

K-71

James Anderson House
Cannon Street, Chestertown
c. 1744-1783

The lot on which the Anderson House is located is designated No. 97 on the plat of Chestertown and was first sold in 1733 to Elias Ringgold.¹ Upon his death in 1737, it was sold to James Anderson for the sum of @200. It is likely that a frame house was located on the property at that time as the deed states "messuage tenement lott and parcell of land . . ." indicating that the lot had been improved.²

Before his death in 1783, James Anderson enlarged his dwelling by building a large brick house, incorporating into it the old frame structure which was the original tenement of Elias Ringgold. The floor plan that resulted was quite unusual. There was a central stair passage with two flanking rooms, and a kitchen in a separate frame wing along Cannon Street. Behind the brick section were additional spaces, including a long narrow room and a porch. These were covered by a leanto roof originating at attic level which allowed the same amount of space on the second story, with the floor level a few steps lower. While the plan possessed similarities to those at Broad Neck & Shepherd Delight, the two story porch made it exceptional.

The room on the northwest originally had a wall of paneling which contained a secondary stair leading to the second floor corridor. The room behind had a diagonal fireplace in the west corner with a simple period mantel, chair rail and baseboard. The stairhall was relatively narrow, with open-string staircase having turned balusters ascending on the southeast

side. At the top of the first flight, the stair was divided and ascended the last few steps in both directions to a corridor extending across the back of the main block. On the southeast end of the house, the chimney was located on the exterior of the building, creating a fireplace flush with the interior wall.

On the second floor there were two rooms in the front with corridor behind and two rooms behind the northwest room, one with diagonal fireplace. The last two rooms were at a lower level, as was the room below. The northwest room had a wall of paneling, while the other front room had a fine strapwork mantel. From the southeast end of the corridor, an enclosed stair ascended to the attic. Close thereto was a door which opened into the second story porch.

When James Anderson wrote his will in 1783, he left 584 acres in Anne Arundel County and a farm in Kent County called "Anne Arundel Grove." In addition he bequeathed to his son James Mouat Anderson the "house and lot whereon I now dwell . . . lot No. 97 . . . half of lot No. 85 fronting the house where I live" and "all medicines, drugs, chirurgical instruments and also all debts due upon medical books of James Anderson and Son."³ Before his death Anderson had purchased 3/4 acre from Simon Wilmer which he left to his son as well.

Wilmer owned all of the land to the southwest of Anderson's residence and was a witness to his will. The gate to his farm, adjoining Anderson's residence, is mentioned as a landmark and a division between bequests.

James Mouat Anderson had five children who were all raised in the

house: James, Harriett, Edward, Emily and Maria. Maria died before her father's death in 1821. Harriet married William McClean and lived at Sterling Castle across the street. The use of Anderson's house was left to his third daughter, Emily, for one year and it was designated that after that time everything was to be sold at public auction and distributed equally between his children.⁴ The house and lot were purchased by Mary Smith, mother-in-law to his eldest son.⁵ It then passed to her daughter and eventually to her grandson, John B. H. Anderson (1819).⁶ After 1866 the property was sold out of the family.

In the Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas (1877) the owner is listed as J. M. Vandyke, whose wife Olivia had acquired it the year before (1876).⁷ After the Vandyke ownership, the house was turned into a duplex, after the back porch had been enclosed and the old kitchen moved to the rear of the brick section, side by side with the aforesaid kitchen. With the porch being enclosed, it became necessary to get more light into the front room, so one window on the southeast gable was introduced at that time. Other than a few minor changes, the house has remained in the same form since then. It has, however, been reconverted into a single family dwelling.

1. Land Records, Lib. 4, fol. 282.
2. Land Records, Lib. 6, fol. 146.
3. Wills, Lib. 7, fol. 99.
4. Wills, Lib. 10, fol. 217.
5. Land Records, Lib. TW 3, fol. 478.
6. Land Records, Lib. WS 2, fol. 336.
7. Land Records, Lib. DCB 2, fol. 140.

K 76
~~K 76~~ Anderson House
 Chestertown
 private

2nd quarter 18th century

The Anderson House, named for the family and descendants of the its principal eighteenth century owner, Dr. James Moat Anderson, is one of two brick Georgian "original catslide" or leanto houses in Chestertown and one of the ~~town~~^{town}'s chief architectural/historic ~~are~~ treasures. ~~Its mate, the John Buck House, which has~~
 Unlike its mate, the John Buck House (103 Queen Street), which has its gable roof more typically thrown off center, thereby maintaining a constant pitch, the Anderson House maintains a symmetrical gable and alters the pitch of the roof ~~at~~ for the leanto section.

The house has a rare advantage for an older house in Chestertown: it is not as yet pressed in by its ~~kn~~ neighbors, and thus its distinctive shape can be seen from all angles. The house was built for either Elias or John Ringgold between 1733 and 1744. It is badly in need of repair and restoration.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Anderson House
AND/OR COMMON

~~K-356~~
~~K-356~~

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
400-402 Cannon Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>apts</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John and Anna E. Allspach

Telephone #: 778 0778

STREET & NUMBER
102 Water Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21520

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: WHG 65
Folio #: 130

STREET & NUMBER
Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
none

DATE
____ FEDERAL ____ STATE ____ COUNTY ____ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-71

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located on the west corner of the intersection of Cannon and Mill Streets in Chestertown on Town Lot 97.

It is a 2½-story, 5-bay brick Georgian house with an "A" roof, three gabled dormers, and an original 2-story leanto or catslide roof. The facade was originally symmetrical but the house was converted to a 2-family dwelling sometime during the nineteenth century (?), resulting in alterations to the facade: the window in the second bay from the northwest (right) gable end was bricked up and a second entrance door added immediately to the right of the original.

The brickwork is laid in Flemish Bond. There is a belt course across the back of the house, now partly covered by frame additions. The original door is 5-paneled and similar to the door on the interior of 103 Mill Street; it has a 3-pane transom. The second door has four panels and a 2-pane transom. A shed roof, 2-bay porch has been added over the double entrance; it is supported by wood posts which have decorative wood arches supporting them.

All windows (and the original door) on the facade have flat brick arches. The windows on the facade are double hung sash, 6/6, have wood sills and louvered shutters.

The gable of the "A" roof is symmetrical and as a result ~~xxx~~ pitch over the leanto section changes. The roof material is composition shingles in the front and tin in the rear and on the leanto. The two main chimneys are at the ends of the house, but are in different positions: the northwest (right) chimney is entirely within the wall, the southeast chimney is partially on the exterior and has stepped brickwork. There is a third chimney in the west (right rear) corner of the leanto.

The front section of the house is two bays deep. The southeast (left) elevation has an entrance porch with a roof (like that over the main entrance) in the left bay and a window in the right. There are windows on either side of the chimney on the second story & in the gable. The windows decrease in size and are 6/6 on the first and second stories, 4/4 in the gable. There is one narrow 9/9 window in the end of the leanto section. There also appears to have been a 1½-story "A" roof wing on the gable end of the main section: the marks on the wall are quite clear, and the 1877 Map of Chestertown indicates a wing on the dwelling at that time in such a position.

The northwest (right) gable end has a varied assortment of windows, three with brick segmental arches. Some repair work is evident on this wall, and there are three rods that have been put through to pull the wall in.

The leanto section is original brick on its northwest half (right rear) and frame (now covered with aluminum) on the southeast half. Possibly the frame half was originally a 2-story porch overlooking the fields and Radcliffe Creek.

There are two adjoining single story additions (frame) at the rear of the leanto, both with "A" roofs. There is a double staircase in the house, similar to the one in the Hynson-Ringgold House at the corner of Cannon and Water Streets.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-71

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 2nd quarter 18th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is an extremely handsome building in its original conception and badly in need of repair and restoration. It is one of two Georgian "original catslide" houses in Chestertown and makes an interesting architectural comparison with the other one, 103 Queen Street, which was built at about the same time. 103 Queen has its gable roof more typically thrown off-center, thereby maintaining a constant pitch. 400-402 Cannon has the advantage of not being pressed in by its neighbors; its distinctive shape can be seen from all angles. Restoration would make it one of the architectural/historic treasures of the town.

The house was probably built for Elias or John Ringgold sometime between 1733 and 1744. Elias bought the land, Town Lot 97, for £10 from Simon Wilmer in 1733; when John Ringgold sold it to a local physician, Dr. James Goat Anderson, in 1744, it appears to have had a "messuage" on it and the price was up to £200. If Anderson built the house, which is not impossible since the wording of the deed makes it conceivable that "messuage" is used as an adjective merely indicating the lot is residential rather than farm property, then it was probably built soon after 1744.

When Anderson sold the property in 1806, the price was £536. Up until the middle of the nineteenth century, the house and land were commonly referred to (in deeds) as "the Anderson property." In the late nineteenth century and first quarter of the present century, the property was in the Gale branch of the Usilton family and was known as "the Usilton house." It is not clear when the alterations were made to the facade of the house, though the style pretty clearly indicates late nineteenth century. The house was not referred to as a double house until 1920.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-71

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12, 1/4 sq. feet, more or less"

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the northwesterly corner of the intersection of Mill Street and Cannon Street in Chestertown and running from thence (1) by and with the westerly side of Cannon Street 92 feet, more or less, to the lands of Leo Hicks; (2) thence by and with the Hicks land in a southwesterly direction 132 feet, more or less, to the lands of Wilson D. Thompson; (3) thence by and with the Thompson lands parallel to Cannon Street, 92 feet, more or less, to the north side of Mill Street; (4) thence by and with the north side of Mill Street 132 feet to the beginning.

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

April, 1976

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

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent County TOWN VICINITY STREET NO. 401 Cannon Street *400 Cannon Street ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mrs. Anna Alspach PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 2½	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME Hanson House K-71 DATE OR PERIOD Mid 18th century STYLE Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO <p>400 401 Cannon Street. This is a five bay house of brick. It is 2½ stories with end chimneys and has a leanto, two story section to the rear. Half of it is of brick and the other was added at a later time. Possibly the frame half was originally a two story porch overlooking the fields and Radcliffe Creek. The facade is unsymmetrical and the chimneys are at different positions within the wall, one being entirely within the wall, the other being partially on the exterior and having stepped brickwork. The brick is laid in Flemish bond and there are flat arches above the windows and door. The sash are six over six throughout. The west gable end is very interesting because of the odd placement of windows of various sizes. The leanto brick room has a corner fireplace. There are two one-room, one-story wings out the rear which service the two apartments. There appears to have been a wing on the East gable end. The main entrance has a five-panel door, similar to the door on the interior of 103 Mill</p> <p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior POOR</p>	
<p>Street. The interior is noteworthy for a simple dividing stair, some raised paneling and strapwork mantle. There also appears to be a post and beam construction within the brick walls.</p> <p>*Address correction per Michael Bourne 1/95.</p> <p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH 1 B & W</p>	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD Feb. 7, 1969

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Title Search on 400-402 Cannon

Simon Wilmer to Elias Ringgold Liber 4 Folio 282 (1733) L10
(lot #97)

Elias Ringgold to John Ringgold, leaves it by will, 10/19/1737, Liber 2/63,
to wife Mary (#97) & "child she is bigg with", ~~thus is~~.

John and Mary Ringgold to Dr. James Moat Anderson Liber 6 Folio 146 (1744) L200 cm
("message tenement lott and parcell of land...No. 97")

Dr. James M. Anderson to Mary Smith TW 3 478 (1806) L536 cm
(John)

Mary Smith leaves property to her daughter, Elizabeth Anderson (1807) Elizabeth
marries J. M. Anderson, Jr.

James M. Anderson, Jr. and Elizabeth Anderson to William Barroll WS 2 334 (1818)

William Barroll to James M. Anderson, Jr. and Elizabeth WS 2 336 (1818)

(deed of trust) after their death to John B.H. Anderson and heirs and then
to sale

John B. Anderson inherits property from his father and holds until his death in 1866.

George Vickers, Trustee of Anderson estate, to John Denning JKH 5 610 (1866)
\$3,384 c.m.

and Mary Ann D.
John Denning to William Welch JKH 10 514 (1872) \$6,000 current money

and Harriet L.
William Welch to William B. Usilton JKH 12 154 (1873)

William B. Usilton to Olivia C. Vandyke DCD 2 144 (1876)

Olivia and James Vandyke to William B. Usilton DCB 2 140 (1876)
(mortgage)

and Lucie M., wife

John Gale Usilton to Sarah M. Usilton SGF 6 124 (1897) father, John N., left house
to wife for her life and then to son John G. J.G. owes Sarah \$2,000.

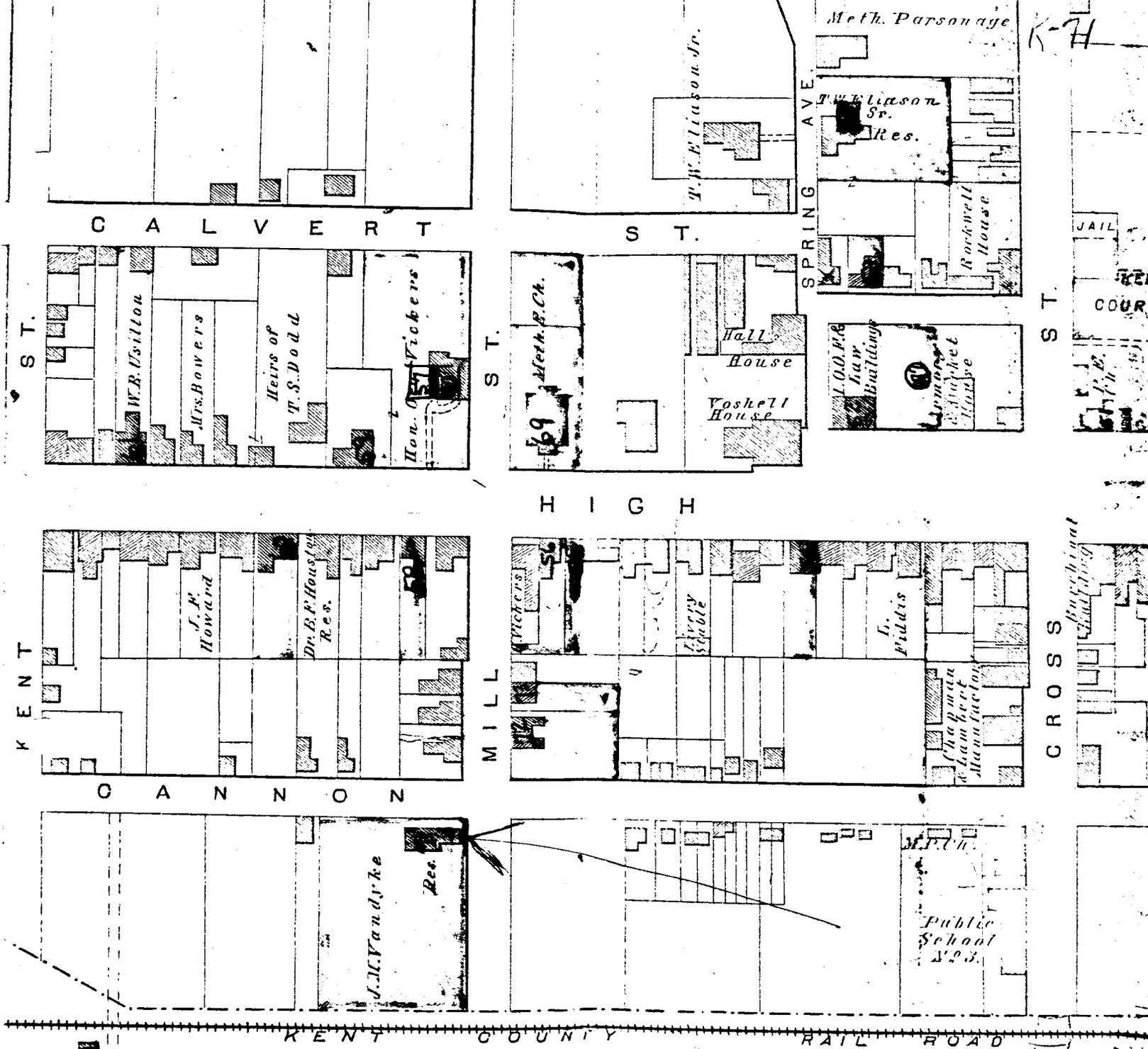
Sarah M. Usilton to John Gale Usilton APR 6-157 (1920) (mother to son)
("improved by a double brick dwelling")

John D. Urie, attny. to KCSB, RAS 10/556, \$2,400 (8/9/33) in mortgage from
John Gale Usilton to Kent County Savings Bank RAS 2 488 (xxxxx) (12/27/08)
(mortgage)

Kent County Savings Bank to William T. Bramble and Ethel D. RAS 26 474 (1941)
\$3,500 commonly known as the John G. Usilton Brick House property

William T. Bramble and Ethel D. to John G. Allspach and Anna E. WHG 65 130 (1960)
done by A. Parks Rasin, Jr. Executor for Ethel D. Bramble

~~Anna E. Allspach~~. Wills ERB 2/55 12,144sq.ft. \$5,890



CHESTERTOWN (INcomplete)

An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and
 Queen Anne's Counties, Maryland
 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
 Philadelphia, 1877

MGB 5/4/71

J.V. Usilton

K-71

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS (NEW) FARM

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

KENT COUNTY

LYNCHBURG STREET

POPLAR RD

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

KENT

STREET

MT VERNON

WASHINGTON U.S. 213

COLLEGE

CAMPUS

AVENUE

AVENUE

MORNING

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD

VALLEY

PINE

CEDAR

SCHOOL

BROWN VIEW RD

RIVER

STREET

SCHOOL STREET

SCHOOL AVENUE

MILL

K-71

CALVERT STREET

SPRING ST

PHILOSOPHERS

TERRACE

BYFORD DRIVE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

BARROLL DRIVE

CROSS

ROW

STREET

TWILLEY

LANE

QUEEN

PARK COURT ST.

CHURCH ST.

AVENUE

STREET

WATER

CANNON

HIGH

STREET

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE

TERRACE

BYFORD COURT

COURT

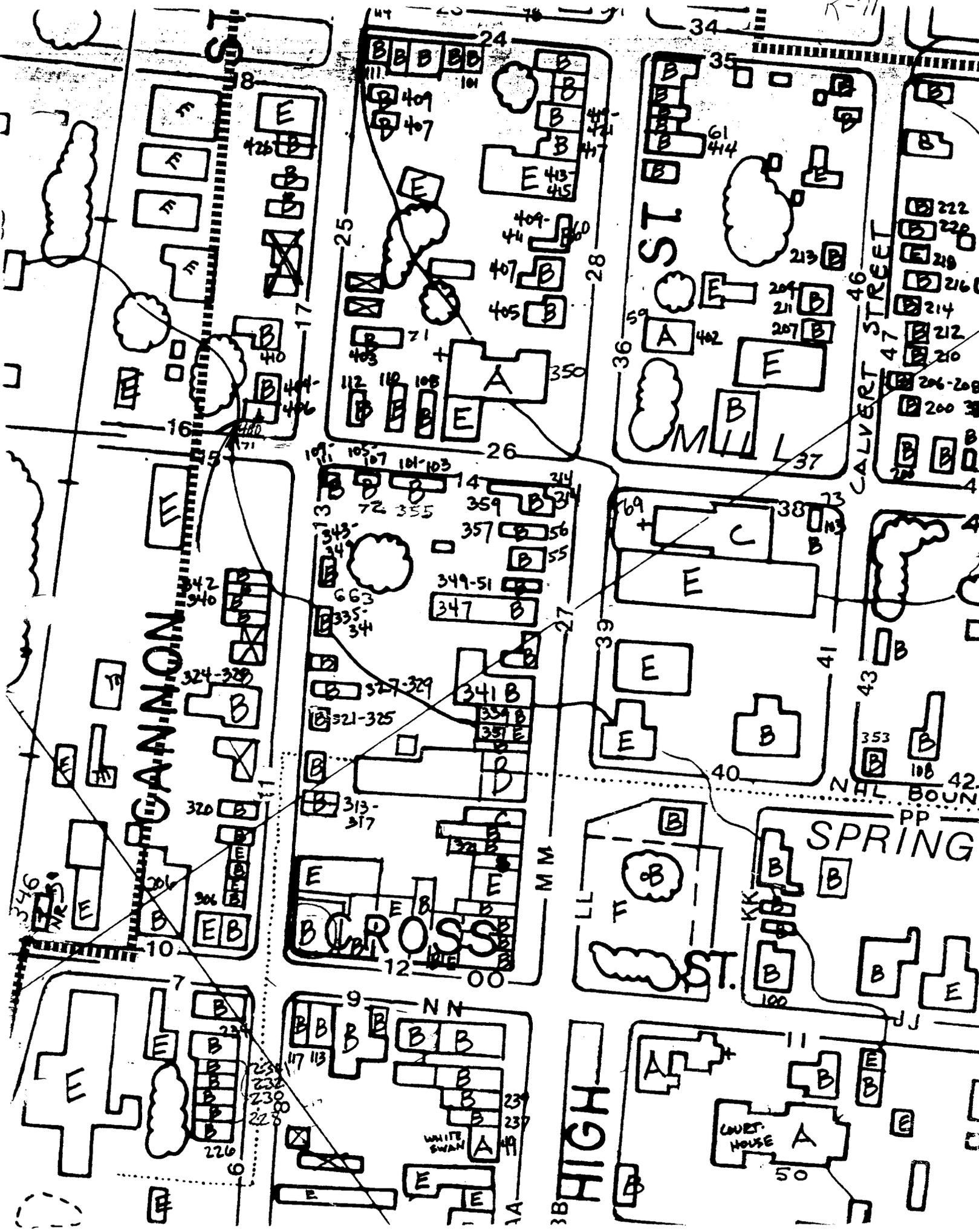
MORRIS

Chester

U.S. 213

River

K-71





K-71

Anderson House

400 Cannon St.

Chestertown, Md.



K-71

Anderson House
450 Cannon St.
Chesertown, Md.