

*CHESAPEAKE HOTEL  
Betterton, Maryland  
(circa 1885 & later)*

*The Chesapeake Hotel was a rambling frame structure located directly on the Betterton beach and forming the west side of a small beach-side park. The building was more or less T-shaped in plan, three stories in height on the street, four stories in height on the beach, and covered by a shallow gable roof. The most distinctive architectural features of the building was its one story porches which were located on the second floor level and front the beach and the park.*

*A small portion of stenciling was found at the cornice of a ballroom. A fleur de lis design, it was green and red on a white ground; the ceiling was painted light blue.*

*The building has been demolished and its site will be used as a natural, public beach.*

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC CHESAPEAKE HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER west side Betterton Beach

Erickson Avenue

1st

JLK 2/7/94

CITY, TOWN

Betterton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland 21610

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Commissioners of Kent County, MD

Telephone #: 778-4600 ext.34

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 97

Folio #: 338

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

K-439

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"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

*The Chesapeake Hotel is a rambling frame structure located directly on the Betterton beach and forming the west side of a small beach-side park. The building is more or less T-shaped in plan, three stories in height on the street, four stories in height on the beach, and covered by a shallow gable roof. The most distinctive architectural features of the building are its one story porches which are located on the second floor level and front the beach and the park. The building has two over two windows set in plain frames and exposed rafter ends at the cornice. There are no significant moldings or other architectural details.*

*Although the main portion of the Chesapeake appears to have been built in the early twentieth century, there have been numerous alterations and additions. In general these changes--as well as the original building--were simple and inexpensively done.*

*Public rooms are located on the street and beach levels with guest rooms above. The public rooms have high ceilings supported by interior columns; flat reeded trim is used to enframe the windows and the four-panel doors that are used throughout the building. The interior stairs are non-continuous with the flight leading from the beach level to the street level in one location, the flight leading from the street level to the second story in another location and so on. A few simple turned balusters and a square newel remain in place.*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				<i>Chesapeake Bay Resort Building, interior decoration</i>

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Unlike the nearby Rigby Hotel, which is a well maintained and functioning building, the Chesapeake Hotel is a structure of little architectural distinction. When it was an operating hostelry in an active resort town, the Chesapeake's siting made it a key part of the town's fabric. Now, however, it has become archaic both physically and economically and past efforts of private individuals and public officials to find a new use for the Chesapeake have ended in failure.*

*The building is currently being demolished and its site will revert to a natural, public beach.*

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, Survey Consultant*

*February 4, 1980*

ORGANIZATION

*Kent County Planning Commission*

DATE

*778-4600 ext.67*

STREET & NUMBER

*Court House*

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

*Chestertown, Maryland 21620*

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

Guest rooms are arranged on both sides of long narrow hallways. The rooms are small and plain, usually with a closet and one window. Bathrooms were "down the hall".

The most interesting feature of the building is a small portion of stenciling in the main ballroom. It appears to be the original finish in the room and became visible only after weather and demolition loosened the wall paper which had long covered it. As the photographs show, the stenciling was located at the cornice level above the windows.

Chain of Title

CHESAPEAKE HOTEL (K-439)  
Betterton, Maryland

Land Records of  
Kent County

Transaction

EHP 97  
338

TO: County Commissioners of Kent County  
FROM: Stephen S. Hickman & Thomas G. Hyland  
DATE: Oct. 30, 1979

\$94,000 for all Chesapeake & Seascape  
property.

EHP 16  
708

TO: Hickman & Hyland  
FROM: Herman Epstein, etal.  
DATE: April 2, 1966

WHG 18  
330

TO: Epstein, etal.  
FROM: Mercantile Trust Co. of Baltimore  
DATE: March 28, 1951

WHG 13  
397

TO: Mercantile, Trustee of Ernest T. & Annie  
Lee Newel  
FROM: Owners Realty Corp, Balt.  
DATE: Oct. 26, 1949

WHG 5  
508

TO: Owners Realty Corp.  
FROM: Annie Lee Newel  
DATE: Jan. 2, 1948

WHG 4  
166

TO: Annie Lee Newel  
FROM: Charles E. & Marie H. Beatty  
DATE: Sept. 24, 1947

WHG 1  
290

TO: Charles E. & Marie H. Beatty  
FROM: Augusta G. Hall  
DATE: Jan. 17, 1947

Land Records of  
Kent County

Transaction

RAS 40  
62

TO: Marie H. Beatty  
FROM: Betterton Beach Boardwalk Corp.  
DATE: July 8, 1946

RAS 20  
184

TO: Boardwalk Corp.  
FROM: Henry J. Plant, etal.  
DATE: June 29, 1938

Lease

RAS 4  
569

TO: Henry J. & Mary B. Plant & The Beach  
Amusea Co.  
FROM: John S. Owens  
DATE: Feb. 24, 1930

SGF 6  
592

TO: John S. Owens & George R. Crew  
FROM: Harvey & Mary S. Brice & Howard Turner  
DATE: March 7, 1898

(one acre and one rood for \$3,500.00).

JTD 4  
404

TO: John S. Owens  
FROM: George R. Crew  
DATE: Feb. 15, 1901

SGF 1  
17

TO: Harvey Brice  
FROM: Elizabeth B. Turner  
DATE: June 24, 1892

"Chesapeake House" property for \$2,500.00.  
Restriction as to passenger embarkation.

WILL

TO: Elizabeth B. Turner  
FROM: Richard Turner  
DATE:

Land Records of  
Kent County

Transaction

SB 4  
595

TO: Richard Turner  
FROM: Joseph Turner  
DATE: Oct. 3, 1883

"Chesapeake House" also mentioned "Fish Hall Rd." 2 + acres.

UKH 6  
222

TO: Richard Turner  
FROM: Ebenezer W. Crew, etal.  
DATE: Dec. 25, 1866

The site for \$500.00; it was bounded on two sides by land "condemned for...a public landing," on the north by the water and on the east by the Betterton Road. The site included a "Granary or House." The wharf was constructed by this time; evidently the public landing planned was to be the Ericcson Pier.

# BETTERTON

K-439

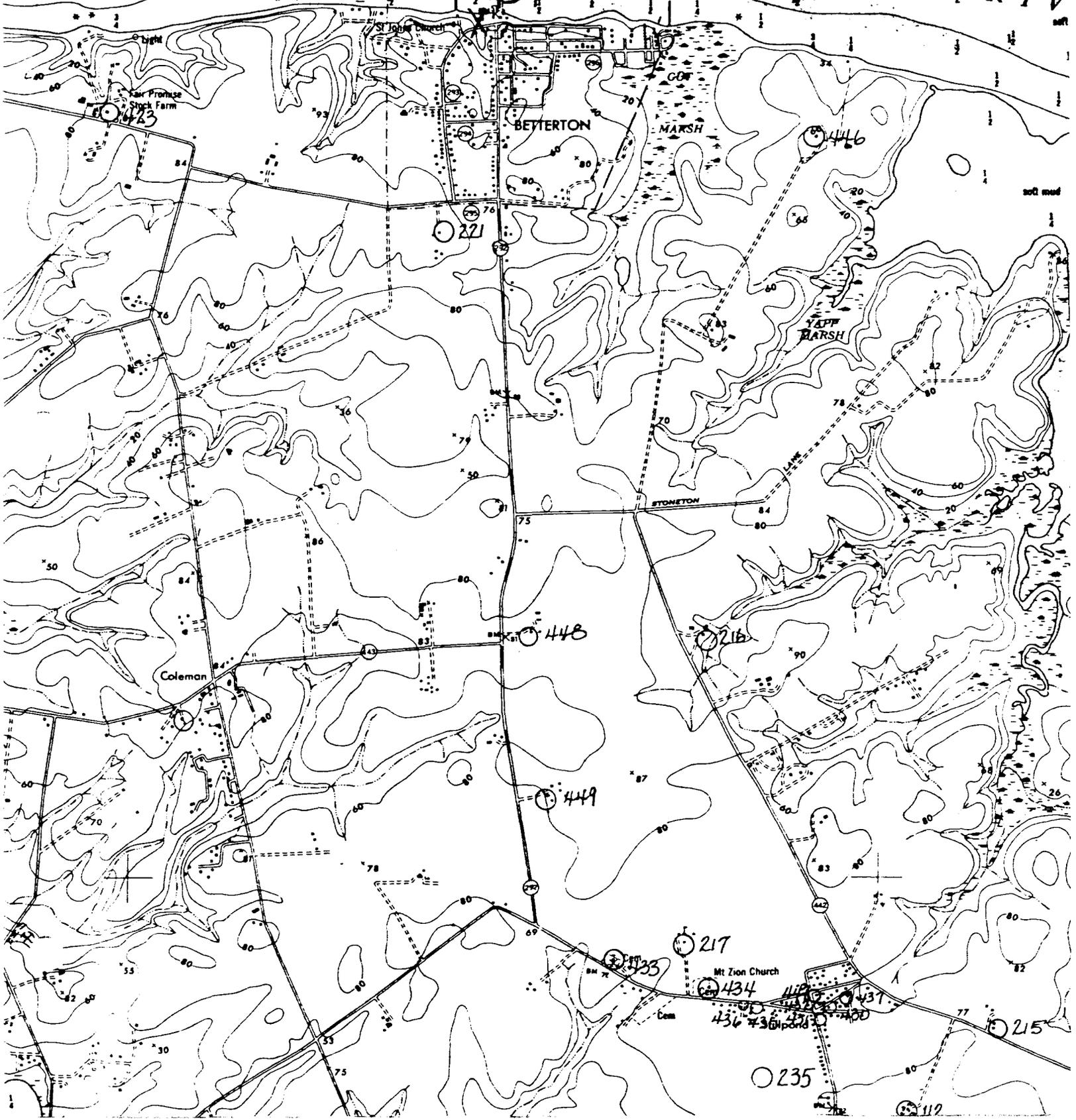
05'00"

02'30"

Probable spill area

## SASSAFRAS

## RIV





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Chesapeake Hotel

View to Northeast

Betterton

Kent County

M. L. Fritz

4/1980

*J. Tyler Campbell*  
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 28 1980



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Chesapeake Hotel

View to Southwest

Betterton

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

4/1980

J. Tyler Campbell  
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND



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Chesapeake Hotel

Stenciling in lobby; Medium green figure  
with dark red flower on white ground.  
Light blue ceiling.

*J. Tyler Campbell*

FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

Betterton

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

4/1980