

*A Walking Tour ...*

# HISTORIC STEVENSVILLE

*Established circa 1840 - 1850*



**CRAY HOUSE**  
**Oldest House in Stevensville**

A tour map shows the location of each property described in this brochure. Each site is marked with a numbered sign.

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**S**TEVENSVILLE sits on land called *Stevens Adventure*, a 1694 grant to Francis Stevens. The town developed after the 1850 sale of two farms by James and Charles Stevens, descendants of Francis Stevens. An 1877 tax map shows that the town had grown to nearly 30 structures, including dwellings, churches, stores, a doctor's office, a post office, an Odd Fellows' hall and a hotel.

*Stevensville's development benefited from the steamboat-based trade system that linked the eastern and western shores in the mid-19th century. The railroad came to Stevensville in 1902, and by 1909 the town had two schools, four doctors, a blacksmith and a sawmill. The end of passenger rail service by 1938 and freight line service by 1948 halted growth of the town.*

*Today, Stevensville is still a close-knit community that retains its charming 1920s appearance. Its historic district was placed on the National Register in 1986.*

## **1. THE DUNN HOME**

The home of Charles G. "Gil" and Florence Dunn was built in 1910-12 for George Holland, a cannery owner. Former owners were John M. Ruth and John Daniel. Gil Dunn was a pharmacist for more than 40 years at the Kent Island Shopping Center.

## **2. KENT ISLAND FEDERATION OF ART**

The house was built ca. 1900 for Dr. William L. Henry, his wife and their two sons. The entrance to his office can be seen from the enclosed front porch. Subsequent owners were B. Harrison Bright, J. Fred Stevens, Charles Bright, Elizabeth Bright and C.G. Dunn. *Currently home of the Kent Island Federation of Art, which exhibits work by artists and craftsmen from Wed. through Sun.*

## **3. CAPT. EUGENE HERBERT HOUSE**

This house, ca. 1870-1875, was probably built by Capt. Gene and his brother, Sam, both carpenters. Capt. Gene was master of a sailing vessel that plied the waters from Maine to North Carolina carrying coal, lime, phosphate and wheat. The Herberts had one daughter, Eugenia, who was often mistaken for Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Other owners were daughter Eugenia, Dorothy and Louis Crouch, Ernest and Emma Porter, and Buddy and Colleen Thomas.

## **4. THE COCKEY HOUSE**

This house, ca. 1870, was originally owned by Charles B. Downes. An 1877 map identifies it as parsonage for the First Methodist Protestant Church, which rented it until a new parsonage was built next to the church. [See Site 20.] Miss Mary Cockey, an elementary school teacher, and her father, James Cockey, assistant postmaster in Stevensville, bought the house in the early 1900s. She maintained her collection of books as the local library at the house for many years. She had an addition built on the west side and enlarged the front porch.

## **5. THE LEGG FARM HOUSE**

This is the third oldest structure in Stevensville, one of two with fish-scale siding. Wooden pegs used in its construction can be seen in the attic. This house was owned by Bloody Point lighthouse keeper Moses Legg and his wife, Ann Wrightson Legg. The street was then named New Legg Road, later changed to Locust Street. Subsequent owners were Charles Eareckson and Caroline Anderson Tolson, followed by Walter and Elizabeth Baker and their children, Raymond and Betty.

## **6. PRICE-RINGGOLD HOUSE**

Dorothy Arters and Fred E. Thomas bought this house on Locust Street in 1887 from David Jones, owner and builder. In 1904 the property was sold to Mary Ringgold and Thomas Ringgold Price. Marian Price Steuart, a founding member of the Kent Island Heritage Society, next lived in this house until her death in 1991.



#### 7. CAPT. JIM ED JONES HOME

Captain James Edward Jones and his wife, Sarah Carroll, built a prior house here in 1880 that was destroyed by fire. The present house was built in 1882. It has been in the Carroll family since that time and is presently owned by Pamela Price Sawyer.

#### 8. TWO ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

Built in 1870 as a two-room schoolhouse, School No. 2, District 4, Queen Anne's County Schools. The school had two teachers for grades 1 through 7. Dr. John R. Benton bought the building in 1910 and had it moved to its present location. The original stairway to the second floor can be seen upon entering the building. An outline of the original entrance is visible on the north side of the building.

#### 9. CHARLES STEVENS STORE

Built ca. 1865-1870 for Charles Stevens, this was one of the first stores in Stevensville. A Mr. Beitzel was an early shopkeeper. Dr. John R. Benton bought the property, separated and moved a portion of the building to land now occupied by the adjacent office building. Thomas Carroll was the merchant here for many years, followed by Rose Baxter Weston and her son, James Richard Weston. Elizabeth Sattlermaier and Julius Grollman were later owners.

#### 10. GROLLMAN'S ORIGINAL DRY GOODS STORE

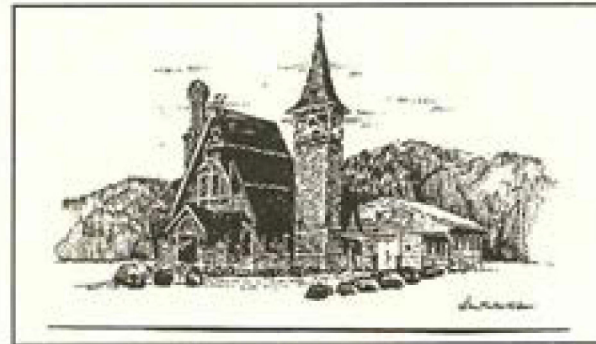
Built in 1870 for Charles B. Downes by his brother, Sam Downes, Henry Grollman bought this property in 1910. After leaving his partnership with Ellis Grollman, he built an addition to the house and, with his wife Lena, opened a dry goods store.

#### 11. CHRIST CHURCH AND RECTORY

Built in 1880, this is the oldest church on Kent Island. It is the fifth church of this Christ Church parish founded in 1631, and is the oldest continuous Episcopal congregation in the United States. Previous church buildings were in nearby Broad Creek, one of the first towns established in Maryland. The church is a superb example of the Queen Anne style of ecclesiastical architecture. The Vestry of Christ Church purchased this portion

of Stevens Adventure in 1866 for \$2,800 from Charles and Mary Goodhand Stevens. The church is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1865 Charles Stevens was "elected to make the necessary arrangements for a parsonage" for the new church. He chose an existing house next door to the new the church that previously had housed a boarding school for boys and a day school for young ladies.



#### 12. ACME MARKET

##### STEVENSVILLE POST OFFICE

John Tolson built this general store that was later operated by Fred Thomas. First known as the American Store, the name was later changed to Acme Market. Julius Grollman, a local merchant in the early 1900s, worked in the store as a young man earning \$15 a week. The building was later used as a post office from 1952 until 1975. Miss Genevieve Long was the postmistress; John Henry Tolson and Nettie Aaron were postal workers there.

#### 13. THE JENNIE LEGG DRY GOODS STORE

In 1809 John Denny purchased from J. Stevens the lot on which this structure and the adjacent Cray House sit. It is believed that he constructed this building shortly after Cray House, which would make this the second oldest building in Stevensville. The building was sold to Hugh A. Legg in the late 1800s, who enlarged the front with lumber salvaged from the old Kent Point School House, which had been closed. Lil Cook ran a confectionary store here in the 1930s. The large front windows were added later.

#### 14. CRAY HOUSE

This is the oldest house in Stevensville. John Denny purchased this lot from J. Stevens in 1809 and constructed both this house and the adjacent structure [See site 14]. A ship carpenter, Denny used an unusual post and plank construction method in which walls are formed by tenoning horizontal planks into mortices (slots) cut into vertical corner posts. The south portion of the house was added around 1842 by Mary E. Carville Legg. After a series of owners, it was sold at public auction in 1914 to Nora Cray, a widow who lived there with her three children. Her heirs deeded the property to The Kent Island Heritage Society in 1976. The house underwent extensive restoration and was rededicated in 2004. This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### 15. STEVENSVILLE TRAIN STATION

In 1894 the Maryland Legislature gave approval to Queen Anne's Railroad Company to build an east-west railroad across Delmarva, connecting Queenstown with Lewes, Delaware. In 1902, the route was extended 13 miles to Love Point, and provided employment and excitement to Kent Island. The 1952 opening of the Bay Bridge brought that era to an end. The abandoned and badly deteriorated terminal building was donated to The Kent Island Heritage Society. It was moved to its present site in 1988 and restored to its 1902 appearance.



#### 16. THE COUNTRY STORE

The corner building was constructed ca. 1900 as a grocery store and owner's residence for Wells Tolson by Everett Cook and Eugene Herbert. The original German siding—now covered by



vinyl—was probably salvaged from the Johnstown Flood of 1889. Subsequent grocers were T. Walter White, George Lowe, Philip Grobman, Wm. Lowe and Addison Frampton, who affiliated with the Independent Grocers Association, known then as IGA Stores.

The obliquely situated building next door—built in 1865, making it one of the oldest in town—was later connected by a trapezoidal addition. It had also been a grocery store. An 1877 map shows Mrs. Earle as first owner, then Mrs. Wallis Addison Frampton. One of the first merchants to occupy this store was Charles M. Legg, whose brother-in-law, Magistrate Robert Cook, held court in a corner of the store. Other occupants were Ellis and Henry Grobman, William Brown, Charles Cockey, James Marvel, Alex. and Harry Grobman, Blount and Addison Frampton.

#### 17. HOME OF DR. C. PERCY KEMP

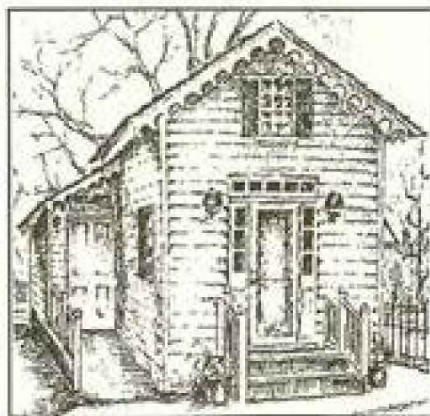
##### DR. J.E.H. LEWIS

Built ca. 1880-90 for Dr. J.E.H. Lewis. The first occupant was probably Ann Kemp, widow of Thomas Kemp. She later married her landlord, Dr. Lewis. Her son, C. Percy Kemp made this his home after becoming a physician. He also used Dr. Lewis's adjacent former office, which no longer exists. The drug store (now a dance studio) built for Dr. Kemp in 1902 was known as Kemp's Pharmacy.

#### 18. OLD STEVENSVILLE POST OFFICE

The construction date of this building is not known, but it appears on an 1877 map and served as the Stevensville Post Office for the first half of the 20th century.

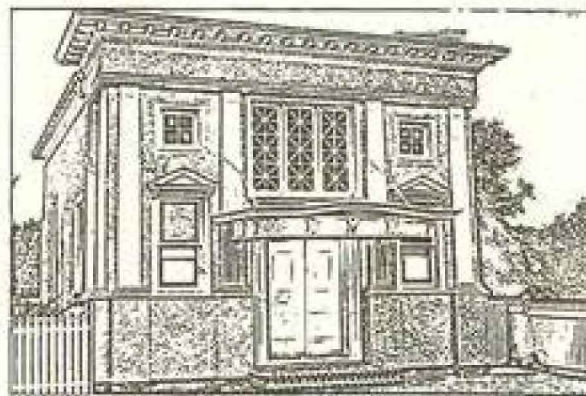
The government paid rent of \$18.75 a month and the outlandish sum of \$25 a year to heat the structure. A variety of businesses



occupied the small building (730 square feet) until it was acquired in 1997 by The Kent Island Heritage Society.

#### 19. STEVENSVILLE BANK

The Stevensville Bank of Queen Anne's County, built ca. 1903-07, opened for business in 1909. It is the oldest bank building on Kent Island and one of the oldest in the county. The facade's classical architectural details, combined with the pressed tin ceiling and intact furnishings and vault, helped place it on the National Register of Historic Places. Since the bank moved to new quarters in the early 1960s, the building has been occupied as business offices and by merchants. It was built on the site of an apothecary shop owned by Dr. Wm. E. Denny, where his sister and niece—Miss Annie and Miss Lucy—worked as clerks. The Society is currently lessee of this property.



#### 20. METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

In 1851 Charles and Mary Ann Stevens sold the land to the Chesapeake Lodge #58 of the Order of Odd Fellows for one cent. In 1864 the Lodge sold it to the trustees of the Methodist Protestant Church, John Jeffers, Charles Downes, James Denny, William C. Gibson, Franklin Bright, M.G. Goodhand, and C.G.A. Porter. No longer used as a church, it was purchased by William E. Denny III, who restored the structure and its marvelous stained glass windows—a number of which are dedicated to the memory of members of his family.

The adjacent parsonage was built ca. 1875-80 to replace rented space (See site 4). It was originally owned by Charles Goodhand. Currently the home of William E. and Janet Denny III.

#### 21. LOWERY HOTEL

Built about 1860 for J. Reuben Jeffers. The 1877 map shows it was a boarding house rented to Alexander Lowery of Cox's Neck. He later bought the property and opened it as a hotel in November of 1883. Alterations and additions were made to meet the needs of the many overnight travelers coming from the Matapeake, Broad Creek, and Love Point ferry landings. A live ystable provided transportation. Meals were 25 cents. Fountain and Florence Lowery Jackson continued the business for several years after Mrs. Lowery's death. It remained in the Lowery family until the heirs sold it in 1935.

#### 22. H. GOODHAND HOTEL

Known as the H. Goodhand Hotel on the 1877 map, it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Emory Skinner around the end of the 19th century. Then called Skinner's Boarding House, it offered room and board to salesmen and other travelers. The house was later owned by Roland and Lolita Bright Carvel.

#### 23. PRICE HOUSE

Built in 1915 for owners and first occupants P. Thomas and Augusta Legg Price. One of the largest houses in town, it has a unique cupola on top that was used during World War II as a lookout for enemy planes. Volunteers manned the post, connected by telephone to a communications center. The house remained in the Price family for many years. It was sold to Bertha Carroll, then to Edward and Norma Bryan Hopkins, niece of Bertha Carroll.



