COLONEL W. W. DALLAS HOUSE

154 EAST GREEN STREET

As discussed in question no. 7, the Dallas house is architecturally interesting for its size, and for its unity of form. It is also interesting that it, and the Charles Reifsnider House on East Main Street, are among the few houses which, in the late 19th century, definitely decided to abandon of old traditions and to follow styles of the wide world. Although the Reifsnider House could be called a more interesting example of Second Empire style, the Dallas house is certainly not dull. Such details as the four triple chimneys rising from the flat roof serve to make the house a landmark beyond the attention its vast size would give it. The chimneys are an extremely unusual feature in Westminster; even houses which are definitely conveived and thought of architecturally seem to be somewhat timid in their chimney treatment; here the four triple pots create a skyline second to none.

If the house is still interesting a century after it was built, and after its use changed from single family residence to scholastic to apartments, its builder is no less interesting. William W. Dallas, with his heiress wife, bought the brick mill property near Taneytown from the Kephart family, and, in 1855 built the house now known, and named by him, as "Trevanion".

An 1896 newspaper piece on Dallas gives a very impassioned account of the financial setbacks suffered on account of having siding with a Confederacy; the gist of it is that he sold Trevanion on "October 31, 1865 to James Shultz, for $36,000 and with his wife, Louisa, moved to Philadelphia where they remained three years, and with them went social life at Trevanion. About 1869 they returned to Westminster where they built a fine house and lived there until the first of May, 1873, then Mr. Dallas died...Mrs. Dallas lived there for some years...until she sold the Westminster property and went to Baltimore where she now lives in retirement of an honest and honored widowhood, keeping green the memory of her cherished will."

CARR 517
MACI #0705175504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Colonel W. W. Dallas House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
154 East Green Street

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
X_BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X_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
Mildred W. Spencer, et al

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
154 East Green Street

CITY, TOWN
Westminster ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 634
Folio #: 764

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

STREET & NUMBER
Westminster

CITY, TOWN

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CARR-517

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 Dallas House faces the south side of East Green Street between that thoroughfare's intersections with Lincoln Road and Center Street in Westminster. The massive three story, mansard roof, five-bay-by-five-bay cube rests on low fieldstone foundations, and is surrounded by venerable shade trees.

The principal facade, facing Green Street, is set back about 15' and presents an unrivaled appearance of dignity. There is a strong central axis created by the semi-circular transomed double doors through the twin windows on the second floor and a double pediment capped gable rising from the mansard roof. On either side of this axis, on the first two stories, are two double-hung sash windows. Those on the ground floor are segmental arched and paned two over two. Above the segmental arches is further interst given by a pyramid shaped lintel, which is supported by small modillions. The windows on the second floor are similarly treated except that they are not as elongated. All windows are flanked by green louvered shutters which, when closed, are so cut to neatly cover the segmental arch of the window. The double entrance door and the first two windows on either side of it on the ground floor are all shaded by a deep one story, porch. The porch is supported by pairs of thin squared columns, and the flat roof of the porch is given interest by a two part denticulated entablature.

A similar entablature runs about the entire roof of the house. This entablature is somewhat more elaborate than the porch's as there are pairs of modillion shaped brackets to support it which break the row of dentils. The grey slate roof is pierced on the principal facade by three dormers. The central one, as discussed, is a double dormer containing two round arched 1/1 windows below a semi-circular slate covered hood. The two dormers which flank it are similar, but are single. All dormers are boarded by finely carved wood trim. A thick deep crown molding tops the roof on all sides; the corners of the roof are set off by similar white wooden molding. The east facade of the house is similarly paned on the first two floors; slight differences include abandonment of the triangular lintels on the ground floor, and the substitution of flat hoods for windows on the second floor. The roof treatment, based on the existences of dormers is also different; there are three segmental hooded dormer windows on the facade (similar to the two on the principal facade), but the two closer to Green Street are united by a triple row of 1/1 windows.

The rear (south) facade is dominated by a three tier

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1870 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William W. Dallas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As discussed in question no. 7, the Dallas house is architecturally interesting for its size, and for its unity of form. It is also interesting that it, and the Charles Reifsnider House on East Main Street, are among the few houses which, in the late 19th century, definitely decided to abandon of old traditions and to follow styles of the wide world. Although the Reifsnider House could be called a more interesting example of Second Empire style, the Dallas house is certainly not dull. Such details as the four triple chimneys rising from the flat roof serve to make the house a landmark beyond the attention its vast size would give it. The chimneys are an extremely unusual feature in Westminster; even houses which are definitely conceived and thought of architecturally seem to be somewhat timid in their chimney treatment; here the four triple pots create a skyline second to none.

If the house is still interesting a century after it was built, and after its use changed from single family residence to scholastic to apartments, its builder is no less interesting. William W. Dallas, with his heiress wife, bought the brick mill property near Taneytown from the Kephart family, and, in 1855 built the house now known, and named by him, as "Trevanion". Dallas was a leading figure in the county economy with his mill, and having been influential in the laying out of Western Maryland Railroad (purchasing $7,000 worth of railroad stock to get the railroad to Union Bridge). He was also active in state politics running, and losing, for Senator, and in the social life in the county as well. (A "History of Trevanion", written by J. H. Taylor in 1896, described all this in great detail and is attached to this report).

When the Confederate army passed nearby in September 1862, Dallas joined the Westminster contingent, joining the Army at Sharpsburg. "But he had scarcely crossed the river until he discovered the grave mistake he had made. To march with a heavy sabor he was unable, to command and he was not fitted if their had been an opening, and to eat in idleness the bread

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CAR.R-517

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being parts of lots 38, 39, 40 and 41 of John Fisher's addition to Westminster as shown on a plat recorded among the land records of Carroll County in Book 33, Page 333.

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

#7, continuation page 2.

porch, which may be a later addition. The central bay on each floor of this porch is a door (the house has a definite central hall plan) with a mixture of old and new windows, double-hung sash windows randomly piercing the wall. It is on this facade only that the multi-family nature of the house is evident. Otherwise the house could still be, from the outside, a single family unit.

The east facade is similar to the principal facade except that the ground story windows have the same flat cornice decoration found on the principal facade's second story.

Despite the massiveness, and despite the wealth of decorative details, the house is not at all busy. Quite the opposite, having, except for the south facade, a remarkably unified appearance. This unity is achieved by repetition of segmental arched windows (and respective flanking shutters), by similar porches on the north and east facades, by color (white painted brick the green shutters the grey roof all work together to blend in with the grey tree trunks and the shading leaves of the trees), and by the roof itself which gently rests, in a more or less similar fashion, over the entire building. The cornice line of the roof, with a deep modillion cornice the scroll brackets and the attendant string course at the bracket's bases, also helps tie the house together. In fact it's only when removed from the house, viewing it from the west, and noticing the four triple sets of corbel capped chimneys, that one realizes the size and complex nature of the building.

of the soldier did not suit his sense of justice...but his friends... spirited him off to Canada until the close of the war." An 1876 newspaper piece on Dallas gives a very impassioned account of the financial setbacks suffered on account of having siding with a Confederacy; the gist of it is that he sold Trevanion on "October 31, 1865 to James Shultz, for $36,000 and with his wife, Louisa, moved to Philadelphia where they remained three years, and with them went social life at Trevanion. About 1869 they returned to Westminster where they built a fine house and lived there until the first of May, 1873, then Mr. Dallas died....Mrs. Dallas lived there for some years... until she sold the Westminster property and went to Baltimore where she now lives in retirement of an honest and honored widowhood, keeping green the memory of her cherished Will."

Dallas was described by Mr. Taylor in 1896 as being "Suave as a Chesterfield, brave as a lion and generous as a prince...he was born of a distinguished family that gave a vice-president and he himself was a graduate of Yale, but he was the most democratic of democrats in the broad sense that fully recognizes the brotherhood of man."

This history coincides with the Land Records history of the place; Dallas bought the lots 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43 at various times partly from William G. Rinehart (Carroll County Deed Book 39/395) and partly from John Bernstein (39/416). Then, on August 6, 1890, Louise S. Dallas, acting as executrix of William Dallas, sold the same property for $10,000 to Grace R. Stewart (71/458). Stewart and her husband sold the house and 1½ acres to the Board of Education of Carroll County on September 16, 1918 for $9,500 (140/314). Thus began the house's role as a school. The Board of Education sold the place 20 years later on January 29, 1937 for $6,000 to Alvie G. Spencer (165/402) and the house has remained in the Spencer family, now being used as apartments.

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133% & 64%

#100

P.69 History Section

133%

~~Section~~ Inventory

~~P.517~~ ~~(P.44)~~

64%

I-5

Carr 517

154 E. Green St.

Dallas House

~~("Trevanion")~~

63%

69 103

PAGE FIG. CAMERA

O LINE
O HALFTONE
O DUOTONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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p. 6469

XCV

63% 1 102 p. 69

CARR-517

517

102

P-~~67~~ 69

XCIV

WALTZ'S PAINTING

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101

FC III

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