

K-504

Tilghman House (Site)  
High Street, Chestertown  
c. 1790's

The Tilghman House was built in the late 1790's. While it is unclear if it was constructed by William Slubey, William Baker or William Burneston, all merchants, it is documented that between 1801 and 1824 Burneston and his wife (later widow) lived in the house on Lot No. 78. He also owned a storehouse on the corner of High and Princess Streets (Lot No. 79).<sup>1</sup>

In 1825, a deed recording the transfer of the property to Matthew Tilghman was recorded with a sale price of \$2410.00.<sup>2</sup> Son of Richard Tilghman IV (d. 1805) and his wife, Margaret, Matthew was a merchant in Chestertown, as well as a member of the legislature in 1815. Tilghman was twice married, the second time to Harriett Hynson, daughter of Richard and Araminta Hynson. Together they had nine children, one of whom was born after his death in 1828.<sup>3</sup> Tilghman's wife lived at the house until her death c. 1870.

After Harriett Tilghman's death, her real estate was advertised for sale in the Kent County News of 21 November 1874:

"Town Property  
at  
Trustee's Sale  
Large and Valuable  
Brick Dwelling House

formerly the residence of Mrs. Harriett Tilghman and the lot there to attached situated on High Street in Chestertown near the Bank. The Dwelling is two stories in height with basement kitchen and servants rooms, and a well plastered attic which makes comfortable sleeping apartments. The house is well built, roomy and in very fair condition. Its central and convenient location makes it desirable either for a private residence or boarding house, in which capacity it is now used.

The lot attached affords ample space for gardening purposes and as such is a valuable appendage to the house.

C. T. Westcott, trustee<sup>74</sup>

From the description of the basement rooms in the advertisement and from the scale of the building on the 1908 Sanborne Insurance Map, the house appears to have resembled River House.

The Reverend Samuel W. Thomas, Methodist minister, living in Philadelphia, purchased the building in 1876, and subsequently turned the first floor into commercial space.<sup>5</sup> In the process, he probably dropped the floor level so that it was convenient to the sidewalk as the old photographs show tall store front windows. The building served commercial purposes until it was acquired by the Chestertown Bank of Maryland when it was demolished and replaced with the Beaux Arts style bank in 1929.

1. The two half lots were initially purchased in 1726 by James Cruikshank, Chirurgeon (Lib. JSP, fol. 23). Cruikshank's heirs sold the property in 1777 to William Slubey, merchant (Lib. DD 5, fol. 209). Slubey sold the same property in 1795, for about eight times what he had paid in 1795 to William Baker and William Burneston (Lib. BC 4, fol. 275). Burneston bought Baker's interest in 1801 (Lib. TW 1, fol. 670).

2. Land Records, Lib. TW 4, fol. 629.
3. G. A. Hanson, Old Kent, reprint, 1936.
4. Kent News, 21 November 1874.
5. Land Records, Lib. DCB 2, fol. 156.

K 504

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-504

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Tilghman House (site)

and/or common Chestertown Bank of Maryland

## 2. Location

street & number High Street  not for publication

city, town Chestertown  vicinity of congressional district 1st

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Chestertown Bank of Maryland

street & number High Street telephone no.: 410-778-2400

city, town Chestertown state and zip code MD 21620

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber DCB 2

street & number Cross Street folio 158

city, town Chestertown state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-504

<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			demolished 1929 _____

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

In 1929 the Tilghman House was demolished and replaced by the Beaux Arts style Chestertown Bank of Maryland. The site was thoroughly excavated for the basement of the new bank so little or nothing remains in the realm of artifactual evidence of the building. Only photographs, deeds and one advertisement survive from which to glean the importance of this once grand residence.

An advertisement for the sale of the property was printed in the Kent News Nov 21, 1874.....:

"TOWN PROPERTY  
AT  
TRUSTEE'S SALE  
LARGE AND VALUABLE  
BRICK DWELLING HOUSE

formerly the residence of Mrs. Harriett Tilghman and the lot thereto attached situated on High Street in Chestertown near the Bank. The dwelling is two stories in height with basement kitchen and servants rooms, and a well plastered attic which makes comfortable sleeping apartments. The house is well built, roomy, and in very fair condition. Its central and convenient location makes it desirable either for a private residence or boarding house, in which latter capacity it is now used.

The lot attached affords ample space for gardening purposes and as such is a valuable appendage to the house.

C.T. Westcott, trustee"

On the 1908 Sanborne Insurance Map the brick section of the building appears to coincide closely in size to River House. With the mention of basement kitchen and servants rooms in the Ad, it is tempting to think that the two buildings might have had similar plans. The photos post-date its acquisition by Rev. Thomas (1876) so the proximity of the first story to the street is not evident. By that time, store front windows had been added to the ground floor rooms, and the whole of the ground floor converted into commercial space.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-504

Kent County Land Records  
Hanson, G.A., Old Kent, 1936.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Michael Bourne		
organization	Historical Society of Kent County, Inc.	date	April, 1995
street & number	P.O. Box 663	telephone	410-778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	MD

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 DHCP, DHCD  
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 514-7600

Lake, Griffing, Stevenson  
 Atlas of Kent Co., 1877  
 Chestertown Map

M. D. C. D.

J.M. Vandyke  
 Rec.

MILL

Public School  
 Chapman & Lambert  
 Manufacturer

CROSS

Coal Yard  
 B. S.

QUEEN

C.H. Baker  
 Rec.

FRONT

Mrs. S. C. H. Pearson

H. C. A.

T. W. Elizer Jr.

SPRING AVE.

I.O.O.F. Law Building  
 Armory  
 Rockwell House

ST.

KENT COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
 GENEVITY

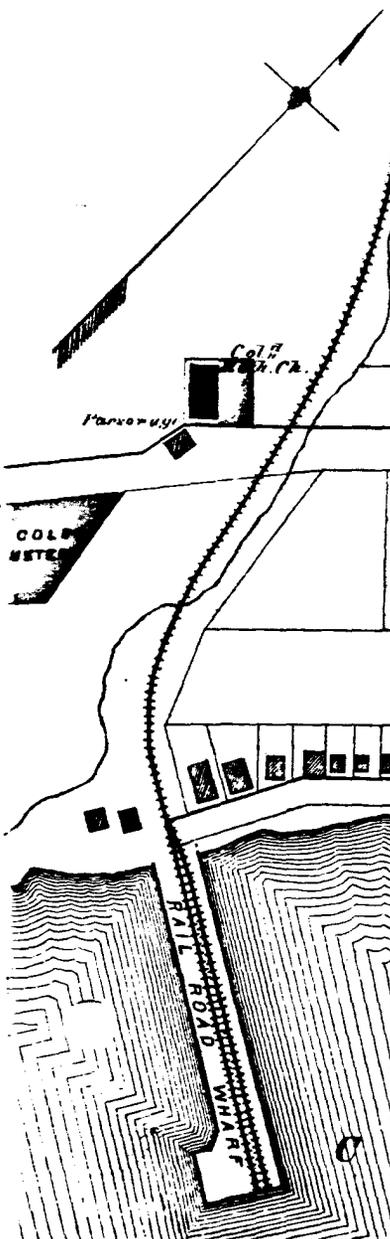
COURT ST.

J. L. Stum  
 Bank  
 P.O.

J.A. Wickes  
 J.W. Hince  
 J.A. Wickes  
 G.B.W.

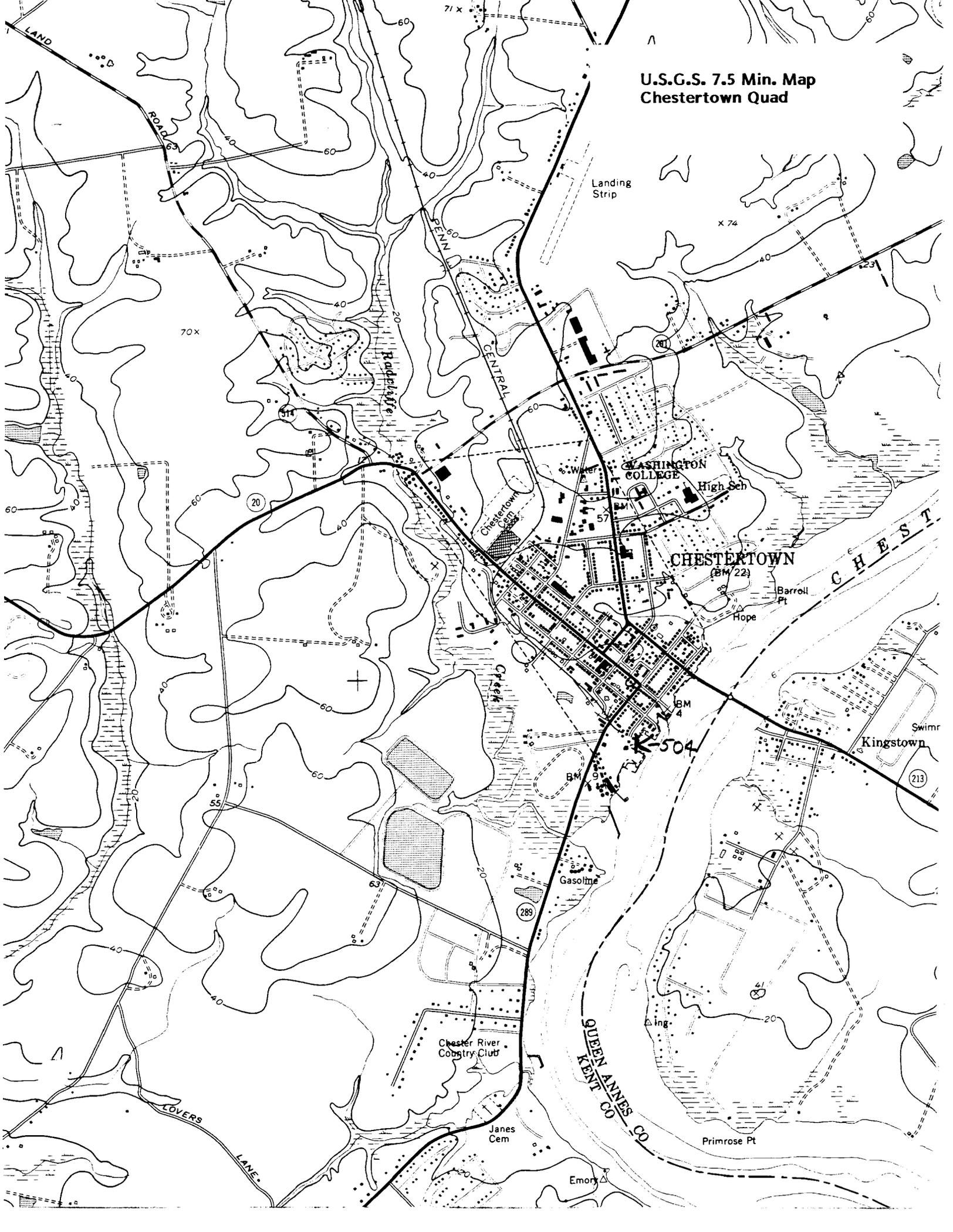
ST.

J.T. Alder  
 G.B.W.



C H E S T E R T O W N R I

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map  
Chestertown Quad





Welsh House, Queen St.



Tilghman  
House  
K-504

Both - courtesy of Miss Welsh.