

K-368

Darby
Between Chestertown and Millington
c. 1850's

The early history of the Clements Farm is intimately connected with the history of the Spencer family. In the 18th century, a mill was established on the farm on the banks of Prickle Pear Branch. It was one of two mills on the branch, both operated at one time or another by the Spencer and Comegys families. In 1730, Jervis Spencer acquired two parcels, Smally and Darby, both located on the east side of Prickle Pear Mill Pond.¹ It is the latter tract that remained in the family until it was sold in the mid-19th century. Darby was mentioned in the will of Jervis Spencer, although he and his legatee, Isaac, lived at Marrowbone.² Isaac's son, William, apparently did not marry and lived at Darby or Neglect where he carried on a successful farming operation. In 1822, the year of his death, he was taxed on 1169 acres consisting of the following parcels: Darby and Smally, Buck Hill, Neglect, Mount Hope, Smith's Discovery, John's Addition, Killingsworthmore, and two parts of Prickle Pear.³

William Spencer's nephew and namesake, then living in Annapolis, sold the farm to David Clements in the 1850's. Clements' name appears on both the Martinet Map of 1860 and the 1877 Atlas. Around 1850, Clements built a large frame Italianate house on Darby which survived for slightly over a hundred years. The form of the house is not difficult to make out from the aerial photograph. While the details are less discernible, the overall impression is that of a somewhat plain structure.

The building was an 'L' shaped, three-story structure which appears

to have had the same basic floor plan as Fairfield, a contemporary house on the Bay. That plan consisted on a central entrance/stairhall with two flanking rooms and a wing to the rear. Here the wing is behind the eastern room and probably included a kitchen, dining room and back stair. Looking carefully at the photograph, a one-room deep, two-story addition is noticeable behind the western room. There was a deck at the apex of its hip roof, similar to the Spry Home Farm nearby.

One contemporary outbuilding survived the houses's destruction in the 1960's. It is a brick dairy with steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The actual structure occupied slightly more than one quarter of the space covered by the roof. It is similar to other dairies remaining around the Wye River.

1. Patents, Lib. PL 7, fol. 470, Lib. PL 8, fol. 606.
2. Wills, Lib. 4, fol. 128, Lib. 7, fol. 109, Lib. 10, fol. 263, Lib. 11, fol. 259.
3. 1822 Tax Assessment.

OWINGS & SON FARM, TENANT HOUSE
Millington, Maryland
(19th)

The Victorian house on the Owings Farm represents one common type of vernacular dwelling of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Three bays wide and one room deep, the building has a 90° gable roof and a pair of central brick chimneys. There is a central stair hall entered via a central door with transom. The three-bay front porch has turned posts, sawn brackets and a shallow hipped roof.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Owings & Son Farm, Tenant House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*North side of Old Morgnec Road, 1/2 mile
east of Junction with Route 290*

CITY, TOWN

Millington

___ VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland 21651

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Owings & Son, Inc. c/o Dorsey Owings

Telephone #: *301-928-3309*

STREET & NUMBER

Box 297

CITY, TOWN

Millington,

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21651

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: *EHP 17*

Folio #: *300*

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-368

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Victorian house on the Owings Farm represents one common type of vernacular dwelling of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Three bays wide and one room deep, the building has a 90° gable roof and a pair of central brick chimneys. There is a central stair hall entered via a central door with transom. The three-bay front porch has turned posts, sawn bracketts and a shallow hipped roof.

Windows have 2/2 sash with plain, flat 4" trim and wooden sills. There is a pointed window in the attic but no dormers. The beveled wooden siding measures 5"; cornerboards are 4" in width.

The kitchen is located in the two story wing which is two bays long and has detailing similiar to that used on the main house.

Inside the house is a dog-leg stair with a bold walnut newel and turned oak balusters. Mantles are marbelized slate on the first floor fireplaces. Reeded trim with turned cornerblocks enframe doors and windows.

The house was originally constructed to house a tenant or farm manager.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-368

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

SPECIFIC DATES *late 19th*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is a very good example of one of the most popular vernacular house designs of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Used as both farmhouses and town-houses, the plan dimensions shown in the enclosed drawing are typical.

Variations on this basic house are generally limited to the positioning of the chimneys in the gables and to the use of different porch posts and brackets. Sometimes there is a more elaborate entry with sidelights and a molded door. In the later houses of this type, an enclosed stair was often substituted for the ornamental stair used here, and wood or coal stoves--usually with vestigial mantle or shelf--replaced the fireplaces.

Many houses of this type are standing in Kent County; few are as well-maintained and as little altered as this one.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-368

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600 ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

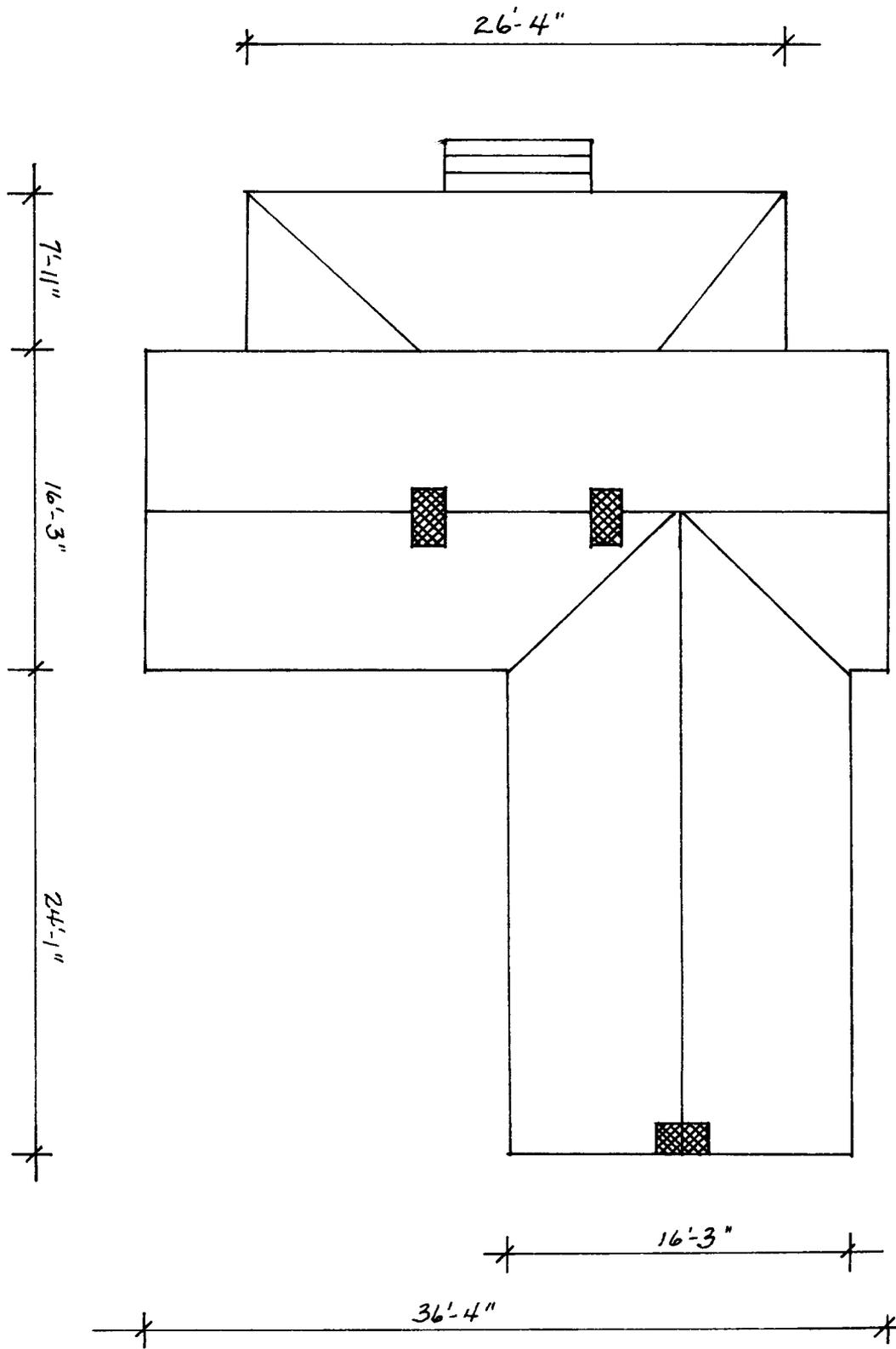
Chestertown, Maryland 21620

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.

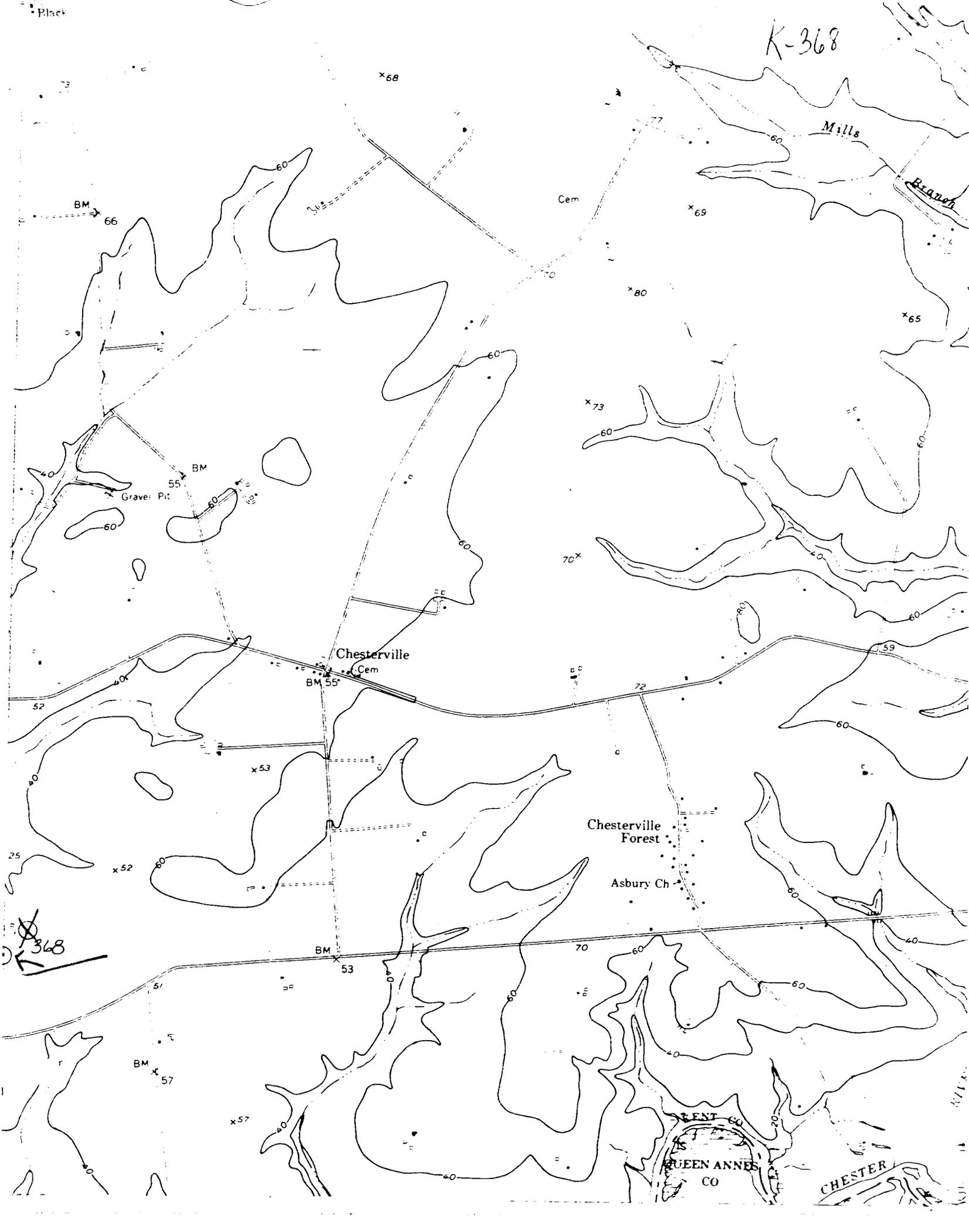
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Owings Farm Tenant House

K-368

K-368



Chesterville

Chesterville Forest

Asbury Ch

CHESTER

QUEEN ANNES CO

K-368

BM 66

BM 55

BM 55

BM 53

BM 57

x68

x69

x80

x73

x65

x53

x52

x53

x57

72

70x

Mills

Branch

Gravel Pit

Cem

Cem

QUEEN ANNES CO



K-368

Owings Farm tenant house

East Facade

Millington

Kent County

M. L. Fritz

1/1980

J. Tyler Campbell

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF KENT

1-308
Owings Farm