

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received **AUG 16 1984**  
date entered **SEP 13 1984**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic \_\_\_\_\_

and/or common Chestertown Historic District (Boundary Increase) check

**2. Location**

street & number Roughly bounded by Lynchberg, Cannon Sts., College Ave, Philosophers Terr, and Riverside Terr. multiple streets N/A not for publication

city, town Chestertown N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Kent code 029

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name multiple public and private (more than 50 private)

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse

street & number High Street

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

# 7. Description

K-469

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 <u>      N/A      </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Number of Resources	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>489</u>	<u>86</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>20</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>511</u>	<u>86</u> Total

Number of previously listed  
National Register properties  
included in this nomination: 5

(See Continuation Sheet No.44 )

Original and historic functions  
and uses:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

The Chestertown Historic District is the older section of Chestertown. It includes the central business district which is dominated primarily by late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial structures and includes a late nineteenth century courthouse; the river front which is lined by several eighteenth and early nineteenth century Georgian and Federal houses with several early twentieth century houses across the street; several garages and nineteenth century low-income frame houses along Cannon Street, the middle class residential areas along Maple, High, and Washington. Sections of the Washington College campus are included in the northern area. Intrusions consist primarily of new or greatly altered buildings scattered throughout. The Chester River Bridge is not included in this nomination.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1706-1930s **Builder/Architect** multiple

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria:  A  C

Criteria Exceptions:  None

Level of Significance for Evaluation:  Local

The Chestertown Historic District is significant for the concentration of buildings that record the development and growth of this Eastern Shore town. Chestertown is the seat of Kent County and as such is and has throughout its history been a political, cultural, and commercial center on the upper shore area. In the eighteenth century the town was one of Maryland's wealthiest and most prominent towns. On a major route between Philadelphia and Virginia and the South, Chestertown had a college and an important Episcopal parish. Its citizens played leading roles in State and national affairs. By the nineteenth century and into the twentieth the influence of Chestertown was limited primarily to the Eastern Shore. Within the district are numerous excellent examples of eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century buildings of various types (commercial, residential, ecclesiastical etc) of various styles (Georgian through Bungalow) some of which are the best examples found in the State. Such is particularly true of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses like River House and Widehall.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 42

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 144 acres

Quadrangle name Chestertown, Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

18	407770	4341660
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

18	407410	4340410
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

18	4018010	4339770
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

18	407250	4340690
Zone	Easting	Northing

E 

Zone	Easting	Northing

F 

Zone	Easting	Northing

G 

Zone	Easting	Northing

H 

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO . 43

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 44

organization date

street & number telephone

city or town state

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

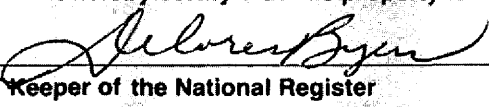
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

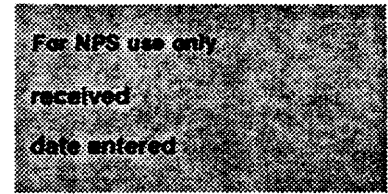
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mark R. Edwards for J. Rodney Little

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 14 August 1984

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	Entered in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>9-13-84</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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In the area around High Street, Georgian, Federal, Gothic Revival and simple early tradesmen's dwellings predominate. The Washington Avenue area consists of large Victorian, Queen Anne, and shingle styles, with additional vernacular utilitarian homes and smaller 20th century bungalows. Washington College structures erected in 1844 and 1854, Middle, East and West Halls, are the earliest remaining, with Middle being a Greek Revival building and East and West stylistically designed to compliment it. Reid or Normal Hall, across Washington Avenue, was originally a late Victorian dormitory with mansard roof, built in 1896. In 1929 a Mt. Vernon portico and additions were added, and later, stair towers were erected on each end. Other College buildings were erected from 1918 to 1970 in Georgian Revival are contemporary styles.

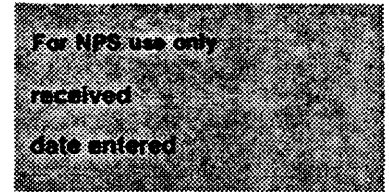
Near the business district, along High and its cross streets, structures are constructed directly on the sidewalk with yards existing generally to the rear. The Washington Avenue and nearby residences are set back with landscaped yards surrounding the homes; while the college buildings center generally around an open green.

Commercial use is generally located on a two block length of High Street, and two blocks, to the south, of Cross Street with residential units often located above these businesses. The commercial activities of Chestertown are housed primarily in vernacular buildings of modest scale, of types as required for their daily activities of the craft, trade, or sales, or social functions. The treatment of the facades, signs, and other public representations of the housed commercial activities have changed through time and are still changing, but the basic scale of the commercial streetscapes remains unchanged within the vernacular format. The inclusion of the several buildings of more studied design and architectural merit within the commercial areas does not here create unexpected or extreme contrasts of design or scale, and these inclusions tend to compliment the more numerous vernacular buildings in their relationship to the streetscape and to the day to day activities of the commercial areas.

As one moves away from Water Street, along High Street, residences become more of those for the less affluent of the 18th and early 19th centuries, with later homes interspersing where possible and development on side and back streets. The Washington Avenue development opened a new neighborhood to those with ample funds to erect large, comfortable Victorian and later vernacular utilitarian residences. Streets off the Avenue developed again for less expensive and smaller residences of the same and later periods.

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A prominent topographic feature of Chestertown is the higher ground which begins at Spring Street and reaches peak elevation at Mill, and which has not been reshaped. The enclosed map, believed to be a copy of the original 1930 plat, traces small streams on the eastern and western boundaries which still exist. The eastern stream empties into Barroll's Bight and is briefly channeled beneath a parking lot in the vicinity of Maple Avenue. Above this interruption the stream steeply ascends in a narrow tree line vale (possibly a site of a Mill as it is at the end of Mill Street); below, it exists as a meandering tidal stream. There appears to be some evidence of earthmoving to enhance the appearance of Washington College dormitories. The hill below Middle, East and West Halls has had its slope steepened in order to make those structures more imposing. At the central base of the hill is a plaque commemorating the Washington Elm tree, stating that George Washington, who gave his name to the College, planted the tree from which the seed for this tree was grown. A second rise or prominence exists in Chestertown when leaving the downtown area and going out the Avenue towards the College. This rise occurs just beyond the stream aforementioned as an eastern boundary of Chestertown before expansion.

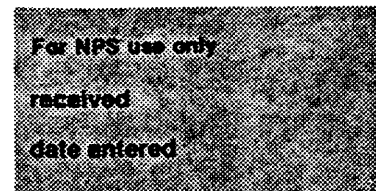
Many trees exist in Chestertown, lining streets, yards, in vacant lots and on stream slopes, all enhancing the architecture and overall streetscapes. The street patterns in the nominated National Register District are of a grid nature. High Street, running up from the Chester River to the town outskirts, is crossed by 4 residential and 2 commercial streets. Washington Avenue (Rt. 213) runs on a diagonal, perpendicular to High, and breaks 2 blocks from High, changing into Spring (to High), and Maple running parallel with High to the River. Within the nominated area 2 residential streets cross Washington Avenue and one joins it. Two other shorter in length streets run parallel to the Avenue and are also residential.

Early in Chestertown's development the affluent, commercially-oriented citizen settled in the waterfront area for access to the Chester River. The houses in this area are predominantly large Georgian or Federal brick structures reflecting this affluence, and serving as home and business/warehouse headquarters. This area of Chestertown has already been listed as a National Register District.

Meanwhile, above Spring Street and away from the River, the less affluent settled. Here tradesmen oriented businesses seem to have predominated and the houses functioned as shops and homes with few exceptions. The tradesmen either operated their tanneries, blacksmith shops and carpentry shops in their backyards, or walked to work at the waterfront. Some houses here are of as early vintage as those on the waterfront but reflect generally a different economic and social class. There is a higher proportion of wood construction and the houses are generally smaller and less ornate. Homes built in this area, after the early town development period, are generally modest in size and also of wood.

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The archeological potential within the nominated area centers around the fact that the area near the river and then up High Street was that portion of the original plot of 1706 where the merchants, early tradesmen, and professionals settled. Chestertown received its Port status in 1706. The awarding of such status to few select towns was meant to encourage town growth as well as to make administration less difficult for the King's government. Since Chestertown was thereby privileged to receive ocean-going vessels, exploration of the grounds of an old tavern in the present National Register District yielded a cosmopolitan and rich collection of artifacts. Old wells and trash pits are no doubt waiting discovery and a late well was recently dug on Mill Street uncovering artifacts of the turn of the century, and a few of an even earlier period. As the River declined in economic importance and cities and the Western Shore grew rapidly the Chestertown citizens moved to other town areas. While wells and trash pits in these areas would probably not yield such early artifacts no doubt examples of the developing periods would be found. A possible potential area for investigation and exploration would be the possible site of a mill at the end of Mill Street.

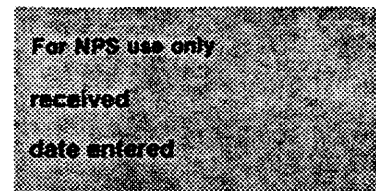
Chestertown's proposed National Register District is distinct from its surroundings. Beyond Cannon Street and the railroad tracks is farmland. Beyond the 600 block of High Street exists commercial, light industrial and limited residential areas. To the north of the College is both commercial, residential of a more recent period, and lastly farmland. Toward the river in the northern section exists recent housing developments, a modern hospital and modern school.

The development of Washington Avenue between 1830 and 1877, as a major thoroughfare opened this area related to Washington College. Washington Avenue led county and inter-county travelers to the Chester River Toll Bridge as well as to the commercial areas downtown. The affluent citizen now had a new major transportation and commercial route as the Chester River declined in economic importance to the town. As a result, from the mid-1800's to early 1900's many large fashionable homes were built along this road. Victorian, Queen Anne and Shingle architectural styles are represented and the homes are large and spacious. As this road grew in importance and the waterfront area became congested the more well to do began to settle here. Architectural styles previous to the 1830's are completely lacking. Most buildings are three stories and nearly all are of frame construction. Later, after the turn of the century additional large, square, vernacular, utilitarian homes were interspersed on lots not yet used and citizens also began to build on streets off the Avenue. In general, these homes, on cross streets and away from the main thoroughfare, tend to be somewhat smaller in size, with less period ornamentation, and are of the bungalow and box-like utilitarian vernacular styles.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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Washington College developed somewhat independently of the town. Also fronting Washington Avenue, at the highest point in Chestertown, it has remained in use since 1782 when George Washington gave the use of his name. The dominating style of architecture is Georgian-Revival with several modern structures opposing each other on the Avenue and nestled within campus plantings. The basic architecture, coupled with the tree-lined walks, spacious open grounds and the Washington Elm affords one a vista leading down to the residential and business area of Chestertown.

The nominated area presents interesting developments both in the downtown and its High/Cannon Street area, and the Washington Avenue sections, regarding size and style of residential buildings. Just up from the businesses is an area characterized by two prominent churches and former school, and modest sized housing for the tradesmen and less affluent. The houses are somewhat homogeneous in size and all periods of Chestertown's development are represented with Georgian, Gothic Revival, Victorian and Bungalow styles, as well as the local utilitarian basic type homes.

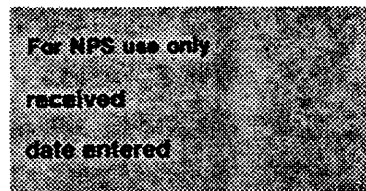
While in both the downtown and High Street sections structures are closely placed to their neighbors, because of the limited heights an overcrowded streetscape is not developed. In addition, some open areas, trees, and plantings serve to enhance the area. Along Washington Avenue and on its cross streets the density of building is much less.

The following text is a description of selected blocks and streetscapes in the historic district. The block designations (numbers and letters) are identified in the lines forming the blocks on the Resource Sketch Map accompanying the application.



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Block #6

Five frame houses erected c. 1880. Narrow, long, 2 and 2½ story in height, these are typical row houses with imaginative detail enhancing them: #230-wooden applique work around doorway, #232-incorporation of construction date-1889-into porch brackets, #234-decorative slate roof work and porch brackets, #226-well proportioned and detailed porch, #228-decorative porch brackets. A large 2½ story, 4 bay wide and deep, square store/residence with wraparound shop window broken by posts, and end recessed double door, plus its smaller A frame shed constructed as commercial enterprises by 1900 exist.

Block #8

Board and batten shed/garages, early to mid 20th century, fenced yard and planted parking for restored White Swan Tavern, 1731.

Block #9

2½ story frame residence with store c. 1900. 1908-09 restored Fire Hall, concrete brick facade, rockfaced sides and stepped rear, with detailed belltower and original doors with transoms and windows.

Block #10

A large frame 20th c. warehouse remains in this block, as does a brick, 2 story, double business with brick detailed cornice, 2 sets of display windows with transoms, recessed doors with transoms, segmentally arched 1st and 2nd floor windows. Chestertown's Railroad Station, c. 1904, now privately owned, has been moved east a short distance to make way for road widening, but still remains on the railroad tracks. The station is of timber frame and stucco construction with a large overhanging roof with brackets. The original protruding ticket window exists as does the loading platform. The former Methodist Protestant Church is a 2½ story American bond brick structure, c. 1830. Over its central door is a 19th century adaptation of a Palladian window and at either end of the main facade are brick pilasters. The bargeboard with sawn decorations and multi-paned windows, as well as some shutters, exist. On either side 3 brick vestigial buttresses are prominent, as is the outshot to the rear, part of the original sanctuary.

Block #12

Janes United Methodist Church, 1914. Gothic, hard surfaced, beige brick, cross gable plan, notable for its size, windows of colored glass, tower and cost to parish at that time for construction.

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Block #13

After 1903 frame row low income, 2 story housing with an occasional local service business of similar construction interspersed. Also a 1 and 2 story A frame, brick and frame shop/storage building in commercial area.

Block #14

The only remaining telescope house in Chestertown, 101-103 was constructed in 3 parts, with the middle probably being the first, and #101 the last. The smaller 2/3, frame construction, 1½ stories, with steep pitched roofs, has wide beaded clapboarding, multi-paned windows, a chimney within its smallest section's end with exposed chimney breast, and was constructed in the late 18th century. The later, early 19th century, 2½ story section, tall, narrow on the front and deep to the rear, is set on a high brick foundation and shares a tall brick chimney with the adjoining section. Local legend states a tavern existed within these walls. 105-107 is a late 18th c. frame, 1½ story, trademan's dwelling. Together it and the telescope house present a picture of Chestertown's early lower cost residences.

To complete the block an early 20th c., 2 family, 2½ story home with symmetrical facade was constructed.

At the High Street end of this block, on the property line of 101 S. Mill, but belonging to 359 High, (see block #27) is a square, frame, A roof, early smoke house.

Block #17

The John Anderson House, #400 Cannon St., 2nd quarter 18th cn. construction, is a 2½ story, 5 bay with A roof, Georgian residence. This home is one of the few with its original catslide/leanto to the rear. Laid in Flemish bond the Anderson home was and is a prominent structure, away from the more affluent Water and Queen Streets.

2½ story, frame, Victorian (last quarter 19th c.) residences, some with detailing remaining. Also, a 20th c. 2 family home, frame, 2 story.

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Block #20

20th c. construction includes two identical 2 story with A roof and wings to rear, with business in contemporary building to rear of one. Remaining 20th c. residences are bungalows of frame and shingle construction. 2 story frame residences, two double 4 bay, 2 story frame houses, and large for the area, 2½ story frame multi-family apartments; all constructed as lower cost housing. Mid-block a small business in a bungalow type building, which because of its size and construction blends with neighborhood.

Block #21

Single and 2 and 2½ story frame residences constructed last quarter 19th c., some with original porch brackets and post detailing. Possibly of earlier construction is a 1½ story, originally clapboard, double dwelling. Chestertown's workers resided in this area of town.

Block #22

20th c. residences, 2½ story, steep pitched A roof, as well as single story bungalows, all frame construction.

Block #23

Frame residences, erected late 19th and early 20th c., set close together, of 2-2½ story construction. #110 has arched dormer windows and bold cornice brackets with drops.

Block #24

Single family, 2 bay residences, 2½ story frame construction, only one having a dormer. Two have German siding, two with some beaded clapboarding. Tradesmen's housing of mid to late 19th c. As a unit they contribute to a picture of Chestertown's early small scale housing.

Block #25

Two 2½ story frame, 3 bay residences, with side halls and wings to the rear, constructed c. 1900. A 1½ story, with gable to the street, smaller frame residence; all typical of homes required by those less affluent than the Water Street residences.

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Block #26

Set on the sidewalks are three 2 story, 3 bay, frame homes erected within the last quarter 19th c. All are constructed on the same basic plan and possess bracketed cornices, main doors with transoms and sidelights, and individualized porches, decorative elements and wings. An interesting group of period homes.

Block #27

This block of High Street begins the business section, many coupled with residences. #359 High is a 2 story Victorian Italianate 3 bay homes, of frame construction, and recently externally restored and repainted in appropriate Victorian colors. Of note are the cut scroll work over the hooded windows and door, the detailed bracketed cornice with corner drops, and low pitch tin roof from which the central lantern or balustrade arrangement is missing. The double front door is surrounded by etched glass transom and side lights and the second floor window, directly above the door, is of an adapted Palladian style. #357 High, constructed possibly late 1700's, early 1800's, is a tall 2½ story residence, remodeled on first floor as a commercial establishment. Set on a high stone foundation the structure contains an exposed brick chimney breast. Additional 2½ story homes, another set on a high brick foundation, the other formerly a shop, now an office, with a projecting bay added on the second floor, and 3 mansard roof with dormers buildings exist. #349 is frame while #345 and the Bartley Building (#331-335) are brick. #345 has a decorated tin cornice, petal design roof, flatheaded dormers and now, modern shop windows on the first floor. The Bartley Building is 7 bays wide with rounded 2nd floor windows and dormers, and "colonial" type shop windows on the first floor. The High St. facade is of pressed brick with narrow joints while the sides and rear of of softer brick. On the High St. facade only exists a decorated metal cornice. The Schreiber Building, #337, is of American bond brick on the sides, with 2nd and 3rd floor frame closed-in porches over the 2 bay shop windows and recessed door. Constructed for commercial purposes prior to 1900 it housed a harness shop, bakery, laundry and a wholesale and retail confectionary business, to name a few. The logo of the latter is visible on the west side of the building. Originally 2 stories in height and not as deep it was raised to 3 stories and enlarged in the rear to accommodate a growing business and family after 1918.

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30. #600-602 High St., built mid to late 18th c. It seems probable because of beaded clapboard and remainder of a chimney at the roof's center, that #602 was constructed first. #600 is of plain clapboard; both possess chimneys within their end gables. At the block's far end is 2½ story, 3 bay late 19th c. home with a single rounded dormer. Gable windows are also rounded. The remainder of the residences, constructed turn of the century, 20th c. exist as vernacular examples of good sized 2-2½ story frame homes. Three have similar cornice detailing. In addition a single story, tin roofed, home of the bungalow style is present.
31. Only visible structure within the area is the side gable view of #600 High (see #30) and its yard.
32. Structures visible are the gable view of #540 High (see block #50), single level 20th century and shed/garages.
33. Several important Chestertown homes exist in the block. #540-38 a frame residence/shop is built onto the west wall of its neighbor #536 and is of 2½ story style. #536, a late 18th c. Flemish bond brick townhouse with water table, west chimney within gable, east one constructed on the wall. The next structure, #532, Rock of Ages or Palmer House, formerly possessed a wing which abutted the brick house and enclosed the chimney. Constructed in the mid to late 1700's of stone, supposedly ships' ballast, this dwelling is small, 1½ stories, 3 bay, with a water table, and is inscribed on the silver service presented to the ship, Maryland. #518-520 High St., separated by about ½ inch were erected by brothers soon after 1775. Their facades are of Flemish bond, and they are 2½ story with dormers, water tables, and chimneys within their gables.
- The 1878 former Sacred Heart Catholic Church, now the Parish Hall, is a pressed brick gothic structure with rose window and small bell tower. The Rectory, c. 1890, is a 2½ story home on a 3 gable plan. In the main facade gable is a rounded central window with small rectangular windows to each side. For balance, the east gable contains the same lines, however, the central part is bricked in because of the detailed chimney rising here.
- Constructed in 1973, the single level, cruciform plan, soft-hued brick Catholic Church is in Neo-Colonial style with hipped roof and plain multi-paned glass rounded windows.
- Other residences within the block are of A roof, 1½, 2 and 2½ story style; and two small, box-like flat roofed residences, one with detailed cornice.

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Block #28

Of note is the 1887 late Gothic Christ Methodist Church. Constructed in an irregular cruciform shape it is set on a rough granite block base and has sandstone window and buttress trim and belt course. The original slate roof with snow stops is extant, as is the 3 story bell tower and spire topped by a gilded crown. From the tower forward to the street the brick is the hard, pressed type, while to the rear it is of softer composition. Designed by Benjamin Owens, a Baltimore architect, Christ Methodist also possesses finials, gothic arches and stained glass windows to delight the eye. Next to the Church, and part of the facilities, exists the Victorian, frame, Nicholson House, with gable and a 2 story projecting bay to the street. Recently repainted in colors appropriate to the period, the building contains fish scale shingles on the upper levels and an L shaped porch with conservative detailing. Also significant in this block is the Rebecca Lloyd Anderson House, #411 High. A 2½ story, 3 bay, Georgian residence, c. 1733-1749, it possesses a steep A roof with dormers, symmetrical facade, water table, and chimneys within each gable. The first floor High St. facade is patterned with glazed headers while the 2nd floor, High St. facade, has only a random sampling of the same. The remaining residences are mainly multi-family, 2½ story, steep pitched roof, frame structures, of varying heights, with wings to the rear. #411 High, on its 2nd and 3rd floors, main facade, contains windows with side lights. Another two homes have been joined and faced with brick for a family residence/business however, their character is still apparent. #407 High St., a later residence, and of frame construction, is of 3 stories, and possesses interesting sawn scroll cornice detail. At the block's far end is a 3 bay mansard roof, rough cut block residence/shop with decorated block asquoins, and constructed in the 20th c.

29. Set close together the 19th c. residences of the block are of the familiar 2½ story, frame, A roof style with dormers; constructed as Chestertown's workers either moved into town, or further out from a becoming congested living area in the business section. In addition, later vernacular Victorian residences with gables to the street are interspersed. At the block's far end is an attached group of 4 residential units; 2 story, brick, late 19th c., with brick wings to the rear. Each is 2 bays wide and the bold bracketed and block cornice on the main facade is elaborate for the type and location of this housing.

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34. Side view of Catholic Church (see #33).
35. Visible are the side facades of the Victorian shingled residence/office facing High, a barn/shed on a high brick foundation, a miniscule 20 c. residence, and a turn of the century 2½ story, 4 bay, A roof, home, and a small 20th c. bungalow facing Calvert.
36. #400 High is a large 1901 2½ story brick public school. Possessing a 10 bay facade with central door, molded brick water table and laid in Flemish bond the structure is of bold and detailed construction. The first floor windows have flat headed cantilevered brick over the windows, while the 2nd floor windows have rounded segmental arches with keystones. Above the entrance is a stairtower, at the 2nd level containing a Venetian or Palladian window. Its cupola, above the 3rd floor bullseye, was removed in 1956. There is a large cornice with modillions and brackets. The roof is gambrel with two massive gambrel dormers facing High St. Detailed chimneys protrude at each end of the roof. The 5 bay frame, 1877, High Victorian Hubbard House possesses both classical and Gothic forms. The gables are high peaked and the hipped roof contains a platform between the chimneys. There is a 3 bay porch of the period and an eclectic profusion of ornament. #412 High, the Lee House, late 19th c., is 3 bays, 2½ stories, with wings elongating it to the rear. It has a projecting bay on both 1st and 2nd floors main facade and displays cornice and porch detail. #414 High, now painted yellow, was constructed prior to 1784, as an early 2½ story brick townhouse. From 1868-1900 Victorian embellishments - bargeboard, cornice with scroll work and recessed doorway were completed. The High St. facade is of Flemish bond and there is a water table to the 1st floor level. Set on a high brick foundation, #414's other three sides are of American bond. There is a large brick chimney within the east gable. Remaining structures in the block were constructed 19th and early 20th centuries and are of the 2½ story, A roof type or with Gothic gables facing the street.
37. Side view of the 1901 massive brick public school. (see #36)
38. Side view of First Methodist Church and its 1958 brick, 2 story, Church Hall. (see #39) Also a late 19th c. 3 bay, 2½ story, steep pitched roof home with its dormer at a later time enlarged into the cornice.
39. Originally a late Gothic Revival brick church, 1875, First Methodist Church underwent colonial alterations in 1927. It now possesses an Ionic portico, pediment with octagonal bullseye, high belltower and spire. On the side the original brick axis pilasters and modillions are visible.

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40. Built in 1964 and 1935 the vernacular Colonial-Revival Peoples Bank and Georgian-Colonial Post Office occupy this short block of Spring St. Because of their style, brick construction and community setting neither is obtrusive within the commercial district and maintain the scale of surrounding structures.
41. Visible is the side and rear of the Post Office (see #40).
42. Erected directly on the corner of Spring and Calvert this home was built in the 1860's, presumably by A. Rockwell, local builder of the large home next door, and who, it is said, used a front room to build boats. It is 3 bays wide and of 2 story, A roof construction, with central hall and a smaller wing to the rear. Set back from the street the large, 5 bay, 2½ story 1876 frame home with many wings is an example of conservative 19th c. taste. Built also by A. Rockwell, it, like the aforementioned, has been in the Eliason family since construction. Next to it, but even further removed from the street and with much planting and growth in front, is a large 2½ story, 3 bay dormered shingle Eliason house, built in the 1900s.
43. Side vistas of the early small and later large Victorian homes as well as their full block yards and tall Victorian frame barn (see #42).
44. Constructed after 1903 these narrow frame 2 and 2½ story residences served as middle class homes for Chestertonians.
45. Notable as the only extant small scale Victorian gothic residence in Chestertown, the Boyd house was erected by Harry L. Boyd in the 1800's, after a similar one in Salisbury. It is rich in ornamentation, highly decorated bargeboards and bold moldings over arched gable windows. The remaining dwellings, which continue down to the stream bed emptying into the Chester River, (was there a mill on Mill St.) are set close together on the sidewalk and are of narrow, frame construction. Rounded gable windows, detailed porch brackets and gable and dormer detail, balusters, and decorated cornices are evidences of fanciful imagination.
46. The rear of the massive 1901 Public School (see #36), a 20th c. small, single story frame building now serving as an undertaker's place of business and simple, middle to low cost, 2 story and bungalow style residences face on Calvert St. with occasional ornamentation on porch cornice.



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47. Visible are the side of the elaborate Boyd House (see #45), its smaller wing with detailed porch and small frame shed/garage. Beyond exists a small 2 story frame residence with steep pitched A roof. Set on a brick foundation this dwelling is possibly of early 19th c. construction. Now containing 4 bays, it may have originally had only 3. The remaining Calvert St. residences are 2-2½ story, middle to lower income, narrow, frame style with detailing on cornice and occasional porch, and a late 19th century barn.
48. Early to mid-20th century bungalows and 2½ story larger homes of the turn of the century and later are on Kent Circle. #225 is built on the cross gable plan, has fish scale shingles on its 3rd level and rounded gable windows.
49. Constructed in similar plan and style of pressed brick (one with keystones over windows, the other with stone lintels and quoins) are two mansard roofed 3 story, 3 bay (side hall and room) residences built at the turn of the century with dormers cut into the roof on each side. Of rough cut block with decorated blocks at the ends, the facade of the square, 5 bay mansard roofed, multi-residence, was built at the same time, all three by one property owner. Now sheathed in shingles (over clapboard) 2½ story #341 High St. is set on a high foundation with basement at one end to accommodate for the rise of the street. Possibly originally a 3 bay residence (now 4) with central door with transom the building has housed businesses in its lower level and in the bay to the east. This section's easternmost wall is of rough cut block which lends credence to the addition possibility, or perhaps a deteriorating wall was reinforced or rebuilt. Businesses have occupied the first level and this shop facade is basically unchanged from early photos. Further to the east is a small, single level brick addition utilized as business expanded.
53. Mid-20th c. bungalows, square and rectangular, well planted.
54. Opened in the 20th century for necessary housing. (See #55.)
55. Mt. Vernon is characterized by homes of the bungalow, (brick, frame and shingle) and square, utilitarian styles with porches, again shingle or frame. Two rough cut block homes exist at the south end of the block. One contains pink block as quoins, has a mansard roof and projecting bay on 1st and 2nd floor. The other, also of similar block, is 2½ stories, with a 3 part window in its hipped roof street facade dormer.

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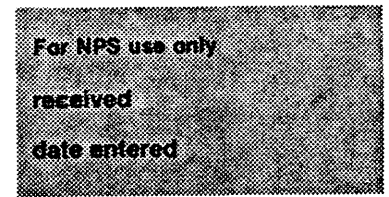
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56. Large homes with Victorian varied window trim, roof lines, and all with porches, as well as a small 20th c. bungalow and the side view of the large 20th c. vernacular brick residence with wrap around porch.
57. In the 200 block of Washington Avenue, west side, one is treated to a variety of Victorian details. Constructed late 19th to early 20th c. these frame, shingle, and brick large homes contain both pointed and rounded gable windows, 3 part dormer windows, fish scale shingles on 3rd floor, some gables to the street, mansard roof, detailed window sashes, porch trim, and cornice, and a rounded projecting bay on the first and 2nd floors becoming a rounded tower on the 3rd floor. All are set back from the street and the yards contain large and small trees and plantings.
- 59A. One of the town's premier Victorian residences, the large Victorian Stam Home (Hill's Tourist Home) was built in the last quarter of the 19th century and possesses many Victorian features and embellishments. A 2½ story house, on a low brick foundation, it is constructed on a 3 sided cross gable plan with a 3 story tower centrally located in the main house. The central tall chimney has recessed panels and a multi-layered cap.
- Erected in the late 19th c., below the rise on which the Stam House sits, is a small Victorian 2½ story home with fish scale shingles on the upper level, a triple window in the main facade gable, wrap around porch, and a projecting bay, with stained glass in its windows. North on the Avenue, towards the College, is a turn of the century vernacular home with mansard roof. Petal design metal shingles cover the roof and a generous front porch with columns with granite bases wraps around this large rectangular home. Set far back from the Avenue, amidst multiple plantings, is a small fieldstone and frame 20th c. bungalow; next to it a vernacular large square frame 2½ story 20th c. home. Another Victorian Avenue residence, built in the last quarter of the 19th c., #124 contains a protruding bay, is 2½ stories with fish scale shingles on the upper level, porch decoration, rounded dormer windows and bracketed cornice.

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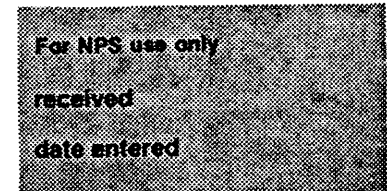
59B. #121 B Washington Ave., home of Maryland Comptroller, Marion DeKalb Smith, also a local surveyor, was situated on the present C & P lot from 1883 until 1960, when it was saved from demolition and moved north and back one lot. Of frame construction it is built on the cross gable plan and possesses a decorated balcony in the main gable, fish scale shingles sheathing the gables and a tall multi-layered capped brick chimney. Directly in front, #121 Washington Avenue, is a more conservative frame Victorian home with sawn cornice and dromer detail. #123 was also built in the same period, on the cross gable plan, but now has a modern wing to the rear and wood shingles sheathing it. Premier Victorian residences on the Avenue, #125, 127 and 129, are all of frame construction 2½ stories, and on the cross gable plan. #125 possesses a bay built into its main facade gable, a 3 story tower in the northwest bay, a wraparound single story porch with elaborate turned balusters, posts, brackets and relief work, and fish scale shingles on the gables and tower. In the 3rd story of the tower, with its 4 sided pyramidal roof, is a modified Palladian window. The front door is surrounded by stained glass fan lights and there is decorative bargeboard trim. #127, also of cross gable plan, contains many decorative elements such as its elaborately carved small 2nd floor porch, 1st floor porch balusters and trim and detailed window fenestration.

#129, built 1894-95, is of the Queen Anne Cottage style. A tower in its northwest corner on the 3rd story is missing its bell shaped roof and finial. Fish scale shingles decorate the gables and tower. Projecting bays exist on the main and side facades as do stained glass side lights, transom and 2nd floor hall window, and detailed porch trim.

60. With its wrap around porch, fish scale sheathed gable and wrought iron fence the Queen-Anne #129 Washington Avenue side view is as interesting as its main facade. (see #59B) Its small frame shed/garage is well planted. A mid 20th c. 2 story, but small, square home without detailing and the 1945 brick, modest in a Gothic-Revival style Seventh Day Adventist Church complete the block.
61. Small 20th c. frame bungalow.
62. Moved to this site in 1981 to save it from demolition, the Nathaniel Wiley House is a narrow frame 2½ story residence with wings of decreasing size to the rear. A steep pitches roof with 2 dormers with arched windows, a multi-sectioned cornice with drops, but out designs on the facade cornice, and elaborate porch brackets and balusters contribute to this late 19th c. Victorian residence. A miniscule bungalow and large, square, shingled 2 story home with elongated A roof to the rear and detailed porch brackets and posts are also on this block.

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63. Early 20th c. large square frame 2½ story residences with decorative metal roofs plus a 20th c. 1½ story home with steep pitched slate roof, dormers and wings completes the 200 block of N. Queen. #212 is said to be an older building moved in at sometime, interior evidence local residents say may bear this out.
64. The elongated and with wings of decreasing size Wiley Home (see #62) presents a delightful vista. Beyond exist 20th c. low cost frame bungalow type homes.
65. Constructed of stone in the 20th c., this 2 story, 3 bay residence faces the corner and has, to the rear, a single elongated former garage converted to office.
66. Built in the 20th c. the residences of the 200 block of Philosophers
67. Terrace are of the bungalow and 2 story vernacular square utilitarian styles. Several are shingled and all are well planted and have large trees in yards.
68. A bungalow home, one of bungaloid style with hipped roof and a 2½ story, shingled, square house with lunets in the gable and neo-Colonial doorway of the 20th c. occupy this block of Kent St.
69. Two large, frame late 19th/early 20th c., 2½ story Victorian residences, each with a large porch and conservative detailing occupy the north end of the east side of 200 Washington Avenue. To the south of the same block are additional late 19th and early 20th c. Victorian residences, both large and small in scale. Porches, fish scale shingles, stained glass, decorative detailing on gables and cornices are extant. One residence is of the shingle style. Together they form an interesting picture of Washington Avenue's development.
70. The playground to the rear of the former public school now serves as an open space/play area for neighborhood children.
71. Four stucco and frame 20th c. homes, with full width front porches, side hall plan, and plain facades occupy block #71. #103 E. Campus may be a Sears Roebuck home as pictured in a recent issue of "Historic Preservation" magazine. Three of the four residences are 2½ story while #108 is of the bungalow style.

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72. Large 20th c. Neo-Colonial residences and the only Tudor Revival style residence (#309) exist on this small block. The faux half-timbering on the gable, the use of rough hewn wood timbers with brick and stucco infill, and generous hipped roof with symmetrically placed dormers characterize #309.
73. The side view of #309 Washington Avenue, a Tudor Revival style home (see block #73), plus its small compatible garage, a large open planted lot, and a 2½ story vernacular square home, 20th c., recently remodeled on the interior for offices occupy Brown St.
74. The side view of the 1955 brick college dormitory (see block #75) plus the side of the 1926 Sears and Roebuck prefabricated bungalow (see #75) complete this short block.
75. Arriving in Chestertown via railroad in 1926 was #311 Washington Avenue, a Sears and Roebuck pre-fabricated bungalow. The rounded roof tiles and stone chimney enhance the home. Another small bungalow, stucco and frame, was erected in approximately the same period. Washington College's Georgian Revival Minta Martin Hall, built in 1955, is situated lower than its neighbor "Normal Hall". Now titled Reid Hall; this dormitory was built in 1896 as an attractive late Victorian Building with mansard roof. "Colonialized" in 1929 it had stair wings added later. Early in the 1900's #407 Washington Avenue served as a residence and rooming house. Because of its mansard roof the 3rd story rooms have ample height. Built on a side hall room plan the home has corner chimneys centrally located and back to back.
77. Situated on the Washington College triangle are the brick Georgian Revival buildings: Hodson Hall, 1937 (with its 1963-4 modern addition of similar materials), 1949-50 Somerset Hall, with 2 later wings in the same style. On the Avenue is the sole remaining turn of the century simple Victorian college home.
79. Below the triangle, on the main campus, are the brick Georgian Revival buildings, 1939-40 Dunning Science Hall with its later wings of the same style, 1939-40 Bunting Hall, and 1918 William Smith Hall. The 1906-07 Smith Hall was severely damaged by fire in 1916 and was rebuilt on the same plan and design with a cupola/bell tower added. The three "hill dorms", East, West and Middle Dorms, and the modern, 1970 soft brick, low profile Miller Library with its

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courtyard and attractive plantings complete the main campus. Middle Hall, a Greek Revival Building constructed in 1845, is the oldest structure on campus. The white frieze-like attic runs around the building below the cornice with a small 3-part window above a similar large one on the 2nd floor at the main entrance facade. Set on a high basement of cut granite from Port Deposit, Middle Hall is of all stretcher brick with thin mortar joints. The low hip roof is of standing seam tin and a lantern, designed from old photos, was recently added. East and West Halls, built in 1854 to compliment Middle Hall, also rest on high basements of cut granite, are brick, 2½ stories, with low hip tin roof and bracketed cornices. The College heating plant, of low profile, brick, and built in the first quarter of the 20th c. is at the far corner of the campus.

80. 20th c. small bungalow and a 2 story Neo-Colonial brick residence occupy the 100 block of W. Campus.
81. Victorian 2 and 2½ story narrow 3 bay residences with wings to the rear are attractively grouped close together with some gables to the street as well as porch and cornice detailing, rounded windows, and fish scale shingles to please the eye.
82. Constructed in the 20th c. both residences in this short block terminating on Barrolls Bight, are large, 2½ story, vernacular, shingled homes. #301 possesses a hipped roof, porch at either end and a Neo-Colonial entranceway. #303 contains lunets in the gables and a bold cornice.
83. Originally a small 20th century bungalow dwelling this home has been tastefully expanded, painted and planted and depicts the needs of a growing family.
84. A 20th c. double dwelling, 2½ stories, frame, with design metal roofs, interesting stoop hoods, and wings to the rear, and a one level, box like, low cost 20th c. rental house completes this block.

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Block A and No. 1 - SE side of West Water Street (Front Street)

One of the town's richest examples of high Victorian style, this home is notable particularly for its marriage of Greek Revival and Italianate styles. A 2-story frame dwelling with a low hip roof and cupola and full width matching porches, it also boasts two of the most impressive Greek Revival frontispiece entrances in the county. Circa 1857.

Block B and No. 2 - NW side of West Water Street (Front Street)

Photos: B-1 and B-2

The Levi Rogers House is a handsome representative of late 18th and early 19th century taste in moderate frame residential buildings. Its 2 story catslide makes an interesting comparison with two houses of similar overall conception, the Church Alley Store and a dwelling in the 200 block of Calvert Street. Circa early 19th century.

Block C - NW side of Water Street, between Cannon and High

The Hynson-Ringgold House or "The Abbey" is a 3-stage brick dwelling with a classic hipped roof Georgian front section facing Water Street, a mid-section which houses one of Chestertown's most beautiful staircases, and an original smaller rear section, which served as an office for the home's original owner, physician William Murray. The combined documentary and architectural evidence suggests the rear section was already in existence when Murray purchased the property in 1743. The interior once boasted a room by William Buckland, since removed to the Baltimore Museum of Art. Mid-18th century.

Block D - SE side of Water Street, between Cannon and High

A handsome Georgian L-shaped building, the Customs House basic structure was built in the late 1740s under the ownership of Samuel Massey. It was then in the hands of the prominent Ringgolds for the rest of the century and they, presumably, constructed the two-bay addition to the southeast gable end. The building is especially notable for its basement, a full floor on the northeast elevation, containing a kitchen with large fireplace and dungeon. The Flemish bond brickwork accented by glazed headers, the watertable, and interior woodwork are important for their period. Circa 1745.

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Block E - SE side of Water Street, between High and Maple

Widehall is one of the largest classic gabled 5-bay brick Georgian Mansions in town. Commanding a wide view of the Chester River from its late addition Ionic portico in the rear, the building was home for Thomas Smythe, the builder, a merchant and shipbuilder, and one of the wealthiest men of his time. Also residing in Widehall were Robert Wright, a U. S. Senator and Maryland Governor, and Ezekial Foreman Chambers, a U. S. Senator and Chief Judge of the then (1826-1834) Second Judicial District and Judge of the Court of Appeals. The all header bond brickwork, keystone lintels, terrace, entrance way, unusual stairs, stairhall, and woodwork are notable. Circa 1769.

The Baldwin Apartment House, built for Richard Hynson, is one of several vernacular mid-19th century brick dwellings in town, and like most, is trimmed with the familiar and popular Greek features. Circa 1870.

Lots 12 and 13 on Water Street were purchased in 1736 by a Barbados merchant, William Timbrill. Thomas Smythe bought the lots in 1784 for 300 pounds and possibly began construction of River House. Another owner, Peregrine Letherbury, attorney, law professor at Washington College, Secretary and then President of the College Visitors and Governors, and delegate to the Maryland General Assembly, purchased the property in 1787 and may have completed the house.

A recent publication of the Maryland Historical Trust concerning River House details its architectural features. "The five-bay street facade stands three stories above a stone water table, below which there is a high basement. Its most striking decorative element is the modified Corinthian cornice - the only hand-carved cornice of its type in Chestertown. The Flemish bond brickwork has a narrow, convex, white mortar joint. Each window of the basement, first floor, and second floor, is accentuated by a rusticated, stone flat-arch with keystone. On the first and second stories, the keystones of the window lintels are double and the keystone of the second story's center window is molded and carved. There is plain belt course of stone between the first and second stories." The floor plan is that of a central hall with stair hall at the rear east and a room to each side of the hall. The original paneling of the second floor riverside room was removed in 1926 and is now available for viewing in the Winterthur Museum, Delaware. The rear porches were reconstructed from an old photograph as were other original interior and exterior details. During work, outlines of original woodwork, trim, and the front door pediment were discovered,

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aiding in the restoration. River House is a property of the Maryland Historical Trust and is open to the public at scheduled times. Circa 1785.

A late 19th century brick double house, this building is a combination of various stylistic features of its period. Circa 1880.

Block F - NW side of Water Street, between High and Maple

The impact of the turn of the century Neo-Classical style on domestic buildings in Chestertown is illustrated by two houses on Water Street constructed in the early 20th century. Both show a simplicity in form and an interest in more symmetrical fenestration than houses of the late 19th century. The more elaborate of the two, has a generous hipped roof, decorative dormers and a two-story bay window, legacies of the late Victorian period. Its neighbor, on the other hand, is perfectly rectangular in plan and is covered with a simple gable roof. Both homes have generous interior spaces and large windows and are constructed of wood, the preferred material of that period. Early 20th century.

The original, front section of the Meeteer or Frisby House is, with its sister house, the Perkins House one of the most attractive small Georgian brick dwellings in Chestertown. The wide chimneys with interesting cap detail, all header bond, curvilinear window arches and a brick belt course between first and second stories are notable features. Circa 1766.

Possessing form and detailing more common to northern, urban areas than to small Eastern Shore communities, the most unusual feature of this residence is its porte cochere. The use of hard, dark red brick is also rare for this architectural period in Chestertown. The dwelling has a slate roof and paired columns on its one-story porch. The use of a belt course at the second story is an interesting carryover from an earlier architectural period. After 1903.

Extensive restoration would be necessary to return this home to its original form. Its 5-bay, late 18th century skeleton is similar in design and detail to the Powers House. Late 18th century.

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Block G - NW side of Water Street, between Maple and Riverside

The Pearce House is the only Queen Anne Style home in Chestertown and has been restored. It was built for Judge James Pearce, son of the prominent mid-century U. S. Senator, by H. M. Stuart, one of the town's premier craftsmen. Notable are the banded brick exterior walls and ornaments of plaster and terra cotta. The porches, balustrades and irregular dormers, as well as the pink slate and detailed color scheme of the home, contribute to the delightful structure. 1890's.

Vernacular early 20th century residences, with last house in photo G-3 beginning late 19th century three-bay Victorian with twin gables to the street. Residences in scale with the balance of the streetscape.

Block H - SE side of Water Street, between Maple and Chester River.

Late 19th century vernacular frame residences that display varied Victorian detail, and one has been modified to develop a mansard roof profile.

A modest 3-bay Georgian brick dwelling similar to the Meeteer and Perkins Houses, Chester House, at the foot of the Chester River Bridge, has been through several stages of fairly radical remodeling. Today it exhibits an eclectic design with catslide roof, 19th century cornice and overhanging roof, cruciform chimneys, and a stucco wing. Mid-18th century.

Block I - NW side of Water Street, at Chester River

Early 20th century five-bay wood framed classic, revival, with subsequent vernacular additions. House and site are in scale with the adjoining streetscapes.

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Block J - NE side of Maple Avenue, between Water and Queen

Two houses in foreground are American Gothic style, circa 1890, the third house is circa 1860, known as the William Burchinal House is one of the major Greek Revival style frame dwellings in town, now covered by asbestos. Its origins are presumably linked to the Greenwood House.

These transitional houses were converted long after the Victorian designs they were intended to imitate had become the vogue.

Block K - SW side of Maple Avenue, between Water and Queen

Extensive restoration would be necessary to return this home to its original form. Its 5-bay, late 18th century skeleton is similar in design and detail to the Powers House. Late 18th century.

This extensively modified five-bay American Gothic, with vernacular additions.

This Queen Street double house, now broken into apartments, with an "A" roof and interesting Greek Revival style porch, also has exposed chimney backs on the gables. This is a late 18th century residence with almost all of the interior standing trim intact and of excellent quality.

Block N - NW side of Queen Street, between High and Maple

Vernacular residences, much modified by removal of fretwork and application of varied types of siding, yet still retaining scale and relationship to the streetscape.

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Recently restored and with a new rear addition, the John Greenwood House is a small scale version of the Burchinal House. It is an essentially Greek Revival style, 3-bay frame house with low hip roof and prominent cupola. Circa 1867.

The second Methodist Protestant Parsonage to stand on this lot, this Victorian gothic dwelling was the pride of the day. It was constructed by Chestertonian, A.M. Culp, with its sister house, being built from the same plans. 1896.

Block O - SW side of Queen Street, between High and Maple

The Buck-Bacchus Store, restored on the exterior by Preservation, Inc. and the Maryland Historical Trust, was constructed during the ownership of the Bucks. 1735-1750. It is known to have served as a store from 1854-1922 under the ownership of the Bacchus family. During restoration the roof was raised, dormers added, and a new chimney constructed. The house stands on a fieldstone basement, has a four brick molded water table which jogs over the basement windows, and a two brick belt course above the first story. Both the water table and belt course are stepped on the northeast elevation. The brickwork of the original section is laid in Flemish bond, the added bay being in common bond. The basement windows have segmented arches as do those on the first floor. The second story windows have wood lintels. The building is open at selected times. Mid-18th century.

The John Buck house, one of two brick Georgian "original catslide" homes in Chestertown, is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. A belt course runs between the first and second stories.

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The Nicholson House, the central of a three house cluster of Federal townhouses, was the home of John Nicholson, a Lieutenant and Master of the ship DEFENCE, who in 1776 was appointed in charge of the Continental Navy ship WASHINGTON. Rising rapidly in the Navy he was promoted in 1776 to Captain and was Commander of the Continental sloop HORNET. After the war he returned to Chestertown and was Register of Wills, a member of the Chestertown Committee of Public Safety, and a merchant. The Nicholson family was prominent in much of our nation's early history. John's father, Colonel Joseph Nicholson, was one of the first Visitors and Governors of Washington College, helped the Rev. Dr. William Smith begin the Kent Free School, was a member of the extra-legal revolutionary assembly, and served locally as High Sheriff of Kent County. The eldest son, James, as Captain, was head of the Maryland Navy. He was given command of the largest armed vessel, the DEFENCE, and in October, 1776 became Head of the Continental Navy, a position he held until it was disbanded in 1785. Following the war he went to New York and took an active part in politics. Samuel Nicholson, second son, and brother of John and James, was Captain of the armed cutter DOLPHIN and later the frigate, DEANE. He had the longest command and after the war moved to Boston where he entered the U. S. Navy as second ranking officer in 1794. The frigate CONSTITUTION was built under his supervision and he was its first skipper.

The Nicholson House is a 2 1/2 story, 3-bay, square brick Federal style home with steep "A" roof and two gabled dormers. A molded water table exists across the front and there is a shallow cornice with brick dentils. A 2-story wing, built in the 1890's, stands on the northeast gable end. Late 1780's.

The earliest of three essentially Federal brick townhouses on lower Queen Street, this home is of particular interest for its Georgian roof pitch and restoration. It was built for Dr. William Houston and is laid in Flemish bond. 1770's.

A potpourri of small residences of late 18th and 19th century designs, which have undergone time related modifications, losing much of the original character, but retaining the character of the streetscape.

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Block P - NE side of Queen Street, between High and Church Alley

Twentieth century vernacular residential in-fills, the double house has a well-proportioned and detailed porch.

Block Q - NE side of High Street, between Queen and Water

The home of one of Chestertown's most prominent families, the Wickes, this monumental Georgian style mansion served also as a tavern and hotel. Ezekial F. Chambers, U. S. Senator, resided here in the mid-19th century. The Wickes House is a large scale, 5-bay brick home with gabled roof and dormers, 2 1/2 stories, and two rooms deep. It has a fieldstone basement and molded brick water table with the brickwork being of Flemish bond. The two large chimneys are flush with the gable ends and the facade windows have flat arches and wood sills. A large garden adjoins the northwest corner of the house and is surrounded by a brick wall similar to that across the front of the house. 2nd half 18th century.

Originally a monumental 5-bay brick Georgian home, the Barroll House was expanded by 7 bays in the early 19th century and is today a double dwelling in excellent condition. Large brick chimneys exist within the gable ends and the brickwork is of Flemish bond; in the old section only glazed headers may be seen. There is a molded water table which jogs over the basement windows and a 2-brick belt course over the first floor, both features being limited to the old section. Circa 1743.

The house in the foreground is plain Victorian house, this home was also built by the Stuart family. Great pains have been taken to maintain and develop its conservative virtues by removing porches and mildly Federalizing it. 1876.

The second house is a very plain Victorian house, this dwelling was constructed by local builders, Horace and George Stuart. It is a 2 1/2 story, 3-bay frame home with the gable end facing the street. Late 19th century.

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Block R - SW side of High Street, between Water and Queen.

The third house from the corner of Water Street, is one of Chestertown's attractive and little altered eighteenth century frame houses, the Molloy House is noted for its brick gable ends (with only the southeast one being exposed), beaded siding, and unusual facade arrangement. The first story has 5-bays and is symmetrical, but the second has four unevenly spaced windows. The residence was restored by the Maryland Historical Trust. 2nd quarter 18th century.

Late nineteenth century Victorian houses showing a combination of stylistic features of the period, in scale with the tree-lined street.

An extremely handsome Victorian brick double-dwelling, this residence is notable for the facade arrangement. An arch motif is repeated in the door panels, moldings, transoms, and window arches and dormers. 1877-1883.

The Cahall Store, on the corner of High at Queen, which now serves as a private library, is a brick vernacular building with Greek Revival trim. It closely resembles the Washington College dormitory buildings, East, Middle, and West Halls, which are contemporary with it. The building has a hipped roof and a low flat-roofed bracketed cupola on the deck. The masonry is all stretcher brick with thin mortar joints. Circa 1850.

Block S - SE side of Queen Street, between Cannon and High

Late nineteenth and twentieth century residences, cottage type, significant as an expression of the period.

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Block T - NW side of Queen Street, between Cannon and High

This land and the present building on it have been held off and on by merchants and other businessmen and this tradition is continued today. A 2-story building with flat roof, the shop display windows are of interest for their period. The cornice possesses interesting modillions with drops.

The residence at the sidewalk is 20th century vernacular, while the residence set back, though called locally the Captain Alexander Murray House, no evidence can be found to substantiate his birth in the dwelling. One of the more substantial 2 1/2 story homes, of which there are only a few left, it was entirely rebuilt and altered about 1958. Mid to late 1700s.

Block Y - Cannon Street, between Queen and Cross

A much altered Victorian 5-bay residence, with the original bay windows in place, indicating early use as a store/residence.

Block AA - SW side of High Street, between Queen and Cross

The first building, from the left, constructed in late 19th century, as a store/residence, which use continues today. This 2-story building with a flat roof, has projecting shop display windows, showing excellent detail of the period. The wood cornice retains the period wood modillions, with drops.

Continuation of the commercial streetscape, leading towards the White Swan Tavern, showing several 20th buildings incompatible to the streetscape.



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While the White Swan, as local legend calls the Tavern, was once one of many area Taverns, it is one of the few remaining. Built mid-18th century, it is a 2 1/2 story, dormered, brick building with colorful glazed headers in the Flemish bond pattern on the High Street facade. An interesting catslide roof is also at the rear and the original summer kitchen exists there also. It seems fair to assume that Joseph Hooper Nicholson, of our nation's maritime history fame, had the White Swan constructed. The White Swan has been restored with the interior and exterior reflecting its original use of providing gracious hospitality. The Victorian suite of the White Swan is housed in an adjacent brick building. Mid-18th century.

The site of an early bank, this building underwent alterations in the 1940's to produce a classic revival facade. The small building was reduced from a five bay, three story Victorian style, to the present 2 1/2 story cottage style store/residence.

Block BB - NE side of High Street, between Queen and Cross

The Masonic Temple was built in the period between 1826, when the Maryland General Assembly granted the lot to the Masons, and 1835 when a deed from the Clinton Lodge to the President and Directors of Masonic Hall Company refers to a building on the property. The date on the building, 1827, is believed to reflect the period when subscriptions were solicited to construct it. The Masonic Temple, of Flemish bond, is an example of retardataire Georgian architecture and is situated in an important town location. 1826-1835.

The present oldest section of the Court House, facing the White Swan Tavern, was built in 1860 and is of the Victorian Italianate style. Window sills are of stone and the cornice brackets and extruded brickwork are interesting period details. Between each bay on the sides are vestigial buttresses. Towards Maple Avenue, in a northerly direction, a twentieth century "colonial" addition has been constructed. The town plat shows that the land was originally set aside for such purposes. Kent County is fortunate to have many of its early records still surviving and while the Court House is not nearly as old as the records, it is important for its architecture of the time and involvement in the County. 1860, 1969.

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Emmanuel Episcopal Church is significant for many reasons. The land was granted for the building in 1768 by the Provincial Council from the Court House lands. Under the Rev. Dr. William Smith, at the Convention held at the Church in 1780, the title of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America was adopted. The original building, even in its present altered state, is interesting, as one can visualize its earlier appearance. The soft, unusual color of the bricks makes a pleasing contrast to other brick buildings. The original roof was lowered in the 1880's by a local contractor, Horace M. Stuart, and the Parish Hall was added c. 1904-05. The tower was constructed at the same period and the newest large Parish Hall was added in 1968. 1772.

Stam Hall, in its important location near the Court House, gives the town an interesting example of an unusual style of architecture for the area: high Victorian after the manner of the Second Empire style. Its eclecticism makes it an interesting comparison to its neighbors, the retardataire Georgian Masonic Temple and the White Swan Tavern. 1886.

Imperial Hotel, constructed in early 20th century, of vernacular design, featuring superimposed porches that extend the full width of the sidewalk, covering the full of the building facade and supported on doric style slender columns.

The middle building was constructed as a movie theatre, in the 1920's, and reflects design details of the popular theatre styles, as adapted to a small-town location. The marquee has been altered from the original multi-light design.

Commercial/residential building constructed in the later 19th century, as a series of stores with residences above, which use continues today. The building is modified by removal of three projecting matching store-front bay windows and covering of the exterior with asbestos siding.

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Block CC - Court Street (Lawyers Row), High to Church Alley

It is common in small rural Maryland towns to find Lawyers' Rows near the Court House and the three central offices are examples of the earliest buildings extant for that purpose in Chestertown. All of small size and built close together and directly on the sidewalk, the offices are notable for their cornices and in two cases press brick facades. Most modified after 1850.

Block DD - Church Alley

Originally thought to be an entirely late 18th century structure, the 3 1/2 story Geddes-Piper townhouse appears to have been built in the 1730's by its bricklayer-owner, James Moore, and given a Federal facelift during the 1780's under the ownership of James Piper, prominent in Kent County. It is especially notable for the double chimneys on the southeast gable, vestigial buttresses on the four corners of the original structure, and beautifully restored Georgian entrance. It is presently the home of the Kent County Historical Society and open to the public at selected times. Circa 1730, 1780.

Small 19th century back-alley infill dwellings, now being restored for adaptive use as professional offices and residences.

Block FF -- NE side of Maple Avenue, between Queen and Cross

A pair of Victorian houses of the late 19th century, which show extensive alterations, but still retain period detailing in their dormer and gable trim.

The late 20th century fire house, with the vernacular residence now converted to office use for the Town of Chestertown.

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Block II - SE side of Cross Street, between High and Maple

The Kent County Jail, erected in 1884, is of brick construction in an all stretcher bond. Two and one-half stories in height and 3-bays in width, the main jail and its 2-bay wing have extruded brick at the cornice and a water table. The windows are arches and sills are of stone. Local builder, H. M. Stuart, constructed the jail. 1884.

Block JJ - NW side of Cross Street, between High and Maple

Mid-nineteenth century commercial buildings. The large brick structure is a mid-twentieth century "colonial" style fine equipment house, now being converted for use as a town hall and community center.

Block KK - NE side of Park Row, Queen to Court St. (Lawyers Row)

Frame residence on the north corner is an imposing 5-bay, 2 1/2 story central doorway dwelling, this structure is the last of its type in Chestertown. Late 18th century or early 19th century.

This building is a remodeling of the original Rockwell Tavern which occupied the location, the basic structure was erected in the 18th century. In its present form, with Greek Revival facelifting, it dates from the 1860's when owned by Alfred Rockwell, or 1870's under the ownership of William Vannort, a Greek Revival enthusiast. The first mention of a building being on the property is in an 1849 deed in which the "tavern house" brought \$1000. It requires the removal of the asbestos shingle to regain its 19th century aspect. Late 18th and 19th century.

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Block LL - Town Park; open, square bounded by High, Spring and Cross Streets

General view of the block square town park, showing the horse trough, donated by Senator Alfred Pearce, about 1900, and the cast-iron Victorian fountain, relocated to the park from Wilmington in 1899, by the Ladies Improvement Society, at a cost of \$1,200.00.

View of the southern portion of the town park, adjacent to Emmanuel Church, containing memorial stones and monuments to the several local and international conflicts.

Block MM - SW side of High Street, between Cross and Spring.

Vernacular commercial buildings built after the general fire of 1910. These buildings have sales and storage functions on the street floor, with residential apartments on the second and third floors.

The Chestertown Pharmacy building, shows a misunderstood "colonialization" of a minor classic example of carpenter gothic, with decorative dormers and a cast-iron railing at the false ridge line.

Block OO - North side of Cross Street, between High and Cannon

Commercial buildings constructed after the fire of 1910, showing subsequent alterations and modernizations, yet still in scale with the streetscape.

Commercial building of the early 20th century, displaying details from the Romanesque style, with later changes to the storefront and canopy.

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Block PP - SE side of Spring Street, between High and Washington

Hidden beneath the assorted added wings, dormers, and minor surface alterations of the present Townshend Building, which is turned 90° to the southeast to further confuse the eye, is a handsome 18th century frame L-shaped dwelling, built originally about 100 feet to the northwest. Its interest today is limited to those curious about the local history of this Spring Avenue block. In the mid-and late 19th century the building served as the residence of one of the town's most prominent citizens, Thomas W. Eliason, Sr. Circa 1780.

Early 20th century vernacular dwelling, now converted to office use, but retaining the wide porches typical of the period.

The second house, one of Chestertown's several five-bay frame houses, has a later enclosed porch and a Victorian central gable.

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7. 2 story, painted cement block feed sale and storage with residence above and attached warehouses. Off main business street, within commercial district.
10. Kent News Warehouse, off main streets in commercial area.
15. Single story with storage above, rough cut block garage and maintenance at district's edge.
16. Trailer across from #15, set back off road.
18. Modern, single level, brick faced lumber sale building and
19. yard.
25. Single level, set back, welding repair shop and junked car lot, non-conforming use.
36. Modern Kent County Public Library, 1977.
39. Within commercial area, two single level, cement block, brick faced businesses. During spring-fall trees somewhat mask buildings.
46. Single level, brick faced governmental office building.
47. 1970's ranch style home.
58. A & P, brick, supermarket, 1 story.
61. Single level, painted cement block warehouse.
62. Trailer park.
69. 2 story, brick, flat roof, Board of Education building.
- 75, Recent construction, brick "somewhat colonial" office, single  
76. level.
75. Modern 2 level brick girls dormitory, set back and planted.
- 77, Modern 2 level brick boys dormitory, somewhat planted.  
78.
79. Single level, L shaped, brick faced office building.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

On June 5, 1668, Governor Charles Calvert, acting under the direction of Lord Baltimore, ordered that eleven towns be laid out in the Maryland wilderness. These new towns, located on the rivers and inlets of the Chesapeake Bay, were to serve as points of governmental control and, not incidentally, as places where taxes could be collected. One site proposed was at the end of the deep water of the Chester River, near the place where Chestertown now stands.

Maryland planters were directed to buy and sell only at these specified locations. But despite harsh penalties, they continued to ship directly from private wharves scattered along the waterways. As a result, Chestertown is one of the very few of the seventeenth century planned towns that was actually built.

Perhaps Chestertown owes its success to the construction in 1698 of the first of the three Court Houses, or perhaps to its designation on January 1, 1707, as one of Maryland's six official ports. However, on April (sic) 17, 1706, the Act for Advancement of trade and erecting Ports and Towns in the Province of Maryland, was passed by the Maryland House of Delegates and Council and on April (sic) 19 of the same year it was signed into law thereby creating Chestertown. A town plan was drawn up in 1707.

Construction of houses, stores, and public buildings followed, but very slowly. As late as 1730, the Maryland Assembly found it necessary to provide "for laying out the town anew....and for ascertaining the bounds thereof...." The sensitive plan which resulted directed the growth of Chestertown for almost two centuries.

This plan covered one hundred acres divided into the same number of lots. Natural features were used to advantage with water bounding three sides--the Chester on the southeast and streams on the southwest and northeast. The main street, High, ran along a low ridge, and the most prominent sites in the plan at the intersection of the widest streets, were reserved for public functions - the church, governmental buildings, and the market.

In the second half of the eighteenth century grain replaced the unpredictable crop of tobacco as the staple agricultural commodity of the region. A period of prosperity resulted. In the 1770's and 1780's Chestertown was one of Maryland's wealthiest and most prominent towns. On a major route connecting Philadelphia with Virginia and the south, it had a college and an important Episcopal parish. Chestertown's citizens played leading roles in state and national affairs.



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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

By this time Chestertown already had a well-defined civic center with a church. Emmanuel Episcopal built in 1772, and a Court House. (Note: This first Court House no longer exists.) Many residences and shops stood along Water Street, High, Fish (now Maple), Queen and elsewhere in town. The grandest of these, including River House ca. 1784, and Wide Hall ca. 1769, were built along the river in the Georgian and later in the Federal styles.

Chestertown's earlier Georgian buildings are studiously symmetrical and achieve a static balance between their horizontal elements, the cornice, belt course and watertable, and the vertical organization of their windows and door. Bold moldings give a grandeur to this well-ordered appearance. The Federal style of architecture which began to displace Georgian here in the 1780's is less rigidly symmetrical, often having the main entry to one side. The window and door openings are elongated and the facade composition tends to emphasize the vertical. A third story often accentuates this effect. The moldings are delicate and composed of many shadow lines which give the town's Federal buildings their characteristic lightness and buoyancy.

By early in the nineteenth century Chestertown's "Golden Age" had ended, and towns on the Western Shore with greater access to the west replaced it in prominence. As railroads became important in the second quarter of the century, Chestertown became increasingly isolated. During this period, Greek Revival buildings with their design based on the ancient temple-form were in vogue throughout the United States; but Chestertown needed few new buildings. The Greek Revival buildings which were built here, Middle Hall at Washington College for example, were simple and comparatively unsophisticated structures.

The Italianate Style of the 1850's and 1860's with its boldly bracketed cornices and shallow-pitched roofs, is better represented. The Collins House and the new Kent County Court House erected in 1861, document an upturn in Chestertown's fortunes. The Italianate Style also marks the first widespread use of machine-made building elements, such as brackets and railings, and the introduction of that most uniquely American architectural element, the front porch, as a regular building feature.

The arrival of the Kent County Railroad in 1872 bolstered Chestertown's economy and ushered in another period of prosperity. Fruit and tomato raising and marketing were, in part, the basis of the boom, and the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay were filled with steamboats coming and going to market. An energetic time, the houses built in the "modern Queen Style", notably on Washington Avenue, and the wonderful Second Empire Stam Hall seemed symbolically to reach for the sky. This was also a time of church construction (and remodeling) and these buildings, too, sought to be picturesque, decorative and exuberant. During the late nineteenth century great attention was given to beautifying the town with the planting of London Plane Trees, now magnificent specimens, along many of the streets.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

By the new century the town was again lapsing into a period of quiescence with its buildings were plainer, more symmetrical and subdued. The country as a whole was turning away the tastes of the Victorians to Neo-Classicism and in Chestertown this trend was encouraged by some hard economic times made worse by a fire which burned much of the downtown in 1910. Only one building can be regarded as an architectural monument of the early twentieth century and this is the elegant Chestertown Bank finished (in the nick of time) in 1929.

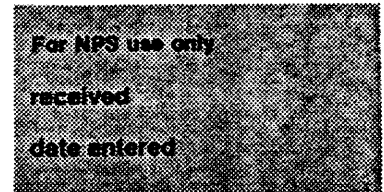
In recent years Chestertown's architecture has been the subject of intense and growing attention. The preservation movement and the general revival of interest in small towns have led to the restoration of several of Chestertown's fine early buildings, among them River House and The White Swan Tavern. A number of delightful Victorian structures including 103 Maple Avenue and 126 North Queen Street have also been preserved.

note: The above section was prepared by Marsha Fritz and Peter Newlin in 1981.

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Chestertown, the county seat of Kent, the oldest county in Maryland, was created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1706. Chestertown's influence was felt even further than the shore as it was a focal point of both local, state, and trans-Atlantic trade at a period when the population equaled that of the Western Shore of Maryland. Then, as the interior of the state opened for settlement, the population center shifted to the Western Shore, with Baltimore and Annapolis gaining in importance. While this has served to erase from peoples' memories the importance of early Chestertown as a port in the development of Maryland, it has served to preserve the town's appearance as a typical historical tidewater community, retaining its importance as a county seat, governmental center, business, educational and residential community.

The area of Chestertown nominated provided housing for tradesmen and those less affluent than the waterfront residents, those affiliated with the college, local businesses and light industry. The Washington Avenue section has not changed since its development. The houses here are set out to display to the passer-by, and plantings are generally used to frame the structures, not to hide them. The builders and owners in the High Street area of Chestertown, because these structures were erected right on the street, preferred to use plantings for shade and privacy. An additional asset to the nominated area is the overall workmanship of the structures which have survived in generally good condition. Very little new building has occurred in these areas and one gains the historical sense of Chestertown from the preponderance of many architectural styles along its well traveled routes and side streets.

Some of the distinctive structures were connected with important local citizens. The "Rock of Ages" or Palmer House on High Street is the only stone house in town and supposedly was constructed from ship's ballast. It is described on the silver service presented to the battleship "Maryland". The Anderson House, corner Cannon and Mill, a brick Georgian home, was erected by an early and prominent town "Chirurgion", Dr. James Moat Anderson. The large detailed Victorian residence, 121 B Washington Avenue, was erected after 1883 for Marion DeKalb-Smith, a Maryland Comptroller. Wilbur W. Hubbard, local entrepreneur, had the large classical and gothic Victorian residence on High, near Mill, erected in 1877, and later, after 1894, the Victorian Queen-Anne Cottage on Washington Avenue and Kent Street. Thomas W. Eliason, local businessman at the turn of the century, owned many Chestertown properties, including the monumental 1876 and smaller 1861 Spring and Calvert Streets homes. 518 and 520 High Street, two brick Georgian homes, were built by local carpenter brothers, with but a half inch of space between their brick walls. The Victorian Gothic Boyd House, corner Calvert and Mill, was built under the direction of Harry Boyd, a local citizen who had seen and liked a similar residence in Salisbury, Maryland.

Numerous Washington College students and graduates have gone on to become representatives and senators in the state governments, religious leaders and attorneys. William M. Stone became the 3rd Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland. Peregrine Wroth, a local physician, actively urged the establishment of a college to train druggists, which proposal ultimately

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resulted in the founding of the Maryland College of Pharmacy. Ezekial Foreman Chambers, attorney, served as Maryland U. S. Senator, Chief Judge of the 2nd Judicial Court of Maryland, and Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals. And, modern day author, Gilbert Byron, also attended Washington College. Only a few of the important students have been herein listed and many other local citizens, while not students, were directly and indirectly connected with the College.

As no one individual influenced the overall development of the nominated area, neither has the nominated area had one clear-cut influence. The High Street area of the nomination, being the area of tradesmen and other small businessmen, no doubt provided the town with the essential services required. One house, for example served as the location of a bateau making shop, important to watermen. There was also at least one popular tavern in this district during the late 1700's. This section of Chestertown, however, was placid enough by 1875 for two large Gothic-Revival style Methodist Churches to be erected. In addition, the earlier section of the nomination reflects colonial town planning with its shape determined by two small streams on its flanks and the Chester River. The constriction enforced a roughly rectangular shape for the new town, which was then laid out in a grid plan. As the River declined in importance and roads increased the Washington Avenue neighborhoods were laid out and construction begun.

Intrusions exist in the nominated area mainly in the form of a few modern public buildings. A new public library, small government office building and School Board office have been built in styles not compatible with anything found in the district. Fortunately, these are all of brick, low scale, and generally well screened with trees and other plantings, which modifies their style. A small lumber yard is located off the main section of the nominated area, but again, because of its small size and neat premises fit into the tradition of this area as one where small businesses were mingled with residential structures. The former Telephone Company Warehouse, also low scale, will hopefully soon be rehabilitated for another use, painted, and planted to soften its stark lines. Several commercial structures exist as intrusions, however, their small scale and location render them somewhat unobtrusive. A small trailer park is situated at one area adjoining commercial development.

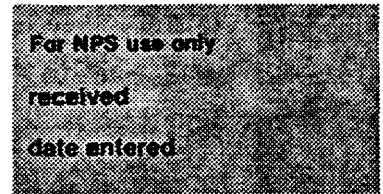
District boundaries were chosen with the intention of bringing all of the core of Chestertown onto the National Register. The boundaries encompass an area containing an extremely high concentration of historic styles of architecture. Where possible buffer zones were included with the nomination to prevent non-compatible development. Surrounding the nominated area are farmland, light industry, commercial centers, and recent housing developments, constructed within the mid to later 20th century.

Preservation and restoration activities within the present district and nominated area continue on a private scale and are somewhat based on the economy. Preservation, Inc., a local non-profit organization, restored and sold the property at 518 High Street, as well as others within the present district.

See Continuation Sheet No. 41

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One private citizen saved a small Victorian residence, with many period embellishments (corner Kent and Philosophers Terrace) from demolition, moved it 2 blocks, and restored it. Because of the excellent siting and plantings the house appears to have been constructed on this lot. Another private citizen purchased the 1908 Fire Hall, restored it with the aid of old photos, and opened a new area for local businesses. An Italianate residence, Mill and High, in dilapidated condition, was recently purchased and restored as apartments and a single business.

Much of the nominated area is within the Chestertown Historic District and therefore these buildings are protected to a degree by the Historic District Zoning Commission. This Committee meets regularly to review applications for building and alteration projects. Rehabilitation and restoration activities are in operation as the Town of Chestertown seeks to protect the area from deterioration. Recently more young professionals have been investing in these houses for restoration and rehabilitation purposes. Placing this area on the National Register would augment such projects.

The High Street and its environs area of the nomination exists as one developing from Chestertown's early establishment through the turn of the century. While the more affluent lived near the River, and later, on the Avenue, the middle and lower socio-economic citizens generally resided in this section, and later on the side streets off the Avenue. The Washington Avenue section of the nomination reflects a different era of historical Chestertown and Maryland. Located along a major Eastern Shore Road, and away from the water, this area represents the growing importance of roads as an artery for both travel and commerce. The houses here represent the growth of a fanciful imagination and individualism as contrasted with a more pragmatic approach to housing found in the High Street nominated area. Washington College, because of its early development, is mainly shielded by trees, open spaces, and brick walkways. The street names of the Washington Avenue area are post-colonial and therefore more innovative: Campus Avenue, Philosopher's Terrace, Mt. Vernon. These street names reflect their historical sense and local identity while those of the High Street area reflect, again, a more pragmatic approach with names such as Fish Street, Crab Alley, Mill Street, Cannon Street, Kent Street, etc.

The nominated area differs from others in Maryland in that within a small area two different sections were completely developed in a commercial center before the modern era. The historic structures are highly concentrated and exist in generally good condition. Modern intrusions have been kept to a minimum. These two sections continue to dominate the town by location, so that Chestertown remains the center of local life and commerce. Also, as previously stated, Chestertown is one of the very few communities created by the General Assembly in 1706; that has survived until the present.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary consists of the curb and property lines for those properties indicated on the enclosed Resource Sketch Map as being included.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary is drawn to encompass the concentration of historic resources and exclude when possible non-contributing resources while maintaining a boundary line that is easy to understand. The Chester River forms the eastern boundary. The river forms a logical boundary for its historic association with the town. To the south, west, and north are generally fields, mid-twentieth century houses, and light industrial complexes of non-contributing value to the district.

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FORM PREPARED BY:

The basic text of the application was prepared by committee for the Town of Chestertown in 1983. The form was revised and the Resource Sketch Map prepared in 1984 by:

Ronald Andrews and Peter Kurtze  
Maryland Historical Trust  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

A portion of Section 8 was prepared by Marsha L. Fritz and Peter C. Newlin for Chestertown Maryland Historical Sites Survey published in 1981,

DESCRIPTION:

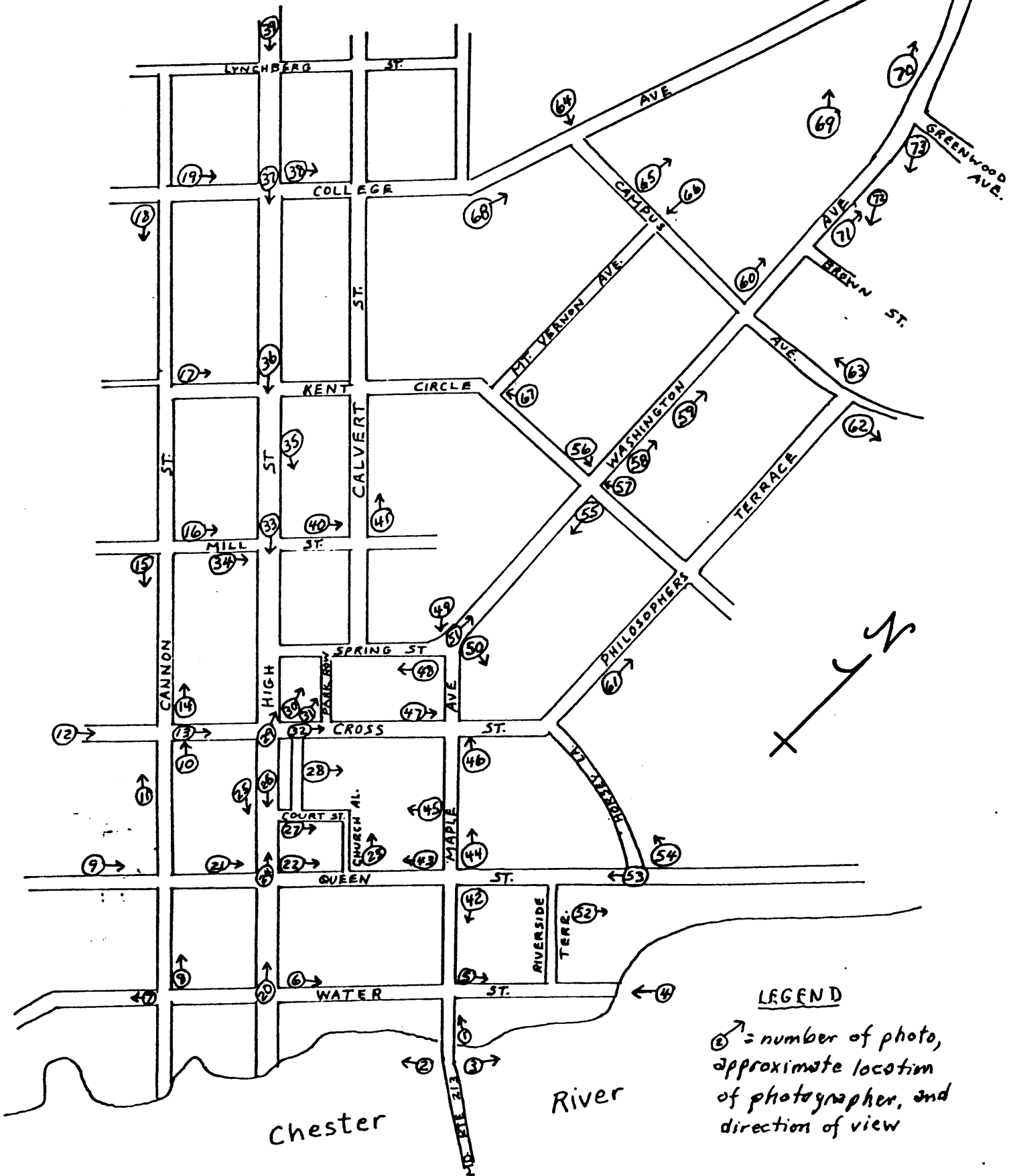
Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination.

1. Chestertown Historic District (NHL) 1970 multiple streets
2. Denton House (River House), 1971 107 Water Street
3. Widehall, 1972  
101 Water Street
4. Middle, East, and West Halls, 1979  
Washington College
5. Chestertown Railroad Station, 1982  
Cross Street



CHESTERTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 (National Register of Historic Places)  
 Kent County, Maryland 1984

Photograph Map



LEGEND

⊙ = number of photo,  
 approximate location  
 of photographer, and  
 direction of view