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CE-118

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

H. V. Davis House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

George & Third Streets, south west corner

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	✓OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
✓BUILDING(S)	✓PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	✓PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	✓YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	✓OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Eloise Howard Davis

Telephone #: (301) 885-5167

STREET & NUMBER

George Street

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21915

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cecil County Courthouse

Liber #: RRC No. 27

Folio #: 78

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland 21921

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CE-113

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
✓ EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	✓ UNALTERED	✓ ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Davis House is one of the more elaborate and original dwellings in South Chesapeake City. It is a three story frame Italianate style structure, five bays wide and two deep with four bay long, two story extension on the west side facing Third Street. The house is built on a granite foundation-basement, the walls are covered with molded German siding and the low pitched hip roof is covered with raised seam tin. A porch extends across the three central bays of George Street and possesses a flatish roof supported on square columns with pierced fret brackets extending between. Brackets rise from the face of the posts to the soffit of the cornice. Between the bases of the posts is a pierces splat balustrade with bold handrail and newel posts at the bottom of both sets of concrete steps. Herringbone lattice stretches between the brick piers. The windows of the facade extend nearly to the floor and have paneled shutters and 6/4 sash. The central entrance has a plain architrave with bracketed cornice,(like the windows) sidelights, and transom.

On the second story the windows have 4/4 sash, louvered shutters and the same type window cornice as below. The third story windows are smaller and have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Above the cornices of the latter windows are heavy scrolled brackets supporting the overhanging roof. A brick chimney rises from the north and south sides of the building.

The Third Street side has two windows on each story of the main body of the dwelling with a secondary entrance in the wing and three windows west thereof. 4/4 sash are used on both storys and the same difference occurs in the shutters. The porch above the entrance is a smaller version of the main porch. A chimney rises adjacent the north wall between the west bay and the one adjoining. On the rear of the house is board and batten construction. On the first story is a door with unusual bracketed hood. Two windows light the second story.

Between the house and garage is a solid board fence. The hip roof garage is 20th century concrete block. Between the house and adjoining yard on George Street is another early solid fence with jig-saw design in its top. The same design is found on the overhanging cornice of an outbuilding. A picket fence extends between the aforementioned outbuilding and another building which formerly housed the necessary.

Iron fencing extends along both street sides of the lot and the area between the fence and house is paved in brick.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	✓ARCHITECTURE	✓EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
✓1800-1899	✓COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Davis House is the most pretentious Italianate dwelling in Chesapeake City. Its importance is greatly enhanced by the profusion of original and early detail, including the porchs, weatherboard, window trim, and iron fence. It also still retains sections of old wooden fence and outbuildings.

The Davis House is now as it was advertised in an 1879 handbill, a "large and elegant dwelling house". Several important changes have taken place since the property was acquired in 1854 by the Bohemia Lodge #68 I.O.O.F. The Lodge built a two story frame building to be used as a school. One early resident[1] remembers that the entrance to the school yard was through a stile in the picket fence which made going in and out very difficult for the teacher in her wide skirts.

In 1872, the Bohemia Lodge sold the school building and the lot to Mr. Joseph Hedrick who had the front portion of the house built.[2] Mr. Hedrick was an official with the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and the story is that he misused Canal funds, some expended on the construction of this house. When the scandal became known, Mr. Hedrick left the country and his property was sold at public auction to satisfy his creditors.

Mr. Joseph H. Steele bought the property at this sale in 1879 for three thousand and ten dollars. He is probably the one who built the iron fence, since his name is inscribed on the gate.

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1. In Cecil County Historical Society papers on Chesapeake City.

2. From a description written by Mrs. H. V. Davis, June, 1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Michael Bourne & Katherine Wein

DATE
May 6, 1976

ORGANIZATION
South Chesapeake City Historic District Commission

STREET & NUMBER
c/o Town Council of Chesapeake City

TELEPHONE
(301) 885-5298

CITY OR TOWN
Chesapeake City

STATE
Maryland 21915

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

#8 Continued

Dr. Henry Vincent Davis, the only doctor in Chesapeake City, has had his office in this building since 1938. The original parlor on the left of the front entrance was divided to provide office space.

Dr. Davis' wife is the former Eloise Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Howard, who bought the house at a public sale. The selling price when they bought in 1926, was thirty-five hundred dollars.

The house described in the handbill of 1879, main building 18 x 44 feet, three storys high with back building 18 x 32 feet, two storys high. the whole containing thirteen rooms. The thirteen rooms are still here; one room has been added and some rooms have been divided to provide bathrooms and storage space. The original gas lights in the house were changed to electricity before 1926. The entire house is furnished and in use as a private home, the most elegant dwelling house in Chesapeake City.

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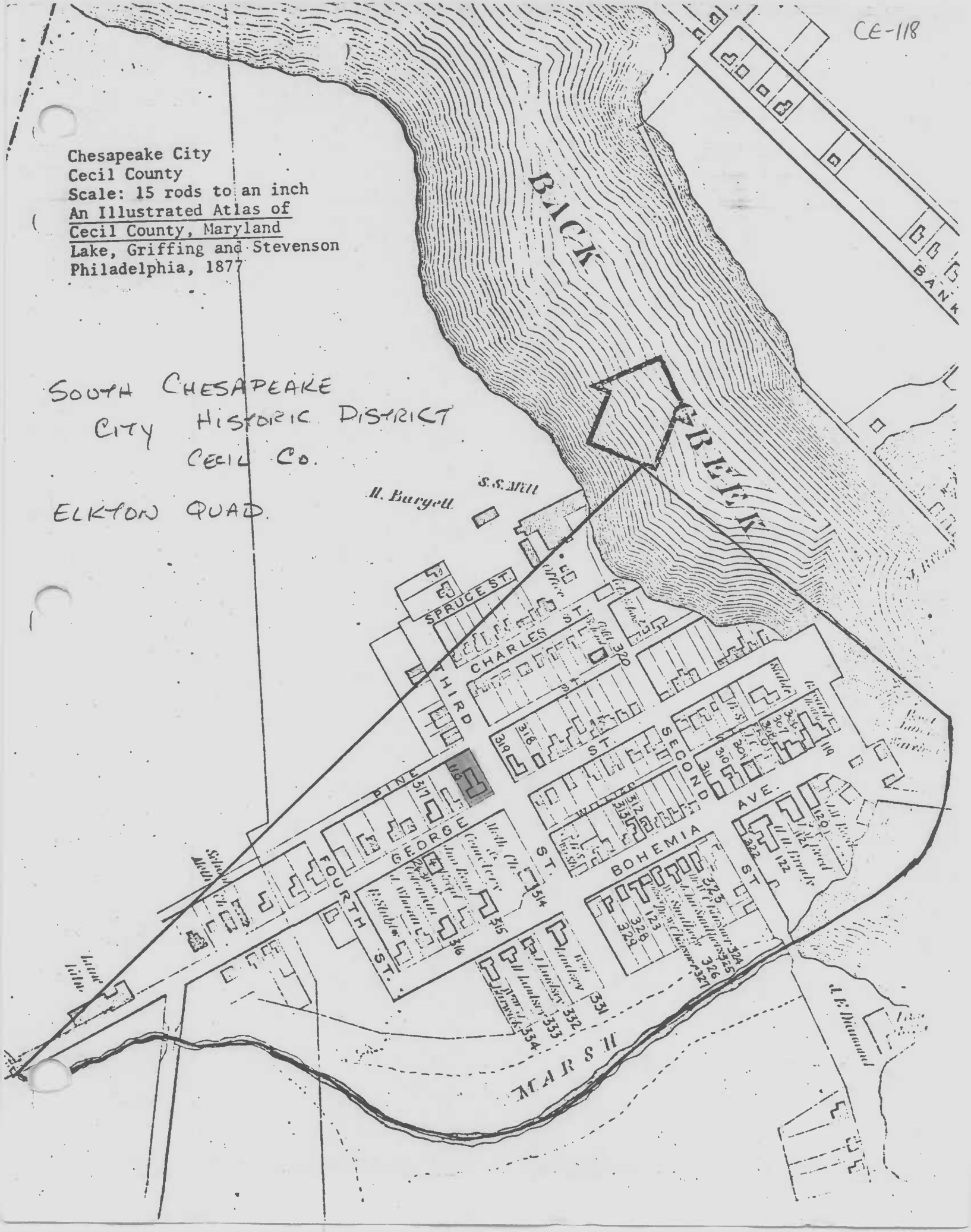
Chesapeake City
Cecil County
Scale: 15 rods to an inch
An Illustrated Atlas of
Cecil County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
Philadelphia, 1877

SOUTH CHESAPEAKE
CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT
CECIL CO.

ELKTON QUAD.



H.V. Davis House CE- 118

East facade

M. Bourne April 1976