

D-817
Nathaniel Chester House
Harrisville
c. 1890
Private

Known for nearly a century as the Nathaniel Chester house, this story-and-a-half frame dwelling is one of the few older structures to remain standing in the community of Harrisville south of Woolford in central Dorchester County. The one-room plan frame dwelling appears to date to the late nineteenth century with its corner staircase and board ceiling. The main block extends to the rear with a story-and-a-half service wing.

This house and lot are traceable in the Dorchester County land records back to the early twentieth century. Nathaniel Chester (d. 1971) acquired this ½-acre lot and house in December 1919 from Thomas H. Williams, Emma Williams, Margaret Macer, and Joseph H. Macer. The 1919 land transfer described the property on the “east side of White Marsh Road” which had been occupied for many years by Margaret Macer and Joseph H. Macer. Nathaniel Chester held title to the house and lot through his entire life, and the property passed to his wife Little Mae Chester, and the children of his deceased brothers and sisters.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-817

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Nathaniel Chester House

other _____

2. Location

street and number 4615 Harrisville Road not for publication _____

city, town Cambridge vicinity _____

county Dorchester

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

name Agnes Cooper

street and number P. O. Box 135 telephone _____

city, town Woolford state MD zip code 21677

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 450 folio 481

city, town Cambridge tax map 50 tax parcel 156 tax ID number 9-195297

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 at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-817

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Nathaniel Chester house, also known as the Joseph H. Macer house, is located at 4615 Harrisville Road in the Church Creek Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half one-room plan frame house rests on a low masonry foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding, the medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, the main block is extended on the front by an enclosed porch, and to the rear is a gable roofed kitchen wing. The house has been abandoned and it is in a poor state of repair. The interior has a corner staircase and the north interior wall is distinguished by a simple post and lintel style mantel edged with ogee moldings. The house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Nathaniel Chester house, also known as the Joseph H. Macer house, stands at 4615 Harrisville Road in the Church Creek Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame dwelling is clad with vinyl siding, and the medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Supported on a low masonry foundation, the main block is extended to the rear by a single-story kitchen wing, and attached to the front of the main block is an enclosed shed roofed section.

The west (main) façade is a story-and-a-half elevation with the enclosed porch defined by a center door and flanking window openings. The door has been torn off its hinges and the windows have been broken out. The wall surface above the porch unadorned. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice. The north gable end has an exterior concrete block stove chimney, and the edge of the gable roof is finished flush. The rear wall of the main block is largely covered by the single story kitchen wing.

The interior of the main block is defined by a corner winder staircase in the northeast corner, and to the left of the staircase is a plain Greek Revival style mantel featuring ogee trim moldings. The ceiling is covered with narrow boards.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-817

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"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" 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 history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Known for nearly a century as the Nathaniel Chester house, this story-and-a-half frame dwelling is one of the few older structures to remain standing in the community of Harrisville south of Woolford in central Dorchester County. The one-room plan frame dwelling appears to date to the late nineteenth century with its corner staircase and board ceiling. The main block extends to the rear with a story-and-a-half service wing.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

This house and lot are traceable in the Dorchester County land records back to the early twentieth century. Nathaniel Chester acquired the ½ acre lot and house in December 1919 from Thomas H. Williams, Emma Williams, Margaret Macer and Joseph H. Macer.¹ The land transfer described the property on the “east side of White Marsh Road” which had been occupied for many years by Margaret Macer and Joseph H. Macer. Nathaniel Chester (d. 1971) held title to the house and lot through his entire life, and the property passed to his wife Lillie Mae Chester, and the children of his deceased brothers and sisters.²

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, WHM 7/387, 9 December 1919, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

² Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 199/513, 6 April 1977, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Nathaniel Chester House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Nathaniel Chester House
4615 Harrisville Road
Harrisville, Dorchester County, Maryland

Chain-of-title Map 50, Parcel 156

450/481 Pauline Wongus, f/k/a Pauline Bailey

to

5.15.2001 Agnes Cooper

\$12,500

PLC 199/513 Lillie Mae Chester, Personal Representative of estate of
Nathaniel Chester (d. on or about 11.16.1971)

to

4.6.1977 Lillie Mae Chester and Dorothy N. Bailey and Pauline Bailey, Joint tenants

Whereas, at the death of the said Nathaniel Chester his only heirs-at-law were his surviving spouse, the said Lillie Mae Chester, and the following children of his deceased brothers and sisters, Gladys Stanley, Gertrude Stanley, John Harris, Kemp Harris, Nelson Chester, Nellie Dunnock, Annie Reese, Kathryn Chester, Ella Higgins, Asbury Chester, William Chester, and Agnes Cooper. Under the laws of intestate succession as provided in Section 3.102(d) of the Estates and Trusts Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the said Lillie Mae Chester is entitled to a conveyed of the complete fee simple title of the hereinafter described land and property for the reason that the value of the estate of Nathaniel Chester did not exceed \$4,000, and
Whereas, at the request of the said Lillie Mae Chester, the deed of conveyance is made to the said Lillie Mae Chester, Dorothy N. Bailey, and Pauline Bailey as joint tenants and not as tenants in common.

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Name Nathaniel Chester House
Continuation Sheet

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WHM 7/387

Thomas H. Williams, Emma Williams, Margaret Macer and Joseph H. Macer

to

12.9.1919

Nathaniel Chester

“east side of White Marsh Road, ½ acre house & lot—occupied for many years by Margaret Macer and Joseph H. Macer

CL 35/247

William W. Harrington

to

8.12.1909

Thomas H. Williams

\$350 “Jones Range” or “Jones Regulation and Fitzhugh’s Industry”

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-817

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 21,780 square feet

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name Golden Hill, Md Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	9.11.2012
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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.

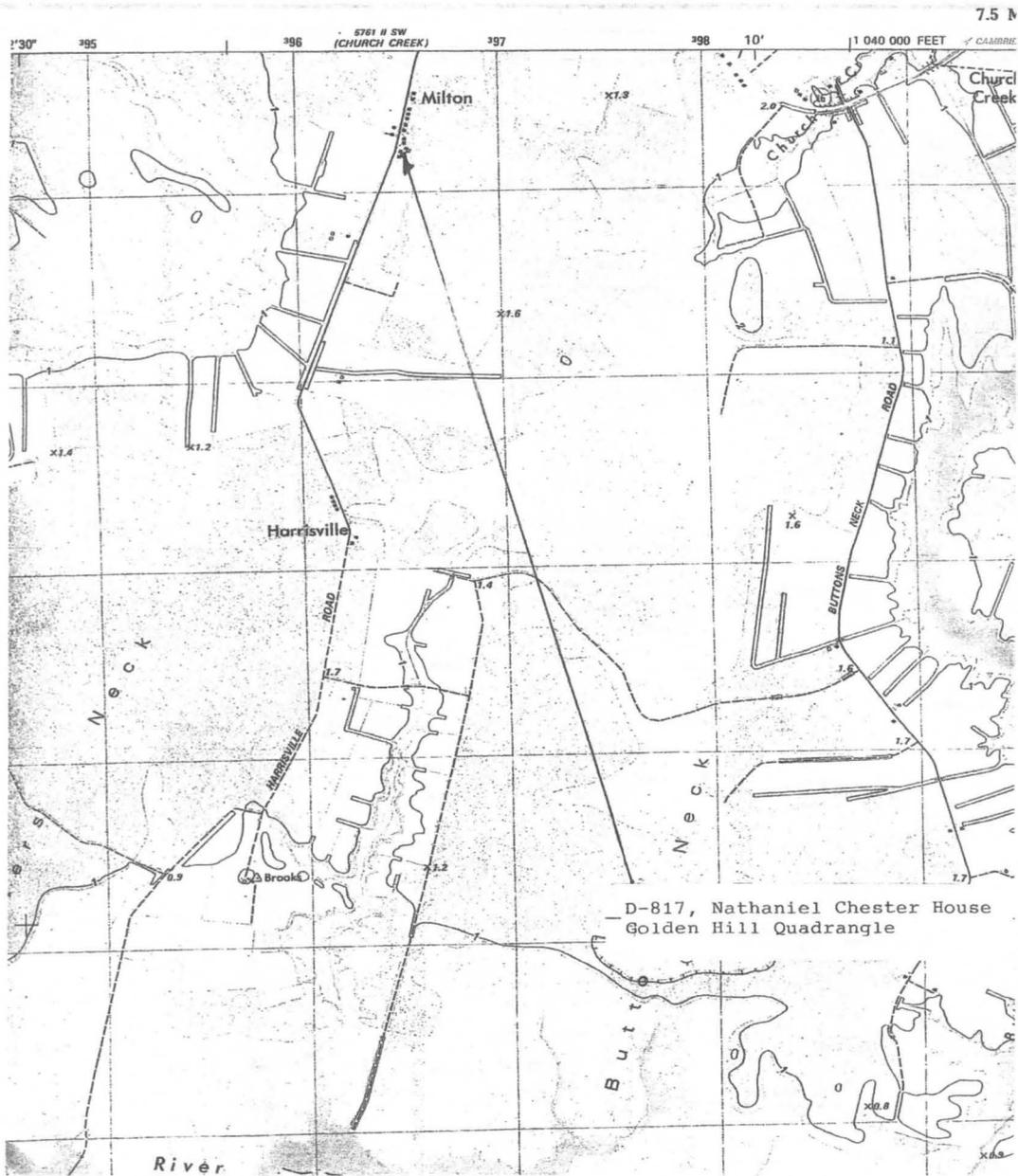
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Continuation Sheet

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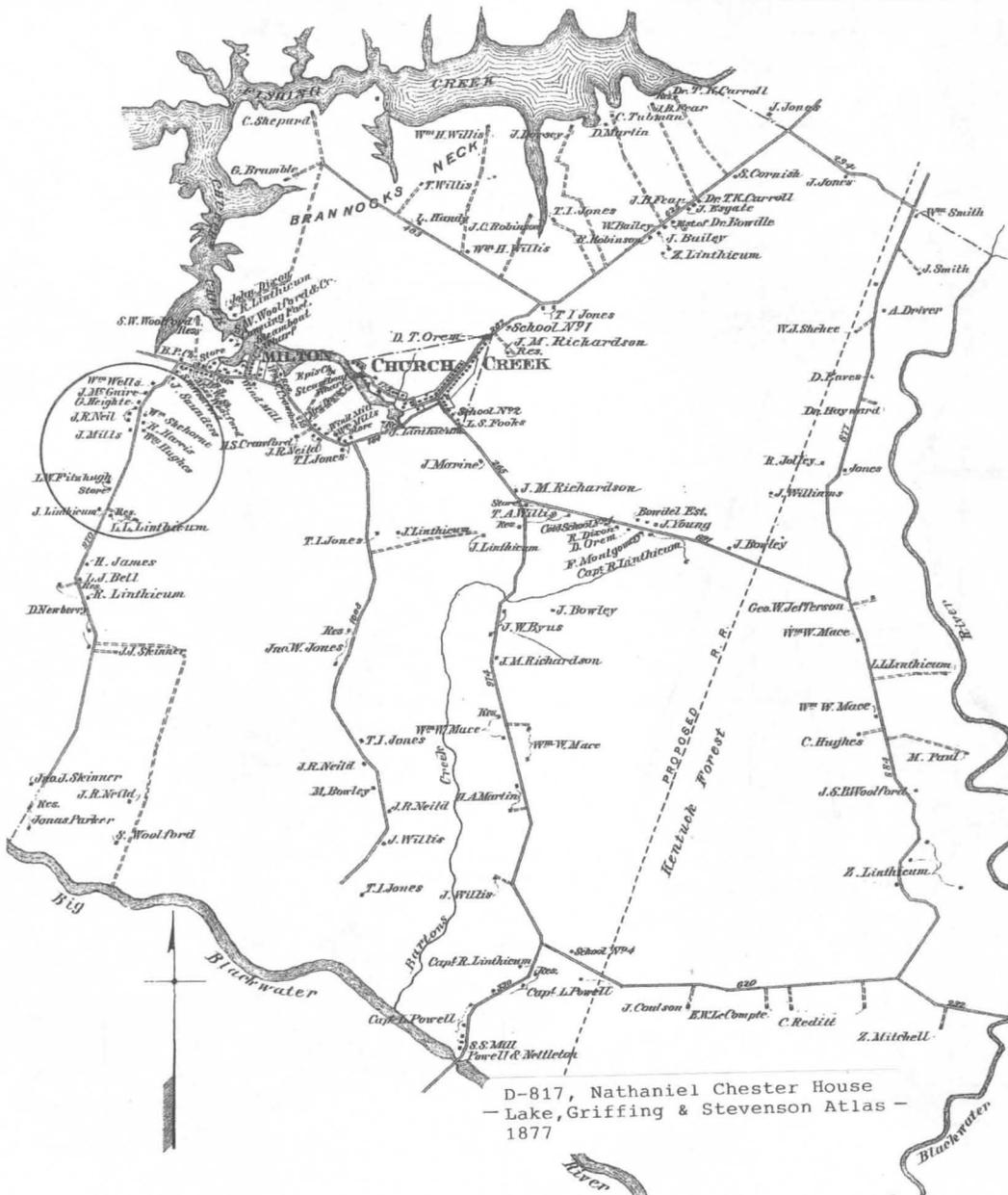


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Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



D-817, Nathaniel Chester House
— Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas —
1877



D-817

NATHANIEL CHESTER HOUSE
HARRISVILLE, DOCKETT COUNTY, MD.
SOUTHWEST QUARTER
8/2012, PAUL B. TOWNSEND PITUITARY.
WTR./MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 1