

K-515

Worrell's Tavern
Chestertown
c. 1750's

Worrell's Tavern which stood on this site from the mid-18th to early 20th century, was important from an architectural standpoint for a number of reasons. Atypical for the period in form and fenestration, it also boasted a pent eave across its gable, making it unique.

Located on Lot No. 9, at the corner of Cannon and Princess Streets (now Queen Street), Worrell's, built in the late 1750's, may have replaced an earlier establishment of similar purpose as there is reference in a deed of 1735 to the property being leased to one "Hugh O'Neal, Innkeeper."¹ Worrell's Tavern, however, was most likely built some 30 years later by James Porter who acquired the property in 1758.²

The property is named for Edward Worrell, gentleman, who purchased both halves of Lot No. 9 in 1770 for the sum of @600.³ He did in fact run the tavern which bore his name and which is mentioned in the diaries of George Washington. In debt to William Sluby, merchant, Worrell sold his establishment to him for @1144.3.4 in 1786.⁴

From the photograph made into a post card at the turn of the century, it can be deduced that the tavern was a substantial frame structure, two-and-a-half-stories tall with an 'L' plan. With its principal facade facing Cannon Street, its basement windows lined up with those above on the first story which had 12/12 sash. The four-bay facade included the main entrance in the third bay. The first bay appears to have originally

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Worrell's Tavern

and/or common Worrell's Tavern

2. Location

street & number Cannon Street at Queen Street ___ not for publication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 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 checked="" 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 Multiple

street & number 118, 120, 122 Cannon Street telephone no.:

city, town Chestertown state and zip code MD 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 268

street & number Cross Street folio 115

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The site of Worrells Tavern is important as an 18th Century Tavern which hosted, among others, George Washington, on his trip thru town in 1774. From one photograph made into a post card at the turn of the 20th Century, the Tavern was a substantial frame structure, two and one half stories tall with an L plan. Part of the brick basement remains beneath the triplex which was built after 1902 on the same site.

From the photograph, the building's principal facade faced Cannon Street, with a secondary entrance on Queen Street. The frame structure was covered with wide weatherboard of varying exposure and sat upon a brick basement. On the Cannon Street facade, basement windows lined up with first story windows, the latter having 12/12 sash. The second story windows had 8/12 sash. The four bay facade had an original entry with transom located in the third bay from the corner, the first bay appearing to have had a door inserted later.

Likewise, the first of the five bay Queen Street facade had a later door inserted in place of a window. The former window and the second window flanked a exposed fireplace back. The middle bay was also an original entry with transom, but all doors appear to have been of mid to late 19th Century in date.

On the A roof of the Cannon Street facade were two 19th Century dormers and two interior chimneys piercing the roof at the gables. The gable contained two windows flanking the chimney with 6/6 sash. A unique feature was the use of a pent eave across the gable connecting the front and rear cornices. The 'L' contained one 19th Century dormer on its Queen Street facade and a third chimney in its gable.

From the photograph, it is not possible to determine with accuracy the floor plan.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-515

Usilton, Fred G., The History of Chestertown, Chestertown, 1899.
Kent County Land and Probate Records

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	Kent County Historical Society
date	Nov. 1995
street & number	P.O. Box 663
telephone	410-778-3499
city or town	Chestertown
state	Maryland

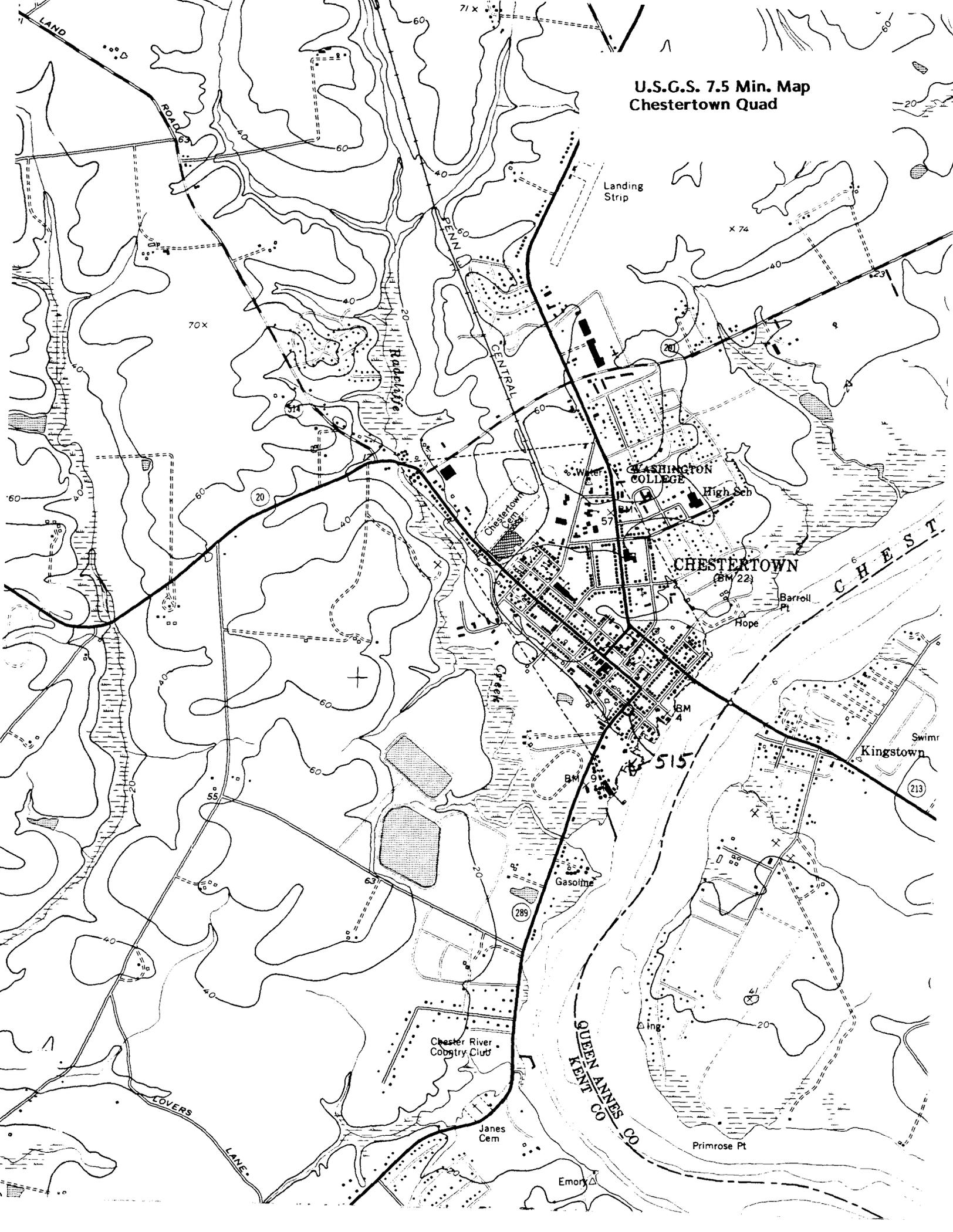
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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
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 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMONWEALTH PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

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





Worrell's Tavern K-515

From North

Old Postcard; HSKC Collection