

NELSON GILBERT HOUSE

158 WEST MAIN STREET

Number 158 West Main Street is a fine example of a house reduced to basics. It consists of two perpendicular sections, each section a single pile three bays wide (or long) and each section with a gable roof. The place rests on a high fieldstone foundation, which is hidden on the main section by a raised, latticed porch. This porch has a hipped, red-tinned roof which is supported by 8 square Doric posts with equally simple railing to the east and north.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 535
 0700 54504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Nelson Gilbert House
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 158 West Main Street (MD 32)
 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	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 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 Earl J. Lynn Telephone #: 848-7894
 STREET & NUMBER 160 West Main 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 #: 182
 STREET & NUMBER _____ Folio #: 523
 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 158 West Main Street is a fine example of a house reduced to basics. It consists of two perpendicular sections, each section a single pile three bays wide (or long) and each section with a gable roof. The south (principal) facade looks onto the north side of West Main Street (St. Route 32) about 60' east of that street's intersection with Push Alley in Westminster. The place rests on a high fieldstone foundation, which is hidden on the main section by a raised, latticed porch. This porch has a hipped, red-tinned roof which is supported by 8 square Doric posts with equally simple railing to the east and north. The porch is about 10' deep. Sheltered by this porch is the main entrance door, which is the western ground floor bay. It is a half-glass, two-wooden-panel door, and is extremely simply enframed below a small rectangular transom. The other two ground floor bays are double-hung sash windows with 4/1 panes; these windows are as simply enframed as the door. Above the porch's roof are three 4/1 windows, which are aligned with the bays beneath them. A modest, molded, wood cornice tops this facade, and extends a couple of feet to the east and west. The east facade of the main section has a small four-light attic window to the south, a 4/1 second-story window centrally placed in the facade and a pair of 4/1 windows in the center of the ground floor underneath the porch's roof. The northern section's east facade consists of three 4/1 windows on the second floor which are vertically aligned with the three bays below them: two 4/1 windows to the north of a 4-panel door which leads onto the edge of the porch. Opposite, the west facade has 3 windows in the main section: a small four-light attic window, and a single 4/1 window towards the south (these last two windows are vertically aligned). The northern section has three 4/1 windows on its second story, and one 4/1 window aligned with the most northern of these on the ground floor. The rest of the floor is filled by a square hipped-roof bay window, which has four 4/1 windows in it: one each to the north and south sides, and two looking west. The north facade of the north section has been covered by a 1½ story shed-roofed addition, which has, to the east and west, a 4/1 window on the ground floor and a small four-light window above. The only color on the house comes from the red tin of the roof (main, porch, or bay and addition) from the single flight of wooden steps which lead to the ground floor porch from the west, and from the green lattice work which runs between the brick piers which support the porch. Otherwise, the entire building, cladding, porch, cornice, and post, window enframing, doors...is left unpainted, a topic of great local concern.

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 Nelson Gilbert

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Looking at no. 158 West Main Street, one might be reminded of Sir John Summerson's remarks on ruins and Dickens, where he analogizes between Ruins and Little Nel, "whom the world treated badly and whom we now feel sorry for." The unpainted side of no. 158 makes one realize that the world has not been kind to this building either, but there is no grand opera of ruins involved here, only a mild soap opera of a somewhat deteriorated building. This painted shell is not, by any definition, a first rate building, but it is, in its severe angularity, something of a mild curiosity shop. Other buildings on the Westminster streetscape are generally angular, but almost all have some softening curves either made by brackets, or by molded cornices, or by porch's, or by balusters, etc. However, 158 has none of these: rather, it has square posts supporting a square cornice, on a square porch, which is bordered by square piers.....

The title history of no. 158 is very simple; basically, only three families have owned it. David Cassell and wife sold lot 4 to Nelson Gilbert on December 3, 1860 for \$305 (Carroll County Deed Book 27, Page 372). We can probably safely assume that it was Gilbert who built the house, as a building of about the right size and shape appears on the 1877 plat of the City, and Gilbert is listed as living at no. 158 West Main Street in the 1887 City Directory. Gilbert died, leaving Sara A. L. Gilbert as his heir; when she died, her will (Will no. 27/372), named Frank R. Cassell as executor. In this role, he sold the place to John H. Young and wife on October 26, 1921 for \$5700. Young's son, Charles, by virtue of straw deeds dated January 27, 1944, vested the title in the present owner (182/521, 182/523).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of no. 4 of Isaac Shriver's addition to the City of Westminster as shown on an 1877 plat of the 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

April

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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NELSON-GILBERT HOUSE

158 W. Main Street

Westminster

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