

7-7-7

PH0025992 MHT K-10

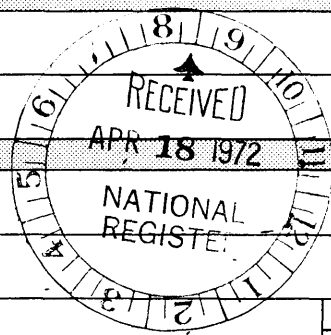
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland	
COUNTY:	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	OCT 31 1972	



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Widehall

AND/OR HISTORIC: Water Lot #16

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 101 Water Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24	COUNTY: Kent	CODE: 029
-----------------	----------	--------------	-----------

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Wilbur Ross Hubbard

STREET AND NUMBER: Widehall, 101 Water Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
-----------------	----------

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kent County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
-----------------	----------

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
-----------------	----------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Kent

ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 31 1972

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Widehall is a large, two-and-a-half story, mid-Georgian, brick dwelling house located at 101 Water Street, Chestertown, Maryland. It occupies water lot #16 of the original town map and is within the National Historic Landmark area in Chester-town.

The house is constructed on a high stone basement. The basement windows are protected by horizontal iron bars set in the stonework. Above the windows all header bond is used, as well as below and above the quarter-round molded water table on the northwest and southwest sides. Entrance to the house is gained up two flights of steps, interrupted by a terrace of sandstone paving blocks. Many of the original sandstone steps remain as well as a stone retaining wall, above which are brick piers with stone finials, part of an early clairvoie. The front (northwest) doorway is framed by an original, classical, Doric architrave, with fluted, engaged columns and a full pediment. The four windows of the first story and five of the second story, as well as eight on both levels of the southwest facade, have wood lintels with superimposed keystones. The windows have twelve-over-twelve sash and louvered shutters, not original to the house. The main cornice, hip-on-hip roof and dormers date from its restoration in 1910, replacing a nineteenth-century roof. A two-story brick kitchen wing on the northeast side and a two-story Ionic portico on the southeast date from 1910.

On the first floor there is a central passage and four rooms. The most outstanding room is the stairhall located in the north corner of the building. It opens off the passage by a series of three arches, the central arch being larger and having a superimposed keystone while the arches flanking it have plain keystones. The staircase with its six-inch stair risers ascends on the opposite three walls of the hall, and is cantilevered from the wall. Its railing, fluted newels, turned balusters, three per step; rectangular step ends with half-rail and fluted pilasters on the wall, are all made of mahogany. The lowest step has a decorative scroll at the side where the fluted newel post is set and is, at that point, set with five balusters.

The stair ascends to a large upper hall. One unusual feature of the first floor rooms is the use of a different cornice detail in each room. The stairhall has an intermittent "Wall of Troy" design featured as part of the cornice.

Opposite the stairhall is the drawing room. Its cornice consists of courses of dentils and intermittent beading. The windows have croisettes at the top and consoles at the bottom of the trim, paneled interior shutters and pilasters beneath

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

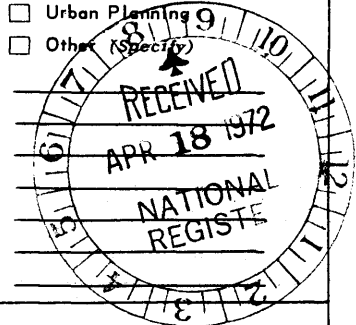
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1769

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Widehall is a fine example of the mid-Georgian style, and one of the finest in Chestertown, which, prior to and just after the American Revolution, was a port of distinction, rivaling Annapolis on the west side of the Chesapeake Bay. The house was built in 1769 by Thomas Smyth as indicated in the minutes of the winter term of the Maryland Legislature of that year. It later was the home of Robert Wright, Governor of Maryland between 1806 and 1809; and of Ezekiel Chambers, State and United States Senator and Judge of the Court of Appeals.

The house is architecturally noteworthy due to its unusual stair and stairhall arrangement. Also of importance is the front terrace, with the original retaining wall and piers between the street and house. Very few houses in Maryland boast a clairvoie.

Three men of distinction in Maryland history owned and lived in this house.

Thomas Smyth, the builder, was a merchant, shipbuilder and shipowner, trading with the British West Indies, and one of the wealthiest men of his time in Kent County. After the Chestertown tea party of 1774, he was elected chairman of the local Committee of Correspondence. Later Smyth became Head of Maryland's revolutionary provisional government. In this capacity he was the provisional governor of Maryland, and served in this office until 1776 when the state's first constitution was framed and its first governor elected. He was also benefactor, co-founder and the first Treasurer of Washington College when it was founded in Chestertown in 1782.

In 1801 the house was sold to Robert Wright (1752-1826), who served as a United States Senator for ~~three~~<sup>one</sup> term, 1801-1806. He was educated and graduated from Washington College and began his law practice at Chestertown before the American Revolution. During the Revolution he served as Captain under

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Antiques. Vol. XCV. (April 1969).

Buchholz, Heinrich E., Governors of Maryland from the Revolution to the Year 1908. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1908.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 12' 27"	76° 03' 50"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Feb. 7, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**94 College Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
 Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland  
 Date February 7, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert J. Getty  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/31/72

ATTEST:  
William J. Hunt  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-30-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	OCT 31 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

Widehall

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Historic American Building Survey (1969 - Federal)  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

National Historic Landmark Program (1970 - Federal)  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

The property is within the area of Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, as designated by the program.

National Register of Historic Places  
801 19th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

The property is within the area of Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, as designated by the National Historic Landmark Program.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		OCT 31 1972

(Number all entries)

Widehall

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

the trim. The fireplace surround dates from the 1910 restoration and is a reproduction of the fireplace surround in the living room, which is original.

The central passage with a modillion cornice has an arch between the west and east end of the passage. In the southeast part of the passage a door on each side, with pediment above, opens into a living room (south) and dining room (east).

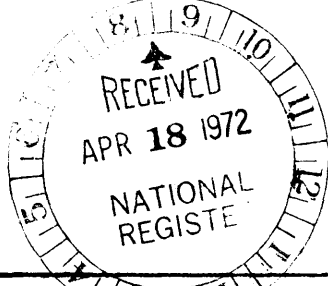
In the living room, the overmantel has a croissette trimmed panel with broken pediment, the latter repeating the designs of the cornice and overdoor. The windows have paneled shutters and croissettes at the top and bottom; and have pilasters beneath the chair rail. Original silver hardware is on the door and shutters; and the upper component part of the chair rail is mahogany; this is the only room in which these particular features are both found.

North of the passage across from the living room is the dining room, the only room having a raised paneled wainscot. The fireplace has an overmantel with broken pediment and it is flanked by two cupboards. These cupboards originally had paneled doors but these have been modified to open shelves. Slanted Greek Key design is employed in the cornices.

One unusual detail on the doors is the hinges, being one-half inch thick iron butterfly-shaped hinges mortised into the woodwork without the use of nails or screws.

The two-story Ionic portico affords a view of the Chester River and the well-maintained lawn and gardens.

In 1909 the house and adjoining lots were purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur W. Hubbard who are responsible for its restoration and present appearance. "Widehall," the name adopted by Mr. & Mrs. Hubbard, is now in the possession of Mr. Wilbur Ross Hubbard who maintains the house and gardens for his residence.



Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 31 1972

(Number all entries)

Widehall

## #8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Colonel William Richardson's battalion of the Maryland Line. In 1784 he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. In 1806 he was elected the Governor of Maryland and thus resigned his position with the United States Senate. He served his state as governor for three years, and between 1810 and ~~1817~~ he served as United States Representative.

1823 (five terms)

In 1822 the house was purchased by Ezekiel Forman Chambers (1788-1867), who was educated at Washington College, Chestertown, and in 1808 was admitted to the Maryland Bar. In 1822 he was elected to the Maryland Senate and between 1826 and 1834 served his state in the United States Senate. In 1834 he was appointed Chief Judge of the then second Judicial District and Judge of the Court of Appeals. In 1864 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Maryland. In 1867, the year of his death, he was the President of the Board of Trustees of Washington College. It was not until after his death that the house was sold.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 31 1972

(Number all entries)

Widehall

## #9. REFERENCES continued

Clark, Charles B., The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia,  
New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1950.

Dictionary of American Biography, Vols. III, XX. New York:  
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943.

Drury, John, The Heritage of Early American Houses. New York:  
Coward - McCann, Incorporated, 1969.

Earle, Swepson, The Chesapeake Bay Country. Baltimore:  
Thomsen - Ellis Company, 1924.

Footner, Hulbert, Maryland Main and the Eastern Shore.  
reprint. Hatboro, Pennsylvania: Tradition Press, 1967.

Robertson, John W., Land of the Evergreen. Onancock, Virginia:  
The Eastern Shore News, 1963.

Scarborough, Katherine, Homes of the Cavaliers. New York:  
Macmillian, 1930.

Wilson, Everett B., Maryland's Colonial Mansions. New York:  
A. S. Barnes, 1965.

Wilstach, Paul, Tidewater Maryland. New York: Blue Ribbon  
Books, 1938.

Works Progress Administration. Maryland A Guide to the  
Old Line State. New York: Oxford Press, 1940.

Usilton, Fred G., History of Chestertown. Chestertown,  
Maryland: William B. Usilton (Publisher) 1899.

Usilton, Fred G., History of Kent County. Chestertown, Maryland:  
William B. Usilton (Publisher) 1916.

Comstock, Helen, 100 Most Beautiful Rooms in America, New York:  
Studio Publications, 1958.

Reif, Rita, Treasure Rooms of America's Mansions Manors and  
Houses. New York: Coward - McCann, Inc., 1970.

White, Frank F., Jr., The Governors of Maryland. Annapolis:  
Hall of Records Commission, 1970.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

MHT K-10

STATE		Maryland
COUNTY		Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
OCT 31 1972		

1. NAME

COMMON: Widehall  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Water lot #16

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
101 Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Chestertown

STATE:

Maryland

CODE	COUNTY:
24	Kent

CODE  
029

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map, Chestertown Quadrangle, Maryland

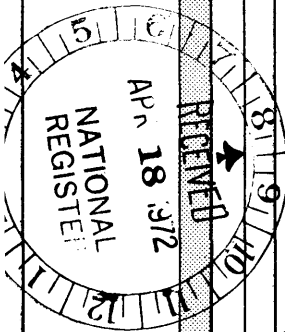
SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

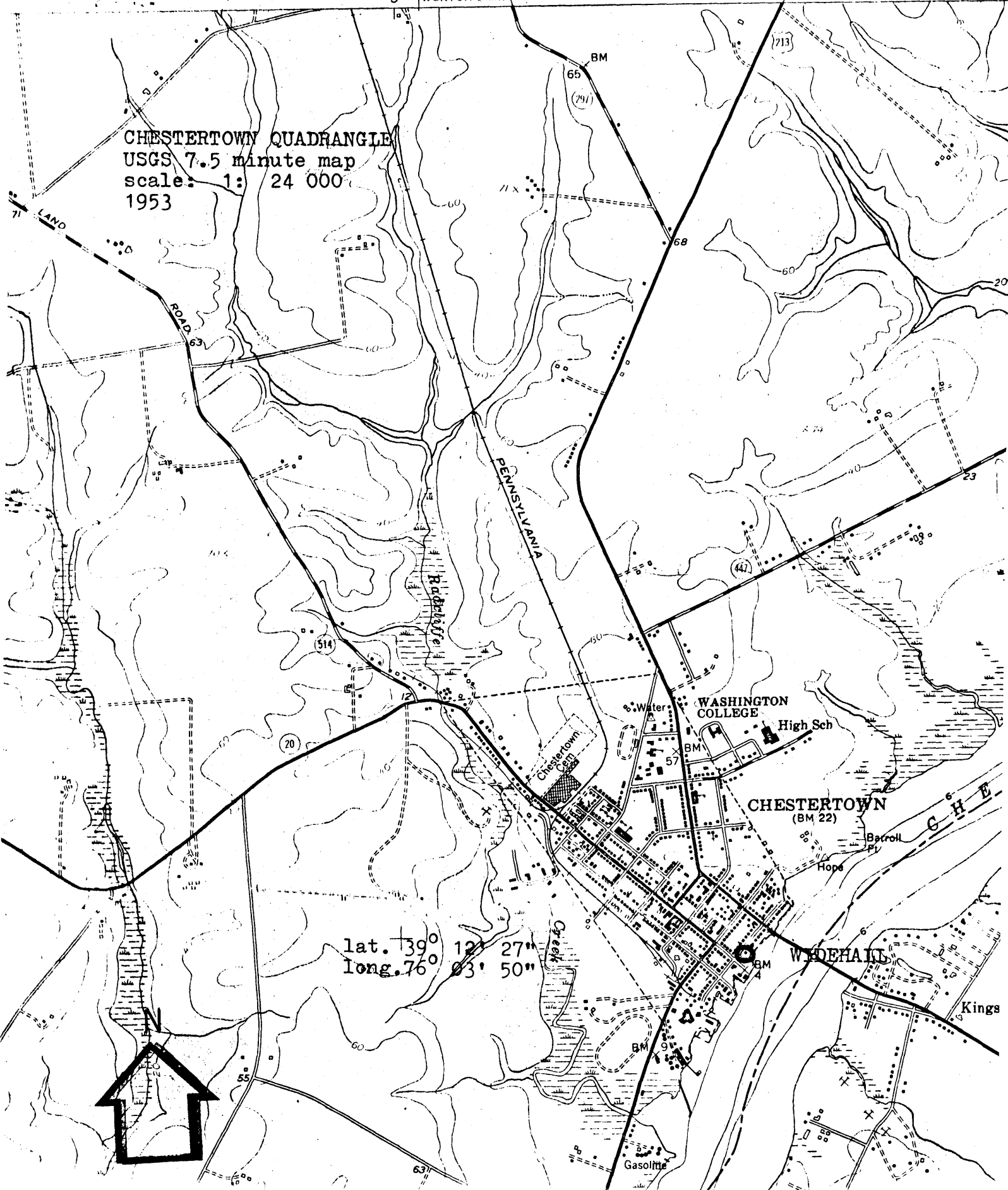
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



CHESTERTOWN QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1953

5' WORTON 2 MI.



lat. 39° 12' 27"  
long. 76° 03' 50"

