

PH 0005592

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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:	Cecil
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 15 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
South Chesapeake City Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: U.S.
east side of Route 213, South of Chesapeake and Delaware Canal

CITY OR TOWN: Chesapeake City CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Cecil CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple private and public owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

Elkton Maryland 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

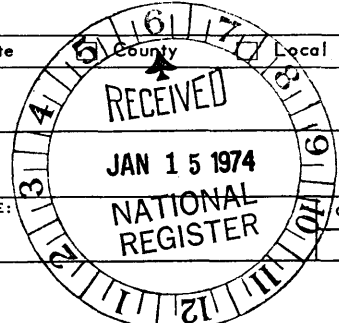
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Cecil

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 15 1974

DATE: JUL 15 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Chesapeake City Historic District is bounded on the northeast by the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal; on the southeast by the stream which runs to the canal from a point at which it intersects the east right-of-way line for Route 213 belonging to the State Highway Administration; on the west by the said right-of-way line until it intersects the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

The existing buildings of architectural interest in South Chesapeake City reflect the nineteenth century appearance that existed when the town flourished as a center of activity adjacent to an important water artery between the Delaware Bay and the Chesapeake Bay.

Buildings from all periods of the nineteenth century dominate those few of the early twentieth century and those of recent vintage. The structure of interest extend from the Canal to Fourth Street, along Bohemia, George and Charles streets.

The earliest building type is the Federal or "Simplified Regency". The Harriott Hotel, located on the southeast side of Bohemia Avenue at the edge of the Canal, is the best example of the style. It is a two story brick structure above a full basement. The three bay long facade and two bay deep gable are laid in common bond. The entrance occupies the south-westerly bay of the facade and boasts a semicircular fanlight above the paneled door. The windows have twelve over twelve pane sash with paneled shutters on the first story and twelve over eight pane sash on the second story. There are no decorative arch supports above the windows. The cornice consists of four courses of corbeled brick. Across the southeast and northeast sides of the building is an open porch on the first floor with an enclosed area beneath, now used as part of the tavern. Behind the brick structure is a five bay long frame wing. A four bay concrete block structure has been built at basement level adjacent to the Canal. On the other side of the hotel is another house of similar design built of frame construction.

The Classic of "Greek Revival" flowered during an era of affluence that coincided with the flowering of the Canal and locks. The Classic was the international vogue; in America the focus was more strictly upon the "Greek Revival" which became a "National" style during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Numerous examples of the period exist two and three stories in height and are built of wood with clapboard siding. Dr. Smithers House, built in the 1840's is such an example. Its form is similar to the earlier Federal style, but having the small third story windows and bold dentil cornice below the relatively gently pitched roof, it more logically belongs in the category of Greek Revival. Bethel A.M.E. Church represents a more classic example of the style, with its bold paneled corner pilasters, full pedimented gable and bold paneled cornice. Its entrance architrave also has the aforesaid elements which give it a handsome appearance. One rather naive feature of the church is the bulls eye window between the door and cornice, more usually found in the center

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(see continuation sheet #2)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chesapeake City is located at what was once the end of one of the nation's early lock canals. The canal was built to connect the Delaware River with Chesapeake Bay via a meandering cut across the isthmus which begins the Delmarva Peninsula. It eliminated the need for a 285 mile river, bay, and sea journey between the commercial region around Philadelphia and that around Baltimore. It has since become a part of the Atlantic inter-costal waterway.

Cecil County's founder, Augustine Herman, first saw the need for a canal in the late seventeenth century. In 1799 a corporation called the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company was formed and began surveying operations. Among the surveyors was the United States capitol architect, Benjamine Latrobe. Digging began in 1824 and was completed in 1829. The completed waterway was 36 feet wide and ten fet deep. Still, the canal bottom was ten feet above sea level. Locks were thus required to lift vessels 20 feet to float on the canal surface.

A town grew up around the locks because it was a loading and unloading point for ships and canal barges. Also, a mill landing farther up Back Creek which had been a local shipping point now shifted to the town.

By 1839, the new community was known as Chesapeake City. Here lived those who tended the canal. Warehouses and a lumber industry were of early importance. The town grew rapidly throughout the remainder of the century attaining a peak population of approximately 1,400.

In 1919, the Federal Government purchased the canal and operated it with an eye to eliminating its twists, bends and numerous accidents. This was a boon to long distance shippers but a blow to local commerce.

As soon as the locks were removed in a conversion to sea level depth the town ceased to grow. Time and progress passed it by. In 1943 a draw bridge connecting north and south Chesapeake City was destroyed and replaced by a overhead bridge to the west. Hence twentieth century traffic as we know it today was diverted away from the town and it has remained essentially unchanged.

(see continuation sheet # 4)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alice E. Miller - Cecil County, Maryland (C. & L. Printing & Specialty Co., Elkton, Maryland 1949) p. 45ff

George Jounston - History of Cecil County, Maryland (Elkton, 1881) p. 382ff

Files of Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton, Maryland

Maryland Guide, Works Progress Administration, p. 360

(see continuation sheet #4)

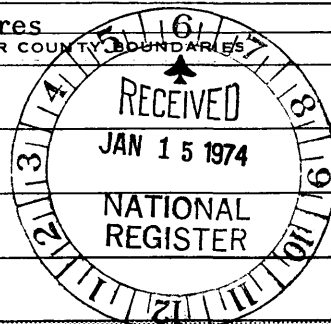
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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° 31' 44"	75° 48' 52"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 31' 40"	75° 48' 40"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	39° 31' 29"	75° 48' 55"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	39° 31' 30"	75° 49' 00"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **15 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James O. Reynolds (see continuation sheet #4)

ORGANIZATION: Cecil County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust DATE: May 2, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: "Rich Hill"

CITY OR TOWN: Warwick STATE: Maryland CODE: 21912

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
Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date January 11, 1974

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

A. K. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/15/74

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greerberg
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7-12-74

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 15 1974

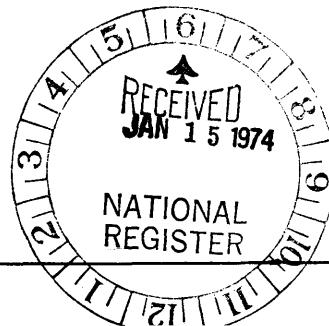
(Number all entries)

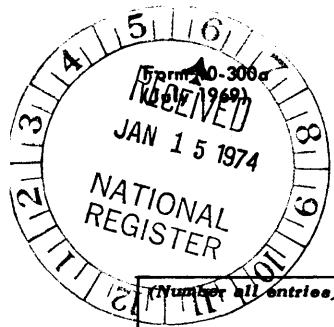
South Chesapeake City Historic District

Number 7. Description continued.

Historic Sites within the boundaries of the South Chesapeake City district.

- CE-118 H.V. Davis House, George Street at Third Street
- CE-119 Harriott Hotel, Bohemia Avenue at the Canal
- CE-120 Masonic Building, Bohemia Avenue at First Street
- CE-121 J.M. Reed Store, Bohemia Avenue at First Street
- CE-122 Rees House, Bohemia Avenue between, First and Second Streets
- CE-123 Cooling-Conroy House, Bohemia Avenue, between Second and Third Streets
- CE-263 Church of the Good Shepherd, George Street, between Third and Fourth
- CE-306 Walter Sharpless House, Bohemia Avenue east of First Street
- CE-307 Hotra House, Bohemia Avenue east of First Street
- CE-308 Staworosky House, Bohemia Avenue east of First Street
- CE-309 Kinter House, Bohemia Avenue at First Street
- CE-310 Dutton House, Bohemia Avenue east of Second Street
- CE-311 Chesapeake City Bank, Bohemia Avenue at Second Street
- CE-312 Kenneth McLean House, Bohemia Avenue west of Second Street
- CE-313 Benson House, Bohemia Avenue west of Second Street
- CE-314 Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Bohemia Avenue at Third Street
- CE-315 Bennett-Read House, Bohemia Avenue west of Third Street
- CE-316 Onizuk-Coleman House, Bohemia Avenue, between Third and Fourth
- CE-317 Cooling-Egee House, George Street, between Third and Fourth Streets
- CE-318 Jewell House, George Street next to corner house north-west of Third and George Streets
- CE-319 Joseph Savin House, George and Third Streets
- CE-320 Bethel A.M.E. Church, Second Street between, Charles and George
- CE-321 Gassaway House, Charles Street between, Second and Third Streets
- CE-322 Rees' Store, Bohemia Avenue and Second Street
- CE-323 Dr. Smithers' House, Bohemia Avenue between, Second and Third Streets
- CE-324 Langner-Karsner House, Bohemia Avenue, between Second and Third
- CE-325 Levredge-Smithers' House, Bohemia Avenue, between Second and Third
- CE-326 Tatman-Smithers' House, Bohemia Avenue, between Second and Third
- CE-327 Cooling-Karsner House, Bohemia Avenue between, Second and Third
- CE-328 Dora Sherman House, Bohemia Avenue between, Second and Third Streets
- CE-329 James Kirk House, Bohemia Avenue between, Second and Third Streets
- CE-330 Whit oak House, Bohemia and Third Streets
- CE-331 Favazza-Lindsay House, Bohemia Avenue and Third Street
- CE-332 Johnson-Lindsay House, Bohemia Avenue between, Third and Fourth
- CE-333 Vouros-Lindsay House, Bohemia Avenue between, Third and Fourth Streets
- CE-334 McDonough-Barwick House, Bohemia Avenue between, Third and Fourth





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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(Number all entries)

South Chesapeake City Historic District

Number 7. Description continued.

of the pediment. The Italianate style is best exemplified in the H. V. Davis House on George Street at Third Street. Its tall three story, five bay facade is decorated with window cornices and louvered shutters. Across three bays of the first story facade is a porch with pierced decoration in the balustrade and cornice, and brackets supporting the wide overhanging cornice. The same type brackets, in pairs above each bay, support the main cornice. On each side of the low-pitched hip roof is a small brick chimney. Located behind the house is a two story, four bay long wing with secondary entrance having a porch like the main entrance. The rear door has a handsome Gothic hood. The property is farther enhanced by a cast iron fence on two sides.

Two interesting commercial buildings to have survived in South Chesapeake City are the J. M. Reed Store, established in 1861, and the Masonic building constructed toward the end of the century. J. M. Reed's store building, with a four bay wide gable facade (originally three) retains original porch, display windows with paneled shutters and double entrance doors.

The first floor display windows of the three bay three story brick Masonic building are boarded up, but its architectural sophistication is in the second and third stories which bear semicircular arched window separated by pilasters representative of the Romanesque style of the late nineteenth century. Above the third floor is a pedimented gable with round wooden plaque intended originally for the emblem of the Masonic order. Loading doors are located on its First Street side. Both sides are divided into portions by pilaster strips, the northeast side having chimneys above the two inner pilasters. Behind the structure is a one and one half story wing with a mansard roof.

Examples of the "Post Civil War" era can be found. Pierced designs in wood from the time of the Philadelphia Centennial and the "Gothic Revival" exist. One such dwelling is the Rees House located adjacent Reed's Store. Its five bay facade is heightened by a tall gable above the three central bays. The first story porch has low arches with drop finials and a bracketed cornice. Above the three central windows cornices. Like the Davis House, the windows of the first story extend nearly to the floor and have paneled shutters and four over six pane sash while those above have four over four pane sash and louvered shutters. Behind the house is an addition almost as large as the main portion. Between the house and store is a tiny office building in the same style. Along the street is a handsome cast iron fence.

(see continuation sheet #3)

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

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
JUL 15 1974		

(Number all entries)

South Chesapeake City Historic District

Number 7. Description continued.

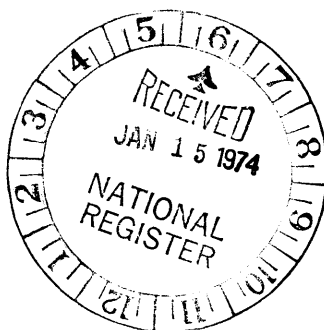
The mansard roof appeared during the post Civil War period. Examples are found on the Masonic building, mentioned before, and the Cooling-Conroy House (no illustration).

Two churches representing the Gothic style exist in Chesapeake City. On George street the Church of the Good Shepherd is indicative of the High Victorian Gothic style of the 1880's and on Third Street, Trinity Church typified the country version of the late Gothic Revival style. (no illustrations)

The late nineteenth century style known as the "Queen Anne" produce a few examples: The Kinter House on Bohemia Avenue at First Street and the Chesapeake City Bank. Both are exceedingly plain in comparison with the style in more urban areas.

Along George and Charles Streets between the Canal and Third Streets are rows of plainer houses of the late nineteenth century which add a certain period quality to the town.

The buildings and style mentioned have survived for the most part intact and in fair to good condition and some in excellent condition. The scale and quality produced by these buildings hopefully can be retained by careful preservation and restoration at a time when alterations, additions, and deletions are taking place.



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

(Continuation Sheet) #4

STATE	Maryland	
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(Number all entries)

South Chesapeake City Historic District

Number 8. Significance continued.

Today, the largest remaining segment of the original town is found on the south side of the canal where several streets of almost unaltered mid to late nineteenth century buildings still stand. Overall, this area retains an authenticity impossible to recreate in any modern construction. It is a part of both national and local heritage, a vital anchor very much needed for the cultural health of the community and the public at large.

Number 9. Bibliographical References continued.

Charles B. Clark - The Eastern Shore (Lewis, N. Y. 1950) pp23, 1049, 1050, 18, 791, 1044, 1049

J. Thomas Scharf - History of Maryland, (Baltimore. 1879) Vol. 2, p. 524

Robert H. Burgess - This Was the Chesapeake Bay (Cornell, Cambridge, Maryland 1963) p. 113ff

Edward M. Vallandighan - Delaware and the Eastern Shore (Lippincott, Phila. 1922) p. 43ff

Hulbert Footner - Maryland Main and the Eastern Shore (Hatboro, Pa. 1967) p. 248

Number 11. Form Prepared by continued.

Michael O. Bourne, Survey and Inventory Coordinator
Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



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

(Continuation Sheet) #5

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 15 1974	

(Number all entries)

South Chesapeake City Historic District

South Chesapeake City is a 19th century town of approximately one hundred buildings roughly nine of which date from the 20th century. The town has few intrusions, chiefly a tavern and a "junk" shop, both of which are housed in 19th century buildings. The commercial structures consist of one store, a post office and a hardware store; they do not alter or interfere with the historic character of the district.

The triangular district is bounded on the southeast by a creek, on the northwest by Maryland Route 213, an elevated highway bridge, and on the northeast by the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The construction of Md. Rt. 213 required the demolition of residences on the west side of Charles Street. The noise generated from the highway is evident in the district but is not of sufficient volume to be disruptive. The height of the bridge does not intrude into the district but forms a natural, if man made, boundary.

William Stubbs, Chairman
Historic District Commission
South Chesapeake City, Maryland

April 1974

Nancy Miller, Historian
Maryland Historical Trust

May 1974



Chesapeake City
 Cecil County
 Scale: 15 rods to an inch
 An Illustrated Atlas of
 Cecil County, Maryland
 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
 Philadelphia, 1877

