

UNION STREET M. E. CHURCH

UNION STREET

The five course common bond brick bulk of the Union Street M. E. Church faces the east side of that street about halfway between the street's intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street in Westminster. The gable roofed building rests on coursed fieldstone foundations which become exposed to the rear of the building as the site slopes away from Union Street. A c. 1870 photograph of Union Street reveals that the building was originally a two bay by three bay gable roofed structure; and is unchanged except for the later addition of a two story steeple off the front facade directly in that facade's center. The church originally had, it appears, double-hung sash windows, with clear two over two panes. Later these later changed to colored glass, probably around the turn of the century. Perhaps the finest, certainly the most idiosyncratic feature of the building is the eaves' treatment. The sides of the building were built to be topped by a broad entablature of rather free form. Four step corbelling eases the move from the wall to the roof and the corbelling is enlivened by a row of brick dentils in its middle (composed of header bricks) and by larger drip "dentils" are three stories tall and square. On the front of the building this large drip molding continues, but becomes double as a second twin layer is built on its outside, but raised about a foot, creating interesting three dimensional and light-shadow effects. All this extremely intricate brickwork is original and unchanged, except were covered by the 15' x 15' x 2 story steeple-tower. The church's northern roof is pierced by a corbel capped chimney which rises about 5' within the brick wall, about halfway down its length to the north.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Union Street M. E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Union 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 Western Maryland College Telephone #: 848-7000

STREET & NUMBER Westminster

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Office Building

Liber #:
Folio #:

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 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

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The angle of the old photograph does not reveal what the original door was like. The present door, in the center of the tower, is a double eight-panel door topped by a tall transom which repeats the art nouveau patterns of the windows. All windows are topped by three course gauged flat arches, except on the tower.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CARR-503

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 checked="" 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 c. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The brick Union Street M.E. Church has served the local black community in Westminster since the early mid-19th century. The clean lines of the compact structure are made up of a gable roof building two bays by three bays in dimension that is, with one exception, unaltered from its original appearance. This single alteration consists of a two story bell tower-steeple, located in the center of the principal facade. The tower was built off of the older fabric, not into it. The fairly simple lines of the building are given interest in the entablature that surrounds the building. This interesting use of decorative brickwork with its header dentil and three story three coursed large drip rows, is of interesting design in an area noted for its brickwork. The super-imposed steps that rise on the end facades walls create a type of motion that anticipates, by three generations, streamlining of the 1930's.

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 a lot without an acre on the east side of Union Street halfway between that street's intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue to the north and Main Street to the south.

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	September, 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

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History P. 5658

Inventory #503 - Section F-19
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