

SPENCER HOUSE
Kennedyville, Maryland
(ca 1916)

In the first two decades of the 20th century a new kind of house type began to appear on the Shore. It was related to both the bungalow houses and to the Neo-classic style and contrasted sharply to the towering vertical confections of the late nineteenth century. These new houses were horizontal in feeling and simple in detail. Although the treatment of plan, circulation, and mass was similar to their predecessors, these structures were restrained, and balanced, sometimes even symmetrical.

The Spencer House is an excellent example of these modest vernacular houses. It was constructed about 1916 in an area that had been open farmlands until the First World War. The dwelling has all of the characteristics of its period, and its Neo-classical heritage is clearly shown by its pedimented entry and by the bracketed pediments used above the bays.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Spencer House

2 LOCATION

West side Rt. 213 (Main Street)

STREET & NUMBER

1st

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

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 Harry Spencer

Telephone #: 301-348-5223

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21645

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: WHG 6

Folio #: 617

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-385

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spencer House is an early 20th century house on the west side of Main Street in Kennedyville. It is a 2½ story frame structure which is covered by a hipped roof. On the east, north, and south, its square plan is interrupted by projecting bays octagonal in the front and north and square on the south side. A deep, one story porch stretches across the front of the building and along the north side to the projecting side bay. Behind the structure is a two-story, gable-roofed kitchen ell.

The roof has wide overhangs, a boarded soffit, and a cyma crown crownmolding. The fascia on the walls' surface is a flat, plain board about 10" wide. The tympanum in each of the projecting bays is filled with the same narrow weather boarding used to cover the house; the cornice continues along the base of the pediment and is supported by three simple brackets in each of the corners. In the front (east) pediment there is a half-circle window. The roof is covered with grey asphalt shingles.

The porch has a raised-seam shed roof except at the door south of the front bay window where a flat pediment demarks entry. This cornice is detailed similiarly to that of the main house; the roof is supported by simple round columns. There is a railing with turned balusters; the broad wooden steps are flanked at the base by turned newel posts with ball tops. Like the rest of the house, the porch is frame.

Windows have one over one sash and vary in width according to their location. Those in the face of the octagonal bays are quite wide; those in the side are narrower. There is a double window above the main entry and a opalescent stained glass window left of the entry door lights the stair at landing level. Window trim is flat and plain. The main entry has a glass light in the door but no transom or side lights.

The L-shaped main stair is located to the south of the entry door in a stair/entry hall. The stair is oak with a square paneled newel and paneled spandrel. Its slender

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-385

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 ca 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the first two decades of the 20th century a new kind of house type began to appear. It was related to both the bungalow houses and to the Neo-classic style and contrasted sharply to the towering vertical confections of the late nineteenth century. These new houses were horizontal in feeling and simple in detail. Although the treatment of plan, circulation, and mass was similar to their predecessors, these structures were restrained, and balanced, sometimes even symmetrical.

Typically these vernacular houses of the early twentieth century are square in plan with a hipped roof. Projecting bays--octagonal or square--are common and are frequently covered by pedimented gable roofs. There is always an emphasis on sweeping roofs and deep wide porches. Massive and solid, the structures are covered by taunt, thin skins, often of wooden sheathing enriched by detailing with a classical feeling. On the interior, the buildings usually have their stairs located in a corner hall and window and door openings framed with flat, mass-produced, reeded trim.

The Spencer house is an excellent example of these modest vernacular houses. It was constructed about 1916 in an area that had been open farmlands until the First World War. The dwelling has all of the characteristics of its period, and its Neo-classical heritage is clearly shown by its pedimented entry and by the bracketed pediments used above the bays. The house is meticulously cared for and in virtually original condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-385

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

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

turned balusters rest on a closed string. The doorway to the main room opposite the stair has a central segmental arch and a pair of round columns. The doorway to the room behind is also wide, but not arched. There are interior corner fireplaces in the first floor rooms; each has a beveled mirror and high shelf supported by fluted columns with acanthus leaf capitols. Trim throughout the house is reeded and turned corner blocks are used at the corners. The flooring is maple 3" to 4" in width.

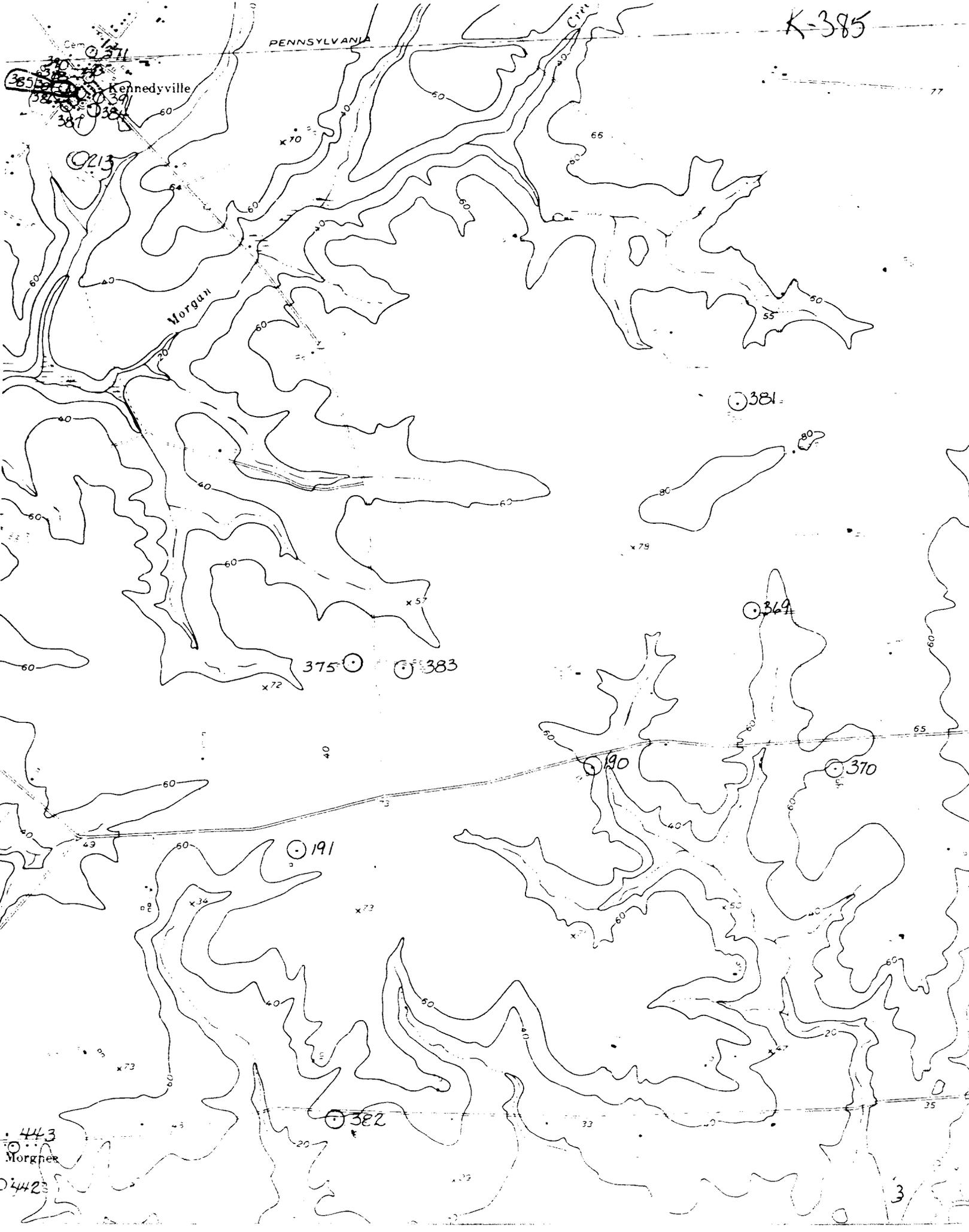
Behind the house are gardens and a gable-roofed garage. The buildings are painted white with grey trim.

K-385

PENNSYLVANIA

Kennedyville

Morgan



Cem
 371
 385
 389
 387

0213

381

369

375

383

390

370

191

382

443

442

Morgner



K-385

Spencer House

View to West

Rennetsville

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND