

SHRIVER-BABYLON HOUSE

131 WILLIS STREET

If "Terrace Hill", built in 1873, was one era's idea of a wealthy merchant's suburban villa, so the Shriver-Babylon House, built about 40 years later was another era's. Loosely associated with the shingle style school (the east facade is particularly fine in this respect) the comidious green shingle pile sits easily on its hilltop lot of over an acre. The house and lot are shaded by fine old oak trees. A pleasant informal relationship exists among house, terraces, plantings, and outbuildings: the terraces lead naturally from the rambling house, via a wide porch, to the rambling well-planted gardens.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHRE # 537  
MAGI # 006095504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Shriver-Babylon House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
131 Willis 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
David S. Babylon, Jr.

Telephone #: 848-1232

STREET & NUMBER  
131 Willis 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 #: 153

Folio #: 528

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
 

---

The Shriver-Babylon House sits on a bluff facing south overlooking Willis Street at its intersection with North Street in Westminster. The house is a fine example of the large rambling sort of house popular in the early part of this century, but not too common in Westminster. Vaguely aligned with the Shingle Style, the house was designed for comfortable living, and still gives an impression of ease.

Basically the house consists of one large gable roofed 2½ story section (approximately the same volume as the house built by the brother of the builder of this house, 145 Willis Street, next door) with a broad porch that wraps-around two of its sides. While the house does resemble in volume its brotherly neighbor, it is much more open in its use, placement, and design of windows and doors. The principal (south) facade's double entrance door is the ground story easternmost bay. The door, now little used, opens on a small glassed-in porch topped by a broad gable roof with a full pediment in the front. An eight light casement window is placed to its west, with, west of the casement, a broad and shallow three sided exposed sides. Above the three sided bay is a pair of 1/1 windows on the second floor; above the door is a single 1/1 window. All these double-hung windows are bordered by dark green louvered shutters. Three pedimental capped dormer windows are regularly spaced out of the roof; the windows are double hung sash, 6/1 paned. A broad simple cornice separates roof from wall.

The west facade is also randomly windowed; within the pediment, the gable end of the roof, is a simple set of double hung sash windows. Below the extension of the broad cornice which runs about the entire building, the east facade presents the house's most conventional Shingle Style front. The broad pedimental gable end is treated similarly to that on the west; there are three regularly placed windows all double-hung sash (the southernmost being a double window) and all are shuttered. On the ground story several windows are placed below those on the second story. An entrance door is placed to the north; a three sided bay window is to the north of the door. On this side begins the deep, flat, roof of the wrap-around porch which is simply posted, and has a three foot tall shingled wall acting as a railing. The porch is screened-in on the second floor of the north facade. This facade has two pedimental capped dormer windows coming from the roof around a broad massive flat capped chimney flue. The chimney leads from a stone, broad, segmental

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1915	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Joseph N. Shriver
----------------	---------	-------------------	-------------------

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

If "Terrace Hill", built in 1873, was one era's idea of a wealthy merchant's suburban villa, so the Shriver-Babylon House, built about 40 years later was another era's. Loosely associated with the shingle style school, (the east facade is particularly fine in this respect) the comodious green shingle pile sits easily on its hilltop lot of over an acre. The house and lot are shaded by fine old oak trees. A pleasant informal relationship exists among house, terraces, plantings, and outbuildings: the terraces lead naturally from the rambling house, via a wide porch, to the rambling well-planted gardens.

Joseph M. Shriver bought the lot, number 72 of Longwell's Addition to Westminster, on October 11, 1912 (Carroll County Deed Book 120, Page 397), and soon after built the house. The house has been owned, since March 26, 1930, by the Babylon family, first by D. Snider Babylon and now by his son, David S. Babylon and wife. Both families have long been prominent in the business and social and political worlds of Westminster and Carroll County; indeed it would be impossible to imagine either City or County without the two families. (See, for example, the report for B. F. Shriver Company, the Old Stone House on Liberty Street, as well as for the Babylon Building on West Main Street.)

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

On all of lot 72 as shown on a plat of Longwell's  
Addition to Westminster dated May, 1907.

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 December, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

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

arched fireplace which glows in the living room, the north-eastern ground story room. The north section of the lot is, like the north facade of the house, the most open. House and grounds are joined by means of a system of terraces. An interesting clipped gambrel roof garage/carriage house is to the rear in the northwest corner of the lot.

85% + 55%<sup>0/0</sup>



# 172

~~CLXVIII~~

85%

P. 102 - History Section

537

# J-15

~~# Carr 537~~ Section J  
Inventory ~~(# 15)~~

55%



CARR-537



CARR-537

5-2-53



C.422-537