K-208

Locust Hill Farm
Near Galena
late 18th Century

The house at Locust Hill began as a three-bay, two-story brick house with kitchen wing and was similar to Partner's Addition, located a few miles away. It was a vernacular structure with a pent eave between the first and second stories – a detail associated with the building traditions of the Delaware Valley. The windows probably had 12/12 sash on the first story and 12/8 on the second.

Most likely built for the Comegys family, it was purchased by Moses Lambson in the mid-19th century.[1] By that time, however, it had undergone a major remodeling. Around 1830, the distinctive pent eave was removed and a new Federal style entry was installed. Its ellyptical-headed fanlight covered both the door and sidelights. At the same time, the stair was rebuilt with delicate close-string balustrade, turned newels, and a continuous round rail that rose in goose necks over the intermediate newels. It appears that the entire house was remodeled at the same time.

By the time the Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas was printed in 1877, Moses Lambson was living on the adjoining farm where he had established a station on the Kent County Railroad Line and Locust Hill was owned by Captain Andrew Woodall of Georgetown. It remained in the Woodall family into the 20th century.[2] In the late 1930's, the farm was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Clevenger who began the preservation of the old farmhouse.[3] In 1946 it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wisner, formerly of Greenwich, Connecticut.[4] Alterations which occurred in the 1940's and later

have resulted in a more refined interior. Mantels from England and elsewhere in the United States have been installed. The farm has been open on house tours from time to time and is one of the show places of the First District.

1. Land Records, Lib. JR 1, fol. 77; Lib. JKH 4, fol. 38.
2. Land Records, Lib. JTD 15, fol. 122; Lib. RRA 7, fol. 234.
3. Land Records, Lib. RAS 21, fol. 269.
4. Land Records, Lib. RAS 39, fol. 406.

K-208 1789; 1820-1840

Locust Hill Farm

Near Galena

Private

The 2-1/2 storey, gable-roofed, main house at Locust Hill Farm, located on the southwest side of the Lambson-Millington Forest Road, is a puzzling building, notwithstanding the mid-twentieth-century changes that have altered and sometimes covered or removed original work. The wide three-bay, central-entry, brick shell of the main section, with its axis southwest-northeast, appears to be Federal in style, dating from about 1790 to 1810. A former owner states that a date of 1789 was written in the attic, but it could not be found, possibly due to alterations there. Yet the windows not recently replaced, the stair, the interior trim, and what may be the single surviving mantel all indicate a date of 1820-1840. Was the building begun and then abandoned for a number of years? Was there a fire? A thorough-going remodeling? The three-bay deep first part of the frame rear wing, built over a cellar in contrast to the main section, was originally gable-roofed and 1-1/2 storeys in height but recently changed to a gambrel roof for more head room. It may have been hall-and-parlor in plan, with the partition wall now removed, but there is conflicting evidence as to whether it predates the main section or is contemporary with it or even later. It appears to be later. The main house at Locust Hill Farm appears unique in Kent County. Not only is the combination of its circa 1790 Federal period and style with circa 1820-40 details a puzzle, but many of those probably second-quarter nineteenth-century details themselves are not seen elsewhere in Kent County. This is particularly the case with the fan-light main entry and the paired

windows. One wonders just what sort of outside influence may have been involved here. The old barns and corncrib, apparently also dating to the middle nineteenth century, are becoming a rarity in the county since with modern farm operations owners no longer have much use for them. Few are interested in maintaining them and paying insurance premiums for them. However, all buildings at Locust Hill are well-maintained.

Survey No. K-208

Magi No. 1502085204

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Moses Lambson Farm

and/or common Locust Hill Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Southwest side Lambson-Millington Forest Rd., .8 mile southeast of Rt. 290, south of Galena ___ not for publication

city, town Galena _X_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

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
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Mrs. Clayton Fritchey

street & number 3327 P Street, S.W. telephone no.: (202) 965-1446

city, town Washington state and zip code D.C. 20007

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber O.C. 3187 RAS 39

street & number Cross Street folio 406

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date unknown _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-208

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ 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 2-1/2 story, gable-roofed, main house at Locust Hill Farm, located on the southwest side of the Lambson-Millington Forest Road, is a puzzling building, notwithstanding the mid-twentieth-century changes that have altered and sometimes covered or removed original work. The wide three-bay, central-entry, brick shell of the main section, with its axis southwest-northeast, appears to be Federal in style, dating from about 1790 to 1810. A former owner states that a date of 1789 was written in the attic, but it could not be found, possibly due to alterations there. Yet the windows not recently replaced, the stair, the interior trim, and what may be the single surviving mantel all indicate a date of 1820-1840, with the latter more likely. Was the building begun and then abandoned for a number of years? Was there a fire? A thorough-going remodeling? The three-bay deep first part of the frame rear wing, built over a cellar in contrast to the main section, was originally gable-roofed and 1-1/2 stories in height but recently changed to a gambrel roof for more head room. It may have been hall-and-parlor in plan, with the partition wall now removed, but there is conflicting evidence as to whether it predates the main section or is contemporary with it or even later. It appears to be later. The rear wing has had several additions at its southeast end, and a large, enclosed porch has been built on its northeast side.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-208

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
_X_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates Circa 1789 & 1820-40 **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 main house at Locust Hill Farm appears unique in Kent County. Not only is the combination of its circa 1790 Federal period and style with circa 1820-40 details a puzzle, but many of those probably second-quarter nineteenth-century details themselves are not seen elsewhere in Kent County. This is particularly the case with the main entry and the paired windows. One wonders just what sort of outside influence may have been involved here. The old barns and corncrib, apparently also dating to the middle nineteenth century, are becoming a rarity in the county since with modern farm operations farmers no longer have much use for them. Few are interested in maintaining them and paying insurance premiums for them. However, all buildings at Locust Hill are well-maintained.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-208

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 Maragret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant

organization County Commissioners of Kent County
Historical Society of Kent County **date** July 13, 1986

street & number Court House 778-4600
Church Alley **telephone** 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 first-storey plan of the main section is central hall, with one room on each side. The wing is located behind the northeast room.

The walls of the main section are of brick. The northwest, approach side is laid in Flemish bond with grey headers, producing a checker-board pattern. There is a two-course belt just below the second-storey windows with the same bond and the dark headers. There is also a two-course belt in running bond on the rear wall, where the bond is 1-to-5 common, also the bond used on the southwest wall for the most part. There is also 1-to-3 bond on this wall. The bond of the northeast end could not be ascertained easily, partly because it is almost completely parged but also because of apparently extensive rebuilding or repair work. It is variable, including within courses. Much of it seems to be one course of headers to two of stretchers. Changes that are not recent in the vicinity of the northeast bay of the approach side suggesting that there was once a door there in the side bay where there is now a window raise questions as to whether the brick main section was once a shorter building with a different plan. However, no end line for a corner of a former building could be seen.

During the site visit new vinyl siding was being applied to the rear, frame wing, where what was still visible seemed to have been horizontal, lapped weatherboard with varying exposures, probably much or all replacement material.

The cellar of the wing is entered through the floor of the porch to the wing's northeast. The entry is under a side bay. The cellar walls were recently heavily parged but seem to be built with mostly fieldstone but with some brick. The main section is built over a crawl space; its foundation is fieldstone and brick.

There are two main-section chimneys, one at the center of each end, within the wall. They are built of dark-red brick and appear to have been rebuilt. There is a one-course drip at their base, and they have one-course caps. There is a chimney at the rear of the earliest part of the rear wing, in the center of the former end wall, but due to extensive changes in that area, it is not clear whether it is within that wall or outside of it. There is no base within the cellar, and the chimney seems to rest outside of it, in the crawl space for the rear additions.

The roofs are covered with what appears to be asbestos shingles, though they may be of some other material. At the ends of the main section roof there are replacement plain, flush verge boards. The cornice is boxed and overhangs the walls about 12-14". The crown is a bevel with a lower fillet, and there is no bed molding. Some of the cornice boxing appears to be replacement material. The wing cornice, of course, was entirely redone when the gambrel roof was built. There is now a small box cornice, but all original material is gone.

The rear wing has three dormers in its new gambrel roof on each slope. The main section has gable-roofed two dormers on its approach-side slope,

(continued)

set slightly toward the center from the side bays. They may not be original. Their sash are double-hung and have 6-over-6 lights.

The main entry is located in the central bay of the main section's approach side. There is a three-center arch of all headers over a broad fanlight covering the entire architrave, with radiating lights from a segmental light at bottom center. There is a 7"-deep transom bar that includes a plain cap and an unusual pointed molding with bead above three courses of corbelling. There are three wide sidelights on each side (with old glass) over one panel that is recessed and very slightly raised. The panel molding is a bevel and bead or a very flattened cyma and bead. The trim between door and sidelights is 1-7/8" wide and symmetrically corbelled in to a recessed center. The outer architrave trim is 2" wide and plain. Signs of an old porch could not be seen; however, many vines climb on this wall. Two large semi-circular steps from the brick walkway lead to the entry. Secondary entries are in the wing, where doors are all modern, though the trim of the three-bay original wing is not. Here there is heavily painted trim, with backband of ovolo with fillets. The rear-hall entry now leads to a bathroom addition.

The windows are double-hung in the main section except for a pair of 4-light attic casements in the southwest end. At the northeast end a large set of louvers for a ventilating fan have been installed in the northwest bay. There is no window in the south bay, nor any sign of there having been one. On the main facade second storey there are recent double-hung replacements with 12-over-8 lights. There is a large 6-over-6 window on the northeast end, where there is a heavy sill and a backband of ovolo with fillets. On the first storey of the approach side in each side bay there is a pair of double-hung windows with 4-over-4 sash, appearing to date from the middle nineteenth century. Sills are bold, trim is the same as at the end window; between the windows of each pair is wide (6") plain trim. The pair of 1-over-1 windows in the central bay of the second story is recent, with the partition wall dividing two bathrooms behind the wide trim separating them. A single 6-over-6 window is said to have been there earlier, also the previous windows in the side bays that now have 12-over-8 sash. The second-storey shutters have fixed louvers. The first-storey shutters are hung on pintle hinges and panelled. They appear to date from the middle nineteenth century with panels recessed and somewhat raised, with ogee-and-bevel panel molding. Each shutter has four panels, alternating vertically large and small panels. There is sliding latching hardware. On the end window there are simple, thin shutter dogs. On the facade windows there are ornate shutter dogs that appear to be recently-purchased reproductions of shutter dogs of an earlier period.

The wing old section seems to have old windows on the first storey. They are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights; the sash are pegged, and the glass appears old. Sills are thin (1-1/8") with no sign of alteration. The trim is the same as at the southwest door to the old three-bay section of the wing, where a backband of ovolo with fillets is used. The shutters at these windows when open reveal recessed/raised panels with Greek ogee-and-bevel

(continued)

panel molding. When closed, they show flush, beaded panels. Shutter dogs are the propeller type, and there are sliding center latches.

The main stair, which is quarter turn with winders at the top, is in the 8-foot wide central hall. Beneath the stair at the rear of the main section are stairs to a closet and to the bathroom, added behind the former rear-hall secondary entry. The door appears original. It has three horizontal panels over two vertical ones. On the interior the panels are flush and beaded. On the exterior they are recessed and raised slightly; panel molding, as on the shutters, is Greek ogee-and-bevel. The same door is used on the closet, with the flush panels on the inside. The stair spandrel originally had six panels that are similar to those of the nearby doors. Two have been replaced with a grille for the radiator under the stair. The stair is closed string. The plain rectangular balusters are 3/4" x 1"+ set at about 4-5/8" on center. The rail is continuous from the main newel to the end of the balustrade on the second storey, rising over the intermediates with goose-necks. The rail is almost round, with a diameter of about 2-1/4". The newel has a 2-7/8" square base. The main shaft is plainly turned and entasized, with simple additional turnings above and below the main section. There is a small (c. 3" diameter), simple, round cap from which the rail rises. The intermediates are the same as the beginning newel, except, of course, they have no cap. The stair ends at the rear of the building, at a hall section that is perpendicular to a hall section toward the front of the main section. This is a rare arrangement in Kent County. Across this perpendicular hall reached as one leaves the stair is a closet with a ladder stair to the attic (no longer used; instead a pull-down stair over the part of the hall parallel to the house's axis and leading to the bedrooms is used). To the right is a closet door for an understair closet.

Formerly there was a single room at the front of the building, over the first-storey stair hall, with access from the hall. In the twentieth century this was converted to a bathroom. It recently has been altered, enlarged, and divided (with space from each of the side bedrooms) so that the each bathroom is only entered from a bedroom, and there is no entry to either from the hall. The original doors on the second storey have three horizontal panels over two vertical. Trim has a backband with an outside fillet and rather sharp bead even with it, then drops down to a recessed bead. First-storey trim is symmetrical and with bulls-eye corner blocks.

There are several interesting old barns on this farm, probably dating from the middle of the nineteenth century. There was a large bank barn, but it has been almost totally rebuilt, only a small portion of its stone foundation/first-storey wall remaining. There is still a dirt ramp to its second storey, a necessity in Kent County where there is rarely an actual bank to be used, as is the case farther to the north in Cecil County and Pennsylvania, where these barns are more common.

This farmstead is located in what would have seemed historically to have been a very remote, difficult to reach location. On the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County Moses Lampson is noted as the owner and perhaps the occupant since the last owner of the farm says she always knew this farm as the Lambson farm. He is also shown as the owner of property farther to the southeast along the Lambson-Millington Forest Road.

On the 1877 map Capt. A[ndrew] Woodall, the wealthy entrepreneur and person who by his death owned some 30 farms in Kent and Cecil counties, was the owner. He often acquired his properties when people defaulted on mortgages. Moses Lambson is now shown as the owner of the farm to the northwest along the road. He is also shown as the owner of a brickyard a short distance away on the Galena-Chesterville road, where the train station had been built about 1870 and designated as Lambson Station. The farm designated K-187 for this survey has been called Lambson Farm as that is what the owner and her family called it. It is to the northwest of Lambson Station and apparently acquired its name only because of proximity to the station. There is no evidence that any Lambson ever owned it. The farm called Locust Hill Farm (by the current owner, for the many locust trees there) is more entitled to the name Lambson Farm because of the previous ownership by Moses Lambson.

1502085204

Form 10-445
(5 62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Galena VICINITY STREET NO. Lambson - Millington Forest Rd. .8 mile SE of Rt 290 (S on to house) ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Frank Wisner PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 2½	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K-208 2. NAME Locust Hill Farm DATE OR PERIOD 18th Century STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

Locust Hill is one of the six existing buildings in Kent County which originally had a pent eave on each of its facades. It is a two and one-half story brick structure, originally three bays long and one room deep. Its brick is laid in Flemish bond. The main facade faces northwest and has a central door with elliptical fanlight and sidelights and the flanking windows are composed of pairs of window as is the one above the door. These are subsequent to the erection of the house as is the gambrel roof frame wing to the rear (southeast). It stands on a hill overlooking a man-made pond and the spring-water and marsh which leads into Mill Creek of the 'Chester River' (to distinguish it from a creek of the same name which leads into the Sassafras River only two miles away.

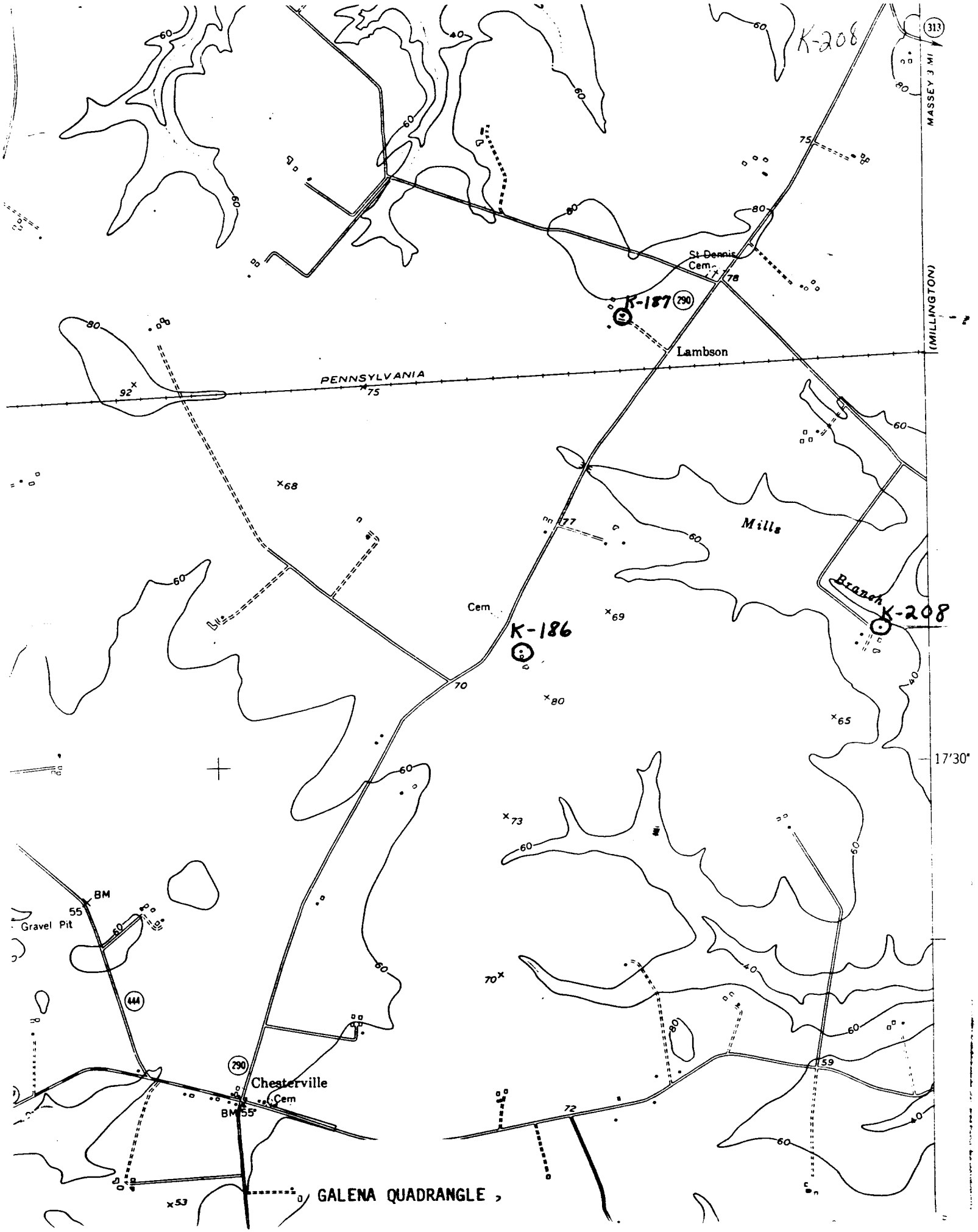
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered No Interior Exterior good

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 May, 1970

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


K-208
313
MASSEY 3 MI
(MILLINGTON)
St Dennis Cem
K-187
290
Lambson
PENNSYLVANIA
Mills
Branch
K-208
Cem
K-186
17'30"
BM
Gravel Pit
444
290
Chesterville
Cem
BM
GALENA QUADRANGLE

K208 - 35

K-208
Locust Hill Farm
Lambson-Millington Forest Road
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/14/86
View to southeast

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY
K-208 Locust Hill Farm c.1780

K208-31

K-208
Locust Hill Farm
Lambson-Millington Forest Road
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/14/86
Barn - view to southeast