

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Tolchester Beach Railroad Station

and/or common (Current) The Gazebo

2. Location

West side Brice's Mill-Pomona Rd., 1/4 mi. north of Quaker Neck Rd. (RT. 289)
 street & number Harris Farm (eastern branch of East Fork of not for publication
 Langford Creek)

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 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 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"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John A. Harris IV

street & number 1143 Edgewood Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Berwyn state and zip code PA 19312

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP 75

street & number folio 243

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-477

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Railroad Station is a one-story pavillion that is 5 bays long and one wide bay deep. It has a shallow hipped roof with a pediment that once covered the ticket booth. Moved to its present location in the 1960's, the structure rests on modern posts and a concrete slab.

Age: Late 19th - early 20th Century.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-477

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Once the scaled-down station for Tolchester Beach's miniature railroad, this little structure is a remnant of the fantastic architecture of that nineteenth century amusement park. Like the Bandstand and the twentieth century whip, both at Bloomingneck Farm, this structure has an unusual, almost rustic, roof. Its significance today is as a remnant of Tolchester Beach architecture.

See also the following reports: Tolchester Beach (K-317), Bandstand (K-377), and the Whip (K-379).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Marsha L. Fritz, Surveyor		
	County Commissioners of Kent County		
organization	Historical Society of Kent County	date	6/11/81
	The Court House		778-4600
street & number	Church Alley	telephone	778-3499
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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 1 story, 5 bays wide, 1 bay deep
2. Plan type - A simple rectangle with a projecting section
3. Roof type - shallow hip with pediment on one long side. Instead of a simple 4-sided hip, this roof has two corner roof planes to reflect the angled corners.
4. Material/Walls - no walls
5. Material/Roofs - wood shingle
6. Material/Foundation - concrete slab
7. Age - The ticket booth (addition) was removed when the structure was moved. Late 19th-early 20th Century .

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - None
2. Windows - none
3. Dormers - None
4. Roof details - Main Section: The roof has a simple cornice enriched by a wooden band in the middle of the fascia. The roof overhangs about 3' and is finished on the underside with narrow boarding
5. Color - Current: white with bright green detail
Historic: probably the same
6. Other - There is a row of porcelain socketts for light bulbs all along the edge of the soffet.

Site Description

1. Site Description - On the edge of the Creek, the building is slowly being surrounded by undergrowth. Tilled fields almost reach the front of the structure.
2. Views to/from site - The creek and farmlands; houses at a distance

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

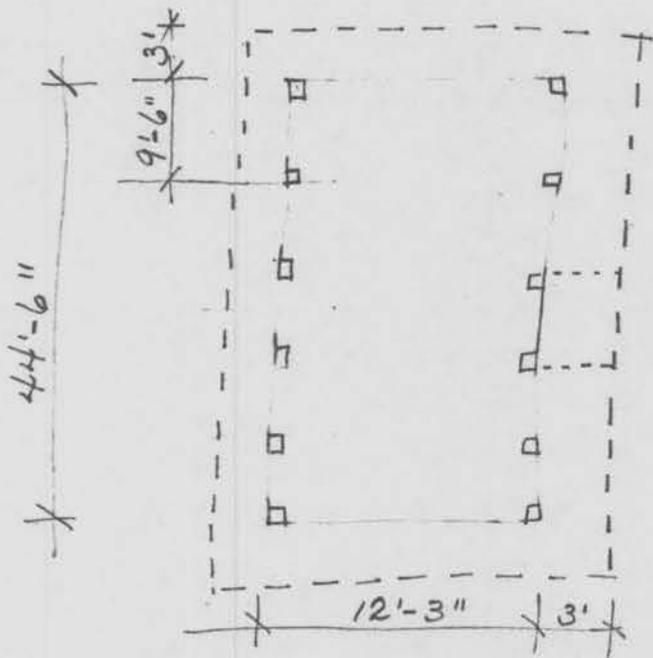
Use of Building

Current - Machinery storage

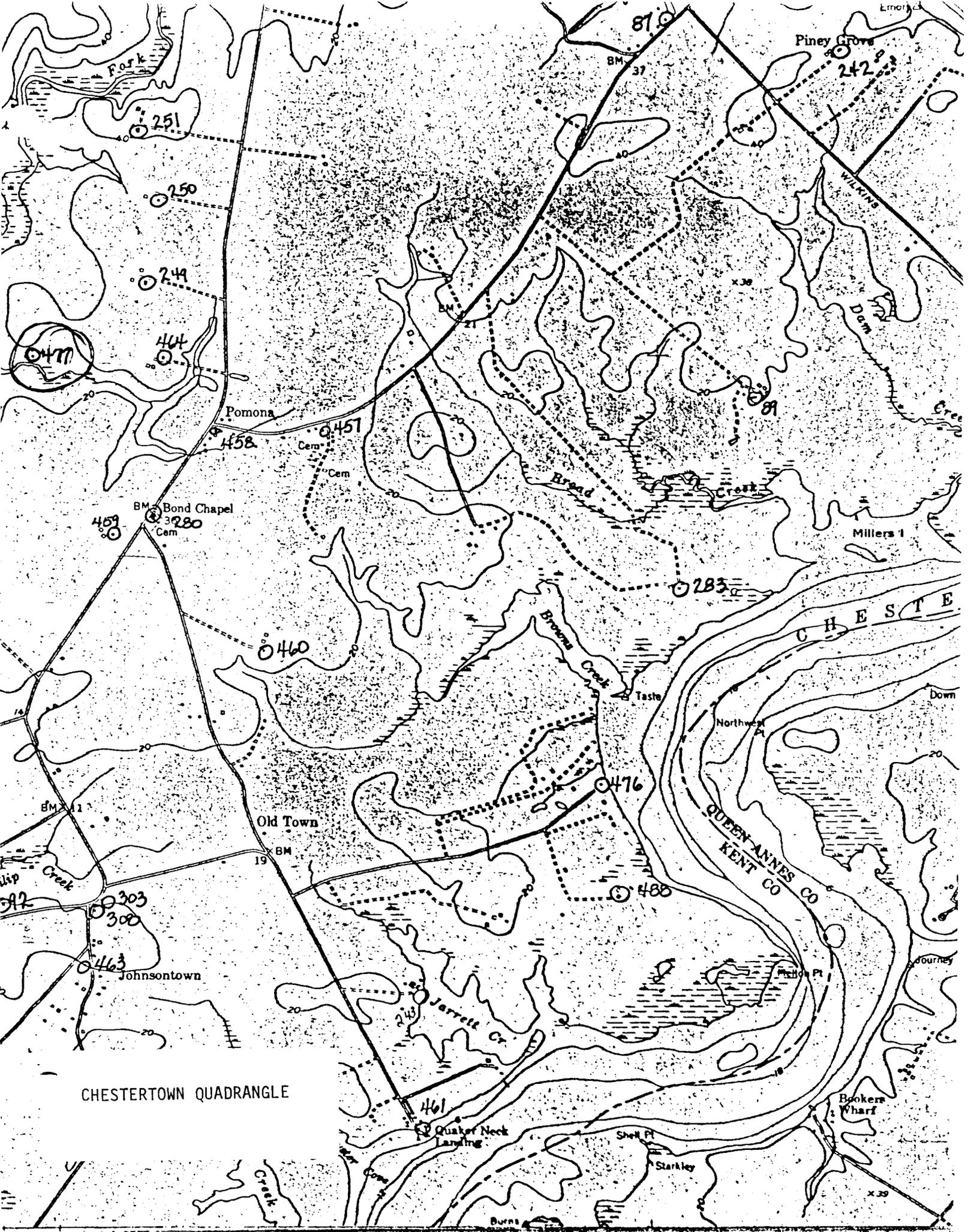
Historic - Station for Tolchester Beach model railroad

History of Building/Past Ownership

The Station stood at Tolchester Beach, a resort town built on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in the 1870's. The resort catered to tourists from Baltimore and the Western Shore with rides, concerts, and other amusements. There was a large hotel and a steamboat wharf, and in a lithograph of the 1890's the Beach has almost the appearance of a small town - one totally dedicated to amusement. The buildings were frame and nearly all had irregular - sometimes curvilinear - roofs and decorative wooden brackets and shingles. Tolchester Beach finally closed in the 1960's. About 1966 a few buildings were moved and the rest demolished. Although only the roof of the Train Station was moved it is nevertheless a reminder of an interesting period of Kent County history.



SKETCH PLAN
K-477



CHESTERTOWN QUADRANGLE



View to Southwest

TOLCHESTER BEACH RAILROAD STATION (K-477)

Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. L. Fritz, June 1981