

James A. Jones House
111 Kent Street
Chestertown, Maryland ca. 1850

K-547

This frame two-story, two-bay house was owned and occupied by James A. Jones, a prominent member of Chestertown's African-American Community. The Martenet Map of 1860 shows Jones' house on the southeast corner of Kent and Cannon Streets. As it now appears, it is a two-bay, two-story frame house, with a main gabled portion fronting on Kent Street, and a wing extending south along Cannon Street. Currently it has German siding. Victorian style brackets support the eaves along the front of the house. Probably the house has been repaired and refurbished a number of times, but very likely it still retains its basic form.

Jones, a grocer was one of Chestertown's most successful African-American businessmen in the mid-nineteenth century. Born in 1805 he early became a leader in the Methodist Church and emerging political consciousness of the African-American community.

The Martenet Map of 1860 shows Jones owning houses on Cannon Street between Mill and Kent and south of Kent, as well as his residence described above. He also bought and sold land on Scott's Point. According to the Census of 1850, Jones' property was worth \$1,500. In 1842 and 1848 he had bought land on Cannon Street between Cross and Mill from Judge Ezekiel Chambers, 71/ a major figure in Kent County and a U. S. Senator from about 1812 to 1820. Over the next 15 years Jones subdivided this tract and sold it to other free African-Americans. These new lots fronted 15 feet on Cannon Street and were 100 feet deep. Buyers included

William Ford, William Thomas Demby, John Smith, Russell Ellis, Samuel Smith, and others. 72/ These lots were part of Original Town Lots 95 and 96, on the west side of Cannon Street just below the present county equipment yard on the SW corner of Cannon and Mill. Martenet's Map of 1860 shows no buildings on that site, but an 1877 map indicates four buildings on Lot 95, although the corner, Lot 96, still has no buildings. Two houses of mid-nineteenth century style, remain on this site; they are similar in size and style to the Cuff and Bracker houses on lower Cannon Street. They are two-story, two-bay frame houses with box soffits on the front and built close to the street.

Jones was also a money lender and financed mortgages for other free African-Americans, among them William Perkins, 73/ the restaurant owner, Levi Rogers, who owned the saloon on the corner of Cannon and Water Streets, and others. Most were members of Zion Methodist Church (Janes), of which Jones was a founder in 1831.

Jones had for many years been active politically. He was a Kent representative at the 1852 Baltimore Convention on the movement to establish colonies for African-Americans in Africa. He strongly supported the colonization project against some strong opposition from other African-Americans. 74/ Along with William Perkins, Jones was also an organizer of the local African-American community to bring out their vote for Republican candidates in the Election of 1870. In order to enfranchise local African-Americans as property owners, Isaac Anderson, an African-American who owned land along the river at the north end of North Water Street, deeded three

feet nine inches of his property to forty-four fellow African-Americans in exchange for \$15. 75/ Jones, as Treasurer of the First Female United Beneficial Society of Chestertown, had held a mortgage on Anderson's property; he likely was a party to Anderson's political ploy. Jones himself sold to eleven African-Americans one foot square pieces of land along his Cannon Street property in May, 1871 for \$25 each. This may have a similar move to enfranchise more African-Americans. 76/

Jones was evidently a strong family man. In his real estate transactions his wife, Lucinda, is included as a party to the contract. He had four sons and a daughter, and in 1860 he granted for \$1 a house and lot to his sons - William M. and John B., "in consideration of natural love and affection for their better support and maintenance." 77/ These were houses with a common wall built on his Cannon Street property, and may exist today. Jones himself was literate and signed the legal documents for his transactions, but his wife Lucinda could only make "her mark."

HISTORIC CONTEXT

K-547
JAMES A. JONES HOUSE

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization

- 1) Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period

- 10) Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes

- 2) Architecture
- 7) Social/Cultural

Resource Type

Category - Building, private, occupied, public acquisition, not applicable, no access,
private residence

Historic Environment - Village

Historic Functions and Uses - dwelling

Unknown Design Source

7. Description

Survey No. 547

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input 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.

7. This frame two-story, two-bay house was the home of James A. Jones, a prominent member of Chestertown's African American Community.

James A. Jones was a grocer, one of the leaders of the African-American community in the mid-nineteenth century. The Martenet map of 1860 shows James A. Jones' house on the southeast corner of Kent and Cannon Streets. As it now appears, it is a two-bay, two-story house, with a main gabled portion fronting on Kent Street, and a wing extending south along Cannon Street. Currently it has German siding. Victorian style brackets support the eaves along the front of the house. Probably the house has been repaired and refurbished a number of times, but very likely, it still retains its basic form.

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 1850 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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.

8. James A. Jones was one of Chestertown's most successful African-American businessmen in the mid-nineteenth century. He was also a leader in the church and emerging political consciousness of the African-American community.

According to the Martenet Map of 1860, Jones owned houses on Cannon Street between Mill and Kent, and south of Kent, as well as his residence on the southeast corner of Kent and Cannon. According to the Census of 1850, Jones' property was worth \$1,500. In 1847 and 1848 he had bought land on Cannon Street between Cross and Mill from Judge Ezekiel Chambers, a major figure in Kent County and a U. S. Senator from about 1812 to 1820. Over the next 15 years Jones sub-divided this tract and sold it to other free African-Americans. These new lots fronted 15 feet on Cannon Street and were 100 feet deep. Buyers included William Ford, William Thomas Demby, John Smith, Russell Ellis, Samuel Smith, and others. These were parts of Original Town Lots 95 and 96, on the west side of Cannon Street, just below the present county equipment yard on the southwest corner of Cannon and Mill. Martenet's Map of 1860 shows no buildings on that site, but an 1877 map indicates four buildings on Lot 95, although the corner, Lot 96 still had no buildings. Two houses of mid-nineteenth style remain on this site; they are similar in size and style to the Cuff and Bracker houses on lower Cannon Street. They are two story, two-bay frame houses with box soffits on the front and built close to the street.

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Jones had for many years been active politically. He was a Kent representative at the 1852 Baltimore Convention on the colonization of African-Americans in Africa. He strongly supported the colonization project against some strong opposition from other African-Americans. Along with William Perkins, Jones was also an organizer of the Local African-American community to bring out their vote for Republican candidates in the Election of 1870. In order to enfranchise local African-Americans as property owners, Isaac Anderson, an African-American who owned land along the river at the north end of North Water Street, deeded three feet nine inches of his property to forty-four fellow African-Americans in exchange for \$15. Jones, as Treasurer of the First Female United Beneficial Society of Chestertown, had held a mortgage on Anderson's property. He likely was party to Anderson's political ploy. Jones himself sold to eleven African-Americans

8 continued:

one foot square pieces of land one foot deep along his Cannon Street property. He sold these lots in May, 1871 for \$15.each. This may have been a similar move to enfranchise more African-Americans.

Jones was evidently a strong family man. In his real estate transactions his wife Lucinda is included as a party to the contracts. He had four sons and daughter, and in 1860 he granted for \$1 a house and lot to each of his sons - William M. and John B., "in consideration of natural love and affection for their better support and maintenance." These were houses with a common wall built on his Cannon Street property, and may exist today. Jones himself was literate and signed the legal documents for his transactions, but his wife Lucinda could only make "her mark."

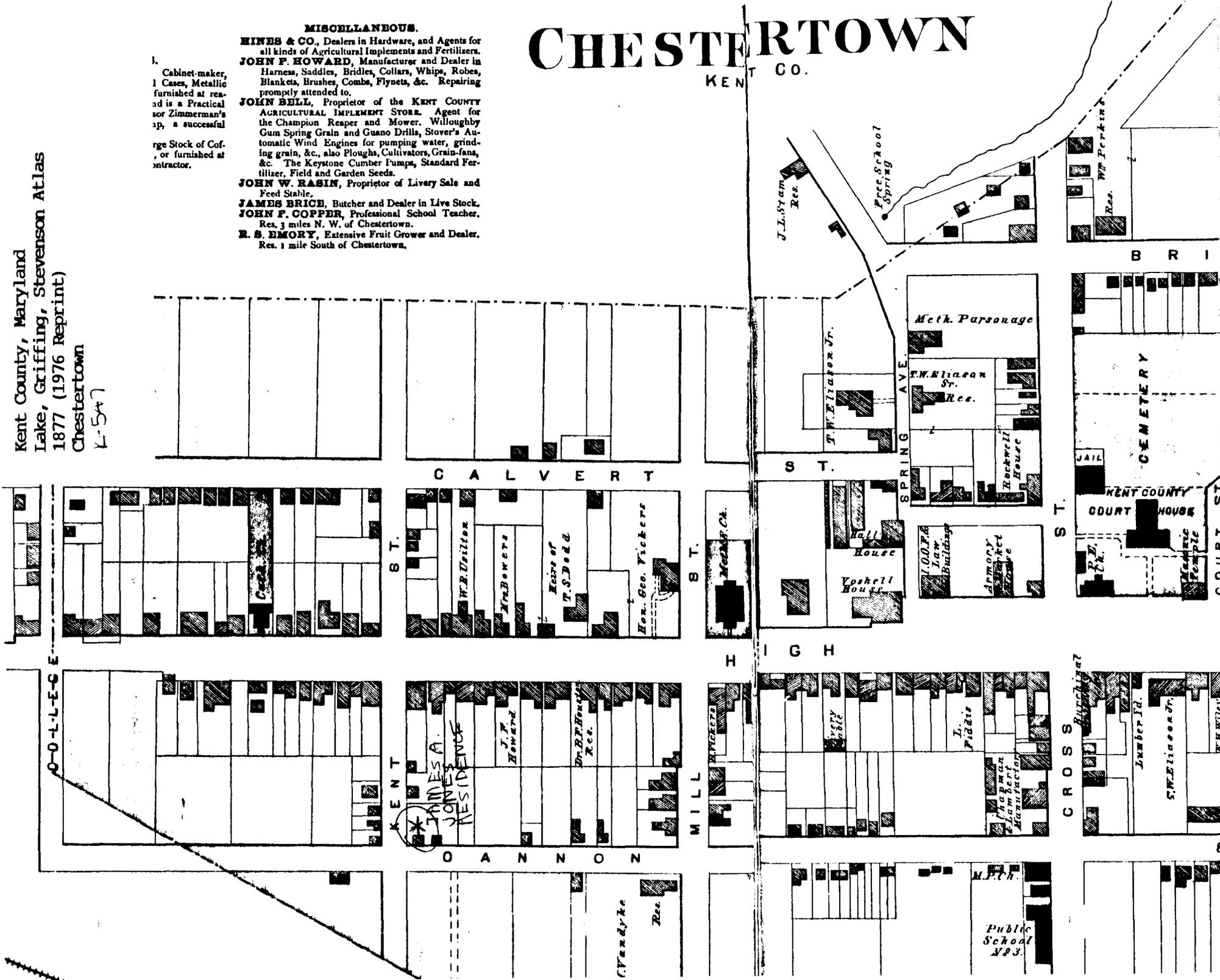
Kent County, Maryland
 Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas
 1877 (1976 Reprint)
 Chestertown
 K-5A7

MISCELLANEOUS.

HINES & CO., Dealers in Hardware, and Agents for all kinds of Agricultural Implements and Fertilizers.
JOHN F. HOWARD, Manufacturer and Dealer in Harness, Saddles, Bridles, Collars, Whips, Robes, Blankets, Brushes, Combs, Flynets, &c. Repairing promptly attended to.
JOHN BELL, Proprietor of the KENT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT STORE. Agent for the Champion Reaper and Mower. Willoughby Gum Spring Grain and Guano Drills, Stover's Automatic Wind Engines for pumping water, grinding grain, &c., also Ploughs, Cultivators, Grain-fans, &c. The Keystone Cumber Pumps, Standard Fertilizer, Field and Garden Seeds.
JOHN W. RASIN, Proprietor of Livery Sale and Feed Stable.
JAMES BRICE, Butcher and Dealer in Live Stock.
JOHN F. COPPER, Professional School Teacher. Res. 3 miles N. W. of Chestertown.
E. S. EMORY, Extensive Fruit Grower and Dealer. Res. 1 mile South of Chestertown.

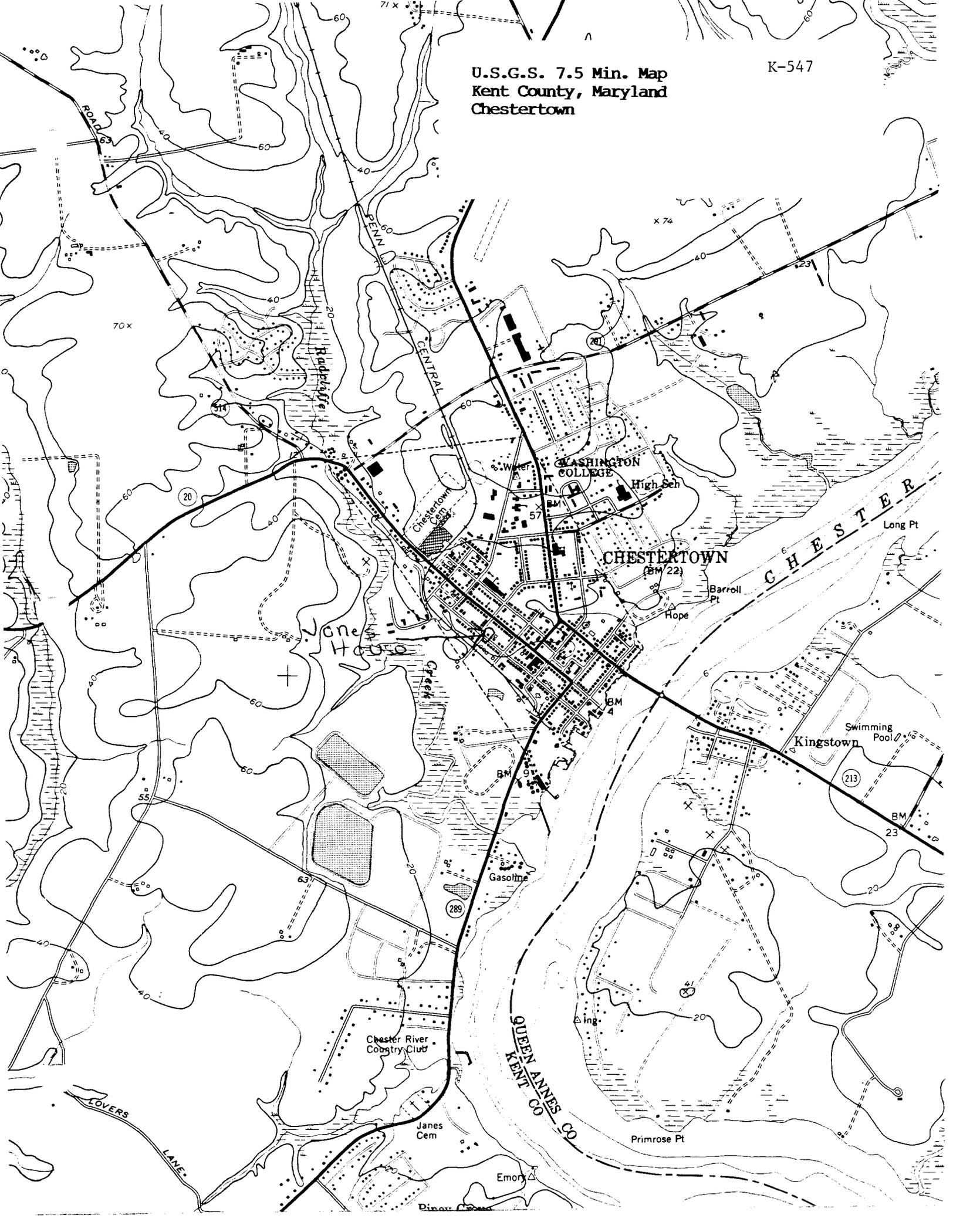
CHESTERTOWN

KENT CO.



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map
Kent County, Maryland
Chestertown

K-547





James A. Jones House K-547

Kent Street

Chester town

from west

M. Bourne

March 1996