

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "High Steps"

and/or common 335-349 Cannon Street

2. Location

street & number 335-349 Cannon Street not for publicationcity, town Chestertown vicinity of congressional district Firststate Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 Town of Chestertown

street & number 113 Cross Street telephone no.: 391-778-0560

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber 293

street & number Cross Street folio 471

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

demolished 1991

Survey No. K-663

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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			

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

"High Steps", as it is commonly called, is a group of eight apartments located in two identical buildings numbered 335-349 Cannon Street. When originally constructed (1905-1910), they consisted of four two-bay units covered with clapboard. Individual wooden steps led past the tall brick foundation to each door. All 2/2 sash windows were fit with shutters or blinds. Necessaries were located at the rear of each yard. The 1960's remodeling brought a toilet indoors, concrete block steps and shingle siding to the exterior. No improvements have been made since that time, and consequently they are in a state of disrepair.

"High Steps" is a group of eight apartments located in two identical buildings on the northeast side of the 300 block of Cannon Street. They are numbered 335-349 Cannon Street.

Each apartment has a door and single window to one side, with two windows on the second story. The front door, located about five feet above the sidewalk, is reached by a set of concrete block steps with wooden railing. Its stoop is covered by a very simple shed roof supported on two 4 x 4's.

Both buildings are constructed upon brick foundations laid in running bond. The frame structures are covered with grey cedar shingle siding and the low-pitch roof is covered with black asphalt shingles. All four gable ends are plain with the exception of a wooden access panel in the foundation located on the two southeast sides and vents in the gables. Two stucco-covered chimneys are located at the ridge of the roof. Each chimney is shared by two units. Thus, the plan of adjoining apartments is reverse.

The rear of the buildings have low-pitched shed additions extending their full length, approximately 4½' deep. Approximately half of each unit is a recessed porch while the other half encloses a toilet. The second story has two windows, the same as the front.

With the exception of #347, which has 1/1 sash, all sash have 2/2 panes, divided vertically. There are remains of shutter hinges on each window frame. The most common door type has four vertical panels. Several of the apartments, however, have more modern doors with varying sizes of glass in their upper halves.

The plan of the houses consists of a living room in the front and a kitchen in the middle, with toilet and porch in the leanto. An enclosed stair ascends to the second floor beginning at the back of the kitchen. At the top of the steps is a small platform with doors on both sides opening into two perfectly plain rooms. Each unit measures approximately 10'-6" x 23'-3", plus the toilet and porch.

The only distinguishing feature of the finish in these apartments is that the kitchen has horizontal wainscoting on three walls and a vertical board enclosure around the stair. The remainder of the building is plastered and has very simple baseboard, door and window trim. There is a diagonal corner in the living room and kitchen, which is the plastered surface of the chimney flue. Between the back door and opening to the toilet is a cast iron, wall-hung kitchen sink with cold running water. The small lear has only a toilet with small, two-pane awning sash above.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

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.

335-349 Cannon Street are examples of low income housing built in the first decade of the 20th century. For Chestertown, they represent the smaller row houses of the community which can be compared to the now-demolished housing which was located in the 600 block of Calvert Street. They were built by Mr. L. Bates Russell, a prominent businessman in early 20th century Chestertown, who lived on an adjoining property.

Between 1896 and 1906, Mr. L. Bates Russell acquired three small parcels of land on Cannon Street which comprises the existing lot on which the two tenements were constructed. We assume that they were built within the first decade of this century in effort to improve the quality of living conditions for the black population of Chestertown.

Mr. Russell lived in a 2½ story brick house on High Street which backed up to the property in question. Mr. Russell was involved in a number of business ventures in Chestertown, including the County paper, "The Enterprise", Kent Savings & Loan, Peoples Bank, an automobile business and the Movie Theatre. Mr. Russell died on February 1, 1942, his 76th birthday. That same day he had received the first "Citizen of the Year" citation which the Chamber of Commerce initiated.

The property was sold the same year to Owen C. Smith. The Smith family sold the tenements nine years later to Beaurice and Jeannette Fox.

Mr. & Mrs. Fox owned the property from 1951 until 1980. In 1960 they made improvements discussed in the description paragraph (#7). The Foxes owned and operated Fox's 5 & 10¢ Store on High Street, along with other mercantile businesses in Chestertown.

When Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Horsey purchased the same property from Mrs. Fox in 1980, two other parcels were included. Soon thereafter, the process of having the buildings improved was begun. Mr. Horsey is Mayor of Chestertown and is responsible for the general improvement of low-income housing in Chestertown.

It should be noted that two of the occupants of 335 and 337 have lived in the same house since the 1930's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-663

Deeds, Kent County Courthouse, Chestertown, Md.
See enclosed chain of title.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12,200 sq. ft.

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

See enclosed plat - scale - 1" = 20'

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	Michael Bourne
organization	Michael Bourne, Inc.
street & number	P. O. Box 716
city or town	Chestertown
date	3 May 1991
telephone	391-778-0060
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

The condition of the buildings is poor. The back of 349 is actually below finish grade, creating rotted conditions in the sill and the interior has been burned out. The remainder of that building is unoccupied. 335-341 is still occupied and consequently is in better condition.

CHAIN OF TITLE
335-349 Cannon St.

EHP-293, p. 471 26 June 1990	To Town of Chestertown From Springfield Foundation, Inc.
EHP-267, p. 401 13 Oct. 1988	To Springfield Foundation, Inc. From Elmer & Joan Horsey
EHP 106, p. 176 17 March 1980	To Elmer & Joan Horsey From Jeanette Fox, Trustee of Beaurice Fox Part of parcel 2
WHG 18, p. 577 26 April, 1951	To Beaurice Fox & Jeanette R. Fox From Owen Smith, Spencer Smith, etc. parcel #2
FAS 40, p.380 22 Aug. 1946	To O. F. Smith et al From Owen C. Smith parcel #2
RAS 30, p. 476 31 Dec. 1942	To Owen C. Smith From L. Bates Russell parcel 2
SGF 5, p. 175-290 JTD 6/340 JTD 11/273	} L. Bates Russell acquires small parts of Cannon St. property btn 1896-1905 and then builds tenements.

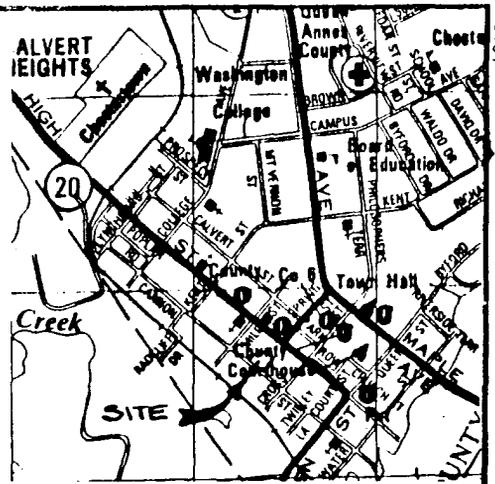
APPROVED BY:

DATE CHESTERTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE KENT COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

DATE CHESTERTOWN SEDIMENT CONT. ADM.

DATE CHESTERTOWN UTILITIES SUPERVISOR



VICINITY MAP

OTHER LANDS OF ELMER E. HORSEY
EHP 106/176
PAR. 2

SHUGHNESSY
ADELAIDE
EHP 93/245

TOWN OF CHESTERTOWN
EHP 14/85

MAYNARD P.
WHITE, JR.
WHG 61/602

HELEN ADAMS
WHG 16/322

RACHEL ADAMS
RAS 33/263

AREA = 10,200.0 ± ±

S 50° 57' 31" E 102.00'

S 41° 10' 31" W 100.07'

N 41° 10' 31" E 100.07'

100.07'

100.07'

102.00'

IRON PIPE

IRON PIPE

IRON PIPE

N 50° 57' 31" W

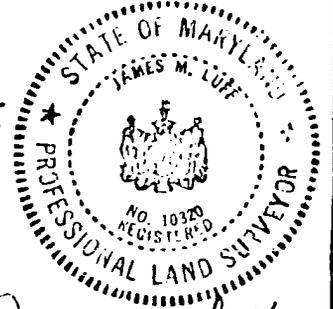
SIDEWALK

CURB

LINE

CANNON STREET

STREET

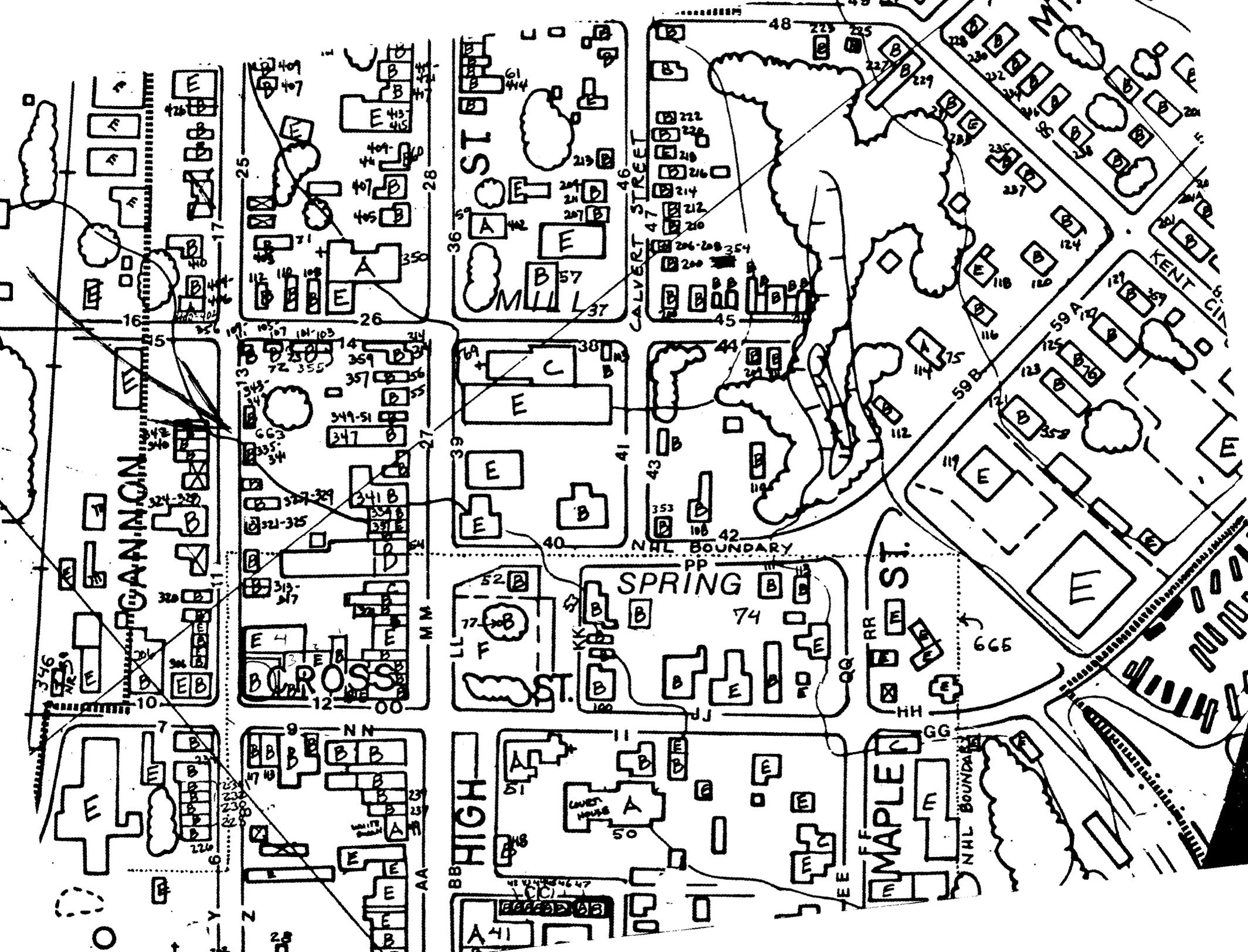


James M. Luff

SUBDIVISION OF THE LANDS OF ELMER E. HORSEY CHESTERTOWN 4TH DISTRICT, KENT COUNTY, MD.

McCRONE McCrone, Inc. Engineers • Planners Surveyors Annapolis, Maryland Centreville - Chestertown - Denton - Easton Elkton - Leonardtown - Prince Frederick

DRAWN BY JIM LUFF SCALE 1" = 20' DATE 4-4-86 JOB NO. 202210309 FOLDER 579





349 — 335 Cannon St.

"High Steps"

Chestertown, Kent Co., MD

K-663

Michael Bourne

25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Cannon St. looking East
at "High Steps"

1/13



348 - 349 Cannon St.
Chestertown, Kent Co., MD

K-663

Michael Bowne
25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

looking N.E. from
across the street

2/13



335-341 Cannon St.
Chester town, Kent Co., MD

15-443

Michael Bourne
25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

looking N.E. from
across the street

3/13



Cannon St., across from
335 - 349 Cannon St.
Chester town, Kent Co., MD

K-663

Michael Bowne

25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View :

looking west from 333 Cannon St.
to houses opposite subject

4/13



335 Cannon St.
Chester town, Kent Co, MD

K-663

Michael Bourne
27 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Kitchen looking West to
original diagonal chimney
flue. Note board wainscoting

13/13



335 Cannon St.
Chester town, Kent Co., MD

K-663

Michael Bourne
27 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Kitchen, looking south
to original board stair
enclosure

12/13



335 Cannon St.
Chestertown, Kent Co., MD

K-663

Michael Bourne
27 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Kitchen looking N.E. to
toilet and back door.
Note sink w/ cold running
water.

11/13



335 Cannon St.
Chestertown, Kent Co., MD

K-663

Michael Bourne
27 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Living Room - looking S.W.
toward Front door

Note - Mr. Cleveland Steward
has lived in house since
he was born there in
1934

10/13



335 Cannon St.

Chester town, Kent Co, MD

K-663

Michael Bourne

27 April 1991

MD SHPO

View

Living Room - looking N.E.

toward Kitchen

9/13



343-349 Cannon St.
Chestertown, MD (Kent Co)

K-665

Michael Bourne
25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Rear of bldg., taken
from NE.

8/13



335-341 Cannon St.
Chestertown, Kent Co., MD

K-443

Michael Bournne
25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Rear of bldg, taken
from the N.E.

7/13



335-349 Cannon St.
Chestertown, MD (Kent Co.)

K-663

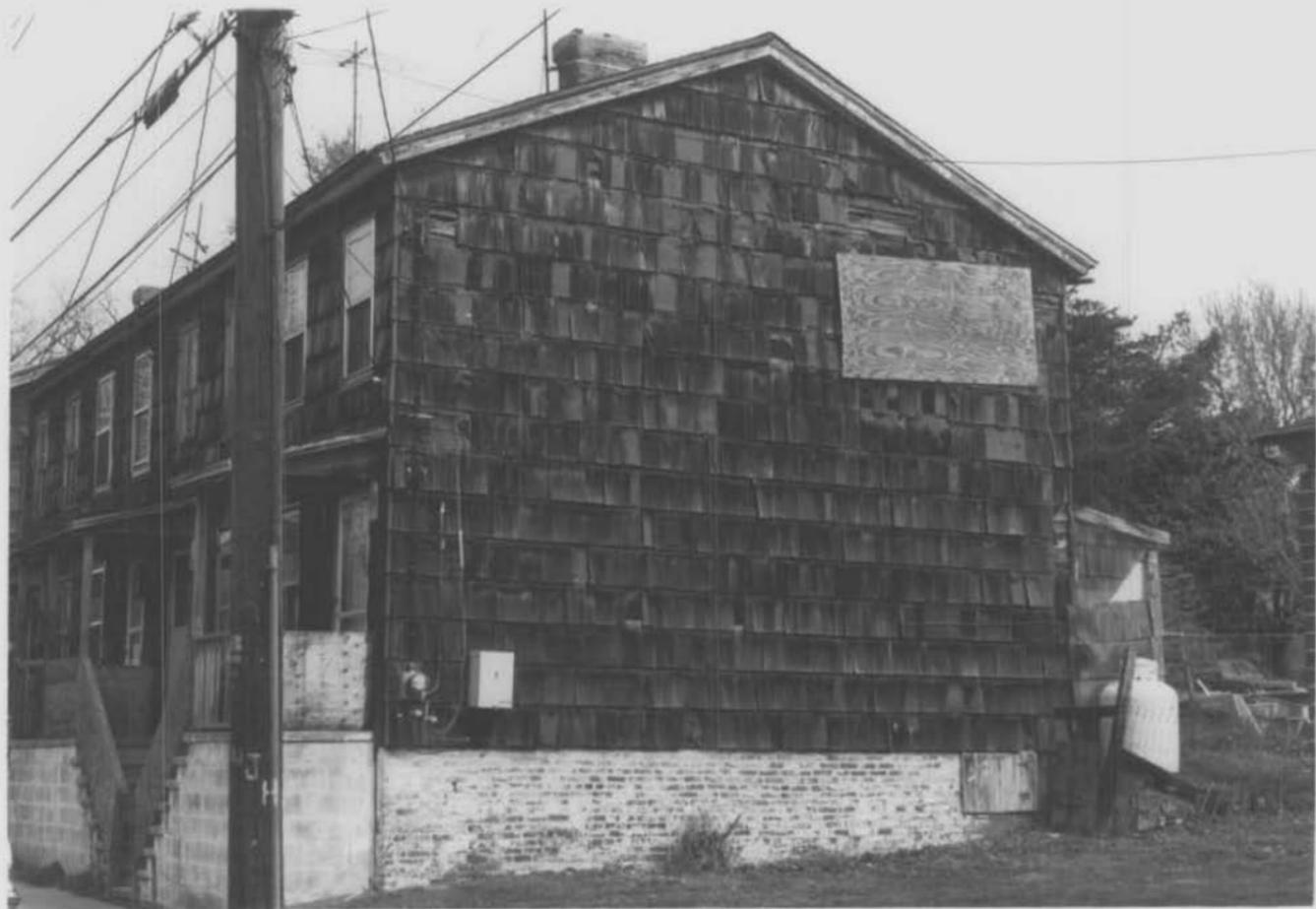
Michael Bourne
25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

looking west from behind
333 Cannon St to rear
& subject properties

6/13



335 Cannon St.
Chestertown, Kent Co., MD

K-443

Michael Bournie
25 April 1991

MD SHPO

View:

Looking North from
333 Cannon St.

5/13