

HA-39

Black Horse Tavern

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-18-2004

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1300394204
N. R. FIELD SHEET

HFA-39

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE: | |
| COUNTY: | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. NAME | |
| COMMON: | Black Horse Tavern |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | |

| | | | |
|---|------|--------------------|------|
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Northwest corner Troyer Road (Md 138) and Md 23 | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Black Horse | | | |
| STATE: Maryland | CODE | COUNTY: Harford | CODE |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | | | | | | | |
| District <input type="checkbox"/> | Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Acquisition: | Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes: | | |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/> | Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In Process <input type="checkbox"/> | Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/> | | Both <input type="checkbox"/> | Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> | Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> | Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | | | | | No: <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> | Government <input type="checkbox"/> | Park <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> | Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | |
| Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> | Museum <input type="checkbox"/> | Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|------|--------|
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | | | |
| OWNERS NAME: Howard and Frances Lucky | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Black Horse | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: White Hall 21161 | STATE: Maryland | CODE | STATE: |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|------|---------|
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | | | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of the Circuit Court | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Harford County Courthouse 40 S Main St | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air | STATE: Maryland | CODE | COUNTY: |
| APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------|--------------|
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | | | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: | | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: | | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE | ENTRY NUMBER |
| | | | DATE |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

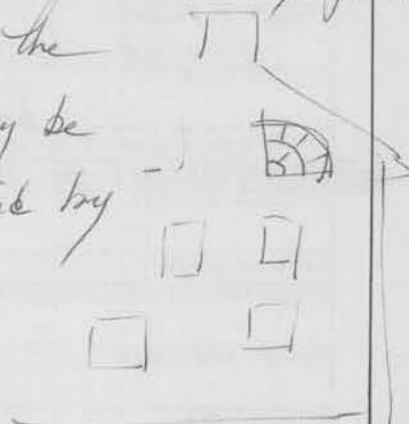
This Frame house, two and a half stories, ridgepole ^{running} north-south, three bays by two rooms deep, ^{faces east with a} central chimney rising from inside walls has been closed off at the peak, and two chimneys stand at the ends of the house. ~~One chimney at the wing at the west end~~
 A wing ^{goes west along} ~~back from~~ the north side of the house, and contains a very tall brick chimney.

Windows are six lights on six, there are two peaked dormers in the east roof, and the end walls have two quarter-circle ^{cupboards} ~~cupboards~~ jutting out from under the chimneys. ^{Other windows in other walls are unevenly spaced.}

This and the front porch and the lean-to roof for the rear wing may be part of alterations in 1849 mentioned by Wright (see #9 below).

This should be interesting archaeology.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☒20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☐

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Once an inn on the main road between Baltimore and York, Pa., the origins of this building are unknown. It has been a farmhouse for the Henderson family - part of their 200 acre property, and is now lived in by their elderly descendants. Half the house has been closed off since Mrs. Luckey's sister died.

The Maryland State Roads marker in front of the house reads: Black Horse Tavern. George Washington spent the night of June 5, 1773, on his way back to Mt Vernon from Columbia College in New York, where he had left his stepson Jackie Custis.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage 337-39

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | | LONGITUDE | | | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " |

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | | |
|--|------------------------|------|
| NAME AND TITLE: <u>Joan S. Swip</u> | | |
| ORGANIZATION: <u>Maryland Historic Trust</u> | DATE: <u>Dec '69</u> | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: <u>50 State Circle</u> | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: <u>Annapolis</u> | STATE: <u>Maryland</u> | CODE |

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HA 39

Black Horse Tavern being received by
Mrs. Gardiner Smith. Reports quoted
in the Harford County Directory and
Our Harford Heritage state that the
inn was torn down by Dr. Thor
Henderson, who built the present* house
in 1849.

Apparently only the old sign is original.
The inn may have been across the road
or part of the present house may be
residual...

*1953 - owner Luckey

The town was also an educational and religious center, having been selected for the site of Cokesbury College, the first Methodist College in America. Two academies added to the educational prestige of the village. The Cokesbury Academy was under the jurisdiction of the college and

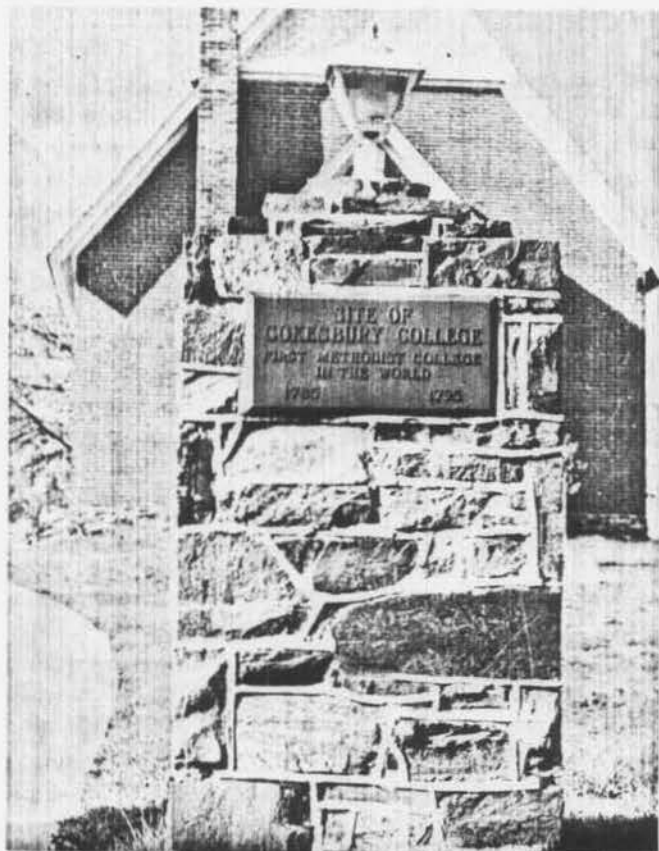


Photo by Dr. David C. Hodge

SITE OF COKEBURY COLLEGE
1785-1795

continued for several years after that institution came to a disastrous end. The Abingdon Academy was opened in 1828 and ten years later was consolidated with that of Cokesbury. This school stood on lot 27 almost opposite the present firehouse. The public school succeeded the academy about 1850 and was made a part of the present school system in 1871.

Abingdon also boasted of being the home of the first newspaper published in the county. In 1805 Daniel P. Ruff established the ABINGDON PATRIOT, a small four-page weekly publication, which served for a number of years as a local news and advertising media for lower Harford. This paper is said to have published several valuable historical pamphlets about 1806, but none seems to have been preserved.

Black Horse

Situated about four miles northwest of Jarrettsville is the crossroads hamlet of Black Horse. This small village has had an eventful history. It was located on or near the large expanse of land originally called "The



Photo by Dr. David C. Hodge

ORIGINAL SIGN AT BLACK HORSE TAVERN

Barrens," and was in the midst of several farms later owned by the Henderson family.

Early in the nineteenth century, the 200-acre tract at the crossroads was purchased by Robert Henderson and included the land upon which the old inn stood. This early tavern was on the main road from York to Baltimore, and because of its location, it did a thriving business serving travelers as they journeyed between the two cities.

There is a difference of opinion as to how the name originated. Some believe it came from the fact that the Hendersons owned a team of black horses, but it seems likely that the first innkeeper chose "Black Horse" for his wayside sign. A few years ago, the old sign with its painted black horse was found. Through the efforts of the late J. Alexis Shriver, it was restored and now hangs at its original spot to remind those who pass of a long-ago historic landmark.

A hundred yards from the inn was the McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church, and adjoining it on the east was the site of the first neighborhood public school. The second schoolhouse was erected on a lot



Photo by Dr. David C. Hodge

BLACK HORSE TAVERN

Important stopping place in colonial days on York to Baltimore Road. Formerly home of Henderson family, now residence of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Luckey.

nearer the crossroads when our present school system originated. The construction of the building was due to the efforts of John R. Kirkwood who lived near Black Horse and served as one of Harford's first School Commissioners in 1865. That Black Horse was a rural center of trade a hundred years ago is indicated by the fact that in addition to the inn, the church, and the school, it had a store, a wheelwright shop, and a blacksmith shop.

The site of the old hotel remained in the Henderson family for more than 150 years. The present house, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Luckey, was remodeled from the old building in 1849 by the Rev. Thomas Henderson, a grandson of the original owner. This venerable gentleman was one of the most scholarly men of Harford County. At one time he conducted a classical school in Baltimore, and continued with such a school at Black Horse for many years. The writer remembers him for his forceful sermons at McKendree Church and for the fact that it was said that he could teach seven different languages.

Churchville

From the time of the first settlement in the area, the present Churchville was called Lower Cross Roads to distinguish it from Upper Cross Roads in west Harford. In 1782 Lower Cross Roads is mentioned as one of the places voted for in the election to determine the location of the new county seat. In an Act of Assembly for laying out of roads in 1791, a new road is designated from "Bel Air to Rock Run via of Lower Cross Roads."

In the court records of 1800, providing for the division of the county into districts, it is mentioned as "Herbert's Cross Roads."¹ This name, used for a quarter of a century, was due to the fact that extensive adjoining lands were then owned by the Herbert family. In 1825 when the Churchville Presbyterian Church was incorporated, we find in land records, "A meeting of the members of Churchville Presbyterian Church situated at Herbert's Cross Roads convened on May 7, 1825."²

It is believed that the present name of Churchville originated at that date and probably came from the fact that the Presbyterian Church was located at the crossroads. Maps published by Herrick in 1858 and Martenet in 1878 designate the town as Churchville. The map of 1858 shows a store at the crossroads in a plot now on church grounds, a large hotel owned by Col. William F. Hanna on Calvary Road, a wheelwright shop, and a blacksmith shop. It also locates residences belonging to the Rev. William

¹ Harford County Land Records, Liber J.L.G., page 28.

² Harford County Land Records, Liber H.D., No. 8, page 216.



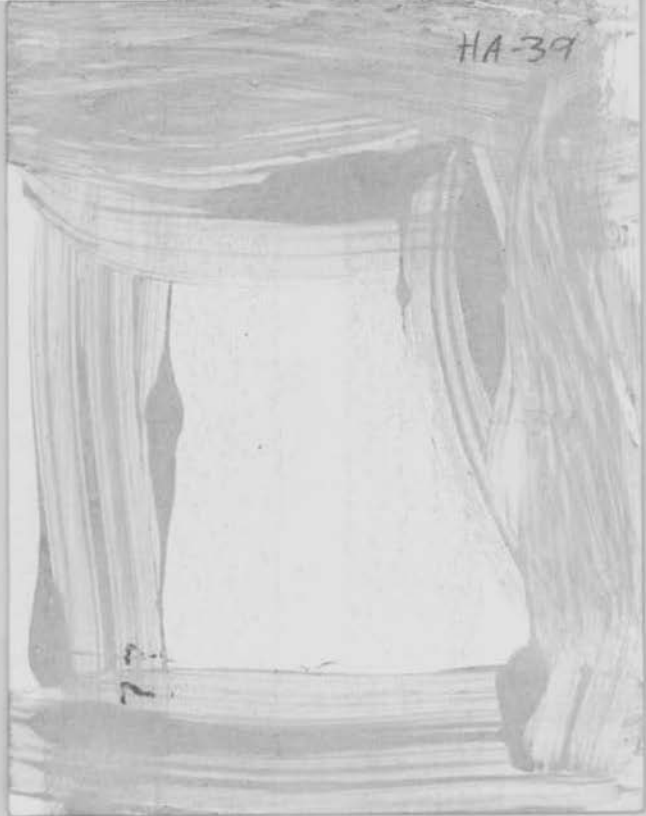
HA-39

803

VELOX



HA-39





HA-39





BLACK HORSE TAVERN

**GEORGE WASHINGTON STAYED HERE
THE NIGHT OF JUNE 5, 1773 ON
HIS WAY BACK TO MT. VERNON
FROM COLUMBIA COLLEGE, NEW
YORK, WHERE HE HAD LEFT HIS
STEP-SON, JACKIE CUSTIS.**

STATE ROAD COMMISSION

HA-39

994

KODAKONE