

EDWIN K. GERNAND HOUSE

21 NORTH COURT STREET

Although the Gernand-Clemson House, 22 North Court Street, is now covered in aluminum siding and altered by the presence of later additions, doors, and windows, enough of the original fabric is present to make it easy to visualize the house's original appearance. It had a fine frame five-bay by two-bay main section with a small L off of the northwest corner. The main facade was given interest by the delicate pendanted brackets which support the denticulated cornice. The house has always had legal associations, which continue to the present day. When the c. 1870 house was a residence, the owner's law office was according to his daughter, entered from the south, from Winter's Alley. In a community planning sense, a former owner noted in an oral interview that the original northwest boundary stone of the first small town of Westminster was located in the rear garden of the building. (The garden, and the marker, have since been paved over.)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Edwin K. Gernand House

AND/OR COMMON

Clemson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

21 North Court 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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

Ralph G. Hoffman

Telephone #: 848-6767

STREET & NUMBER

561 Washington Road

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 #:

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 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

Now covered in white aluminum siding, and with additions here and there about the building, 22 North Court Street, the Gernand-Clemson House, was originally an L shaped frame structure which then, and now, sits on high coursed fieldstone foundations. The principal section of the building consists of a two-bay by five-bay two story tall gable-roofed piece with its long dimension fronting Court Street. The entrance door is the central ground story bay and is now a glass and aluminum storm door between side lights and a small rectangular transom. The door is simply enframed and is approached by two flights of brick steps, one from the north one from the south. This porch replaces the original porch, which was covered and embellished by turned columns and swiss-style railing. The door is flanked by matching double-hung sash windows, two on each side, which are simply enframed, and paned six-over-six. The windows are flanked by green aluminum louvered shutters. The second floor has a row of five 6/6 windows which are treated similarly to those below; second story windows are aligned with the windows and door below. The front facade is topped by a fine two-part denticulated entablature which has pairs of pendants scroll brackets placed alternately with the window.

The south front, fronting Winter's Alley, originally had two four light attic windows placed within the gable, and a 6/6 window on the second floor towards Court Street. A storm door is placed below the second story window. The door originally led to the owner's law office. A two story porch once shaded the rear: it has been filled in with a row of glass single paned casement windows on the second floor. The north facade has regularly placed 6/6 windows towards Court Street in the Main section, with two similar windows placed in the rear section.

The house has always had legal associations; thus the presence of the one story cube-shaped office to the north is not surprising. This office is approached from the north by a single flight of wooden steps which leads to a door it is flanked by pairs of eight light casement windows. This office was, however, originally a porch. These windows also light the Court Street facade of the flat roofed office. The principal section is given an extra sense of symmetry by the placing of matching corbel-capped interior end chimneys, which rise through the green rolled tin roof.

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 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 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. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Gernand-Clemson House, 22 North Court Street, is now covered in aluminum siding and altered by the presence of later additions, doors, and windows, enough of the original fabric is present to make it easy to visualize the house's original appearance. It had a fine frame five-bay by two-bay main section with a small L off of the northwest corner. The main facade was given interest by the delicate pendant brackets which support the denticulated cornice. The house has always had legal associations, which continue to the present day. Thus, it is not surprising, as well as being firmly within local tradition, that a small office wing was built off of the main building; here it's a one story cube to the north, which replaces an earlier porch. When the house was a residence, the owner's law office was, according to his daughter, entered from the south, from Winter's Alley. In a community planning sense, a former owner noted in an oral interview that the original northwest boundary stone of the first small town of Westminster was located in the rear garden of the building. (The garden, and the marker, have since been paved over.)

Annie E. M. Fisher, who, with her various husbands, was one of the City's largest land owners in the mid-19th century, sold the 110' x 198' plot the house was on to Edwin K. Gernand for \$100 on April 18, 1865. This piece of land was a part of a large tract "The Resurvey of Timber Ridge" (Carroll County Deed Book 32, Page 111). Gernand doubtless built the house, as it is clearly indicated, with his name beside it, (which is rare) on the 1876 plat of the City. Gernand must have run into financial trouble, as an equity case forced his trustee, Charles T. Reifsnider, to sell the place to William A. McKellip on July 7, 1880. It was then sold to George M. Pearce on November 4, 1882 (53/447, 58/23). The 1881 City Directory lists George M. Parke as living at 22 North Court Street with Joseph M. Parke at 20 with an office and residence. On June 4, 1889 George M. Pearce/Parke sold the house and lot to Charles E. Fink for \$3000 (a good price) who sold to Lillian K. Brennick on November 23, 1914 (69/566, 125/507). Ms. Brennick sold the house and office to Charles O. Clemson on November 12, 1919 (135/142) and it remained in the Clemson family until Charles O. Clemson's heirs sold to the present owner in the 1950'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 measuring 110' x 198' on the northwest side of the intersection of Court Street and Winter's Alley in Westminster, as shown on an 1876 plat of that City.

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

November, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

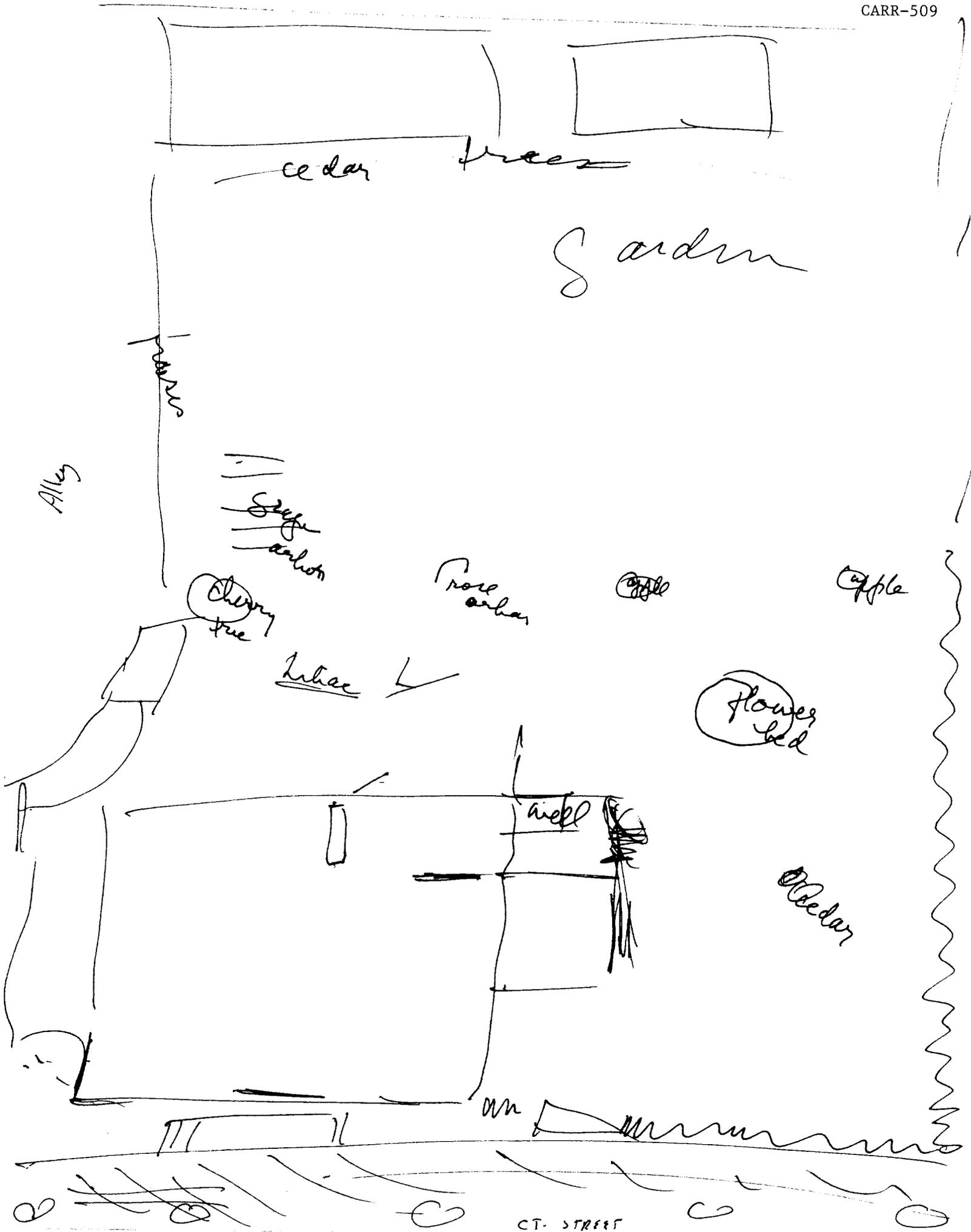
STATE

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



Site plan drawn Nov. 1977
by Catherine Clemson Turner
Intended to illustrate house
gardens c. 1945



CARR - 509

5076



CARR 509

German House

J-1

509,



21 Court

CARR-509

Photo c. 1945

~~ca~~ (courtesy Catharine Clemson Turner)