FANCY FARM
Chestertown, Maryland
(circa 1790)

K-236

Fancy Farm is located northwest of Chestertown. The house is constructed in three sections, a 2½ story, 3 bay, brick Federal period central section, a 2 story, 2 bay side wing, and a lower 2½ story, 4 bay frame section. The frame section is the earliest part of the house; the brick portions were built simultaneously although the wing was later raised from 1½ stories to two stories with a frame second story. Original to the main house is a two-story shed roofed porch. A one story shed-roofed porch was constructed around the three facades of the frame wing--probably when the brick section was built. Behind the house are barns and outbuildings dating from the 18th, 19th, and the early 20th centuries.

Fancy Farm is one of the finest vernacular Federal period houses in the Upper Eastern Shore, rivaling Knock's Folly (K-114) in the quality of its detail. The rope molded cornice and the drill work of the pediment both exemplify the finest Federal woodworking in this part of the United States. Very few 18th and early 19th century porches remain in the county and the porches at Fancy Farm are architecturally outstanding examples of the period. The main porch resembles the porch at Shepard's Delight (K-111) athough this porch is more elaborately detailed. In addition to its exterior detail the gouge work, drill carving, and reeding of the interior trim is among the best proportioned and best executed Federal period woodwork of the Kent County houses. One room in the house retains a rare example of Victorian period wall and ceiling paper. Installed in the late 19th century, the paper is predominantly gold and brown in color and geometric in design.

MAGI # 1502365235

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST K - 236

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC FANCY FARM

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northeast side of Nicholson Road, about 1½ miles from the intersection with Route 20

CITY, TOWN Chestertown XX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__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
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. & Mrs. Albert Nicholson Telephone #: 301-778-2219

STREET & NUMBER Fancy Farm

CITY, TOWN Chestertown __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 27
Folio #: 222

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE 1968

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-236

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED slightly	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nicholson Farm or Fancy Farm is located on the northeast side of Nicholson Road about 1½ miles from the intersection with Route 20. Behind the house are barns and outbuildings dating from the 18th, 19th, and the early 20th centuries.

The house is constructed in three sections, a 2½ story, 3 bay, brick Federal period central section, a 2 story, 2 bay side wing, and a lower 2½ story, 4 bay frame section. The frame section is the earliest part of the house; the brick portions were built simultaneously although the wing was later raised from 1½ stories to two stories with a frame second story.* Original to the main house is a two-story shed roofed porch. A one story shed-roofed porch was constructed around the three facades of the frame wing--probably when the brick section was built. The northwest part of this porch has recently been removed although the brick-paved floor remains. On the northeast wall of the house, a two story square tower was added during the Victorian period. The first floor is an open porch with a scalloped sawn work cornice; the second an enclosed room.

Brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise in each gable end. Three gable dormers with 6 over 6 sash protrude from the slopes of both 2½ sections of the building. Roofs are covered with wooden shingles.

The frame structure is covered with beaded weatherboarding. The bays are irregularly spaced wtih entries in the third bay from the northwest, front and rear.

---

* Examination of the basements of the two sections of the house reveal that the exterior mortar joints of the brick foundation of the frame section was tooled. Because the foundation of the brick section of the house is constructed adjacent to the frame section's foundation, this tooling could only have been done if the brick building was not standing. The walls of the brick main house and wing are continuous indicating that they were constructed at the same time.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-236

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
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

House - mid 18th, late 18th
Smokehouse - late 18th
Dairy - mid 18th
Garage - late 18th
Dairy Barn - mid 18th
Barn & Cribs - late 18th or early 19th
Horse Barn - ca 1905
Brick Stables - late 18th or early 19th

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fancy Farm owes its architectural significance to three things: 1) the outstanding design and remarkable state of preservation of the house,[1] 2) the survival in excellent condition of Victorian wallpaper,[2] 3) the existance of six early outbuildings and barns.[3] In addition, the building is historically interesting for having belonged for a century to the Nicholson family, the descendants of three Nicholson Brothers who fought in the Revolutionary War.[4]

---

1. Fancy Farm is one of the finest vernacular Federal period houses in the Upper Eastern Shore, rivaling Knock's Folly (K-114) in the quality of its detail. The rope molded cornice and the drill work of the pediment both exemplify the finest Federal woodworking in this part of the United States. Very few 18th and early 19th century porches remain in the county and the porches at Fancy Farm are architecturally outstanding examples of the period. The main porch resembles the porch at Shepard's Delight (K-111)[5] although this porch is more elaborately detailed. In addition to its exterior

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-236

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

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, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Planning Commission

DATE
778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER
Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

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

PS-1108

hese doors lead to the stair hall of the frame section, dividing the building into 2 rooms per floor. The southwest entry door has a four pane transom light and louvered shutters, and Victorian 4-panel doors. The windows have 9 over 6 sash on the second floor and 9 over 9 sash on the first. Original paneled exterior shutters are in place on the first floor with louvered shutters on the second. The back of the chimney is exposed brick, now stuccoed. The porch has chamfered posts with lamb's tongue chamfer stops and exposed roof framing.

The central brick portion of the house is taller than the frame portion although both rest on brick-walled basements. This section has entry doors in the northwest bay, 12 over 12 sash on the first story and 12 over 8 sash on the second. The entry has a transom, with radiating muntins and pedimented architrave trim. Its backband molding is reeded and the frieze and tympanum are enriched with drill-work festoons. A rope molding is used on the roof cornice of both the house and porch. The roof of the porch is a continuation of the roof of the house and is supported on two-story round columns which have been replaced and now rest on brick piers. The floor level is about three feet above the brick-paved porch floor and is reached via a flight of splayed limestone steps. The brick is laid in Flemish bond without a water table or belt course. Like the rest of the building the brick walls are painted white.

The kitchen wing has a door and two windows on the southwest facade, first floor and two windows on the second floor. In the attic are 2 small 4-light windows and there is a tall brick chimney in the gable. The 1½ story structure was raised to 2 stories with a frame in-fill. There are a gable-roofed and a shed-roofed additions on the rear. The southwest entry door is an early diamond-pattern board and batten door dimiliar to that at River House (K-12) in Chestertown. The interior of this section of the building is largely remodeled but the original shape of the high, wide kitchen fireplace is visible.

The interior of the rest of the house survives with remarkably few changes, except for

the loss of the two first floor mantles. Flooring throughout is 6" to 10" wide random yellow pine. Walls and ceilings are plastered with woodwork limited to trim, baseboards, and chairrails.

In Room #2, the dining room, trim, illustrated below is crossetted at the windows. The chairrails are 3¼" in overall height with the upper molding a 3/8" on the edge of a 3/4" board and a beaded lower fascia edge. The baseboard is 7" in height with a ¼" upper bead. Doors have 6 panels; on the room side they are recessed with flattish cyma reversa panel moldings but on the stairside the panels are raised and beveled with quarterround edges. The mantle in this room is Victorian.

The Federal stair is L-shaped with a open string enriched with reeding. There are cut-out step brackets identical to those in nearby Casa Blanca (K-279) and 2 plain balusters per step. The newels have simple turnings. There is a shadowrail which is half the simple handrail. The chairrail in this room is illustrated.

The doorway which leads to Room #4 is round arched and filled with a pair of half round-headed paneled doors. The panel moldings are very simple Greek ogee and square and there is a fluted "keystone" atop the wooden trim. The main entry door has six panels with ogee panel moldings and a double crosset trim. The jamb and head of the exterior door frame has simulated panels marked with an applied Gothic bead milding.

In Room #4, a room in the older section of the house, the trim around doors and windows is a quarterround and beaded board, a molding (with a later shelf) used as the fireplace surround. The hearth has been covered with narrow oak flooring. Baseboards in this room are 4½" high with an upper bead.

The stair in the frame section of the house (Room #5) is a dogleg with an early four-panel door leading to the under stair closet. The spandrel is made of beaded boards. Balusters are plain squares and the newels are square with molded caps. The stair has a closed string.

In Room #6 the chairrail and window trim have the same profile as in Room #4; the baseboard measures 7½" overall with an upper bead. The mantle dates from the late Federal

period and has decorative moldings characterized by Grecian ogee profiles. This mantle is not original to this building but was rescued from a demolished Kent County house and installed in this room. The most important feature of this room, however, is its Victorian wallpaper. It is predominantly gold and brown with a geometric design in the center of the ceiling and on either side of the projecting chimney mass. The cornice is also a geometric design; the walls above and below the chairrail is a simple geometric pattern. Most of the Victorian furniture was purchased for this room by the great-grandparents of the present owners.

In the parlour chamber above this room, there are closets with 2-raised and-beveled-panel doors flanking the fireplace. The fireplace has a surround as in Room #4 and the original molded shelf. Hearth bricks are square. The 3½" chairrail is similiar in profile to that in Room #2 and the 4½" baseboard has an upper bead.

The upper stair hall has a chairrail and original four-panel doors.

Room #8, above 4, has virtually the same detailing as the parlour chamber. In addition its doors are hung on H L hinges.

In the chamber in the brick section of the house is an interesting mantle with reeded diamonds on the frieze, reeded frieze blocks, crosetted surround, and a molded shelf. The fireplace is flanked by closets with six-panel doors set in crossetted trim. Plain interior blinds are hung at the windows.

Changes to the house are largely limited to the kitchen and the rear. The house is in an excellent state of preservation.

Three early outbuildings are located directly behind the house. The meathouse is constructed of squared logs which are set into the corner posts. It measures 14'3" by 16'2". The sill is a large (10" to 12" square) hewn member. In the center of each long side on the interior is a post which rests on the sill and is nailed with large wrought iron spikes into each log. The roof is carried on pegged rafters with pegged collar beams, ca 3' on center. The exterior of the building is sheathed with modern weatherboarding, although early pine planks fill the gables. The wood shingle roof is finished against beaded tapered verge boards and a plain box cornice. Diamond pattern vent holes flank

a later 4-light gable window and the building is surmounted by a farm bell hanging in a wooden frame. The board and batten entry door has a large wooden box lock with decorative metal cover plates.

The building rests on a brick foundation. When the owners were installing a concrete floor they discovered the stone foundation of a fireplace in the gable.

Behind the house is a small dairy which is square in plan and has a pyramidal roof. The roof is covered with Victorian period metal shingles and finished with a cyma molding. Originally the building was covered with beaded weatherboarding but much has vanished. In the sides of the building are 4 over 4 sash windows set in beaded trim with a quarterround backband. The door is board and batten and set in similiar trim. Originally the roof rafters were exposed on the interior; now, however, they have been enclosed with a board ceiling and a concrete floor installed.

Now used as a garage is a small barn which has a gable roof finished with tapered verge boards and a plain box cornice. It has a wood shingle roof and weatherboard siding and rests on a brick foundation. There is a board and batten door leading to the loft. The interior structure system is exposed and is made of hewn heavy timber framing.

The property includes 4 significant farm buildings, three large frame barns and one brick stables.

The oldest barn is an extremely rare 18th century frame structure. It is a large building with a loft, a gable roof, and two flanking corn cribs. There is a central entry with double doors in each gable with a loft door above it. Doors lead into the crib at each end. The entire building rests on a fieldstone foundation.

The roof is covered with wooden shingles with a combed ridge. It terminated against verge boards. The barn is sheathed in vertical planks; the cribs in vertical boards about 3" in width. Doors and shutter windows are board and batten and hung on old strap hinges. The doors in the barn loft is made of beaded boards.

The building is 4 bays long and three bays wide. All structural members are hewn and joined with carved joints and pegs. The sills are very large, about 1' square and the floors are thick, wide pine planks. Posts are also large, about 10" square, and connected by disgonal braces. Rafters, about 3' on center, and their collar beams are pegged together and rest on a 4" by 4" tilted false plate. Nailers are laid over the rafters and the crib rafters rest on the lowest nailer. The cribs have a structural system very similiar to the barn but appear to be slightly later additions. (Foundations are not continuous between the barn and the cribs.) The building is well preserved and in use until recent times.

The other early barn on the property is a similiar but probably later structure. It is of the same basic form and size but has a roof which overhangs the gable instead of terminating in a verge board. The exterior siding is vertical boards and the roof is wooden shingles. This barn too has a structural system which is hewn and pegged and diagonally braced but it as a simple plate instead of a tilted false plate. The barn rests on a fieldstone foundation. Mortice holes in the posts of this structure and a smaller shed adjacent to it imply that the building was constructed of timbers that previously were part of another structure.

In contrast to the two early barns is a horse barn which dates from about 1905. This structure has a gable roof form, and vertical board siding but its structure is quite different from that of the earlier barns. Although the frame of the walls has carved and pegged joints, the members are sawn and much smaller in section than in the earlier barns. Diagonal bracing between the bays is a full V-brace, those in alternate bays being inverted. The roof structure, which is nailed, is additionally supported with an enormous tilted wooden truss.

The other interesting farm building on the property is a brick stables. It has a gable roof with its ridge running northwest southeast and measures 50'6" long by 24'6" wide. The walls are laid in Liverpool Bond and have been whitewashed. The roof is constructed of pegged and collar braced rafters which are finished with large box cornices

without moldings. The roof is covered with wooden shingles with a combed ridge. There are doors centered in each gable; above each is a loft door. In addition there are two doorways on the southeast facades. All doors are board and batten and appear to be replacements. Slit vent holes in the gable walls provide additional ventilation. The building recently suffered damage to one gable wall in a severe storm.

detail the gouge work, drill carving, and reeding of the interior trim is among the best proportioned and best executed Federal period woodwork of the Kent County houses.

The earlier section of the house is architecturally significant because the only major alteration it has undergone is the removal of one mantle. Other than that loss, the building survives intact from the 18th century.

2. Very little Victorian period wallpaper remains in country houses, and even less has been were maintained throughout its life time. This wallpaper was installed in the late 19th century and closely resembles wallpaper ceiling pattern illustrated in the National Park Service publication, "Wallpaper in Historic Preservation," page 37.

3. As agricultural practices have changed in Kent County, old barns and outbuildings have been destroyed and replaced by more modern structures. The very early barns at Fancy Farm are extremely unusual, only two other early barns--both brick bank barns--are known to remain in Kent County. Comparing the structural systems of the early barns to that of the 19th and 20th century buildings on the property serves as a survey of structural evolution in the barns of the area. Taken as a group the several early barns and outbuildings are illustrative of the layouts of a large and properous grain farm in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

4. The Nicholson family was prominent in Kent County affairs throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Probably their most famous member was Captain James Nicholson,skipper of the Defense, who was charged with protecting the Chesapeake Bay and Baltimore during the Revoluntionary War. A sea-faring family, James' brother Samuel,was John Paul Jones' lieutenant aboard the Bon Homme Richard in its famous engagement with the Serapis. Another brother, John, was a member of the Continental Navy and also fought in the Revolutionary War. The Nicholson family has owned the house for four generations and are responsible for many of its furnishings and the construction of the Victorian barns.

5. Knock's Folly was placed on the National Register in 1976, Shepard's Delight in 1976.

Fragiamore, Catherine Lynn. Wallpapers in Historic Preservation, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1977.)

Clark, Charles B. The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, (New York: Lewes Historical Publishing, Inc., 1950.)

1502365 2 35

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Fairlee
STREET NO. Nicholson Rd., ½ mile N.W. of Md. Rt. 20, (north)
ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Albert Nicholson
PRESENT USE dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION frame and brick
NO. OF STORIES 2½

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K - 236

2. NAME Fancy Farm
DATE OR PERIOD 18th century
STYLE Colonial and Federal
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

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 March 17, 1969

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

Fancy Farm House consists of three stages of building. On the west side is a 2½ story frame structure covered with beaded clapboard with brick nogging between the studs. Its door is the second bay from the east, on the four bay facade, and has a transom and louvered shutters. The windows have 9/9 sash on first story, 9/6 on second story and 6/6 in the attic dormers. Original paneled shutters are on the first and second storys. At each end of this portion ~~are~~ is a brick chimney and that of the west gable is exposed on the first story. There is a leanto porch on west and north sides with a brick floor laid on the ground. The posts have lambs tongue champhering.

Connected to its east gable is a three bay long brick structure, 2½ storys high with a curtain wall between the rooves of the two structures. Brick is laid in Flemish bond and there is neither water table nor belt course. The entrance door has fine Federal trim and a transom with radiating muntins; it is located on its west side. On first story, sash is 12/12 with paneled shutters, second story has 12/8 sash and attic has dormers with 9/6 sash. The roof of the porch is a continuation of the main roof and is supported by two-story columns. It extends out over brick porch laid on the ground. Limestone steps lead to the ~~on~~ main door. (There is a similarity between this porch and the photographs of the porch on the Denton-Weeks House.)

Finally there is a two story wing to the east , which was a 1½ story brick structure. The second story addition is of frame. The kitchen door is a fine example of patterned batten doors (similar to Trumpington and Denton-Weeks House kitchen doors).

There are basements beneath the two previously mentioned portions of the house.

The central portion of the house has a Dining room and stair hall with fine federal woodwork. In the oldest part of the hose are two parlors and a central stair hall. The westernmost parlor retains its Victorian wallpaper which is about 100 years old.

The house is one of the best preserved houses in the county and is a mine of period detail which is undisturbed.

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Survey Files

From: Orlando Ridout V

Date: 20 August 1990

Subject: Outbuildings at Fancy Farm (K-236)

On August 20, 1990 I paid a brief visit to the Nicholson Farm, also known as Fancy Farm, in Kent County. The purpose of this visit was to prepare a summary evaluation of the outbuildings on the farm in anticipation of a historic easement. The following descriptive material is based on two hours of fieldwork on a rainy morning. This should serve as a guide to the individual buildings with approximate dates of construction, brief statements of condition and significance, but should not be considered as definitive.

I spoke briefly with Mrs. Nicholson before departing for a meeting at Third Haven. The only portion of the complex that postdates her arrival on the farm in 1946 is the cattle barn and milking parlor (see buildings "P" and "Q") to the east of the house. While she was uncertain of the precise date, they were built some years after 1946, probably in the 1950s or early 1960s. Mrs. Nicholson's telephone number is (301) 778-2219.

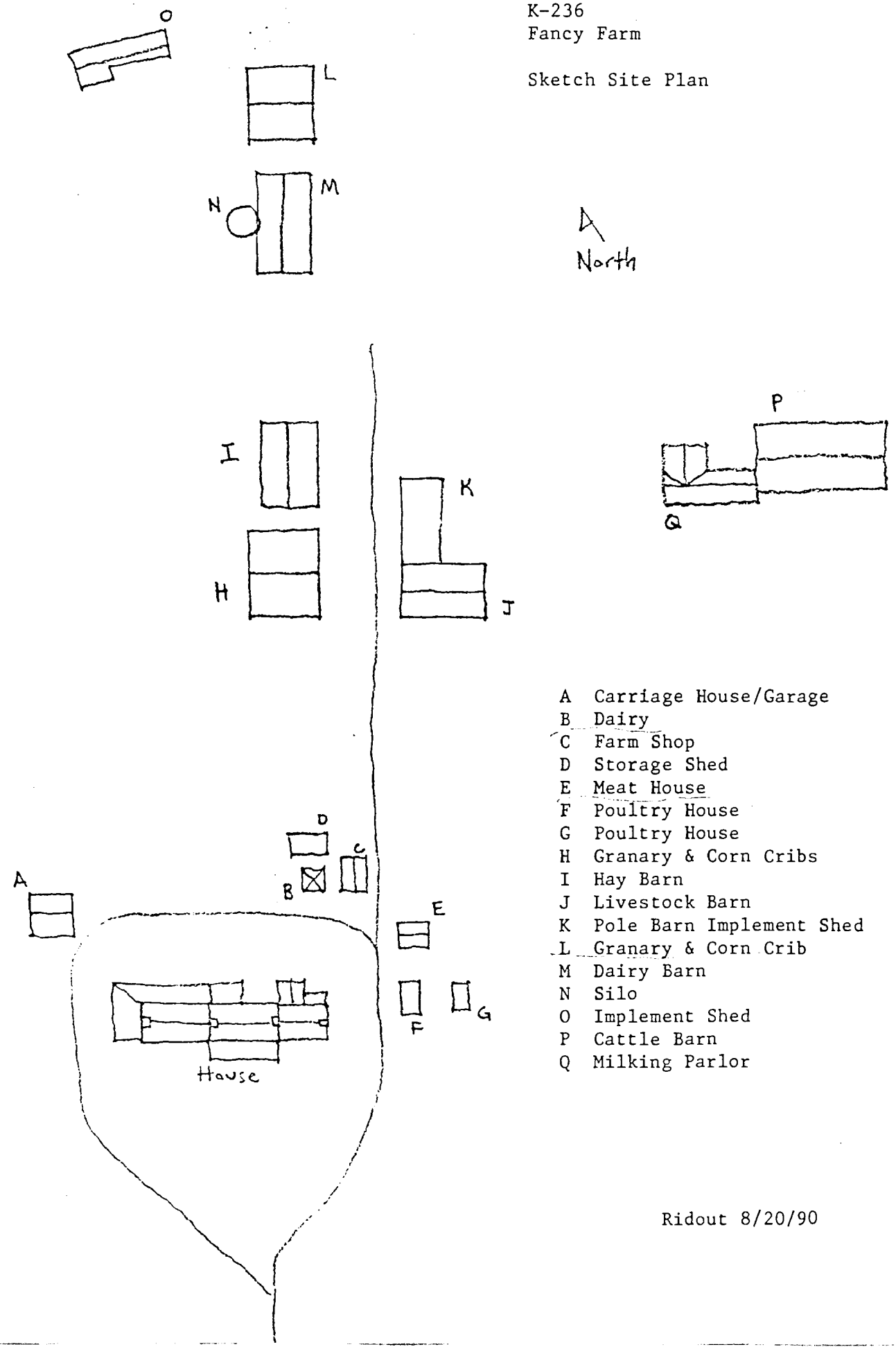
Summary: There are seventeen individual structures associated with the main house at Fancy Farm. These include seven domestic outbuildings scattered around the periphery of the house yard and ten agricultural outbuildings to the northeast and east of the house, the latter arranged in a reasonably orderly manner in relation to a farm lane. A sketch plan of the site is attached. The following descriptions are keyed to that plan.

Carriage House/Garage "A":

Located in the northwest corner of the house yard, this one-story frame building measures 22'-6" wide and 24 feet deep, with a steeply pitched gable roof. Used today as a garage, the building shows evidence of three major periods of construction. The original structure is of heavy timber frame construction, with hewn and pit sawn framing and traditional joinery. Dating evidence is limited, but the building is almost certainly antebellum, and based on framing evidence, was originally designed to be a carrige house

K-236
Fancy Farm

Sketch Site Plan



A Carriage House/Garage
B Dairy
C Farm Shop
D Storage Shed
E Meat House
F Poultry House
G Poultry House
H Granary & Corn Cribs
I Hay Barn
J Livestock Barn
K Pole Barn Implement Shed
L Granary & Corn Crib
M Dairy Barn
N Silo
O Implement Shed
P Cattle Barn
Q Milking Parlor

Ridout 8/20/90

with a pair of large doors on the southeast gable. The loft is floored and low kneewalls along the facade walls suggest a storage function. The building may have had flanking sheds at one time, but no specific evidence was immediately apparent.

At an early date, some alterations were made to the framing, and in recent years, the building required substantial repair and stabilization. Most visible was the addition of treated posts on the exterior corners of the building that serve to counteract damage to structural members that were in contact with the ground. Damage was sufficient to require replacement of some sill and framing pieces, and the repairs serve as a holding action rather than a long-term cure.

This is a significant building in the domestic complex. Although it has been altered and faces further deterioration, the building is in relatively stable condition, is weathertight, and has been painted recently.

Dairy "B":

Located directly to the rear of the kitchen wing at the edge of the house yard, this small frame domestic building measures ten feet square and is distinguished by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The door is centered in the southwest wall, facing the house; single windows are centered on the side walls. The building is in ruinous condition and the rear wall is completely missing.

The exterior is covered with beaded weatherboard siding secured with early machine nails; the original roof covering (presumably wood shingles) has been replaced with pressed tin shingling. Further embellishment is derived from beaded corner boards, a complex crownmold applied under the eaves, and simple Federal period architrave trim for the door and windows.

The interior was renovated in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The walls are plastered on machine sawn lathing and the ceiling is sheathed with narrow, beaded boards. A concrete floor has also been added, with evidence of a cooler trough in the right rear corner.

Based on the combination of Federal period trim, early machine siding nails and hand wrought T-head trim nails, this building appears to date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century, with interior renovations late in that century.

Now in ruinous condition, this small dairy is an important element in the domestic complex and merits further documentation on the assuption that it will not survive.

CAUTION should be exercised in any closer inspection, as the right rear corner of the building appears to be infested with a yellow jacket nest. A small paper wasp nest is also located inside the door to the right.

Farm Shop "C":

Immediately to the right of the dairy is a one-story rectangular frame building that has served for many years as a

general purpose shop for tools and small farm machinery. This building measures 14 feet wide and 22 feet long with the southwest gable facing the house yard. It is covered with plain horizontal siding and a corrugated metal roof, and is fitted with 6/6 windows and beaded batten doors typical of the late Victorian period. The interior walls are sheathed with horizontal planks and the loft is not floored. The building is constructed with circular sawn material and wire nails, suggesting a date of circa 1885-1920.

This building has only modest architectural significance but represents the expansion of farming activity at Fancy Farm at the turn of the century and is an important visual element in the house yard. Situated adjacent to the farm lane and in close proximity to two of the earlieat and most significant domestic outbuildings, this shop contributes to a strong sense of definition between domestic and agricultural activities to the rear of the house. It is in very good condition and has recently been painted.

Storage Shed "D":

A one-story frame storage shed is located immediately to the rear of the Dairy ("B"). This building measures 10 feet by 16 feet and is lightly built of standardized lumber. The walls are sheathed with vertical beaded board siding secured with wire nails; the shed roof is covered with corrugated metal sheeting. Similar in form and construction to a poultry house, the original function of this building is not clear; it is presently used as a storage shed.

Of minimal architectural significance, this building dates to the twentieth century and is no longer actively used. It is in generally good condition and has been painted recently.

Meat House "E":

Located on the southeast side of the driveway, this one-story gable roofed building also faces the house yard. Measuring 14 feet wide and 16 feet deep, this post-and-plank structure is larger than average for a meat house. Its steeply pitched roof is surmounted by a farm bell used to call the family and hands to meals, a feature that adds a notable element of interest to the building.

The exterior of the building is covered with plain horizontal weatherboards and cornerboards; the roof is covered with wood shingles. The interior is unfinished except for traces of whitewash and moderate smoke blackening from the curing process. The unusual method of construction is clearly evident from inside. The walls are constructed of heavy horizontal log planks pit sawn from hewn timbers and tenoned into individual mortises in the heavy, hewn corner posts. Each corner joint is secured with a wood pin and each wall is further stabilized by an intermediate post laid against the interior face and pegged to the horizontal logs. Chinking fills the spaces between the logs to make the building airtight during the curing process. The only opening is a low door in the northwest gable, facing the yard. This opening is framed with heavy vertical posts and is fitted with a heavy plank door hung on strap hinges.

Although the present hinges are replacements, ghosts of the original hand wrought strap hinges are clearly evident, outlined by the deeply weathered boards of the door. A work bench on one wall is relatively late in date.

Wrought nails in an intermediate post above the door and early machine nails in the top of a gable stud suggest an early nineteenth century date, but a more careful examination of the roof frame is warrented.

This is the most significant of the domestic outbuildings at Fancy Farm. It is an example of a construction technique that was probably relatively common in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in Tidewater Maryland, but is now quite rare. Only about three dozen examples have been recorded to date, the majority of them in Kent and Queen Anne's counties. As a meat house, this building is also representative of an important element in the rural farmstead. Dairies and meat houses are the two most important components of the domestic complex; at Fancy Farm both of these elements still exist in their original locations, offering useful evidence of the organization of the house yard. The position of this particular building in relation to the house and the farm lane combined with the distinctive farm bell on its roof makes it an important visual element of this farm complex.

Poultry House "F":

Immediately to the southwest of the meat house and also bordering the driveway and yard is a one-story frame poultry house. Measuring 14 feet deep and 24 feet long, the building has a shed roof and is oriented to the southwest, away from the yard, taking advantage of the sun to provide warmth in cold weather. This building is constructed of circular sawn lumber and wire nails, and probably dates to the early twentieth century. It is an excellent example of this building type, with a two-room interior plan, large 6/6 windows facing southwest, and smaller six-light windows on the northeast wall to provide ventillation in warm weather.

This building is in good condition but is no longer used for poultry, serving instead for light storage.

Poutry House "G":

A smaller and more recent poultry house is located to the southwest of "F". This one-story frame building measures 12 feet deep and 16 feet long, with a shed roof. This building is constructed with stock lumber and wire nails. It employs a similar plan, with large windows facing southwest and smaller six-light sash to the northeast, but the interior consists of a single room.

This building is of relatively recent construction and of minimal significance. It is in good repair.

Granary and Corn Cribs "H":

A large frame granary is located on the left or northwest side

of the farm lane several hundred yards to the rear of the house. This building is typical of a form of multi-purpose farm building widely used on larger farms on the Eastern Shore in the late eighteenth century and throughout the nineteenth century. Set gable end to the farm lane, the building consists of three units on the ground floor under a single roof: a central granary that measures 26 feet wide and 30 feet deep, and flanking 7 foot by 30 foot corn cribs.

The heavy timber frame building is constructed of hewn and pit sawn lumber with mature machine made nails, suggesting a date in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The interior of the granary consists of a single room sheathed with horizontal boards typical in granaries; the stair to the loft is located in the left front corner. The loft is finished and fitted up for grain storage, with a series of room sized grain bins constructed of horizontal planks. The cribs were originally accessible from the granary but the connecting doors have been blocked up.

This building is an important element in the agricultural complex at Fancy Farm. It represents a distinctive regional building type and can be compared with an earlier example of the same form elsewhere on this farm (see building "L"). This granary is in generally good condition but is no longer in use and will require some basic stabilization.

Hay Barn "I":

Located immediately beyond the large granary on the same side of the farm lane is a two story frame barn with a pitched gable roof. Measuring 29 feet deep and 48 feet 6 inches long, the building is set parallel to the farm lane. It is of heavy timber frame construction, incorporating numerous timbers reused from an earlier building. While of traditional construction, the framing members are smaller in scale than in antebellum buildings and the building appears to date to the early 20th century.

The first story of this building is currently used as storage space for smaller farm machinery; the second story is a hay loft. The entire southeast wall is left open on the first story to facilitate easy access to equipment.

This building is primarily significant in relation to the expansion of farming activity at Fancy Farm in the early twentieth century; it is in fair to good condition.

Livestock Barn "J":

Directly across the farm lane from the granary is a large twentieth century livestock barn. This two-story frame building is set gable end to the farm lane, with livestock pens on the ground floor and hay storage above. There are three doors in the front or northwest gable: a central door that opens into a feeding aisle and flanking doors that provide access to livestock pens on either side. On the rear gable, the livestock pens are fitted with gates to control access to the pasture beyond.

This barn is also of heavy timber frame construction but of relatively light, circular sawn framing members and wire nails. It is another indication of an increase in the role of livestock at Fancy Farm. The building is in good condition.

Pole Barn Implement Shed "K":

A large rectangular pole barn has been constructed against the northeast side of the livestock barn to provide storage for large pieces of farm machinery. It is representative of a sweeping change in farm building technology in the mid-twentieth century, signaling the first step in a movement away from substantial, permanent buildings to large utilitarian structures of a more impermanent nature. While representative of an important change in the look of Eastern Shore farms, this particular building is of minimal significance.

Early Granary and Corn Crib "L":

At the far end of the farm lane, to the northeast of the house, is a second, earlier granary and crib. Similar in form and plan to the early nineteenth century granary "H", this building probably dates to the latter part of the eighteenth century and is the earliest and most significant agricultural building at Fancy Farm.

The central granary measures 24 feet wide and 36 feet deep, with an original 12 foot wide lean-to on the northeast side and a 10 foot wide crib on the southwest side. This building is distinguished by exceptionally heavy framing members and tilted false plate roof construction. While no wrought nails could be identified in this brief reconnaissance of the building, the framing details are typical of the eighteenth rather than the nineteenth century.

This is a complex and highly significant building and merits a thorough analysis to determine original plan, functional features and evidence of dating period and sequence. The building is in poor condition due to failures in the roof covering. Rain is freely penetrating the building with advanced decay apparent in two areas in particular. The building could still be saved at this point with a concerted effort, but damage is accelerating and the structure no longer serves a useful purpose on the farm. At minimum, a concerted effort should be made to fully investigate the building; full measured drawings are warrented.

Dairy Barn "M":

An early twentieth century frame dairy barn is located adjacent to the southwest wall of Granary "L". This one-story building served as a barn for feeding and milking several dozen cows from sometime early in this century until replaced in the 1950s or 1960s. It is relatively lightly constructed and consists of a longitudinal feeding aisle serving two rows of metal

stanchions where the dairy cows were fed while being milked.

This building is of minimal significance and is in poor condition.

Silo "N":

A tile block silo typical of the early twentieth century is located against the rear or northwest wall of the dairy barn. A maker's plate survives in place but is too rusted to read. This structure is in poor condition and the tile has started to break up in places, making it unsafe.

It is significant as a symbol of changes that occurred in the last quarter of the nineteenth century in animal fodder and is another indication of the increased role of livestock at Fancy Farm in the early twentieth century. This particular type of silo was widely utilized across the country until it passed out of favor, replaced by silos constructed of prefabricated concrete panels.

Implement Shed "O":

A one-story implement shed is located to the north-northwest of Granary "L". This simple utilitarian building is of earth-fast construction and is enclosed on three sides. It is used for storing farm vehicles and machinery. It is typical of a building form found on almost any farm in Maryland. This particular example is of minimal architectural significance but has been reasonably well maintained.

Cattle Barn "P":

A large pole barn with enclosed sides was constructed by Mr. Nicholson in the 1950s or 1960s to facilitate a new and more efficient milking parlor (adjacent). The building is relatively recent in construction and remains in good condition, but is of minimal significance.

Milking Parlor "Q":

An ell-plan, concrete block milking parlor is joined to one corner of the cattle barn to facilitate a production line approach to milking dairy cows. The cows entered the parlor via a corridor and were guided into individual metal stalls where modern milking machines could be attached. These stalls were about two feet above the level of the work floor so that farm hands could work at waist level. When the milking was complete, the cows departed at the far end of the parlor and were routed back into the pasture.

Semi-automated milking parlors such as this often signal a shift from a highly localized system of dairy marketing to a bulk system in which the farmer sold directly to a large regional dairy corporation or cooperative. This milking parlor and associated cow barn are symbolic of the adoption of modern automation to the Fancy Farm dairy operation. The milking parlor is somewhat eccentric in

K-236

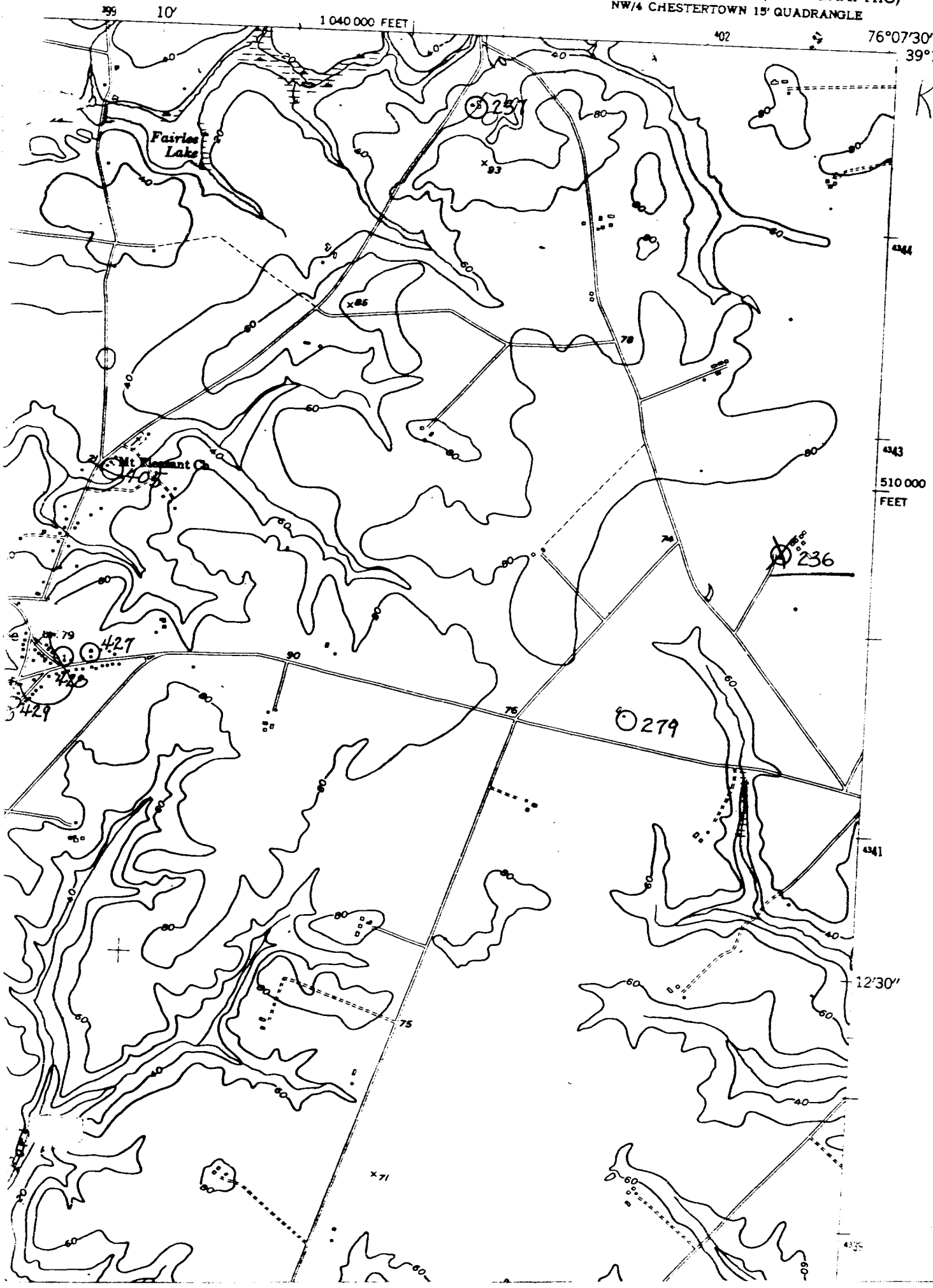
design and is in generally poor condition, with little of the equipment still in place. It is of minimal significance.

cc: T. Catherine Masek
Grant Dehart

MARYLAND—KENT CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 CHESTERTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

5762 I SE (BETTERTON)

K-236



K-236
Fancy Farm
View to North
Chestertown
Kent County
M.L. Fritz
9/1980

PRINTED BY
J. Tyler Campbell
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
SEP 25 1980

K-236
Fancy Farm
Detail of Entry
Chestertown
Kent County
M.L. Fritz
9/1980

PRINTED BY
J. Tyler Campbell
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
SEP 25 1980

K-236
Fancy Farm
Barn, view to Northwest
M. L. Fritz
9/1980

PRINTED BY
J. Tyler Campbell
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
SEP 25 1980

K-236
Fancy Farm
Garage, view to northwest
M.L. Fritz
9/1980

PRINTED BY
J. Tyler Campbell
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

SEP 25 1980