

K-363
Bittersweet
Chestertown
Private

19th Century

Bittersweet Farm House is a well-preserved example of late 19th century vernacular building. Its bracketted cornice, imbricated shingle siding, and attractive carved central stair exhibit the fine craftsmanship and design sense of this period.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bittersweet

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Rt. 213, north of Chestertown

JUL 2/15/94

CITY, TOWN

Bigwoods

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Stanley B. Sutton

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Bittersweet Farm

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: WHG 57

Folio #: 323

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Bittersweet Farm is a five bay frame house with a steep roof and wide front porch which probably are additions made to a simpler house in the last quarter of the 19th century. There is no indication, however, that any part of the present structure dates from before the mid-19th century. The building faces southeast over gently rolling fields of a neighboring horse pasture. Behind the house is a long wing of which the earliest portion, two rooms long, is contemporary with the main house.

The steeply pitched gable roof of the house has widely overhanging cornice and pedimented gables. The cornice is enriched with wooden bracketts with carved dogwood flowers attached to the front of each. Corners were once ornamented with pendants. The pedimented gables have an infill of imbricated shingles. The attic is lit by two small windows in the gable; their upper panes are trapizoidal and vaguely reminiscent of Gothic Revival motifs.

Three dormers pierce the front roof slope. Side dormers have gable roofs with overhanging eaves and 2/2 windows. The more elaborate and larger central dormer is covered with imbricated shingles. its 2/2 window has a trapizoidal upper sash.

The frame house is covered by medium width weatherboarding under aluminum siding.

Tall 6/6 windows are found in side bays of the front facade. They have very narrow muntins and frames trimmed with broad, flat moldings. The central window on the second floor has a 6/6 window flanked by 2/2 sidelights.

Below this is the main entrance, double doors with three tiers of raised panels with broad bolection moldings. There is a five pane transom light and three pane sidelights.

The front porch has a flat roof with simple brackets and square "Doric" posts. The balustrade is a series of X's. A small side porch has handsome chamfered posts with lamb's tongues and sawn bracketts.

The central hall of the building has a stair open to the attic. The balusters are turned with an octagonal urn-like element. The large octagonal newel post is carved of mahogany; the round hand-rail is also mahogany. From the first to the second floor the step brackets are foliated; they are an elaborate geometric motif from second floor to attic. Intermediate newels from the second to attic floor are square with ball finials; below the second floor the stair is continuous without newels.

Window and door trim on the first floor has broad, flat moldings identical to that used on the main entrance doors. Second floor trim has shallow trim with turned cornerblocks. The parlor mantel has chamfered pilasters with handsome lambs tongue chamfer stops; the mantel shelf is curved

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 Mid-19th Century BUILDER/ARCHITECT
 with later Additions

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bittersweet Farm was once a part of the Biddle family lands. Local history holds that a house was standing on or near the present site about 1800. If that is the case this house is its successor. This building has undergone a major change; examination of the roof structure, of the wing and main house show that the roof pitch was originally much shallower. The present owner was told by an elderly resident of Kent County, in the 1930's, that he remembered when the third floor was "added." Evidentially the remodeling was done in the late 1870's or 1880's by Biddle Hossinger, a local politician. Both the exterior detailing type and the changes in the interior stair would confirm that date.

As remodeled, Bittersweet Farm House is a well-preserved example of late 19th century vernacular building. Interior and exterior detailing exhibit the fine craftsmanship and design sense of this period.

1. The 1877 Atlas of Kent County shows this farm to have been owned by a G.S. Biddle, however,
2. Shallow, hipped roofed houses with central hall and two stories have been dated to the late 1860's in Kent County. See 126 Queen Street, Chestertown.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

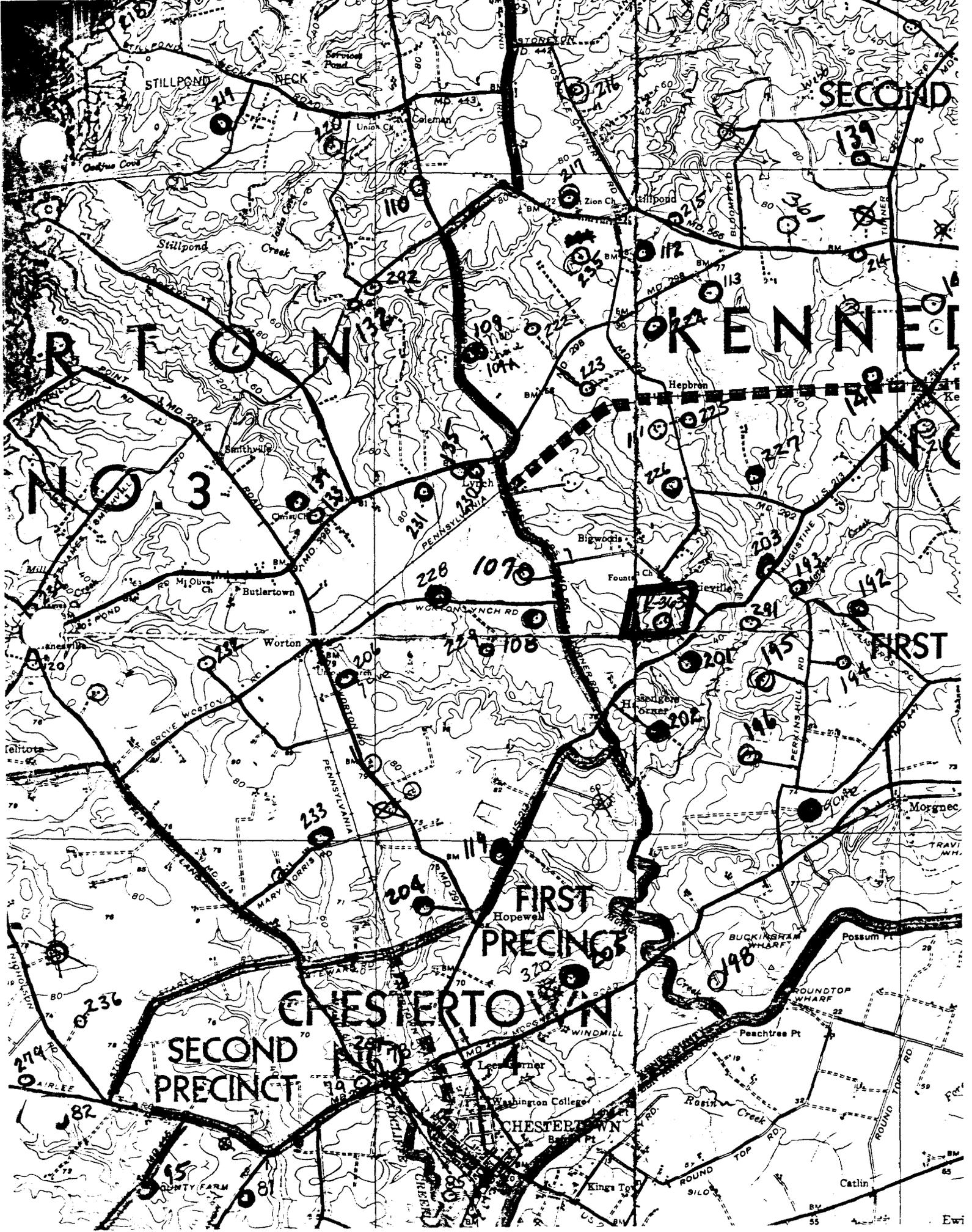
STATE

Maryland 21620

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



STILLPOND

SECOND

WORTON

KENNEL

NO. 3

NO. 1

FIRST
PRECINCT

FIRST

SECOND
PRECINCT

CHESTERTOWN

CHESTERTOWN

QUINCY FARM

BUCKINGHAM WHARF

Washington College

Catlin

Ewi



BITTERSWEET

~~MHT-K-322~~

RT. 213 NEAR HASSENGERS CORNER

K-363

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

FRONT FROM SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977