

QA-583

**Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District
Chester, Queen Anne's County**

Constructed circa 1870 – circa 2000

Private

The Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District in Chester is a primarily linear district running from the intersection of Dominion Road (Maryland Route 552) and Main Street (Maryland Route 18) in Chester south along Dominion Road for approximately three quarters of a mile. Overwhelmingly residential, the community is composed of 60 contributing properties and 41 non-contributing properties. The district includes several popular vernacular architectural forms and styles spanning the late nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries. The I-house form, closely identified with farm residences in Queen Anne's County, is well-represented in the district. Also present are a large number of mid-twentieth-century tract houses in a modified Cape Cod form. A number of non-historic dwellings built between circa 1960 and circa 2000 are interspersed with the historic buildings, although they are most heavily concentrated on the streets branching off Dominion Road to the east.

The historic buildings reflect periods of economic growth from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Historically part of Sharktown, the district developed at the crossroads between the Centreville to Broad Creek Road that traversed Queen Anne's County east to west (now Route 18 or Main Street), and the north to south Crab Alley Neck Road (now Dominion Road). Merchants located their stores in Sharktown for the traveling public, local farmers and watermen, and other residents. The district's two periods of substantial growth coincided with the late nineteenth-century increase in commercial oystering and crabbing, and the post-World War II development of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Route 50/301.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-583

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

other _____

2. Location

street and number Dominion Road south of intersection with Main Street not for publication

city, town Chester, MD vicinity

county Queen Anne's County

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

name various

street and number _____ telephone _____

city, town _____ state _____ zip code _____

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. N/A liber _____ folio _____

city, town _____ tax map _____ tax parcel _____ tax ID number _____

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>60</u>	<u>41</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>60</u>	<u>41</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-583

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Summary

The Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District in Chester is a primarily linear district running from the intersection of Dominion Road (Maryland Route 552) and Main Street (Maryland Route 18) in Chester south along Dominion Road for approximately three quarters of a mile. Overwhelmingly residential, the community is composed of 60 contributing properties and 41 non-contributing properties. The district includes several popular vernacular architectural forms and styles spanning the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. The I-house form, closely identified with farm residences in Queen Anne's County, is well-represented in the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District. They are, however, more closely situated than is the norm in more rural areas of the county. Also present are a large number of mid-twentieth-century tract houses in a modified Cape Cod form. A number of non-historic dwellings built between circa 1960 and circa 2000 are interspersed with the historic buildings, although they are most heavily concentrated on the streets branching off Dominion Road to the east.

Description

Setting/Landscape

Lining the south side of Main Street and both sides of Dominion Road heading south, the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District is not formally planned. The buildings that line Dominion Road, Main Street, and the short streets perpendicular to Dominion Road generally face the right-of-way and are set back no more than 50 feet from the roadway. Towards the southern end of the district, where the area begins to become more rural, the houses are more widely spaced. On the whole the district displays the density expected of a small town or early suburban community.

The Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District's landscape is essentially level, with open, grassy lots dotted by mature trees and shrubs. Most of the lots along Main Street and the east side of Dominion Road back onto agricultural fields, although some are in front of other residential lots. The properties on the west side of Dominion Road generally back onto wooded areas. Dominion Road is designated as Maryland Route 552 from its intersection with Main Street, through the length of the district, and south to its terminus at Little Creek Road and Parson Island Road. It is a two-lane, asphalt-paved secondary highway. Main Street (Maryland Route 18) is a two-lane, asphalt-paved primary highway.

Building Patterns, Types, Styles, Materials, & Details

The district contains a total of 100 resources that are overwhelmingly residential in form. The survey identified two purpose-built commercial buildings on Main Street and one on Dominion Road. All of the historic resources in the district are of frame construction, and few display any distinctive architectural styling. One site – a cemetery – is located on the northeast corner of Dominion Road and Goodhand Creek Road at the south end of the district.

One of the oldest houses in the district is the circa-1870 house located at 504 Dominion Road. The house is vacant and is no longer the primary residence on the property; a 1996 house also sits on the lot. The older dwelling is a two-story, wood-frame house with a two-part rear telescoping addition. Its façade is five bays long, and features six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows with operable, louvered wood shutters. A four-panel wood door occupies the entry bay.

Kingsley Methodist Church Cemetery occupies a one-acre lot located on the northeast corner of Dominion Road and Goodhand Creek Road. Its late-nineteenth century associated church building is no longer extant, and the congregation is now part of the Kent Island United Methodist Church, located approximately a mile northwest of the cemetery. The cemetery occupies a level, grassy area with four, large deciduous trees. The approximately 75 marked graves are organized into rows. Several of the graves display exposed, poured-concrete, burial-vault lids. One prominent family plot is adorned by four, late nineteenth-century, approximately four-foot-tall, decorative cast-iron corner posts set in poured concrete. The cemetery is still in use, with the most recent burial in October 2006. Family names represented include: Diaz, Cruse, Orem, Collision, and Gardner.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-583

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates Circa 1870 to circa 2000

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Statement of Significance

The historic buildings of the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District in Chester represent a good collection of late nineteenth-through mid-twentieth-century architectural forms and styles in Queen Anne's County. The district's buildings reflect periods of economic growth from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The district retains the linear pattern of development tied to Dominion Road that distinguished it from its beginnings in the mid-nineteenth century. Historically part of Sharktown, the district developed at the crossroads between the Centreville to Broad Creek Road that traversed Queen Anne's County east to west (now Route 18 or Main Street), and the north to south Crab Alley Neck Road (now Dominion Road). Merchants located their stores in Sharktown for the traveling public, local farmers and watermen, and other residents. The district's two periods of substantial growth coincided with the late nineteenth-century increase in commercial oystering and crabbing, and the post-World War II development of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Route 50/301.

Historical Narrative

The Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District in Chester is located south of the intersection of Main Street and Dominion Road. The district extends south from Main Street along Dominion Road, past its intersection with Goodhands Creek Road, and ends on Crab Alley Neck between the northernmost inlets of Crab Alley Creek on the west and Kirwan Creek on the east. Historically known as Crab Alley Neck Road, Dominion Road provided access to and from the farms on Crab Alley Neck. Kent Islanders involved in the maritime industries also lived and worked in close proximity to the road.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the survey district was part of Sharktown,¹ a settlement that extended along Main Street approximately from Piney Creek on the east to Cox Neck Road on the west and reached south along Dominion Road. No buildings in the district survive from the first half of the nineteenth century. The Goodhand House (QA-10), whose one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, one-room-deep section was dated to circa 1815-1830, was documented in 1978, but has subsequently been demolished. The house was located approximately one-quarter mile south of U.S. Route 50/301 on the west side of Dominion Road.²

Typically, residential communities formed wherever schools, stores, or churches were built; Sharktown illustrates this pattern. In the mid-nineteenth century, a one-room school was constructed on the west side of Crab Alley Neck Road; John O. Phillips was the first teacher in 1858.³ By 1866, in addition to the schoolhouse, Sharktown included a store belonging to Luther W. Bryan on the west side of Crab Alley Neck Road (in the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District), and the stores of Thomas H. Harris and Jacob T.

¹ *J.G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County* (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866). See QA-586 and QA-587 for two other survey districts that were originally part of Sharktown.

² "Goodhand House," Maryland Historical Trust (Historic Sites Survey QA-10, Orlando Ridout V, 14 November 1978), accessed 7 November 2007, <http://www.mdihp.net/cfm/dsp_display.cfm?>.

³ Janet Freedman, *Kent Island: The Land That Once Was Eden* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2002), p. 42.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name Kent Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District in the town of Chester encloses the district's highest concentration of historic resources. The Survey District is located south of the intersection of Main Street and Dominion Road. In the parts of Chester south of Main Street and extending west of Dominion Road that have been excluded from the district, non-historic resources exceed the number of historic resources. The boundary line generally follows the rear property line of the resources located on the south side of Main Street. On the west side of Dominion Road, the boundary line generally follows the rear property line of the resources that front on the road, and extends approximately 1200 feet south of the intersection with Goodhand Creek Road. On the east side of Dominion Road, the district boundary extends from the intersection of Dominion Road and Main Street, to the southern border of the property at the southeast corner of Dominion Road and Goodhand Creek Road. The boundary includes the buildings along Dominion Road as well as all resources located along Lee Road, Prices Lane, Stacey Drive, Wright Road, and Harley Lane. The boundary extends approximately 700 feet east along Goodhand Creek Road to encompass the resources located on the north side of Goodhand Creek Road. The relevant portion of the USGS Kent Island, Md. Quadrangle map with the district boundaries demarcated is enclosed with this MIHP form.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historian		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	December 21, 2007
street & number	1502 21 st Street, NW, 2 nd Floor	telephone	202-223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

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An example of a late nineteenth-century side-passage house in the district stands at 405 Dominion Road. Built circa 1890, the house is a two-story, side-passage, wood-frame dwelling with a two-story rear ell. It rests upon a brick pier foundation, and is capped by a side-gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. The façade features a full-width, hipped-roof, one-story porch with chamfered wood posts and scroll-sawn brackets. The windows have been replaced with one-over-one, vinyl sash.

The house at 407 Dominion Road is representative of the I-houses in the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District. It is a two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure with a side-gable roof; its centered front gable is characteristic of late-nineteenth-century I-houses in Queen Anne's County. The house rests upon brick piers, and has vinyl siding, windows, and doors. A small, two-over-two, segment-topped window occupies the central front gable.

Another typical I-house is located at 237 Dominion Road. It is a circa-1900, two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure that has undergone some alterations. Its entry bay has been moved one bay south, and the house has been clad with asbestos shingles. Only one historic, six-over-six, wood window remains on the façade; the others have been replaced by one-over-one, wood, double-hung sash.

One of the most prominent structures in the district is located at 238 Dominion Road. It is situated very close to the road on the west side, just at the point when the road curves slightly to the east. Thus, as one drives down Dominion Road from Main Street, 238 Dominion Road is centered in the view. This placement takes on significance in light of the building's former use as a gas station and general store. It is a large, circa-1900, two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure with a cross-gable roof. It rests upon a brick pier foundation and is clad with wood German siding. The house is currently undergoing renovation, and wood weatherboard is visible on the south elevation where the German siding has been removed. According to the current owner, the gas pumps sat immediately in front of the house's projecting front gable.

Built circa 1925, the house at 234 Dominion Road stands on the west side of Dominion Road. It is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay bungalow and is situated immediately adjacent to the only other bungalow in the district, 236 Dominion Road. Wood Tuscan columns on the house reflect the influence of the Colonial Revival style, while the exposed eaves and wood brackets are typical of the Craftsman style. The house sits upon rock-faced concrete-block piers, and is lit by three-over-one, wood, double-hung sash windows with vertically-divided lights.

The house at 402 Dominion Road is a mid-twentieth-century, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, wood-frame dwelling. The house is capped by a side-gable roof. It sits upon a concrete block foundation, with concrete-block oval vents with a rolled edge that seem to be characteristic of this period in Queen Anne's County. The house is clad with asbestos shingles, and has a projecting front portico sheltering the entry.

Two houses at the northern end of Dominion Road (207 Dominion Road and 209 Dominion Road) illustrate a group of modified Cape Cod tract houses that characterize this end of the district. Both appear to have been built circa 1950, stand one-and-a-half stories tall, sit upon concrete block foundations, and have side-gable roofs. The roof at 209 Dominion Road displays a steeper pitch than its neighbor, demonstrating what seems to be a pattern of alternating roof pitches in this cluster of tract houses. This pattern suggests that the houses were built all at the same time.

Alterations & Intrusions (typical building additions & alterations; road changes; removals; demolition):

The roads through the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District appear to retain their historic alignments. The most apparent alteration to the district and its setting is at the northern end of the district, where Chester's Main Street commercial district is rapidly

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encroaching upon the residential fabric. Otherwise, despite non-historic residential infill, the district appears to maintain its historic setting, character, and collection of resources.

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Resource Inventory / Characteristic Resources:

<i>Number</i>	<i>Name/Address</i>	<i>Contributing (C)? or Non- contributing (NC)?</i>
1	207 Dominion Road	C
2	208 Dominion Road	NC
3	209 Dominion Road	C
4	211 Dominion Road	C
5	212 Dominion Road	NC
6	213 Dominion Road	C
7	215 Dominion Road	C
8	216 Dominion Road	NC
9	217 Dominion Road	C
10	218 Dominion Road	C
11	222 Dominion Road	C
12	223 Dominion Road	C
13	225 Dominion Road	C
14	227 Dominion Road	C
15	229 Dominion Road	C
16	231 Dominion Road	C, NC
17	233 Dominion Road	C
18	234 Dominion Road	C
19	235 Dominion Road	C
20	236 Dominion Road	C
21	237 Dominion Road	C
22	238 Dominion Road	C
23	240 Dominion Road	NC
24	244 Dominion Road	NC
25	300 Dominion Road	NC
26	301 Dominion Road	C
27	302 Dominion Road	NC
28	305 Dominion Road	C
29	306 Dominion Road	NC
30	308 Dominion Road	NC
31	400 Dominion Road	C
32	401 Dominion Road	C
33	402 Dominion Road	C
34	403 Dominion Road	C
35	404 Dominion Road	C
36	405 Dominion Road	C

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37	406 Dominion Road	NC
38	407 Dominion Road	C
39	408 Dominion Road	NC
40	409 Dominion Road	C
41	411 Dominion Road	C
42	412 Dominion Road	NC
43	413 Dominion Road	C
44	415 Dominion Road	C
45	416 Dominion Road	C
46	417 Dominion Road	C
47	418 Dominion Road	NC
48	418 Dominion Road	NC
49	419 Dominion Road	C
50	420 Dominion Road	C
51	422 Dominion Road	C
52	460 Dominion Road	NC
53	500 Dominion Road	NC
54	502 Dominion Road	C
55	Out Building S of 502 Dominion	C
56	504 Dominion Road	NC
57	510 Dominion Road	C
58	516 Dominion Road	NC
59	518 Dominion Road	C
60	600 Dominion Road	NC
61	602 Dominion Road	C
62	604 Dominion Road	C
63	606 Dominion Road	C
64	608 Dominion Road	C
65	1720 Main Street	NC
66	1804 Main Street	C
67	1806 Main Street	C
68	1808 Main Street	NC
69	1810 Main Street	NC
70	1812 Main Street	C
71	1814 Main Street	C
72	1816 Main Street	C
73	1818 Main Street	C
74	Out Building N side of Lee Road	NC
75	106 Lee Road	NC
76	107 Lee Road	NC
77	108 Lee Road	NC
78	110 Lee Road	NC
79	111 Lee Road	NC

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80	112 Lee Road	C
81	118 Lee Road	NC
82	103 Prices Lane	NC
83	105 Prices Lane	C
84	106 Prices Lane	C
85	108 Prices Lane	NC
86	113 Prices Lane	NC
87	201 Prices Lane	NC
88	205 Prices Lane	C
89	206 Prices Lane	NC
90	104 Stacey Drive	NC
91	110 Stacey Drive	NC
92	116 Wright Road	NC
93	107 Goodhand Creek Road	NC
94	109 Goodhand Creek Road	C
95	110 Goodhand Creek Road	NC
96	111 Goodhand Creek Road	C
97	113 Goodhand Creek Road	C
98	115 Goodhand Creek Road	NC
99	117 Goodhand Creek Road	C
100	121 Goodhand Creek Road	C

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Waters on the north side of Main Street between Crab Alley Creek and Cox Neck Roads (see also QA-587).⁴ By 1871, a store operated by S.W. Jones was built next to Luther Bryan's.⁵ The four stores reflected the area's purpose to serve travelers along the road as well as local farmers and the watermen who plied nearby creeks and rivers. Other residents who lived within the Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District included farm laborers, oystermen, and a carpenter. Among the farm laborers were several African Americans: Charles or Christopher Clayton, Benjamin Cain, and Jacob Carroll.⁶

In 1870, local residents purchased land along the east side of Dominion Road for a Methodist Episcopal Church; the church eventually formed the physical center of the community along Dominion Road, which experienced considerable growth in the 1870s.⁷ Between 1866 and 1877, additional dwellings were built on the west side of Dominion Road, to the north and south of Luther Bryan's house, his store, and the schoolhouse. The only buildings occupying the east side of the road were the Martin Jones Store (QA-549) at the intersection with Main Street, and the Kingsley Methodist Episcopal Church, which was located less than one-half mile from Main Street.⁸ The only building surviving from the 1870s is a two-story, frame house on the lot at 504 Dominion Road, which is located between the site of the schoolhouse and the south end of the survey district.

Fueled in part by the maritime industry's boom, the community continued to grow in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. In the second half of the nineteenth century, commercial oystering and crabbing increased dramatically; the peak Chesapeake Bay oyster harvests occurred in the 1880s.⁹ This trend particularly affected Kent Island and areas along rivers and creeks, where maritime communities thrived. Sharktown was located just south of Macum and Piney Creeks off of the Chester River, and west of Kent Island Narrows. Oystermen, ship's captains, and sailors owned houses in the area. Samuel DeCoursey, a bridge keeper either at Kent Narrows or Coxes Creek, lived on the north side of Main Street.¹⁰ By 1888, after the post office was established, the area became known as Chester.¹¹

In the 1880s and 1890s, the Dominion Road community was physically centered around the Kingsley Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1893, church trustees purchased an adjoining acre of land for a cemetery.¹² By 1904, houses lined the east side of Dominion Road from the intersection with the Goodhand House south to the church, and extended east of the road along a new street, Prices Lane. On

⁴ *J.G. Strong's Map*. The Harris and Waters Stores were located within the Postal Road/Cox Neck Road Survey District of Chester (QA-587).

⁵ "Maryland State Gazette, Queen Anne County," 1871, Maryland Historical Trust Library vertical file FRR QuAn2 (Luther W. Bryan, Thomas H. Harris, S.W. Jones, and Benjamin Tolson are the residents listed under Sharktown; all have the occupation of keeping a store); *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, MD* (Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877).

⁶ 1870 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, MD, District 4, Broad Creek, Pages 34, 38, 39, and 40; 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, MD, District 4, Enumeration District 62, Page 46 for Thomas Price, carpenter.

⁷ Hiram and Frances Gardener to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber JW 2, folio 41 (12 February 1870).

⁸ *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, MD*. The Jones Store at 1800 Main Street is no longer standing.

⁹ Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), p. 324.

¹⁰ 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, MD, District 4, Enumeration District 62, Page 42.

¹¹ "Post Offices: Maryland, Queen Anne's County," *Jim Forte Postal History* (Las Vegas, Nev.: Jim Forte, n.d.) – [accessed 11 October 2007], <<http://postalhistory.com/postoffices.asp?task=display&state=MD&county=Queen+Annes>>.

¹² "Kent Island United Methodist Church," Kent Island United Methodist Church (Chester, MD, 2004-2005), accessed 27 June 2007, <www.kiumc.org/church-history>. The website notes 1887 as the date of construction for the church; however, the building is on its present location by the time the 1877 *Atlas* was published.

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the west side of Dominion Road, houses stood between Prices Lane on the north and Goodhand Creek Road on the south.¹³ The two-story, side-passage, frame house at 405 Dominion Road was added to the community during this period, and is one of the oldest surviving houses in the district. Another early structure was built on the lot south of the schoolhouse. In 1892, Sarah Coursey acquired this lot from Carrie Goodhand,¹⁴ and by 1898, she constructed a two-and-a-half-story, frame dwelling and storehouse there (238 Dominion Road).¹⁵ This cross-gable structure and the dwelling at 405 Dominion Road are typical late nineteenth-century vernacular buildings for Queen Anne's County.

Between 1895 and 1905, the community further expanded with the addition of a new schoolhouse and a railroad station. Circa 1900, a new schoolhouse known as the Chester School was constructed near the southwest corner of Dominion Road and Main Street, next to a general store operated by Mary Benton.¹⁶ The construction of the Queen Anne Railroad in 1902 to the north of Main Street fueled a period of economic growth for the community. Incorporated in 1894, the railroad initially linked Baltimore and the Atlantic coast by establishing a line from Lewes, Delaware on the Atlantic Ocean to Queenstown, where passengers and freight could be transferred to steamboats headed for Baltimore.¹⁷ In 1902, the railroad built a railroad bridge across Kent Narrows and laid tracks leading west from Queenstown to Love Point on Kent Island.¹⁸ In 1905, the Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia Railroad purchased the Queen Anne Railroad, and built a station at Chester where Dominion Road extended north to reach the rail line.¹⁹

Among the surviving houses built in the district between the 1890s and circa 1915, the I-house form predominates. The houses at 237 and 407 Dominion Road are representative examples of I-houses in the survey district. A typical I-house is a two- to two-and-one-half-story, single-pile, side-gabled dwelling. I-houses display a center-hall plan, with a single room on either side of a central stair hall, a condition reflected in their typically symmetrical facades with a center entry. In many cases, they incorporate a rear ell that provided space for the kitchen and other service spaces. In Queen Anne's County, I-houses often feature a centered front gable on the façade; this feature is evident on some of the historic I-houses in this survey district.

The 1920s saw improvements in Queen Anne's County roads and continued growth in the town. In 1921, present-day Route 18 (Main Street) was re-named the Grasonville-Queenstown Pike and was an improved, hard-surface road made of cement.²⁰ Automobiles were beginning to eclipse steamboats and railroads as the primary means of transporting goods in and out of Queen Anne's County, leading to the decline of some cities located near steamboat wharves or along rail lines. However, since Chester lay along an improved road well-suited for automobile traffic, it appears to have been only moderately affected by the demise of the steamboats and the decline in

¹³ U.S. Geological Survey, Maptech Historical Topographical Maps, Electronic Resource: <http://historical.maptech.com>, Annapolis, MD Quadrangle (15 Minute Series), 1904.

¹⁴ Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber WD 6, folio 371 (8 June 1892).

¹⁵ Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber WHC 8, folio 91 (7 July 1898).

¹⁶ Freedman, p. 42; 1920 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 78, Sheet 21A.

¹⁷ Charles B. Clark, *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, Vol. II* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1950), p. 884; Donald G. Shomette, "Kent Narrows Timeline" (Queen Anne's County Heritage Consortium, Chester, Md., 2004, photocopy); "Queen Anne's Railroad," *Delaware Public Archives* (Dover, Del.: Delaware Public Archives, 2007), accessed 25 September 2007, <<http://archives.delaware.gov/markers/sc/QUEEN%20ANNES%20RAILROAD%20SC%20116.shtml>>.

¹⁸ Shomette.

¹⁹ Freedman, p. 92. In 1924, the Pennsylvania Railroad purchased the rail line and operated it until 1958, when the track between Queenstown and Love Point was abandoned.

²⁰ Harry C. Rhodes, *Queenstown: The Social History of a Small American Town* (Queenstown, Md.: The Queen Anne Press, 1985), p.118; Catherine A. Bishop, "Grasonville," typescript (Queen Anne's County, Md.: n.p. [ca. 1935-1940]). The essay is undated, but the topics of discussion indicate that it was written sometime in the late 1930s.

Maryland Historical Trust

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Name: Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District
Continuation Sheet

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railroad traffic that occurred during the decade. The need to service automobiles led to the addition of gasoline pumps at general stores such as the one formerly owned by Sarah Coursey at 238 Dominion Road.

Two houses in the Dominion Road District (234 and 236 Dominion Road) that were constructed during the 1920s are bungalows. A typical bungalow is one or one-and-one-half stories in height; has a compact, rectilinear footprint; and features a full-width front porch, wide eaves, prominent front and rear dormers, and a low-slung profile. Bungalows are a relatively common house form in Queen Anne's County, as they are nationally. The bungalow form had its genesis in the 1890s, and was especially popular nationally in the 1920s and 1930s, when the rate of home ownership drastically increased among the middle and working classes in the United States. Bungalows were designed to be inexpensive to build, and easy to maintain without hired help. Stylistically, bungalows often display some combination of modest Craftsman or Colonial Revival detailing.

The Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District's growth slowed during the Great Depression of the 1930s and during World War II. The end of the war and the completion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in 1952 brought a new era of prosperity to this district in Chester. By the 1950s, transportation routes changed with the decline of the railroad and the development of the Bridge and new highway.²¹ Although U.S. Route 50/301 bypassed the town, Chester remained a commercial stop for tourists and locals along the highway, which became the main west to east route across Kent Island. In addition, the town remained a link between the south end of Crab Alley Neck, an area that was experiencing its own development (see QA-610 to QA-624), and Route 50/301.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, residential construction in the district nearly doubled with the subdivision and development of the Martin L. Jones Property, a 24-acre parcel south of Main Street and east of Dominion Road; in the mid-1940s the parcel contained Jones's nineteenth-century dwelling, store, and barn. John A. and Estelle K. Gardner subdivided the property and sold lots in the mid-1940s.²² The modified Cape Cod form houses constructed on these lots in the late 1940s and early 1950s are exemplified by 207 and 209 Dominion Road. This form, which became popular nationally after World War II, is one-and-a-half stories in height and typically incorporates Colonial Revival details; it features a symmetrical façade and dormers that puncture a prominent side-gable roof. Cape Cod form houses can be found throughout Queen Anne's County.

²¹ Shomette. The railroad ceased passenger service in 1938 by order of the Maryland Public Service Commission, and freight service terminated in 1958.

²² See Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber ASG Jr. 11, folio 202 (20 October 1944), and Liber ASG Jr 16, folio 6 (18 November 1946) for examples. A chancery suit among Jones's heirs caused the sale of the property at auction to John A. and Estelle K. Gardner in 1936. See Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber WHC 3A, folio 472 (22 September 1936).

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Continuation Sheet

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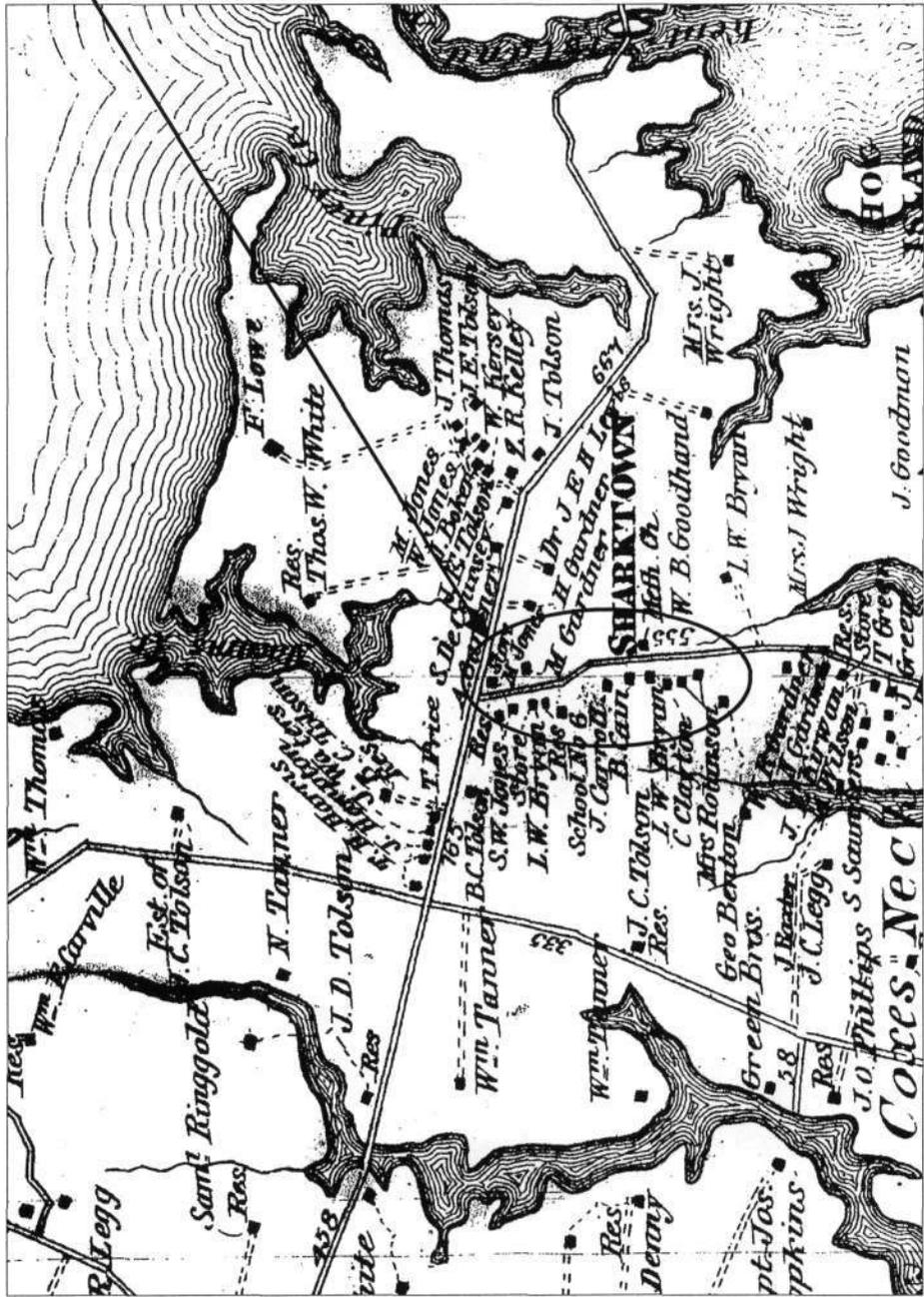
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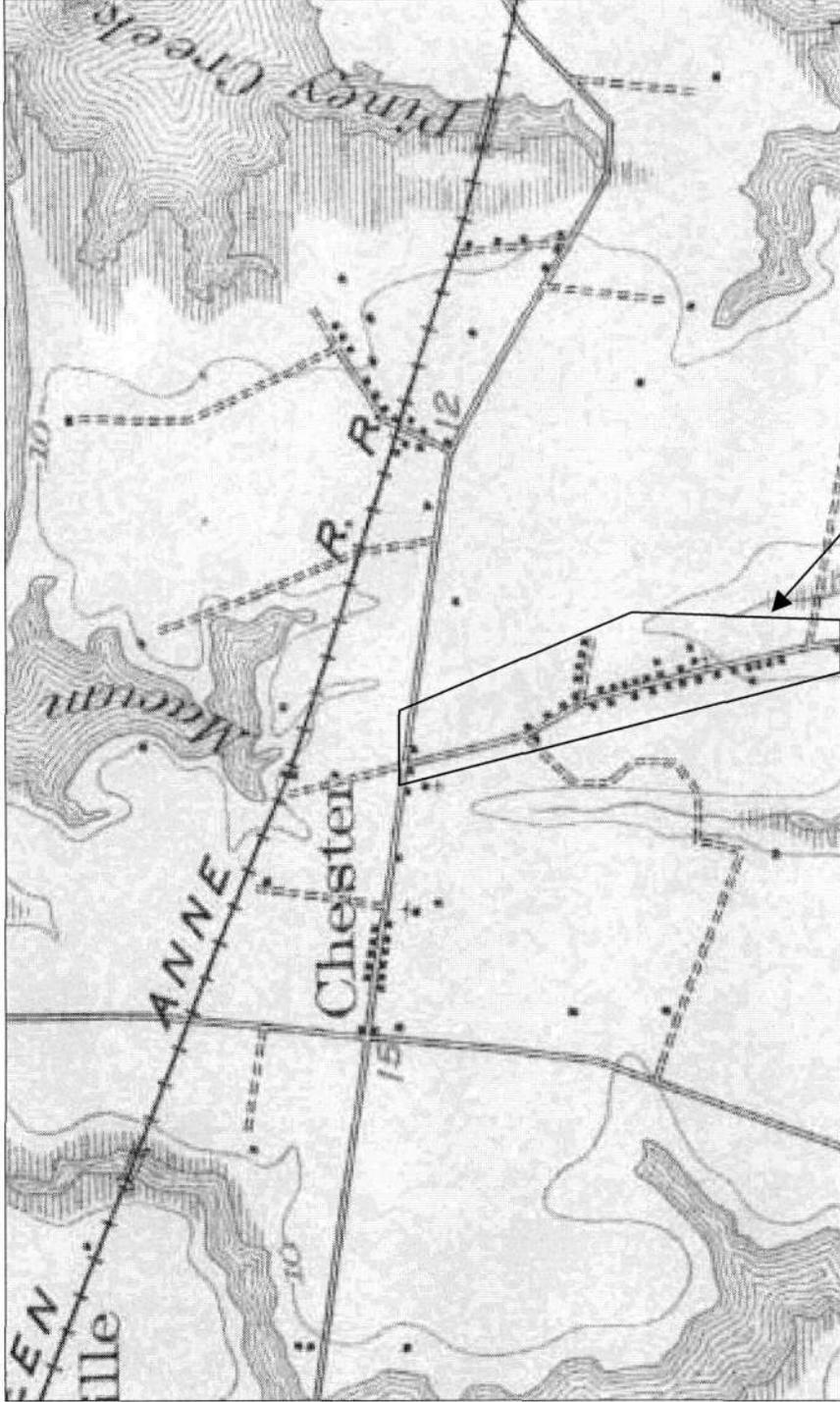
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Approximate location
of survey district

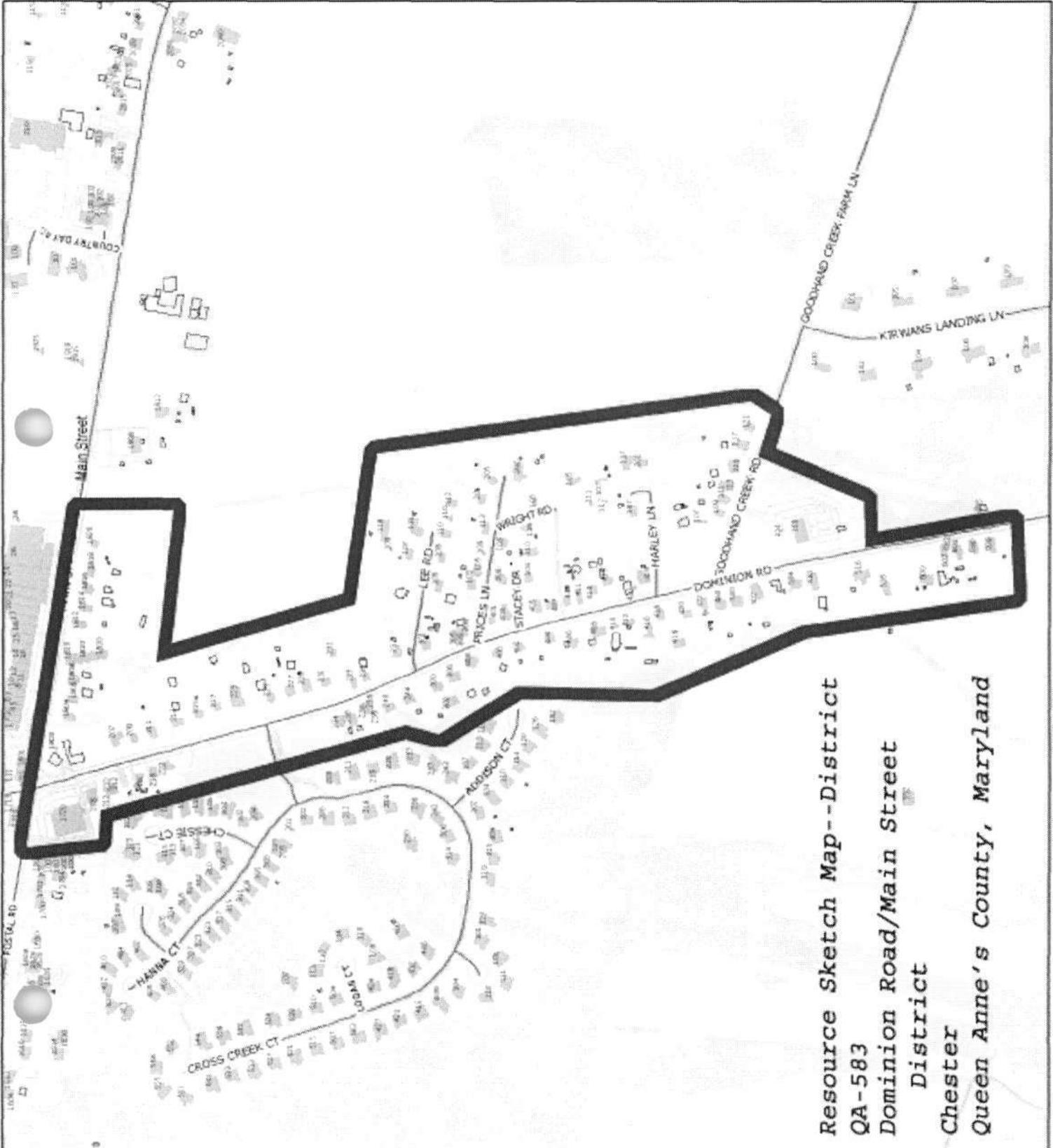


QA-583
Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District
Chester
Queen Anne's County
Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne
County, MD (1877)

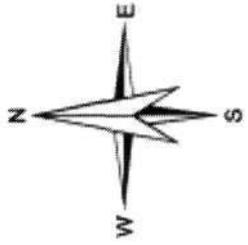


Approximate location of survey district

QA-583
Dominion Road/Main Street Survey
District
Chester
Queen Anne's County
1904 USGS Map, Annapolis
Quadrangle



**Resource Sketch Map--District
 QA-583
 Dominion Road/Main Street
 District
 Chester
 Queen Anne's County, Maryland**



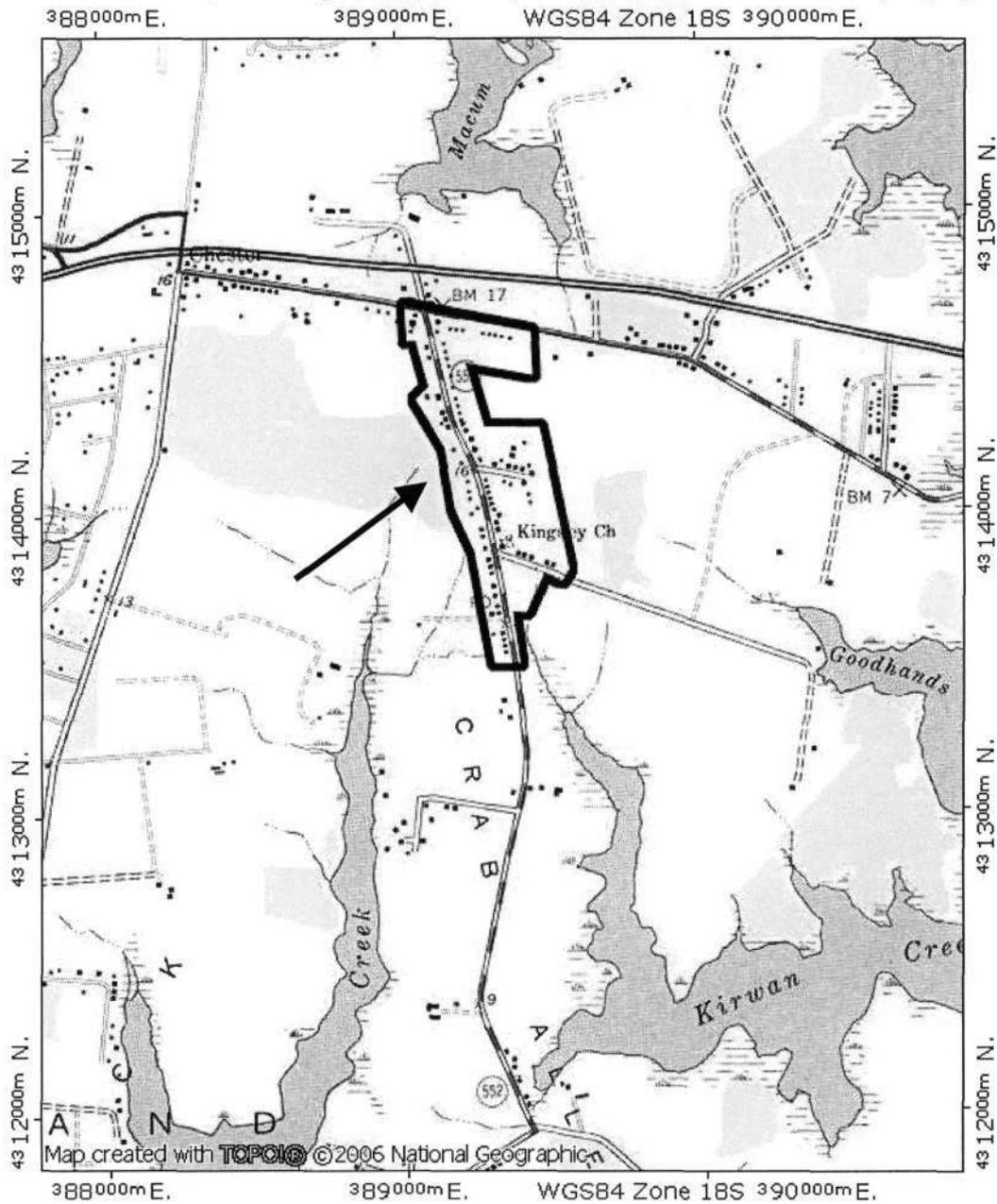
Legend

- Road Centerlines
- Addressable
- Out Buildings
- Forest



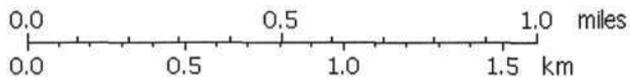
Prepared By: Queen Anne's County
 Planning and Zoning

USGS Kent Island Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



QA-583
Dominion Road/Main Street
Survey District

Chester
Queen Anne's County



MN ↑ T
11°
12/12/07



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

1818+1816 Main Street

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking SW

1 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District
207+209 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's County, MD
History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking SE

2 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

210 Block of Dominion Road

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking SE

3 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

230 block, Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SH PO

Looking SE

4 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

234+236 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SH70

Looking SW

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QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

237 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co, MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking E

6 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

238 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co, MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking NW

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STACEY DR

QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

305, 401 + 403 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SH PO

Looking NW

8 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road / Main Street Survey District

402 Dominion Road
Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking NW

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QA-583

Dominion Road / Main Street Survey District

405+407 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking SE

10 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

405, 407, 409 + 411 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co, MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking SE

11 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road / Main Street Survey District
Kingsley Methodist Church Cemetery
Queen Anne's Co, MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking SE

12 of 14



QA-583

Dominion Road/Main Street Survey District

House between 502+504 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking NW

13 of 14



Bay Times :

QA-583

Dominion Road / Main Street Survey District

608 Dominion Road

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

3/2007

MD SHPO

Looking NW

14 of 14