

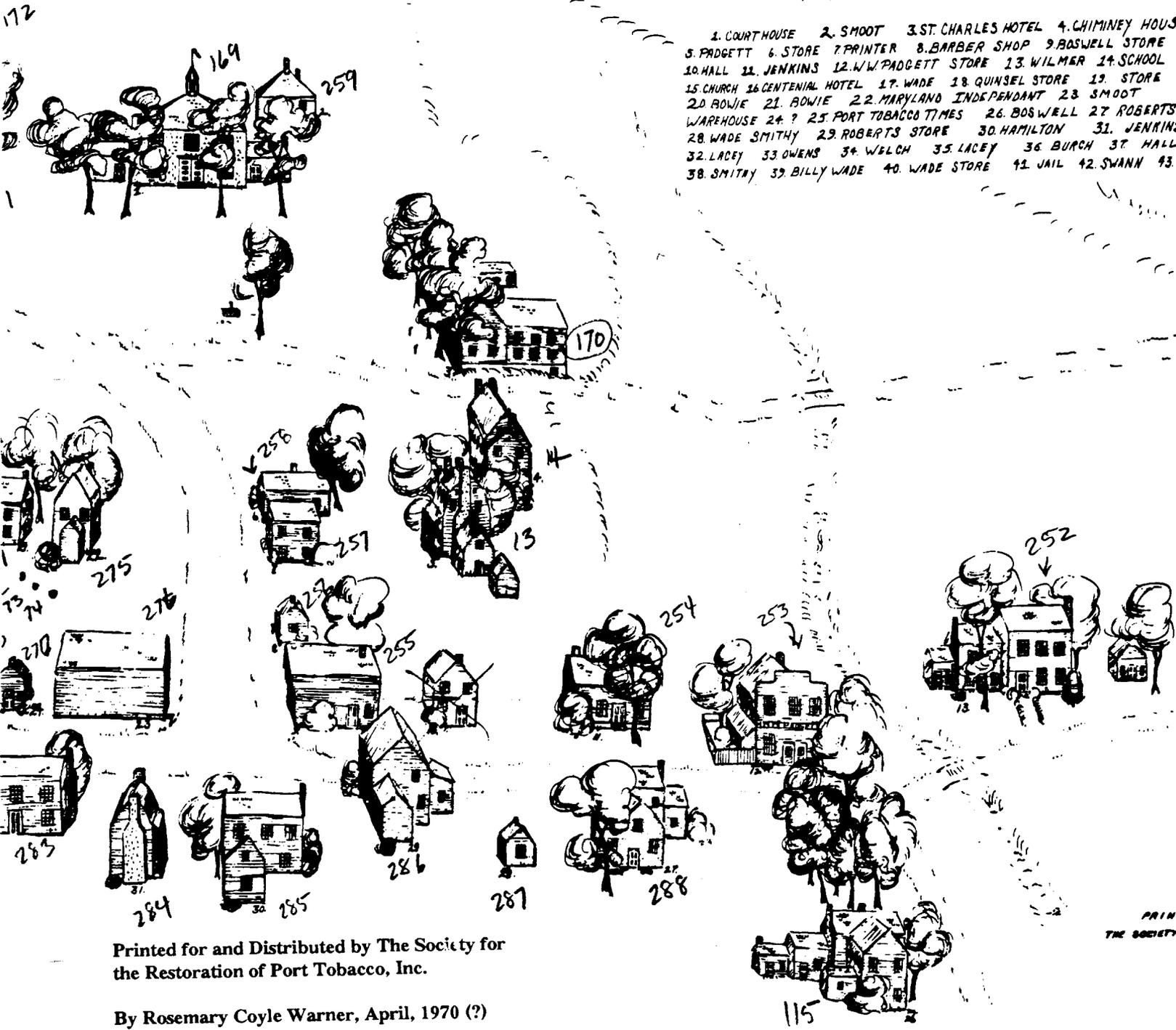
CH-170
St. Charles Hotel, site (Brawner House)
Port Tobacco

mid 18th century

Facing south over the town square, the St. Charles Hotel, known also as the Brawner House and by various other names in its long history, was Port Tobacco's best known and most prosperous tavern-hotels. A large, two-story frame structure built over a partially elevated brick-walled cellar, it had double porches across the front, a rear wing nearly as large as the main block, and other structural appendages. A late-eighteenth century advertisement described it as having 25 bedrooms, a dining room seating 200 people, game room, breakfast room, reception rooms, a proprietor's suite, and quarters for servants. It and the Matthew Blair house and store both received a valuation of \$4,000.00 in the 1798 assessments, making them the two most important privately owned properties in Port Tobacco at the time. It continued to be Port Tobacco's most popular hostelry throughout the nineteenth century. An 1881 newspaper account of various social events referred to a dinner-reception held there "in the style for which the accomplished hostess of that establishment is famous." In 1969 the site was partially excavated, exposing a brick-floored cellar room with an expansive cooking fireplace at one end. An analysis of clay pipe stems and other artifacts revealed during the excavation suggested a mid-eighteenth century date of construction.

VILLAGE OF PORT TOBACCO CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND ABOUT 1890

1. COURTHOUSE 2. SMOOT 3. ST. CHARLES HOTEL 4. CHIMNEY HOUSE
5. PADGETT 6. STORE 7. PRINTER 8. BARBER SHOP 9. BOSWELL STORE
10. HALL 11. JENKINS 12. W.W. PADGETT STORE 13. WILMER 14. SCHOOL
15. CHURCH 16. CENTENIAL HOTEL 17. WADE 18. QUINSEL STORE 19. STORE
20. BOWIE 21. BOWIE 22. MARYLAND INDEPENDANT 23. SMOOT
- WAREHOUSE 24. ? 25. PORT TOBACCO TIMES 26. BOSWELL 27. ROBERTS
28. WADE SMITHY 29. ROBERTS STORE 30. HAMILTON 31. JENKINS
32. LACEY 33. OWENS 34. WELCH 35. LACEY 36. BURCH 37. HALL
38. SMITHY 39. BILLY WADE 40. WADE STORE 41. JAIL 42. SWANN 43. ?



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By Rosemary Coyle Warner, April, 1970 (?)

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1892 Boundaries of the Village of Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland, Showing the Locations of Buildings, Sites, and Areas (Aboriginal and Colonial) of Archaeological Significance, that Exist Within the Settlement. Reduced and Drawn from the Original H.C. Page Survey of 1892 by J.R. Rivoire, February, 1973.

