

K-504

Tilghman House (Site)
High Street, Chestertown
c. 1790's

The Tilghman House was built in the late 1790's. While it is unclear if it was constructed by William Slubey, William Baker or William Burneston, all merchants, it is documented that between 1801 and 1824 Burneston and his wife (later widow) lived in the house on Lot No. 78. He also owned a storehouse on the corner of High and Princess Streets (Lot No. 79).¹

In 1825, a deed recording the transfer of the property to Matthew Tilghman was recorded with a sale price of \$2410.00.² Son of Richard Tilghman IV (d. 1805) and his wife, Margaret, Matthew was a merchant in Chestertown, as well as a member of the legislature in 1815. Tilghman was twice married, the second time to Harriett Hynson, daughter of Richard and Araminta Hynson. Together they had nine children, one of whom was born after his death in 1828.³ Tilghman's wife lived at the house until her death c. 1870.

After Harriett Tilghman's death, her real estate was advertised for sale in the Kent County News of 21 November 1874:

"Town Property
at
Trustee's Sale
Large and Valuable
Brick Dwelling House

K-534

formerly the residence of Mrs. Harriett Tilghman and the lot there to attached situated on High Street in Chestertown near the Bank. The Dwelling is two stories in height with basement kitchen and servants rooms, and a well plastered attic which makes comfortable sleeping apartments. The house is well built, roomy and in very fair condition. Its central and convenient location makes it desirable either for a private residence or boarding house, in which capacity it is now used.

The lot attached affords ample space for gardening purposes and as such is a valuable appendage to the house.

C. T. Westcott, trustee⁷⁴

From the description of the basement rooms in the advertisement and from the scale of the building on the 1908 Sanborne Insurance Map, the house appears to have resembled River House.

The Reverend Samuel W. Thomas, Methodist minister, living in Philadelphia, purchased the building in 1876, and subsequently turned the first floor into commercial space.⁵ In the process, he probably dropped the floor level so that it was convenient to the sidewalk as the old photographs show tall store front windows. The building served commercial purposes until it was acquired by the Chestertown Bank of Maryland when it was demolished and replaced with the Beaux Arts style bank in 1929.

1. The two half lots were initially purchased in 1726 by James Cruikshank, Chirurgeon (Lib. JSP, fol. 23). Cruikshank's heirs sold the property in 1777 to William Slubey, merchant (Lib. DD 5, fol. 209). Slubey sold the same property in 1795, for about eight times what he had paid in 1795 to William Baker and William Burneston (Lib. BC 4, fol. 275). Burneston bought Baker's interest in 1801 (Lib. TW 1, fol. 670).

2. Land Records, Lib. TW 4, fol. 629.
3. G. A. Hanson, Old Kent, reprint, 1936.
4. Kent News, 21 November 1874.
5. Land Records, Lib. DCB 2, fol. 156.

K-504

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-504

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Tilghman House (site)

and/or common Chestertown Bank of Maryland

2. Location

street & number High Street _____ not for publication

city, town Chestertown _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1st

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Chestertown Bank of Maryland

street & number High Street _____ telephone no.: 410-778-2400

city, town Chestertown _____ state and zip code MD 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse _____ liber DCB 2

street & number Cross Street _____ folio 158

city, town Chestertown _____ state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. K-504

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			demolished 1929 _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

In 1929 the Tilghman House was demolished and replaced by the Beaux Arts style Chestertown Bank of Maryland. The site was thoroughly excavated for the basement of the new bank so little or nothing remains in the realm of artifactual evidence of the building. Only photographs, deeds and one advertisement survive from which to glean the importance of this once grand residence.

An advertisement for the sale of the property was printed in the Kent News Nov 21, 1874.....:

"TOWN PROPERTY
AT
TRUSTEE'S SALE
LARGE AND VALUABLE
BRICK DWELLING HOUSE

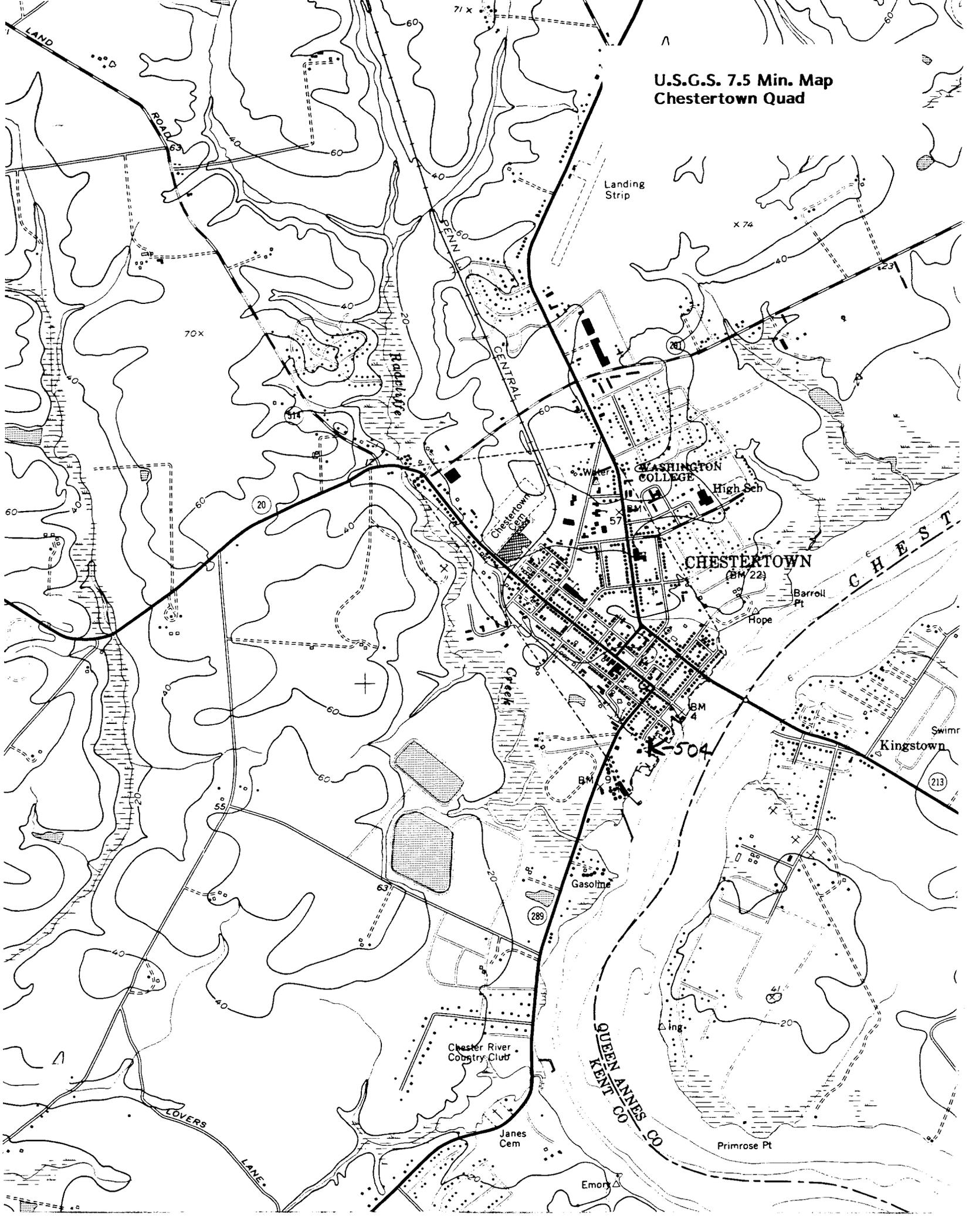
formerly the residence of Mrs. Harriett Tilghman and the lot thereto attached situated on High Street in Chestertown near the Bank. The dwelling is two stories in height with basement kitchen and servants rooms, and a well plastered attic which makes comfortable sleeping apartments. The house is well built, roomy, and in very fair condition. Its central and convenient location makes it desirable either for a private residence or boarding house, in which latter capacity it is now used.

The lot attached affords ample space for gardening purposes and as such is a valuable appendage to the house.

C.T. Westcott, trustee"

On the 1908 Sanborne Insurance Map the brick section of the building appears to coincide closely in size to River House. With the mention of basement kitchen and servants rooms in the Ad, it is tempting to think that the two buildings might have had similar plans. The photos post-date its acquisition by Rev. Thomas (1876) so the proximity of the first story to the street is not evident. By that time, store front windows had been added to the ground floor rooms, and the whole of the ground floor converted into commercial space.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map
Chestertown Quad





Welsh House, Queen St.



Tilghman
House
K-504

Both - courtesy of Miss Welsh.