

K-473

Piner's Grove Site
Near Chestertown
2nd quarter 18th Century

The old house that stood on Piner's Grove was constructed in the mid-18th century by one of the Piners, for whose family the patent had been named in the late 17th century.

When initially constructed, the house measured approximately 18' 6" x 36' with a 31' kitchen wing. Both parts were one-and-a-half stories with steep 'A' roofs and dormer windows – the most common form in Kent County at the time. The facade of the main section had two windows west of the entry and one to the east. There were probably two dormers on the roof. The fenestration of the kitchen wing, which was several steps lower, was unable to be determined when examined. The north facade was nearly symmetrical, with one window on each side of its door.

This hall-parlor house contained two very good walls of paneling and other well-executed interior details. Enclosed within the west wall of paneling of the hall was a winder stair to the room above. There were two large panels flanked by paneled pilasters with triglyph and frieze capital centered above the fireplace. The pilasters actually terminated above the fireplace trim. To the south there was a narrow, three-panel door with panel above next to the stair door mentioned previously. On the north side of the fireplace there was a six-panel closet door with two panels above, the whole flanked by two narrow sections of paneling. The cornice broke out above the pilasters, doors, and windows. The latter feature is similar to the original riverside room at the Customs House. Pieces of bolection type chair

rail remained on the paneling.

In the parlor, the paneling was similar and included a second stair. This would have resulted in a two-room plan above and made a corridor on the second story unnecessary.

The service wing can only be conjectured, but it probably had a kitchen and pantry with two chambers above for use by the house servants. There were probably separate stairs.

The farm is known to have come into the possession of Colonel Joseph Wickes through his mother, Mary Piner Wickes.¹ In 1852, he is listed as the owner of the farm composed of 392 acres of "Stepney, Piners Grove and Tilghman's Choice." The "Frame House and other Buildings in tolerable repair."²

Upon Col. Wickes' death, his body was interred at Piner's Grove, later to be joined by his wife and son Benjamin. The farm then passed to Judge Joseph A. Wickes.³ It was sold out of the family in 1922.⁴

Either in the late 19th century or after the farm was sold out of the family, both sections of the house were drastically remodeled with alterations to the fenestration and heightening of the building by a full second story. In the mid-20th century, a fire destroyed the entire kitchen wing, weakening the structure to such an extent that it had to be completely demolished. Paneling from the hall was able to be salvaged and there are plans to reinstall it in another Kent County residence.

K-473

1. Land Records, Lib. JNG 5, fol. 14.
2. 1852 Tax Assessment.
3. Land Records, Lib. JKH 4, fol. 588.
4. Land Records, Lib. RRA 1, fol. 424.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-473

Magi No. 1504735235

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Wickes Family Farm

and/or common Hubbard Farm

2. Location

street & number East side Airy Hill Road, (Airport Road) JLK 2/7/94
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Route 20 ___ not for publicationcity, town Chestertown vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

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"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Wilbur Ross Hubbard

street & number Widehall, Water Street telephone no.: 301-778-2121

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber RAS19

street & number folio 405

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-473

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

A two-part frame structure, the house has a 2½ story, 3-bay main house with a 2-story, 4-bay wing set a few feet lower. Both sections have gable roofs, field-stone foundations, and are covered with brick-pattern asphalt siding. All windows have 6/6 sash but they and the doors appear to be recent.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-473

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 checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

From the exterior this house appears to be a 19th century farm house of the most nondescript sort. The only suggestion of the antiquity of a portion of this house is its side-wing floor plan and its fieldstone foundation. Closer examination shows that this was originally a 1½ story hall and parlour structure with a room of extraordinary paneling in the hall. Probably dating from the mid-18th century, the paneling shows a resemblance to paneling removed from nearby Ringgold's Fortune of 1767. This house has undergone 3 major changes: the construction of the side wing, addition of a full story in place of the ½ story, and a fire in the middle of the 20th century that destroyed a wall of paneling in the parlour. Poorly maintained, the house is currently tenanted.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 2½ stories, 3 bays wide, 1 room deep
Wing A: 2 stories, 4 bays wide, 1 room deep
2. Plan type - hall and parlour
3. Roof type - gable, 90° pitch
4. Chimneys - Located in gable walls of main section and wing. Chimneys are enclosed in walls. They are modern brick with no decorative elements.
5. Material/Walls - Frame - Weatherboard covered with red asphalt siding. Imitation brick.
6. Material/Roofs - Main section: asphalt shingle
Wing A: sheet metal
7. Material/Foundation - Fieldstone
8. Age - Main section: mid 18th century
Wing: Late 18th or 19th century. Structural system and all decorative features obscured or removed. Second story addition-mid-late 19th century.
9. Style - Main Section: Vernacular Georgian
Wing: Vernacular

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main Entry: Located in the center of south facade, main section. Modern door and steps, recent plain trim.
Secondary Entries: Entries lead to each of the two ground floor rooms in the wing. All visible details are either modern or very simple, common-place late 19th century details.
2. Windows - Main section: type - double hung
lights - 6/6
details - narrow frames, plain sills
shutters - none, no evidence of former shutters
Wing: type - double hung
lights - 6/6
details - same as main section

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

3. Dormers - Two in each main-house roof slope. They have 6/6 sash, gable roofs and bracketed pilaster faces.
4. Roof details - Plain box, with tapered vergeboards
5. Porches - none
6. Color - Current: red shingles/white trim
Historic: unknown
7. Other - One wall of fine 18th century paneling remains in the west room, first floor. It has a fireplace with surround moldings that have a split face and cyma reversa backband. Surmounting the fireplace is an over-mantle. The upper panel is unusually large. Flanking these panels is a pair of paneled pilasters with triglyph and frieze capital. There are closets with paneled doors on either side of the fireplace. That at the left has a narrow 3-panel door. To the right - the door has six panels. Both doors are hung on HL hinges and have trim with an insidebead and cyma recta backband. The stair to the left has a 6-panel door. All panels are fielded. Portions of chair rail also remain. The cornice in this room is deep and steps out where the windows and doors were located originally.

Interior Description

1. Plan type - Hall and parlour, now modified with a side addition.
2. Major stair - The only original stair is described below
Other stairs - In the reconstructed section of the house
3. Major mantles - See above and sketch.
4. Major trim - Windows/doors: All interior trim has been changed to flat boards when the house was rebuilt after the mid-20th century fire.
Baseboards: The only old one has an upper bead and is about 6" high.
Cornices: Only in West room (hall), 11", composite molding with a break.
Chair rails: Fragments remain - see profile.
5. Major doors - Most changed to 4-panel. The only 18th century doors are described above; see sketch.
6. Floors - Narrow yellow pine. Wide boards in hall chamber only. The original floors, set with battens, are visible from the cellar.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

7. Walls/ceiling finishes - later plaster

Outbuildings/Site Description

1. Major outbuildings - Sheds and barns of no historical interest.
2. Site Description - Site slopes down to Radcliffe Creek. No formal plantings, some old trees. North east of the house is the graveyard with Wickes family stones.
3. Views to/from site - No buildings visible from house.

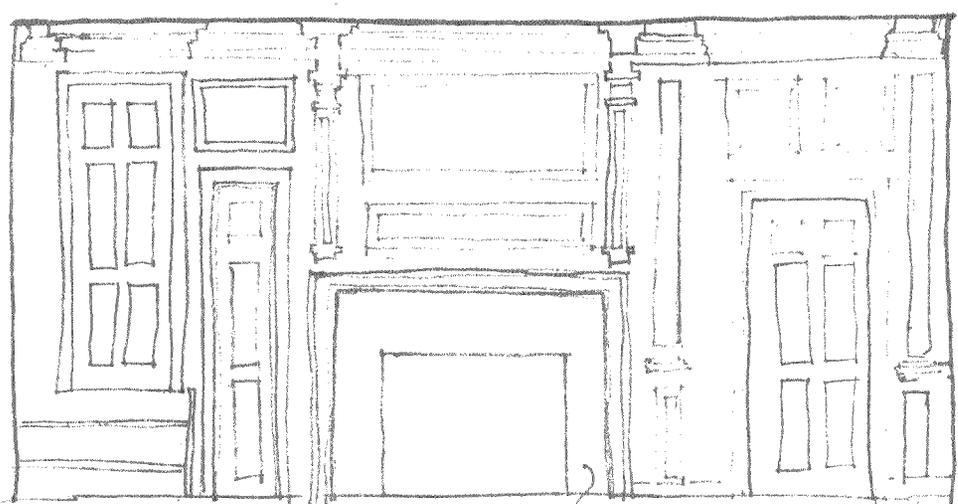
Use of Building

1. Current - Tenant house
2. Historic - Residence

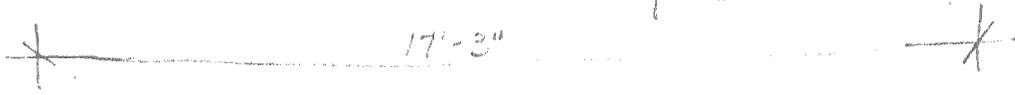
History of Building/Past Ownership

A graveyard on the property has Wickes family graves. Some are unmarked fieldstones. The dated stones range from the 1820's to the 1870's according to the tenant.

9'-9"



CHAIRRAIL



17'-3"

SKETCH PLAN
 PANELING IN HALL
 NO SCALE
 K-473

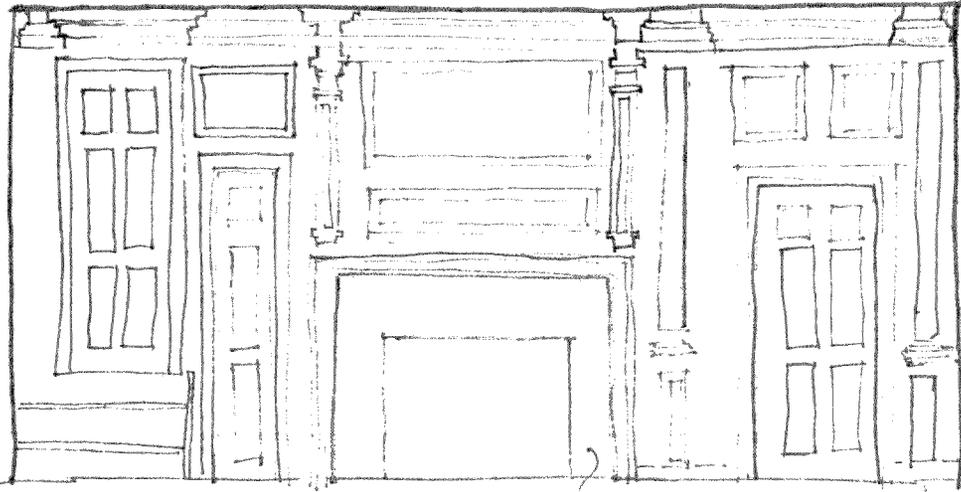


BOTTOM

CHAIRRAIL

TOP

116-16



CHAIRRAIL

capitols

17'-3"

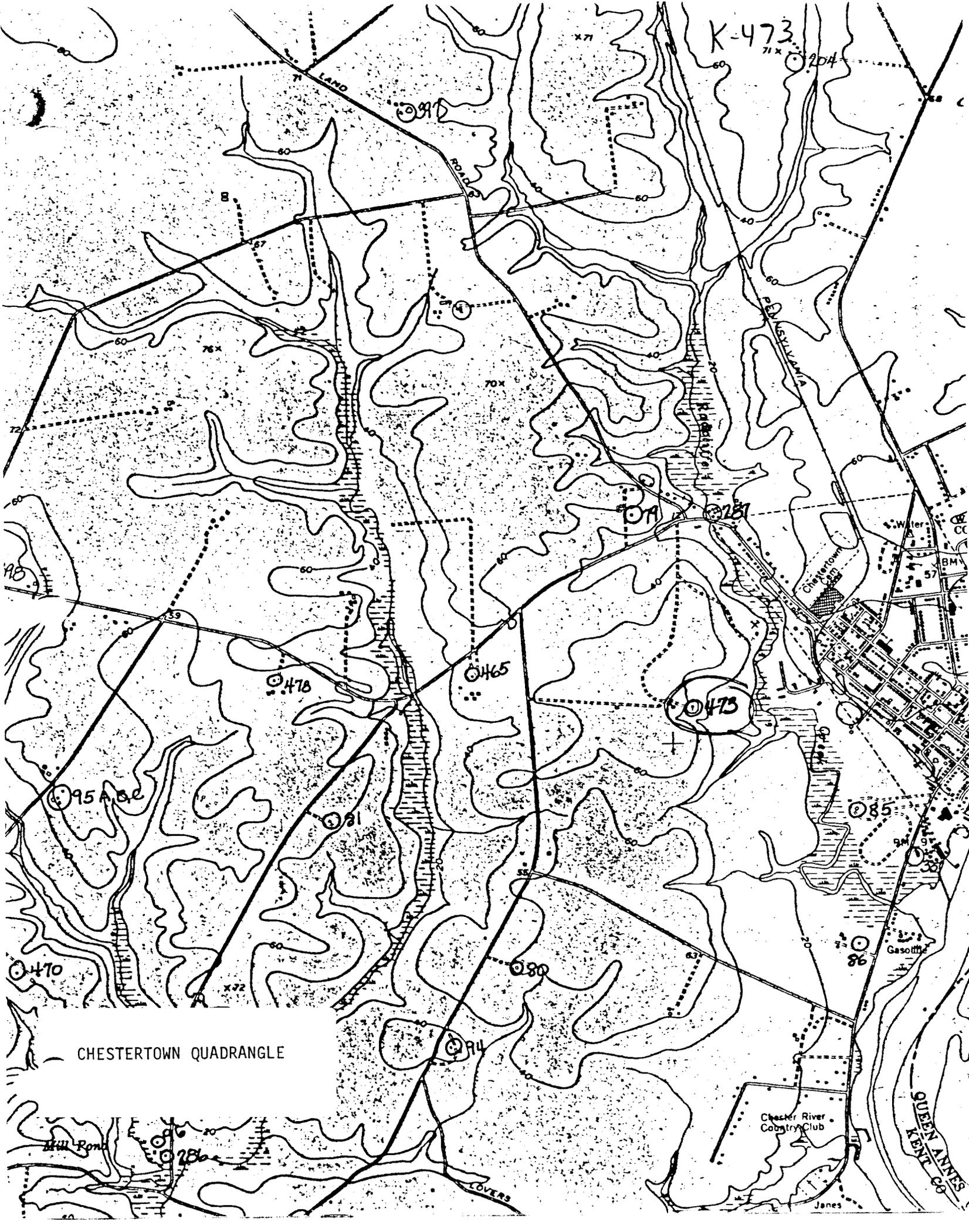
SKETCH PLAN
 PANELING IN HALL
 NO SCALE
 K-473

BOTTOM

CHAIRRAIL

TOP





K-473

CHESTERTOWN QUADRANGLE

QUEEN ANNES
KENT CO

Chester River
Country Club

Gasoline

Chestertown
City

LAND

ROAD

COVERS

Hill Road

286

Janes

Water

BM

57

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

x71

71x

76x

70x

x72

281

281

478

465

473

95A, 95C

81

470

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View to Northeast

OLD WICKES FARM (K-473)

Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. L. Fritz, July 1981



Steppe Fawn

Kent Co.

K-473

5/89

M. Bowne

South



APR 1989

APR 1989



Stepne Fowens

Kent Co.

K-473

5/39

M. Bow

S. 10

10/10

APR 1987

10/10



Stepne Farms

Kent Co.

K-473

5/89

M. Bowne

N.W.

11/20/83

11/20/83

11/20/83

11/20/83



Stepne Farm

Kent Co.

K-473

5/84

M. Bowne

stair detail - "Hall"

10/10/84

10/10/84

10/10/84

10/10/84

10/10/84



Stepne Farm

APR 1989

Kent Co.

K-473

5/89

M. Bowne (1989)

Enclosed stair in

"Hall, S.W. corner,"

APR 1989

1989



Stepne Farm

Kent Co. K-473

6/89

M. Rowne

Plasters over

Fireplace in "Hall"

1/2

1/2



Stepne Furman

Kent Co. **K-473**

5/89

M. Bourne APR 1959

closet in 'Hall' - NW
corner

(initials)



Stepne Farms

Kent Co. K-473

5/89

M. Bolone

West end, "hall"



Stepne Forum

Kent Co.

K-473

5/89

M. Bourne

west end

11

1987 MAY

11

1987