

PRELIMINARY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

March 28, 2019



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance for selecting us to undertake this important study. In particular we recognize the members of the Board of Directors for their time, assistance and guidance over the past year. We would also like to acknowledge the preservation efforts of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which provided partial funding for the project, in addition to funding and support provided by Preservation Maryland, the Arthur H. Kudner, Jr. Fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, and the Kent County Commissioners (William Pickrum, Ronald Fithian, and Billy Short). Special additional thanks goes to Michael Bourne for architectural analysis, Gail Owings, Dr. John Seidel, current director of the CES, for his archaeological expertise, Tyler Campbell for his aerial photography, and Elizabeth Watson for her ever-present guidance and support of this project.

The Board of Directors of the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance:
Janet Christensen-Lewis, Chair; Pat Langenfelder, Vice-Chair; John Lysinger, Secretary; Frank Lewis, MD, Treasurer; and Directors: Judy Gifford; Francis J. Hickman; A. Elizabeth Watson, FAICP; and Doug West.

The following individuals carried out the work in this study:

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements & Table of Contents	i.
Location & Directions	ii.
List of Tables, Figures & Maps	iii.
Executive Summary	v.
Foreword by A. Elizabeth Watson, FAICP	viii.
Purpose & County Overview	1.01
Landscape Chronology	2.01
Existing Landscape	3.01
Preliminary Significance	4.01
Landscape Analysis	5.01
Bibliography	6.01
Appendices	7.01
A. List of National Register, Easement, and MIHP Properties in Kent County	
B. Resumes of Key Team Members	



Preservation Maryland

The Six-to-Fix program allows Preservation Maryland to take direct action to fulfill its mission to protect the best of Maryland. As part of the program, the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance gratefully received a Heritage Fund grant from Preservation Maryland to conduct an assessment of the outstanding scenic and historical cultural landscape in Kent County that is currently threatened by energy sprawl.



The National Trust for Historic Preservation

This project has been financed in part with a Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded nonprofit organization that works to save America's historic places to enrich our future. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is committed to protecting America's rich cultural legacy and helping build vibrant, sustainable communities that reflect our nation's diversity. The contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Trust.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONTENTS



LOCATION

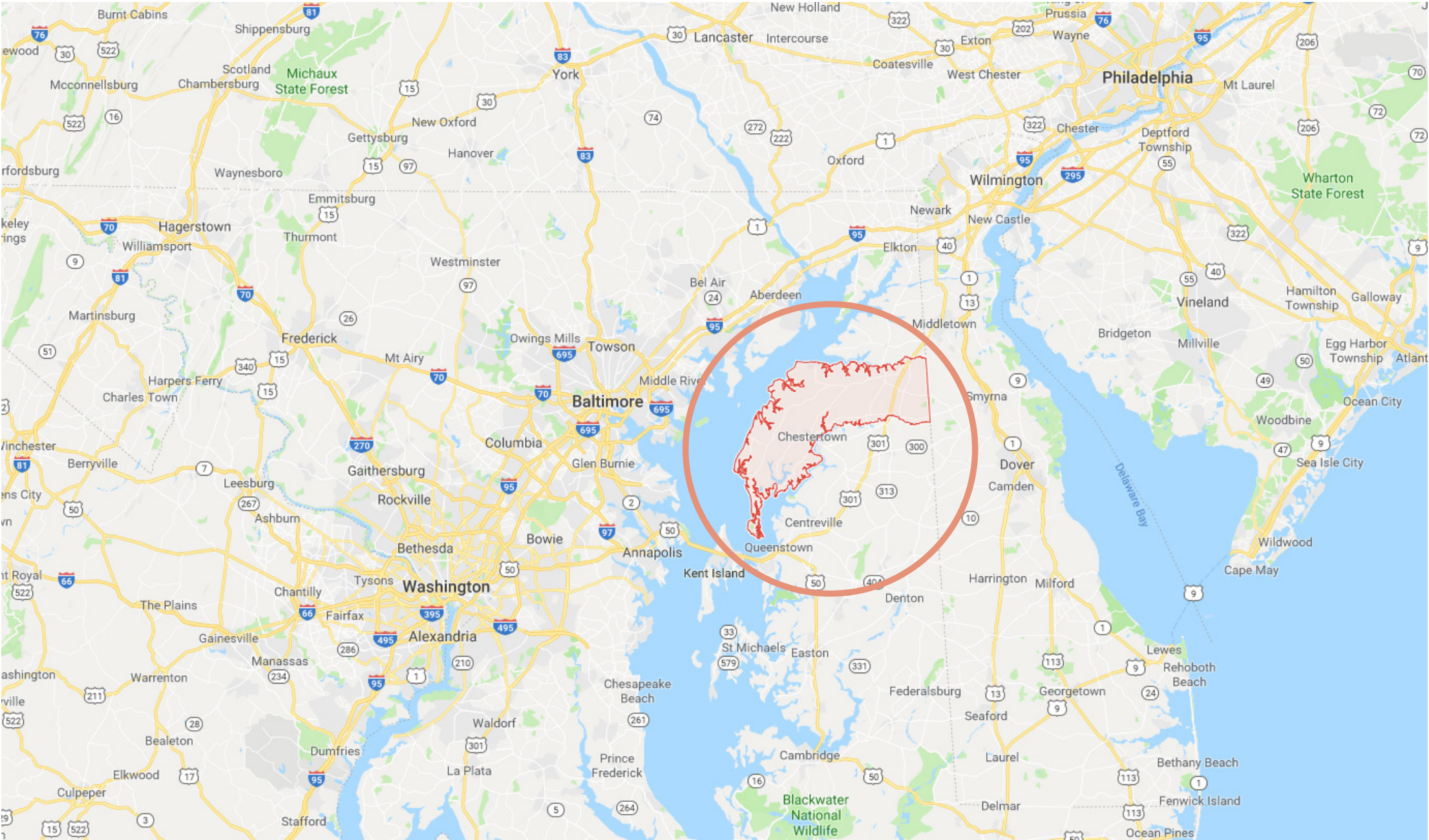


Figure 2: Google Street map showing location of Kent County within the State of Maryland and the Delmaroa Peninsula, circle represents 15 mile radius

All of Kent County’s historic landscape is within a 2-hour drive from Philadelphia, PA, Wilmington, DE, Baltimore, MD, Washington DC and Annapolis, MD.

Directions:

From Philadelphia and Wilmington to Galena and Chestertown:
I-95 south to 896 south (exit 1, Middletown, Delaware.) DE 896 turns into MD route 301. Right on MD 290 (exit for Galena/ Chestertown.) From Galena, follow MD 213 south and signs to Chestertown.

From Baltimore to Chestertown:
I-95 south to I-695 east to I-97 south to route 50 east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to MD 301 north. Exit MD 213 north (Centreville/Chestertown) to Chestertown.

From Washington and Annapolis to Chestertown:
Route 50 east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to MD 301 north. Exit MD 213 north (Centreville/Chestertown) to Chestertown.

- From Chestertown to:
- Rock Hall: From Downtown, take MD 213 north, turn left on MD 291 and then right on Route 20. Follow Route 20 into Rock Hall.
 - Betterton: MD 213 north. Left on MD 297. Right on MD 298, Left on 292 to Betterton.
 - Millington: From Downtown, take MD 213 north, turn right on MD 291 east, cross over MD 301 to Millington.

LOCATION & DIRECTIONS

LIST OF FIGURES, TABLES & MAPS

Chapter 1:

- Figure 1-1: Circa 1927 view of Chestertown's waterfront
- Figure 1-2: Historic Aerial of the Sassafras River, 1927
- Figure 1-3: Historic Aerial of Georgetown on the Sassafras River, 1927
- Figure 1-4: Chesapeake Bay from its head to Potomac River, United States Coast Survey, 1861-1862
- Figure 1-5: Historic Aerial view of Chestertown, 1927
- Figure 1-6: Aerial view of Chestertown looking east
- Figure 1-7: HABS Drawings of Carvill Hall, 1973
- Figure 1-8: Original Map of the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway routes
- Figure 1-9: Bird's Eye View of Chestertown, Maryland, 1907
- Figure 1-10: Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Figure 1-11: Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
- Figure 1-12: Historic aerial view of Reed Creek, 1927
- Figure 1-13: Aerial view of the Chester River, Chestertown in the distance
- Figure 1-14: Bus tour of the county by members of the project team
- Figure 1-15: Aerial of the Chester River looking northeast
- Figure 1-16: Aerial of the Chester River looking west
- Figure 1-17: Project team members on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay
- Figure 1-18: Fairlee Manor Camp House, 2018

- Table 1: African-American Schools in Kent County as of 1866
- Table 2: Kent Co. Population 1900-2015
- Table 3: Kent County Preserved Land, 2017 (Acres)

Chapter 2:

- Figure 2-1: Augustine Herrman, Map of Virginia and Maryland as it is planted and inhabited this present year, 1673
- Figure 2-2: Herrman, Inset Map showing Kent County (rotated)
- Figure 2-3: Herrman, Inset Map showing key
- Figure 2-4: Francis Lamb, Virginia & Maryland, 1676 from Edward C. Papenfuse & Joseph M. Coale, and Edward C. Papenfuse. 2003
- Figure 2-5: Emanuel Bowen, A new and accurate map of Virginia & Maryland, 1752
- Figure 2-6: "Carte de la baye de Chesapeack et pays voisins," by Jacques Nicolas Bellin, 1703-1772.
- Figure 2-7: "map of the peninsula between Delaware & Chesopeak Bays, with the said bays and shores adjacent drawn from the most accurate surveys," by John Churchman, 1753-1805.
- Figure 2-8: Shows Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the southern portions of Pennsylvania and New

- Jersey. Appears in the author's Atlas amériquain septentrional, 1778
- Figure 2-9: Fry & Jefferson Inset Map showing Kent County
- Figure 2-10: "Map of Maryland showing principal buildings, roads, cities and towns, created or existing prior to 1794 : a few residences are of a later date, Price H. Brooks, copyright 1933
- Figure 2-11: "Map of the State of Maryland laid down from an actual survey of all the principal waters, public roads, and divisions of the counties therein; describing the situation of the cities, towns, villages, houses of worship and other public buildings, furnaces, forges, mills, and other remarkable places; and of the Federal Territory; as also a sketch of the State of Delaware showing the probable connexion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays," by Dennis Griffith, 1794.
- Figure 2-12: Brooks Map Inset of Kent County, rectified and georeferenced for work with GIS Mapping
- Figure 2-13: Griffith Map Inset of Kent County, rectified and georeferenced for work with GIS Mapping
- Figure 2-14: The states of Maryland and Delaware, from the latest surveys, 1795
- Figure 2-15: Inset of Atlas showing Kent County
- Figure 2-16: Maryland und Delaware, 1797. Place names in English and German.
- Figure 2-17: 1797 Bohn Map Inset showing Kent County.
- Figure 2-18: The states of Maryland and Delaware from the latest surveys, 1799
- Figure 2-19: A new map of Virginia with Maryland, Delaware & v., 1814
- Figure 2-20: A map of the state of Maryland, 1852
- Figure 2-21: Inset of Kent County
- Figure 2-22: Martenet's map of Kent County, Maryland; shore lines and soundings from U.S. Coast Survey, roads and inland from actual surveys by C.H. Baker, county surveyor, under the direction, and drawn, and published by Simon J. Martenet.
- Figure 2-23: Martenet map inset showing level of detail studied and utilized by project team
- Figure 2-24: "Topographical atlas of Maryland: Counties of Cecil and Kent," 1873.
- Figure 2-25: "Topographical atlas of Maryland: Counties of Cecil and Kent," 1873, with Inset Map for just Kent County.
- Figure 2-26: Detailed 1877 maps cropped together, rectified and georeferenced for work with GIS Mapping
- Figure 2-27: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, “An illustrated atlas of Kent and Queen Anne counties, Md.,” 1877
- Figure 2-28: 1899 USGS Map for Dover quadrangle
- Figure 2-29: 1900 USGS Map for Cecilton quadrangle
- Figure 2-30: 1900 USGS Map for Betterton quadrangle
- Figure 2-31: 1901 USGS Map for Chestertown quadrangle
- Figure 2-32: 1903 USGS Map for Tolchester quadrangle
- Figure 2-33: 1906 USGS Map for Dover quadrangle
- Figure 2-34: 1908 USGS Map for Tolchester quadrangle, reprinted 1944
- Figure 2-35: 1944 USGS Map for Galena quadrangle

LIST OF FIGURES, TABLES & MAPS

Figure 2-36: 1951 USGS Map for Chestertown quadrangle
Figure 2-37: 1953 USGS Map for Rock Hall quadrangle
Figure 2-38: 1930 USDA Soils Map for Kent County
Figure 2-39: 1952 USDA Aerial Photos for local soil conservation district in Kent County

Chapter 3:

Figure 3-1: Landscape Districts Map from the 2004 Stories of the Chesapeake Cultural Landscape & Scenic Resource Assessment
Figure 3-2: Shrewsbury Church, ca. 1834
Figure 3-3: Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge
Figure 3-4: Hinchingham Farm, ca. 1774
Figure 3-5: Silver Heel Log Canoe
Figure 3-6: John Embert Farm, ca. 1799
Figure 3-7: Knock's Folly ca. 1753
Figure 3-8: Kent County Courthouse. ca. 1860
Figure 3-9: Stefan Skipp Farm, spring cornfield after planting
Figure 3-10: Stefan Skipp Farm, fall cornfield after harvest

Map 3-1: Kent County Existing Conditions
Map 3-2: Kent County Topography
Map 3-3: Kent County Historical Assets
Map 3-4: Kent County MIHP
Map 3-5: Kent County's Historic African-American Communities

Chapter 4:

Figure 4-1: Caulk's Field, intact battle site during the War of 1812
Figure 4-2: Caulk's Field House, ca. 1743
Figure 4-3: 2004 Heritage Area Assessment Report
Figure 4-4: 2004 final Management Plan Report
Figure 4-5: Chesterville Brick House, ca. 1773
Figure 4-6: NR Register Bulletin 30
Figure 4-7: Aerial photo of Kent County
Figure 4-8: Aerial view of Galena, MD
Figure 4-9: Team members touring the Shrewsbury Church cemetery in 2018
Figure 4-10: Downrigging weekend on the Chester River, 2018

Chapter 5:

Figure 5-1: Planting winter wheat after soybean harvest
Figure 5-2: Historic shorelines from MERLIN
Figure 5-3: 1906 Map of the Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia Railway Company
Figure 5-4: Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail map from the National Park Service
Figure 5-5: Aerial View of King's Prevention Farm, ca. 1779

Map 5-1: Kent County Agricultural Resources
Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis

Chapter 6:

N/A

Chapter 7:

Figure 7-1: Jesse Spencer House, or Chesterville Brick House, shortly after being saved and moved for restoration, ca. 1978 photo
Figure 7-2: Field of winter wheat growing near Chestertown

LIST OF FIGURES, TABLES & MAPS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Located only two hours from Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Annapolis and Northern Virginia, pastoral Kent County, Maryland comprises 413 square miles on a scenic peninsula, where the Chester and Sassafras Rivers flow into the Chesapeake Bay. The county seat, Chestertown, lies along the banks of the Chester River and is the oldest port of entry along the mid-Atlantic seaboard. Kent County is home to a picturesque rural and historic landscape containing a wealth of historic resources. The result of this inventory and documentation project are new databases to store geographic data, a review and compilation of available historic evaluations of the county's resources, and a better understanding of the significance of the county's timeless cultural landscape.

This preliminary cultural landscape assessment report was completed by an integrated planning team including an historical landscape architect (Rob McGinnis), an architectural historian (Michael Bourne), an historic architect and planner (Barton Ross), and GIS specialist (Washington College's GIS Program). The team was led by Barton Ross & Partners (BRPA) with Robert McGinnis Landscape Architects (RMLA) serving as the cultural landscape specialist responsible for landscape documentation and analysis. BRPA administered the project and coordinated all consultants, prepared a historical overview of the project area, undertook fieldwork and documentation verification of buildings and structures within the project area, and compiled all work of the consultants to produce draft and final reports. Michael Bourne functioned as the architectural historian reader and assisted on research which contributed to the preliminary statement of significance. Washington College's GIS Program undertook the collection of available data and developed the majority of maps for the project. RMLA produced the detailed "Cultural Landscape Analysis" map found at the end of Chapter 5.

Kent County is a valuable cultural landscape comprising not only the 700-plus historic resources individually identified in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) but also, and significantly, a substantially intact working landscape representing agricultural practices extending for over 300 years. The natural qualities of that landscape (geology, soils, topography, hydrology, climate) and its location within the Chesapeake Bay region governed the evolution of the cultural landscape and those historic resources and remain important to this day in conveying Kent County's identity and historical significance. The prime agricultural soils that extend across much of the county in particular make this landscape nearly unique and have contributed to the establishment of a vast fully integrated spatial matrix of historic sites and districts; road, rail, and maritime transportation systems; farmlands; and water and terrestrial natural systems found in Kent County.

This is a cultural landscape that was occupied by American Indians for thousands of years before European contact and has continuously evolved as an agricultural and maritime landscape since European exploration in the early 1600s. It is among the earliest landscapes settled in eastern North America by English colonists and African Americans. Maryland was pioneered on a site not far away by water from Kent County in 1634, Jamestown in 1606, Plymouth in 1620, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630.

The economic conditions that favored the agricultural and maritime settlements of the county since the early 1600s have remained virtually unchanged. This agricultural county and its small towns and villages have prospered through the good times and the hard times of American history while responding to evolving technological and architectural changes. It is possible to read that history in the individual historic resources as well as the larger landscape patterns associated with the matrix of highly connected landscape systems and features that survive.

A large agricultural landscape on the East Coast that has a high level of continuity of land use and surviving physical characteristics is among the rarest of the rare, especially one that was densely settled so early in the history of the nation and which has so many identified historic resources. The World Heritage Convention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has established a definition for an organically evolved landscape and, more specifically, a continuing landscape. The cultural landscape of Kent County can be defined as a continuing landscape, although without taking a more detailed account of the entire landscape of the Kent County, it is impossible to truly understand the hundreds of individual sites in the MIHP, the 23 districts and numerous buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and other discrete historically, culturally, and archaeologically significant resources.

Cultural landscape standards and guidelines developed by the National Park Service provided the framework for the project team's approach to cultural landscape documentation, analysis, and assessment. These standards include *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports, Contents, Process, and Techniques* and the *US Department of Interior's National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*.

Four interrelated methodologies were used in the process of compiling this report:

- Documentary research
 - Historic, cartographic, and programmatic information was gathered with an emphasis placed on assembling any data relevant to the crucial periods in the natural, cultural, and built landscape histories.



On-site physical investigation

- Field survey of the accessible physical fabric was conducted to obtain an understanding of the county's cultural landscape and its physical condition.

Graphic documentation

- A comprehensive set of field photographs, aerial and historic images, and maps was compiled to document the historic and current states of the county's evolving cultural landscape.

The Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment Report was required to include the following:

Field Investigations

After review of historic maps, landscape mapping, and aerial photography of existing conditions, the project team undertook a windshield survey of the project area. Private properties were not individually visited unless accessible by KCPA. Fieldwork was supported by a digital .PDF file of the most recent topographic survey of the entire project area. Color digital photographs were taken to document representative features and systems.

Historical Research

The project team established relevant historical contexts of the landscape during the historic period through an analysis of pertinent secondary sources. RMLA provided landscape-specific guidance and recommendations to support targeted site history research undertaken by BRPA and other team members.

Landscape Analysis and Assessment

Preliminary Significance Evaluation and Determination of the Period of Significance

The project team worked to prepare a preliminary statement and period of significance of the district based on criteria set by the National Register of Historic Places.

Overview-Level Description of the Historic Period and Current Landscape

Using existing conditions mapping and aerial photography provided by Washington College’s GIS Program, the project team prepared an overview-level description of the historic and current landscapes focusing on the broad patterns of topography and landform; spatial organization; vehicular circulation systems; notable individual buildings and clusters of buildings and structures; surface water; and vegetation. This section was illustrated using images of historic period maps, other available historic period images, and color digital photographs taken during fieldwork.

Summary Description Comparing the Current Landscape and the Historic Period Landscape

Based on the existing-conditions documentation and the statement of significance, the project team compared the existing landscape with the landscape extant during the period of significance to determine and inventory landscape features and systems that contribute to the period of significance, landscape features that do not contribute to the period of significance, and identification of missing historic period landscape features. The project team provided the inventory information to Washington College's GIS Program for its use in preparing the cartographic information.

Preliminary Assessment of Landscape Integrity

Based on the comparative analysis and evaluation of the landscape elements, the project team assessed the integrity of the landscape district in accordance with National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Discussion of National Register Eligibility of the District

The project team prepared preliminary information on the eligibility of the study area for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bibliography

Primary and secondary resources that were consulted in support of the study.

Report Administration

The Board of Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance (KCPA) works with concerned citizens and organizations to preserve the County’s environment, history and character. KCPA is the nonprofit organization which commissioned the study; the contract was administered by A. Elizabeth Watson, FAICP, a nationally recognized heritage planner.

Barton Ross & Partners, LLC Architects is a practice focused in the field of historic preservation having consulted for numerous nonprofits, companies, and municipalities in the Mid-Atlantic region. Barton Ross, AIA, AICP, LEED AP, is a preservation architect who has contributed to master plans for the Virginia State Capitol, the United States Capitol and Princeton University. Through his work, he has been recognized by the Society of Architectural Historians, the Vernacular Architecture Forum and the Secretary of the Interior. Barton currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Kent County Historic Preservation Commission, the Chestertown Main Street Design Committee, and is the Chair of AIA Maryland's Historic Resources Committee. He is a licensed historic architect per the Secretary of the Interior’s Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61.

Rob McGinnis, FASLA, is an award-winning landscape architect with thirty years of planning, design, and landscape preservation experience throughout the United States and abroad. His landscape expertise includes the planning and design of historic sites, museums, memorials, campuses, parks, civic spaces, and transportation systems. Rob has completed more than 150 projects including forty-four National Historic Landmarks and six World Heritage sites. He has contributed to the preservation and enhancement of the grounds of the Washington Monument, Jamestown Island, the University of Virginia, Valley Forge, Pearl Harbor, Mount Vernon, the National Gallery of Art, Grand Canyon Village, the Presidio of San Francisco, the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite Valley, and Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Washington College Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program, a part of the Center for Environment and Society (CES), is an educational and technological hub tasked with the mission of providing experiential learning opportunities to its more than 80 student interns. Since its inception in 2007 under the direction of John Seidel, Ph.D., current director of the CES, the Washington College GIS Program has pursued an ongoing development and expansion strategy. After nine years, it has grown to become a valuable resource to the Eastern Shore providing analysis and support to partners of diverse scopes, cooperating on projects from criminal analysis to those environmental, cultural and historical in nature. As a non-profit educational organization, Washington College and its centers are committed to contributing to the overall success of the region through educational and technologically innovative approaches to cultural resource management.

Michael Bourne is the former Survey and Easement Coordinator for the Maryland Historical Trust, and a noted author of local architecture books. He previously worked for Colonial Williamsburg. He is a qualified architectural historian per the Secretary of the Interior’s Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61, with over 50 years of professional experience directing more than a thousand projects across the Mid-Atlantic region. Michael is extremely familiar with Kent County, having authored the *Architectural History of Kent County*, published by the Historical Society of Kent County in 1998. Mr. Bourne served as the architectural historian on this project, peer-reviewing portions of the Cultural Assessment Report.

We would like to thank the Board of Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance for selecting us to undertake this preliminary cultural landscape assessment. We hope the project has been illuminating and satisfactory for all involved and can serve as a valuable resource for the county to use in their future preservation planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Barton Ross & Partners, LLC Architects

Barton Ross, AIA, AICP, LEED AP BD+C
President & Project Manager

Barton Ross & Partners LLC
Architects

Robert McGinnis Landscape Architects

Rob McGinnis, FASLA
Principal & Cultural Landscape Specialist

ROBERT MCGINNIS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
Landscape Architecture Urban Design + Planning Heritage Conservation

FOREWORD BY A. ELIZABETH WATSON, FAICP

The Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway bisects Kent County east from west, rising up from Chestertown, a former colonial port on the Chester River, to a broad, nearly level agricultural plain incised with a few wooded stream valleys. In adjoining territory in Delaware, a part of this land formation was called “the Levels.” What drivers see along this route—one of only 150 found in the United States—is an American landscape as valuable in its own right as such beloved American landscapes as Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley or the Berkshires in Massachusetts.

Kent County is bounded by the Sassafras River to the north, the Chesapeake Bay to the west, the Chester River to the southeast and south, and the Mason-Dixon line to the east, dividing Maryland from Delaware and although an artificial boundary, a boundary that is historic in its own right. The county’s 279 square miles of land area, mingled with another 136 square miles of rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, comprise a significant cultural landscape. It was occupied by American Indians for thousands of years before European contact, and it has continuously evolved as an agricultural and maritime landscape since European exploration in the early 1600s.

As centuries have passed and others have failed across Maryland and the United States to protect similar places from sprawl-induced growth beginning after World War II, Kent County has grown even more special. Today, it is not just the landscape, but the protections pursued here that make Kent County unique. Outside the West, where much of the land is federally owned, only a few American landscapes have achieved the level of protection found here.

Because of such stewardship, the county has drawn talented farmers who moved to the area from other places where farming was not as valued, joining families who have farmed successfully in Kent County for generations. Investment in modern farming methods is high, and high land values reflect the county’s desirability for farming, not development. In 2008, Kent County was named #1 among “Best Rural Places to Live in America.” In recognizing the county, Progressive Farmer stated, “What makes Kent stand out is its residents’ resolve to maintain a solid rural heritage.”

A large agricultural landscape on the East Coast that has such a high level of continuity of land use and surviving physical characteristics is among the rarest of the rare, especially one that was densely settled so early in the history of the nation and which has so many identified historic resources. Unless the entire landscape is accounted for, it is impossible to truly understand the more than 700 known historic resources (districts and individual sites) shown on the map developed for the project described in the following pages. The known number includes the Chestertown National Historic Landmark District, the nation’s highest form of recognition for historic resources; fewer than six percent of the nation’s nearly 2,000 landmark recognitions have been granted to historic districts.

Kent County is a part of a larger cultural and natural landscape, the Delmarva Peninsula, which is just over 183 miles in length, and nearly 71 miles wide. Although there are many areas of towns and suburbs across this region, a glance at any map of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia showing population density, open space, wildlife habitat, or even the night sky will reveal how distinctive this region is compared to “the western shore.”

This region is, in fact, so distinctive that it has recently been dubbed the “Delmarva Oasis” by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and noted writer Tony Hiss, author of *The Experience of Place*, who is now among those campaigning to save enough land worldwide to help avoid “the sixth extinction” – the accelerated, widespread extinctions of fauna and flora we are seeing now that is comparable to mass extinctions from deep time. Kent County demonstrates ways that humans have interacted with the landscape in such a way that we can hope to coexist with the wild kingdom that is so threatened.

I first encountered Maryland’s Eastern Shore nearly three decades ago, in the early 1990s, when the precursor organization working to protect the Chester River, now part of ShoreRivers, the clean water voice for this region, invited me to speak at their annual meeting. In 1989, I had co-authored a book, *Saving America’s Countryside*, and was in the process of a rewrite that Johns Hopkins University Press would publish for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1996. At the time, I was also the member of the board of the Countryside Institute (now the Glynwood Center serving the Hudson River Valley in promoting local food), and deep into helping to organize the first national organization supporting the concept of heritage areas (succeeded by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas).

It was my Countryside Institute connection that soon led to my next involvement here – I encouraged Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties to sponsor an international exchange with American and British community planning experts. This would be the institute’s first venture with this exchange beyond New England. It led directly to interest here in creating a state-certified heritage area just as soon as Maryland announced the start of the state’s well-regarded state-level heritage area program in 1996. I worked with those leaders to conduct preliminary studies and write a grant application for the management plan, still



current, for what soon became the four-county Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, certified in 2005. I'll never forget the day that we learned that we had won that grant, for by that time, I was ready to move here and become the first paid staff for Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc. (ESHI), the heritage area's nonprofit coordinating entity.

What I learn when I get involved in a landscape that I myself think I know well has never failed to astound me. It has happened with childhood landscapes – Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and North Carolina's Outer Banks, where I helped nominate as a National Scenic Byway the road linking Cape Hatteras National Seashore across Albemarle Sound to Ocracoke Island and the Core Banks villages around Harkers Island. And my work helped me see my last home anew, the area now known as Maryland Milestones, a state heritage area that includes Greenbelt, University Park (home to the University of Maryland), and a dozen other small towns strung like jewels along US Route 1. Any Marylander knows this area as a sprawling urban landscape, whereas I now see layer after layer of a landscape that once was home to an Indian trail grooved into the landscape. That trail was so favorably located on the land – high ground between many rivers – that it became part of the King's Highway that King Charles II ordered in the seventeenth century running along much of the Atlantic seaboard. That highway then attracted, decade after decade, people who sought to make their lives and win their prosperity there, first from agriculture and then from the ferment of innovation that is the hallmark of that “milestone” area.

I have experienced the same learning process in a landscape to which I have returned again and again over many years, the Oley Valley of Pennsylvania, where in 1983 I was a part of the National Trust team working with the community when they decided to seek (and win) National Register of Historic Places recognition for a 25-square-mile township. It became one of the nation's first rural historic districts, a process described in Saving America's Countryside, and later a model for the analysis that led to the National Park Service's guidance on establishing rural historic districts in the National Register.

Here in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, I have learned even more. In the process of writing ESHI's management plan, we arrived at the idea of undertaking a unique study combining the methodologies developed over the years for examining cultural landscapes and scenic resources. That groundbreaking study – recognized by the National Trust by inviting us to present at one of its annual meetings – gave me new insights into the working landscape of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. The study revealed the deep imprint of America's colonial past on this landscape, and other themes as well – African American heritage, agriculture, maritime heritage, nature, religion, small towns, and transportation. It also provided fascinating insights not only into the “where,” but equally important the “why” and “how” of this landscape's evolution. For example, the brick Episcopal churches far up silted-in streams (like St. Paul's here in Kent County) signified the water transport on which many early settlers relied – and clay soils close to Chesapeake Bay used for those bricks. Most of the later Methodist chapels built of sawn boards were scattered further east when roads (and Methodism) had spread further on the Eastern Shore.

I have made many friends here over the years and have thoroughly enjoyed living in Chestertown since 2002. We enjoy a good life here on the Eastern Shore and although we have our challenges, as most American rural communities do, the positives by far outweigh any negatives. Consulting in the last decade has taken me far from home and exposed me to many more landscapes and possibilities for their interpretation, protection, and access. But I always return home with that feeling many of us who live here know and remark upon often – the satisfaction of landing on the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay bridge and knowing I'm home.

Often, the sun will be shining as I land – no accident, as the bay creates a sunnier climate here than elsewhere in Maryland. This is, undoubtedly, one contributor to the success of agriculture here, as we have more sunshine here than anywhere else on the East Coast outside of Florida. There is an undercurrent to this relationship to the landscape for all of us that seems as inescapable as the rumblings from Aberdeen Proving Ground that we occasionally experience in Chestertown. Perhaps I just get to sense it more because it is part of the rare world that I inhabit of people who have made a profession of reading landscapes.

So, yes, I have enjoyed living here and becoming an Eastern Shore resident in profound ways – but I confess I have taken it for granted for many years. It was not until we experienced a challenge to the long-settled order of this working landscape in the form of a proposal for massive windmills in Kent County's upland – an area east of Kennedyville, 60' above sea level – that I reconnected to the longstanding efforts here to protect the farms and small communities that make this place so special, through the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance (KCPA). That experience brought me into touch with old friends and new – farmers, real estate experts, public officials, artists, business owners, and many more – and persuaded me that many here know and deeply value this landscape on their own terms. I thought, if only we could help them see that this is not simply a personal feeling they have: this is a rare place indeed. Its qualities deserve better, wider understanding and recognition. The people who have worked for decades toward its protection – private property owners, public officials and the planners who support them, advocates like the Farm Bureau and Kent Conservation, KCPA's precursor – deserve that recognition, too.

In 2016, when we had to argue against that windmill project – which had morphed into a massive solar proposal – we drew upon that pioneering cultural landscape study completed back in 2004 for the Stories of the Chesapeake's management plan. The judge heard us and respected the arguments we were able to make, and we won thanks in part to those insights.

FOREWORD



That study, however, as good as it was as an introduction to the themes and resources of Kent County’s remarkable landscape, was necessarily limited. After all, it is wise to undertake some preliminary work before making a deep dive.

Following our win before the Public Service Commission, KCPA sought support from several generous donors and foundations and we assembled an expert team from individuals I have known over many years. We were especially fortunate to recruit Rob McGinnis, FASLA, a nationally respected leader in cultural landscape analysis who first helped me see landscapes in wholly new dimensions more than twenty years ago in the Shenandoah Valley.

The next step, the study you are reading now, has been long overdue. This Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment for Kent County is another investigation that takes us to yet another level of understanding about this special place. Depending on the willingness of yet more donors, public officials, and private property owners, we hope the ultimate deep dive is ahead of us in the form of more studies, National Register nominations, and perhaps even a film to help us all visualize the knowledge revealed in the study you are about to read.

This study concludes that Kent County is home to a valuable cultural landscape comprising not only the hundreds of historic resources individually identified – generally speaking on a limited, preliminary basis – in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) but also, and significantly, a substantially intact working rural landscape. In fact, read between the lines and you will realize that it suggests that any amount of additional study will indeed reward us with yet more knowledge about Kent County.

The natural qualities of this landscape (soils, topography, water, climate) and its location within the Chesapeake Bay region (relating to geology, latitude, and water access) governed its evolution. The extent of its prime farmland and other agricultural soils of statewide importance in particular make this landscape unique.

The highly productive land led directly to the wealth of historic sites and districts found here. For reasons to do with the supreme access enjoyed by this region in the Age of Sail, especially in the 18th century, this region became wealthy quite early in the Colonial era. But as access declined across the 19th and early 20th centuries – sailing, steamboats, even the little railroad built in 1868 (and eligible in its own right for the National Register) – Kent County’s location meant that this landscape escaped the effects of industrialization and urbanization that have overtaken most cultural landscapes on the Atlantic seaboard. We are just “fifteen minutes too far” for Maryland’s excellent roadways from the mid-20th century onward to bring too much change. Like the Bay itself, where nutrients both nourish and pollute, the county has attracted just enough growth to sustain us as a community, but not too much to change us in radical ways that would overwhelm those early patterns of settlement.

The historical and natural qualities and resources here remain important to this day in conveying Kent County’s stories, identity, and significance. There are stories embedded in this landscape everywhere we turn, connecting us to the past, to the land and water that surrounds us, and to our communities. It is with great pleasure that I have participated in the study that you are about to read. I hope you will join with the members and directors of the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance in connecting to what we have learned and collaborating on building a future that recognizes and preserves such remarkable evidence of Kent County’s past.