

K-363  
Bittersweet  
Chestertown  
Private

19th Century

Bittersweet Farm House is a well-preserved example of late 19th century vernacular building. Its bracketted cornice, imbricated shingle siding, and attractive carved central stair exhibit the fine craftsmanship and design sense of this period.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bittersweet

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Rt. 213, north of Chestertown

JUL 21/94

CITY, TOWN

Bigwoods

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Stanley B. Sutton

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Bittersweet Farm

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: WHG 57

Folio #: 523

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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**

Bittersweet Farm is a five bay frame house with a steep roof and wide front porch which probably are additions made to a simpler house in the last quarter of the 19th century. There is no indication, however, that any part of the present structure dates from before the mid-19th century. The building faces southeast over gently rolling fields of a neighboring horse pasture. Behind the house is a long wing of which the earliest portion, two rooms long, is contemporary with the main house.

The steeply pitched gable roof of the house has widely overhanging cornice and pedimented gables. The cornice is enriched with wooden bracketts with carved dogwood flowers attached to the front of each. Corners were once ornamented with pendants. The pedimented gables have an infill of imbricated shingles. The attic is lit by two small windows in the gable; their upper panes are trapizoidal and vaguely reminescent of Gothic Revival motifs.

Three dormers pierce the front roof slope. Side dormers have gable roofs with overhanging eaves and 2/2 windows. The more elaborate and larger central dormer is covered with imbricated shingles. its 2/2 window has a trapizoidal upper sash.

The frame house is covered by medium width weatherboarding under aluminum siding.

Tall 6/6 windows are found in side bays of the front facade. They have very narrow muntins and frames trimmed with broad, flat moldings. The central window on the second floor has a 6/6 window flanked by 2/2 sidelights.

Below this is the main entrance, double doors with three tiers of raised panels with broad bolection moldings. There is a five pane transom light and three pane sidelights.

The front porch has a flat roof with simple brackets and square "Doric" posts. The balustrade is a series of X's. A small side porch has handsome chamfered posts with lamb's tongues and sawn bracketts.

The central hall of the building has a stair open to the attic. The balusters are turned with an octagonal urn-like element. The large octagonal newel post is carved of mahogany; the round hand-rail is also mahogany. From the first to the second floor the step brackets are foliated; they are an elaborate geometric motif from second floor to attic. Intermediate newels from the second to attic floor are square with ball finials; below the second floor the stair is continuous without newels.

Window and door trim on the first floor has broad, flat moldings identical to that used on the main entrance doors. Second floor trim has shallow trim with turned cornerblocks. The parlor mantel has chamfered pilasters with handsome lambs tongue chamfer stops; the mantel shelf is curved

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



K-363

**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

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

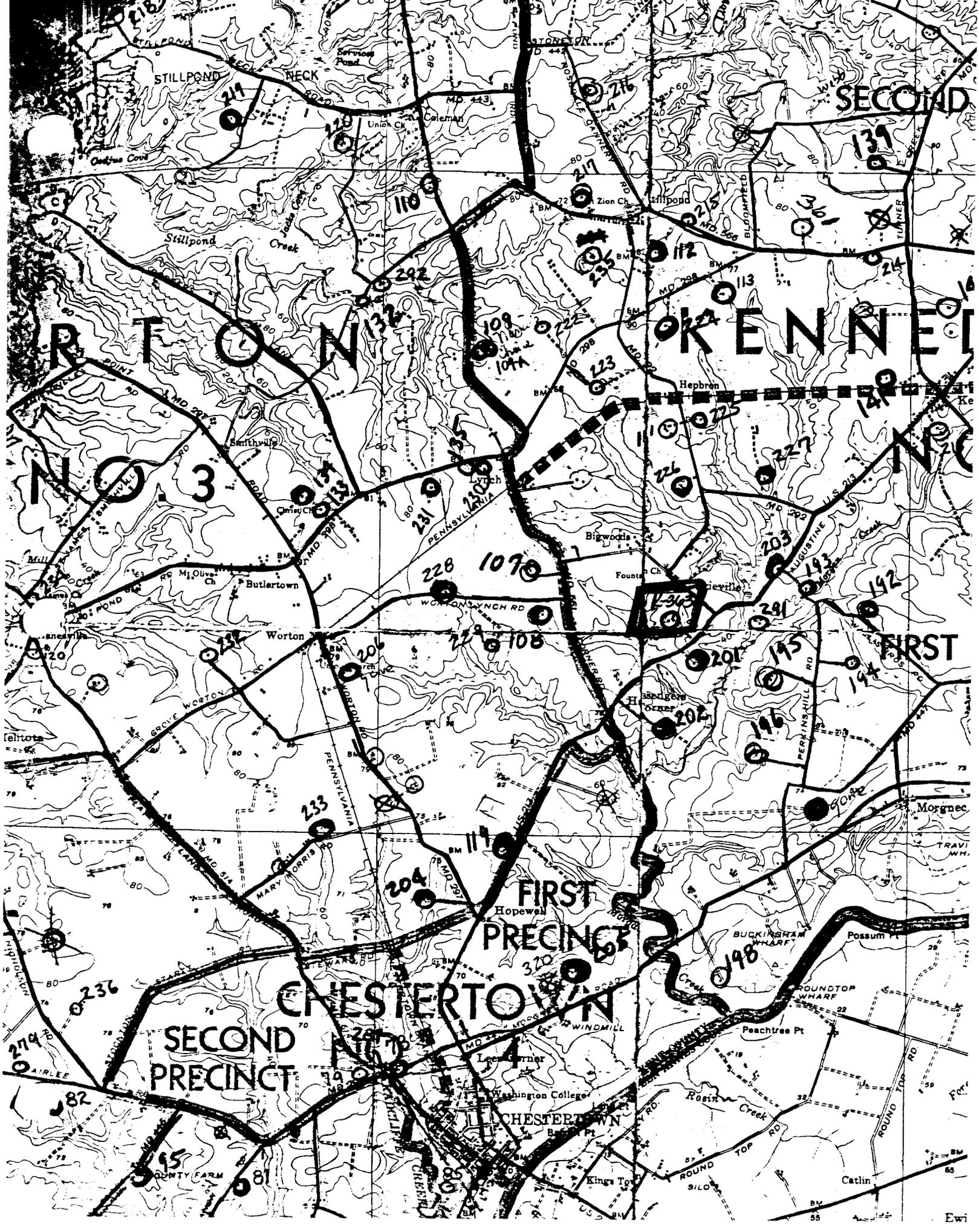
STATE

Maryland 21620

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





BITTERSWEET

~~MHT-K 322~~

RT. 213 NEAR HASSENGERS CORNER

K-363

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

FRONT FROM SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977