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CE-313

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Benson House

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bohemia Avenue, west side, 6th house south of 2nd Street

CITY, TOWN — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chesapeake City — VICINITY OF

STATE — COUNTY

Maryland — 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

Helen P. Benson — Telephone #: (301) 885-5818

STREET & NUMBER

Bohemia Avenue

CITY, TOWN — STATE, zip code

Chesapeake City — VICINITY OF — Maryland 21915

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cecil County Courthouse

Liber #: RRC No. 44

Folio #: 33

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Building

CITY, TOWN — STATE

Elkton — Maryland 21921

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CE-313

| 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

The Benson House is a three story frame dwelling constructed around the middle of the 19th century, like several buildings in the community (e.g., Kenneth McLean House, Smithers House, Levredge-Smithers, etc.). The building is three bays wide, and like its neighbor to the north, it has a two story wing with a farther lean-to to the west. Beneath the window sills of the facade is applied composition brick, but all other parts of the wall are covered with wood-grain aluminum siding. The windows have 6/6 sash on both storys and 3/3 sash on the third story.

The house possesses one of the best entrances of the period with sidelights and transom and pilasters flanking the composition. The transom and sidelights have interlocking diamond muntins and the glass is colored. The door has handsome and unique five panels like a celtic cross.

Originally there was a small flat roof porch with balustrade, access being from the north side. this was replaced by an 'A' roof hood supported on wrought iron stanchions. Shutters have also been removed. Original barge boards possess the ovolo molding like the house adjacent the bank.

Adjoining Mrs. Benson's house and the neighbor to the south is a handsome white picket fence. A brick walk leads from the gate to the rear yard.

The brick chimney has been removed from the north gable above the roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

CE-313

| 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

Mrs. Benson's House is a good example of the typical form dwelling constructed in Chesapeake City in the mid-19th century. It retains many original details encluding the front door, surrounding colored sidelights and much interior work, even though parts of the original have been covered or removed.

Architecturally, it represents the home of a moderately confortable family whose chief source of income was the Canal

John Clark, captain of a canal boat probably built this house about 1856-1857 since he leased the property in 1856 from Richard Bayard. The Clark family lived here for many years, until 1935, when the Loraine's took possession. The property has always been a dwelling and remains a leasehold property with annual rent of $15.00.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CE-313

## 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
Micahel Bourne & Katherine Wein — April 15, 1976
ORGANIZATION — DATE
South Chesapeake City Historic District Commission
STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE
c/o Town Council of Chesapeake City — (301) 885-5298
CITY OR TOWN — STATE
Chesapeake City — 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.

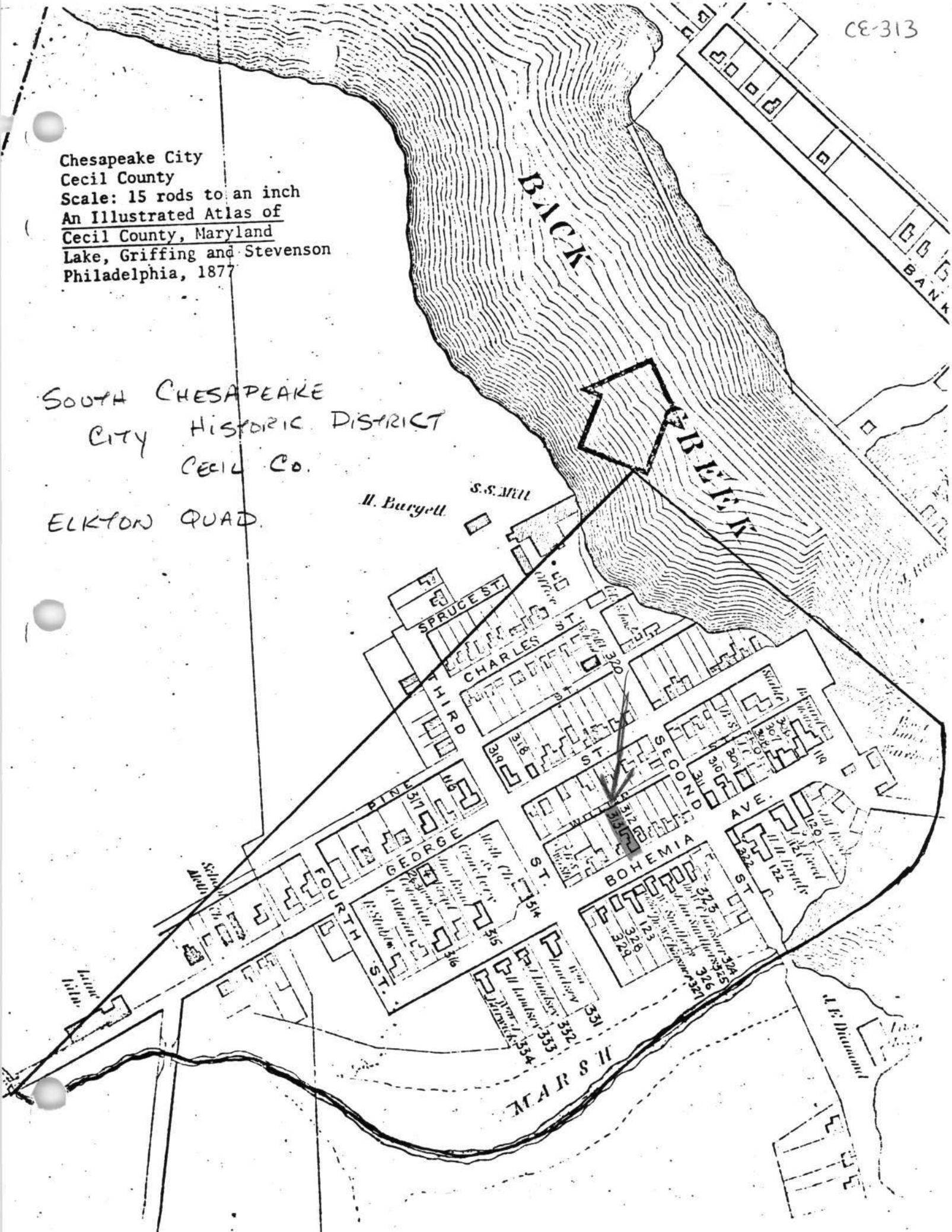
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CE-313

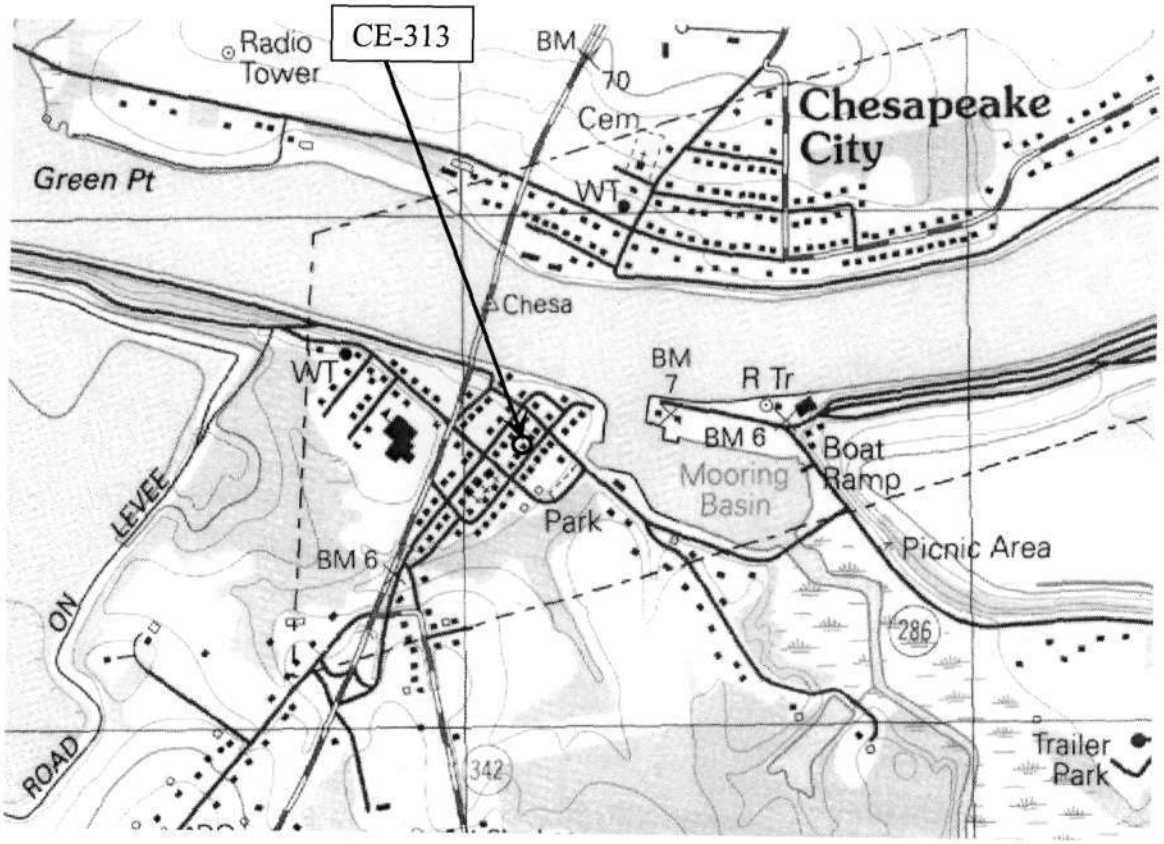
Chesapeake City
Cecil County
Scale: 15 rods to an inch
An Illustrated Atlas of
Cecil County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
Philadelphia, 1877

SOUTH CHESAPEAKE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT CECIL CO.

ELKTON QUAD.



CE-313
Benson House
Bohemia Ave.
Chesapeake City
Elkton Quad.
Cecil County



CE 313

Chesapeake City

Benson House

BE 7/73

Benson House - CE-313

East facade

Ill. Bourne April 1976