

GEORGE WIVEL BUILDING

43 EAST MAIN STREET

This 3-story, 3-bay, 2-sectioned building was erected as a house around 1840, but has since been adapted to commercial purposes. As is so often the case with buildings in Westminster, the significance of 43 East Main Street is not that it is an exceptional building but is, rather, that it is so thoroughly conformed with the distinctive vernacular patterns that completely controlled design in the City. Everything about the building is at once typical, exemplarily, of the area, from its basic form, to its simple construction techniques.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carroll 416
070 416 4411

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

George Wivel Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

43 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Link Company

Telephone #: 848-4360

STREET & NUMBER

7 Locust 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 #: 196

Folio #: 144

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 43 East Main Street faces the north side of that road at its intersection with Locust Street in Westminster. Sitting on a low roughly-coursed fieldstone-foundation, the building is of a standard type, i.e., it consists of 2 perpendicular gable-roofed sections with Main Street section being 3-stories high and 3-bays wide. At present, the ground floor bears little resemblance to its original condition (as revealed in c. 1900 photographs found among the records of the Carroll County Historical Society); now, there is a glass and aluminum store front existing in the western 2 ground-floor bays, and the main entranceway is recessed, surrounded by a plain molded frontispiece. Originally, the door shows some typical mid-Victorian ornamentation (including a cusped awning surrounded by a second floor balcony); the original fenestration on the ground floor included two, 6/6 double-hung sash windows to the west of the door; windows had wooden sills, were topped by a two-part denticulated modillion entablature, and were flanked by louvered wooden shutters. The remaining five windows (two on the second floor, and three on the third floor) were all similarly treated. There seems to have been a set of French Doors in the eastern section of the second floor, above the main entrance door, leading to the already-mentioned balcony; the French Doors, seem to have had an entablature that matched the other bays' entablatures. At present, the French Doors have been replaced by a 4-light pair of casement windows; all other Main Street facing windows now have 1/1 panes, and are shutterless. The heavy, denticulated, bracketed, full entablature that originally topped the building is still in existence. Photographs reveal that the entire building was originally covered in clapboard - the building is at present covered with tan asbestos shingles. Similarly, the original shingle roof has been covered with rolled sheet metal.

The west (gable end) facade has been similarly altered. Originally, there were two regularly-spaced windows on each of its 3 full stories with a round arched 2/2 attic window in the center of the gable between 2 corbel-capped brick chimneys. Windows probably had 6/6 panes but were more slightly treated than those on Main Street, having neither entablatures nor shutters, having only wooden sills as decoration. The entire west front was shaded by a continuation of the main entablature, which overhangs about 2 feet; as it extends around the gable end, it creates, typically, a pedimental effect. The two-story rear section, which may postdate the Main Street section, has 4 randomly - placed but vertically-aligned windows facing Locust Street to the West; windows are simply enframed and rest below a cornice that echoes the Main Street section's. The addition has had a sheathing history similar to Main Street's, its original clapboard has been replaced, or at least covered over, by asbestos.

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 checked="" 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. 1840-45 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As is so often the case with buildings in Westminster, the significance of 43 East Main Street is not that it is an exceptional building, but is, rather, that it so thoroughly conforms with the distinctive vernacular patterns that so thoroughly controlled design in the City. Everything about the building is at once typical, yet exemplarily, of the area. Its construction techniques are not at all unusual; its stone foundation is in keeping with the norm, as are the hand-hewn major wooden structural members, and the simple joinery of members - mortise-a-tenon without bracing.

Further, the building again demonstrates the versatility and adaptability of the basic local 3-bay form, in that it was built (probably in the mid 1840's) as a residence, and now functions quite well as a building of mixed use - with a store on the ground floor, and with apartments above.

The building sits on part of lot 6 of John Winter's addition to Westminster; Winter laid out this addition, which was just west of the City in 1815. Winter laid out his lots on the north side of Main Street extended. His executors, Rosina Thomas, and George F. Thomas, sold 6 of the lots, including lot 6, to Herelfrick Thomas on September 29, 1821, for \$455; Frederick County Land Record Book JS 14, Page 597. The land changed hands in mysterious ways for a score years, until George Wivel (also known as Wyvil) bought the lot on October 10, 1840, for \$215 - Carroll County Land Record WW5/190. It was probably Wivel who built the existing building, as the price increases 5 fold in 5 years to \$1,037.50 when Wivel's executor Henry Shreve, sold the land to Joseph Shreve, on April 30, 1845 (21/68). Shreve's executors sold the land to one John H. Bowers 20 years later to the day, for \$2,200 (31/490); Bowers kept title for 40 years until it was passed to J. Walter Shunk on May 28, 1905 (101/109); Shunk sold to S. DeWitt Shunk on November 28, 1913 (123/277). The present owner, the Link Company (represented by Herman Rosenberg) took title September 26, 1947 by Deed 196/144.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the western half of lot 6 as shown on a plat of John Winters Addition to Westminster as recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Book JS 2, Page 195.

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

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

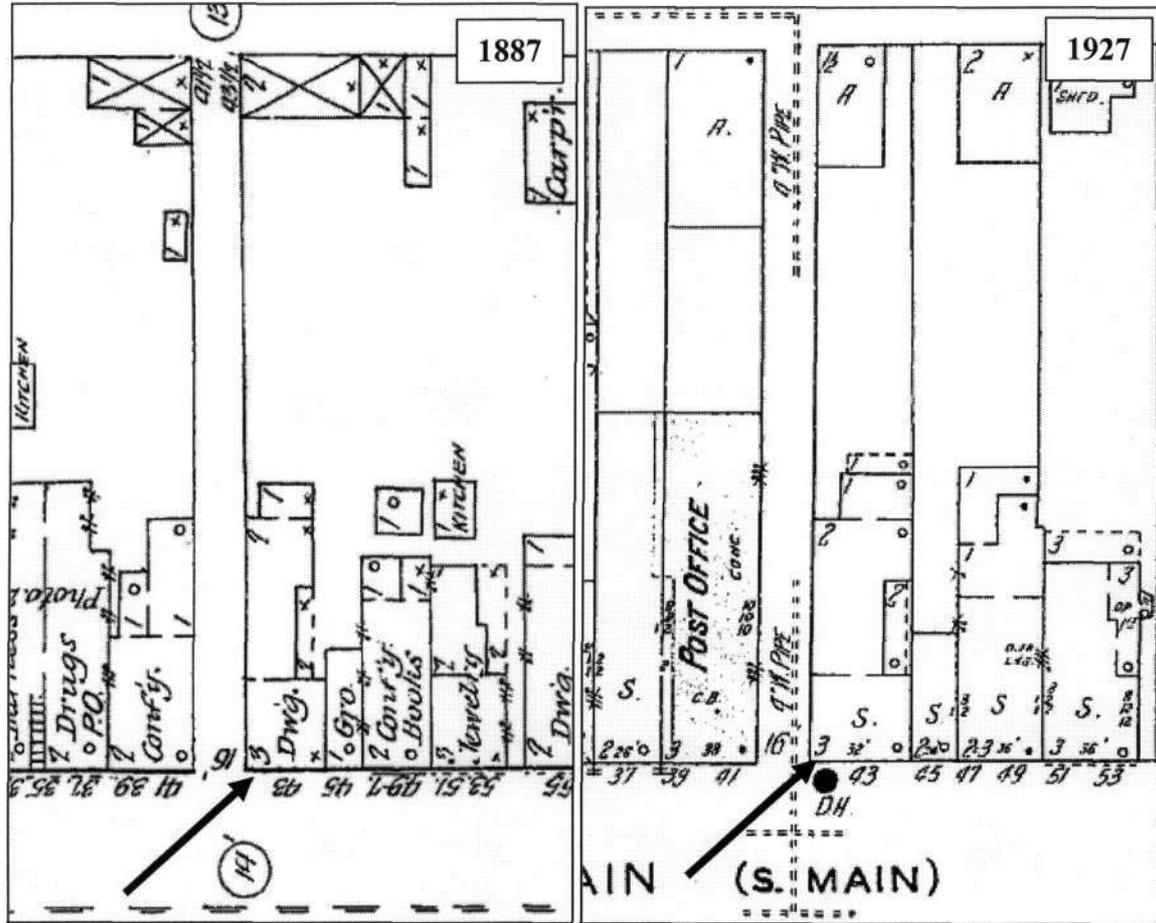
Maryland

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.

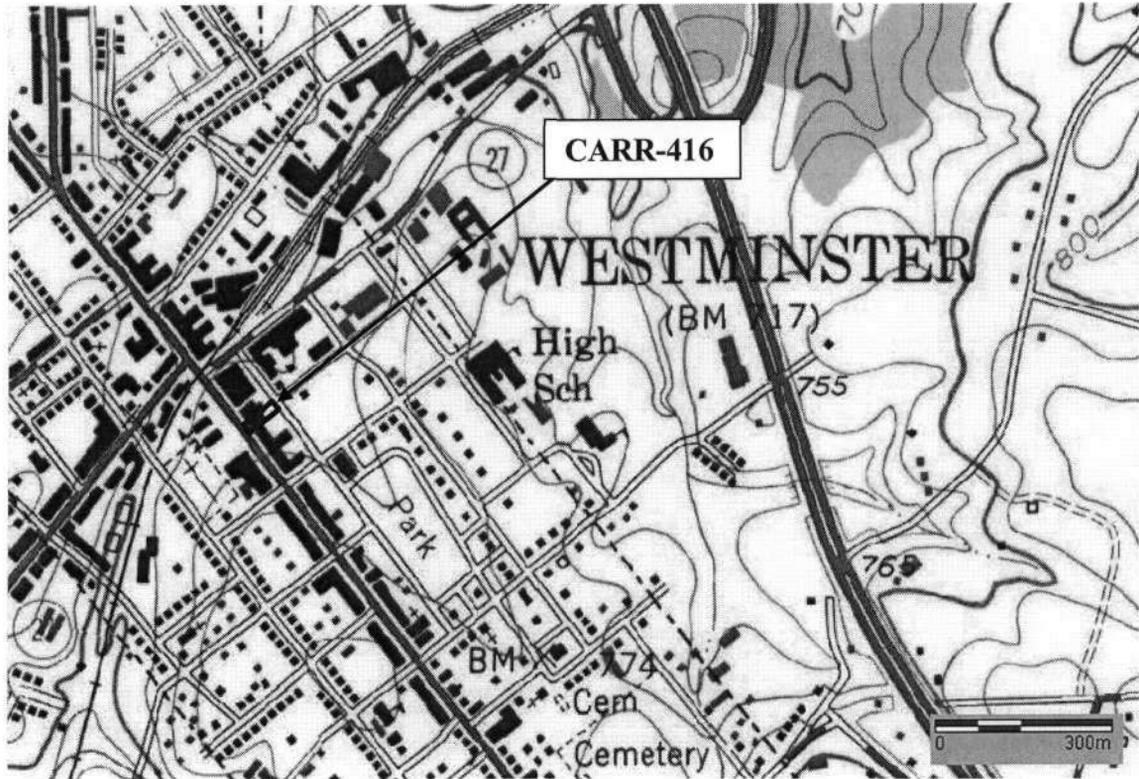
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CARR-416
 George Wivel Buiding, site
 43 East Main Street
 Westminster
 Sanborn Maps



CARR-416
George Wivel Buiding, site
43 East Main Street
Westminster Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



In Westminster, this spirit was captured admirably in a circa 1945 brick and glass factory located on Locust Street between City Hall (the Longwell Mansion) and East Main Street. The building now is used for making artificial rocks.

Since the Second World War, Westminster's architecture has continued its traditional reflection of broad trends — but on a different scale. The city's style is now one with the entire Country, not with a small and ethnically unified area. After random flirtations with nationally popular styles in the 1860s and '70s and the more serious affairs during the '90s and the early 20th century, the city had been almost totally divorced from the south-east Pennsylvania influence by the middle of this century. The dwellings that line the streets in the new subdivisions, fleshing out the city's skeleton of Main Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Liberty Street, could have happened anywhere in the nation. It is a truism that the rancher and the split-level are the American vernacular houses of the 20th century. They vary only in scale and ambition.

Ridge Road is to Colonial Avenue as Willis Street was to Webster Street — the grand version versus the modest version of the same product. Significantly, whole neighborhoods, not just individual houses, now are being conceived and built as either grand or not-so-grand. The result of this economic characterization of whole new sections of the city, while less rigid in Westminster than elsewhere, is a reversal of the egalitarian spirit that characterized the city's earlier relaxed jumbling of mansion, store, hovel, and office.

Along with these new homes and subdivisions, Westminster's commercial expansion has also tended to be centered not in the historic town but in ever-expanding rings about it. Transportation played a crucial role in determining the city's most recent growth patterns, as it has since Winchester laid out the first lots over 210 years ago. The Western Maryland Railroad declined in importance after the Second World War, as did railroads all over the country. Coinciding with this decline was the rise in importance of automobiles and trucks, especially after

This block of East Main Street, shown in a circa 1885 photograph, represented the egalitarian spirit that resulted in offices, stores, and residences of rich and poor being built together in a neighborly jumble. The building in the foreground, Number 43-45, has been torn down recently.





CARR 416
43 E. Main St.
Westminster
S. facade
2/77 C. Wick



CARR 416
43. East Main St.
Westminster
N. Jacobs
2177 Church



L x 11

"Shunk House", 45 East Main Street;
Photo c. 1890. Now destroyed

CARR 716

43 E MAIN ST.

S. ARDRE C. 1870

WESTMINSTER

C. W. W. 2/77



CARR-416

43 S. Main

(to be replaced for
mail.)