K-515

Worrell's Tavern
Chestertown
c. 1750's

Worrell's Tavern which stood on this site from the mid-18th to early 20th century, was important from an architectural standpoint for a number of reasons. Atypical for the period in form and fenestration, it also boasted a pent eave across its gable, making it unique.

Located on Lot No. 9, at the corner of Cannon and Princess Streets (now Queen Street), Worrell's, built in the late 1750's, may have replaced an earlier establishment of similar purpose as there is reference in a deed of 1735 to the property being leased to one "Hugh O'Neal, Innkeeper."[1] Worrell's Tavern, however, was most likely built some 30 years later by James Porter who acquired the property in 1758.[2]

The property is named for Edward Worrell, gentleman, who purchased both halves of Lot No. 9 in 1770 for the sum of @600.[3] He did in fact run the tavern which bore his name and which is mentioned in the diaries of George Washington. In debt to William Sluby, merchant, Worrell sold his establishment to him for @1144.3.4 in 1786.[4]

From the photograph made into a post card at the turn of the century, it can be deduced that the tavern was a substantial frame structure, two-and-a-half-stories tall with an 'L' plan. With its principal facade facing Cannon Street, its basement windows lined up with those above on the first story which had 12/12 sash. The four-bay facade included the main entrance in the third bay. The first bay appears to have originally

5. Land Records, Lib. JTD 6, fol. 202.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-515

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Worrell's Tavern

and/or common Worrell's Tavern

2. Location

street & number Cannon Street at Queen Street ___ not for publication

city, town Chestertown ___ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
X site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Multiple

street & number 118, 120, 122 Cannon Street telephone no.:

city, town Chestertown state and zip code MD 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 268

street & number Cross Street folio 115

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-515

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	X unexposed		

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

The site of Worrells Tavern is important as an 18th Century Tavern which hosted, among others, George Washington, on his trip thru town in 1774. From one photograph made into a post card at the turn of the 20th Century, the Tavern was a substantial frame structure, two and one half stories tall with an L plan. Part of the brick basement remains beneath the triplex which was built after 1902 on the same site.

From the photograph, the building's principal facade faced Cannon Street, with a secondary entrance on Queen Street. The frame structure was covered with wide weatherboard of varying exposure and sat upon a brick basement. On the Cannon Street facade, basement windows lined up with first story windows, the latter having 12/12 sash. The second story windows had 8/12 sash. The four bay facade had an original entry with transom located in the third bay from the corner, the first bay appearing to have had a door inserted later.

Likewise, the first of the five bay Queen Street facade had a later door inserted in place of a window. The former window and the second window flanked a exposed fireplace back. The middle bay was also an original entry with transom, but all doors appear to have been of mid to late 19th Century in date.

On the A roof of the Cannon Street facade were two 19th Century dormers and two interior chimneys piercing the roof at the gables. The gable contained two windows flanking the chimney with 6/6 sash. A unique feature was the use of a pent eave across the gable connecting the front and rear cornices. The 'L' contained one 19th Century dormer on its Queen Street facade and a third chimney in its gable.

From the photograph, it is not possible to determine with accuracy the floor plan.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-515

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	X archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates c.1758 **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___B ___C X D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Worrells Tavern Site is important from an architectural standpoint because of its a-typical form and fenestration and for the unique use of a pent eave across the gable. The site is also important as an archeological site since part of the basement still exists beneath the present structure and could reveal some precise details about the old building. It's association with George Washington is of importance, although it is only one of two places in Chestertown mentioned in his diaries.

Worrells Tavern was located on part of lot #9, at the corner of Cannon and Princess (now Queen) Streets. It was sold by Simmon Wilmer to Mary Moll, a widow in 1722. The deed states that the lot had been formerly taken up by Peregrin Midcalfe. In 1735 Mary's daughter leased half of lot 9 to Hugh O'Neal, Innholder. O'Neal sold his interest in) to James Wright, a merchant. In 1742 Wright sold his interest to Richard Lux, another merchant. Apparently Lux died intestate and Samuel Galloway was appointed administrator to sell the property, which he did in 1758. James Porter acquired both halves of the property during his ownership and was most probably responsible for the construction of the house, of which we have a photograph.

Edward Worrell, gentleman, purchased both halves of lot #9 in 1770 for ₣600 and ran the Tavern which bore his name in Washington's Diary.

Edward Worrell was in debt to William Slubey, merchant, in 1786 and sold it to him for ₣1144.3.4, including both halves of the lot which Porter had acquired.

After Slubey's death in 1803 it was sold but the deed has not yet been located. In 1829, Joseph N. Gordon, later one of the Clerk's of the Court, who lived at Stepne, purchased it from the Tax Collector, Edward Brown. He in turn sold it to Nathaniel Hynson in 1832.

The estate of Nathaniel Hynson sold that part of lot #9 on which stood the Tavern to Samuel E. Baker, a large land owner near town who lived at "Kent Land" which formerly stood off of Route 20. Apparently this was another investment for Baker for in the Tax Assessment the following year the building, valued at $1,000.00 was in the occupation of "Parson Jones" (Rev. Clement F. Jones, rector of Chester Parish 1832-1854). The property remained in the estate of Samuel Baker until being sold in 1875, after which it passed thru three owners until 1879 when it was purchase by Charles T. Westcott.

In Unsilton's History of Chestertown, he referrs to the property as the "Westcott Foundry House". In the 1840 description, of the property the boundry on the west side of the lot is "...The Brick wall of Brick building or Foundry on said lot...". Perhaps the building seen in the background of the old photograph is that foundry building, but it appears to be a board and batten structure, which might be later.

After Westcott sold the corner of the property in 1902 to Samuel and Sarah Pfeffer, ι building was torn down and replaced by a frame triplex, which remains to this day. Recently the triplex has been rehabilitated and turned into a condominium.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Usilton, Fred G., The History of Chestertown, Chestertown, 1899.
Kent County Land and Probate Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Kent County Historical Society **date** Nov. 1995

street & number P.O. Box 663 **telephone** 410-778-3499

city or town Chestertown **state** Maryland

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.

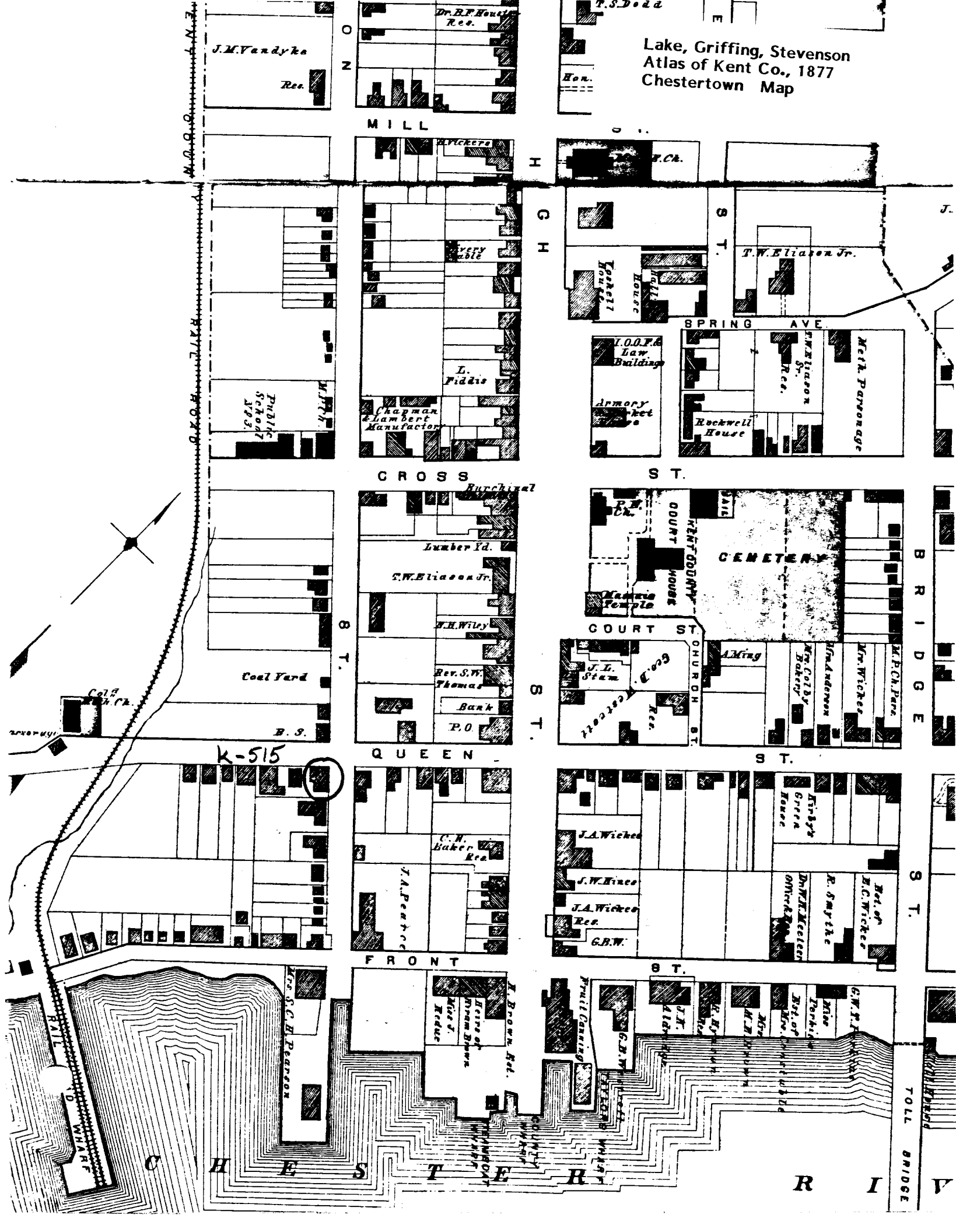
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

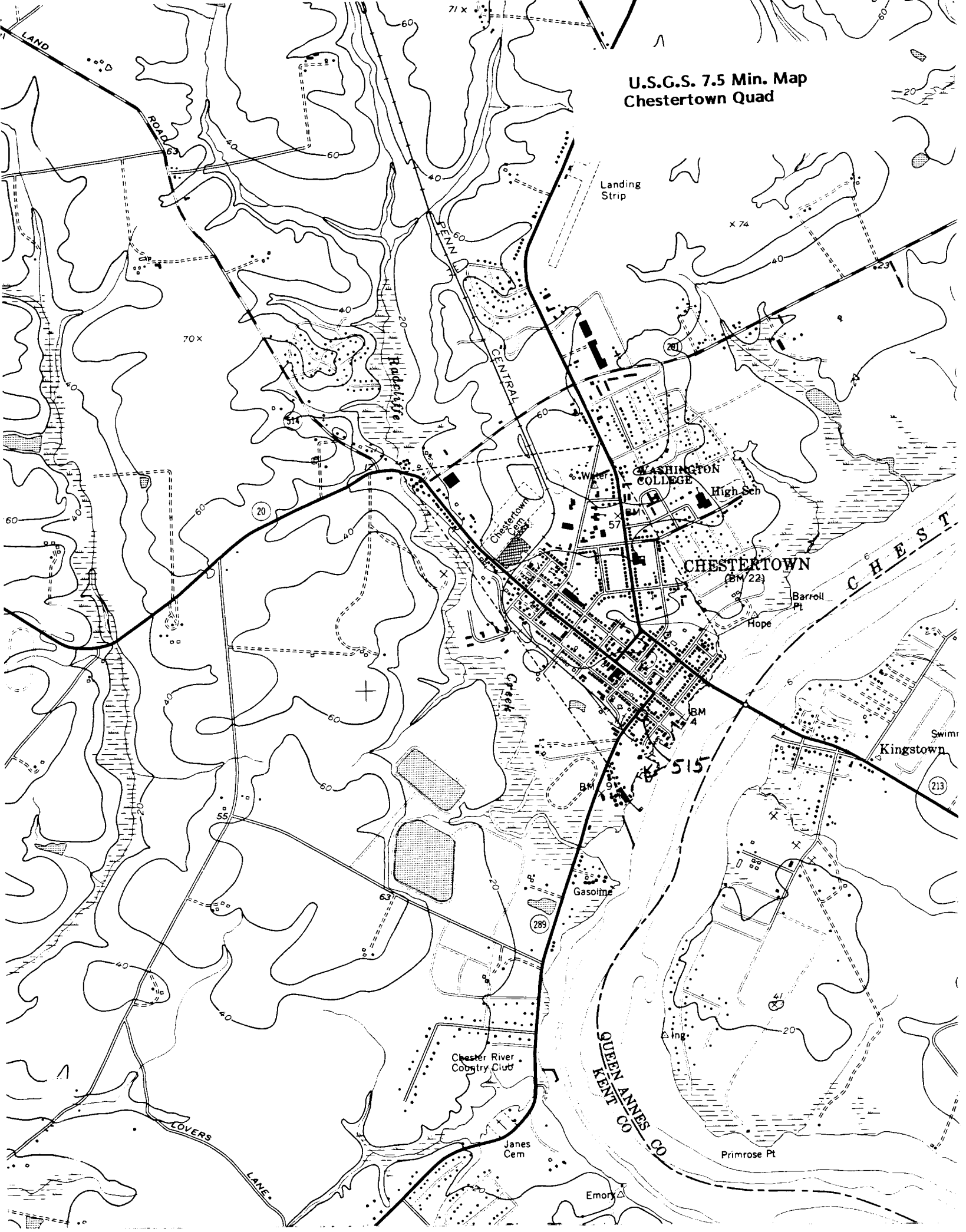
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

Lake, Griffing, Stevenson
Atlas of Kent Co., 1877
Chestertown Map




U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map
Chestertown Quad
LAND ROAD
Landing Strip
PENN CENTRAL
Radcliffe
Creek
WASHINGTON COLLEGE
High Sch
Water
Chestertown Cem
CHESTERTOWN
(BM 22)
Barroll Pt
Hope
CHEST
Kingstown
Swimm
515
Gasoline
Chester River Country Club
QUEEN ANNES CO
KENT CO
Janes Cem
Emory
Primrose Pt
LOVERS LANE
20
289
213
514
201
63
55
70
71
74
BM 57
BM 4
BM 9

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From North

Old Postcard; HSKC Collection