

CARROLL HISTORY JOURNAL

— THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CARROLL COUNTY, MD, INC. —

AN ILLUSTRATED OVERVIEW OF CARROLL COUNTY'S DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

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One of the delights of Carroll County is the large number of lovely old houses that dot the landscape. They are many and varied: farmhouses, townhouses, and some grander homes, all built in a wide range of styles.

Most of the buildings pictured here are still extant. They range in age from the mid-18th to the mid-20th centuries. Westminster, the largest municipality and the county seat, has tended to draw the wealthier residents and has the widest range of architectural styles.

The earliest settlers in what was to become Carroll County began to arrive in the second quarter of the 18th century as Maryland's population exploded. First the English from the Chesapeake pushed out along the South Branch of the Patapsco River. The Germans soon followed, coming down from Pennsylvania and settling the northwestern and north-central areas. A third wave—English, from the south—settled along the newly surveyed road in the northeast, now the Hanover Pike, an old Indian path connecting the mouth of the Patapsco and Conewago Creek in Pennsylvania.

Although one can point to stylistic variations that are, for instance, German or English, the vast majority of homes, particularly in the early days, were built in what is known as a vernacular architectural style. They were built for shelter and practicality, rather than for show, out of whatever material was available locally. In Carroll County, this was often logs that were then covered both inside and out for warmth and durability.

Over time local traditions evolved, resulting in architectural features that are plain and practical yet frequently very handsome. Tied to time and place, these buildings take little notice of style and design in the wider world. In an agricultural community where barns are often more important than homes, these houses worked.

Wealthy Baltimoreans began to erect handsome rural retreats early in the 19th century, but most local homes followed the traditional Anglo-Germanic style of three- or five-bays (windows) and two- or two-and-a-half stories. By mid-century, some local farmers, millers, and merchants had become quite prosperous, particularly after the arrival of the Western Maryland and Baltimore

For Sale.

A Valuable Lot of Land containing 25 acres, eight of which are Woodland, the remainder clear Land, with a two story log House on it, partly finished; adjoining Uniontown, Frederick county, on the main road leading from Baltimore to Hagerstown. Any person wishing to view the premises, will please apply to the subscriber, or Reuban Gist, in Uniontown.

NORRIS MEREDITH.
Dec. 2, 1813.

From the *Engine of Liberty and Uniontown Advertiser*,
December 23, 1813.

and Ohio railroads. Some showed off their wealth and worldliness by building in the Italianate and Second Empire styles that were widely available in architectural pattern books.

One example is *Trevanion* (see p. 5), derived from A.J. Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850). Pure examples of these styles were relatively

rare until the late 19th century when the Queen Anne style became immensely popular. Two versions of this design from R.W. Shoppell's *Artistic Houses of Low Cost* were used locally, one in New Windsor, the other in Union Bridge.

Enjoy this look at the range of architecture across the length and breadth of Carroll County.

STYLES OF CARROLL COUNTY'S EARLIEST HOUSES

This stone house built by Christian Bauer in 1785 stands on Route 496 north of Westminster. Early settlers of German descent such as Bauer often built using native stone as well as logs. The house was conveniently located over a spring. A stair leading to the attic is in the front corner near the chimney.



Charity Durbin and Thomas W. Durbin's log house was built in two sections c. 1813. The original front porch was removed and the front door on the left section was converted to a window. The house stands near Spring Mills south of Westminster.

White's Level was the home of William Winchester, founder of Westminster. The one-and-a-half story righthand portion is usually described as being in the "Tidewater" style with its central chimney and characteristic roofline. The house probably dates to the early 1700s. (HSCC Collection)



FEDERAL STYLE

- Popular in U.S. between 1785 and 1820s, although later in rural areas.
- Fanlight over front door.
- Low-pitched side-gable or hip roof.
- Flat lintels over multi-paned windows.
- Cornice under eaves with delicate molding.
- Façades of large homes often symmetrical.

Avondale, a stately Federal-style brick home, stands on Stone Chapel Road on the outskirts of Westminster. The three-part Palladian window on the second story was often used in elegant homes such as this one built by an owner of means and sophistication. (Photo courtesy of present owners)



This brick home was built c. 1809 by Jonas Crumbacker on Uniontown Road in the heart of Uniontown. Its refined Federal characteristics include the delicate fanlight over the front door, an elegant door frame, and a cornice below the roofline with a repeating diamond-shaped motif that matches the top of the door frame.

GREEK REVIVAL STYLE

- Popular from 1820s until the Civil War.
- Usually rectangular.
- Emphasis on columns or pilasters (pseudo-columns attached to the building itself).
- Usually a dominant porch or portico, especially in the South.
- Homes frequently painted to resemble Greek temples.
- Elaborate frieze (decorative horizontal band below the eaves) or with small windows under the eaves as seen here.
- Frequently used for banks and churches as well as homes.



Above: *Antrim* was built by Col. Andrew G. Ege in Taneytown in 1844 and named for the county in Ireland. The land was a gift from his father-in-law, John McKaleb. Benjamin Forrester supervised the construction. The front portion is square, two and one-half stories in height with a two-story rear wing. When the house was sold after Ege moved to Kansas, it was advertised as “a splendid brick mansion, painted, 50 by 150 feet, including back buildings with elegant porticos, piazzas, and a large observatory.” It is the only good example of a Greek Revival house to be found in Carroll County.

Left: One of *Antrim*’s original out-buildings repeats some of the Greek Revival trim used on the east side of the main house.

ITALIANATE OR ITALIAN VILLA STYLE

- Popular from 1840s until 1885.
- Inspired by Italian Renaissance buildings.
- Usually low-pitched roof.
- Emphatic eaves supported by corbels (a type of bracket, but more substantial).
- Italianate features incorporated into many homes because style was suitable for different building materials and a wide range of budgets.

Trevanion is located on Trevanion Road between Taneytown and Uniontown. Between 1855 and 1857, W.W. Dallas transformed an 1817 traditional brick farmhouse into this example of Italianate architecture with a nod to Gothic as well. The inspiration for the design may have come from A.J. Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses*, an architectural pattern book published in 1850. (HSCC Collection)



Dr. Jacob J. Weaver, Jr., built this frame house in 1874-75 in the center of Uniontown. Note the decorative quoins at the corners of the building and the elaborate "gingerbread" on the porch.

SECOND EMPIRE STYLE

- Popular post-Civil War through late 19th century.
- Inspired by French architecture of Napoleon III's mid-19th century reign.
- Usually box-like, often with central tower.
- Mansard roof with heavily-decorated dormer windows.



Nathan Englar's house on McKinstry's Mill Road in Linwood was built in 1885. Englar was a successful small-town merchant. This photo was likely taken near the time the house was built. (HSCC Collection)

Colonel W.W. Dallas built this large Second Empire home on Westminster's East Green Street between 1869 and 1873. He previously owned *Trevanion*. Both of Dallas's houses were in the popular style of the period.



QUEEN ANNE STYLE

- Popularity began in 1880s, replacing Second Empire style.
- Façade asymmetrical, sometimes with front-facing gable.
- Round, square, or polygonal towers.
- Large porches, often wrap-around.
- Wide range of building materials.

After the Western Maryland Railroad established a rail yard and repair shop in Union Bridge in the second half of the 19th century, many homes throughout the town were constructed in styles popular at the time. This house on South Main Street was built in 1883.



This handsome frame home at 103 North Main Street in Mt. Airy was built between 1900 and 1904. It sits on a spacious lawn among old trees and displays many characteristics of the Queen Anne style, often simply labeled “Victorian.”

BUNGALOW AND AMERICAN FOURSQUARE STYLES

Bungalow

- Style adapted from homes of British officers serving in late 19th-century India.
- Popular in first third of 20th century.
- Usually one- or one-and-a-half stories.
- Low-pitched roof with deep eaves.
- Frequently shingle or clapboard siding.
- Little ornamentation.

American Foursquare

- Very popular mid-1890s through late 1930s.
- Boxy—usually two-and-a-half stories.
- Hip roof.
- Often with center dormer window.
- Four rooms per floor.
- Variety of building materials.
- Few decorative details.



This is one of many bungalows on Westmoreland Street in Westminster. In 1923, the Sears and Roebuck catalog sold the plans and all materials to build a six-room bungalow plus a bath for \$3,176.

Many Carroll County towns have examples of American foursquare houses. This house was built on West Green Street in Westminster. The 1916 Sears and Roebuck catalog sold a very similar house for \$2,500-\$2,600 which included plans and all building materials.



INTERNATIONAL AND MODERNIST STYLES

International Style

- Popular 1930s until 1970s in the U.S.
- Rectilinear.
- Often cantilever construction.
- Open interior.
- No ornamentation or color.
- Flat surfaces alternating with glass.

Modernist Style

- Introduced in early 20th century.
- Simplicity of design using basic shapes.
- Clean lines.
- Often rectilinear.
- Lack of ornamentation.



The *Robert and Phyllis Scott House*, built in 1953-54 on the outskirts of Westminster, is the only known example of the International style constructed in Carroll County. The two-story structure is rectangular with several rooms on the ground floor while the second floor is set on piers. The roof is described as “butterfly-shaped.” Henry Hebbeln of New York was the architect. (Courtesy National Register of Historic Places)

When constructed in 1925, this house in the Modernist style at 9 Ridge Road in Westminster was very different from others nearby. Even today, more than 90 years later, there are few Modernist houses throughout Carroll County.



CARROLL COUNTY'S VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE ACROSS TWO CENTURIES

Right: A date stone barely visible in the eaves of this traditional stone farmhouse shows it was built by J. Erb in 1790. The Erbs were early German settlers of the county. The home is located on Stone Road northwest of Westminster.

Below: This simple, painted brick house at 130 East Main Street in Westminster dates to 1845 and is similar to many dwellings in Carroll County towns.



Above: In 1859 Dr. Jacob J. Weaver, Sr., remodeled a log house in the center of Uniontown. He added the wing on the right with the front-facing gable plus a one-story office, then covered the whole house with vertical board and batten siding.

Left: This three-bay brick farmhouse with an ell is situated along Rte. 27 south of Westminster. It was built by the time the 1837 tax assessments were made for Carroll County.

MORE CARROLL COUNTY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE ACROSS TWO CENTURIES



Left: David Roop built this substantial brick house on Uniontown Road near Westminster in 1857 for his son. The large porches on both floors are a variation on a typical farmhouse.

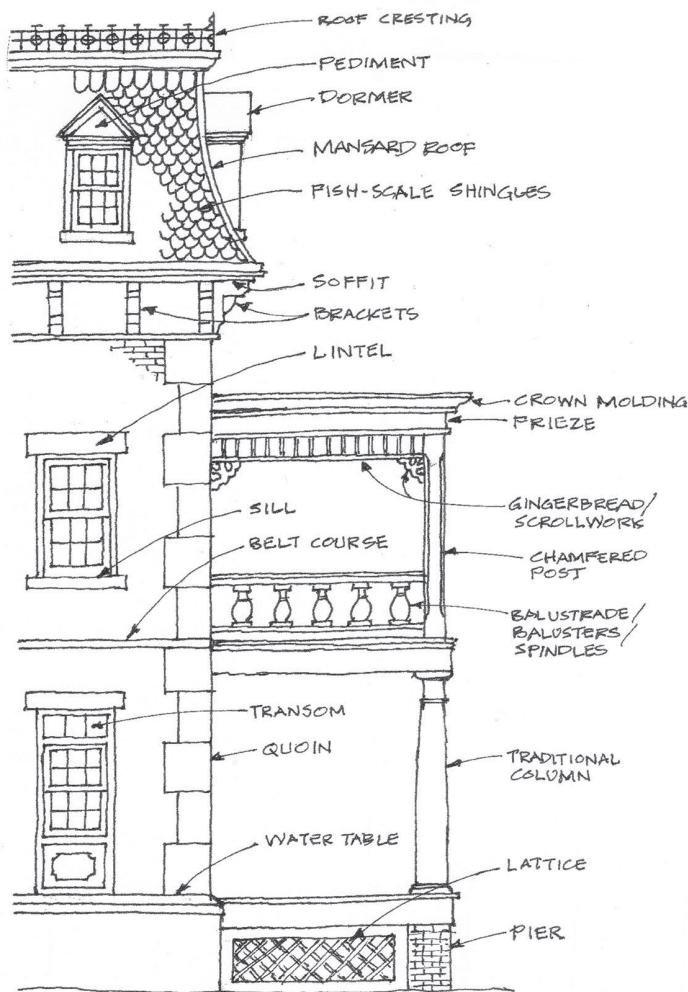
Below: *Bloomfield Manor* on the outskirts of Sykesville consists of three parts—an 18th-century log house (not visible), a section showing Greek Revival influence, and a final addition which gives the house its current slightly Italianate appearance.



Above: This home at 3 Main Street, Union Bridge, was built in 1898. It is a typical small, urban, Victorian residence.

Right: Washington Senseney built this brick home on McKinstry's Mill Road in Linwood in 1866. The arrival of the Western Maryland Railroad in the 1860s brought a wave of new construction to the area between New Windsor and Union Bridge.





Helpful Architectural Terminology (Drawing courtesy of Dean Robert Camlin)

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The authors wish to thank Dean Robert Camlin, Jeff A. Duvall, Jonathan Herman, and W. Peter Pearre for their advice and comments.

Unless otherwise noted, photographs courtesy of the authors.

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