

K-422

Bloomfield Farm
Near Kennedyville
c. 1850's

The old brick house which stood on the Bloomfield Farm until the early 1980's was a unique residence of the mid 19th century. Its three-bay facade was on the narrower side of the rectangular three-story building, with the entrance door closest to the four-bay, two-story brick wing. One chimney was placed between the two remaining windows of the facade while the other was opposite it on the back wall. The three-bay northeast wall was the longer one and, with the placement of the chimneys, appeared more like the principal facade than the entry. A porch which once extended across the entry must have helped to define the entrance.

The plan of the house consisted of a side hall with double parlors and two rooms in the wing. The unique placement of the chimneys is better understood when the plan is seen because the two parlors had large double doors in the interior brick partition resulting in the fireplaces facing one another when the doors were open.

As would be expected, the kitchen chimney was on its gable end, but the dining room chimney was located adjacent the hall and rose to the height of the other main chimneys. This odd placement of chimneys can also be seen at Moreton Hall.

The house was constructed in the mid 19th century by Benjamin Howard who resided at Suffolk and built Green Forest. In his will dated 1865, he left Suffolk to his daughter, Mary Ellen Haman, who was living on

Bloomfield and Bloomfield to his son, George Howard.¹ George is listed as owner in the 1877 Atlas.

1. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 286.

BLOOMFIELD FARM
Kennedyville, Maryland
(ca 1860)

The old house on Bloomfield Farm is a brick Greek Revival structure which is three stories tall and has a shallow hipped roof. Because the kitchen wing is located at the side and the chimney stacks are located in the front and rear facades of the main house, the entrance facade is located in what is usually the side of the building. Interior moldings are very bold and include corner blocks. A brick smoke house with a pyramidal roof remains on the property.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC HOWARD FARM & YOUNG'S NECK FARM

AND/OR COMMON Bloomfield Farm (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Route 448, one mile southwest of Turners Creek Landing

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 type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: ruins

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Lincoln County Land & Cattle Company

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 207, Route 213

CITY, TOWN Georgetown VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21930

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

Liber #: EHP 55
Folio #: 317

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

7 DESCRIPTION

K-422

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 main house on Bloomfield Farm is a Greek Revival brick structure which is located on the Old Howard Track, about 3/4 mile south of Route 448. It is reached via a long dirt lane lined with redbud trees and yew bushes. The lane once formed a circle around the front of the house, which faces southwest, before continuing on to other homesteads nearer the Sassafras.

Most early outbuildings and barns have vanished from the homesite; only a brick smoke house with a pyramidal roof remains. This structure is square in plan with a corbelled brick cornice and an acorn finial on the roof. Its only entrance has a nice, bold board door with original hinges and hasp. Smoke holes are simply bricks omitted from the walls. It is located directly behind the main house.

Other farm buildings include gambrel-roofed dairy barns dating from 1930 or 1940 and machine sheds of about the same period. These are located directly west of the main house.

There are no fences or surviving gardens, and the lawns are overgrown with weeds and vines.

The main house is three bays square and three stories tall with a hipped roof; there is a four bay long, two bay deep kitchen wing on the west side of the main house. This wing is two stories tall and has a gable roof. Both roofs are covered with raised seam metal roofing. Tall, brick chimneys are enclosed within the east and south facades between the two windows bays. There formerly was a one story, hip-roofed porch across the front of the structure. It appears to have had round wooden columns with a capitol and base and slight entasis.

The brick walls are laid in a 1 to 5 running bond, with three courses averging 7". The bricks are dark reddish orange in color and measure 8½" X 4¼" X 2"; those on the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 ca 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Benjamin or George Howard

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old brick house on Bloomfield Farm is one of Kent County's few major Greek Revival buildings. An impressive structure, it probably dates from about 1860. In spite of its impressive size and ambitious design, however, the building has a certain clumsiness of proportion. Its interior woodwork, in particular, is overly large and heavy in relationship to the size of the rooms and the height of the ceilings. The position of the major chimneys in the front and rear of the main house block is also peculiar and gives the house a kind of confusion between front and side on the exterior.

At the present time, Bloomfield Farms is made up of four smaller tracts that were known in the 19th and early 20th centuries as Lower Bloomfield, Upper Bloomfield and Young's Neck or the Howard farm. Also now a part of the farm is the 3/8 acre track of land on Route 448 where Schoolhouse #5 of the Second Election District once stood. Today the addition of other acreages brings the total to over 1900 acres.

The brick house is the only remaining structure with architectural interest on the farm. The other buildings date from the late 19th century or 20th century, and are in poor repair. There are plans to demolish all of the structures on Bloomfield Farm in the near future.

Upper and Lower Bloomfield Farms, Young's Neck, Suffolk (K-139) and Green Forest (K-418), were owned by Benjamin Howard until his death in 1865. He lived at Suffolk and left that property to his daughter, Mary Ellen Haman, at this death in 1865. Green Forest was willed to his son Joseph and Young's Neck to his son George. It appears that

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne (sic) Counties, Md. (Philadelphia: 27 South Sixth Street, 1877.)

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

front elevation are oil brick, but all are very regular in shape. The white lime mortar has river-run gravel and it tooled to a shallow bead. Openings are defined by splayed jack arches.

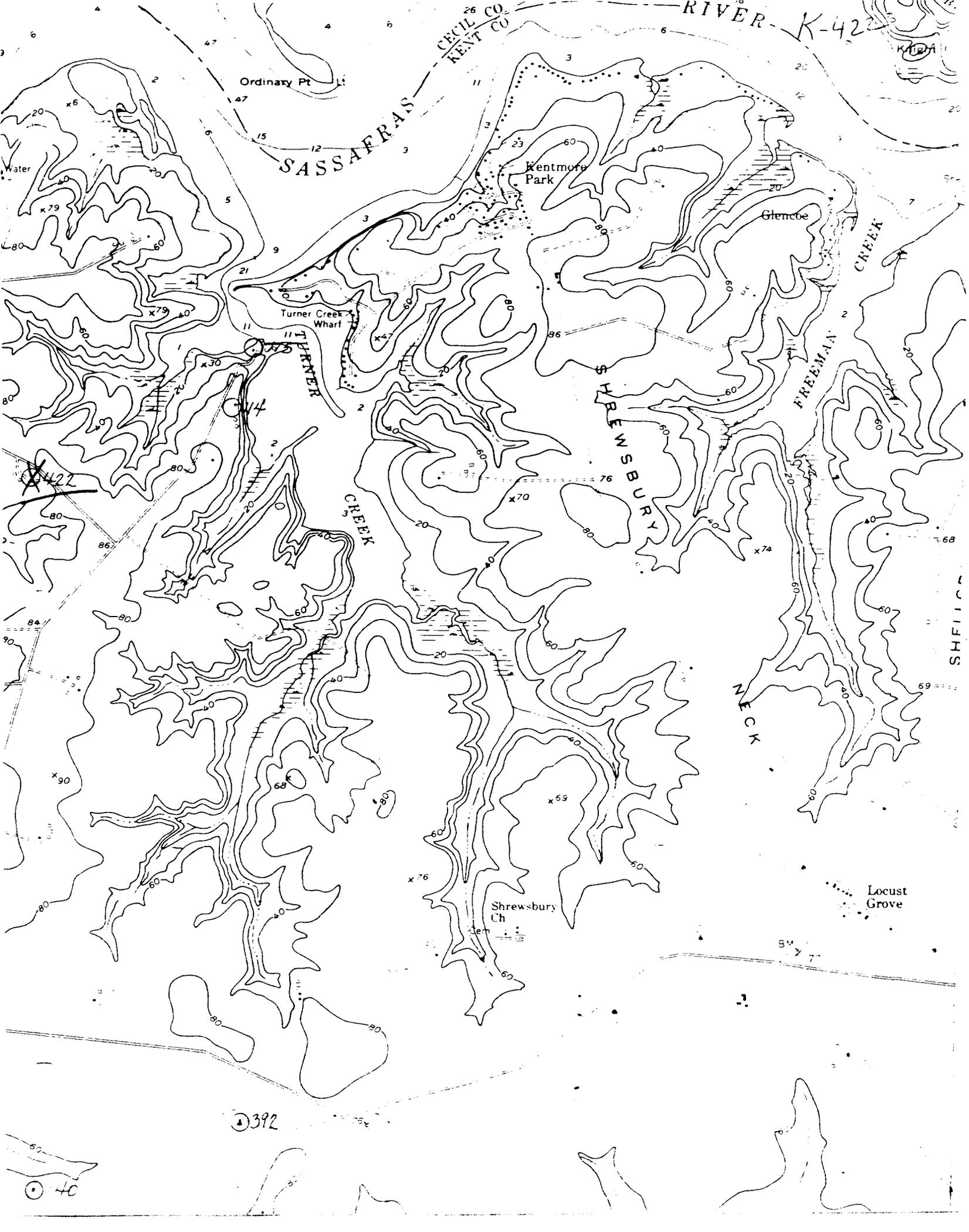
Windows in the main house have 6 over 6 sash on the first and second floors and 3 over 3 in the attic. In the wing smaller 6 over 6 sash windows are used. All frames are a 1 3/4 " bead and sills are plain. Basement windows in the main house are closed with diagonal-grid, cast iron grilles.

The main entry has a 6-light transom and 3-light side lights, both glazed with clear glass. The door has two vertical exterior panels, as illustrated, and measures 80" tall. The sill is granite.

The house has a side-hall plan with a wide stair hall, and a dog-leg stair which is open to the third floor. The main floor is two rooms deep with a wide doorway through the brick bearing wall between the two parlours. Fireplaces face each other across this opening and had identical Greek Revival mantles with rectangular openings, a plain frieze, plain pilasters with base and cap, and a plain shelf. The shelf moldings are illustrated. In spite of the large size of the house and its rooms, the ceilings and doors on the first floor are not particularly tall. The window and door trim is very bold, as shown, and has corner blocks.

The stair, open to the third floor, has a very bold walnut newel and turned balusters with octagonal bases. The stair spandrel is paneled with a series of vertical panels which have their original graining.

Benjamin inherited much of his property although he began purchasing additional acreage after the 1820's. George, the eldest son, evidently left Kent County for a time and became a partner in a Baltimore firm named Cole and Howard. In 1855, he was listed as a resident of Baltimore (JFG2/612), but by 1865 he was living on Young's Neck Farm probably in this house. (Wills Liber JF1/286.)



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Bloomfield Farm
Kennedyville
Kent County
M.L. Fritz
6/1950

K422

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LIBRARY

K-422 Bloomfield Farm C.1850



K-422

Bloomfield Farm Smokehouse

Kennedyville

Kent County

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