

K-11

The Anderson-Aldridge House  
Water Street, Chestertown  
c.1795

In the mid 1790's, Thomas Anderson purchased part of water lot No. 13 and all of lots Nos. 14 and 15. On lot No. 14 he built a fine brick residence, two and a half stories tall, laid in Flemish bond with molded water table and three-brick string course.

Anderson's house was similar to those located at 110 and 115 Water Street in plan (central stairhall with rooms on either side). Like 115 Water Street it is built high enough to have the basement open at grade level on the river side. In all these houses, the kitchens were located originally in the basement. On the second story an original back door remains, evidence of a former river side porch like that documented to have existed at the Customs House. Such a porch would have provided an open air but shaded work place at ground level near the kitchen.

In the early 19th Century Dr. Morgan Brown acquired the property.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Brown also owned the Violet Farm near Old St. Paul's Church, but used the Water Street house as his town home in winter months.

The house survived with few known changes for nearly eighty years and through six owners until it was purchased by John K. Aldridge in 1876.<sup>2</sup> Aldridge gutted the house, removed the "A" roof and raised the roof to form a full third story which he covered with a shallow-pitched tin roof. He added a two story brick kitchen wing on the northeast side and a two story porch on the river side. He then decorated the windows with cornices and added a

flat roof front entrance. On the southwest gable Aldridge added a two story oriel window decorated with fish scale shingles. The string course was cut back flush with the plane of the wall and then the entire structure was stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar masonry. The interior was renewed with 1870's millwork, including stair, doors, trim and flooring on the first and second floors. Today, only the third floor retains original 1790's doors and trim.

In 1911, Wilbur W. Hubbard purchased Aldridge's property in order to acquire part of Lot No. 15 upon which he would construct a new kitchen wing to Widehall.<sup>3</sup> He subsequently sold the Aldridge House in 1920 with less land.<sup>4</sup> Since that time it has passed through eleven more owners.

In 1966 the stucco of the facade was removed revealing the old brickwork and in 1972 the interior was remodeled and updated.

1. Land Records, Lib. BC 5, fol. 378.
2. Land Records, Lib. JKH 2, fol. 13.
3. Land Records, Lib. JTD 23, fol. 351.
4. Land Records, Lib. APR 6, fol. 400.

K-11 John K. Aldridge House

c. 1796

Chestertown

private

The John K. Aldridge house is made particularly interesting by the stages of alteration through which it has passed. The house appears to have begun as a 2½-story Federal style brick townhouse built in the last decade of the 18th century for Thomas Anderson. As it stands today it has been subjected to several varieties of 19th century taste: it became a 3-story house with a Greek Revival portico, Italiante windows hoods and a Victorian bay window. It also shows evidence of having been covered with stucco at some point. Much of the alteration is by tradition attributed to John K. Aldridge, the house's owner from 1876 to 1911, who is known to have added the northeast wing. It is an extremely handsome dwelling, more because of its eclectic style and ornament than in spite of it.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Aldwidge House  
AND/OR COMMON

1611

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
103 Water Street

CITY, TOWN  
Chestertown

STATE  
Maryland

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First  
COUNTY  
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Alvan Jones Rollison H. & Catherine Baxter

Telephone #: none

STREET & NUMBER  
103 Water Street

CITY, TOWN  
Chestertown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: EHP 46 69  
Folio #: 316 164

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

K-11

<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is located on the southeast (river) side of Water Street just east of its intersection with High Street in Chestertown. It is situated on Water Lots 14 and 15 on the Original Plot of Chestertown, 1730.  
(late 18th century)

It was originally/ (~~1730-1800~~) a brick late Georgian style home of 2½ stories with an "A" roof--probably with dormers--, with a brick belt course, a 1-brick deep water table, and probably with flat brick arches over the windows, as are presently over the basement windows. The brick of the original building is laid in Flemish bond.

During the nineteenth century several major alterations were made, only one of which can be dated with any accuracy. As the house stands today it has three stories; it retains its "A" roof, but the pitch has been decreased.\* The belt course has been chipped off. The house also has picked up a nineteenth century entrance portico: it has two pairs of square columns, a balustered railing, wooden steps, and an iron hand rail. The door is paneled and framed by sidelights and a transom. The only interior decoration is a pair of large scroll brackets.

now

All of the first and second story windows/~~have~~ decorated cornices: window ~~they~~ are all double hung sash, 6/6, and have louvered shutters. The ~~west~~ southwest gable end (right) has had a 2-story bay window added, with fish-scale shingles, dentils, and brackets; the front of the bay-window carries two pairs of fluted pilasters.

The cornice is plain but ~~it~~ has modillion brackets. There are interior chimneys within each gable end.

In 1876, a 3-bay, 2-story wing with an "A" roof was added to the northeast gable end. Its brickwork is laid in common bond. It has a front entrance of its own: the door is paneled, has a transom above, and full-length louvered shutters on either side. It has wooden steps & iron handrails. The windows are double hung sash, 6/6, but have much plainer cornices over them than the original wing. The main cornice of the wing has modillions rather than the modillion brackets of the original structure. There is a large chimney within the outside gable end.

At one time a stucco of some sort was plastered over the entire facade of both the original structure and the wing and then removed; its traces remain.

\*The added third story has its brickwork laid in common bond.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-11

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Between 1796 & 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this house lies in its record of response to successive architectural styles, a significance which will increase if more can be found out about the dates of the various alterations the building has undergone.

The original late Georgian house was built during the ownership of Thomas Anderson, who bought part of Water Lot 13 and all of 14 and 15 in 1795-96 and built sometime between that time and 1808 when the new house and property were sold. During the nineteenth century it was owned by Morgan Browne, Richard Ringgold (President of Washington College), Joseph Wickes, Rebecca Ruth and John Aldridge, but which of them altered it (in addition to Aldridge who we know added the wing) is still a mystery. \*

As the house stands today, it appears to have been subjected to at least Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian tastes. The substitution of the third story for the original dormers flattened the perspective of the house and may represent a response to the Federal aspect of River House, two doors up the street by its second owner, Morgan Brown. The added portico contributes a later, Greek Revival effect. The bay window, on the other hand, is pure Victorian as are the elaborate cornices over the main building's windows.

The northeast wing came late in the century (1876 or later), but is notably the most restrained portion of the building. Aldridge appears to have rejected the main building's elaborate cornices for simpler ones, also the main building's large modillion brackets for the smaller purer Georgian modillions. His choice of common bond for the brickwork, matching that of the third floor of the ~~original~~ main building rather than the Flemish bond of the lower stories which it adjoins, was probably simply a matter of economics.

~~Research continues.~~

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# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .18 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the center of an iron pipe set in the concrete and planted in the south line of Water Street, where the lot abuts on the line of certain lands belonging to Wilbur W. Hubbard; and running thence along the south side of Water Street in an easterly direction to the line of the lands of George Baldwin thence running with the lands of same in a southerly direction to the waters of the Chester River; thence in westerly direction to intersect a line drawn south from the beginning point and parallel to High Street; thence running in a northerly direction by and with the said line reversed parallel to High Street to the place of beginning.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
Robert Neill	Historic Site Surveyor
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown	March, 1976
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Chestertown	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Summary of Title Search: 103 Water Street

for

House was built by Thomas Anderson who bought land in three pieces:

Charles Hackett to Thomas Anderson (part of Water Lot 13) (1796) L11

Benjamin Chew to Thomas Anderson (Water Lot 14) (1795) L45

Lane Nicholson to Thomas Anderson (Water Lot 15) (1795) L45

Thomas Anderson to Robert Cruckshanks BC 5 337 (1808) L900

Robert Cruckshanks to Morgan Browne BC 5 378 (1808) L1000 (sold on same day)

Morgan Browne to Richard Ringgold JR 1 87 (1841)

Richard Ringgold to Joseph Wickes (1850)

Joseph Wickes to Rebecca A. Ruth JKH 2 13 (1866)

Rebecca A. Ruth to John K. Aldridge (1876)

John K. Aldridge to Wilbur Hubbard, Sr. JTD 23 351 (1911)

Wilbur Hubbard to Albert S. Turner APR 6 400 (1920)

Albert S. Turner willed property to Frank C. Turner

Frank C. Turner to A. Sydney Turner, Jr. RAS 4 39 (1929)

A. Sydney Turner, Jr. to William Pepper Constable RAS 30 336 (1942)

Constable sold it back to Turner in 1943.

A. Sydney Turner to William B. Nicholson RAS 31 211 (1943)

William B. Nicholson to Norris Harrison (1952)

Norris Harrison to Robert L. Bryan (1966)

Robert L. Bryan to Buel B. Nave (1966)

Buel B. Nave to Michael Murphy (1971)

Michael Murphy to H. Alvan Jones (1972)

H. Alvan Jones (6/25/76) to Rollison H. and Catherine Baxter

K-11

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS (NEW) FARM

COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

KENT

LYNCHBURG STREET

POPLAR RD.

PROSPECT ST.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE AVENUE

AVENUE

MORGNEC

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD STREET

VALLEY

CEDAR

SCHOOL

CAMPUS

COLLEGE

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

MT. VERNON

WASHINGTON U.S. 213

BROWN RIVER VIEW RD.

STREET

MILL

KENT

CALVERT

STREET

TERRACE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

BARROLL DRIVE

SCHOOL AVENUE

SPRING ST.

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

BYFORD DRIVE

SCHOOL STREET

CROSS

ROW

STREET

TWILLEY LANE QUEEN

PARK COURT ST.

CHURCH ST.

AVENUE

RIVERSIDE TERRACE

BYFORD COURT

WATER CANNON

HIGH

STREET

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE TERRACE

River

Chester

U.S. 213

K-11



K-11  
Anderson - Aldridge House (John K. Aldridge House)  
103 Water St.  
Chestertown  
Chestertown Quad.  
Kent County





K 71 John K. Aldridge House

103 Water

1/77 W



K 11 John K. Aldridge House  
103 Water

W 1/77