K-449

The Bonwill Farm
Still Pond
2nd quarter 19th Century

Like several other 19th century Kent County farmhouses, Bonwill was torn down in the 1980's. Although it was not an outstanding example of mid-19th century architecture, it nevertheless exhibited some features of interest to an architectural history. The front portion of the two-story, frame house was five bays long and stood on a tall stone basement. The brackets of the cornice were somewhat small and differed from the gables which had an arch motif. Its plan had a typical central hall, but the stair ascended to a landing at the back of the house and then there was one step on either side to the two sides of the hall. Both first story rooms had marbleized slate mantels with Latrobe stoves.

Opening from the hall and north room there was a five-bay-deep wing which contained the kitchen and other service rooms. Behind the house there were three interesting outbuildings, including a dairy, smokehouse and storage shed, all of which opened into a fenced kitchen yard.

In the 1877 Atlas, the farm is owned by George Krebs.

BONWILL FARM K-449
Still Pond, Maryland
(mid 19th century)

The house on the Fernwalt Farm is a simple, unusual mid-century building with most of its original exterior detailing and an usual floor plan with a T-shaped stair. The 19th century plan of the farm yards and buildings can still be discerned and a row of three specialized 19th century outbuildings are located directly behind the house. Its front yard is a tree park filled with mature trees.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K - 449

MACI # 1504495535

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC: BONWILL FARM

AND/OR COMMON:

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: West side of Route 292, about 3/4 miles from Still Pond

CITY, TOWN: Still Pond XX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Kent

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | X PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | X NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: John D. Fernwalt, Jr. Telephone #: 301-348-5623

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 #: EHP 72

Folio #: 545

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-449

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | X UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| X GOOD | __RUINS | __ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old house on the present Fernwalt Farm is a two story frame structure located on the east side of Route 292 about 3/4 miles from Still Pond. The building faces west and is separated from the road by a tree park of oak, maple, poplar, cedar, willow, dogwood, and other trees. The house is enclosed by white wooden fendes. Farm buildings are situated behind the house.

The building consists of a five bay wide two bay deep main house with a five bay rear ell centered on the main house, and a one-story porch across the entire front of the building.

The roof of the house is a shallow gable covered with raised seam metal. The roof is finished with a shallow cornice with a cyma recta and cove crownmolding and small wooden bracketts set about 14" on center. The gable has an overhang and return as well as scalloped open- work gingerbread. The dwelling rests on a stone foundation with the first floor about 2½' above grade.

The porch has square columns and a flat roof. It is reached by a wide flight of five steps.

Windows have six over six sash on the second floor. On the first, the nine over six windows leading to the porch come to about 1' from the floor level. Shutters on the second floor are louvered, but on the first they have three panels, the upper two being moveable louvers and the lower being a wooden panel.

The main entry has narrow three light side lights and a five pane transom. The transom bar is decorated with a molding with keyhole shaped cut outs about 4" on center.

The door is six panels and a later window and an early door knocker. It formerly had a double screen door. The wing is also two stories tall with a shallow roof and a one story end shed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-449

| 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 |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES mid 19th BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house on the Fernwalt Farm is a simple, unusual mid-century building with most of its original exterior detailing and an usual floor plan with a T-shaped stair. The 19th century plan of the farm yards and buildings can still be discerned and a row of three specialized 19th century outbuildings are located directly behind the house. Its front yard is a tree park filled with mature trees.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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## 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

PS-1108

The main house has a central hall plan one room deep. The stair however, is a very unusual T shape with a landing and a pair of runs leading to the second floor oooms and the wing. The long first run has a square oak newel post and oak handrail. The balusters are turned and there are scroll step bracketts.

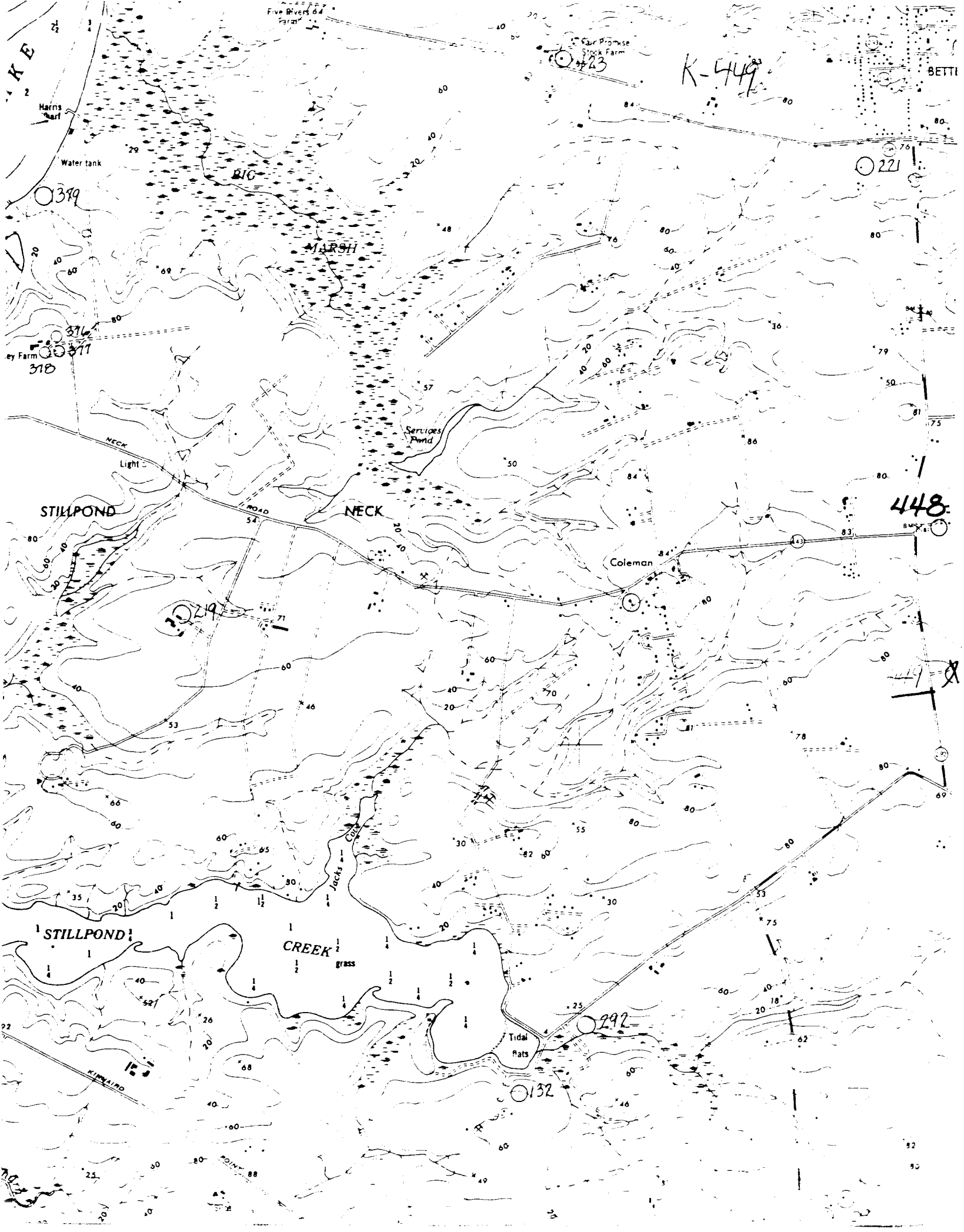
Two kinds of interior trim are used as shown below. Doors have four panel with raised panels and applied Greek ogee and bevel panel moldings.

There are two marbelized slate mantles on the first floor; both have Latrobe stoves. Wooden mantles are used on the second floor.

Forming a row behind the house are a group of three wooden outbuildings with gable roofs. They are quite small, 10' or 12' wide and one story tall. The first, a dairy, has horizontal weatherboard and a vaulted ceiling. It is plastered on the inside. The second, covered with vertical siding, was a smokehouse. It has scalloped eave decoration and a board and batten door with one straphinge. The third was used as a storage shed and also has vertical siding and a wood shingle roof. Continuing the row is a double-pitch machine shed.

A fence perpendicular to the sheds forms the boundary of the kitchen yard. Behind it are the farm buildings.

All buildings are white. The house has recently been covered with aluminum siding.


Five Rivers 64 Farm
Fair Promise Stock Farm
K-449
BETTI
Harns Wharf
Water tank
BIG
MARSH
Services Pond
NECK
Light
STILLPOND
ROAD
NECK
Coleman
448
Jacks
Cove
STILLPOND
CREEK
grass
Tidal Flats
KIRKLAND
POINT

K449

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K-449 The Bonwill Farm, Site c. 1845