Rev. prfs

K-95

The Alms House, Mount Pleasant
Broad Neck
1847

When the Trustees of the Poor House purchased 293 acres of the Josiah Ringgold, Sr. plantation in 1847, there was no dwelling standing thereon, only the buildings for running the farm operation. The deed for the property was executed the very same day as it was advertised for sale. In the advertisement in the Kent News the description of the property reads: "About 306 Acres . . . the dwelling house has been destroyed by fire but the outbuildings a large barn with sheds, stable, corn house and meat house all in good order. The land is distant about three miles from Chestertown and adjoins the lands of Samuel Ringgold and the heirs of William Perkins . . ."[1]

Since the accommodations which the Trustees of the Poor leased had recently burned, it was necessary for them to begin immediately with their construction project. The first building to house the poor consisted of a brick structure looking remarkably like a typical residence of the period, at least from the front.

The taller section of the building was three bays long with central double doors (board and batten). The rear, however, was quite different, with the first floor central bay occupied by three doors, the center one at ground level leading to the basement. The brick used in the construction of the first part is darker and less uniform than the later two story wing on its north gable.

The first part was built with a steeply pitched A roof and had

chimneys protruding from the apex at both gables. The lower wing was only two bays long and two stories tall with a shallower roof pitch, leaving enough space on the tall gable for two windows flanking the chimney. Across the entire west facade there was a leanto porch, the same type of arrangement as at Little Neck built earlier in the Century. The north gable had a window on each level, but no chimney.

Although the layout of the building was similar to residences of the period, it differed considerably in that there was no stairhall, only a tiny entry with door on each side. Opposite the door, the stair ascended in one straight flight between two plastered partitions. There was a landing at the top of the stair, with two steps going to opposite doors. There was no interior access from the main house to the wing. Instead, inhabitants had to go outside along the porch and re-enter the building from another exterior door. The single room in the wing appears to have been heated from a stove with pipe into the adjoining chimney. There was an enclosed stair to the second floor where there were three small rooms.

The second building to be erected on the farm was the manager's residence, a large frame house that was much more typical of the second half of the 19th Century. It was a 2-1/2 story, five bay, L-plan building with front and side porches that had a good jig-saw balustrade and brackets. Otherwise, it was devoid of ornamentation.

A dormitory building constructed around 1900 stood to the south of the manager's residence. It consisted of a common room and cells. Another, built in 1927, burned the same year.

K-95

When the welfare system was augmented after World War II, the Alms House Farm became redundant and it was sold from the steps of the Courthouse in October 1951. Walker and Susie V. Lamb purchased the farm and it remained in their family until 1990.[2]

1. Kent County News, August 7, 1847.
2. Lamb, Francis, Notes on Mount Pleasant Plantation.

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Form 10-445
(5/62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE Md.
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Langford
STREET NO. Md. Rt 446 - 3/4 miles S of Md. 20

ORIGINAL OWNER [redacted]
ORIGINAL USE [redacted] dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Walker Lamb
PRESENT USE Storage
WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
NO. OF STORIES 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K-95

2. NAME County Farm

DATE OR PERIOD c. 1800
STYLE Colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

The Alms house was built around 1800 and is a 2 story brick structure, 3 bays long + one room deep. The center ~~the~~ entrance has double batten doors with a wrought iron hand latch ~~latch~~. The windows have 6/6 sash, and the entire structure is laid in common bond. The east facade overlooks a ravine and each of the rooms has a door and window which probably led to a porch. In the center of the 1st story at ground level ~~to~~ a door leading to the basement, a very unusual ~~odd~~ arrangement. On the north gable, a 2 story section was added shortly after the main section. It is 2 bays long and consists of only one room. The section have "A" roof and have 3 chimneys at the gables.

The interior consists of a center stair with vestibule flanked by 2 rooms with batten doors and little interior trim. [redacted]

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered No Interior poor Exterior poor

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

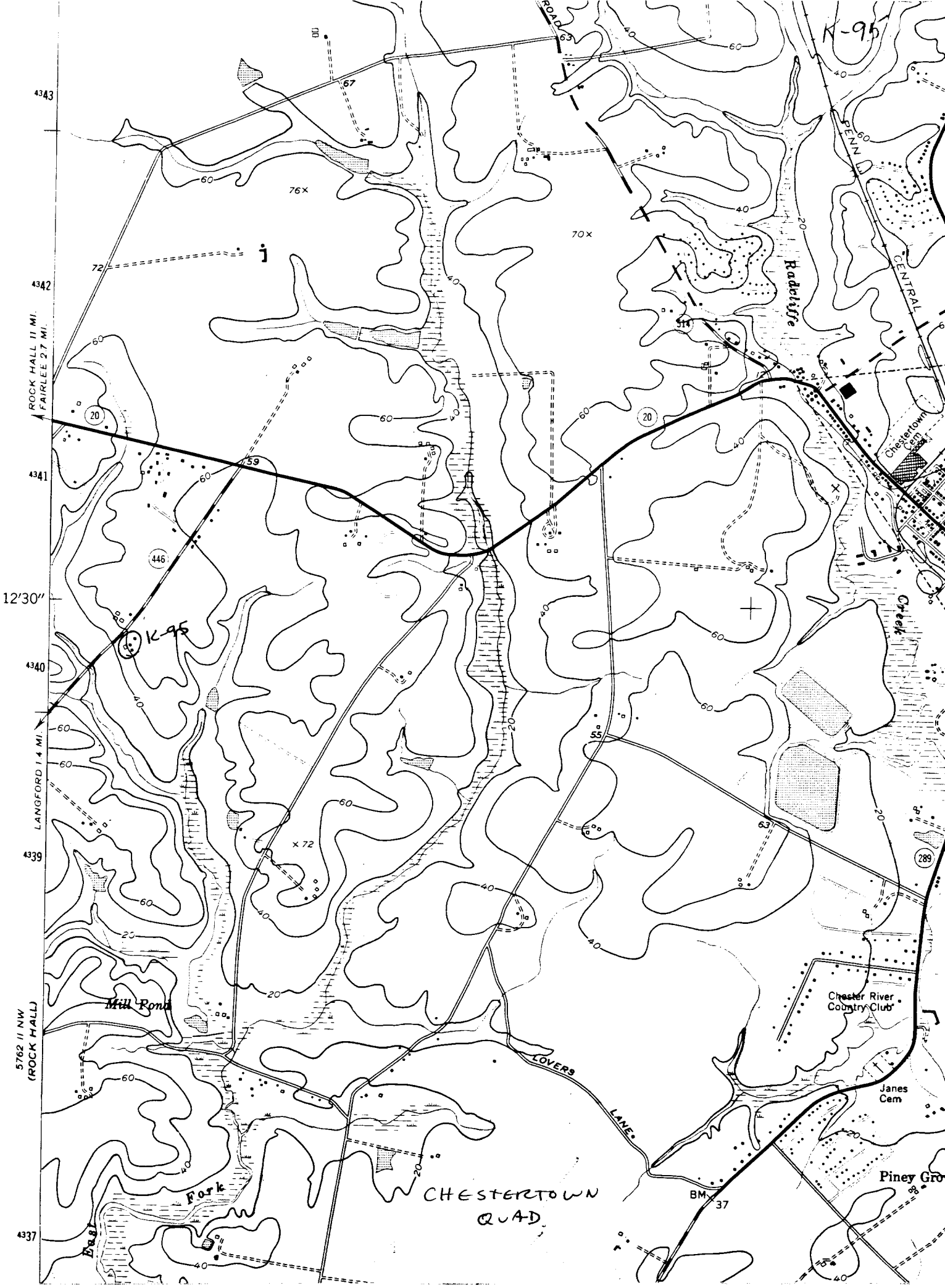
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD Oct 2, 1968

5-59

The Alms house was built around 1800 and is a two story brick structure, three bays long and one room deep. The center entrance has double batten doors with a wrought-iron latch. The windows have 6/6 sashes, and the entire structure is laid in common bond. The east facade overlooks a ravine and each of the rooms has a door and window which probably led to a porch. In the center of the first story at ground level is a door leading to the basement, a very unusual arrangement. On the north gable, a two story section was added shortly after the main section. It is two bays long and consists of only one room. The sections have A roofs and there are three chimneys at the gables.

The interior consists of a center stair with vestibule flanked by two rooms with batten doors and little note-worthy trim.


K-95
ROCK HALL 11 MI.
FAIRLEE 2.7 MI.
LANGFORD 1.4 MI.
5762 II NW
(ROCK HALL)
12'30"
K-95
Radcliffe
Creek
PENN
CENTRAL
Chestertown Cem
Mill Pond
LOVERS
LANE
Chester River
Country Club
Janes
Cem
Piney Gro
East
Fork
CHESTERTOWN
QUAD
BM
37
20
446
289
514
76×
70×
72
67
63
59
55
4343
4342
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