

K-63

Robert Reid House  
518 High Street, Chestertown  
c.?

In the late 18th century the deed descriptions are often vague and sometimes misnumbered. Many times a chain of title can only be completed by combining information from neighboring buildings/lots with what extant information there is on the subject. In the case of 518 High Street, such methods were used to identify its original owner/builder.

In 1775, Robert Reid acquired the half lot (on which he most likely built his house) from Elizabeth Tuille,<sup>1</sup> cousin and heir of James Harris (d. 1766). He was a gunsmith by trade and, due to the work required of him during the revolution, he did not build his home until 1782.

The house abuts 520 High Street, the latter having preexisted 518's construction. At the time it was built, its facade had only one window and an entrance door, the former with 9/6 sash and shutters and a gauged brick arch. Beneath the window, at grade, was a bulkhead entry to the basement. The second floor had two windows placed symmetrically above the first floor openings, but they were shorter, having 6/6 sash and no shutters. There were no dormers on the roof, the attic received light only from the gable end. To the rear of the brick structure there was a two story frame wing which housed a kitchen.

The original floor plan consisted of an entry/stairhall with a living room to the northwest, separated from the former by a feather-edge board partition. The living room was lighted by only one window. It was heated by

a fireplace which had a cabinet on its north side. The configuration of the frame wing is unknown.

On the second floor the same arrangement was repeated. The stairhall however, was about two feet wider than that on the first floor. The ceiling was exposed and whitewashed. The stair continued to an unfinished attic where the gable end of the adjoining house was visible and where there was one boarded up window. A brick in that gable displayed the scratched-in numerals "1782". This date must reflect the time of 518's construction rather than that of 520's as there are references to the latter in the deed of 1775.

From the profile of the moldings of the front door, the brickwork on the southeast gable and the second story mantel, the house appears to have been remodeled in the 1840's or 50's. At that time the house was owned by Ann Rollins and her son-in-law John Russell.<sup>2</sup> The remodeling they undertook involved rebuilding the southeast gable above grade, bricking in the single window and installing two flanking windows on both stories. A dormer was added at this time and the entire interior was plastered, i. e. ceilings and board partitions. The second story partition was moved, narrowing the hall to the same size as the one below and a new mantel was installed.

A large increase in sale price was recorded in a 1920 deed by Hallie C. Kelly.<sup>3</sup> Her grandfather had purchased the house in 1879, had bequeathed it to his son Amos, who died around 1908. Amos' heirs sold it to Kelly. Kelly was probably the next major remodeler, installing a porch across the facade and rebuilding the back frame wing. The wing was to

house a kitchen and dining room with narrow stair in the latter. A buffet mantel with mirrored overmantel was installed in the living room and a tiny bath at the head of the stairs.

The house came through the 20th Century in that configuration until Preservation, Incorporated purchased it in 1975.<sup>4</sup> It was again remodeled – the facade restored to its 1840 appearance. Mrs. Horace Havemeyer undertook a major rehabilitation of the interior and back wing. Since that time there have been three owners and several tenants, the present owner being responsible for the most recent remodeling.

1. Land Records, Lib. DD 5, fol. 100.
2. Land Records, Lib. JNG 8, fol. 36; Wills, Lib. JFB 1, fol. 174.
3. Land Records, Lib. APR 6, fol. 404.
4. Land Records, Lib. EHP 70, fol. 137.

518 High St.

Chestertown, Md.

private residence

Recently purchased by a local Preservation organization  
518's brick section, or main wing, has been externally restored.  
Just sold to a private owner, plans include interior restoration  
as well as ~~some~~ work on an addition in the rear. Like its nearby  
neighbors in the 500 block of High St. this was a modest brick  
townhouse of the late 18th or early 19th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

518 High St.

First

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Rosalind Havemyer

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

The Reward

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Clerk

Liber #: BHP 70

Folio #: 137

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

none known

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-63

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

518 is separated from its northern neighbor, 520 by about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of space. Both have separate brick walls and each has a chimney within the neighboring gable.

518 has recently had the paint removed expose its attractive Flemish brick bond. The new roof is of fire resistant wood shingles which enhance its appearance greatly. There is one dormer on the roof with a broken pediment and 6/6 double hung sashes.

The High St. facade is 3 bays wide but is not as wide as 520. The second floor has 3 4/4 double hung sashes, and the first, from left to right facing the house, 2 windows 9/9 double hung and shuttered, and an 8 paneled door. The water table is to the level of the base of the door and there is a

The house is set on a brick foundation with an entrance to the basement under the two 1st floor windows. Originally there was, on the 1st floor, only 1 window and the doorway and this can be seen by the position of the cantilevered bricks over the space between the two windows.

The east facade is in American bond with a small 4/4 double hung window in the gable peak. A basement window is also visible near the front corner of the building. At the rear is a frame 2 storey addition. From the rear on the east side, one can see what is most probably a window at the head of the stairs, 4/4 double hung.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 or	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 late 18th or early 19th C. BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Like its neighbor, 520 High St., 518 is a modest townhouse. In its restored state its attractive Flemish bond and appropriate sashes, paint colors, etc. make a pleasant contrast to its un-restored neighbor. The rear frame addition is slated to be removed with additional restoration of the rear of the house by the new owner.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 34' 8" wide and 132' 8" deep

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NE side of High St. adjoining land of Edw. Smith and Esther Hubbard, fronting on High St 34'8" and having a dept of 132'8".

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Kathleen B. White, Historic Site Surveyor	October 1976
ORGANIZATION	Md. Historical Trust, City of Chestertown	DATE
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN		STATE

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

518 High St.

K 63 #

EHP 70/137 9/7/76 Preservation, Inc. to Rosalind Havemyer

EHP 62/211 3/12/75 Esther A. Hubbard, widow, to Preservation, Inc.

WHG 38/529 4/1/55 Hallie Cooper Simpson to Grover C. and Esther A. Hubbard.

Will  
WPJ 1/399 6/23/48 of Samuel E. Cooper to daughters, Hallie Cooper Simpson and Etta Cooper Robinson. also p. 41- WHG 2/ Red Brick House, #518, known as "Allen House" and land connected therewith.

RAS 26/470 5/21/41 Jacob F. and Belle Allen to Samuel E. Cooper

APR 6/404 3/19/20 Hallie C. Kelley to Jacob and Belle Allen, \$1,700.  
5/8/08 Mary R. Kelley to Hallie Kelley

Will  
TRS 1/136 of James Kelley - left "certain brick dwelling with frame rear extension" and lands to wife, Ann R. Kelley, for her life, then to son Amos

JTD 17/143 5/5/08 Amos died leaving widow and 3 children, 1 child is Mary Kelley who sells it for \$133.33 to Hallie K.

JTD 28/276 10/4/13 Hallie S. Clarke (dau. of Amos) and husband, James B. to Hallie C. Kelley for \$133.33.

JTD 28/274 10/4/13 Clara M. Lambert (dau. of Amos) and husband, Edw. A. to Hallie C. Kelley, \$1.00.

DCB 5/60 3/8/79 John N. Usilton, Sarah M. Usilton, Samuel L. Rawleigh and Mary C. Rawleigh to James Kelley, plot #61, for \$900.00  
Mary C. Rawleigh had bought it from John Usilton but never paid for it so no deed ever entered, thus now all 4 join to sell it to Kelley.

DCB 5/58 4/27/72 George W. Titter and wife, Julia A. to John Usilton, #61, improvements and appurtenances, \$600.

JKH 1/336 1/1/59 John Russell and wife, Elizabeth to Lewis W. Titter, (brother of George, \$750. #61 and brick house. will probated 3/31/1868 leaving it to George.

JNG 11/218 11/3/46 John W. and Sarah Matilda Apsley to John Russell, \$550, #61 and brick house.

Will  
JFB 1/174 8/19/44 of Ann Rollins for Theophilus Russell, Waters Russell, John Hames Russell, James Alexander Russell, Wm. Geo. Russell and Hester Ann Russell - all Ann Rollins' grandchildren, i.e. sons and daughter of John Russell. Trustee, John Russell to sell property and funds to go to grandchildren.

JNG 11/111 1/2/46 John sells it, as Trustee, to John Apsley, \$650. #61, brick house. Begin western corner brick house 49' down High, then 268½' back to Calvert, 48' up Calvert, thence up High.

JNG 8/36 12/18/41 Emeline and Thomas E. Dugan (Jr.) to Ann Rollins, \$325.00. #61, said house.

JNG 4/233 5/4/36 John L. Reid (Reed?), heir of Robert Reid to Emeline Dugan, \$50, house and part lot #61.

JNG 2/6 11/28/29 Edward Browne, former collector of Kent County, to Thomas E. Dugan (Sr.), in mercantile business. part lot #61 had become chargeable as the property of Robert Reeds heirs for payment of \$3.38 county charges for 1822 and 1823. The Telegraph, Chestertown, Md., Friday, 4/17/1829. Vol. 14, #26. list of taxes due to be collected. Reed, Robert heirs, part of lot #61 for 1822 \$1.77, for 1823 \$1.61, for 1824 0, total \$3.38. sold to highest bidder, Thomas E. Dugan for \$12.06 plus \$5 for the title, containing 64 perches more or less, with appurtenances.

## Will

JFB 1/2 11/28/29 of Thomas E. Dugan to Marion Dugan, daughter, until 1/1/1839 it goes to heirs at law of Robert Reed, formerly of Kent County, deceased. will also says purchased from John L. Reid, brick-layer, through Edw. Browne, in 1829.

To date I cannot find any record of Reid gaining the property, thus from here back is still a question.

While searching #62, 520 High St. I came across

TW 4/364 2/5/1823 John L. Reid of Philadelphia to Thomas E. Dugan, for \$100 current money, #62 and house. It also says that this was willed from Sarah Craig on 5/21/1783 to John L. Reid who is the eldest son of James and thus entitled to it.

What the relationship is between James, and Robert Reed - to whom Elizabeth Tuille sold #62 in 1775 - is unknown. This might also be an error as far as the plot number reads and could be #61, 518 High. However, I am inclined to believe that both 518 and 520 were owned by Reeds (Reids?) and that Dugan, who did own much property in Chestertown, may have bought both.

It is said locally that brothers in the Reed (Reid) family built both 518 and 520.

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N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS (NEW) FARM

COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

KENT

LYNCHBURG STREET

POPLAR RD

STREET

PROSPECT ST

WASHINGTON AVENUE

AVENUE

MORNING

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD VALLEY STREET

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

CAMPUS

PINE

VALLEY

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

MT VERNON

WASHINGTON

U.S. 213

BROWN VIEW RD

STREET

MILL

CALVERT

STREET

PHILOSOPHERS

TERRACE

RIVER

SCHOOL STREET

SCHOOL AVENUE

SPRING ST

ROW

STREET

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

BYFORD DRIVE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

BARROLL DRIVE

STREET

CROSS

PARK COURT ST

AVENUE

STREET

BYFORD

COURT

TWILLEY LANE QUEEN

CHURCH ST

WATER CANNON

HIGH

STREET

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE

TERRACE

BYFORD

COURT

MORRIS

Chester

U.S. 213

River

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**EDITORS.**

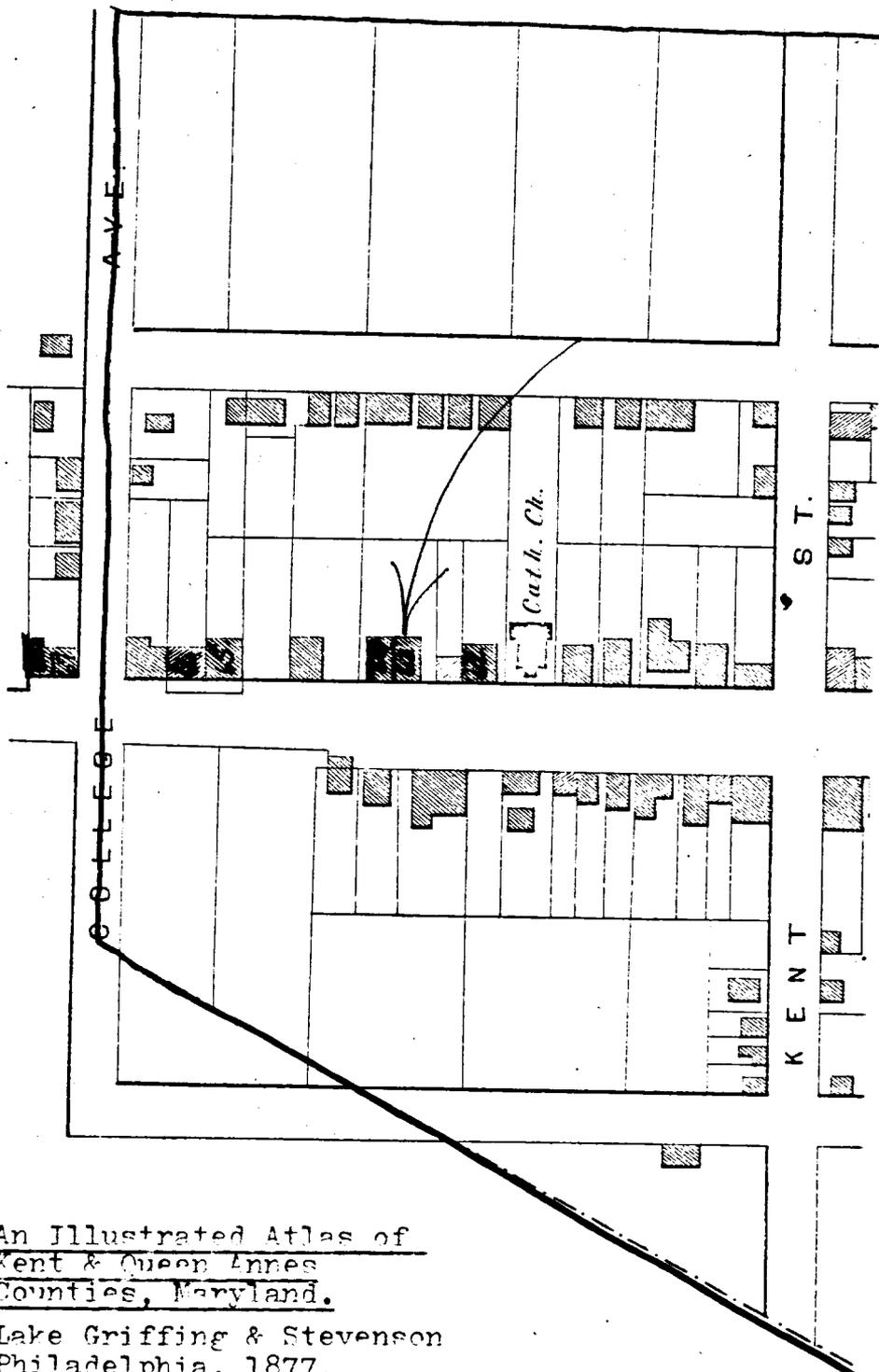
- PLUMMER & USILTON**, (James H. Plummer, Wm. B. Usilton), Editors and Proprietors of "Kent County News." Published at Chestertown. One of the best Advertising Mediums in Eastern Maryland.

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**JOHN F. COPPER**, Professional Schoo  
 Res. 3 miles N. W. of Chestertown.  
**R. S. EMORY**, Extensive Fruit Grower  
 Res. 1 mile South of Chestertown.

K-63



An Illustrated Atlas of  
Kent & Queen Annes  
Counties, Maryland.

Lake Griffing & Stevenson  
 Philadelphia, 1877.

Prepared by MOB  
 6/1/71





R 03 ~~ATTB~~ 518-520 High  
1/77 S



K 03 ~~APP~~

518-320 High

1/77

S+W