

Rev. pfs.

K-169

London Bridge  
Millington  
4th quarter 18th Century

In the last decade of the 17th century there was already a tavern and a ferry across the Chester River at Head of Chester, as Millington was then called. The land on which the tavern was located was called "London Bridge." It was a large tract which extended northward and on which the crossroad village was to become established.

The farmhouse which bears the name of London Bridge is located on the northern part of the tract and was built about 100 years after the establishment of the ferry. It was a three bay, two story brick house with the road front facade laid in Flemish bond and the other walls in common. It had a two brick string course between windows, but was otherwise typical of the last quarter of the 18th Century – virtually a plain vernacular structure. Its kitchen wing was located off the south gable.

Inside the brick house, the plan was originally the typical hall-parlor plan. The central entrance opened into the hall and to the south there was a partition dividing it from the parlor. The hall contained a winder stair in the northeast corner which was partially enclosed behind the wall of paneling which extended across the chimney breast as well. There was a fireplace in both rooms, but the south room lacked paneling, similar to Dullams' Folly, north of Massey.

In the 1822 Tax Assessment, Elizabeth Comegys was taxed on 204 1/2 acres of "London Bridge Renewed" which had been appraised for \$818.00.

The property was later acquired by D. Ford in whose estate it appears on the 1860 map. By 1877, William Ford was the owner.<sup>1</sup>

Alterations were made to the house periodically, but its character was totally changed in the late 1950's when a major remodeling was undertaken by Arthur and Lillian Montell who had previously lived at Salutation Farm near Lynch. In the remodeling project, which lasted several years, the entrance was moved to the south window and embellished with a classical architrave. The interior was changed into a center hall plan with the second room being in a two story frame wing. On the east side of the house was the kitchen and later a large family room was added at a lower level to take advantage of the pond created by the damming of Long Meadow Branch. The house is now the center of a large nursery operation.

1. Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas, 1877.

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London Bridge Farm  
Millington  
Private

Late 18th Century

London Bridge house is a late 18th century dwelling built on the large grant which encompassed most of what is now Millington. The building is brick, two and one-half stories high and three bays wide. Originally, it had enclosed corner stairs; greatly changed over the years, it retains one wall of raised and beveled paneling.

MS = 100 500

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

London Bridge Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Massey- Millington Road (rtd 313)

CITY, TOWN

Millington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Fred & Mary Wick

Telephone #: (301) 928-3600

STREET & NUMBER

London Bridge Farm

CITY, TOWN

Millington

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21651

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: EAP 72

Folio #: 157

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

London Bridge is a two and one-half story, three bay brick dwelling with numerous modern additions. The original brick house had a central entrance, probably two rooms per floor and corner stairs. One corner stair and a wall of paneling survives and is typical of the woodwork of the end of the 18th century before the Federal period. London Bridge, is the name of an early grant upon which much of Millington stands.

Although the original central entrance has been moved, fenestration are evenly spaced on the front facade. Six over six replacement sash windows are used in all windows; frames have cove backband moldings and plain wooden sills. Above the second floor windows is a rowlock course, but beneath each is an infill of brick pieces, which may indicate that these were made smaller. Second floor shutters are louvered while those on the first have two panels; all are painted black. The present entry has a modern architrave and a small brick porch. There are small attic windows in the gable. On the rear of the house is one window with narrow beaded trim, the original type perhaps.

Brick on the main facade is laid in Flemish bond; there is a two-course string course at the second floor level. Liverpool bond is used elsewhere. The walls have been painted white. The chimney is enclosed within the gable wall; it has its original drip course and a banded brick cap.

There are gable dormers with 19th century sash windows and overhanging eaves. The roof terminates in a box cornice with replacement bed molding and crown molding which may be old.

To the south of the house is a three bay, two story frame addition with a gable roof and white aluminum siding. Behind the old house (reached by a wide door cut in the center of the brick wall) is a sun room with sloped beamed ceiling and bow window overlooking a lake. Both additions have been constructed since 1950.

The paneled fireplace wall is in the room on the first floor. The fireplace has a rectangular opening and a narrow shelf. There is a closet with old door to the right of the fireplace, next to the corner stair. Above the fireplace are three raised and beveled panels with quarter round edges; the closet door also has three panels with another above the lintel. The stair is enclosed with beaded boards. The turned newel has square base and top; balusters are rectangular and rest on an open string. All other detailing in the room, except old pine floors, has been removed.

There are board partitions in the attic, but the second floor is entirely modern. The main stair has been relocated.

London Bridge is located north of Millington. The lawns and gardens are beautifully planned and maintained; behind the house is a 7 acre lake. The house faces west.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

London Bridge is one of the older houses in the Millington neighborhood. In its original form it was probably typical of houses of its period in Kent County with corner stairs, paneled walls, and Flemish bond brick. Alterations through the years have changed the building's character; the building is now a comfortable modern dwelling with some antique elements.

London Bridge is a part of an early track, resurveyed in 1702, which included much of what is now Millington. Although this house may well have stood on the property it is a much later structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

10-445  
67

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u>          COUNTY <u>Kent</u>          TOWN <u>Millington</u> VICINITY          STREET NO. <u>Rt. 313, .5 mile north of town</u>          (east)           ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u>          PRESENT OWNER <u>F.W. Montell</u>          PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u>          NO. OF STORIES <u>2½</u></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY          INVENTORY <u>K-169</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>LONDON BRIDGE</u></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <u>mid- 18th century</u>          STYLE <u>colonial</u>          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no

London Bridge was originally built as a two story, three bay long brick dwelling with center door. Presently it is the main portion of a much larger dwelling. The door has been moved to the south bay on the west facade, and given an architrave with pediment. A windows now occupies the center bay. Two large dormers are on the "A" roof. A two brick belt course separates the first and second storys, although there is no water table. Only the chimney on the north gable remains. All sash is 6/6 and the shutters are paneled down and louvered up. There is an overhang at the cornice and barge. On the south side is a two story, two bay frame wing of recent date which replaces an earlier 1½ story structure (early photo in possession of owner). And to the east is an extensive modern wing which overlooks a recent pond.

Inside the old brick section, a paneled overmantel and turned newel post ~~are~~ date from the third quarter of the 18th century.

The house is kept in good repair and is surrounded by several acres of well-kept yard and a pond.

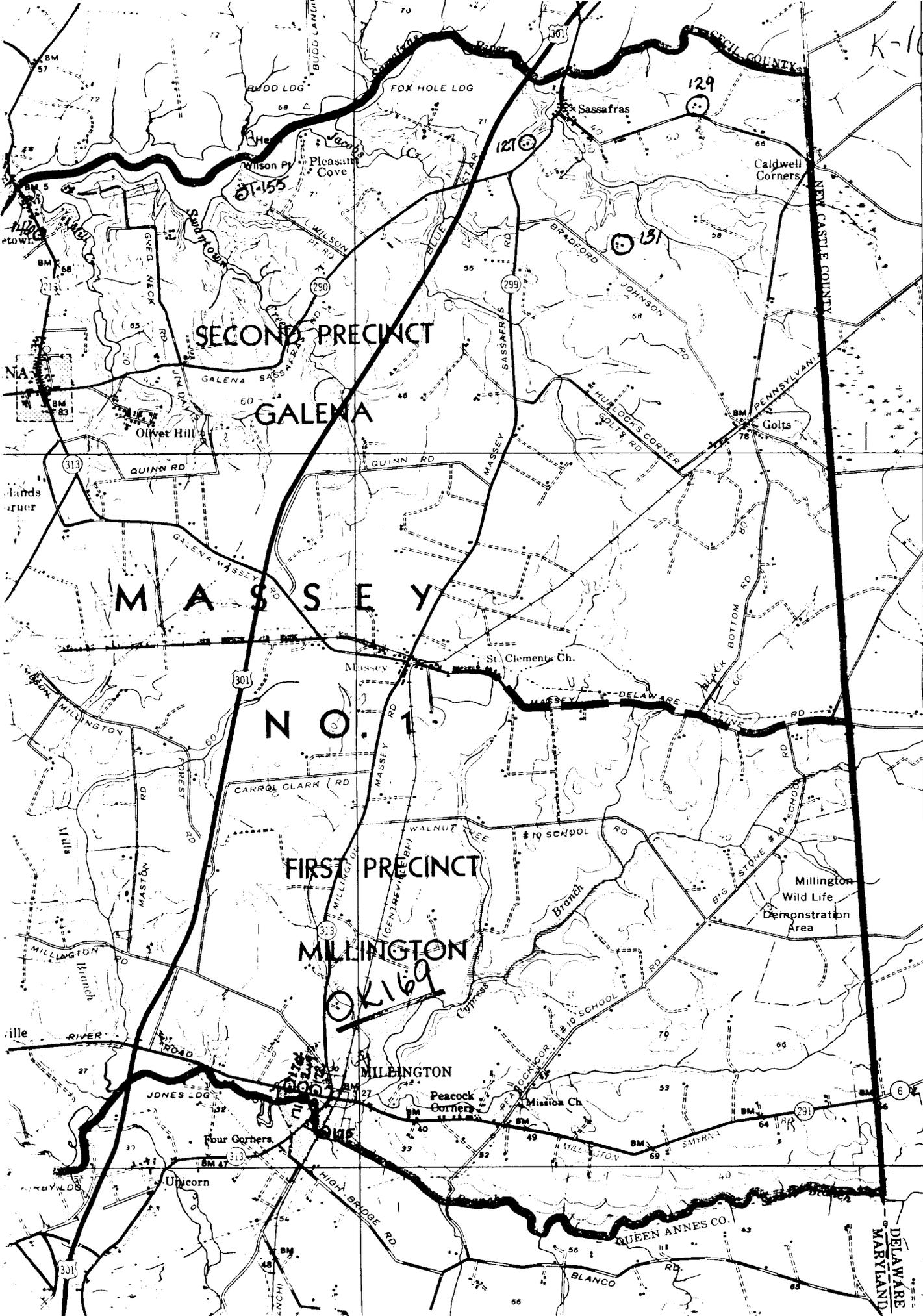
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    no    Interior    good    Exterior    good

<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> 	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>
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<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <u>Michael Bourne</u></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD    <u>Sept. 16, 1968</u></p>
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

K-169



560  
20'  
550  
540  
530  
520  
15'