

**1.107 HOUSE/PROJECT- Circa 1810**

The original deed for the property describes a building, which was somehow destroyed. Around 1810 the foundations were reused for the present structure, which still contains the tavern kitchen in the basement.

Rumored but not true is that the property was sold in 1802 by the state of Maryland which may have confiscated it from a Tory during the Revolutionary War, thus it's name "Tory House". It has been restored through the efforts of Colonial Charleston, Inc.

**THE WATER TOWER**

Charleston, even though bordering the Northeast River, has always had trouble obtaining adequate drinking water as the town sits on 150 foot deep layers of clay. As early as 1743 (one year after establishment), the town commissioners approved the construction of five communal wells for use by the inhabitants. Built as a water tower for the McKeown House, this two story, 12 square foot, framed structure, contains a large Cyprus wood tank in its 2nd story. The ship lapped pegged construction indicate once again that many of Charleston's earlier carpenters were also ship builders. Having fallen into disrepair the Colonial Charleston, Inc. members moved it four blocks to the 107 property in 1978-1979.

**2. RED LYON TAVERN- Circa 1755**

Sharing the same lot as the Indian Queen, the Red Lyon Tavern later housed Steven Porter's Tavern and John Black's Store simultaneously. The Red Lyon is one of the several town structures in which the Royal American Regiment was billeted during the winters of 1756-1757. After years of neglect it is currently being restored to it's original construction.

**3. INDIAN QUEEN- Circa 1742**

In 1742 when Charleston was chartered the town founders drew chances for lots in the newly-laid out community. Zebulon Hollingsworth, "Innkeeper" won the lot where the Indian Queen is now standing. This beautiful home has centrally located chimney dividing this house in four area allows a fireplace in each room both upstairs and down. Annie Sherwood, an ancient Negro cook, canned pear preserves which were a hit with hunters from the city. When not too busy she would be caught smoking a corn cob pipe by the log kitchen wall.

**4. LINTON HOUSE- Circa 1787**

Built by Town Commissioner William Linton when Charleston was the County Seat. This grand house has changed little since George Washington spent time here. The door facing east from the living room may have allowed traders at the fair and market day easy access from the town's common areas.

**5. PACA HOUSE- Circa 1753**

The earliest deed for this property is dated October 13, 1753. John Paca, it's first owner, was the father of Wm. Paca who was a signer of The Declaration of Independence and the first Governor of Maryland. The Paca Tavern received liquor license #11 making it one of the first tavern in Cecil County. At that time a bed could be rented for \$1.00 a night. Legend maintains that to this day the Market Street Café is haunted by former occupants.

**6. POST OFFICE/TOWN HALL**

It is believed this one room school building housing grades 1 to 6 was erected in 1878 and used as such until 1961 when the board of education decided it back to the town of Charleston. Many old-timers of the area remember stoking the potbellied stove with coal stored in the basement and collecting canned goods for "black diamond" a former slave who was the beloved gardener for the Husfeldt family. Now being used for the post office and town hall it is indeed the center of Charleston.

**7. CHURCH/ CEMETARY**

During the pre-revolutionary period Methodist services in Charleston were held in the home of Francis Scott Key's father. These services were infrequent, long, and indoor space was minimal; however people were eager for a chance for fellowship. For the daylong gatherings a small frame building housed the church until 1856 when the two-story brick building was built. It is distinguished by stained glass windows and a traditional floor plan in which the worship area is on the second floor.

**8. THE FOOT LOG**

At the corner of Bladen and Conestoga Streets a path leads to the creek which is now spanned by a small bridge. In older times the foot log provided the passage to Holloway beach area near Charlestown.

**9. HOLLOWAY BEACH**

Before the Bay Bridge and Tunnel were built, Holloway Beach was the beach to be seen, similar to Ocean City today. Local young men couldn't wait till the "summer people" especially the girls, arrived for a season of swimming, sunbathing, Ferris wheel riding and romantic moments at the arcades. Vacationers crowded the cottages for summertime fun. During the World Wars, the cottages were used by Aberdeen Proving Ground for workers, who had relocated from West Virginia, to make ammunition. At the present interest in this valuable area is being rekindled.

**10. THE SPRING**

Near the west end of Conestoga Street an Artesian Well has provided water for many families during the history of Charleston.

**11. EAGLE POINT- Circa 1792**

The original house built by William Graham in 1792 had 4 rooms to which 3 wings were later added, one being a Philadelphia trolley car. In 1900's the home became a Rod and Gun Club for prosperous sportsman. Later the house was the site for lavish parties given by the Burkes who built the bungalow next door for their granddaughters. Legend contends that 2 elderly soldiers haunt the residence.

**12. THORN HOUSE- Circa 1926**

In 1926 the Chief Engineer of the Penn Railroad, Columbus Thorn, built This angled 21 room, "Summer Cottage" using poured concrete, metal beams, and 100% Cyprus wood. He leased land from the Town of Charleston to build the Thorn Yacht Club now Lee's Marina.

**13. THE STONE BUILDING AT 117 CONESTOGA STREET**

Little history is known about this granite structure but it quite likely it was an icehouse for the Eagle Point Rod and Gun Club. The door is a standard size and shape which leads one to summarize it was not a boat house.

**14. THE WHARF 1742**

During the 1700's the town's center activity was the wharf. It was 300 foot long and wide enough for the passage of three wagons. As many as six ships docked there at one time. Each was loading or unloading fish, flour, rum, grain, tobacco, sugar, and passengers. On this site a massive warehouse 80 foot long and three stories high with 36 inch walls was used for grain storage. Flour from places as far away as Pennsylvania was stored, inspected, and shipped from here.

15. HUTTON HOUSE- Circa 1918

Field and River Stone brought up on a barge by Elk Neck was used by John Norman to build this Brownstown for the Hutton Family in 1918.

16. LONG HOUSE- Circa 1935

This house resembles the Thorn House because it was built by Bill Thorn, son of Columbus Thorn, who used the same design and construction elements in both homes. The building was adapted to the lot size and shape giving it a view of the river from each window.

17. STILL HOUSE- Circa 1760

Located on Lot #1 of the 200 original lots sold in Charlestown in 1742, the Still House gets his name from being one of the early leading industries in town- Liquor Distilling. Owned by Peacock Bigger, the Distillery converted sugar, shipped from the West Indies into Rum. It is documented that when ships would set sail bottles of rum spiked with limejuice would be aboard. Each sailor would receive daily rations of the rum to help prevent scurvy. Part of the process of making rum occurred in a large fireplace in the basement of this home.

18. BARNES ICE HOUSE- Circa 1890

Facing a protective cove on the Charlestown Waterfront this 28 foot high building was built in the 19th Century by Captain Perry K. Barnes to supplement his large commercial fishing business. 12" inch wide pine planks were shipped lapped together by hand to give this beautiful building it's interesting look. 18" inch thick ground cork insulated this building in which ice harvested from the river was stored. A lean to shed housed tools of the trade: fishing nets, boats, long oars, and other equipment.

19. WELLWOOD CLUB- Circa Mid 19th Century

When canvasback ducks, geese, swan, shad, and shellfish were abundant at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, so did well to do hunters. Staying at the Wellwood Club they were housed in dormitory style rooms named Cabana House. United States Senators, Governors, Presidents, and other VIPs frequented the Club, as it provided golfing, docking facilities, fine dining, yachting, swimming, hunting and entertainment with a pleasant surrounding.

20. JACKSON HOUSE- MCKEOWN/KLONDYKE HOUSE 1900-1917

After the county seat was moved from Charlestown to Elkton in 1787, the building of large homes ceased until the Gold Rush Era when two of the McKeown brothers went west to make their fortune. Gambling not mining proved to be profitable for the brothers. Returning to Charlestown they built this turreted Victorian house which resembles homes of the Pacific Coast. Lavish in architecture and construction materials it stands basically unchanged along side hexagonal clapboard ice house.

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE POST ROAD- ROUTE 7

Important to the life of Charlestown, the post road wound it's way through the Maryland countryside from Baltimore to Philadelphia. George Washington, Ben Franklin, VIPS and other travelers spent hours of on this primitive road, frequently muddy, rutted, and uncomfortable all year round. Locals prevailed to keep the post road open because it brought business to the town.

MARKET SQUARE

During the early years of Charlestown the Market Square was a very active place. Great numbers of people from as far away as Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Lancaster, brought their wares to be sold at the fairs held in Charlestown in October and April. There were also weekly market days. Surrounding the square were taverns, home, stores, and the Post Office and a jail.

GHOST OF CHARLESTOWN

With such a long history Charlestown would quite likely have some accounts of ethereal characters. Two old soldiers were said to have sent pets scurrying from certain areas of Eagle Point. Strange happenings such as voices, footsteps, the presence of an invisible someone and items being moved when no one was around have been experienced at Market Street Café. Peddlers Run, a small creek, is rumored to be visited by the spirit of a murdered salesperson in the early years of Charlestown.

INTERESTING CHARACTERS

Charlie Jackson, a former slave, better known as "Black Diamond" lived in a small cottage at 605 Bladen Street in the mid years of the 20th century. He was the gardener for the Husfield family. He was beloved by the community especially the school children who each fall collected canned good to be presented to him at the holiday season.

Helen Logan, who lived in the Logan House at 333 Market Street, was a renowned Republican in a state of Democrats. It is rumored that when President Truman fired General McArthur, she "an irate woman from Charlestown sent a telegram to the President calling him a "Whittling". It would have been improper to have called him a monon.

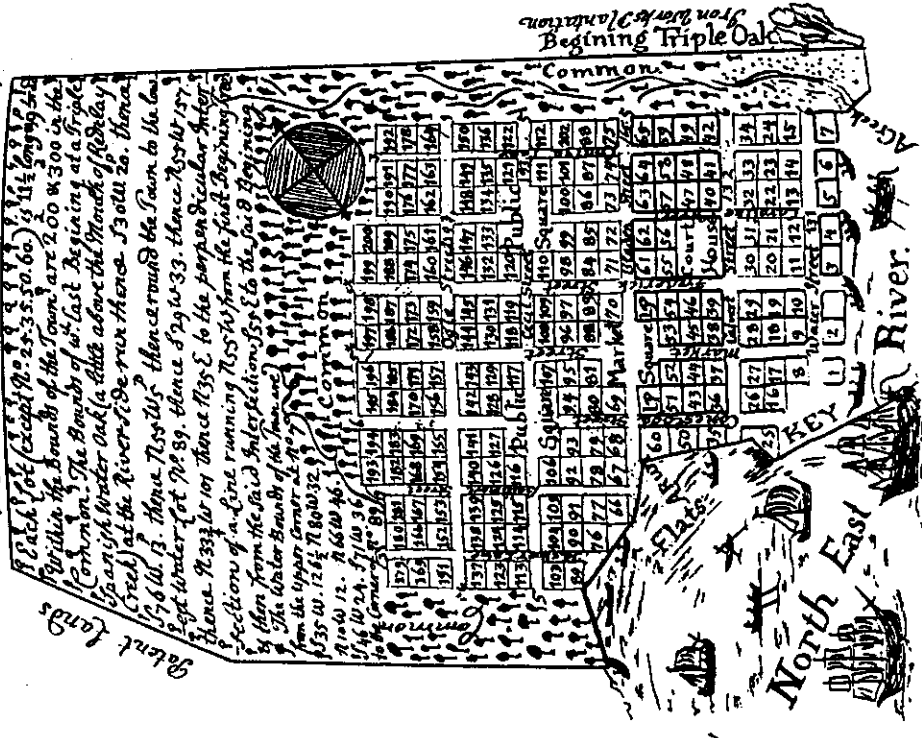
Captain Michael Rudolph captured and burned a British Warship that was blockading the Charlestown Port, during the Revolutionary War. Pretending to be selling chickens, Rudolph and his men were able to take the British by surprise. They marched the Officers and crew through the town streets.

CW Peale, the artist who painted the famous unfinished portrait of George Washington, lived in Charlestown in 1775.

George Washington slept here.

Historical Sites

A Plan of Charlestown in Cecil County, Maryland



Charlestown  
Cecil County Maryland

Incorporated in 1742