

K-211

The Agreement (Welch Farm)  
Near Kennedyville  
C. 1800

James Welch began acquiring small parcels of adjoining land in 1797.<sup>1</sup> By 1822, he had acquired 859 acres, about three quarters of which were contiguous.<sup>2</sup> Welch appears to have been a farmer, as did his son and grandson who were subsequent owners of the properties. In 1823 he sold all of his lands to his son William. At that time the home farm is described as consisting of the following tracts: Agreement, Welch's Purchase, Mount Hermon, St. Patrick's Garden, Graham's Purchase, Graham's Addition, Long Neglect and parts of Kent Manor.<sup>3</sup> When James Welch died in 1828, the only legal instrument recorded was a bond for \$10,000 taken out by his sons William and Ebenezer Welch and Joseph Moffett.<sup>4</sup>

The house which Welch constructed was composed of the existing three-bay, two-story, brick section with frame wing on the west gable and a wing further south of the west wing. The original wing burned in 1943 and was not replaced at that time. A new kitchen was built on the east gable thereafter and in 1964 a new west wing was constructed.

The brick section of the house is composed of a stairhall and dining room and is similar in form to the Edick Farm at Chesterville. Mr. Welch's farm is earlier, however, having been constructed in the late 1790's or early 1800's. The stair and dining room mantel are the extraordinary features of the house. The close-string stair is built with three flights to the second and attic stories, and has a paneled spandrel with delicate balustrade. The newel posts have a slightly exaggerated entasis, and look similar to bed legs

of the period. There is a half-rail in the wall mirroring the handrail. Each of the drop finials, in the shape of an elongated grape, remain in place.

Original crosssetted trim survives in the dining room, as does a superb mantel. It is very tall with paneled pilasters supporting a well-executed shelf with course of dentils and swags of drill holes. The same swag motif is found in the chair rail. Adjacent to the chimney breast is a built-in cabinet.

It wasn't until William Welch died in 1837 that there was a will and inventory. In his will he bequeathed the farm to his son, John D. Welch.<sup>5</sup> His inventory, taken by his neighbors, Samuel Comegys and Daniel Jones, mentioned "Carpet in the Parlor ... Cane carpetting in passage ... (and) cane carpetting in parlor chamber ... ," referring to the present dining room and hall. He owned 14 slaves and 12 ounces of silver (old silver spoons), with a net personal worth of \$5,730.00.<sup>6</sup>

John D. Welch died in 1857, leaving his real estate to his son William, but providing for his wife Sarah to have enough furnishings for the house that William was then occupying.<sup>7</sup> As a result of an equity case between Mary L. Welch and Andrew Woodall in 1881, the farm was sold by the trustee to Thomas W. Eliason, merchant in Chestertown.<sup>8</sup>

Since 1881, the farm has remained in possession of four generations of Eliasons, during which time it has always been tenanted.

1. Land Records, Lib. BC 4, fol. 597.
2. Kent County Tax Assessment, 1822, First District.

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3. Land Records, Lib. TW 4, fol. 200.
4. Kent County Bonds, Lib. 11, fol. 54.
5. Wills, Lib. JFB 1, fol. 28.
6. Inventories, Lib. 21, fol. 438.
7. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 73.
8. Land Records, Lib. SB 2, fol. 460.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-211

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic "Agreement"

and/or common Welsh Farm

**2. Location**

street & number 11720 Black's Station Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Kennedyville \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Thomas W. Eliason, Jr. (Tenant - Clifford Atwell)

street & number P. O. Box 357 telephone no.:

city, town Chestertown state and zip code MD 21620

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP51

street & number Cross Street folio 354

city, town Chestertown state MD 21620

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Windshield Survey

date 1968 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No.

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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 type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Welsh farm is located on the south side of Black's Station Road east of an area which was formerly called Browntown. The farmhouse is an early 19th century brick house, three bays long, two stories tall with two flanking two-bay two-story 20th century wings. Only one contemporary building still exists near the house, a frame smokehouse, covered with 20th century siding.

The house is three bays long facing north with an entrance on the westernmost bay accessible from a screened porch. The walls of the house are constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with a two-brick belt course, but no water table. It's windows have 12/12 sash on the first story and 12/8 sash above. The entrance has its original six panel door with four-pane transom above. There are no decorative arches above the openings.

The rear facade is also three bays but the side entrance has a smaller six-panel door without transom. Above the door are two small windows which indicate the position of the stair landings inside. They currently have one-pane sash but probably had 6/3 originally. The other windows were the same as the front, but only one retains its original sash. In each gable there is a single small window. The chimney rises within the east gable.

The interior plan of the brick section of the house consists of a stair hall and dining room. From the evidence in the hall, the original frame wing was located on the west side of the building as there is an original door and paneled jamb to the former structure. The present wing was constructed in 1964. The original wing burned in 1943 and instead of replacing it in the same location the new kitchen was built on the east end, toward the barnyard. Stavely & Bowers of Lynch, built that wing, which contains a kitchen with stair to the room above, and a leanto on the south containing a mud room and bath.

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Returning to the original section, the stair ascends to the second story and attic in three flights each. It has turned newels with slightly bulbous shaft and close string balustrade with small square balusters beneath a very fine handrail (with profile more like the 1780's than the 1810-1820 period that it is). The spandrel has a single raised panel and beneath the first landing is a closet with small six-panel door. As the stair ascends through the building the newels have drop finials in the shape of a long grape. Along the plaster wall is a half rail mirroring the balustrade.

A frame partition separates the stair hall from the dining room. It retains original plaster, chair rail, door and door trim. The latter is composed of a wide beaded member with intermediate molding and a cone back band. The windows and door in the dining room have crossettes at the top of the large openings. The most extraordinary feature of the room is the mantel, a very tall item with paneled pilasters supporting a well executed shelf with a course of dentils and swag of drill holes. The same decoration is used in the chair rail, but instead of having the drill holes in swags, they are in a straight line above the dentils. To the north of the chimney breast is a cabinet, which had double-paneled doors (now stored in the attic). On the side of the chimney breast is a small cabinet near the kitchen door.

According to Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Atwell, who have resided in the house since 1955, the basement has an arch support below the fireplace. Rising damp has caused some of the plaster to disintegrate, especially below the chair rail. The original floor in the dining room has subsided, taking the partition with it. The fireplace has been blocked up since before 1955 and the hearth bricks are painted.

Adjoining the western corner of the farm, across Black's Station Road, is a seven acre parcel still owned by Mr. Eliason. It is the site of an early 19th century brick Presbyterian Meeting House. On the 1860 Map it mentions the Meeting House and the adjoining property being owned by the same Wm. Welsh who owned this property.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. K-211

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The Welch Farm is of significance primarily because of the quality of its architecture. It is a relatively simple brick structure but has well-executed interior woodwork of the early Federal period. most of which is unchanged. The Welch family may also be of significance in the establishment of the Presbyterian Church on a corner of the property. More research will be required to document this site.

James Welch began acquiring smaller parcels of adjoining land in 1797. By 1822, he had acquired 859 acres, about three quarters of which were contiguous. James Welch appears to have been a farmer as were his son and grandson who were subsequent owners. In 1823 he sold all of his lands to his son William, but the home farm consisted of parts of the following tracts. Agreement, Welch's Purchase, Mt. Hermon, St. Patrick's Garden, Graham's Purchase, Graham's Addition, Long Neglect....parts of Kent Manor. Kent Manor had been the Lord Proprietor's 8,000 acre Manor which was confiscated after the Revolution. When James Welch died in 1828, the only legal instrument recorded was a Bond for \$10,000 taken out by his sons William and Ebenezer Welch and Joseph Moffett.

It wasn't until William died in 1837 that there was a will and inventory. In his will he bequeathed the farm to his son, John D. Welch. His inventory, taken by neighbors Samuel Comegys and Daniel Jones mentioned "Carpet in the Parlor....Cane carpetting in passage...(and) cane carpetting in parlor chamber...", referring to the present dining room and hall. He owned 14 slaves and 12 ounces of silver (old silver spoons) with a net personal worth of \$5,730.00.

John D. Welch died in 1857, leaving his real estate to his son William but provided for his wife Sarah to have enough furnishings for the house that William was then occupying. As a result of an equity case between Mary L. Welch and Andrew Woodall in 1881, the farm was sold by the Trustee to Thomas W. Eliason, merchant of Chestertown.

Since 1881, the farm has remained in possession of four generations of Eliasons, during which time it has always been tenanted. The current tenants, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Atwell have resided on the farm since 1955. Mrs. Atwell's family were tenants on the other part of the Eliason Farm.



The old part of this house dates from the end of the 18th Century and is 2 stories high, 3 bays long, and 1 room deep. It is brick and laid in Flenish bond, on north side, painted white. The windows have 12/12 sash on both floors and the entrance with transom is on the west side of the north facade.

Inside, the house retains all of its original woodwork, with dog ear trim at top of the windows, mantel and chair rail with gouge-work of federal design, and its open stair in the side hall with very easy risers extending to the attic. On each side of the house is an addition of recent date.

1. STATE Maryland  
 COUNTY Kent  
 TOWN Kennedyville VICINITY  
 STREET NO. Blacks Sta. Rd. - South side of Rd.  
 (only 1 way)  
 ORIGINAL OWNER  
 ORIGINAL USE dwelling  
 PRESENT OWNER Thos Eliason  
 PRESENT USE dwelling  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick  
 NO. OF STORIES 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 INVENTORY K-211

2. NAME Eliason Farm  
 DATE OR PERIOD late 18th Century  
 STYLE Colonial - Federal  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

12/12 - dog ear fin

The old part of this house dates from the end of the 18th Century and is 2 stories high, 3 bays ~~deep~~ <sup>long</sup> & 1 room deep. It is brick laid in Flemish bond, on north side, ~~is~~ painted white. The window has 12/2 sash on both floors and the entrance <sup>with transom</sup> is on the west side of the north facade.

Inside, the house retains all of its original woodwork, with dog ear fin ~~at top~~ of the windows, mantel and chair rail with gouge-work of ~~the~~ Federal design, and its open stair in the side hall with very easy risers extending to the attic. On each side of the house is an addition of recent date.

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

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH

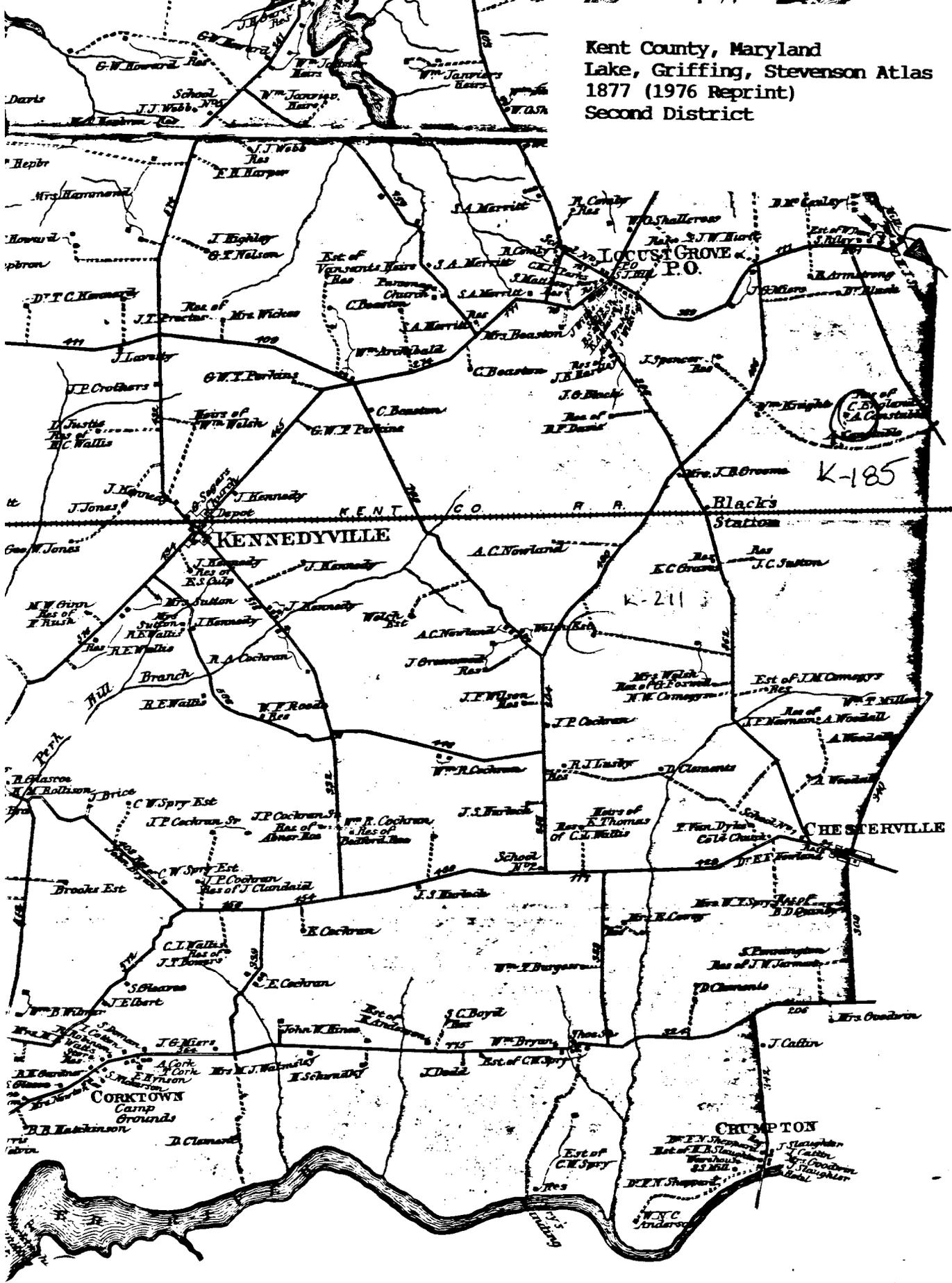
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
Michael Bourne  
 DATE OF RECORD Sept. 23, 1963

? →  
 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE  
 Occupied by G.C. Atwell

Kent County, Maryland  
Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas  
1877 (1976 Reprint)  
Second District

K-211



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K-211

K-185

K-185

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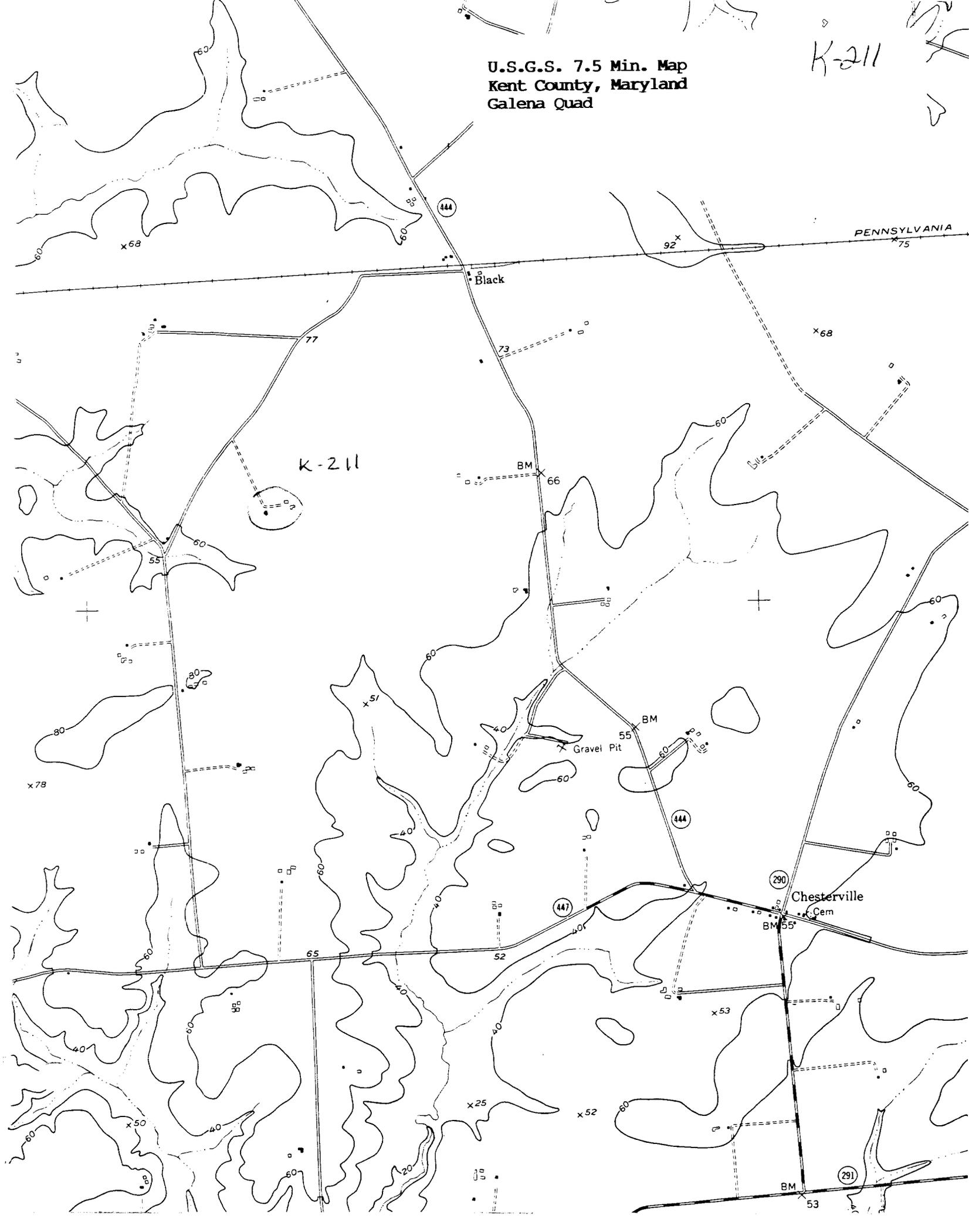
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U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map  
Kent County, Maryland  
Galena Quad

K-211





Welch Farm K-211

(Atwell Farm)

North Facade

Michael Bourne

March 1996



Welch Farm K-211

(Atwell Farm)

From S.W.

Michael Bowne

March 1996