MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no X

Property Name: **2000 Block Main Street Survey District** Inventory Number: **QA-586**

Address: 2000 Block Main Street (MD 18), Chester Historic District: No

City: Chester Zip Code: 21619 County: Queen Annes

USGS Quadrangle(s): Kent Island

Property Owner: Tax Account ID Number: multiple

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): multiple Tax Map Number: 0057

Project: Bay Crossing Study Agency: MDTA

Agency Prepared By: RK&K

Preparer's Name: Rachel Wilson Date Prepared: May 31, 2024

Documentation is presented in:

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Not Recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property:

Inventory Number: Eligible: Listed:

Site visit by MHT Staff ___ yes ___ no Name: Date:

Description of Property and Justification:

The 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District was last surveyed in 2007 and a Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) form was completed. The survey identified 14 resources that represented a collection of early-nineteenth-century to mid-twentieth-century buildings, mostly residential and some commercial. The MIHP indicated that the survey district represents a "good collection of early and mid-twentieth-century architectural forms and styles" and "the district's buildings reflect the economic growth in this area of Chester" (Smith and Maready, Jr. 2007). The district was not evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

LOCATION/SETTING

The 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District is located along Main Street in Chester, Maryland. The district runs from 2011 Main Street at the west end to 2109 Main Street at the east end. The flat survey district sits in a residential and commercial strip. The survey district includes a portion of S. Piney Creek Road. While the majority of resources are on the north side of Main Street, there is a small cluster of buildings along the south side of the Main Street, about center in the district, opposite S. Piney Creek Road. The survey district is largely free of trees and lawns are generally open.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

MHT Comments:

[signature] 8/7/2024

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

Jessica Frenck 8/21/2024

Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

Special DOE form produced for Bay Crossing Study

202403522

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

The 2007 MIHP provides descriptions of the resources within the survey district. Within the district, several of the residential dwellings have been repurposed as commercial buildings. The resources encompass a variety of typical forms and styles seen within the county. They include I-houses, bungalows, Cape Cods, foursquares, and ranch houses. The MIHP provides a table of the resources with their address, estimated date of construction, brief physical description, and their contributing and non-contributing status (Smith and Maready, Jr. 2007). Throughout the district the majority of buildings are clad in vinyl siding and roofs are sheathed in asphalt shingles. Typical windows are vinyl hung sash, fixed, or casement windows and rarely, wood hung sash windows. Doors are mostly composite or metal. Few of the dwellings have rear and side additions, though some front porches have been in-filled (Nearmap 2024).

Since the 2007 survey, no resources have been demolished or majorly altered (Google Streetview; Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation 2023).

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The 2007 MIHP form provides a historical narrative and contextual information regarding the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District from the early twentieth century through the 1960s. Below is a summary.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the survey district was a part of Sharktown, a community running along Main Street from Piney Creek to the east to Cox Neck Road to the west. Though not in the survey district, by 1877, Sharktown had a schoolhouse and several stores. No buildings from this period survive (Smith and Maready, Jr. 2007).

Growth at the end of the nineteenth century was fueled by a boom in maritime industries, in particular crabbing and oystering. With the establishment of a post office, Sharktown became known as Chester. Just northeast of the survey district, an oyster house opened in 1890. Further driving economic growth, the Queen Anne Railroad built a station in Chester in 1905. During this time, the majority of dwellings in the survey district were along Piney Creek Road. Only two buildings stood on Main Street, one at the northeast corner of Piney Creek Road and Main Street and one west of the Piney Creek Road intersection on the north side of Main Street. The only dwelling from the early twentieth century is the 1906 I-house at 105 S. Piney Creek Road (Smith and Maready, Jr. 2007).

The 1920s brought road improvements to the area, continuing growth. Main Street (MD 18) was renamed Grasonville-Queenstown Pike in 1921 and was an improved concrete road. The survey district expanded in the 1920s and early 1930s with the addition of bungalow and foursquare dwellings like those at 2034, 2025, and 2029 Main Street (Smith and Maready, Jr. 2007).

As with many towns across the state and nation, the Great Depression slowed growth through the end of World War II. Passenger service along the Queen Anne's Railroad was stopped in 1938 by order of the Maryland Public Service Commission, and freight service stopped in 1958 (Causey and Maready, Jr. 2007).

Growth was spurred by the completion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in 1952 and the construction of US 50/301. Like many of the smaller communities on Kent Island and eastward, the construction of US 50/301 bypassed the town, running north of Main Street. This severed the town's place along the main road of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. US 50/301 also physically blocked the town's access to waterways to the north like Piney Creek and Macum Creek; altering its previous association with maritime industry.

From the 1940s through the 1960s, new forms appeared in the survey district along the north side of Main Street, west of South Piney Creek Road. Ranch dwellings, Cape Cod dwellings, and no-style dwellings were constructed. Many of these were later re-purposed for commercial uses (Smith and Maready, Jr. 2007).

During the 1960s and 1970s, development occurred along S. Piney Creek Road. A commercial building was constructed on the west side on formerly open land and another small building was constructed on the east side. Between 1982 and 1992, the intersection of S. Piney Creek Road and eastbound US 50/301 was altered. In 1990, two large commercial centers were built at the northeast end of the district altering the setting.

Commercialization in and around the district continued to grow. The commercial building on the west side of S. Piney Creek Road was replaced with a drug store in 2006. A year later, the shopping center on the east side of S. Piney Creek Road was constructed, effectively severing the district in half (Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation 2023; NETROnline var.). Many of the buildings have large garage or storage buildings on the lots behind the dwellings. On the whole, the survey district is a typical example of an early-twentieth-century linear residential district affected by late-twentieth-century to early-twenty-first-century commercialization.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

The 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District was evaluated for significance under NRHP Criteria A, B, and C. The resource was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D.

The 2000 Block Main Street Survey District is associated with maritime trade and commercial growth in Queen Anne's County; however, the cancellation of rail service and the introduction of US 50/301 during the early 1950s altered the community as it was no longer connected to either the railroad or Piney Creek. US 50/301 took the place of Main Street as a major inter-county thoroughfare., While the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District is a typical example of late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century growth in a linear community, its integrity of setting, feeling, and association with commercial growth and maritime trade has been diminished due to alterations and new construction in the district. Therefore, the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District is not eligible under Criterion A.

Research has revealed no significant association with persons who have made specific contributions to history. Therefore, the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District is not eligible under Criterion B.

The 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. Research has found no association with a master, nor does the resource have high artistic value. The dwellings in the survey district encompass a small variety of popular housing styles and forms seen in the county. There are I-houses, Cape Cod, foursquares, and ranch houses. While many of the buildings retain their integrity, they are modest examples of ubiquitous styles or forms. Therefore, the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District is not eligible under Criterion C.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District encompasses 8.18 acres. The district runs along Main Street from 2011 Main Street to 2109 Main Street. The boundaries generally follow the rear property lines of the resources along the north side of Main Street and a cluster of buildings along the south side of Main Street near the center of the district at S. Piney Creek Road. The boundary runs north along S. Piney Creek Road to encompass the resource at 115 S. Piney Creek Road. The survey district is found on Queen Anne's County Tax Map 0057 (2023).

REFERENCES

Causey, Evelyn D., and Gerald M. Maready, Jr. 2007. "Grasonville Survey District." Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form QA-611. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust. https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/QueenAnnes/QA-611.pdf.

Smith, Kathryn Gettings and Gerald M. Maready, Jr. 2007. "2000 Block of Main Street Survey District." Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form QA-586. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust. https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/QueenAnnes/QA-586.pdf.

Google Streetview. var. Google Maps. https://www.google.com/maps/.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. 2023. "Real Property Data Search." Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. 2024. https://sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx.

Nearmap. 2024. Nearmap. https://www.nearmap.com/us/en

NETROnline. n.d. "Historic Aerials." Nationwide Environmental Title Research LLC. https://www.historicaerials.com/.

2000 block Main Street Survey District

Location: 2000 Block Main Street (MD 18)
City: Chester

QA-586
Queen Anne's County

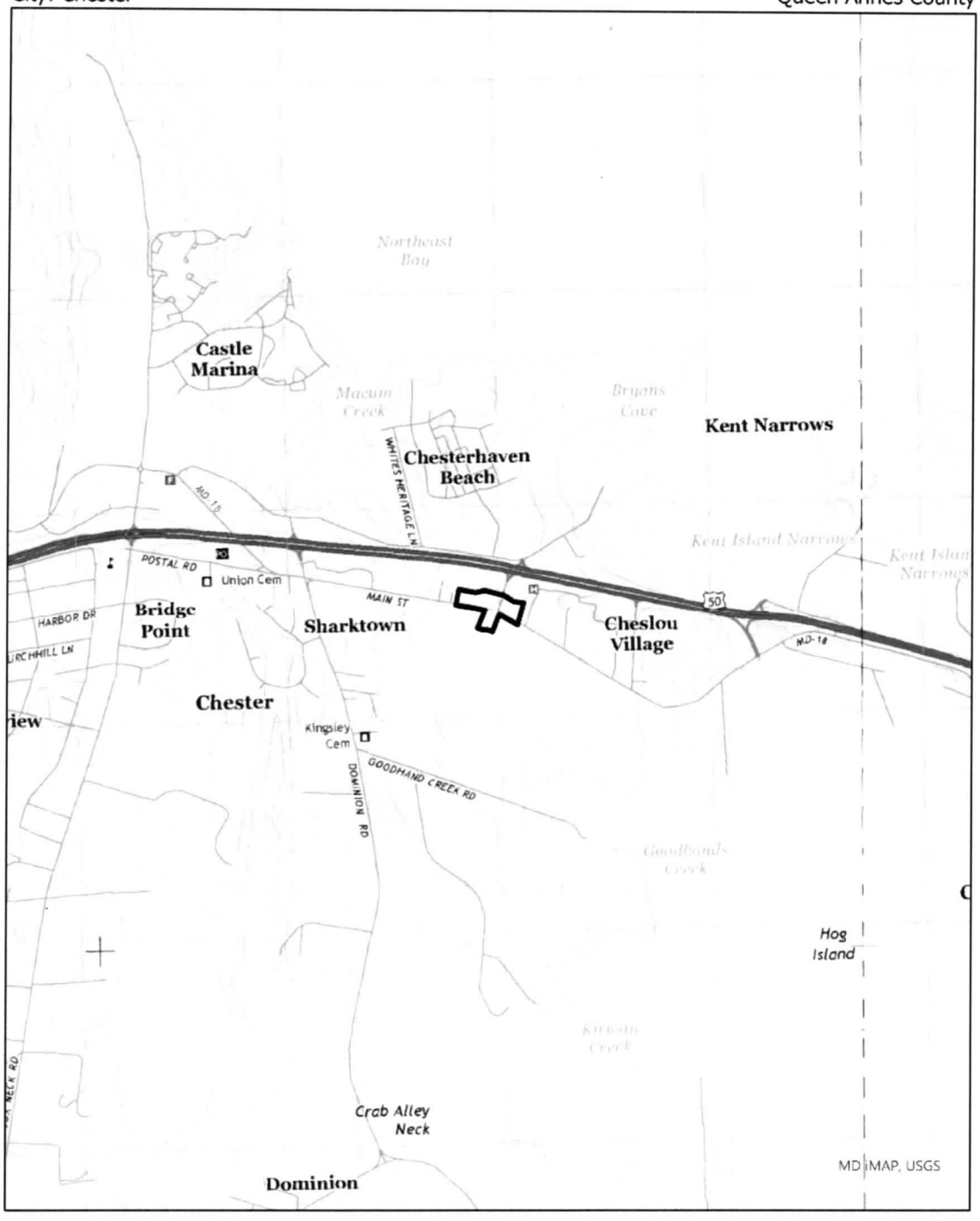
Parcel Boundaries

0 195 390 US Feet
Scale: 1:2,000
N

2000 block Main Street Survey District

Location: 2000 Block Main Street (MD 18)
City: Chester

QA-586
Queen Annes County



USGS 7.5' Quadrangle - Kent Island

0 0.5 1 Miles
Scale: 1:24,000

N

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 of 6: Early-twentieth-century dwelling at 2011 Main Street at the west end of the survey district, looking northwest

Photo 2 of 6: Early-twentieth-century dwelling at 2030 Main Street, looking southeast

PHOTOGRAPHS

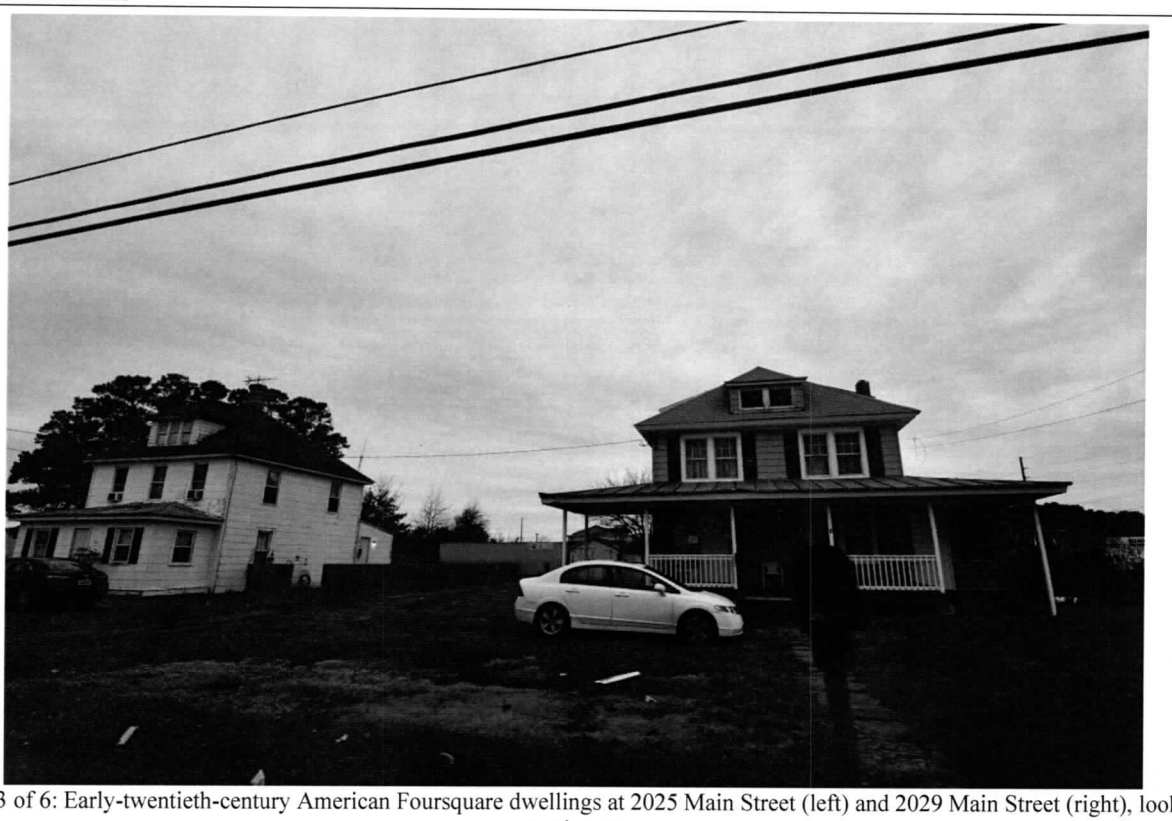


Photo 3 of 6: Early-twentieth-century American Foursquare dwellings at 2025 Main Street (left) and 2029 Main Street (right), looking northwest

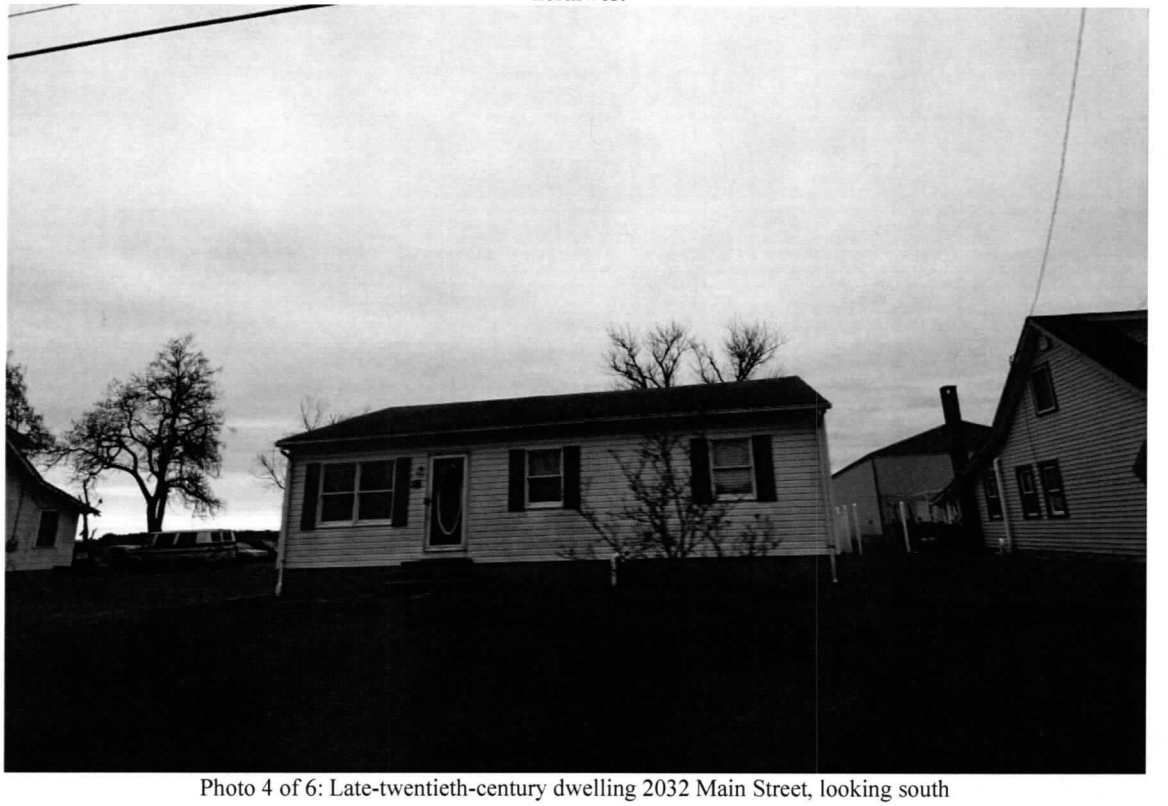


Photo 4 of 6: Late-twentieth-century dwelling 2032 Main Street, looking south

Photo 5 of 6: Early-twentieth-century converted bungalow at 2034 Main Street, looking south. Early-twenty-first-century garages are in the background.

Photo 6 of 6: Early-twentieth-century foursquare dwelling and garage at 2107 Main Street and new commercial infill at 110 S. Piney Creek Road looking north.

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

QA-586 2000 Block Main Street Survey District

PHOTO LOG

Number of Photos: **6**
Name of Photographer: **Sara Wilson**
Date of Photographs: **2023-12-07**
Location of Original Digital File:
File Format: **QA-586_2023-12-07_01.tif… etc.**

Photographs inserted on continuation sheets:

Photo Name: QA-0586_2023-12-7_01.tif
Photo 1 of 6: Early-twentieth-century dwelling at 2011 Main Street at the west end of the survey district, looking northwest

Photo Name: QA-0586_2023-12-7_02.tif
Photo 2 of 6: Early-twentieth-century dwelling at 2030 Main Street, looking southeast

Photo Name: QA-0586_2023-12-7_03.tif
Photo 3 of 6: Early-twentieth-century American Foursquare dwellings at 2025 Main Street (left) and 2029 Main Street (right), looking northwest

Photo Name: QA-0586_2023-12-7_04.tif
Photo 4 of 6: Late-twentieth-century dwelling 2032 Main Street, looking south

Photo Name: QA-0586_2023-12-7_05.tif
Photo 5 of 6: Early-twentieth-century converted bungalow at 2034 Main Street, looking south. Early-twenty-first-century garages are in the background.

Photo Name: QA-0586_2023-12-7_06.tif
Photo 6 of 6: Early-twentieth-century foursquare dwelling and garage at 2107 Main Street and new commercial infill at 110 S. Piney Creek Road looking north.

QA-586
2000 Block of Main Street Survey District
Chester, Queen Anne's County

Constructed Circa 1910-circa 2000
Private

This cluster of historic buildings is located in the vicinity of the 2000 block of Main Street in Chester, on Kent Island in Queen Anne's County. The survey district, which comprises eight contributing buildings and six non-contributing buildings, illustrates some of the most popular house forms from the first half of the twentieth century, including an I-house, bungalows, four-squares, and Cape Cods. Most of the early and mid-twentieth-century dwellings in the district have been converted to commercial use. Five of the six non-contributing buildings are late twentieth-century dwellings or commercial buildings, and the remaining non-contributing building is a historic bungalow that has been severely altered.

The historic buildings of the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District in Chester represent a good collection of early and mid-twentieth-century architectural forms and styles in Queen Anne's County. Located along Main Street (Maryland Route 18) around the intersection with South Piney Road, the community's early residents consisted mostly of oystermen and farmers in the second half of the nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth centuries. Merchants also located their stores along the public road in order to serve the traveling public, local farmers, watermen, and other residents. The district's buildings reflect the economic growth in this area of Chester in the period between the construction of the railroad line in 1902 and the completion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and U.S. Route 50/301 in 1952.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-586

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other 2000 Block Main Street, Chester (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 2000 block 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 Multiple properties

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
X district
____ building(s)
____ structure
____ site
____ object

Ownership
____ public
X private
____ both

Current Function
____ agriculture
X commerce/trade
____ defense
X domestic
____ education
____ funerary
____ government
____ health care
____ industry
____ landscape
____ recreation/culture
____ religion
____ social
____ transportation
____ work in progress
____ unknown
X vacant/not in use
____ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	6	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	6	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-586

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
X_ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

Summary

This cluster of historic buildings is located in the vicinity of the 2000 block of Main Street in Chester, on Kent Island in Queen Anne's County. The survey district, which comprises eight contributing buildings and six non-contributing buildings, illustrates some of the most popular house forms from the first half of the twentieth century, including an I-house, bungalows, four-squares, and Cape Cods. Most of the early and mid-twentieth-century dwellings in the district have been converted to commercial use. Five of the six non-contributing buildings are late twentieth-century dwellings or commercial buildings, and the remaining non-contributing building is a historic bungalow that has been severely altered.

Description

Setting/Landscape

Located at the east end of Chester, the district extends along Main Street from a point 650 feet west of the intersection of Main Street and South Piney Road to a point approximately 300 feet east of the intersection. One building in the district stands on the west side of South Piney Road, approximately 250 feet north of the intersection. All but three of the buildings on Main Street are located on the north side of Main Street; the three buildings on the south side of Main Street are clustered in the area southeast of the intersection with South Piney Road. Agricultural fields occupy most of the land south of Main Street, and non-historic residential and commercial developments surround the district on the north and east.

Within the district, Main Street and South Piney Road are level, asphalt-paved, two-lane, undivided roads with no major curves. For the most part, there are no sidewalks. Most of the buildings have driveways or small parking lots associated with them. Concrete walkways leading either from the driveway or the main road to the front entrance are common. On the north and south sides of Main Street, the buildings are typically set back between 25 and 30 feet from the road.

Building Patterns, Types, Styles, Materials, & Details

The oldest buildings within the district are the 1906 I-house at 105 South Piney Road, and the three wood-frame four-squares at 2025, 2029, and 2107 Main Street that were constructed in the 1920s and early 1930s. Although the I-house at 105 South Piney Road has undergone several alterations, its historic form and many of its historic exterior details remain visible. The house's orientation – to the north and away from both Main Street and South Piney Road – suggests that it may have been built to face the railroad that historically lay to the north. The four-squares at 2029 and 2107 Main Street display a virtually identical form; the four-square at 2025 Main Street has a different porch and dormer configuration.

The houses at 2030 and 2034 Main Street are good examples of the bungalow form, which proliferated in the 1920s and 1930s. These houses, which appear to be of wood-frame construction, display characteristic features of the bungalow, including a side-gable roof with overhanging eaves, a centered dormer, and a porch with battered posts set atop masonry piers. The brick house at 2011 Main Street displays some features common to bungalows (e.g., overhanging eaves and porch with battered posts) but combines it with a gambrel roof and large cornice returns characteristic of the Dutch Colonial Revival style.

The Cape Cod form appears in the district at 2009 and 2031 Main Street. The house at 2009 Main Street, which features two gable-roofed dormers, is a particularly good example of the style. Both houses display a brick exterior that is likely a veneer.

The district also encompasses two frame ranch houses, one built in 1963 and one in 1983. Located at 2017 Main Street, the older of the two ranch houses is smaller than its newer counterpart at 2015 Main Street.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-586

Name: **2000 Block of Main Street, Chester**
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Alterations & Intrusions (typical building additions & alterations; road changes; removals; demolition):
Historic maps indicate no major changes in the road alignment within the district. In the early twentieth century, a cluster of buildings extended north along South Piney Road; most of these buildings are gone. A building at the northeast corner of the intersection of South Piney Road and Main Street was recently demolished. Three non-historic buildings – two residential and one commercial – are interspersed among the historic buildings. In addition, a new bank is under construction between 2017 and 2025 Main Street; the house at 2017 Main Street appears threatened with demolition as a result of this new construction.

Significant non-historic additions to historic buildings are rare within the district. The most common non-historic alteration is the enclosure of original front porches. At 2032 Main Street, non-historic alterations have almost completely obscured the original, historic bungalow.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-586

Name: **2000 Block of Main Street, Chester**
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

Resource Inventory / Characteristic Resources:

Number	*Name/Address*	*Estimated Date of Construction (source)*	*Brief Physical Description*	*Contributing (C)? or Non-contributing (NC)?*
1	2009 Main Street	1962 (tax)	1.5-story, 3-bay, side-gable, brick house with Cape Cod form. Symmetrical façade with centered, projecting, front-gable entry and pedimented door surround. Two front-gable dormers and exterior brick chimney. 1-story, frame wing on east.	NC
2	2011 Main Street	1945 (tax)	1.5-story, 3-bay, brick (Flemish bond), side-gambrel roof dwelling. Full-width, hipped-roofed, front porch with battered posts set on brick piers; porch currently enclosed with T-111 siding and 6-over-6 vinyl windows. Front and rear shed dormers extend almost the full width of the house. The dormers and main roof feature a molded wood cornice with cornice returns. An exterior end chimney with a stepped shoulder is located on the east elevation.	C
3	2013 Main Street	Circa 2000	1-story, front-gabled brick structure with two garage openings that have been infilled with metal sheets and a plate glass window or door. A large, front-gabled, metal building is attached to the rear of the smaller brick structure.	NC
4	2015 Main Street	1983 (tax)	1-story, frame ranch house with concrete block foundation, aluminum siding, and a side-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.	NC
5	2017 Main Street	1963 (tax)	1-story, 3-bay, frame ranch house with an asymmetrical façade and a side-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. Windows are boarded, and a bank is under construction to the rear (north) of the house.	NC

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-586

Name: **2000 Block of Main Street, Chester**
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

6	2025 Main Street	1921 (tax)	2.5-story, frame four-square house with a full-width, enclosed, front porch and a 1-story, shed-roofed addition to the rear. The hipped roof on the main structure is clad in asphalt shingles, while the porch's hipped roof is clad in standing-seam metal. The centered entrance on the front elevation features a metal, 9-light-over-2-panel door. The windows are 1-over-1, double-hung, wood sash. A hipped-roofed dormer with three ganged windows is centered in the front roof slope, and a brick, corbelled-cap chimney is centered at the peak of the hipped roof.	C
7	2029 Main Street	1926 (tax)	2-story, frame four-square house with hipped roof and rock-faced concrete block foundation. Hipped-roofed front porch with square wood posts extends one bay past the house on the west. Windows on front elevation are paired, 6-over-1, double-hung wood sash. Shed-roofed dormers are located on the front and sides of the roof. One-story, shed-roofed addition to the rear. To the rear of the building is a 1-story, front-gable concrete block shed with rock-faced, concrete block quoins.	C
8	2030 Main Street	1927 (tax)	1.5-story, 3-bay bungalow clad with vinyl siding. Full-width front porch has been enclosed with vinyl siding and vinyl windows, but battered wood posts on piers are still visible. A 3-bay, shed-roofed dormer is located on the front elevation; a 1-story, shed-roofed section on the rear matches the roof slope of the porch, creating a symmetrical profile when viewed from the side. The original windows have been replaced with 1-over-1 vinyl windows. A large, circa 2000 garage stands to the rear of the house.	C
9	2031 Main Street	1954 (tax)	1.5-story, frame house with a symmetrical façade and a side-gable roof. Rests on a concrete block foundation and is clad in asbestos shingles. A centered, 1-story, 1-bay, front-gable portico with cornice returns and square wood posts shelters a 6-light-over-2-panel door. Paired, 3-over-1, double-hung, wood sash windows flank the entry. A non-historic, 1-story, wood frame, gambrel-roofed shed also stands on the property.	C

10	2032 Main Street	1981 (tax)	1-story, 4-bay, side-gable, frame house with a concrete block foundation and a rear ell on the east side. A historic, frame garage stands to the rear of the house.	NC
11	2034 Main Street	Circa 1925	1.5-story, 3-bay bungalow with a rock-faced concrete block foundation and asbestos shingle siding. 3-bay, front-gable porch with battered wood posts set on rock-faced, concrete block piers on front elevation. The side-gable roof features wood brackets, exposed rafter tails, and a shed-roofed dormer on the front and rear roof slopes. Centered, brick chimney with corbelled cap. 3-over-1, wood sash windows with vertically divided lights in the upper sash; 1-light, diamond-shaped window on east elevation. Large, non-historic, metal shed and garage to rear of house.	C
12	2107 Main Street	1931 (tax)	2-story, frame four-square house with hipped roof. Hipped-roofed, wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns. Windows on front elevation are paired, 6-over-1, double-hung wood sash. Shed-roofed dormers containing 3-over-1, wood windows are located on the front and sides of the roof; a brick interior chimney is located in the rear roof slope. One-story, shed-roofed addition to the rear. Hipped-roofed, frame garage that is contemporary with the house stands to its west.	C
13	2109 Main Street	Circa 1925 with alterations circa 1990	1.5-story, side-gable bungalow that was significantly altered circa 1990. Original features that remain visible include the west side profile and the 1-light, diamond-shaped window in the west elevation. Two non-historic office buildings to rear.	NC
14	105 South Piney Road	1906 (tax)	2.5-story, frame, side-gable I-house with two interior-end, brick chimneys. Faces north and is sited perpendicular to S. Piney Road. Full-width front porch across north elevation has been completely enclosed. Exterior walls, eaves, and soffit are clad in vinyl. Original, 2-over-2, double-hung, wood sash windows remain in second story on north elevation. One-story frame shed or garage with a gambrel roof stands to northwest of house.	C

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-586

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

Specific dates **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates circa 1910-circa 2000

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ___x___not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary Statement of Significance

The historic buildings of the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District in Chester represent a good collection of early and mid-twentieth-century architectural forms and styles in Queen Anne's County. Located along Main Street (Maryland Route 18) around the intersection with South Piney Road, the community's early residents consisted mostly of oystermen and farmers in the second half of the nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth centuries. Merchants also located their stores along the public road in order to serve the traveling public, local farmers, watermen, and other residents. The district's buildings reflect the economic growth in this area of Chester in the period between the construction of the railroad line in 1902 and the completion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and U.S. Route 50/301 in 1952.

Historical Narrative

The 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District in Chester is located on the north and south sides of Main Street at the intersection with South Piney Road. Historically known as Piney Creek Road, South Piney Road extended north from the Centreville to Broad Creek Road (now Route 18 or Main Street) that traversed Queen Anne's County east to west, and ended near Bryans Cove on Piney Creek, which flows into the Chester River.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the survey district was part of the settlement of Sharktown (see also QA-583 and QA-587), an area that extended along Route 18 (Main Street) approximately from Piney Creek on the east to Cox Neck Road on the west, and reached south along Crab Alley Creek Road (now Dominion Road). By 1866, Sharktown included a schoolhouse and stores owned by Luther W. Bryan, Thomas H. Harris, and Jacob T. Waters. Neither the schoolhouse nor the stores were located in the area of the survey district. The few residents who lived in the area of the survey district included several oystermen, as well as Jackson Jones, a sailor who owned a house near Piney Creek.[1] The 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties* depicted the growth of the area, including the development of new roads such as Piney Creek Road, which extended north and south of Main Street. The atlas showed residences along Piney Creek Road that belonged to oystermen such as Martin and William Jones, and James H. Booker, and to farmers James E. Tolson and William F. Kersey. By 1877, Martin Jones owned a store in the Sharktown area in addition to being an oysterman; James E. Tolson was an oysterman as well as a farmer.[2] It was common for those involved in the seasonal employment of

[1] *J.G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County* (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866); 1860 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Broad Creek Post Office, p. 18.

[2] *An Illustrated Atlas of Ken and Queen Anne Counties, MD* (Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877); 1870 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Broad Creek Post Office, p. 36; 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 62, pp. 42 and 45.

oystering to have other jobs to supplement their income. No buildings in the 2000 Main Street Survey District survive from the earliest period of settlement.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the community experienced a substantial period of growth fueled in part by a boom in the maritime industry. In the second half of the nineteenth century, commercial oystering and crabbing increased dramatically; the peak Chesapeake Bay oyster harvests occurred in the 1880s.[3] This trend particularly affected Kent Island and areas along rivers and creeks, where maritime communities thrived. Located just south of Piney Creek off the Chester River, and west of Kent Island Narrows, Sharktown was home to ship's captains and sailors as well as oystermen. Samuel DeCoursey, a bridge keeper either at Kent Narrows or Coxes Creek, lived on the north side of Main Street at the intersection with Piney Creek Road.[4] By 1888, after a post office was established, the area formerly called Sharktown became known as Chester.[5] In 1890, Charles Nash opened an oyster house for shucking and packing oysters at Bryan's Cove in Piney Creek northeast of the survey district.[6] At the turn of the twentieth century, oystering "still supported a waterman and labor force of thirteen hundred and some ten or more processing plants on or near [Kent] Island…Chester, Dominion, and Stevensville truly are towns built by crabs, fish and oysters—mainly oysters."[7]

The construction of the Queen Anne Railroad in 1902 to the north of Main Street also fueled a period of growth for the survey area. 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.[8] In 1902, the railroad built a railroad bridge across Kent Narrows and laid tracks leading west from Queenstown to Love Point on Kent Island.[9] In 1905, the Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia Railroad purchased the Queen Anne Railroad, and built a station at Chester; Dominion Road extended north to reach the rail line.[10] In 1904, most residences in the survey area were located along Piney Creek Road near the intersection with the railroad. The only buildings situated on Main Street were one located on the northeast corner of the intersection with Piney Creek Road, and another located west of the intersection on the north side of Main Street.[11]

The two-and-one-half-story, frame I-house at 105 South Piney Road is the only building in the survey district that survives from the first two decades of the twentieth century. Constructed in 1906, the house faces north toward the location of the former railroad tracks, and is similar to other I-houses in Queen Anne's County. A typical I-house is a two- to two-and-one-half-story, single-pile, side-gabled dwelling. I-houses generally display a center-hall plan, with two rooms 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 also often feature a centered front gable on the façade; this feature is evident on some of the historic I-houses in present-day Chester but not on the house at 105 South Piney Road.

---

[3] Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), p. 324.
[4] 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 62, p. 42.
[5] "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>.
[6] Janet Freedman, *Kent Island: The Land That Once Was Eden* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2002), p. 61.
[7] Reginald V. Truitt, *Kent Island: Maryland's Oldest Settlement* (Stevensville, Md.: Women of Christ Church, 1965), p. 9, quoted in Freedman, p. 57.
[8] "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>. In 1924, the Pennsylvania Railroad purchased the rail line and operated it until 1958 when the track between Queenstown and Love Point was abandoned. Charles B. Clark, *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, Vol. II*, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1950), pp. 883-884; Donald G. Shomette, "Kent Narrows Timeline" (Queen Anne's County Heritage Consortium, Chester, Md., 2004, photocopy).
[9] Shomette.
[10] Freedman, p. 92.
[11] U.S. Geological Survey, Maptech Historical Topographical Maps, <http://historical.maptech.com>, Annapolis, MD Quadrangle (15 Minute Series), 1904.

The 1920s saw improvements in Queen Anne's County roads and continued growth in Chester. 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.[12] 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 communities 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 railroad traffic that occurred during the decade. Commercial establishments such as the retail store owned by John and Enola Taylor on Main Street near Piney Creek Road thrived in the 1920s. Taylor's store sold canned goods, staples such as flour and sugar, meats, cheeses, dry goods, medications, and hardware supplies; it functioned as a gathering place for the community, and had the only telephone in the area.[13]

In the 1920s and early 1930s, the survey district expanded with the addition of houses in the four-square and bungalow forms. Four-square houses that survive from this period are located at 2025, 2029 and 2107 Main Street. The four-square is a two- to two-and-one-half-story, hipped-roofed dwelling, with a square footprint, and generally boxy shape. It generally features a full-width front porch, wide eaves, and prominent dormers. Typically, the interior plan of a four-square is composed of four rooms on each main floor. The four-square had its genesis in the 1890s, and was popular nationally through the first decades of the twentieth century. Stylistically, the four-square often displayed some combination of modest Craftsman or Colonial Revival detailing; for example, the paired windows on the façades of 2029 and 2107 Main Street reflect the Colonial Revival influence. The four-square was a commonly used house form for farmhouses and rural residences. In Queen Anne's County, however, the form seems to be most common in towns such as Chester. Chester's proximity to the railroad made it easy to order and receive a house from a catalog, and also to see examples of the latest styles. Four-square houses were sometimes purchased from mail-order companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Company, which shipped a kit of construction materials or the plans to the local buyer. The house at 2107 Main Street is reputed to be a Sears house; 2029 Main Street appears to be very similar and may be a Sears house as well.

Constructed in the late 1920s south of the intersection of Main Street and South Piney Road, the houses at 2030 and 2034 Main Street illustrate the bungalow form, which was popular in Queen Anne's County in the 1920s and 1930s. 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 emerged 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. For example, the bungalow at 2034 Main Street features some Craftsman elements in its front gable porch with the flat arch cut in the beam over the entrance; and square-tapered wood posts set on rock-faced, concrete block piers. Also like four-square houses, bungalows were sometimes purchased from mail-order companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Company.

The 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 area of Chester. By the 1950s, transportation routes changed with the development of the Bay Bridge and new highway (U.S. Route 50/301), and the decline of the

---

[12] 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]). The essay is undated, but the topics of discussion indicate that it was written circa 1935.

[13] 1920 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 28, Sheet 1-A; Freedman, pp. 79 and 81. Taylor's store is not extant.

railroad.[14] Although U.S. Route 50/301 bypassed the town, Chester remained a commercial stop along the main west to east route across Kent Island.

From the 1940s through the 1960s, several new house forms and styles appeared in the district, primarily on buildings constructed on the north side of Main Street and west of South Piney Road. As American builders ramped up to build large numbers of houses for returning war veterans, they adopted simple house forms that could be built quickly at low cost and could be easily adapted to suit any setting. Among these houses is the dwelling at 2011 Main Street, which displays some features common to bungalows as well as the gambrel roof and large cornice returns characteristic of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. Another house type that became popular after World War II was the Cape Cod cottage, which is exemplified in the survey district by 2031 Main Street (contributing, built 1954) and 2009 Main Street (non-contributing, built 1962). This form, which is one-and-one-half stories in height and typically incorporates Colonial Revival details, features a symmetrical façade and dormers that puncture a prominent side-gable roof. After 1950, architectural styles began to be simplified as a result of the influence of Modernist trends. Among the new styles that developed is the Ranch style seen in the houses located at 2015 and 2017 Main Street (both non-contributing). Almost all of the houses in the district have been converted to commercial uses.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-586

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	N/A		
Acreage of historical setting	N/A		
Quadrangle name	Kent Island	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District in Chester encloses the district's highest concentration of historic resources. In the parts of the community 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 lining the north and south sides of Main Street, and extends north to the northern property boundary of the house at 105 South Piney Road. A local area map (adapted from a base map produced by the Queen Anne's County Department of Planning and Zoning) with the district boundaries demarcated is enclosed with this MIHP form.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kathryn Gettings Smith and Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historians		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	December 21, 2007
street & number	1502 21st Street, NW, 2nd 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

Major Bibliographical References

Bishop, Catherine A. "Grasonville." Typescript. Queen Anne's County, Md.: n.p., [ca. 1935].

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

Clark, Charles B. *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, Vol. II.* New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1950.

Freedman, Janet. *Kent Island: The Land That Once Was Eden.* Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2002.

An Illustrated Atlas of Ken and Queen Anne Counties, MD. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877.

J.G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County. N.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866.

"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>.

"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>.

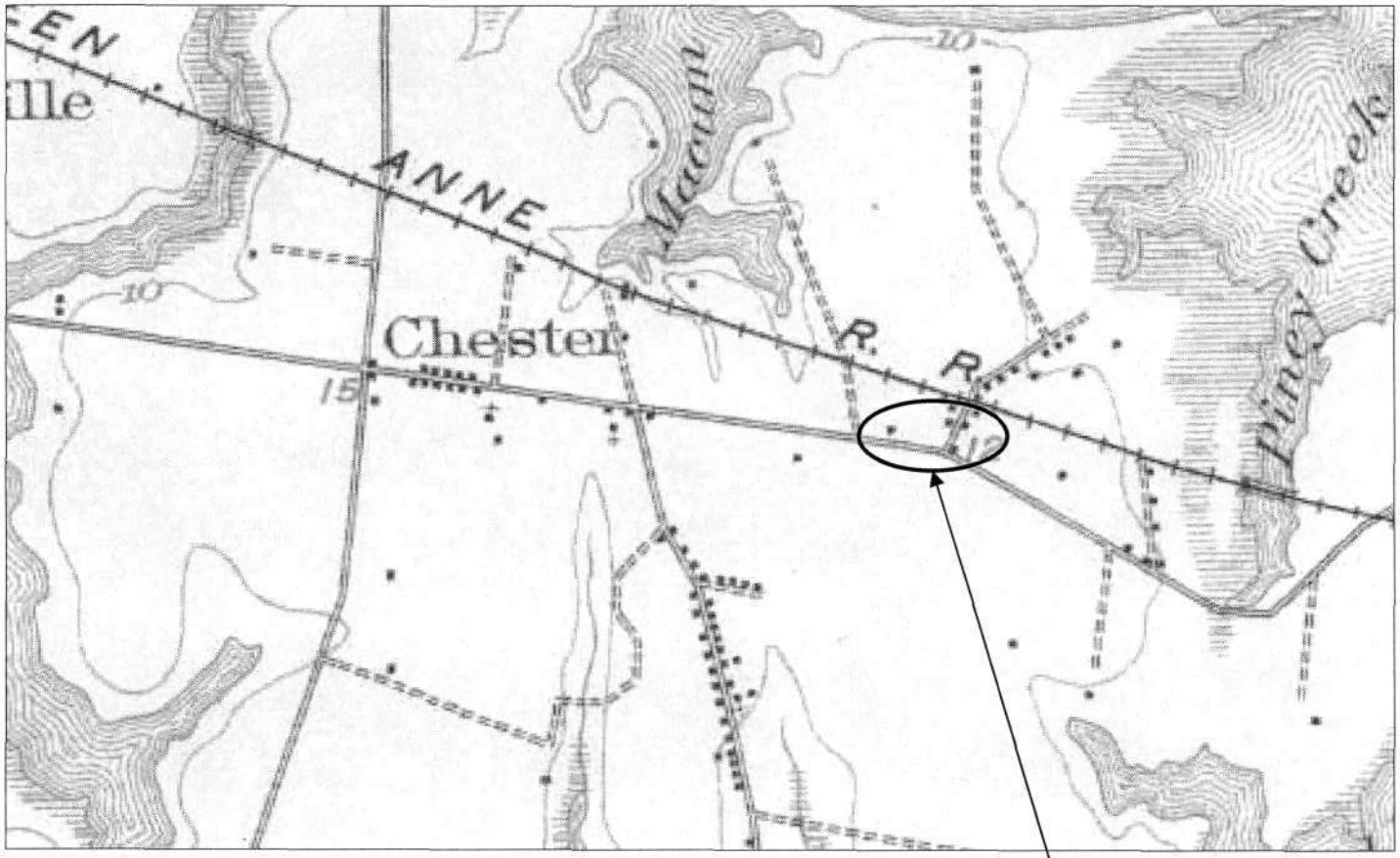
Rhodes, Harry C. *Queenstown: The Social History of a Small American Town.* Queenstown, Md.: The Queen Anne Press, 1985.

Shomette, Donald G. "Kent Narrows Timeline." Queen Anne's County Heritage Consortium, Chester, Md., 2004. Photocopy.

Truitt, Reginald V. *Kent Island: Maryland's Oldest Settlement.* Stevensville, Md.: Women of Christ Church, 1965. Quoted in Freedman.

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

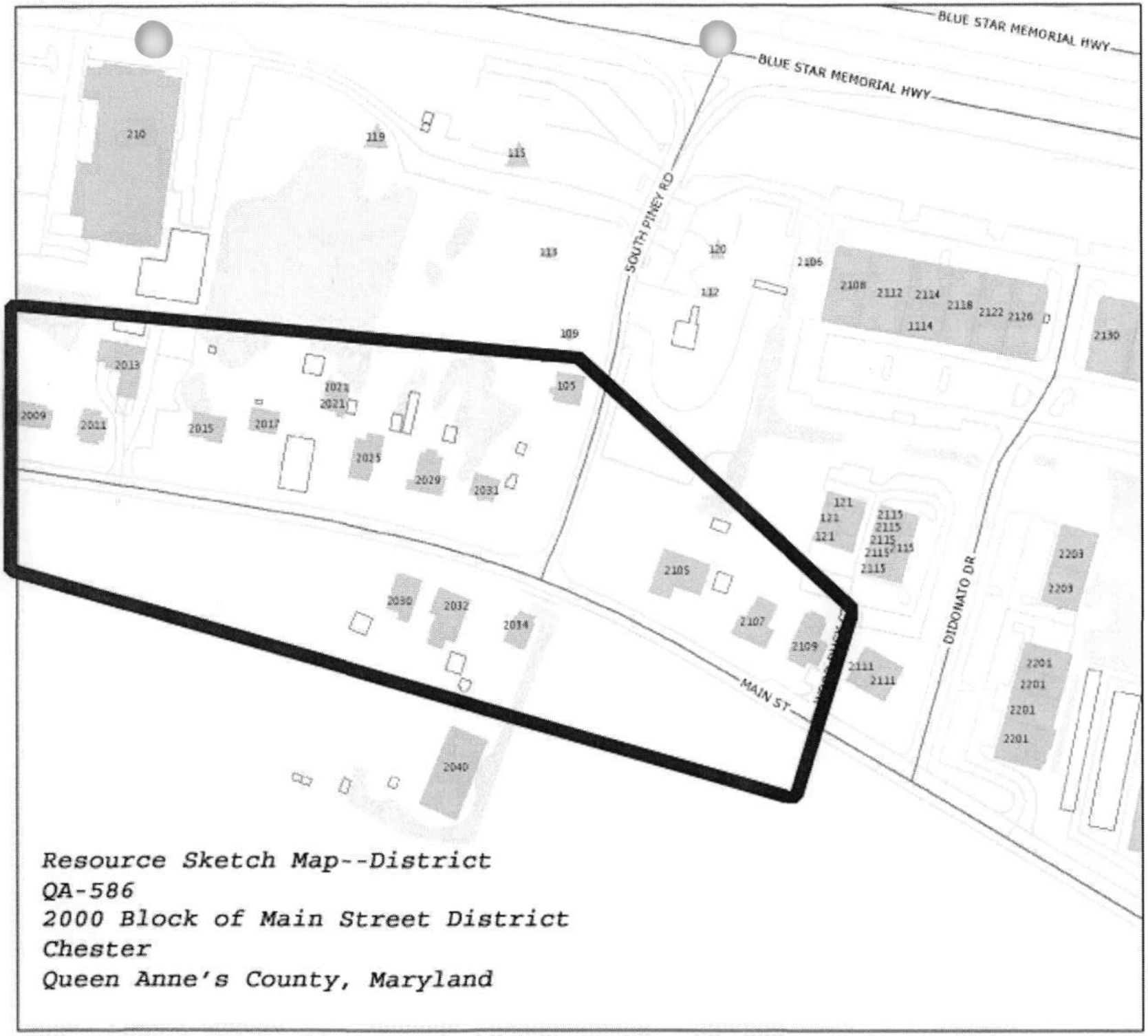
U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1860-1880, 1920.



Approximate Location of 2000 Block of Main Street Survey District

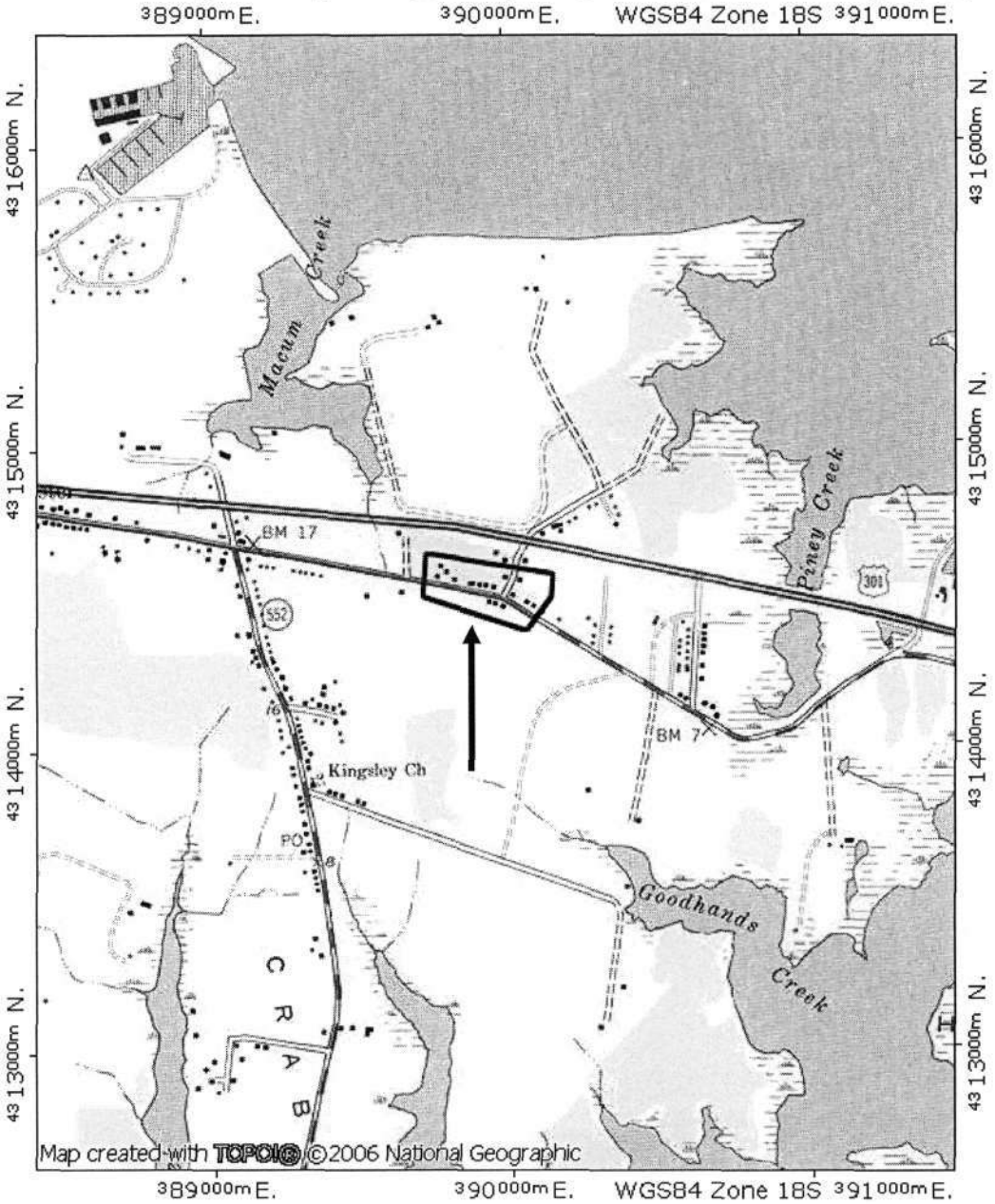
QA-586
2000 Block of Main Street Survey District
Chester
Queen Anne's County

1904 USGS Map, Annapolis Quadrangle



Resource Sketch Map--District
QA-586
2000 Block of Main Street District
Chester
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

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



QA-586
2000 Block of Main Street
Survey District

Chester
Queen Anne's County

0.0 0.5 1.0 miles
0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km

MN T
11½°
05/09/07

Moving Company
410-643-0000

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2034 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking SE
1 of 11

Breakfast
& Lunch

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
105 South Piney Road
Queen Anne's Co, MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking SW
2 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2107 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NE
3 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
Garage, 2107 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co, MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NE
4 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2009 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NW
5 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2011 & 2013 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co, MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NW
6 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2015, 2017 and 2025 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co, MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NE
7 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2025 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NW
8 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2029 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NE
9 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2034, 2032 + 2030 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking E
10 of 11

QA-586
2000 Block Main Street, Chester
2031 Main Street
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
3/2007
MD SHPO
Looking NW
11 of 11