of Belle Grove Square or from West Green Street. In either event, one takes away impressions of movement, of the basic local style punched and pushed and stretched in all directions still it becomes very sculptural piece. The progress from 226 East Main Street to 228 East Main Street (both q.v.) is maintained, and furthered, here. The broad gables and wealth of decoration thereon, and the tower, all add enormous interest to the pile.

Early history of the lot is confusing; it changed hands six times between 1868 and 1878 when Louisa Shurb sold to Amanda Marsh on August 27, 1878, Carroll County Deed book 50, Page 206. Miss Marsh then sold on November 26, 1887, to Denton S. Gehr for \$2550 (67/13), yet it is probable that the Gehr Family had been living there for some time, as they are listed as living at 20 Bond Street in the 1881 City Directory. It stayed in the family for 70 years (through deed 160/4009 and wills 14/62 and 17/25) until Edwin S. Gehr sold to the present owner on February 2, 1955.

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 lot number 12 of G. W. Matthews Addition to Westminster as recorded among the Real Estate and Mortgage Records of Carroll County in Book 3, Page 55.

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

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; 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

shuttered window on the second story and a small kitchen window on the ground floor. This long facade is covered by an immense gable which resembles that on the Belle Grove facade, except that it has a much longer base. The rest of this facade consists of a recessed porch located about 10' off the ground. Flights of grey wooden steps with simple balusters lead to the porch which is simply railed. A modest panelled small transomed door leads into this section of the house from the west. Above, the western facade of the house has two 4/4 windows to the south and three on the second story (one located over the porch). The south facade of this section has four regularly aligned 4/4 windows. These, like all regularly sized windows on the house, have black louvered shutters. Grey shingles cover the roof except at the bases of the two large gables which have natural wood shingles.



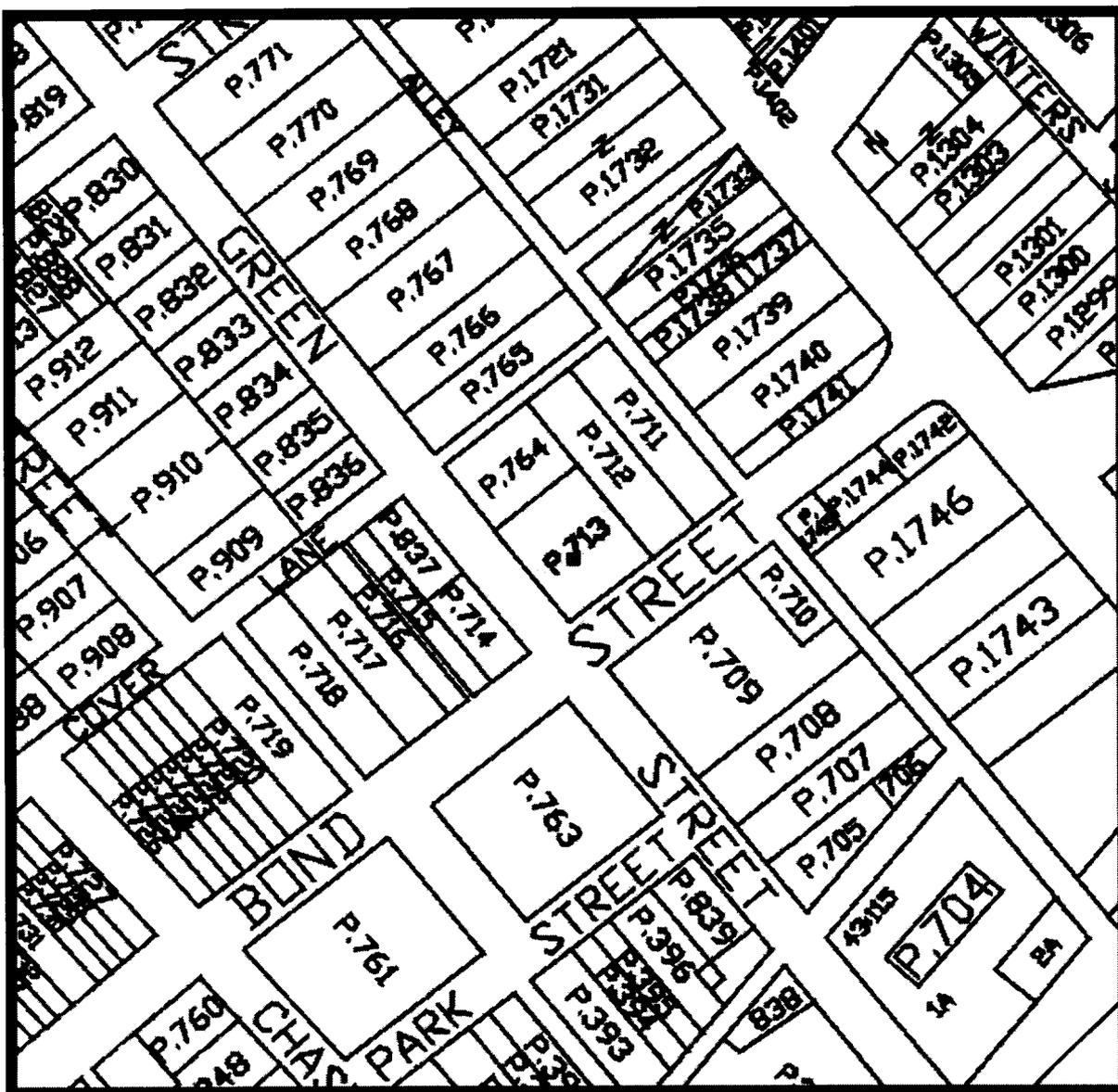
CARR-500



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CARROLL COUNTY  
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District - 07 Account Number - 067968



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web site at [www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html](http://www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html)



CARR-500

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