

K-20

Bolton-Anderson House, Powers House
Maple Avenue, Chestertown
c. 1780

John Bolton, merchant of Chestertown, purchased lot No. 23 in 1759 for the sum of @28.¹ This price indicates that there was little in the way of improvement on the property at that time. Bolton constructed his own residence on the north side of the lot, on the corner of Queen and Fish Streets. He also built a stable or "cow house" in the yard, for it is described as such in his will written in 1784 and is listed in subsequent deeds as the same.²

In an effort to pay off Bolton's debts, Thomas McClure, his executor, sold off most of his properties. Bolton's house and its "cow house" were sold to William Dunn in 1786.³ The southeast part of the lot, however, had been sold earlier, in 1784, immediately after Bolton's death, to James Anderson.⁴ As Anderson paid nearly as much for his half lot as Dunn had paid for his (@301 and @350 respectively) it is likely that the half lot was similarly improved with a dwelling house and that Bolton had been responsible for its construction.

While the earliest part of the existing structure consists of the three most northwestern bays, the two bay extension along the same axis is nearly as old. It, as well as the 1-1/2 story, four bay brick wing out the back date from the late 18th Century.

During the 19th Century overhanging eaves and a central gable with flanking dormers were added (an addition similar to that of its neighbor on

the corner of Water Street). A flat roof two bay porch was added to the front. Later, a board and batten carriage house was built in the back of the property. In 1901, a frame second story was built on to the old kitchen wing.

Around 1970, the porch was enclosed, but the original beaded weatherboard can still be seen along with the original 9/6 windows with period trim. The original section has 6/6 sash on the second story, whereas the two bay extension has 9/6. The chimneys are exposed on both gable ends of the house.

1. Land Records, Lib. JS 29, fol. 188.
2. Land Records, Lib. EF 6, fol. 377.
3. Land Records, Lib. EF 7, fol. 36.
4. Land Records, Lib. EF 6, fol. 377.

Powers House
Chestertown
private

late 18th century

One of Chestertown's several 5-bay late eighteenth century frame houses, the Powers House is in excellent repair, its original aspect marred only by an enclosed porch covering two bays on the facade and a Victorian central gable. The original section has beaded clapboard siding, and the fireplace backs are exposed on both gable ends. The house is similar in general design and in many details to the Metcalf Apartments building around the corner on Water Street. There is an original carriage shed in the rear.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Powers House

1C-20

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

108 Maple Avenue

First

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Paul L. and Ruth Braucht

Telephone #: 778-3087

STREET & NUMBER

108 Maple Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: EHP 9

Folio #: 52

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-20

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

108 Maple Avenue is located on the southwest side of Maple Avenue between Water and Queen Streets on Town Lot 22 in Chestertown.

It is a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 5-bay eighteenth century frame house with an "A" roof and gabled dormers, similar in basic conception and some detail to the Metcalfe Apartments around the corner on Water Street. Both houses have a central full height peaked gable, and in the case of 108 Maple (and therefore perhaps also in the case of the Apartments) it is a nineteenth century alteration. Interior structural evidence reveals that there was a normal gabled dormer where the large Victorian gable is now.

The facade of the house is symmetrical and the house is one room deep. There is an L-wing not quite squared to the southeast (left) gable end, which was originally 1 or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ stories and brick. In 1901, a second frame story was built on top of it.

The original section of the house is sided with beaded clapboard and sits on a very low brick and fieldstone foundation. A single story enclosed porch (added in the early 1970's) covers the central entrance and adjacent window to the northwest (right).

The windows on the facade are double hung sash, 9/6, and have louvered shutters. There is a 2/2 window in the central gable; its top sash has a segmental arch.

There is a box cornice with a molding and a deep soffit. The roof is covered with composition shingles. There are chimneys within both gable ends.

The southeast (left) gable end has two 9/6 windows on the first and second stories, with louvered shutters, and a pair of small 4-pane attic windows in the gable. The fireplace back is exposed.

There are no windows in the northwest gable end, except for a pair of attic windows in the gable. The fireplace back is exposed on this end of the house also.

There is a shed-roofed porch to the rear of the original section.

The L-wing is of the same height as the original section, is four bays deep and one room wide, and is sided with clapboard (not beaded). First story windows on the wing are 6/6; second story, 2/2, and all have louvered shutters. There is a chimney about 2/3 of the way back.

There is a carriage shed to the rear of the house which looks to be quite old; it is sided with board and batten and has a standing seam tin roof.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-20

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	<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 late 18th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is an extremely handsome (and well kept) example of a 5-bay eighteenth century frame residence, of which there are ~~two~~ ^{several} in Chestertown, ~~the other being the Mutual Life Apartments around the corner on Water Street.~~ ^{the other being the Mutual Life Apartments around the corner on Water Street.} The search for its actual date of construction is a nearly hopeless one, mainly because the house was in the Constable family back into the eighteenth century and is not mentioned nor its property partitioned until 1867, when John Bordley and William Burchinal, who bought it as part of a large package from Constable heirs, sold it and its piece of Town Lot 23 for \$1800 to Robert Stewart.

Miscellaneous Data

Will of Robert Constable Liber 7 Folio 210 (1796):

- Leaves his dwelling house on half of Town Lot 88 to his wife.
- Leaves other half of Town Lot 88 to his son, John.
- Asks that Lot 30 and the house on it be sold to pay off its mortgage.
- Other real estate, which turns out to be Lots 22 and 23, is left to be divided among the heirs.

Their next owner is Margaret Ann Osborn (somehow a Constable) who is not one of his daughters (Sarah, Catharine, Elizabeth, and Harriet). She and her husband, Thomas H. Osborn, sell Lots 22 and 23 to John McKenney (JNG 7 515) in 1841 for \$3000. McKenney sells to Bordeley in 1846 for \$2700.

There is no documentary evidence of Robert Constable acquiring Lots 22 and 23 that has turned up yet.

~~Check the records.~~

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning where the northerly corner of the lands and premises join the lands of C.M. Baldwin on said Maple Avenue and running in a southeasterly direction by and with said Maple Avenue a distance of 80 feet, 6 inches to the lands of M.D. Hudson, et al. and extending from said Maple Avenue an even depth of 245 feet, 6 inches forming a parallelogram of 80 feet, 6 inches by 245 feet, 6 inches.

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

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

DATE

May, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

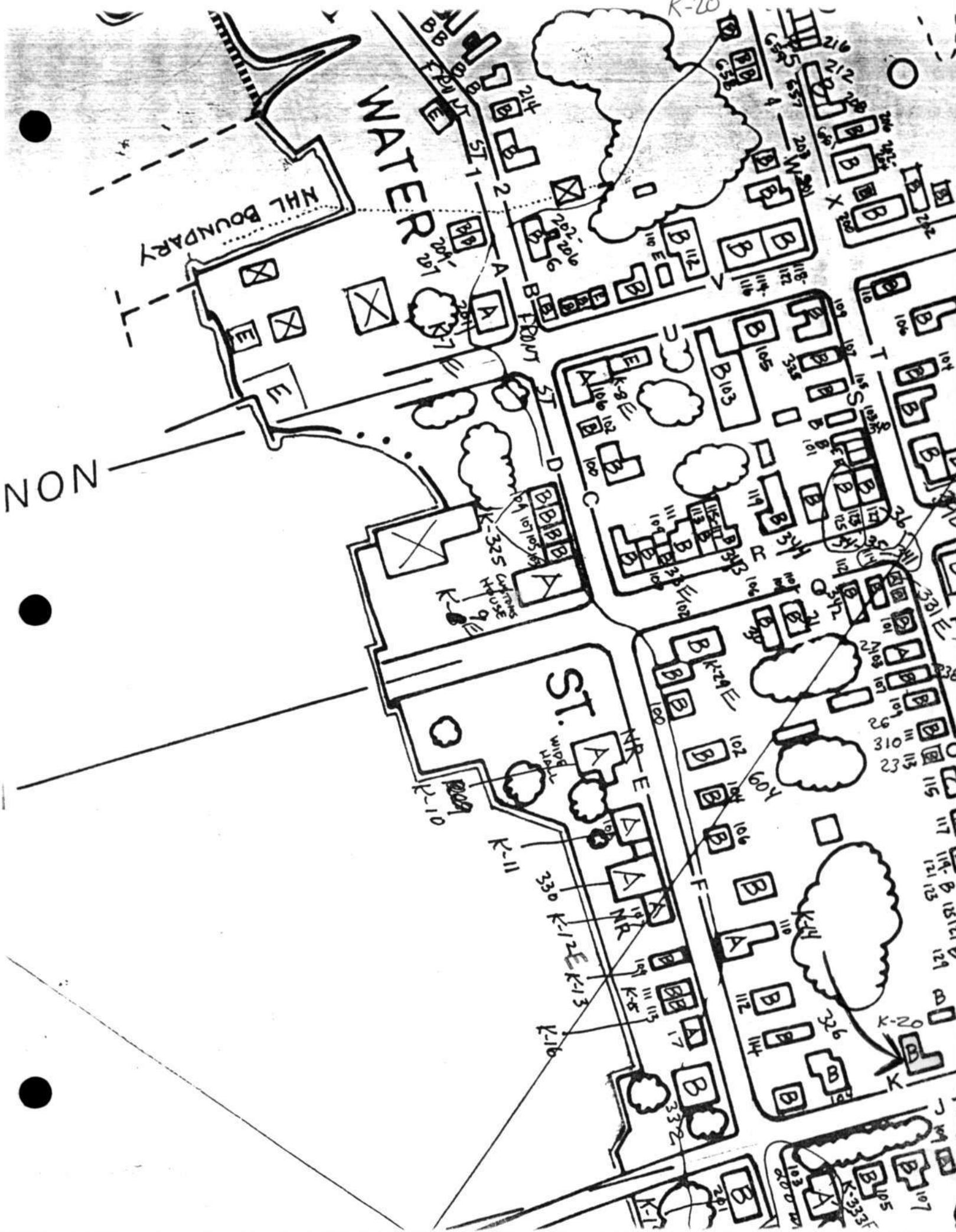
CITY OR TOWN

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



K-20
Powers House
108 Maple Avenue
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





K 20 Powers House, 108 Maple

1/77 North



X29 Powers House, 18 Maple

1/77 E + N