

K-569

Shrewsbury Farm or Bennett's Regulation
Shrewsbury Neck
1770

General John Cadwalader is best known in American history as the man who "quashed the Conway Cabal," that ill-fated move to have General Washington removed from his command in the Revolutionary Army (1778). While his home and personal belongings in Philadelphia have attracted the attention of cultural and architectural historians alike, his house at Shrewsbury Plantation on Turner's Creek has enjoyed little attention in the past.

John Cadwalader came into possession of the Shrewsbury Farm through his marriage in 1768 to Betsy Lloyd, daughter of Edward Lloyd, III. In Wainwright's Colonial Grandeur in Philadelphia, he is described as "an extremely active man who basically enjoyed rural life." Wainwright goes on to say, "Commercial business was not good and his attention began to focus more and more on his wife's Kent County plantation, which he called Shrewsbury Farm."¹ Within a few years of the marriage Cadwalader had begun building a residence on the farm and from his accounts and correspondences, it would appear that he continued improving not only the house, but the farm buildings as well. Although the accounts are somewhat spotty, it is evident that in the spring of 1771 he began purchasing building materials from John Vorhees, a merchant in Georgetown and continued to do so into 1784. There are receipts for labor, as well as for materials for plasterers, masons, and painters.

To his brother-in-law (Richard Bennett Lloyd) in London, he wrote in

September 1772:

"I believe I had begun my house in Kent before you left us. We got finished in the summer and went down with our family to spend only two or three (but stayed) seven weeks, and have concluded to make some additions and improvements which will render the place more convenient against the next summer."²

Indeed, the next year there were more entries for materials purchased of John Vorhees.³

His active service in the war lasted about three years. Two letters from William Gough, his overseer, in November and December of 1772, relate the struggles of building at such a distance.

"17 November 1772

The carpenters have shingled the house. They cannot do any more 'till it is underpinned and the chimneys run up. The Bricks Mr. Yeates promised you is not yet come. Oliver has brought some and halled some of them home, but the Winter setting in. The creek has frozen last night, and cannot get a Mason to underpin the house, and if we could get one I am afraid it freezes to hard for his work to stand. I shall try again and if I can get a Brick layer, and the weather should moderate shall set him to work. The carpenters will raise the quarter in a day or two. I believe Jobson would build the cowhouse for @40 . . ."

"1 December 1772

The Bricklayers begun to underpin the House yesterday – we have got 4000 Bricks for the chimnies, the carpenters will finish shingling the Quarter toMorrow, Jobson said you told me that you told him not to do anything to the stable till you come down, however shall get him to board up the ends

and make the sashes and doors for the House and then go on with the stable
...”⁴

References to the main house being plastered before 1772 eliminate these letters as referring to its construction. They are most likely references to the construction of an auxiliary dwelling on the property, such as the one to house the overseer.

During Cadwalader’s service in the war, his first wife, Betsy, died. He married again in 1779 one Williamina Bond of Philadelphia. It was by Williamina that he had male heirs. After moving to Kent County in 1778, he became actively involved in the Legislature, serving twice. In 1780, he was instrumental in finding Dr. William Smith the position of rector of Chester Parish. He was also intimately involved with Dr. Smith in the founding of Washington College in 1782 and with the erection of its first building. Unfortunately he was not to live long enough to see the building completed. He died two months before the building was dedicated, but must have taken great pleasure in seeing it rise from the foundation during his trips to Chestertown.

Before his death in 1786, he wrote a will leaving Shrewsbury Farm to his daughters, by his first wife. Witnesses to the will included Donaldson Yeates (his brick supplier) and Isaac Freeman. Both gentlemen resided on either side of his plantation. Unlike the Thomas Ringgolds of Chestertown, Cadwalader did not stipulate that there be no inventory of his estate. His belongings were recorded with other probate records at the Courthouse. The inventory, as well as a brief description by the 1783 Tax Assessor provide a glimpse into the appearance of the plantation within a three year

period:

“Bennett’s Regulation 1000a

Good Work & Brick dwelling, good outhouses

on Sassafras River

Middling Good Land some broken

1200 acres 600 acres arable”⁵

Customarily inventories were made by grouping like items together in small lists. Fortunately, Cadwalader’s inventory was instead made by listing his belongings room by room or in some cases building by building. This helps to shed further light on the configuration of the house and plantation. “Articles at the Overseer’s” possibly refers to the house described in Gough’s letter of 1772. The rooms mentioned are the “Parlor,” “Chamber,” “1st Room upstairs,” “2nd Room Upstairs,” “3rd Room Upstairs,” and “4th Room Upstairs.” Also mentioned were the “Cellar,” “Cellar Kitchen,” “passage,” “Nursery Room,” “Middle Room” and “Upstairs over Brick Kitchen.”⁶

There are four houses in Kent County from the 1770’s which have plans that this compares to, but the most alike is Piney Grove in its original form. It even had a cellar kitchen.

In June 1777, Cadwalader’s account indicate that the nursery and kitchen were plastered, along with other improvements to the property. The puzzling room is the Nursery. This appears to be what in other houses of the period would have been the pantry.

It seems that Cadwalader was in the process of at least planning to

build a new and more elegant house, for the inventory reads:

“NB Articles to be used in the new building

proposed to be erected on Shrewsbury Farm –

33,000 3' shingles

1380 ft cedar 1" Boards

100,000 good bricks

100 tons of stone

1600 bu oysters shells

1 Slk d Lime

48 lb yellow oaker

104 lb whiting

114 lb 12d nails

45 lb 10o nails

172 lb 8d nails

101 lb pewter urn articles excepted

125 lb White Lead

1 barrell Red Oaker”⁷

This entry in the inventory, combined with subsequent entries in the accounts for work done at Shrewsbury Farm might suggest that Cadwalader’s executors, his brother Lambert and brother-in-law, Philemon Dickenson, continued with his proposed project, even after his death. (The same sequence of events took place 10 years later across Turner’s Creek when Donaldson Yeates left instructions that the house he was “about projecting” be finished at the expense of the estate.)

Whether the “new building” was actually completed or not is a point for further research. If it was, it did not survive long. The older house did

not survive beyond middle of the 19th century either.

An entry in Sydney George Fisher's diary dated November 13, 1849 describes the house in its ill-repair:

"On Sunday morning, Wister and Cadwalader took the boat and crossed over the river to the Kent side to visit the farm formerly the residence of Gen. Jno. Cadwalader of Revolutionary memory, the Genl's uncle. He had naturally a wish to see this old family, tho it has long since passed to other hands and expected to find there the tomb of his uncle in which, however, he was disappointed. He said the house is very much dilapidated and the only vestige of the family he discovered was a looking glass set in the wall on which were written with a diamond the names of various Cadwaladers, McCalls, Lloyds. Wister, whose passion is fishing, took a fine rock by trolling. Fox and myself walked over the farm. We dined and spent the evening as usual"⁸

It is likely that the house fell to ruin within a few years of General Wister's visit. Thereafter a poorly constructed brick tenement house was built, probably using some old materials from the former residence. It was enlarged later in the 19th century. The majority of the farm remained in the same family until 1967.

1. Wainwright, Nicholas B. Colonial Grandeur in Philadelphia, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1964, p. 61.
2. Ibid.
3. The Cadwalader Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
4. Ibid.
5. 1783 Tax Assessment, South Sassafras Hundred.

6. Inventories, Lib. 8, fol. 364.
7. Ibid.
8. Wilson, W. Emerson, editor, The Mount Harmon Diaries of Sydney George Fisher, 1837-1850, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, 1976, p. 276.

K-569

1780-1840

Turner Creek Farm

Near Locust Grove

Private

Damaged by fire in 1965 and left unrepaired, the five-part farmhouse overlooking Turner Creek to the west is part of the much-changed and -reduced farmstead of General John Cadwalader's Shrewsbury Farm. Cadwalader, who died at his farm in 1786, was a noted Revolutionary political and military leader who is most noted for foiling the Conway Cabal, an officers' plot to unseat George Washington as Commander-in-Chief. Cadwalader owned most of Shrewsbury Neck and was the first owner of the tract to actually live there, but he probably did not live in even the oldest portion of the surviving house. His house may have been on the larger altered and roofed foundation standing nearby. Although it is difficult to date because of extensive alterations and removals and an inaccessible cellar, the three-bay, two-storey, side-hall plan, brick portion of the main section appears to have been built in a vernacular Federal style in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. It is possible, however, that the shell is earlier. At its east end a two-bay, two-storey brick section was added later in the nineteenth century, making the plan central-hall. Perpendicular a few feet from its rear is a frame, gable-roofed, true 1-1/2 storey building with a kitchen on the first storey and quarters for farm workers on the second. In the twentieth century a two-storey hyphen joined it to the main house, and a large utility room-shed was added to the west of the kitchen.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

Part of Bennett's Regulation; Part of Shrewsbury Farm; Green Meadows Farm;
historic Janvier Farm

and/or common Turner Creek Farm

2. Location

West side Rt. 444 (Shrewsbury Neck/Kentmore Park Rd.), 1.7 miles
street & number north of Rt. 213, northwest of Locust Grove not for publication

city, town Locust Grove 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name Can Am Industry C., c/o C. David Muth

street & number P.O. Box 698 telephone no.: 778-6280 (Muth)

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 109

street & number Cross Street folio 303

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-569

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Items: Fire, 1985

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

Located at the western end of a half-mile-long farm lane from Rt. 444 (Shrewsbury Neck/Kentmore Park Rd.), the house at Turner Creek Farm sits on high ground overlooking Turner Creek to the west. The house consists of five parts. The two-bay oldest section (gable-roofed, two stories and of brick, with a side-hall plan) seems to date from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, in a vernacular late Federal style. It has been so altered that little original material remains and it is difficult to date. The one-bay second-built section, also brick and two-story, added a room to the west of the stair hall, the plan then becoming central-hall. Roof and wall lines are continuous with the original section. It may have been built in the first half of the nineteenth century. The third-added section was originally a gable-roofed, free-standing frame building; it is almost square (two bays wide and deep) and true one-and-a-half story. Its roof ridge perpendicular to the brick house, it originally stood about eight feet from the rear of the first brick addition. It probably dates from the middle to late nineteenth century. The first-story room is a kitchen; the second story housed farm help. Later a gable-roofed, frame, one-bay deep, two-story hyphen that spanned the width of the second brick section and extended behind half the stair hall of the original house connected the two buildings. A shed-roofed one-story addition was made to the west side of the kitchen wing during the mid-twentieth century. The house was partially burned and left unrepaired and open to the weather after a fire in the spring of 1985. A 24' x 36' altered and roofed old foundation to the east of the dwelling may have been for the farm's main dwelling, possibly the home of General John Cadwalader (d. 1786).

The earlier part of the main brick section, whose axis is east-west, measures about 24'-6" wide x 20'-5" deep. The brick bond of the north, approach side and the rear side is mostly Flemish. There is so much repair work and the whitewash and/or paint is so thick that it is difficult to ascertain original brickwork for measurement. A possibly typical original wall appears to have been extensively rebuilt and includes some modern bricks. This wall was reportedly extensively rebuilt by the last owner. Its bond is 1-to-3 (Liverpool). Two of the early section's walls are considerably out-of-plumb. The south (rear) wall leans inward near the top; the west wall bulges outward near the center, at about the level of the first-story floor. The southwest corner is drastically out-of plumb. There is no belt course or evidence of one.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-569

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 checked="" 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.

Turner Creek Farm, as part of a much larger tract occupying most of Shrewsbury Neck and called Shrewsbury Farm, was once associated with General John Cadwalader, a noted Revolutionary military and political leader. He is most remembered for his foiling of the Conway Cabal, an officers' plot to unseat George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. Except for one year, Cadwalader served from 1780 to his death in 1786 as a member of the Maryland legislature. Cadwalader is buried at nearby Shrewsbury Church; his tomb bears the epitaph written by Thomas Paine. Except for possibly one later owner, Cadwalader was the only owner of the farm to actually live on it, though probably not in the present house, which probably post-dates Cadwalader. The now-altered and roofed foundation to the east of the house may have been for Cadwalader's dwelling. The Turner Creek Farm portion of Shrewsbury Farm does seem to have been the seat of the Shrewsbury Farm's operations, however. The earliest part of the perhaps poorly-built surviving house may have been constructed for an overseer and thus indicate the sort of dwelling intended for such purpose. The frame 1-1/2 story kitchen section is typical of late nineteenth century service wings or buildings. Extensively altered and then damaged by fire and left unrepaired, the house is now of little note architecturally. There is a remote possibility that the older section's brick shell is from an early dwelling on the site.

One of the areas of earliest settlement in present-day Kent County was along the shores of the Sassafras River and its numerous creeks. However, for much of the seventeenth century and for several years into the eighteenth, this section was not part of Kent County at all but first of Baltimore County (after 1659) and then of Cecil County (1674-1706). Shrewsbury Neck, on which Turner Creek Farm is located, and the area in the west side of Turner's Creek, with good water access and fertile soils, were particularly attractive for settlement.

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The foundation of the early section could be seen only from the exterior, and only partially because the ground around it is quite high, especially on the approach side, because of an upward slope. There is exterior cellar entry behind the rear west bay, but stacked straw bales made it inaccessible. It is not known whether there was once interior access to the cellar. One of the likely places, under the stair, has been converted (along with the rear of the stair hall) to a bathroom. There is a water table on the three exposed sides although only partial on the north side. The molded bevel top course may be original, though there is some question as to whether it was formed, perhaps with mortar, during repair work, especially on the west end. On the north side a water table extends ca. 37" around the corner from the west end. It is rough and almost two-level and appears as if it might include mortared field stones. Perhaps this work represents an attempt to stabilize the walls. Farther to the east on the north side there is some brick, at ground level, that may be part of a water table.

The original-section brick chimney, within the center of the west gable end, has been rebuilt above the roof. It is square and small, with a two-course cap. The only mantel remaining for this chimney, on the first storey, appears to be from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. It may be a replacement. It is very simple and crudely done. It has a rectangular shelf with rounded corners and plain pilasters with simple bases and caps that included ogee-and-bevel molding (also used as a baseboard cap on the stair wall); the shelf bed molding is a large chamfer.

The early section's gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles over wood shingles. The cornice is small and boxed, and there are flush verge boards. All trim parts seem to be replacements.

The main entry is in the west bay of the north side of the original section, into the side, stair hall. The entry is now at ground level, either because of fill or subsidence. It is not precisely under the second-storey west window though the east bay openings are aligned from first storey to second. The first-storey west bay opening location may have been altered, but it was not possible to be sure. The door is late nineteenth or early twentieth century, with 2-over-2 lights over two panels. The architrave is narrow and beaded, not a close fit, with mortar beveled to the brick; it does not appear original. At this door there is a now a twentieth-century gable-roofed, weatherboarded storm entry with eight-light fixed side sash; an aluminum storm door is in the gable end, and there is a concrete floor. Most likely there was once a door at the rear of the hall, but this area has been converted to a bathroom, with a window.

Windows of the early section are double-hung fairly recent replacements of earlier, apparently taller windows that may have been about the same width. Infill brick is visible below the windows. The new windows have 1-over-1 lights. The entire window unit must have been replaced; the trim is not original. Aluminum storm-screen units are in place. There are no window arches. There are no shutters or shutter dogs.

Some of the interior wall surfaces of the first part of the main section are altered. The brick walls of the west first-storey room have been
(continued)

furred out and covered with sheet rock. There is no original trim. The first-storey ceiling is low, slightly less than eight feet. The ceiling of the adjacent brick addition is even lower.

The original section's first storey has been refloored, with narrow tongue-and-groove pine. On the second storey there is narrow-to-medium random-width painted flooring. In the rear bedroom there have been some flooring changes that may or may not indicate an earlier, different division of space.

Doors have 2-over-2 panels that are recessed and very slightly raised via a very small, flattened ogee. Stile and rail inner edges have a rabbeted ogee. There are porcelain knobs and box locks, with no evidence of earlier hardware. These doors appear to date from the nineteenth century.

The stair, with its first run up the hall's west wall toward the south, is dogleg. It is open string, with two 7/8"-square balusters per tread. The dark-stained newel has a square base, a simple turned shaft with some elaboration, and the rail beginning over the newel, supported by a tapered dowel-like upward extension of the shaft. There is no cap as such. The rail is eight-sided, a flattened octagon in section. The intermediates are 2-3/4" square with chamfered top. At the first two intermediates (at the landing) the rail terminates at the intermediates' sides. The rail runs over the top of the last two intermediates and terminates on the trim of the door to the bedroom of the east addition. The balustrade on the second storey is low, ca. 28" high. The understair spandrel is papered plaster. There is a high landing window, now with 1-over-1 lights. Trim at this window is 2-3/4" wide with an inside bead, not original. From the landing there is a door up several steps to the hyphen. There have been numerous changes in the stair area, and the stair itself may not be original to the building. It may have been installed after the brick addition was built, when a change from a hall-and-parlor plan to a central-hall plan may have occurred. What is present appears to date from the early to middle nineteenth century. In the northwest corner of the hall on the first storey a large closet and cupboard has been built.

The second storey has three small bedrooms. An especially small one is above the front of the stair hall. The space above the first-storey west room is partitioned into two small bedrooms; the partition wall runs east and west and is thin (ca. 4" including trim). It is of plaster on lath that is nailed to spaced vertical uprights. Other walls are thicker. There is entry from the stair hall only into the front bedroom; a central partition-wall door leads to the other from the front bedroom.

The brick east end of the main section is a thin-walled (8"+ at gable top) nineteenth-century addition. It is built of smaller brick; the bond is 1-to-7 common on the east end and 1-to-6 common on the approach side. The addition measures ca. 14'-0" wide by 20'-3" deep, with a single window on both storeys on the approach facade, one on each side of the chimney on both storeys of the east end, and one to the north of the chimney in the loft. It was intended to be flush with the earlier section's front and rear walls, but now the addition protrudes slightly (less than 1"). There is no water table visible. The roof, continuous with the earlier roof, is finished in the same way. The east end
(continued)

verge boards are gone, perhaps because of the recent fire. A crawl space is beneath this section. The chimney at this end is also rebuilt, in the same fashion as the west chimney. There is now no access directly to the exterior from this section, the opening in the rear wall near the east end now leading to the hyphen. The windows are the same replacement units as in the earlier section.

On the interior, the brick addition's floor level on the first storey is several inches higher than that of the earlier section. The first storey contains one room, the second storey two, in the same manner as the original section. On the second storey the addition's floor is one step down from the hall. The first-storey flooring is tongue-and-groove pine ca. 3-1/2" wide, laid over an earlier floor that may have been grained. In the front second-storey room the flooring is of wide painted boards laid front to rear, indicating a second flooring layer. The rear bedroom floor could not be seen because of debris. Walls are covered with 4' x 8' sheet paneling. Door and window trim is plain on the second-storey and wide and what is probably early twentieth-century symmetrical on the first. There are no mantels. The chimney, which may have been rebuilt within the house, is for a stove on the first storey. Second-storey ceilings joists are circular sawn. These joists do not extend from front to rear exterior walls but overlap at the partition wall between bedrooms. This section was damaged in the fire, especially by water, and it remains open to the weather.

Set in a few inches from the gable end of the brick addition, the frame hyphen is about 8'-3" deep and 17'-0" wide; the roof ridge runs north-south across the eight-foot dimension. On the exterior it is covered with horizontal lapped weatherboard, and asphalt shingles cover the roof. The foundation is not visible, but this section is certainly over a crawl space. On the first storey there is one room that may have served as a family dining room. On the second storey there is a bedroom and bathroom, the latter with access from both the bedroom and the stair landing. There is no access from this section to the kitchen wing on the second storey. The fire seems to have started in this section, where there is the greatest damage. On both east and west sides there is a window on each storey; three have 6-over-6 lights and the fourth 1-over-1.

The slightly lower frame kitchen building with quarters for farm help above probably dates from the last half of the nineteenth century or very early in the twentieth century. During this period true 1-1/2 story buildings for such purposes were quite common in Kent County. Like the hyphen, its ridge of its gable roof is north-south. It is approximately 16 feet square. There is a tall, square brick west-wall chimney for a stove. Exterior walls are covered with horizontal lapped weatherboard, with ca. 5" exposure on the east wall and ca. 6" exposure on the west wall, which is inside the shed addition. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. There is a small plain box cornice; the south end's verge boards are slightly tapered. First-storey windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. The second has a 6-light sash that functions as either a casement or awning window. Trim is plain. There is a kitchen entry in the south bay of the east side, with a four-light door over three panels. At the door there is a concrete stoop with three-sided step. The west, opposite door leads to the shed-like utility room.

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Original interior surfaces have been covered with modern materials on the first storey. The second storey is divided into two bedrooms and a hall; partition walls are of board. The very worn stair is enclosed in the northwest corner of the kitchen wing, a straight stair except for one large winder at the base.

The old barns, said to have been along the north side of the lane leading to the house, are gone. Twentieth-century replacements have been built. An ice house said to have stood to the north of the house is also gone. First appearing to be an ice house, the only outbuilding of note stands in a bank to the east of the house, ca. 60-70 feet away. It is not clear from its present appearance what it might have been, but a former tenant of the farm states that it is the foundation of an old house that burned long ago (see #8). Its axis is east-west, and it measures ca. 24 feet by 36 feet. A corrugated gable roof rests directly on the foundation that appears to be poured concrete though it is possible it could be very heavy parging. The former tenant said that the foundation was originally of fieldstone, now evidently covered by the concrete. There is also a rough concrete floor. The south foundation wall has three cellar-window-like openings. The wooden floor above, for the area above the cellar, appears quite new. The upper area is used for a shop or storage; the cellar is largely empty. At the north corner of the east end there is a gable-roofed entry to the cellar; the upper area is entered through a door in the west gable.

The site of the present dwelling and the old foundation is a beautiful one. It overlooks Turner's Creek to the west, with lower, rolling fields to the water. A circular extension of the lane is to the northeast of the dwelling, and an lane spur turns to the south to end adjacent to the kitchen wing. Around the house are now-neglected lawns and specimen plantings. The high west bank of Turner's Creek can be seen and Knocks Folly (K-114) in the winter. Most of Turner's Creek is now shallow, having become badly silted, to the south of the once-thriving wharf area on the next neck to the west. Very likely there was once a wharf for Shrewsbury Farm on Turner's Creek, but the location is now unknown. At the Shrewsbury Farm section in the northeastern portion of Shrewsbury Neck, near the mouth of Freeman's Creek (Terson's Creek), there is still deep water. This is the present-day Glencoe section of the Kentmore Park development.

Buckingham (1,000 acres) was laid out in 1658 for Richard Turner in the upper and upper-western part of the neck but soon was repatented to Richard Bennett. At least some if not all of the present-day Turner Creek Farm was within Buckingham. Bennett's heirs (most notably Richard Bennett, III) controlled the tract until the middle eighteenth century and added to it. It became known as Bennett's Regulation and finally consisted of 1,733 acres. In 1684 a town to be called Shrewsbury Town was laid out, at Meeting House Point, where very likely the first church of what was to become Shrewsbury Parish was located. The town did not endure, however, and the precise location of Shrewsbury Town has not been ascertained. The Lloyds of Wye, another wealthy absentee landowning family and tied to the Bennetts through marriage, next acquired the 1,733 acres. Shortly before the Revolution, in 1770, through his marriage to a Lloyd daughter (Elizabeth), John Cadwalader (1742-1786) of Philadelphia acquired Bennett's Regulation. Called Shrewsbury Farm by Cadwalader, the tract grew still more through several relatively small purchases.

Cadwalader became the first of the owners to consider the tract his home plantation although he was deeply involved in Philadelphia politics and business and soon became a leader in the revolutionary movement. A member of various revolutionary committees (including the Kent County Committee of Correspondence), he was the organizer of an early military company, the Pennsylvania "Greens," or "Silk Stocking Company." After the outbreak of war, he became commanding colonel of one of the three Pennsylvania battalions. Reluctant to accept a commission in the Continental Army, he remained with the Pennsylvania Volunteers and took part in the Battle of Long Island. Appointed a Brigadier General by Pennsylvania, he led the opposition to General Howe's attempt to take Philadelphia and was a leader at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown, White Marsh, and Monmouth.

Cadwalader probably is best remembered for his role in the Conway Cabal, an officers' plot to have Washington removed as commander-in-chief and General Gates installed in his place. General Conway, one of the officers pressing for Washington's removal, himself eventually fell into disfavor with the Congress and blamed his troubles on Cadwalader. He challenged Cadwalader to a duel, held on July 4, 1778. Cadwalader shot Conway in the mouth and, although Conway surprisingly did not die, the threat against Washington's command was ended. In a sense, Cadwalader can be seen as having saved the Revolution.

Cadwalader's wife died in 1776, leaving him with three young daughters. He married his second wife, Williamina Bond of Philadelphia, in 1779. From the time of his first wife's death, Cadwalader had sought to limit his public service, but he was not entirely successful, though his interests turned more to the political rather than the military sphere after 1779. In 1780 he was elected to the Maryland legislature from Kent County and served until his death in 1786 except for one year, 1783, when he was involved with Pennsylvania constitutional reform and also defended the College of Philadelphia, of which he had been a trustee since 1776. Despite his efforts, the Pennsylvania legislature was successful in suspending the college's charter, putting the provost, the Rev. Dr. William Smith, out of a job, leading eventually to his coming to Kent County and the beginning of Washington College.

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Cadwalader died of pneumonia at Shrewsbury Farm in 1786 at the age of forty-four. Dr. Smith preached his sermon at nearby Shrewsbury Church, where he is buried. The noted publicist Thomas Paine, earlier a bitter political opponent of Cadwalader, wrote a laudatory epitaph. A highway historical marker near the entry lane to Shrewsbury Church commemorates Cadwalader.

Although Cadwalader's Shrewsbury Farm house may have been on what is today the Turner Creek Farm, it is not likely that it was the surviving dwelling, which as it stands appears to be later than 1786. There is a slight possibility that the present house is, however, the reworked shell of an earlier building. It still would have been unlikely that a man of Cadwalader's station and wealth would have lived in such a small, simple building as the two-bay side-hall section. The 1877 atlas map shows what appears to be two dwellings on the farm, one in the location of the present building and one considerably but directly to the east. It is possible that the 24' x 36' building slightly to the east of the present building was not an ice house, as it first appears to be, but rather the reworked and roofed foundation of an old dwelling. Mrs. Ralph Miller of nearby Blay's Range, who lived on the Turner Creek Farm ca. 1925-1952 states that the old foundation was that of a house that had burned and that the present dwelling may have been used for slaves or farm help. It is possible that if the house existed in Cadwalader's time or even later that it was used by an overseer and then later for farm help, slave or otherwise. It may have been built for a farm overseer. When the Millers lived on the farm, they used the old cellar for cold storage; the foundation was said to have been of fieldstone, which is apparently now covered by recent concrete work. Mrs. Miller also states that there was an ice house, now gone, in front of the present dwelling, in the yard to the north; it was smaller than the roofed cellar to the west. When the Millers moved in, as tenants, the house was in very poor condition. Cadwalader's will and papers associated with the probate of his estate may shed light on the buildings and farm operation at Shrewsbury Farm.

Sidney George Fisher of Cecil County, in his diary of 1837-1850, writes in his entry for November 14, 1849, that "on Sunday morning" General Thomas Cadwalader [of Trenton, New Jersey] "took the boat and crossed over the river to the Kent side to visit the farm formerly the residence of Gen. Jno. Cadwalader of Revolutionary memory, the Gen's uncle. He had naturally a wish to see this old family estate, tho it has long since passed to other hands and expected to find there the tomb of his uncle in which, however, he was disappointed [it was at Shrewsbury Church]. He said the house is very much dilapidated and the only vestige of the family he discovered was a looking glass set in the wall on which were written with a diamond the names of various Cadwaladers, McCalls, Lloyds." (p. 276)

When Cadwalader's estate was finally settled in the early nineteenth century, most of Shrewsbury Farm (1,470.5 acres) was sold to brothers Peregrine and Samuel Wethered. Present-day Turner Creek Farm was within this portion. In 1804 Archibald McCall of Philadelphia, one of Cadwalader's sons-in-law, handled the transfer from Cadwalader's heirs to the Wethereds, Peregrine of New Castle, Delaware, and Samuel of Baltimore. Complex bond and mortgage arrangements were made to provide income to the heirs. (Kent
(continued))

Co. Land Records TW 3/116, 1/13/1804; TW 3/108, 1/12/1804; TW 3/63, 1/25/1804; BC 8/328) Other portions of Shrewsbury Farm were sold to Edward Wright and Charles Tilden.

Samuel Wethered in 1820 bought his brother's share of Shrewsbury Farm (WS 3/111) and, though he basically lived in Baltimore, he evidently lived at the farm at least some of the time with his large family of seven children. The family may have spent summers there (The Wethered Book, p. 90). He died in 1829. Under his ownership the property seems to have been known as Green Acres Farm. Peregrine Wethered's base was west of Turner's Creek, where he owned Knock's Folly (K-114) and other properties. Samuel's surviving children sold 632+ acres of the farm to William Janvier in 1849 (JNG 12/239), several tracts having been sold earlier, in 1842, to Robert Polk (300+ acres) and to Thomas Clark (536 acres). Janvier was married to Mary Elizabeth Wethered, a daughter of Peregrine Wethered. Their home farm was Knocks Folly; he was a member of the 1867 Maryland Constitutional Convention.

After William Janvier died intestate, the Turner Creek Farm was inherited by his wife and three children, passing finally to the surviving daughter, Mary E. Janvier (d. 1931). Her heirs were Wethered cousins (John L., Louisa W. Crawford, and Margaret Spencer Wethered Barroll). John L. Wethered bought out his co-owners in the 1930s. He and a trust created by his will retained Turner Creek Farm until 1967, when it was sold, along with Knocks Folly and other properties, to the Huntingfield Coporation (EHP 22/760), which sold it to the present owner in 1980. None of the owners since John Cadwalader, with the possible exception of Samuel Wethered, Sr., seems to have lived at Turner Creek Farm. It therefore was tenanted for many years, with adverse effect on the buildings there, though recent owners have attempted to rehabilitate them. When the possible Cadwalader dwelling burned is not known. The owners of the Huntingfield Corporation said they were told by L. Wethered Barroll, trustee for the sale, that the surviving house was the first house on the farm and dates to 1703. The basis for this judgment is not known. What was seen during the field visit does not support such an early date, however, though numerous original structural elements could not be seen. Huntingfield Corporation had the west wall rebuilt and stated that it had seemed almost mortarless, seeming to have been held together with a pig-hair compound.

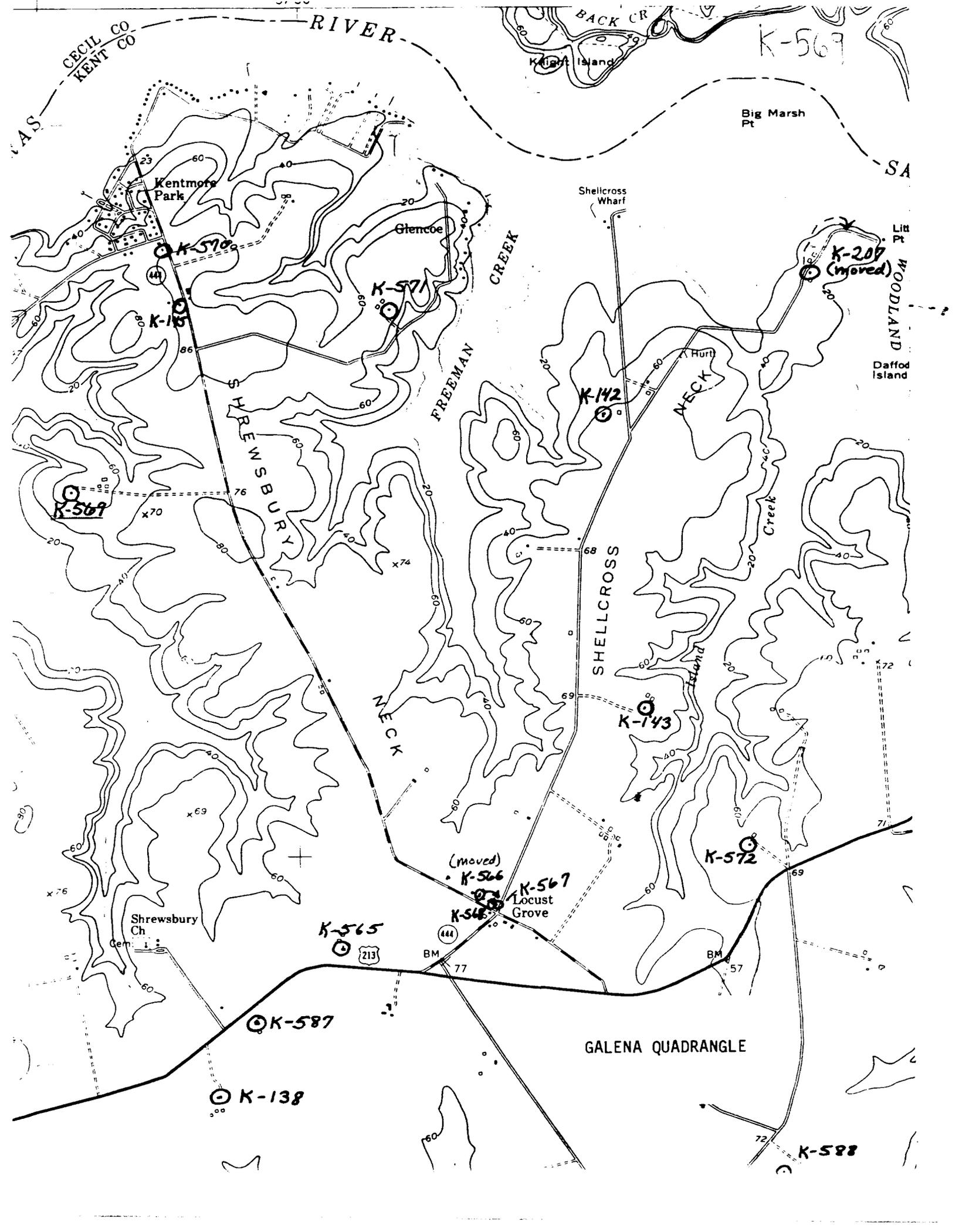
Cadwalader's old Shrewsbury Farm tract today contains several of the farms created during the middle nineteenth century and the planned waterfront community of Kentmore Park, which itself was created from parts of several of the nineteenth-century farms. (See report for K-570, Kentmore Park Country Store.)

Sidney George Fisher, Mount Harmon Diaries of Sidney George Fisher, 1837-1850. Edited by W. Emerson Wilson. Wilmington, Del.: The Historical Society of Delaware, 1976.

Kent County Land Records, The Courthouse, Chestertown, Md.

Kent County Wills, The Courthouse, Chestertown, MD.

An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, Md. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, 1877.



CECIL CO
KENT CO

RIVER

BACK CR
Night Island

K-567

Big Marsh Pt

Kentmore Park

K-570

Glencoe

K-571

Shellcross Wharf

FREEMAN CREEK

K-209 (moved)

WOODLAND

Daffod Island

K-138

SHREWSBURY NECK

FREEMAN CREEK

K-142

SHELLCROSS NECK

K-567

SHELLCROSS NECK

K-143

K-572

(moved) K-566

K-567
Locust Grove

K-568

Shrewsbury Ch

K-565

K-587

K-138

GALENA QUADRANGLE

K-588



K-569 B

Turner Creek Farm

Rt. 444, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/14/85

View to northwest

~~23~~
K-569-234

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY

K-569 shrewsbury Farm

1772

K-569-B



K-569

Turner Creek Farm

Rt. 444, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/14/85

View to southeast

K-569-28A