

K-579

c. 1875-1900

Dr. Edward A. Scott's Office

Galena

Private

Now moved a few feet from its original location and standing alone on its North Main Street lot, Dr. Scott's office was built adjacent to the Scott house. Gable end facing the street, the frame one-storey building measures 13 feet wide by 22 feet deep. Like the vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel to the north on Main Street, it is covered with board-and-batten weatherboard, the battens with coved edges. The interior is divided into two rooms, the front one the larger and probably the waiting room. The unaltered rear room was the doctor's dispensary, private working space, and possibly the examining room. In both rooms walls and ceilings are covered with beaded tongue-and-groove board. Original cupboard, shelves, closet and sink remain in place. Dr. Scott's office is a rare survival of the kind of small, simple office buildings constructed on the home property of professionals (most often doctors and lawyers) during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the Tidewater area. They enabled separation of professional life from personal life while also being convenient. Dr. Scott died in 1936 at the age of 76.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. Edward A. Scott's Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 115 Main Street not for publication

city, town Galena 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: storage

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

name Myrtle A. Haggerty

street & number _____ telephone no.: 648-5144 Cochran Oil

city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 79

street & number Cross Street folio 583

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-579

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		a few feet	<u>1970-1974</u>

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

Now moved a few feet from its original location and standing along on its lot at 115 N. Main Street in Galena, Dr. Scott's office was build adjacent to the Scott house during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Gable end facing east to the street, the small, frame, one-story building measures 13 feet wide by 22 feet deep. The exterior is covered with board-and-batten weatherboard, the battens with coved edges. In general appearance it resembles the vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival St. Andrew's Chapel farther north on Main Street, also covered with the same board-and-batten material. The interior is divided into two rooms, the front one 13 feet deep and the rear one 8 feet deep. A stove formerly stood in the front room at the partition wall. There is an entry into a side bay of each end, in diagonally opposite corners, one for the public and the other the doctor's private entry from his dwelling. The walls and ceilings of both rooms are covered with beaded tongue-and-groove boards that are vertical on the walls. Original cupboard, shelves, closet and sink remain in place in this barely altered building that now serves as storage space for the records of the oil company next door.

Moved somewhat to the side and farther back from the street than it once stood so the old Scott house could be demolished in the early 1970s, Dr. Scott's office now rests on concrete blocks at the corners and center of the long walls. The weatherboard's 2-5/8" wide battens, milled with coved edges, appear to be identical to those used on St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel (K-575), which was reported to be near completion in 1874. The supplier in both cases probably was Andrew Woodall's lumberyard in nearby Georgetown. The board exposure between battens is c. 11" to 11-1/2". The weatherboard is continuous into the gables, without interruption. There are double battens at the corners.

There is a single chimney through the roof ridge, in the approximate center of the building. Consisting of one round clay flue and a two-way clay hood above, it was for the stove that once stood in the front room near the partition wall. On the interior, a round clay flue remains visible in the ceiling.

The quite steep gable roof is now covered with standing-seam metal, but in large sheets with some of the "seams" false. This roof material appears to from the twentieth century. The roof overhangs about 10-12" on sides and ends. It is finished along the undersides of the rafters. There is a cyma reversa crown molding, similar to that used on door and window heads. There is a rake molding of a ca. 1" bowtell in the front gable only; it extends around the front corners to the first batten one each side.

(Continued)

8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Medicine

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.

Dr. Scott's office is a rare survival of the kind of small, simple office buildings constructed on the home property of professionals (most often doctors and lawyers) during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the Tidewater area. To what extent this was the case in Kent county is not now known since this office appears to be the only survivor. There is said to have been a small brick lawyer's office on the grounds of the Wickes House (K-29) on High Street in Chestertown, but it is gone. Such an office enabled separation of professional life from personal life while also being convenient. During the later part of the nineteenth century doctors in particular seemed more inclined than earlier to set aside part of their homes for an office, most commonly the first-story room in central-hall houses that was isolated on one side of the central hall and not on the side with the rear ell. K-633 the Puposzar (or Bottomley-Smith) House in Millington is an example of such use. Although it is not now known exactly how the interior space was used by Dr. Scott, the interior appears to be as built and outfitted, perhaps giving clues about the nature of country doctors' practices. Dr. Scott was born in 1859 or 1860 and died in 1936. Although the office building is simple and utilitarian, it is an interesting and rare use in Kent County of board-and-batten weatherboard for a building other than a farm outbuilding; it is particularly notable for its handsome molded-edge battens, the same as used on the ca. 1874 Gothic Revival St. Andrew's Chapel nearby that may have served as example.

There is a slight possibility that the office may have predated Dr. Scott's use of it for his medical practice. His father, Cornelius J. Scott, who owned the property before him, was a surveyor and might have needed such an office. However its division and outfitting seems to be that of a medical office. In fact, Dr. Scott had a dual career himself being a surveyor in addition to physician. He was also Chief Judge of the Kent County Orphans' Court for more than 20 years. (Kent County News, June 6, 1936)

(Continued)

The entry for the public, into the larger front room, is in the south bay of the east gable end; a window is in the other bay. The jamb trim is plain except for an inside bead. The lintel trim is somewhat deeper, with a ca. 7" board over a drip; a cyma reversa molding is placed even with its upper edge and a plain cap over both. The lintel trim is the same over the adjacent window and the one in the east bay of the south side, but is not used on the rear gable-end's door and window. Only the openings visible from the street were "dressed up." The front door has 2-over-2 upper lights in their own thick frame affixed to the inside of the door. Below the deep lock rail are two vertical panels with ogee-and-bevel applied panel molding. On the interior the lower panels have no panel molding; they are recessed and double-raised.

The entry used by the doctor, who went back and forth between house to the north and his office, is in the west gable-end, in the north bay; a window is in the south bay. The lintel here has only the drip and a tiny cap. The door has 2-over-2 panels.

The three windows, two of them lighting the front room, are double-hung with 2-over-2 lights. There is no north-side window. The wooden sills are double. Shutters painted black are in place on the front and side window; the rear window's shutters are inside the building, painted dark green. The upper two-thirds of each shutter is movable louvers; the lower third has a single recessed and slightly raised panel with applied ogee-and-bevel panel molding. There are thumb latches to catch onto the wall shutter holders. The shutters are similar to those used at the Golts Public School, ca. 1900 (K-614).

On the interior, the front room is 13 feet deep by 12-2-1/2" wide; the rear room is the same width and 8 feet deep. The flooring is 3-1/2" tongue-and-groove pine, unfinished in the rear room but painted a deep red/maroon in the front room, probably fairly recently. Both rooms' walls and ceilings are covered with 3" to 3-1/2" beaded pine tongue-and-groove board, vertical on the walls and front to rear on the ceiling. It is painted white in the front room and either unfinished but darkened or stained dark and/or varnished in the rear room. At the joint between wall and ceiling there is a ca. 1" bowtell, the same molding used on the exterior as the front gable rake molding. Ceilings are 9'-3" high. There are no baseboards.

Interior door and window trim is 4" wide with a handsome, simple profile with the central element a cyma; there is a large inside bead (see attached profile). Sills are thin (13/16") with a lower bead. The aprons are compound and quite deep: a 1-1/4" fillet above a 1-1/4" flattened cyma above a 3/4" fillet, and a 3/4" lower bead. The 2-over-2 panel door in the partition is adjacent to the north wall. The panels are recessed and slightly raised via an ogee. Panel molding is a rabbetted ogee. On the rear-room side the door is painted Spanish brown, possibly the original paint.

In the northeast corner of the front room, against the north wall, is an 8-foot high cupboard that is 5 feet wide. The lower 33" in height is 20" deep and has a pair of doors of the same beaded board used on walls and ceilings.

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The upper section, 13" deep, consists of two bays of four shelves each. The 2-over-2 light doors have been removed and are placed nearby. The cupboard has a large (ca. 3-1/2") bevel-with-fillets crown molding. Most likely this cupboard was used for supplies and reference books.

The smaller rear room most likely was used for the doctor's private office and drug dispensary. Whether it was also used for an examining room is not known. The front room seems most likely to have been used for a waiting room, in which case it would not also have been used for examining patients. The rear room seems not to have been altered since his use of it, though now it is piled high with papers and boxes. A sink (17-3/4" deep x 29-1/4" wide x 31" high) is near the center of the partition wall. It has a wood top and a round china bowl. While it has no faucets, the bowl has an outlet that drains through the floor. The sink's cabinet sides and double doors are of the same material as walls and ceiling and painted the same Spanish brown as the partition's door.

There is a set of seven shelves on the rear wall between door and window (32-1/2" wide by 6'-10-1/2" high). The shelves are simple--"l boards with beaded edges are dadoed into edge-beaded uprights. A single shelf 7" deep shelf with rounded ends spans the window at meeting-rail level. It is supported by filigree cast-metal brackets on the window trim at each end. The brackets appear similar to those above the main entry at the Locust Grove Store (K-567).

A single shelf at 58" height supported by ledgers triangular wooden brackets extends from the south side of the window around the corner and onto the south wall to a corner closet. A long, high shelf is on the partition wall above the sink and beyond; it may be later than the others.

A 54" wide corner closet angles across the southeast corner of the rear room. It is 7'-8" high, constructed with beaded tongue-and-groove boards and the same large bevel crown molding as on the front room cupboard. The door is also tongue-and-groove.

The town lot on which the office now stands alone is narrow but deep. At the rear of the lot is a shed-roofed building with board-and-batten walls and three sets of double doors of double-beaded board, hung with strap hinges. This may originally have been a carriage house or an early garage, and possibly for the storage of farm equipment as is now the case. A small number of acres to the rear may have belonged to the Scotts.

The lot on which the building stands is a level town lot fronting on busy Main Street, which is part of Route 213, a major highway since the early colonial period. The office is now about 50-60 feet from the road and on the southern section of the lot. The open lot is grassy with a few shrubs that were part of the dwelling's landscaping; old boxwood is just inside the town sidewalk.

The next building to the north is the frame Caldwell-Rudnick House
(continued)

(K-574), beyond the large macadam driveway along its south side that leads to rear parking lots and buildings associated with that property's livestock and other auction business. On the lot to the south is the plain mid-twentieth century building of Cochran Oil Company, with gas pumps in front. Across the street are nineteenth-century dwellings and commercial buildings, including K-576, K-577, and K-578.

The Galena map in the 1877 atlas of Kent County does not, in general, show outbuildings, though this office is not the usual sort of outbuilding. Therefore, it might not have been mapped even if it had been built by 1877. The map does show C. J. Scott as the owner of the property; his building on it may or may not be shown with the configuration it is said to have had with the office included. The free-standing office was said to have been only a few feet away from a southward extension of the main section. According to Myrtle Hagerty of Cochran Oil Company, the original part of the house was an early two-storey log structure (it might have been in fact 1-1/2), with the first-storey last used as a kitchen; its axis was east-west, gable end facing the street and set back quite far on the lot. To its front gable end was added, telescope fashion, a large two-story section containing on the first storey a living room and dining room. There was a porch on its exposed three sides, two-storey on the south long side; the house was said to be oriented toward the south. An addition south of this porch for Scott sisters was said to have been made after the Galena fire of 1893, during which they were burned out of their dwelling on south Main Street. The office was said to have been sited very close to this south addition.

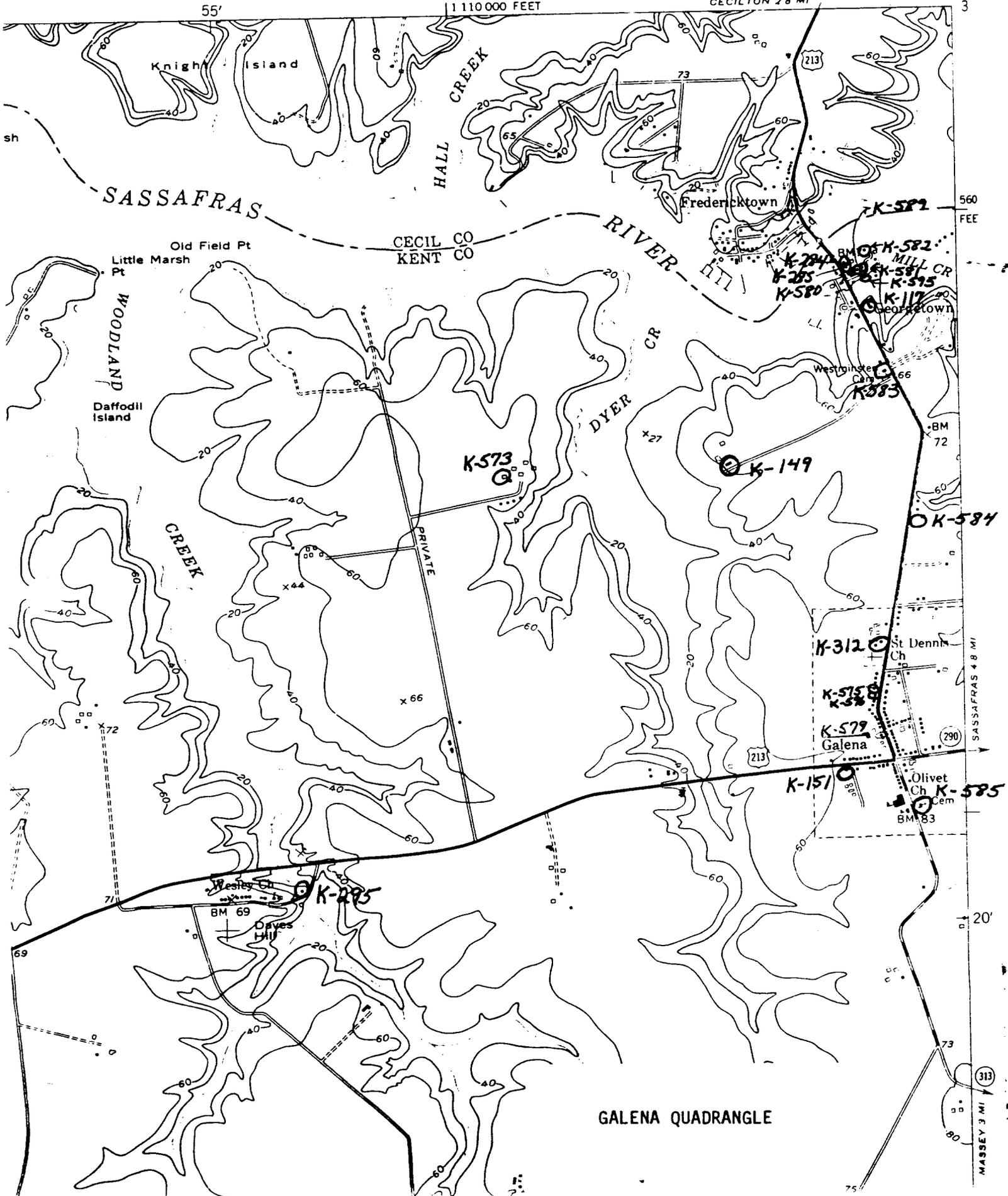
Since Dr. Scott's death the office has been used for the Galena town office and as a real estate office.

The use of board-and-batten weatherboard as an intentional architectural device was rare in late nineteenth-century Kent County though it was fairly common elsewhere for churches and dwellings. The more educated, local upper class would have been more likely than others to be aware of its fashionability; the Scott family seems to have fallen into this category. A. J. Downing in 1850, in his book The Architecture of Country Houses, promoted its use, particularly with battens "rendered somewhat more ornamental by being moulded on the edges." His rationale, which here does not include the church-related reason for its use in Victorian Gothic Revival churches--the reaching toward the heavens:

We greatly prefer the vertical to the horizontal boarding, not only because it is more durable, but because it has an expression of strength and truthfulness which the other has not. The main timbers which enter into the frame of a wooden house and support the structure, are vertical, and hence the vertical boarding properly signifies to the eye a wooden house; in the same manner, the main weight of a stone or brick house is supported by walls laid in courses, and hence the truthfulness of showing horizontal courses in brick or stone buildings. It is as incorrect, as far as regards truthfulness of construction, to show horizontal lines on the weatherboarding of a wooden house, as it would be to mark vertical lines on the outside of a brick or stuccoed wall.

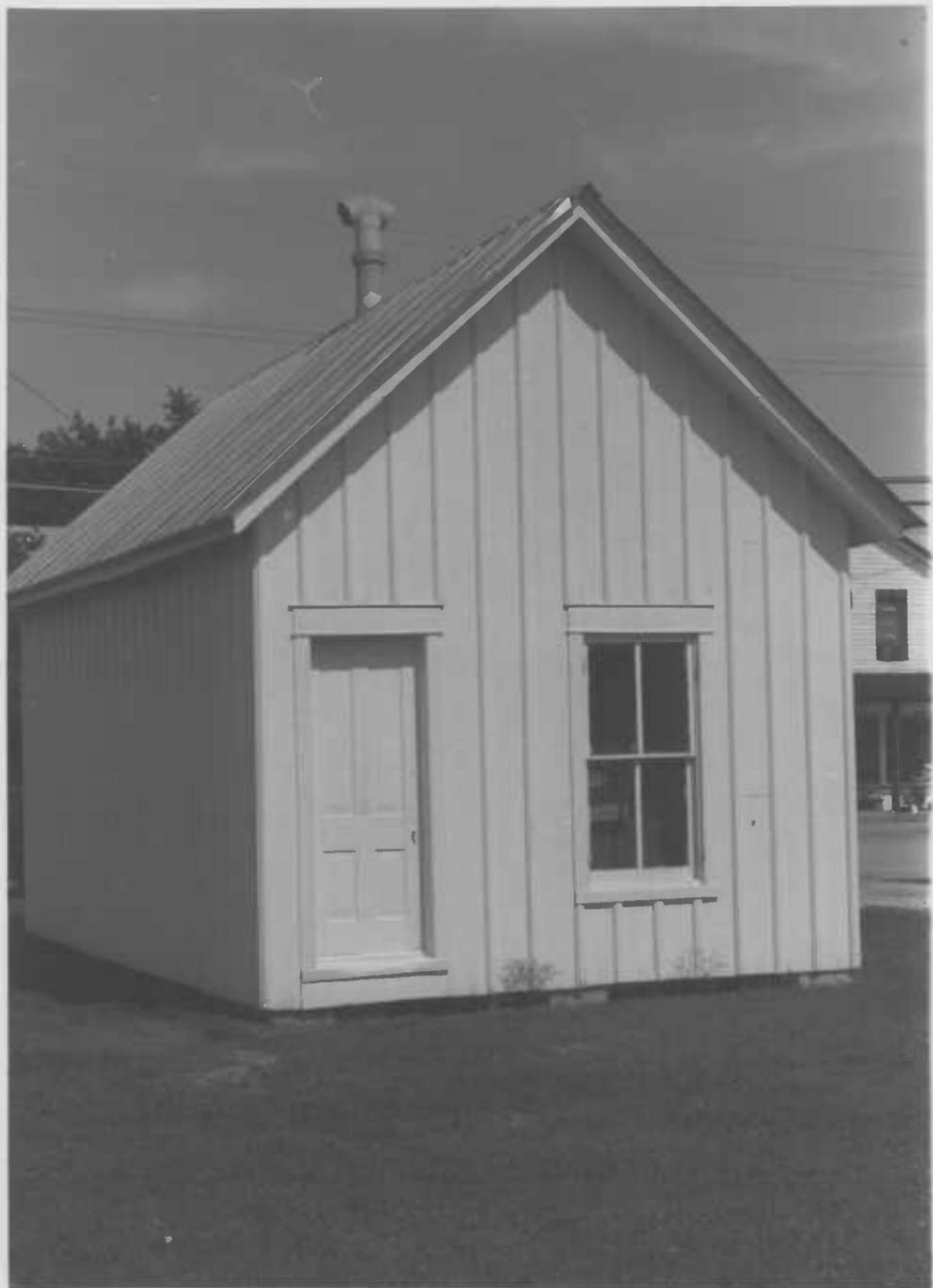
Besides this, there is not only greater economy in vertical boarding, but, being a bolder mode of construction, it better expresses the picturesque--a kind of beauty essentially belonging to wooden houses. (pp. 51-52)

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



GALENA QUADRANGLE

MASSEY 3 MI



K-579

Dr. Scott's Office

Main Street, Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/5/85

View to southeast

K579-25



K-579

Dr. Scott's Office

Main Street, Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/5/85

View to northwest

K579-23