

RECKELL (RICKELL) HOUSE - BIEHL HOUSE

75 LIBERTY STREET

Number 75 Liberty Street, built c. 1888, is of interest in the way it gently departs from the standard vernacular form. Other houses built at about the same time were departing but were doing so loudly, (e.g. "Terrace Hill"); 75 Liberty Street, probably built by William P. Reckell/Rickell departs also, but does it very quietly, and politely. Although the house does have the standard three bay width, nothing else about it is standard. It is taller and thinner, and makes definite use of pedimented capped dormer windows to provide interest in the roof. Furthermore, the attention devoted to the segmental arches over the principal facade is windows and doors, as well as the employment of terra cotta and granite to enrich the principal facade, all creates the rich elegance that is somewhat foreign to the normal restrained appearance of Westminster dwelling.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 511  
MACEI # 0705115604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Reckell (Rickell) House - Biehl House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 75 Liberty Street (MD 27)  
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 Vincent Rowan and Sarah Hoskins Telephone #: 876-1175  
STREET & NUMBER 75 Liberty Street  
CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 574  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carroll County Office Building Folio #: 535  
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		

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

Number 75 Liberty Street fronts the east side of that street near its intersection with George Street in Westminster. The house sits on low coursed fieldstone foundations, and consists of at least two distinct sections. The front section, the original section, is a very elegant, vaguely French, 2½ story 3-bay by 3-bay gable roof piece. It is covered by a rolled tin roof which is pierced at each end by inside chimneys rising at the roof's peak. The chimneys have corbel caps. Two pediment capped dormer windows also pierce the roof towards the main facade. The dormers have double hung sash windows which are paned two-over-two. A very restrained bracketed cornice painted a deep grey eases the transition between roof and wall of the principal facade. Restraint characterizes this facade, which consists of a central ground story entrance door and five double hung sash windows (which all by now are glass and aluminum storm). The door and the windows are all crowned by three course segmental arches with pronounced keystones. The keystones for the windows are rough hewn granite boxes in a keystone shape; that over the door is a terra cotta female head of a rather French appearance. Granite slabs also form sills for the windows and a stoop for the door. Windows are flanked by wooden louvered shutters which are painted a deep blue-grey as is the rest of the woodwork on this facade; the color combines with the stone and terra cotta and the deep color of the common bond wall to produce a subdued elegant effect.

The south side of the original building has one double hung sash window to the east and two 2/2 attic windows within the gable. The north facade of the original section has similar attic windows in the gable, but has also one double hung sash window to the west of the second story (which resembles those on the principal facade except that it is keystoneless) and one below it on the ground floor. Sometime after the house was built a two story shed roofed section was added to the west, which slightly overhangs on the north; the space is filled in by a one story shed roofed porch which is supported by finely turned posts. Beyond the two story shed roofed addition is a one story addition with a similar roof. Windows in these shingled sections are also glass and aluminum storm windows. Although the house is built nearly up to the sidewalk enough space has been left to provide for a small bed for colorful annuals.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b>			
<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 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. 1888                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Number 75 Liberty Street is of interest in the way it gently departs from the standard vernacular form. Other houses built at about the same time were departing but were doing so loudly, (e.g. "Terrace Hill"); 75 Liberty Street, probably built by William P. Reckell/Rickell departs also, but does it very quietly, and politely. Although the house does have the standard three bay width, nothing else about it is standard. It is taller and thinner, and makes definite use of pedimented capped dormer windows to provide interest in the roof. Furthermore, the attention devoted to the segmental arches over the principal facade is windows and doors, as well as the employment of terra cotta and granite to enrich the principal facade, all creates the rich elegance that is somewhat foreign to the normal restrained appearance of Westminster dwelling.

The lot the ground sits on consists of parts of lot 7 and 8 of "Lynch's Addition to Westminster." It changed hands several times in the 1880's until William P. Reckell/Rickell bought it for \$250 on April 25, 1887 (Carroll County Deed Book 68, Page 157). Rickell then sold the place to John D. Biehel for \$1025 six years later on March 22, 1893 (76/238). One might assume from the difference in prices that Rickell was the builder of the house, although evidence is not conclusive. The house stayed in the Biehel family for 80 years until Francis Feiser, personal representative of John Sellman Biehel, sold the house to William L. Weaver for \$14,450 (on November 30, 1971, 502/317). Weaver, by virtue of a deed dated July 22, 1974, sold half of his interest to Vincent Rolan and Sarah Hopkins.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being parts of lots 7 and 8 of Edward Lynch's Addition to Westminster as shown on an 1876 plat of the City.

One half interest in William L. Weaver, 315 Mary Avenue, Westminster, 848-3266.

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	October, 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



CARR-571



CARR 511

46%



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CARR 511

75 Liberty St

Rickell-Brohl Home

46 1

A-7



619

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