

156-162 WILLIS STREET

The double house 156-162 Willis Street, is a rarity in Westminster. Built around 1900, probably for rental income, by Joshua W. Hering, the house is a nice example of the Second Empire style (a nice if late example). That does not make it unique. It is also a large (especially large) example of double house, but that, except in size, does not make it unique. Rather it is these two features combined, that is to say the use of high style, indeed of elegance, in the treatment of the double house. Elsewhere in the City double and triple houses have been built, all for rental income; they were built not crudely, but not as caringly as this one seems to have been.

The building is basically a cube, 6 bays in depth and width and of approximately equal height to the top of its slate mansard roof. The entrance doors are on opposite sides of the (principal) north facade and each is sheltered by a nearly identical small wooden porch, the porches are simply balustered and posted. The double entrance doors have small rectangular transoms above. Between the doors are four (two for each unit) double hung sash windows with black louvered shutters. Windows are simply enframed, as are the 6 windows which stretch above to the side limits of this facade. The black of the shutters, with the dark grey of the slate roof, contrasts nicely with the white clapboard of the building. Above are 4 regularly spaced key hole dormer windows in the mansard roof. Windows have interesting carved side boards and round hoods, and resemble those windows found in the mansard roof of the Blizzard House at 295 East Main Street.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR # 538
 MAGI # 003385004

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

156-162 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 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

156 - Richard S. Bixler

Telephone #: 848-4977

STREET & NUMBER

156 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 #: 243 634

Folio #: 309 730

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 double house 156-162 fronts the south side of Willis Street about 50' from its intersection with Center Street in Westminster.

The building is basically a cube, 6 bays in depth and width and of approximately equal height to the top of its slate mansard roof. The entrance doors are on opposite sides of the (principal) north facade and each is sheltered by a nearly identical small wooden porch, the porches are simply balustered and posted. The double entrance doors have small rectangular transoms above. Between the doors are four (two for each unit) double hung sash windows with black louvered shutters. Windows are simply enframed, as are the 6 windows which stretch above to the side limits of this facade. The black of the shutters, with the dark grey of the slate roof, contrasts nicely with the white clapboard of the building. Above are 4 regularly spaced key hole dormer windows in the mansard roof. Windows have interesting carved side boards and round hoods, and resemble those windows found in the mansard roof of the Blizzard House at 295 East Main Street. A simple modillion cornice separates slate roof from clapboard wall. The end (east and west) facades are rather randomly pierced by two similar windows on the second floor with one keyhole window above. The entrance area covers most of the ground story. The rear of the building has, in each unit, a similar Second Empire-esque tower which is pushed out the depth of one bay from the wall. These towers give fine emphasis to the corners of the building and join it aesthetically with the Roberts-Wood-Adams House on Court Place.

The rear (south) facades are randomly pierced by windows of various sizes and by doors of various shapes. It is from the rear that one can especially note the chimney placement, and how well the chimneys are treated in this building. There are two chimneys, a smaller one to the rear and a large massive corbel capped one in the center of the building; both chimneys run on line with the party wall and serve to define boundaries. In color they are painted white with their corbel cap black, thus joining in with the color scheme with the rest of the building.

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 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 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. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The double house 156-162 Willis Street, is a rarity in Westminster. Built around 1900, probably for rental income, by Joshua W. Hering, the house is a nice example of the Second Empire style (a nice if late example). That does not make it unique. It is also a large (especially large) example of double house, but that, except in size, does not make it unique. Rather it is these two features combined, that is to say the use of high style, indeed of elegance, in the treatment of the double house. Elsewhere in the City double and triple houses have been built, all for rental income; they were built not crudely, but not as caringly as this one seems to have been.

It's interesting that Dr. Hering bought the lot from Sallie K. Longwell, heir of John K. Longwell, on March 10, 1896 for \$750 (Carroll County Deed Book 82, Page 153). Hering would later, as Ms. Longwell's executor, auction off the rest of her farm, then, thereby, laying out most of Willis and Longwell Streets as well as several lots about the present day City Hall. Hering, and/or Ms. Longwell, must have already planned for Willis Street, as it would become, to be the "Prestige Street" in town. In 1887 Longwell and his wife sold the lot catty-corner to James A. Duffenbaugh, who built the large house now lived in by the Weant family. Thus he was doubtless following his own desires as well as the desires of the Longwell family when he built this elegant double house sometime before the turn of the century, sometime before Ms. Longwell died.

In 1912 Herring sold no. 162 to Grace E. Miller; the deed noted the "Partition Wall of the double house", (121/4), and in 1913 he sold the other half, no. 156, to Arthur Moore (122/387). In 1928 Grace E. Miller and her husband Frank sold no. 162 to Edwin M. Mellor, Jr. (150/409), whose executrix, Margaret, sold to C. Read Hoddinot 1969 (460/90). Hoddinot sold to the present owner, Arnold T. Vandervalk, on July 10, 1976. Thomas A. Murray, trustee in the case of Herring vs. Moore sold no. 156 to Ernest J. Sponseller for \$2600 on September 28, 1915 (127/512). Sponseller died in 1931 and his widow and children sold to the present owner on February 3, 1965.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

470/0



CAMK 538

156-162 Willis Street

5-16





CARR-538



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