K-186

The Eaton Farm
Chesterville
2nd quarter 19th Century

James Spear, who built and lived in the house north of Millington bearing his name, bequeathed his home farm and the "Eaton Farm" to his daughter Georgianna in 1874.[1] The Eaton Farm had been tenanted prior to his death and remained so until 1921 when it was purchased by Charles and Emma Schelts.[2] It was owned and operated by the Schelts family for the next fifty years when it was sold again. In the meantime, the name of the farm had been lost in the deeds.

During all of this time the principal residence on the farm was the existing three bay, two story brick house with attached kitchen wing. It was built in the second quarter of the 19th Century, a little later than the Edick Farm, closer to Chesterville. It had a hall-parlor plan which was actually a late use of the plan for houses of the County. Otherwise it was similar to Angel's Rest, north of Massey, in both plan and form. Like Angel's Rest, the original wooden one story kitchen was heightened to two full stories carrying the roof line of the main section.

After 1971, the once whitewashed brick walls were covered with formstone. The interior retains some features of the second quarter of the 19th Century, as well as an earlier Federal Mantel.

1. Wills, Lib. EC 1, fol. 98.
2. Land Records, Lib. APR 8, fol. 288.

K-186 Circa 1800-1825

Stoltzfus Farm

Near Chesterville

Private

The gable-roofed, two-storey, three-bay main section of the Stoltzfus House on Route 290 between Chesterville and Lambson Station was built of brick in a vernacular Federal style but is now covered by imitation stone. Considerably altered on the interior as well, with the corner stair rebuilt and entirely enclosed and many original surfaces covered, it does retain its original basic plan--hall and parlor on the first storey and three rooms on the second reached by a long, wide hall across most of the front of the house. The house now is most notable for its two handsome but contrasting first-storey mantels, one "high" Federal with numerous delicate carvings and moldings and the other a bold but quite plain (except for large sawn cymas on the frieze edges) Greek Revival mantel. If both mantels are original, they highlight the transitional nature of this early nineteenth-century building. A twentieth-century two-storey frame end wing is a replacement or rebuilding of a previous 1-1/2 storey wing; it is now also covered in "formstone." A one-storey frame wing recently has been built behind it.

Survey No. K-186

Magi No. 1501865304

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Stoltzfus Farm

2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 290 (Chesterville-Lambson Rd.)
1.9 Miles north of Chesterville ___ not for publication

city, town Chesterville X vicinity of congressional district

state county

3. Classification

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

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

name Mr. & Mrs. John M. Stoltzfus

street & number RD #1, Box 182 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 194

street & number Cross Street folio 124

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K- 186

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X 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 gable-roofed, two-storey, three-bay main section of the house at the Stolzfus Farm on the east side of Rt. 290 between Chesterville and Lambson Station was built of brick in a vernacular Federal style, probably in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, but has been covered with imitation stone ("formstone") by the present owners. Considerably altered on the interior as well, with the main section corner stair rebuilt and entirely enclosed and many original surfaces covered, it does retain its original basic plan --hall and parlor on the first storey and three rooms on the second reached by a long, wide hall from the stair across two bays of the front of the house. Although many details have been replaced or covered, there are two notable mantels that contrast sharply in style--the bold but quite plain Greek Revival hall mantel and the "high" Federal parlor one. At the northeast end is a later two-storey frame (but also covered with imitation stone) kitchen wing with walls and roof continuous with those of the main section. It was rebuilt and raised from a lower 1-1/2 storey wing in the middle twentieth century. Within the last fifteen years a one-storey frame wing was built to the rear of the kitchen wing and perpendicular to it.

The two-storey main section is three bays wide in both front and rear. Openings align from first storey to second and the side bay openings are equally spaced from their corners, but those of the central bay are somewhat off-center to the southwest. The central-bay openings on the first storey in both front and rear were originally entries, but the front one has been covered with the "stone." The axis of the house is northeast-southwest, with the parlor (with the stair) to the northeast. The only openings on the southwest end are the 6-light windows in the gable on each side of the chimney. A pair of casement windows was also exposed in the northeast end until the wing was rebuilt and raised. The door opening in the southeast bay of the parlor end to the present kitchen may be an original opening.

The end wing is two bays wide and two deep, built with both front and rear entries, the rear now leading to the first wing's one-storey addition. A large kitchen occupies the wing's first storey. After the wing was raised, at least, it had two second-storey rooms, with the partition between them from front to rear. The present owners stripped the interior to the frame and altered the second storey, creating a short hall along the front of the house from the main section stair and with access to the two bedrooms, the inner one now smaller because of the hall. According to Mrs. William Schelts, who rebuilt (though to what extent is not clear)and raised the wing after a tree fell on it, there was formerly an enclosed straight wing stair along the northeast gable end. The rear one-storey wing is a large second kitchen/ workroom/utility room with three corners partitioned, for an office, bathroom, and a closet.

(CONTINUED)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-186

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
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
_X_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates c. 1800-1825 **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.

Though its significance is diminished by extensive alterations and absence of much original detail, the house at the Stoltzfus Farm is nonethless an example of the transitional buildings built in Kent County during the early nineteenth century. The form and plan were those seen much earlier in the county, indicating a wish to retain the familiar when central-hall-and-stair houses were becoming more popular for houses of this size and form. Owners may have preferred this old plan for efficient use of space and control of draughts. The house is also notable for its two handsome but contrasting first-storey mantels, one distinctly Federal and the other Greek Revival, perhaps indicating owner awareness of the newly fashionable style but also a desire to commission a high-style version of the old and familiar. It is possible, however, that one of the mantels is not original to the building.

Martenet's 1860 map of Kent County shows R. Eaton as the owner of the Stoltzfus Farm. By the time of the 1877 atlas map of Kent County, it was owned by D.C. Spear, probably part of the Spear family that had extensive land holdings between Millington and Massey. It seems likely, due to early deterioration and neglect (rat-eaten doors and floorboards) that this farm may have sometimes been vacant or tenanted.

Located not far north of Chesterville (early called New Market), that crossroads village would have been the early trading center used by residents of this farm, although Galena (earlier called Georgetown Cross Roads) was not much farther to the north. Route 290 is an early road, called in the colonial period a "great road." It ran from Georgetown Cross Roads to Henry Callister's large import-export establishment at the site of what is now Crumpton on the Chester River. In an inland location not close to navigable water, the farm's marketing potential would have been enhanced by the coming of the Kent County Railroad ca. 1868-1870. Lambson Station was built one mile to the north of the farm at the public road.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K- 186

An illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, Md. Philadelphis: Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, 1877.

Martenet's Map of Kent County, Maryland. Baltimore : Simon J. Martenet, 1860

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** July 10, 1986

street & number Court House
Church Alley **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

It was not possible to see any of the original exterior brickwork of the main section since the imitation stone covers it from the ground to the eaves. The varicolor grey stone (with some maroon) has "quoins" at the corners. It does not appear that there was either a belt course or a water table. According to Mrs. Schelts, at least some of the bricks were glazed. She also said the bricks were in poor condition, being crumbly, probably largely the result of the dampness that affects the brick section, leading also to the covering of some interior walls with sheet rock on furring. It is not clear whether the "stone" on the wing, which is continuous with that of the main section, is applied over weatherboard. The one-story rear wing is covered with lapped, horizontal presssed-board material.

The foundation, as seen in the cellar beneath the entire main section, is built of brick in 1-to-5 common bond.

Within the wall of each gable end is a centered chimney of parged brick and no decorative elements. Each has two flues. Though the original 1-1/2 storey wing may have had a chimney, the present wing as rebuilt and then remodeled does not. The chimney bases in the cellar have a tall rectangular opening and straight pilasters. The lintel is wood 2-5/8" thick. The north base has shelves in the opening, which is not deep.

The roof of the main section and end wing is covered with corrugated metal fastened directly to the shingle nailers. The one-storey wing roof is of asphalt shingles. The cornice was created using the standard local eighteenth and nineteenth method: extension of the second-storey ceiling joists (in this case about 12", as seen in the attic) and use of a board false plate resting on them, with the rafters on the plate. The cornice is entirely covered with white aluminum. It is continuous from main section across wing. The circa 16" overhang at the ends appears to be fairly recent, achieved by small, visible lookouts. It is likely that the main section ends originally were finished with flush verge boards.

Although the main section's approach-side (northwest) entry has been entirely covered, its location and general nature are apparent on the interior, where it has only been boarded. It had a transom and opened into the southwest room (hall), opposite the remaining rear main-section entry. According to Mrs. Schelts, there once was a ca. 7' x 8' porch at the front (northwest) door. The trim of both doors abuts the partition wall between hall and parlor. The front entry, like the one opposite, had a large stone sill now seen only protruding into the cellar 4-5" below the floor. The rear entry, with no steps, now has a 15-light modern door; the resident family considers it, though facing the farm yard, to be the front entry. Its identical stone sill has been hidden on the exterior by mortar or concrete but is also visible from the cellar. Neither stone could be seen well enough to identify the type of stone. If it is granite, the stone commonly used for such purposes in early and mid nineteenth-century Kent County, it indicates a building date later than 1806-1816, when granite quarries were opened in the northern Chesapeake-Susquehanna River area and transported to Kent County by boat. The rear entry architrave has been covered by the formstone. Another entry is

(continued)

into the kitchen through the northeast bay of the northwest (approach) side of the wing, through a modern two-bay porch that almost spans the wing facade. The one-storey wing has an entry in the central bay of its three-bay rear gable-end.

Main-section windows are taller on the first storey than on the second. The southwest attic casements are now 2-over-2-over-2 lights; the sash is gone from the northeast casements now within the attic. The other windows are all double-hung, with 2-over-2 lights, and are replacement windows dating from the twentieth century. Trim and any evidence of old shutters are covered. There are now fixed black plastic louvered shutters. The end-wing windows are all double-hung replacements with 1-over-1 lights. On the first storey of the northeast end is a centered group of four. Shutters are the same.

There formerly was a cellar entry from the exterior, in the rear bay of the southwest end, into the cellar space under the hall. Now covered on the exterior, it is closed with concrete block on the interior; its large wooden lintel remains. Access to the cellar is now only via a straight stair with new stringers and treads along the approach-side wall under the recently-rebuilt main stair, in the northeast corner of the main section, though the door to the stair is entered from the wing kitchen; it is in the brick wall of the end. It was not clear if originally a corner stair in the same location was reached by a door in the parlor, under the original corner stair to the second storey. The last owner remembers the cellar stair as entered from the kitchen, but that mode requires the presence of an end wing, probably not present originally.

The cellar has gravel on its dirt floor. The cellar was once whitewashed. First-floor joists are ca. 9-10" x 3-1/4" to 4" and ca. 22-25" on center. Some are entirely hewn while others have hewn lower edges but sawn sides, which may be hand-sawn. There is a thin wood sill under the joists; some has been replaced; some is badly rotted. Old-appearing portions may show up-and-down-saw marks. The partition wall is of brick with an opening in the center. Brick stretchers in this wall are 8-1/2" to 8-3/4" long. Part of this wall has settled badly, creating a large crack. Originally there were two front and two rear cellar windows, in the side bays. One has been closed entirely and the others shortened when modern 1-light windows were installed.

Through an opening in the 18-19" thick foundation of the main section's northeast end the wing's low crawl space can be partially seen. First-storey wing joists appear to be oak. Sawn marks could not be seen. On one joist, in large faded painted letters, is printed "Geo. H. T__[?]. The wing foundation is also brick.

The now double flooring of the first storey can be seen from the cellar and its entryway. Both layers are of 7/8" thick boards; the lower, first floor is of medium to wide random tongue-and-groove boards, while the upper is of narrow to medium random-width boards. The lower flooring is severely eaten in numerous places, indicating that the house suffered a period of neglect. There is wall-to-wall carpeting on the first storey. (continued)

From the cellar steps the original configuration of the main stair above can be seen. The stair now is a long, straight run along the approach-side (northwest) wall past the northeast side-bay window to a landing in the north corner of the main section, at the end of the long second-storey hall. From the landing there is one more step up onto the hall floor, making a quarter turn. There is also access to the wing from the landing, into the wing's new front hall. The present stair, reached through a door in the parlor (now a dining room) is now totally enclosed on the first storey. The marks on the old stair string indicate that the original stair was quarter-turn with winders, open to the parlor for at least several steps, with the window over the first two and helping to light the parlor. It could not be determined whether there was another stair in the main section, in a corner of the hall, as was often done in two-storey hall-and-parlor plan houses of the eighteenth and early nineteenth Kent County houses. In some respects, including the stair, the Stoltzfus farmhouse is similar to Owlhurst (K-212) fairly close by and to Deer Haven (K-178), also nearby but where there are two corner stairs. The Nicholas Ryley House at Gregg Neck (K-153) is an early eighteen-century example of a two-storey hall-and-parlor plan house with corner stairs. The baseboard at the old stair seems to be modern, dating from the sheetrocking of the first storey, which preceded the stair rebuilding.

The second-storey has a wide, long hall from the stair across the northeast two bedrooms' narrow dimension. Originally it would have measured about 5'-6" x 20'-10" (from southwest bedroom door to location of old stair edge). It is lit by two front windows. The hall is now panelled, carpeted, and with a sheetrock ceiling. The ceilings are now about 7'-3" from the floor. The second-storey floors not carpeted are painted, medium-width, random boards. The center bedroom is now a bathroom.

Second-storey mantels are small and simple; rectangular fireplace openings are closed. The opening surround of the southwest mantel is picture-frame style of an ovolo with fillets, but it may not be old. The plain board mantel shelf may be a replacement. The low northeast mantel is almost entirely covered, but a picture-frame type surround could be felt, perhaps with a coved molding.

The only survival on the second storey of the original window architrave may be the split-face apron, with lower bead. The 5-panel hall-to-bedroom doors may be original. The three panels above the lock rail are horizontal while the two below are vertical. Panels are recessed and partially raised, with a some bevel. There is no panel molding on either side of the doors. The trim has a backband of ovolo with fillets, which may or may not be original. The doors now have white porcelain knobs and box locks, but there are old filled holes in the doors, indicating earlier hardware. The five-knuckle hinges, with four screws per leaf, appear original. Doors and trim were once painted a rose-brown color; it may be the earliest paint.

The quarter-turn-with winders stair to the unfinished attic is not above the stair from first to second storey though is in the same end of the main section in the opposite (east) corner. It is entered from the bedroom through

(continued)

a short 2-over-2 panel door placed above two steps within the room. On the room side the panels are recessed with rabbetted ogee panel molding. On the other side the panels are raised and beveled. Adjacent but with angled placement is an identical door to an under-stair closet. Some rafters measure about 3-1/4" x 2-3/4" and are about 21-23" on center. Some appear hand-sawn while others are hewn. They are pegged at the apex, and there are half-lapped and pegged rafter ties. Ghosts on the main section exterior brickwork showing the height of the old 1-1/2 storey wing can be seen by looking around through the now sashless northeast casement windows.

On the first storey only the two contrasting mantels are noteworthy, seeming, however, to come from different periods in the nineteenth-century. It is possible that one of them may be a replacement, though both are well-worn. It is also possible that they are indicative of an architectural transition period, when both the old and the new were valued.

The southwest bold, simple, Greek Revival style mantel would seem to date from 1820-1840 or even later. It is quite similar, in fact, to one at Foxhole (K-635) that dates from about 1867. The mantel shelf is rectangular with rounded corners. It is 72-1/2" wide, 1-3/8" thick, and is c. 55" high. The bed molding is a large (1-1/8") bowtell. A deep (c. 13" above the pilasters) frieze 1-1/2" thick is applied to an even deeper ground (16"). The frieze lower edge is sawn into a graceful, bold cyma shape on each side of the center point, and the ends above the pilaster caps are similarly sawn. The sawn edge is chamfered. The narrow pilasters are plain and battered, 5" wide at their base and 3-1/4" wide at the simple cap. (Battered door trim is seen at Windy Curve Farm, K-631, 2-1/4 miles north; that house may date from c. 1840; its mantels are gone) The large rectangular opening is closed with brick, and a gas stove that vents into the chimney stands in front of it. Carpeting is over the hearth.

The northeast mantel is distinctly Federal, appearing to date from about 1800. It is heavily painted, resulting in somewhat indistinct details. The rectangular opening is closed. The high (59"), elaborate, broken-edge shelf is deep (3-1/4") and compositely molded; the lowest element is fine vertical gougework. When the wall sheetrocking was done, a small piece of plain molding was added at the joint between shelf and wall. The bed is of rope-type gougework, the winding direction reversed at the center. It is above a small bed frieze of alternating sets of vertical gougework and delicate quatrefoils, with a cyma reversa below. The frieze has fluted blocks over the pilasters and a raised center panel with an elliptical sunburst. The opening is framed with split-face trim using a cyma between faces and having an inside bead. The backband, forming crossettes beneath the frieze, is a cove and fillet. Pilaster base blocks are plain but with one vertical edge broadly chamfered.

The first-storey interior is otherwise unremarkable. It is carpeted and sheetrocked. There is a recent crown molding and baseboard. According to Mrs. Schelts, there formerly was a chair rail in the parlor; she could not remember about the hall but thinks there was not. The sash opening of the replacement windows (the jambs also look replaced) is ca. 32" x 61". The trim

(continued)

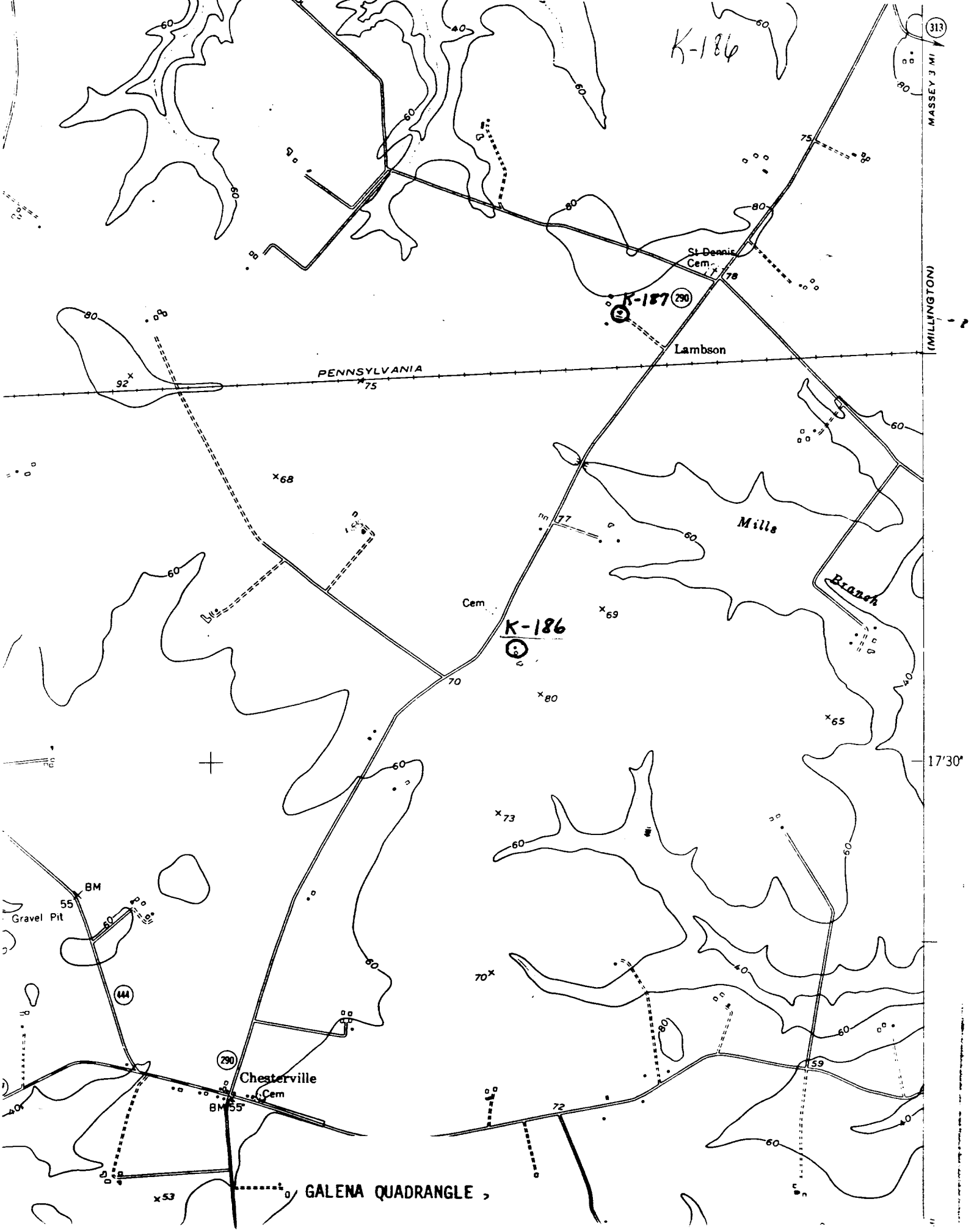
is 3-3/8" wide and split-face with no backband; it may be recent. The door once between the two first-storey rooms and opening into the parlor is gone; the original trim is partially covered and/or removed.

Farm outbuildings are to the southeast, on both sides of the lane that passes the house's northeast end. The closest on the house side of the lane is a barn with northeast-southwest axis that has been dramatically altered and added to. Its low first storey, where up-and-down-saw marks were seen on a beam, has been converted to offices for farm and other enterprises.

About 25-30 feet to the southeast of the first barn is a second old barn, whose axis is the other direction, parallel to the lane. It may be older, though it seems to have been used last as a dairy barn. It is covered partly with metal siding; the original cladding was vertical boards. The southwest wall on the first storey has been removed, and a large, open shed-roofed later structure on poles added from the barn's second-storey eaves. The barn's second-storey has an interesting roof framing system, similar to that at Locust Hill Farm (K-208) not far away; both may date from the middle nineteenth century. The other outbuildings do not seem to be of significance.

The site is quite level. The northwest front yard, with a rail fence on two sides, has a lawn with trees and shrubs. Between the front yard and the road, to which the lane angles, is a cultivated field. To the southwest are recently planted fruit trees with a cultivated field beyond. Behind the rear lawn is a large vegetable garden, with the barns to its rear. Opposite, across the lane, are modern farm buildings. The property is well-kept.

Views from the site in general are of cultivated fields with trees in the distance. The road can be seen to the northwest at the end of the lane. In the distance to the northeast buildings of the next farm can be seen. The frame house at this farm is said to have suffered a fire and to have been cut down from three storeys to two, though it is not clear whether it had three true storeys or was 2-1/2. Across the road from the entry to the Stoltzfus Farm lane an old family cemetery is within a clump of trees. It is possible that this is the cemetery accompanying the Spry Home Farm (K-185) that fronted onto Bolton Road but is now gone, or, more likely, the Noland Farm shown on the 1860 Martenet's map, but which is not shown on the 1877 atlas map.


K-186
K-187
K-186
313
MASSEY 3 MI
(MILLINGTON)
St Dennis Cem
Lambson
PENNSYLVANIA
Mills
Branch
Cem
17'30"
BM
Gravel Pit
Chesterville
Cem
BM
GALENA QUADRANGLE

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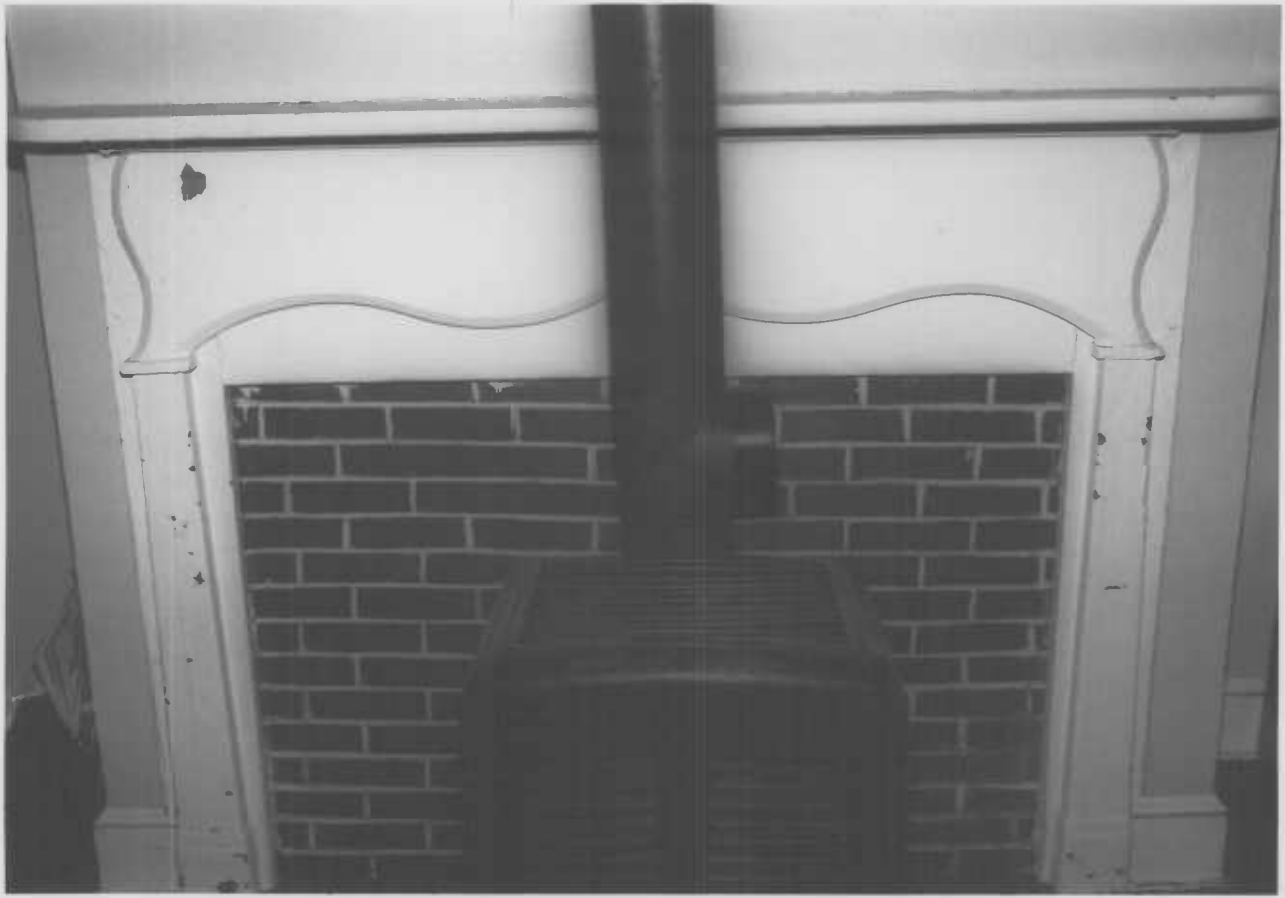
K-186
Stoltzfus Farm
Rt. 290, near Chesterville
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/10/86
View to north

[redacted] TRUST

K-186 Stoltzfus Farm (The Eaton Farm) c.1830



K186-6

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Stoltzfus Farm
Rt. 290, near Chesterville
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/10/86
View to southeast
Mantel

K 186 ·8

K-186
Stoltzfus Farm
Rt. 290, near Chesterville
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/10/86
Mantel - view to northeast