

**Butler's Tavern**  
**CH-688**  
**Issue vic.**  
**Private**

**Circa 1915; 1930**

Butler's Tavern is a one story vernacular frame and concrete block structure with an overall L-plan, facing northeast. Originally constructed around 1915, it stands on the roadside of Rock Point Road between the villages of Issue and Thompkinsville. Butler's Tavern is an important example of a pre-Civil Rights Era, African-American tavern in Charles County. Once a hub of social activity including church functions, live music, and seafood feasts, Butler's tavern was once the largest such entertainment facility in existence in the Cobb Neck region.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-688

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Butler's Tavern  
 other B.T.'s Tavern

### 2. Location

street and number 15608 Rock Point Road not for publication  
 city, town Issue vicinity  
 county Charles

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

name Joseph Butler and C. Carzena  
 street and number 6611 Karlson Ct. telephone Unknown  
 city, town Chillum state MD zip code 20783-3178

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 86 p. 107  
 city, town LaPlata liber 725 folio 58

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			<u>0</u>	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-688

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Butler's Tavern is a one story vernacular frame and concrete block structure with an overall L-plan, facing northeast. Originally constructed around 1915, it stands on the roadside of Rock Point Road between the villages of Issue and Thompkinsville. Generally, the site is on open level ground with a wooded area to the rear of the structure and a gravel parking lot on the southeast end. The main block consists of a narrow, rectangular front-gable structure with a hipped-roof porch covering the primary entrance. A side gable wing, possibly the original structure, is attached to the main block, extending the façade to the southeast. Lesser additions include a c. 1930 ell extending the length of the main block on the northwest elevation, and a shed addition attached to the rear of the side gable wing.

Although probably built in at least two stages, the entire structure is currently clad in formstone siding intending to resemble stone. The roof is covered in metal sheathing and the roof rafters are exposed on the secondary elevations. A tall square brick chimney flue extends from the interior of the L.

The front elevation consists of the main block with a centered, main entrance door flanked by two boarded windows under the entry porch of the main block. The porch is supported on simple square posts standing on a concrete base. A kneewall partially encloses the porch. The wing includes two 2/2 wood windows.

The northwest side elevation has two sets of paired 6/1 windows near the roadside and two single 6/1 windows closer to the rear. The opposite elevation has two 2/2 windows on the side gable wing and two boarded windows toward the rear. An incised porch resting on narrow square posts is found at the far end. The rear elevation is without fenestration.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-688

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philospohy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	c.1915; c.1930	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	c.1915; c.1930		

Evaluation for:

National Register                       Maryland Register                       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Butler's Tavern is an important example of a pre-civil rights era African American tavern in Charles County. Once a hub of social activity including church functions, live music, and seafood feasts, Butler's tavern was once the largest such entertainment facility in existence in the Cobb Neck region.

Although the original use of the building remains uncertain, it was likely an African American establishment since the time of its construction. In April of 1914 the heirs of John F. Simms sold one acre of land to R. Harvey Hayden known as "part of Mexico". Hayden retained ownership until 1944 when he sold the property, including improvements, to Sheppard P. Hayden. Two years later the property was sold to Florence H. Ashlin and three years later it was sold again to Robert and Jane McCracken for \$1300. Finally in 1952 the property was sold Bruce and Florence Templeman. The Templeman's retained ownership until 1980.

This region of Cobb Neck remained socially conservative, and its social and religious institutions were largely segregated well into the third quarter of the 20th century.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-688

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1

Acreage of historical setting 1

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Butler's Tavern is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 86, Grid 17, Parcel 107.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Dept.

date 4/28/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH- 688

Section 8 Page 1

Butler's Tavern

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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**Chain of title:**

April 17, 1914	John F. Simms heirs to R. Harvey Hayden. "Part of Mexico" 1 acre. HCC 27:116
July 18, 1944	R. Harvey Sheppard P. Hayden 80:238
May 31, 1946	Sheppard P. Hayden to Florence H. Ashlin 83:311
August 17, 1949	Florence H. Ashlin to Robert and Jane McCracken 89:59
November 3, 1952	Robert J. McCracken to Bruce and Florence Templeman 104:306
June 26, 1980	Ronald B. Templeman to Joseph R. and Carzena Butler. 725:58

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-688

Section 9 Page 1

Butler's Tavern

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

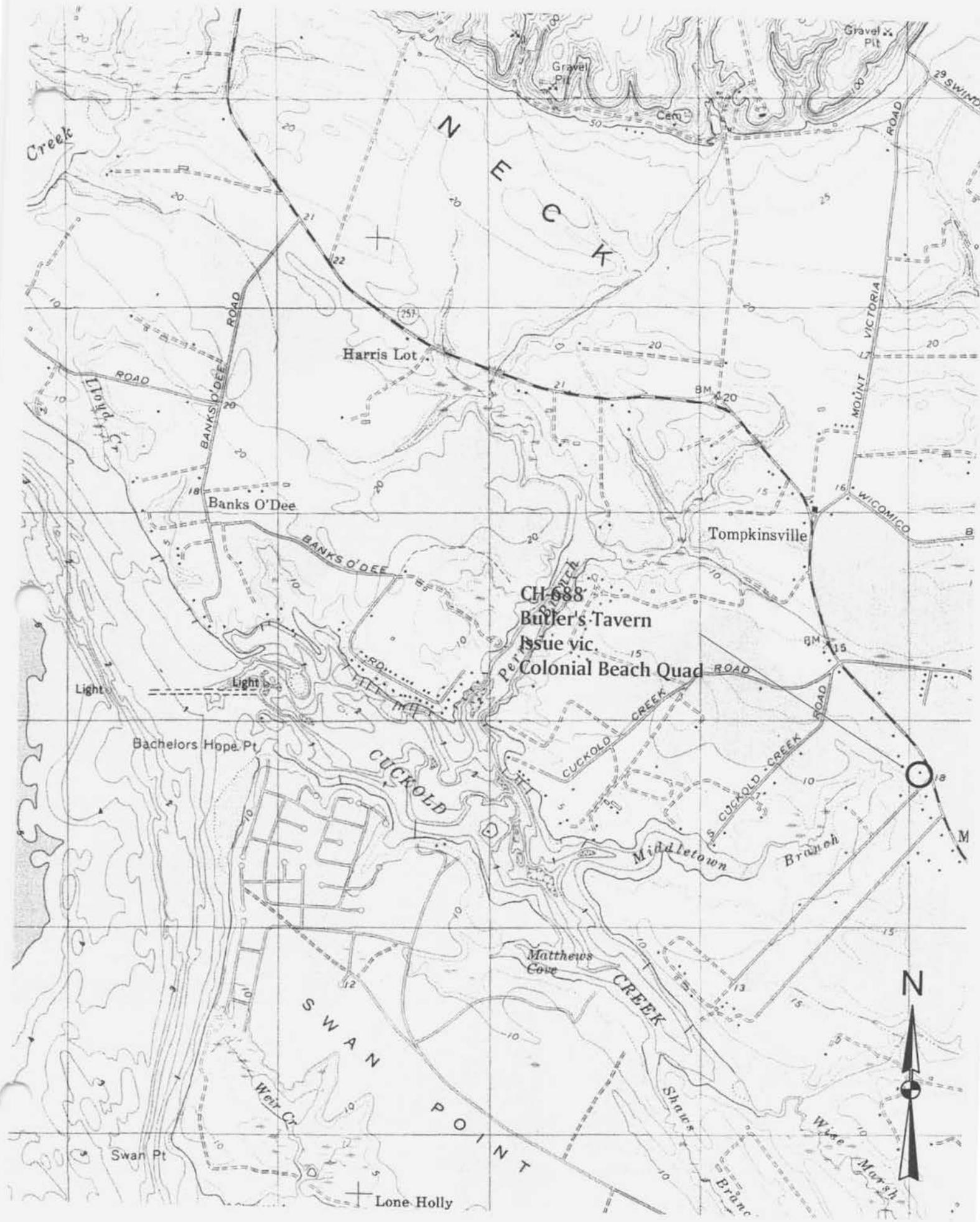
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**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.



Creek

N  
E  
C  
K

Harris Lot

Banks O'Dee

Tompkinsville

CH 688  
Butler's Tavern  
Issue vic.  
Colonial Beach Quad

Light

Light

Bachelors Hope Pt

CUCKOLD

Middletown

Branch

Matthews Cove

CREEK

Shaws Branch

Wise Marsh

S  
W  
A  
N

P  
O  
I  
N  
T

Swan Pt

Lone Holly





CH-688

BUTLER'S TAVERN

ISSUE VIC.

2/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

FRONT ELEVATION

~~30~~ 1 OF 2



CH-688  
BUTLER'S TAVERN  
ISSUE VIC.

2/2001  
C CURREY  
MD SA PD  
ELEVATION  
200