

K-14

McHard House, Meeteer House, Frisby House
Water Street, Chestertown
c. 1770

The house at 110 Water Street was built on the eastern half of lot No. 14 by either Samuel McHard (d. 1771) or his son, Joseph, who exchanged the house and lot in 1795 for Solomon Betts' property in Church Hill.¹ Originally the house was almost identical to Simon Wickes House located on water lot No. 10. Both were three bays long and two stories tall with full size windows flanking the fireplace on their southwest gables, a feature found also in the Smith-Ringgold House, built in the 1760's. Other similarities between the three Water Street include their all header bond facades, lack of original dormer windows and small double hung windows in the attic flanking the chimneys. Their floor plans are also the same, with basement kitchen and central stair passages. The McHard House appears to be less vertical in nature as it is located inland and has no on grade entrance at the basement level.

There were many owners of the property in the 19th Century, including Robert Anderson, John Constable and his heirs and Rebecca Ringgold. The name of Dr. William Meeteer appears on the map of Chestertown in the Atlas of 1877. At that period a long wing is shown behind the house, nearly the same size as the original block. The Atlas states that it is his residence and office at that time. After Margaret Meeteer's death, it passed to William McKenney and his son, William, Jr. sold the house, which had become a vacant derelict, in 1922 to J. Thomas and Bessie Perry Kibler.²

The Kiblers hired an architect to draw up plans for the house. They demolished the 19th century wing and replaced it with a shorter two-story frame structure which housed a den, pantry, kitchen and lavatory with back porch on the first floor. They also added a porch on the southwest gable which wrapped around the corner of the house and joined the kitchen wing. An entry of the same design was built at the central entrance. The dining room fireplace and chimney above were removed in order to make more space in the rooms on the northeast side of the house. Heating, baths and electricity were added throughout. It is said that Mrs. Kibler liked the mantel in the front parlor of the Geddes-Piper House so much that she purchased it and installed it in the living room of her own house. The property remained in the Kibler family until 1991.

1. Land Records, Lib. BC 4, fol. 303.
2. Land Records, Lib. APR 9, fol. 165.

14 Meeteer House
Chestertown
private

c. 1766

The original (front) section of the Meeteer House is, with its sister house, the Perkins House across the street, one of the most attractive small Georgian residences in Chestertown. Estimates as to the date of construction are hazy for both houses, though both architecture and documentary evidence suggest the mid-1760's for the Meeteer House. Like the Perkins House, the facade is laid in all header brick. Its original owners were the McHards.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Mee Lee House
AND/OR COMMON

K-14

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
110 Water Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE
Maryland

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Jane Kibler Bristol and Harrison C. Bristol

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
110 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

Liber #: *EHP 30*
Folio #: *104*

STREET & NUMBER
Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
none

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-14

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

110 Water Street is on the northwest (off-river) side of Water Street between High Street and Maple Avenue in Chestertown. It is situated on the northeastern half (or most of it) of Town Lot 14. Like the other eighteenth century houses on the block, it is set close to the street. The house is very similar to 115 Water Street, diagonally across the street, and though the available evidence may be interpreted several ways, it is quite possible they were both built at approximately the same time, during the last third of the century.

It is a 2½-story, 3-bay brick Georgian house with an "A" roof and three gabled dormers. The facade is symmetrical. The house is one room deep, several feet shallower than 115 Water. A nineteenth century entrance portico has been added to the front.

There is a high brick basement with a molded water table. The brickwork below the water table is essentially Flemish bond. Above the water table, the brickwork on the facade is all header brick, as it is on 115 Water.

The entrance portico has a flat roof supported by four square pillars and two half-pillars against the facade. The door is 8-panneled and is framed with pairs of double pilasters. There is 4-pane transom above. The porch itself is brick and has a wood rail across the front; the porch is entered from both sides up pairs of wooden steps.

All of the first and second story windows are 6/6 double hung sash and are framed by louvered shutters. The first story windows have segmental arches and wood sills. The second story windows have wooden lintels and sills and are smaller than those on the first.

There is a plain box cornice with a molding below. The roof is slate shingles. There is a large chimney inside the south (left) gable end. There was originally one at the north end, but it was removed in the present century to allow for interior remodeling.

The south (left) gable end has an added screened porch with a flat roof. One of the two first story windows on this end has been replaced by a door to give access to the porch from the interior of the house. On the second story there are two windows and on the third, two small 2/2 attic windows. The brickwork on this gable end is essentially common bond. All windows on the first and second stories of this gable end have segmental arches.

The north (right) gable end has a central 3-window grouping on the first story (where the chimney was) and a single window on the second story directly above it. There is a pair of small 2/2 attic windows in the gable. The brickwork on this end is essentially English bond.

A 4-bay by 1-bay frame addition has been added to the rear of the house in two stages, the first prior to 1877, as it shows up on the Chestertown Map of that year. It creates an "L" plan and is squared to the south (left) gable end.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-14

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 1766-1795

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original (front) section of 110 Water Street is, with its sister house, 115 Water Street diagonally across the street, one of the most attractive small Georgian residences in Chestertown. Estimates as to the date of its construction are hazy (for both houses) though educated guessing is a little easier on 110 than 115.

A comparison of the history of their titles turns up the suggestive fact that both properties were owned by William Stevenson, 110 from 1763 to 1766; 115 from 1761 to 1780. But in both cases the sale price hides as much as it reveals. Stevenson sold the 110 property in 1766 for £65, which though a goodly amount of money before the Revolution, still, we guess, too little for even a small scale brick Georgian residence such as 110 Water Street. He sold the 115 property (along with half of Town Lot 15 across the street) in 1780 for 222 bushels of wheat, a price which we guess was even less than 65 prewar pounds sterling. So it is quite possible, likely even, that both 110 and 115 were built quite later in the century.

It seems most likely that 110 was built by or for the McHards, father Samuel or son Joseph, between 1766 and 1795. The whole of Town Lot 14, on part of which it is built, was owned by the Thompsons who lived in Queen Anne's County in the middle of the century. The Thompsons sold off the lot in halves: Dowdell sold the southwest half for £31 to Esau Watkins in 1754, and John sold the northeast half for £35 to William Stevenson in 1763. Stevenson held the land for just three years and then sold it to Samuel McHard, a wheelwright for £65 in 1766.

Samuel McHard died in 1771, leaving the property to his son, Joseph. We guess that the father built 110 Water Street sometime between 1766 and 1771. In 1795 Joseph exchanges "all that messuage and easternmost moiety of Lot 14" for "a lot of ground with messuage, storehouse & grannery in Church Hill" belonging to Solomon Betts. Obviously, if son Joseph built the house rather than father Samuel, its date of construction approaches closer to what may have been the date for the sister house, 115. If Joseph McHard had 110 built and Simon Wickes had 115 built, both houses may be vintage 1780, which brings them into a period architectural historians are not eager to see them in, the period of the 3-bay Federal town-houses on Queen Street. The style of these two houses is obviously early Georgian (mid-eighteenth century) but the documentary evidence is, as yet, not very cooperative in helping us get them back there "where they belong."

K-14

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning on the NW side of Front St., at a point 4 feet easterly from the easternmost corner of the brick dwelling house situated on the lot of land and running thence in a northwesterly direction by and with the division line between the lot and the lands of S.Scott Beck a distance of 197 ft to the lands of M.J. Lambert; thence at right angles or nearly so and in a southwesterly direction by and with the division line between the land and the lands of M.J. Lambert, J. Medders, the land of W. Brown and the lands of F.D. Leary a distance of 125 feet, 4 inches more or less, to the lands of Augusta M. Slay and by and with the land of A.M. Slay and by and with a fence and stone wall now

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

standing on said division line a distance of 197 feet more or less to Front St; thence right angles or nearly so and by and with Front St in a northeasterly direction 125 feet more or less to the beginning.

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/ Town of Chestertown

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

April, 1976

TELEPHONE

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

Title Search 110 Water

John Tompson to William Stevenson DD 1 438 (1763) £35
(eastern half of Town Lot 14)

William Stevenson to Samuel McHard DD 3 376 (1766) £65

Samuel McHard leaves property to his son, Joseph (1771)

Joseph McHard to Solomon Betts BC 4 303 (1795)

("all that messuage and easternmost moiety of Lot 14" exchanged for "a lot of ground, messuage, storehouse & grannery...in Church Hill")

Soloman Betts to Robert Anderson BC 4 304 (1796) £630 10 shillings.

James Houston, for the estate of Robert Anderson to John Constable BC 6 279 (1810) \$1060
(to settle debts of Anderson's estate)

John Constable wills his home and lot on Water Street to his daughter, Mary Brown, unless she is be dead, in which case it goes to his granddaughters, daughterw of his son, John, Jr.: Mary, and Isabella Constable. Wills JFD 1 164 (1844)

Richard Jones, Mary Nones, Martha Constable, George Perkins, and Caroline Perkins to Rebecca Ringgold JFG 4 473 (1857) \$1750. (Mary and Martha sold the property to Perkins without a deed. He now chooses to sell it to Rebecca Ringgold and so he has them join him in the sale to clear the title.)

Thomas W. Eliason, executor of estate of Rebecca Ringgold to John Brown JKH 1 193 (1858)
\$2180

John Browne of Queen Anne's County to Mary E. Perkins, wife of Dr. James A. Perkins JKH 3 576 (1863) \$2200

Dr. James A. Perkins, Mary E. Perkins and John N. Usilton to William H. Meeteer JKH 5 130 (1865) \$1000
(Perkins sold earlier to Usilton without deed and so join him in his sale of property to Meeteer to clear title.)

William Meeteer leaves propety to his wife, Margaret Wills JCS 1 24 (1875)

Margaret leaves it to ~~her surviving husband~~ William McKenney.

William McKinney leaves it to his son, William, Jr.

William McKenney, Jr. to Bessie Perry Kibler APR 9 165 (1922) \$5250

Bessie P, Kibler and J. Thomas Kibler to Jane Kibler Bristol and Harrison C. Bristol EHP 30 104 (1968)

K-14

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS (NEW) FARM

COUNTY

RAILROAD PENNSYLVANIA

WATER CANNON HIGH

QUEEN TWILLEY LANE

CROSS

MILL

STREET

POPLAR

LYNCHBURG

STREET

PROSPECT

ST. ST.

STREET

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

WASHINGTON

AVENUE

U.S. 213

River

Chester

K-14

MORGNEC

STREET

STREET

GREENWOOD

VALLEY

STREET

SCHOOL

SCHOOL

SCHOOL

SCHOOL

SCHOOL

STREET

K-14
McHard House (Meeteer House, Frisby House)
110 Water St.
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





K 14 Meeker House, 110 Water

1/77 E & N



K 14 Meeter House 110 Water

1/77 E + S