K-152

Partner's Addition
Gregg Neck
c. 1760's

Partner's Addition was a one hundred fifty acre tract patented originally in 1674 to Richard Bower and Francis Robinson.[1] One hundred acres of the tract came into the possession of John Browning in 1737,[2] who bequeathed it to his third son, Thomas.[3] Once Thomas reached his majority, he began building a good brick house on his inheritance close to " . . . the post road leading from George Town Cross Roads to Head of Sassafras . . ."[4]

Thomas Browning's house was a two and a half story, brick dwelling, three bays wide by one bay deep (33' x 21'). The placement of its kitchen is unknown. Both north and south facades had central entrances with transoms and originally pent eaves between the tall first and second story windows. All windows had 9/9 sash. Those on the first floor had paneled shutters. The south and west walls were laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers but the other two walls were laid in common bond. The six-panel doors had the smaller panels in their centers and on the interior they were covered with three thin vertical beaded boards which had been applied with rose-head nails.

The house plan consisted of a hall and parlor. A large 5' 3" wide fireplace with wooden lintel was the heat source for the hall—possibly it doubled as the kitchen fireplace. Now that the house is in derelict condition, it is possible to examine areas which would have otherwise been hidden from sight. Traces of soot from the fireplace can be seen on the brick chimney breast and the ceiling joists above. Obviously, the house had been

occupied prior to its completion. When the house was finished, a wall of raised paneling with cabinet was added to the north side of the fireplace. The treatment would have been very similar to The Adventure and Dullam's Folly.

In the southeast corner that was a winder stair which continued to the unfinished attic. A two-piece cornice and chair rail and a beaded baseboard were used throughout the first floor. Even after the installation of paneling there was no door at the stair. In order to supply more headroom, the underside of the joist above the stair was undercut. There was a stair door located on the second floor.

The parlor or inner room had a 5' wide fireplace in the northwest corner which had a segmentally arched head. Like the fireplaces at Rich Hill, there was a vertical plastered cove on each side which consequently reduced the width of the firebox to about 3' 6". There was a bold trim around the opening with plaster above.

The second floor had an unconventional plan, with passage and three bedrooms. In order to access the northwest bedroom, a passage was carved out of the northeast bedroom. The former was the only second floor room to have a fireplace. It was similar to those below, but the coves were half the size and instead of plaster above, there was paneling with a cabinet door which enclosed three shelves. The space for the three shelves was created by the chimney flues being carried across the wall to emerge from the roof in the center of the gable—a device which balanced the hall chimney. In the second story passage, two doors closed off the stairs. The northeast chamber appears to have had paneling on the east wall, creating

closets flanking the chimney flue.

There were no windows in the attic gables, but the uniformly joined rafters were spaced for two dormers. It is of interest to note that the joists as well as rafters were quite uniform and well-joined.

When "Thomas Browning, hatter" sold the property to "John Maxwell, gent" in 1769 the consideration was @500, a sizable price for only 100 acres.[5] George Browning had purchased twice the acreage adjoining four years before for only @350.[6] The difference between the two sales indicates that John Browning's property had been improved by the construction of the brick house.

John Maxwell purchased 223 1/2 acres adjoining Partner's Addition, to the east, in 1788.[7] Maxwell bequeathed the land to his son, Dr. John Maxwell, who obtained a quit claim deed to the same property in 1797.[8] He then sold the 333 acre farm in 1801 to "William Palmer, farmer of Kent County."[9] Palmer apparently did not pay for the farm, so John Maxwell sold it again in 1814 to William Pryor of Queen Annes County.[10]

William Pryor appears as the owner of the property in 1822 when the Tax Assessor made his rounds. In this record, the original tract is mistakenly called "Partnership Addition" Pryor also owned another parcel of land, the two totaling 600 acres which together were appraised at $2,700.00.[11] John Bowers Eccleston was appointed trustee to sell the 'home farm' of William Pryor in 1828, but it was subject to the life estate of Pryor's widow, Elizabeth. Upon her death, the farm was sold to Samuel D.

Woodland in 1831.[12]

At some time in the 19th Century, a curious thing happened to the house. The original south front stoop was replaced with a porch having a flat roof with railing. The central window on the second floor was lengthened and converted into a door with transom. This probably occurred at the same time that the pent eaves were removed and the kitchen wing added to the east gable. In the process of adding the wing, a passage had to be made through the cabinet in the hall paneling, requiring the rail between the upper and lower doors to be removed, as well as all of the shelves.

After Eccleston's death in 1849 and a subsequent equity case, the farm was sold to John Niven and Bronaugh M. Deringer, the latter being Woodland's son-in-law.[13] Deringer then bought out Nevin's half interest[14] and probably resided therein. His widow is listed as the owner of the farm and appears to have resided at Partner's Addition when the 1877 Atlas was printed. The farm remained in the family until 1948 when it was sold to Roy C. Mitchell.[15] It had been a tenant house until in recent years it was vandalized and stripped of its fine woodwork. In 1994 the northwest corner of the building collapsed, exposing the remainder of the interior to the elements.

1. Patents, Lib. 5, fol. 23.
2. Land Records, Lib. DD 3, fol. 129.
3. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 169.
4. Land Records, Lib. BC 8, fol. 128.
5. Land Records, Lib. DD 3, fol. 129.

6. Land Records, Lib. DD 2, fol. 188.
7. Land Records, Lib. EF 7, fol. 319.
8. Land Records, Lib. BC 4, fol. 624.
9. Land Records, Lib. TW 1, fol. 646.
10. Land Records, Lib. BC 8, fol. 124.
11. 1822 Tax Assessment, 3rd District.
12. Land Records, Lib. JNG 2, fol. 437.
13. Land Records, Lib. JR 1, fol. 423.
14. Land Records, Lib. JFG 4, fol. 257.
15. Land Records, Lib. RAS 36, fol. 543.

K-152 Circa 1750

R. Clayton Mitchell House; Partners' Addition

Near Galena

Private

The Mitchell House, on the northeast corner facing Route 290 (the Galena-Sassafras road) at its intersection with the Gregg Neck Road, is a 2-1/2 storey brick house three bays wide that appears to have been built before 1750 in a vernacular Georgian style. Its main facade faces south toward Route 290. Left vacant and open, it was first vandalized and then stripped of its interior woodwork. The first storey plan is hall-and-parlor, with the entry into the east room, which had a fireplace and panelled east wall. An unusual corner fireplace is in the northwest corner of the parlor. The original section's only stair is in the southeast corner, spiraling to the unfinished third level. There was a heavy, multiply-molded cornice and chair rail. The second storey has a hall across the central and east bays of the south side, with access to what were originally three bedrooms and an exterior second-storey door over the main entry. The secondary entry door, opposite the main entry in the south center bay, is gone and a gable-roofed one-storey bathroom addition built outside it. There is a two-bay-wide gable-roofed, frame, one-storey kitchen wing of no significance on the east end. The Mitchell House is one of the oldest houses remaining in upper Kent County, but its significance has been diminished by the recent theft of all its interior woodwork. Although it is similar in some respects to K-153, the Nicholas Ryley House in Gregg Neck, which may date to 1711, it is unique in other respects. There is only one stair, a corner stair that is constructed around one single newel board from below the first storey floor to above the attic floor. It is perhaps the corner stair, difficult to negotiate with furniture and large items like trunks that led to the early installation of a second-storey central bay door on the south, main facade, not seen elsewhere. Also unusual are the corner fireplaces on first and second storey in the northwest corner, with the flues then offset from them to exit at a gable-end central chimney to preserve the basic symmetry of the house. Slightly jarring, however, are the single windows at that same end, apparently intended to be centered but in actuality not quite centered because of the chimney offset. The shell that remains is informative about early Kent County building practices and an indication that this was a very fine and refined house for its time. The interior woodwork may have dated from a number of years later than the house's building date.

Survey No. K-152

Magi No. 150152 5135

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Partners' Addition

and/or common R. Clayton Mitchell Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number North side Rt. 290 at Gregg Neck Rd., 1 mile east of Galena ___ not for publication

city, town Galena X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	X other: unused

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr.

street & number Kentmore Park telephone no.:

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 29

street & number Cross Street folio 124

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 4, 1968 X federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. K-152

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	_X_ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Mitchell House, on the northeast corner facing Route 290 (the Galena-Sassafras road) at its intersection with the Gregg Neck Road, is a 2-1/2 storey brick house three bays wide that appears to have been built before 1750 in a vernacular Georgian style. Its main facade faces south toward Route 290. Left vacant and open, it was first vandalized and then stripped of its interior woodwork. The first storey plan is hall-and-parlor, with the entry into the east room, which had a fireplace and panelled east wall. An unusual corner fireplace is in the northwest corner of the parlor. The original section's only stair is in the southeast corner, spiraling to the unfinished third level. There was a heavy, multiply-molded cornice and chair rail. The second storey has a hall across the central and east bays of the south side, with access to what were originally three bedrooms and an exterior second-storey door over the main entry. The secondary entry door, opposite the main entry in the south center bay, is gone and a gable-roofed one-storey bathroom addition built outside it. There is a two-bay-wide gable-roofed, frame, one-storey kitchen wing of no significance on the east end.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-152

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates Circa 1725-1760 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Mitchell House is one of the oldest houses remaining in upper Kent County, but its significance has been diminished by the recent theft of all its interior woodwork. Although it is similar in some respects to K-153, the Nicholas Ryley House in Gregg Neck, which may date to 1711, it is unique in other respects. There is only one stair, a corner stair that is constructed around on e single newel board from below the first storey floor to above the attic floor. The Ryley House has a pair of corner stairs, in diagonally opposite corners. It is perhaps the corner stair, difficult to negotiate with furniture and large items like trunks that led to the early installation of a second-storey central bay door on the south, main facade, not seen elsewhere. The door probably is not original there but an early addition. Also unusual are the corner fireplaces on first and second storey in the northwest corner, with the flues then offset from them to exit at a gable-end central chimney to preserve the basic symmetry of the house. Slightly jarring, however, are the single windows at that same end, apparently intended to be centered but in actuality not quite centered because of the chimney offset. The use of an arch spanning the corner of the foundation to carry the weight of the chimney proved to be a faulty building practice that has resulted in severe fracturing of the brick walls due to the outward pressure. The shell that remains is informative about early Kent County building practices and an indication that this was a very fine and refined house for its time. The interior woodwork may have dat ed from a number of years later than the house's building date.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-152

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant		
organization	County Commissioners of Kent County Historical Society of Kent County	date	April 18, 1985
street & number	Court House Cross Street	telephone	778-4600 778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

The front and rear long walls' fenestration is the same: three bays with central-bay entry originally. The openings are evenly spaced and aligned from first storey to second. The east end has only a central window on both first and second storey, except that it is slight off center to the south because of the chimney offset from the corner fireplaces. The second-storey window was placed as close to center as the adjacent chimney flue would allow. The east gable end, now largely covered by the frame wing, does not appear to have any openings except that the opening that now leads to the wing may originally have been an exterior door leading to a detached kitchen.

The south, road-facing facade and the two gable ends appear to be laid in Flemish bond. There is a very heavy sprayed-on white finish on the walls, and the bricks are considerably obscured. Some dark headers (but not glazed) were seen, but a checkerboard pattern could not be discerned. The bricks seen were dark red. Unfinished bricks under the front porch were examined for size. They are very large, about 9" x 4-1/8 to 4-3/8" x 2-3/4"±. Mortar joints were large, about 1/2", for these handmolded bricks. The rear, north side appears to have been built in 1-to-4 common bond. There is a two-course belt on both front and rear, the front one stopping one brick short of each corner and the rear belt extending to the corners. The belt course runs just beneath the sills of the second-storey windows. About six courses below are signs that there was once a pent eave on both front and back of the house, where it was attached to the second-storey floor joists extending through the brickwork. However, there are so many irregularities in bond between the tops of the first-story windows to the belt course that it is difficult to judge what took place. Is this repair work, an area that was intended to be covered and hence not laid for appearance. The second course below the belt is of all headers. In the east gable end there are indications that there was a previous wing located at this end, with a similarly pitched roof but slightly higher. Its lower edge was about 6" above the surface of the present one at the joint.

The water table of the main facade is molded with a bevel. The bond appears to be Flemish. It is not intended to be stepped; bricks are missing. The water table of the west end is heavily parged and patched due to the bulging, cracked wall. It appears to be plain, with a cop course of flat headers. The rear water table also appears to be unmolded.

The end wing is covered with lapped, horizontal weatherboard and with asbestos cement shingles.

The main entry is into the south side in the central bay, into the east room. The trim is not visible on the exterior; it is covered. A wood screen door and trim for hanging it is in place. The original large wood sill is in place, with heavy pegs (3/4") used about 3" from each end. The transom is now closed with a panel. The backband in the transom area is about 1-1/4" wide with ogee and fillet. There is evidence of an early porch in the brick, where it is now patched. The rail would have been at about the height of the window sill and about 40" to each side of the door trim. The present, modern but collapsing porch is the same size as the original would have been, its joists appearing to have used the pockets in the water table. The present porch is abut 11 feet wide. The door is wide and seemingly short. It measures

39" x 78" tall. It has six raised and beveled panels on the exterior. They are raised so boldly that they protrude beyond the plane of the rails and stiles. The bottom pier is vertical and slightly larger than the top pair; the central pair is nearly square. The panel molding is an ovolo profile. The old hardware is gone; only porcelain knobs and applied box lock remain. There is a large sliding bolt in place that does appear fairly old. On the interior the door is made of three wide, vertical boards, with shallow, narrow beads. The hinges are not original.

The second storey exterior door on the south side has recessed-panel jambs , two large vertical panels below an upper small one. The panels of the jambs align with the door panels. The lintel is not panelled. The panels are raised and beveled. This door measures about 32-3/8" wide and 70-1/4" tall. The old hardware is gone,, as are the old hinges. There is a three-light transom. The trim backband is a large cove with smaller coves. See profile.

The windows are double-hung, tall and narrow. The sash in the front and on the west end seem early. When they had glass, the lights were 9-over-9. On the second storey there appears to be no brickwork above the windows. The second-storey windows actually extend halfway into the belt course (one course). The sills are large and shaped. Like the main door sill, they are pegged 3" from the corners with large pegs. The front windows of the first storey have flat header arches, though there have been numerous alterations. The west gable-end windows have shallow segmental arches with an unknown type of infill in the tympanum.

Roofs over all parts of the house are metal, standing seam in the case of the main section.

Some second-storey walls have been sheetrocked. The torn-open first-storey partition wall reveals split lath and studs that are hewn and split, perhaps of oak or chestnut. They are at about 23" on center. There are a brown coat about 1/2" thick and then two thin white coats.

Photographs of parts of the interior were taken with black-and-white film until the flash failed. There are no interior slides. By the time of a return site visit, the house was stripped.

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1501525104

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K - 152

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Galena VICINITY Gregg Neck
STREET NO. Rt. 290 & Gregg Neck Road

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Roy Mitchell
PRESENT USE tenant house
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick
NO. OF STORIES 2½

2. NAME Roy Mitchell Property-Gregg Neck

DATE OR PERIOD c. 1750
STYLE colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC no

Roy Mitchell's brick house at the Gregg Neck Road is a mid 18th century structure three bays long and one bay deep with two dormers on south pitch of the "A" roof. There is a molded water table and a two brick belt course on both sides of the dwelling beneath the second story window sills, which ~~is~~ was the beginning of a pent eave, now gone! The south and west sides are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. This can ascertained upon close scrutiny because the entire structure has been painted white but is now wearing off. The center bay of both floors (south facade) has a door with transom and paneled jamb. Both storys have 9/9 sash. There is a window on both sides of the centerdoor, on each floor and a windows in the center of the west gable on both floors. The latter windows have segmental arches above the frames. The reason that these windows can be centered is that the fireplace on this side of the house is in the northwest corner, even though it pierced the roof at the apex, above the windows. A 1½ story frame wing, two bays long is located off the east gable.

The interior has most of its original woodwork, a paneled wall with enclosed stair in the east room, bolection chair rail in west room, fireplace in the northwest corner, and six-panel doors with the center panels being square. The work is almost identical to the woodwork and brickwork at the Massey House, not more than two mile distant.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior poor Exterior fair

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 Sept. 4, 1968

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

5439

 1501525164

Name Roy Mitchell Property - Gregg Neck MHT# K-152

Location Kent County (COUNTY) Galena (town)

Rt 290 at intersection of Gregg Neck Road (address or road#)

First owner of record _____ DATE _____

Present owner Roy Mitchell DATE 1968

Address Kentmoor Park - Kennedyville Md

Parcel or Deed # _____

Original use dwelling

Present use tenant house

Md. Map Coordinates _____

Long. & Lat. reading _____

Style Colonial

Date(s) of construction mid 18th Century

Architect _____

Builder _____

DESCRIPTION:

2 1/2 (NUMBER of stories) Brick (type wall construction)

Foundation-basement _____

Wall construction- Brick painted white.

Flemish bond (glazed headers on S+W

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls

Wrt belt course beneath 2nd story windows - water table molded

Chimneys in each gable

Name _____ MHT# K-152

Entrance type & placement Centered door with transom
Center door center bay of 2nd floor

Windows 9/9 on both floors - ~~[illegible]~~ 3 bays X 1 bays - winch:
center of west gable - also chimney
Seg arches over W. windows -

Shutters -

Roof type A covering

Cornice, eaves wood box cornice of period

Dormers, cupolas 2 "A" roof dormers on S. facade

Porches over entrance - indication of pent eave
on each ~~[illegible]~~ of bldg.

Wings, hyphens 1 to story ~~[illegible]~~ frame wing on east side - 2 bays
long with ~~[illegible]~~ gable frame end no chimney

Interior:
Stairway enclosed -

Doors 6 panel - square : center

Trim chair rail : West room bolection (similar to Custom House)

Other noteable work Paneled wall : L.R.

Name _____ MHT# K-152

Physical condition fair

Environment farm - ~~[illegible]~~ neat

References:

MHT Color slide # _____

MHT B & W # _____

Owner contacted no

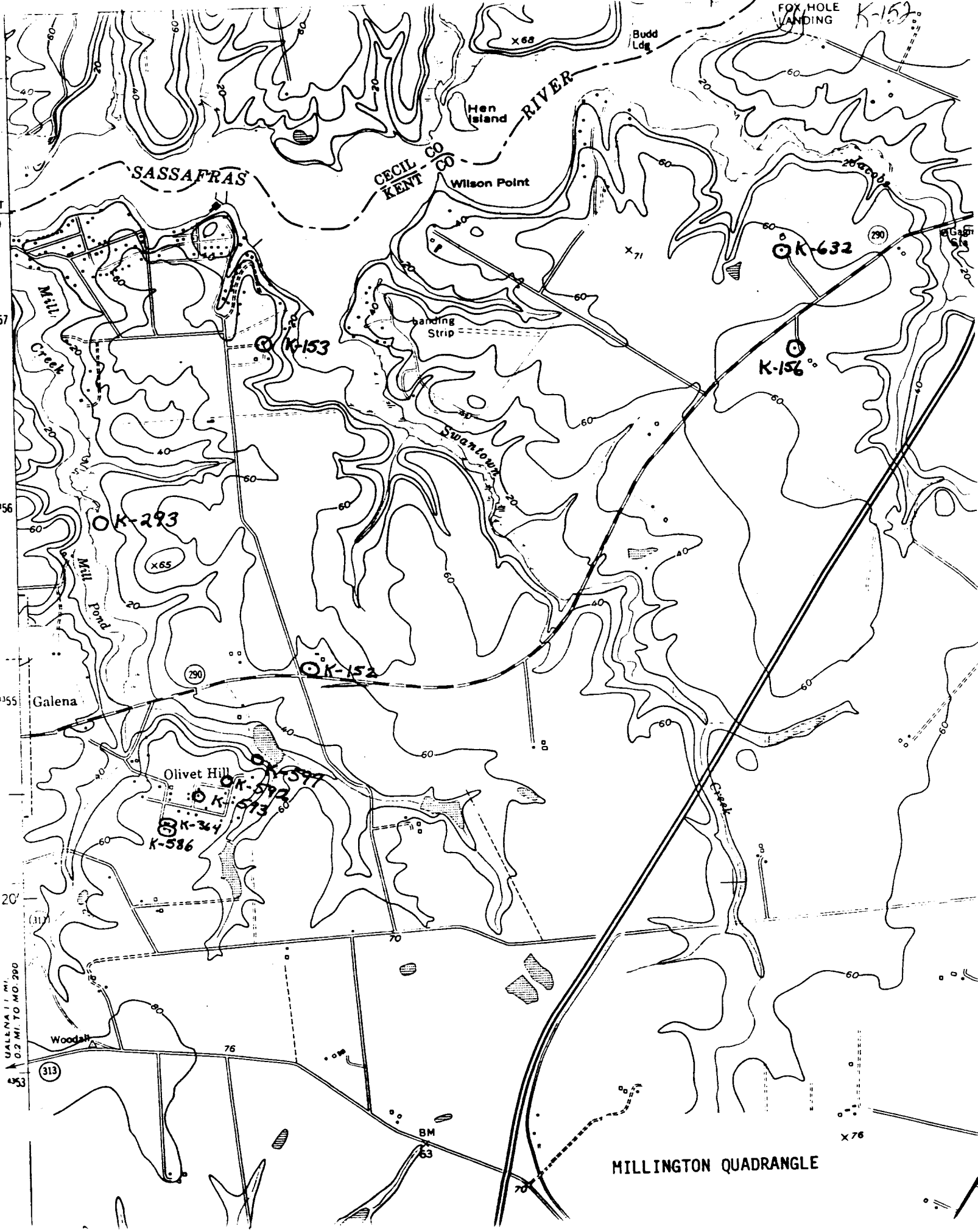
OTHER: _____

Recorder Michael Bourne

Date Sept 4, 1968

Summary: _____

Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan, and angle of photos, etc.


FOX HOLE LANDING
K-157
Budd Ldg
Hen Island
RIVER
SASSAFRAS
CECIL CO
KENT CO
Wilson Point
Jacobs
K-632
290
Mill Creek
K-153
Landing Strip
K-156
Swantown
K-293
Mill Pond
K-152
Galena
Olivet Hill
K-597
K-592
K-593
K-364
K-586
Creek
Woodall
313
BM
MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE

K-152
R. Clayton Mitchell Farm
Rt. 290, near Galena
M. Q. Fallaw - 4/18/85
View to north

K152
#7
6 of

K-152
R. Clayton Mitchell Farm
Rt. 290, near Galena
M. Q. Fallaw - 4/18/85
View to south

K152
#10
5 sec

K-152