K-572

Forkfields
Near Galena
2nd Quarter 19th Century

At the headwaters of Island Creek, this small frame farmhouse was probably built in the mid-19th century for a tenant family. It is a very plain three-bay, two-story building with two rooms separated by an enclosed stair, similar in plan to the County Alms House and Marsh Point after its 19th century remodeling. Its original kitchen was replaced in the early 20th century with a true one-and-a-half story wing.

In 1819, Forkfields was part of the estate of Isaac Freeman, III, who lived at the northern end of Shallcross Neck. Later in the century, in the 1877 Atlas, the owner is James W. Hurtt, who owned and lived on the adjacent Woodland Hall Farm. It has remained in the family of James Hurtt to the present day. Recently the house has been updated and remodeled.

K-572 ca. 1820-1860

Forkfields

Near Galena

Private

Located between the headwaters of Woodland Creek and Route 213, west of Galena, Forkfields is a farm that generally has been tenanted, its owner usually also owning and living on a Shallcross Neck farm to the west. Possibly built for a tenant family in the middle of the nineteenth century and hence possibly illustrative of the sort of dwelling provided tenants, the house at Forkfields has a plain, frame, two-storey, gable-roofed main section and a twentieth-century gable-roofed true one-and-one-half-storey wing at the northeast end. Its style shows the persistence well into the nineteenth century of the form and plan of simple late-eighteenth and early nineteenth-century vernacular Federal buildings. Rectangular in plan, with one room on each side of a central enclosed straight stair, the main section is three bays wide and two deep, with a central main entry on the approach (southeast) side. Though now being readied for occupancy, the house was vacant and ill-maintained for many years, a victim of mid-twentieth century farm mechanization, which no longer required a family on every farm to cultivate it.

Survey No. K-572

Magi No. 1505724404

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Forkfields

and/or common Forkfields

2. Location

street & number North side of Rt 213, 2.8 miles west of Galena ___ not for publication

city, town Galena (Locust Grove) _X_ vicinity of congressional district First JSK 7/7/94

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	_X_ 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_ not applicable	_X_ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Mr. & Mrs S. Wickes Westcott, Jr.

street & number telephone no.: 348-5701

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP 29

street & number Cross Street folio

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-572

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
_X_ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Located between the headwaters of Woodland Creek and Route 213, west of Galena, Forkfield(s) is a farm that generally has been tenanted, its owner usually also owning and living on a Shallcross Neck farm to the west. Possibly built for a tenant farm-family in the middle of the nineteenth century the house at Forkfields has a plain, frame, two-story, gable-roofed main section and a twentieth-century gable-roofed true one-and-a-half-story end wing. The style is a late vernacular continuation of simple eighteenth-century and Federal dwellings that were rectangular in plan, with one room on each side of a central stair. The main section is three bays wide, with a centural-bay main entry on the southeast, approach facade into a small hall at the foot of the stair. The fenestration is symmetrical but there is no opening in the rear central bay (the location of an under-stair closet), and a door is in the northeast bay of the rear. The main section is two bays deep though the gable ends have only two attic windows, one to each side of the chimney. On each story of the main section there was orginnally one room to each side of the enclosed central straight stair. Remodeling in progress has created a bathroom at the front at the central bay and in part of the northeast bedroom. The wing, with walls continuous with the main-section walls, is one bay wide and two bays deep. It was built for a kitchen and bedroom above. Vacant and neglected for 25-35 years, the house is now being readied for occupancy.

A square brick chimney is locate within the wall at the center of each end of the main section. The caps are two-course, with corbelling out and in. There is no chimney in the kitchen wing.

At the southwest first-story room fireplace there is a stove with a metal stovepipe vented into the chimney. The rectangular fireplace opening has been at least partially rebuilt, with an iron lintel, flat splayed arch, and one layer of brick added to the face so that it protrudes beyond the mantel frieze. The mantel is simple. What were probably plain pilasters have been cut in half. The plain, deep (ca. 9") frieze has its lower edge sawn into a cyma shape each side of center (seen also at K-186 Stoltzfus Farm). The plain shelf is rectangular but with rounded corners. The bed molding is composite and includes a lower ogee-and-bevel molding.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-572

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	X 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 ca. 1825-1860 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

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

Although it is possible that the plain, simple dwelling at Forkfields may have been built for an owner-occupant, it is more likely to have been built for occupancy by a tenant family and thus an example of the kind of building built for this purpose. For its time, it probably was considered a more than adequate structure for a tenant family. It very likely is a replacement of an earlier dwelling, though no evidence in the present building could be found to suggest that it incorporates an older structure except possibly for foundation materials. A dwelling was shown on an 1819 plat of the property, when it was tenanted. Farm tenancy in Kent County has a long history. From the county's beginning certain landowners acquired multiple holdings and often were able to continue them in their families. In periods of agricultural or personal distress the still-prosperous were able to enlarge their holdings through mortgage-default sales. According to one writer, by the early twentieth century almost sixty percent of the county's farms were occupied by tenants. By 1970, largely as a result of New Deal and later government farm-ownership programs and increased general prosperity, only twenty percent of the county's farms were tenanted (Sutton, pp. 62-63). The vacancy and neglect the building suffered during the third quarter of the twentieth century also reflects changed agricultural practices. With large, sophisticated farm machinery run by only a few workers it became possible for one farm operator to till several farms. No longer was a resident family needed for each farm. The house at Forkfields also illustrates the presistence of building styles in Kent County. The form, plan, dimensions, chimney locations, and roof details are those used in local farm dwellings of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Despite a probable middle-nineteenth-century building date, the style of Forkfields nonetheless could still be called vernacular late Federal.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-572

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

Martenet's Map of Kent County, Maryland. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1860.

Stanley B. Sutton, Beyond the Roadgate: Kent County 1900-1980. Chestertown, Md.: Stan' B. Sutton, 1983

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant

organization County Commissioners of Kent County
Historical Society of Kent County **date** August 13, 1985

street & number Court House 778-4600
Church Alley **telephone** 778-3499

city or town Chestertown **state** Maryland

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

The southwest chimney is not visible on the second storey. The southwest room has been remodeled, with new wall finishes and closets built in around the chimney. The northeast chamber's chimney has been plastered; it is built of variously-size bricks. It evidently was intended only for a stove, or the room was unheated.

The rectangular opening of the northeast first-storey room's fireplace has been bricked and plastered closed. The mantel has a rectangular shelf, plain broad frieze, and plain pilasters with simple cap. There is a stove flue hole and -pipe in the plaster of the overmantel. To the southeast of this mantel is a cupboard. There is a pair of large upper doors and a pair of lower doors; they have plain recessed and slightly raised panels. The trim framing the cupboard is the same as the door trim. On the northwest end of this chimney there is a closet with shelves with a beaded-board and batten door.

The brick northeast chimney base or fireplace in the cellar is rectangular, with a rectangular opening that appears to have been used for a fire. A tapered chimney, with its base somewhat narrower than the base below, rises up to the first storey. Though the cellar floor is dirt, it is possible that this cellar fireplace was used for cooking at one time, at least for special purposes.

Exterior walls are now covered with asbestos shingles over lapped, wide-exposure horizontal weatherboard. It can be seen on the approach side's central bay, from which a shed-roofed porch was removed. Main-section studs are 3" by 4" and ca. 24" on center.

The roofs have been covered recently with asphalt shingles. Old roofing material has been removed though the shingle nailers remain in place. Plywood sheathing is fastened above them. Both sections have a small, plain boxed cornice. Gable ends of the main section have flush verge boards.

The foundation of the main section is brick. Under the stair and northeast room there is a dirt-floored cellar while a crawl space is under the southwest room. The cellar is entered through the wing porch floor and through the rear wing wall. The entryway foundation is of field stone. At this entryway, the exterior main-section foundation wall appears to be only ca. 8-1/2" thick, not the usual practice of the period but perhaps accounting in part for the repair work over the years. The wall dividing cellar from crawl space is ca. 8-1/2" thick. The bond of the cellar is 1-to-6 common American bond. Some of the bricks are quite large, ca. 8-1/2" to 8-3/4" x 2-1/2" x 4-1/2", while others are quite small and appear newer. The large bricks are dark red and hand-molded, with wide mortar joints. The foundation may have been built partly with reused brick and also appears to have been extensively repaired and rebuilt. The crawl space's foundation wall now appears continuous, but it may include infill added between piers. The cellar joists reveal widely-spaced up-and-down saw marks (1/2" to 5/8" on center). There were one rear and one front cellar window, now closed. The wing rests on rock-face concrete block piers with later board and crudely-done plain concrete-block infill.

The main entry has a 2-over-2 panel door; the upper pair is notably tall

and is above a broad (12") lock rail. On the exterior the panels are recessed and slightly raised, with ogee-and-bevel applied panel molding. On the interior the panels are flush and have beaded edges. There are white porcelain knobs and on the interior a box lock with the name "Corbin" on it. There is a higher plugged hole in the door. Trim is plain on the exterior. There is a secondary main-section entry, into the northeast room in the rear bay, suggesting that perhaps this room once served as a kitchen. The opening originally may have been a window. The door has one light over three horizontal panels; the trim is makeshift.

The now-gone shed-roofed front porch at the main entry extended to the inside trim of the side-bay window on each side. Turned-and-square Victorian catalogue posts lie on the ground.

The wing has one entry, in the rear, through a dilapidated shed-roofed one-bay porch that spans the width of the wing. The door also has one light over three horizontal panels. Porch posts are plain, the roof of corrugated metal, and the steps of concrete block. The porch rests on piers of rock-face concrete block. The porch appears to be contemporary with the wing.

Main section windows are double hung, except for the four gable casements (some gone), which had four lights. First- and second-storey windows originally had 6-over-6 sash, but they have recently been replaced with new 1-over-1 windows. Second-storey windows are shorter than those of the first storey. Trim is plain, and there are now no shutters. The wing has a total of seven windows: two on each storey of the gable end, one on each storey of the approach facade, and one in the rear above the entry. The short rear second-storey window, immediately under the eave, has a removable six-light sash in it; presumably this and the opposite window (now boarded) originally would have had double-hung sash with 3-over-3 lights, as is common in late nineteenth or early twentieth century true 1-1/2 storey houses in Kent County. There are no wing shutters.

From the small front entry hall, with doors to each side room, the stair rises between plastered walls to a small landing at the rear wall that is two steps lower than the floor level of the bedroom on each side. There is then one winder up to the floor level of each bedroom. This is an unusual, but hazardous, way to avoid an overly-steep stair run in a house that is not particularly deep. Under the stair, at the rear of the building, is a closet entered from the northeast room. The trim is as elsewhere on the first storey, but the door has two vertical panels. A ca. 41" wide quarter-turn-with-winders stair to the unfinished attic is over the main stair (also ca. 41" wide) and is entered from the southwest chamber, now through a new board and batten door. The stair enclosure to the attic is plastered and trimmed to attic-floor level. The wing once had what appears to have been a quarter-turn stair to the unfinished chamber above, but it has been removed.

Some structural oddities can be seen in the attic, perhaps indicating rehabilitative work carried out after the initial building date. There is a ridge pole ca. 3-1/2" wide by 2-1/2" high against which the ends of the ca. 3" x

4" rafters (ca. 24" on center) are butted and which is actually too short for the diagonally-cut rafter ends. A shingle nailer on each side of the ridge, possibly fastened to both ridge pole and rafters, is also part of the system. Ridge poles were not used in the nineteenth century in Kent County. The attic is floored only to the knee braces, which are one-inch stock and double, one on each side of each rafter and fastened with wire nails. The attic floor joists extend over the second-storey wall plate in the usual middle-nineteenth-century manner, to form the cornice, but they do not extend the full distance outward to the cornice fascia. Small rafter ends have been fastened to each joist end and carry the cornice. In the usual fashion for the period, a board false plate across the tops of the joists (plus the added joist ends in this case) carry the rafters.

From the second-storey wing room it can be seen that the exterior-side covering of the main-section's gable end joists is not lapped horizontal weatherboard. Here it is flush (tongue-and-groove) horizontal board ca. 9" high. The wing joists measure 1-5/8" wide, a fairly recent dimension. The door trim for the first-storey door from main section to wing, located northwest of the northeast room's chimney, is plain, unlike the other trim in the room, and the door is five-panel.

Interior door and window trim, nearly flush with the plaster, for which it must have served as a ground, is ca. 3-3/4" wide overall. There are, from the outside, a 1" fillet, a 2-1/2" somewhat flattened cyma, and an inside bead. The window sills have a bed of a modified ogee-and-bevel molding above a 2" fillet with its lower edge beaded. Baseboards are 7" with a large upper bead. There are no chair rails or cornices.

The first-storey doors from main-entry hall to side rooms are the same as the main-entry door. The door panels are flush and beaded on the room side but with the ogee-and-bevel panel molding on the hall side. The doors have white porcelain knobs. The door to the northeast second-storey room from the hall is beaded board and batten and appears original. It has a white porcelain knob. Second-storey trim is plain and 3-1/2" wide.

The first-storey floors are of medium random pine except for the entry hall, which has a narrow uniform tongue-and-groove flooring material. The wall finish was originally lath and plaster, but sheet rock has replaced much of it. In the northeast first-storey room, on the wall adjacent to the stair, wide horizontal boards have been fastened to shoulder height with wire nails; on front and rear walls of that room there is narrow horizontal tongue-and-groove board, which is applied on an old soft type of wall board that is papered above the horizontal boarding. The original plaster and lath seem to have been removed in this room. The lath and plaster have been removed from the ceiling of the northeast room, revealing very darkened joist surfaces. These joists measure 7-3/4" x 3"; some show up-and-down saw marks.

The site is overgrown and with deteriorated and collapsing farm outbuildings. They include a two-car garage, a possible chicken coop, a small rock-face concrete-block building that may have been a dairy or spring house,

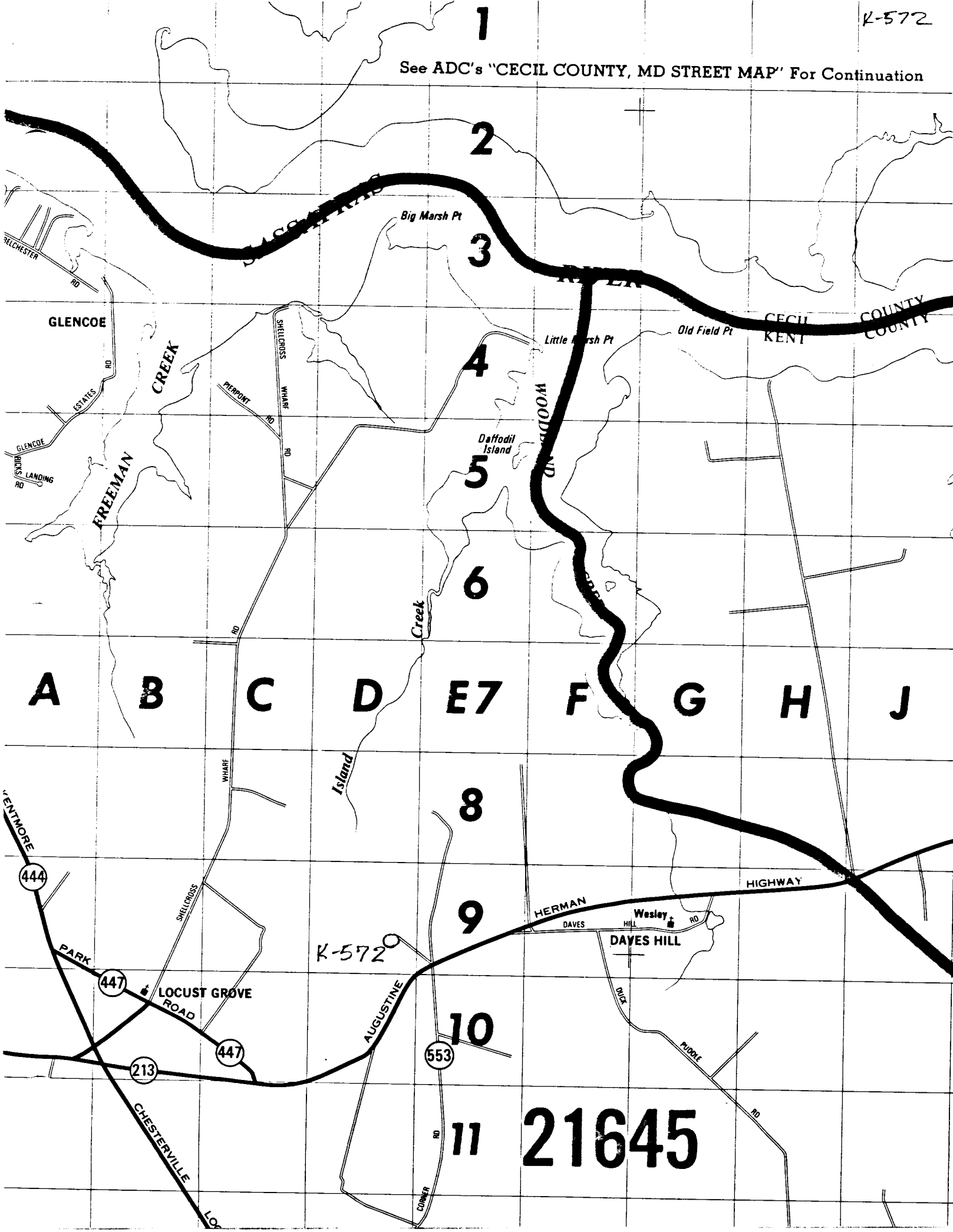
and a small barn. All seem to date from the twentieth century and to be of no architectural significance.

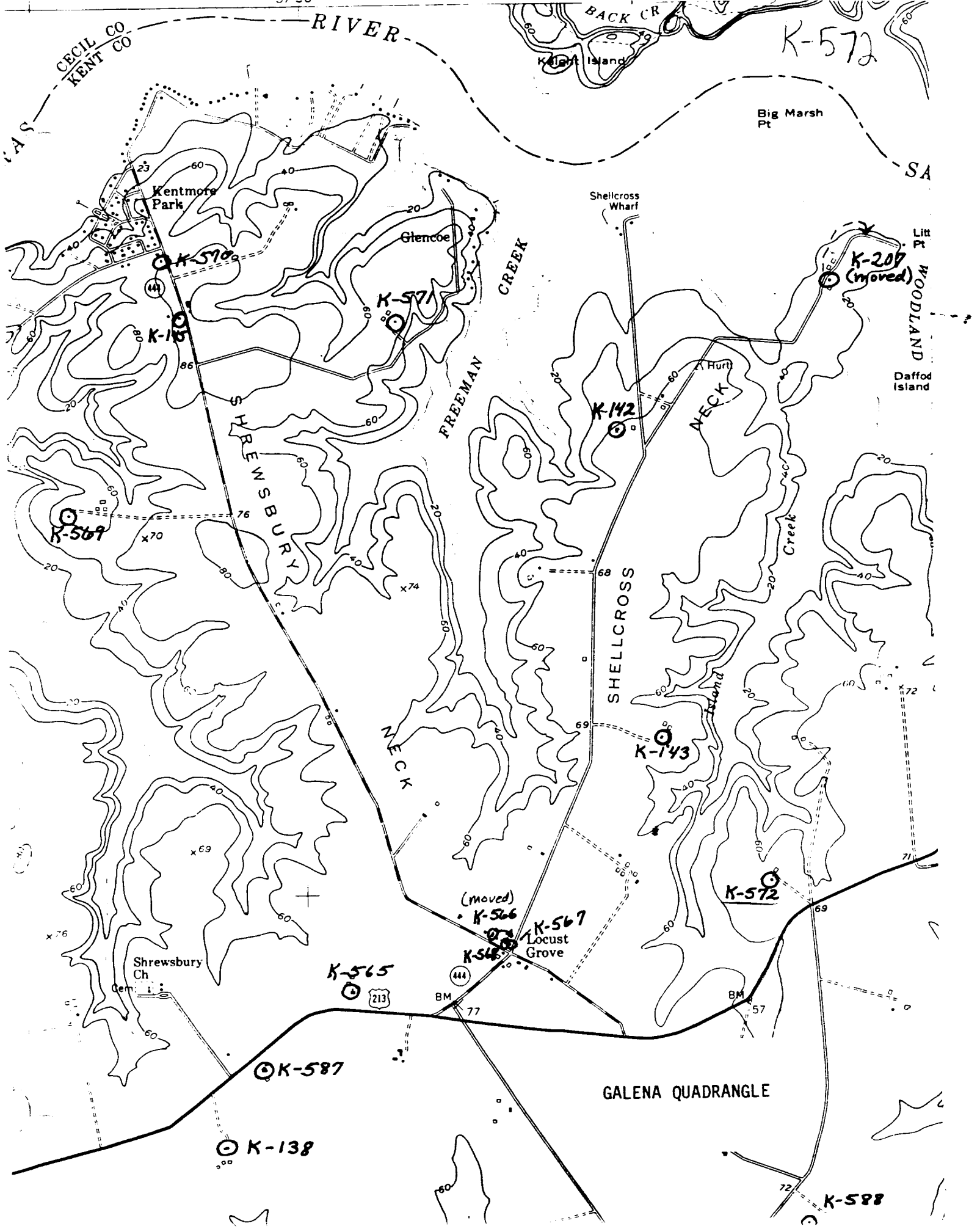
The house is located to the southwest of a lane that angles northwest from the public road, Route 213; the lane continues past the farm buildings located to the north of the house. Between the house and public road, beyond what was formerly a front lawn, is a cultivated field. When planted in corn, the house is not visible from the road; at other times it is visible. A mobile home is on the other side of the lane, to the northeast. No other buildings are visible from the site. Views in all directions are of cultivated trees and woods.

In 1819 Forkfields was part of the estate of one of the Isaac Freemans, a large Shallcross Neck landowner who did not live at Forkfields. Scotch Folly (K-143) is also shown with Forkfields on one of the plats made during the settlement of his estate. (Kent Co. Land Records, WS 3/47).

James W. Hurtt, also the owner of Marsh Point (K-207) and Woodland Hall (K-144) in nearby Shallcross Neck, is shown on the 1877 atlas map of Kent County as the owner of Forkfields in that year. His wife was a daughter of James Woodland, who until his death had owned Marsh Point and Woodland Hall. While the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County shows Woodland or his heirs as the owner of these two properties, he does not seem to be the owner of Forkfields at this time. The map is hard to read, however, and the name attached to Forkfields is somewhat illegible, appearing to be a T. Breson. In 1910 the will of Mary E. Hurtt (Wills RRH 1/53) indicated ownership of Marsh Point, Forkfields, and the home farm (Woodland Hall). The property is now owned by a descendant of the Woodlands and Hurtts.

Almost immediately after entering the lane for Forkfields from Rt. 213, it branches. The left (west) lane leads to the Forkfields house. The east lane is now only a farm lane for a farm called Hardcastle (later corrupted to Hardscrabble), located to the east of the eastern branch of Island Creek. The dwelling there, said to have been old, burned some years ago.


K-572
See ADC's "CECIL COUNTY, MD STREET MAP" For Continuation
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
J
Big Marsh Pt
Little Marsh Pt
Old Field Pt
Daffodil Island
CECIL COUNTY
KENT COUNTY
GLENCOE
BELCHESTER RD
GLENCOE ESTATES RD
RICKS LANDING RD
FREEMAN CREEK
SHELLCROSS WHARF RD
PIERPONT RD
WOODLAND
Island Creek
KENTMORE
444
PARK
447
LOCUST GROVE
ROAD
447
213
CHESTERVILLE
AUGUSTINE
553
CORNER RD
HERMAN HIGHWAY
DAVES HILL RD
Wesley
DAVES HILL
DUCK PUDDLE RD
K-572
21645


CECIL CO
KENT CO
RIVER
BACK CR
K-572
Knight Island
Big Marsh Pt
Kentmore Park
Glencoe
K-570
K-571
K-145
FREEMAN CREEK
Shellcross Wharf
Litt Pt
K-207 (moved)
WOODLAND
Daffod Island
Hurt
K-142
NECK
SHELLCROSS
Creek
Island
K-143
K-569
SHREWSBURY
NECK
K-572
(moved) K-566
K-567
Locust Grove
K-568
K-565
Shrewsbury Ch
Cem
BM
BM
K-587
GALENA QUADRANGLE
K-138
K-588

K-572
Forkfields
Rt. 213, near Locust Grove
M. Q. Fallaw - 8/13/85
View to northwest

K-572-3c

[redacted]

K-572 Forkfields c.1850

K-572
Forkfields
Rt. 213, near Locust Grove
M. Q. Fallaw - 8/13/85
View to south

K-572-369