K-581

Woodall-Hurtt House
Front Street, Georgetown
c. 1820's

One's first impression of this three-story frame building is that of a standard late-19th century vernacular Italianate dwelling. On closer examination, however, it is in fact earlier. Recollections and information offered by its late owner helped to document its age.

Local tradition tells of a small dwelling with basement in this location which was destroyed when the town was burned by the British in 1813. Sometime thereafter, part of the present house was constructed as a replacement. The kitchen was located in the western basement. When Mr. Hurtt's grandparents, J. F. M. and Emily Ann Woodall were married in 1865 and resided here, the house consisted of a three-bay, two-story rectangular dwelling with kitchen still in the basement. It was the Woodalls who added a two-story kitchen behind the east half of the house. An old photograph of Georgetown, taken from across the river c. 1880, shows the house in that configuration. The photograph included several extant structures: the stable (1874), a meathouse and shed, chicken house, and the picket fence.

The present third story was added after the photograph was taken, in the late 1880's or 1890. At the same time a second story was added to the west porch. The Woodall-Hurtt House is a significant structure in Georgetown due to its long ownership by one family (roughly 120 years) and the fact that it represents the changing needs and tastes of that family.

K-581

Julian Hurtt House

Georgetown

Private

Circa 1820, 1865, 1890, 1910-14, 1937

Located on the north side of Front Street in Georgetown, with Fish Alley to the east, the Hurtt house at first appears to be a frame house with a three-storey, three-bay-wide, hipped roof main section (with three-bay front porch) and rear gable-roofed, two-storey wing dating from the middle nineteenth century and built in a simple vernacular Victorian Italianate style. However, this is a house that evolved in at least five major stages to its present form, probably beginning soon after 1813, when a house on the site was burned to the foundation by the British during their atttack on Georgetown. The main section has two entirely separate cellars. The east one is the older, and upon it the first part of the house was built, probably one storey with loft or 1-1/2 storey in height, with one room on the first level. Probably toward the middle of the nineteenth century a two-storey (one room each storey) west part of the main section was added, with central, straight, enclosed stair; the east portion was raised to two storeys with gable roof at the same time. This was the extent of the house when the present owner's grandparents moved in after their marriage in 1865. The kitchen is said to have been in the west cellar. In 1870 they are said to have added most of the present rear two-storey wing, which on the first storey contains a large kitchen. In 1890 the main section was raised from two storeys to three, to accommodate the children of relatives who had died. In about 1910-1912 the west porch was raised from one storey to two, and in 1914 the rear wing was extended on the second storey, with the area beneath an open porch. That was

K-581

enclosed about 1937 to become the new kitchen. Most of the details are Victorian, dating from the latter part of the nineteenth century and very early twentieth century. Occupied by the same family for at least 120 years, the Hurtt house is an example of an evolving house, one that in its present, finished state is not what it seems to be at first glance. It reflects both changing needs and the building fashions of various periods. Standing now much as it did at the turn of the century, with almost all outbuildings that were used then by a town family still intact, it is a document of an earlier way of life.

Survey No. K-581

Magi No. 1505815504

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic J.F.M. Woodall House

and/or common Julian Hurtt House

2. Location

street & number North side Front Street at Fish Alley ___ not for publication

city, town Georgetown ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Julian W. Hurtt

street & number Front Street telephone no.: 648-5123

city, town Georgetown, state and zip code Maryland 21930

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber RAS 20

street & number Cross Street folio 506

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-581

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

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

The Hurtt house is on the north side of Front Street in Georgetown, with Fish Alley to the east. The house at first appears to be a frame house with a three-storey, three-bay-wide, hipped room main section with three-bay front porch and rear gable-roofed, two-storey wing dating from the middle nineteenth century and built in a simple vernacular Victorian Italianate style. However, this is a house that evolved in at least five major stages to its present form, probably beginning soom after 1813, when a house on the site was burned to the foundation by the British during their attack on Georgetown. The main section has two entirely separate cellars. The east one is older, and upon it the first part of the house was built, probably one storey with loft or 1-1/2 storey in height, with one room on the first level. Probably toward the middle of the nineteenth century a two-storey (one room each storey) west part of the main section was added, with central, straight, enclosed stair and the east portion raised to two storeys with gable roof at the same time. This was the extent of the house when the present owner's grandparents moved in after their marriage in 1865. The kitchen is said to have been in the west cellar. In 1870 they are said to have added most of the present rear two-storey wing, which on the first storey contains a large kitchen. In 1890 the main section was raised from two storeys to three, to accomodate the children of relatives sho had died. In about 1910-1912 the west porch was raised form one storey to two, and in 1914 the rear wing was extended on the second storey for a bathroom, with the area beneath an open porch. That was enclosed about 1937 to become the new kitchen. Most of the details are Victorian, dating from the latter part of the nineteenth century and very early twentieth century.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-581

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates . . . **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.

Occupied by the same family for at least 120 years, the Hurtt house is an example of an evolving house, one that in its present, finished state is not what it seems to be at first appearance. It reflects both changing needs and the building fashions of various periods. Standing now much as it did at the turn of the century, with almost all outbuildings that were used then by a town family still intact, it is a document of an earlier way of life.

The Hurtt house stands on Lot No. 4 shown on the plat of the 1787 resurvey of Georgetown. The property may now incorporate part of Lot No. 5, but this is not clear. Part of the land to the east of Fish Alley has also been owned historically for this family, used first for its small cow stable and later for a garage. The lot was sold for the first time soon after first being offered for sale as part of the laid-out town of Georgetown. Gideon Pearce, the "developer" of Georgetown in 1733 sold it to John and Catherine Tilden for £3, 5 shillings.

J.F.M. Woodall and his wife Emily moved into the house as newlyweds in 1865. The house was then said to be only a two-storey main section, with kitchen in the west cellar. This family appears to have been responsible for most of the later additions. The Woodalls were the grandparents of the present owner.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-581

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	April 29, 1985
street & number	Courthouse Church Alley	telephone	778-4600 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 overall house is now T-shaped in plan, the rear wing projecting northward from near the center of the main section's north side. The main section has one room on each side of a small vestibule just inside the main entry at the foot of a central, straight, enclosed stair.

The exterior walls are now covered with white aluminum siding. Beneath is said to be horizontal, lapped white-pine weatherboard with ordinary cornerboards, not large pilasters.

There are two cellars with no communication between them. The west cellar (under west room and central stair) is entered through a door in the kitchen, through the rear wall of the main secton. The cellar stair is under the main stair. This cellar foundation is built of field stone to approximately ground level, above which it is brick. (From the exterior the foundation appears in both parts of the main section to be only of brick.) The chimney base has a tall rectangular opening with wooden lintel. The east cellar, now used for the furnace and once also to store coal, is more confusing. There have been alterations, but it does seem older. These walls are mostly brick, except for the common wall, which is of fieldstone and battered. The east cellar is entered from the exterior, in the north bay of the east end of the main section.

There are now only two chimneys, the third (at the rear of the original wing, for a kitchen stove) having been removed. The remaining chimneys are in the center of each end of the main section, within the wall. The west chimney has a one-course band and a corbelled cap, out and in. The brick is orangey red. The east chimney is somewhat taller and narrower. It is of darker red brick. It too is corbelled out and in, but slightly differently. The exposed portions of these chimneys date from about 1890, when the third storey was added.

All roofs are now covered with asphalt shingles. The low hipped roof of the main section has aluminum gutters on the fascia. Any trim of the boxed cornice may have been removed when the aluminum was applied to the house. The gable roof of the wing has large (about 2 feet) returns at its north gable end that would date from the addition of the second-storey bathroom in about 1914. The boxed cornice has a crown molding of a cyma recta with fillets; the fascia appear corbelled below the crown molding. There is no bed molding (probably removed).

The main entry is in the central bay of the north, approach facade, facing Front Street. There is a Victorian wooden screen door with 2-over-2 sections having curved brackets at their corners. The architrave trim, partially covered with a new quarter-round molding at the time of residing, appears to be plain and wide. The doors are very tall and double. The opening is 40" wide x 90" high. The doors have recessed and slightly raised panels with bold bolection molding. The top door panel is of etched yellow, patterned glass, very rare in Kent County. There is no transom. Other entries are into the wing: in the first bay of the west side, through the porch and into the kitchen; directly opposite on the east side, through the porch there; and into

(continued)

the latest kitchen at the rear of the wing, from the east porch's addition. The first two doors appear to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Windows throughout the house are double-hung. Those of the main section have 2-over-2 lights and probably were installed after the 1890 addition of the third storey. Trim is 5" wide and plain, except for the addition of quarter-round backband at the time of re-siding. The wing windows have 6-over-6 lights on the first storey and 2-over-2 on the second. A pointed, possibly fixed, window is in the north gable. The details cannot be seen. Main- section shutters are hung on pintles. Each has two panels that are recessed and slightly raised, with ogee-and-bevel panel molding. The wing shutters are louvered.

The old kitchen (first room in the wing), now a dining room, is probably much as it was built. There is beaded-board wainscoting of pine that has been grained to resemble oak. The chair rail is 42" from the floor, with astragal shelf and beaded apron. The doors of this room have also been grained. Trim is plain except for an inside bead.

The mantel of the east room is simple but appearing to be late Federal, though there appears to be a Victorian top shelf above an earlier one. The large rectangular opening is now closed. There are narrow (5") pilasters, and a surround molding of ovolo with fillets. There is one wide recessed panel in the frieze, with fine, compound panel molding. The west mantel is in the Greek Revival style, with curved shelf. Plain pilasters are 4", and there is a plain, broad frieze. The plain bases have a cap of ogee-and-bevel.

On the property there is an old meathouse covered with vertical boards, a horse stable dating from 1874, a cow stable across Fish Alley, an old corn crib, and an old chicken house. A grape arbor on rough posts extends from the east post. This grape arbor is said to be over a century old, and the one down the center of the rear yard, toward the river, is said to be old as well. The front yard is enclosed by an old picket fence.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Woodall House, Hurtt House

AND/OR COMMON: Hurtt House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Front Street

CITY, TOWN: Georgetown ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Kent County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
✓ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	✓ OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE	___ MUSEUM
___ BUILDING(S)	✓ PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL	___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL	✓ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	___ ENTERTAINMENT	___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	___ YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT	___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL	___ TRANSPORTATION
		✓ NO	___ MILITARY	___ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Julian Hurtt

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER: Front Street

CITY, TOWN: Georgetown ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland, 21930

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: RAS 20

Folio #: 506

STREET & NUMBER: High Street

CITY, TOWN: Chestertown

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

15-581

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
✓EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	✓ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	✓ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Woodall-Hurtt House is a simple Victorian house, three bays long, one bay deep and three storys tall, with a two story wing on the north. A one story porch stretches across most of the south facade. Its handsome square champhered-edge posts have brackets supporting the cornice, similar to those at Knocks Folly at Turner's Creek. A separate frieze of pierced circles extends between the posts.

The old white pine siding has now been covered with aluminum, but the original paneled shutters remain. Each of the windows have two-over-two sash which must have been added since 1865. The central entrance has double doors with bolection moulding around the panels. At the top of each door upper panel is a pane of yellow etched glass, an extremely rare, if not unique occurrance in the county.

Both gable ends have two windows flanking the chimney stack. The back wing is two bays long with an addition for a bath on the second story added around 1914, the base of which was enclosed for the present kitchen in 1938. On the east side of the wing is a leanto porch with trellis extending to the meathouse. On the west side is a two story porch, the upper part having fretwork circles as a gallery between the posts.

The floor plan is quite simple, with two rooms separated by a vestibule and stair. The west room has a plain mid-19th century mantel with pilasters supporting a curved shelf. The east mantel has a recessed panel beneath a shelf which appears Federal in period, i.e. c. 1820-30. North of the east room is the dining room with grained dado and doors. This room is the best preserved and appears like a room from another period. Beyond this is the kitchen added in 1938. There is also a pantry and basement entrance on the south wall of the dining room.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-581

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	✓ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
✓1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When J.F.M. Woodall and his wife Emily Ann Woodall were married in 1865, they began housekeeping in this building. It is said that the building consisted of two rooms on both floors with a kitchen beneath the west room, in the basement. At that period there was no third floor, but a high gable roofed attic. Apparently the first addition was the present dining room on the north side of the above-mentioned house. This wing with its earlier house appears in an old photo of Georgetown taken from Cecil County around 1880.

In 1890 the present third floor was built, with its low hip roof. Probably at this time the second story to the west porch was added, for it too is missing from the early photo. Not missing from the photo are several existing outbuildings, including the stable (1874), meathouse and shed, chicken house and least of all, the picket fence which still stands on the south side, as well as east side of the yard.

Behind the stable was constructed a corn crib in 1910 or 12. With the advent of the automobile, a garage was built across the lane.

The Woodall-Hurtt house is of significance as a dwelling which has been in constant use by the same family for about 115 years. Its growth and development are an interesting result of changing needs and tastes of a family who appreciated its first house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-581

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Michael Bourne, Consultant

DATE October 1979

ORGANIZATION Georgetown Association

STREET & NUMBER c/o Richard A. Rosan

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Georgetown, Md., 21930

STATE

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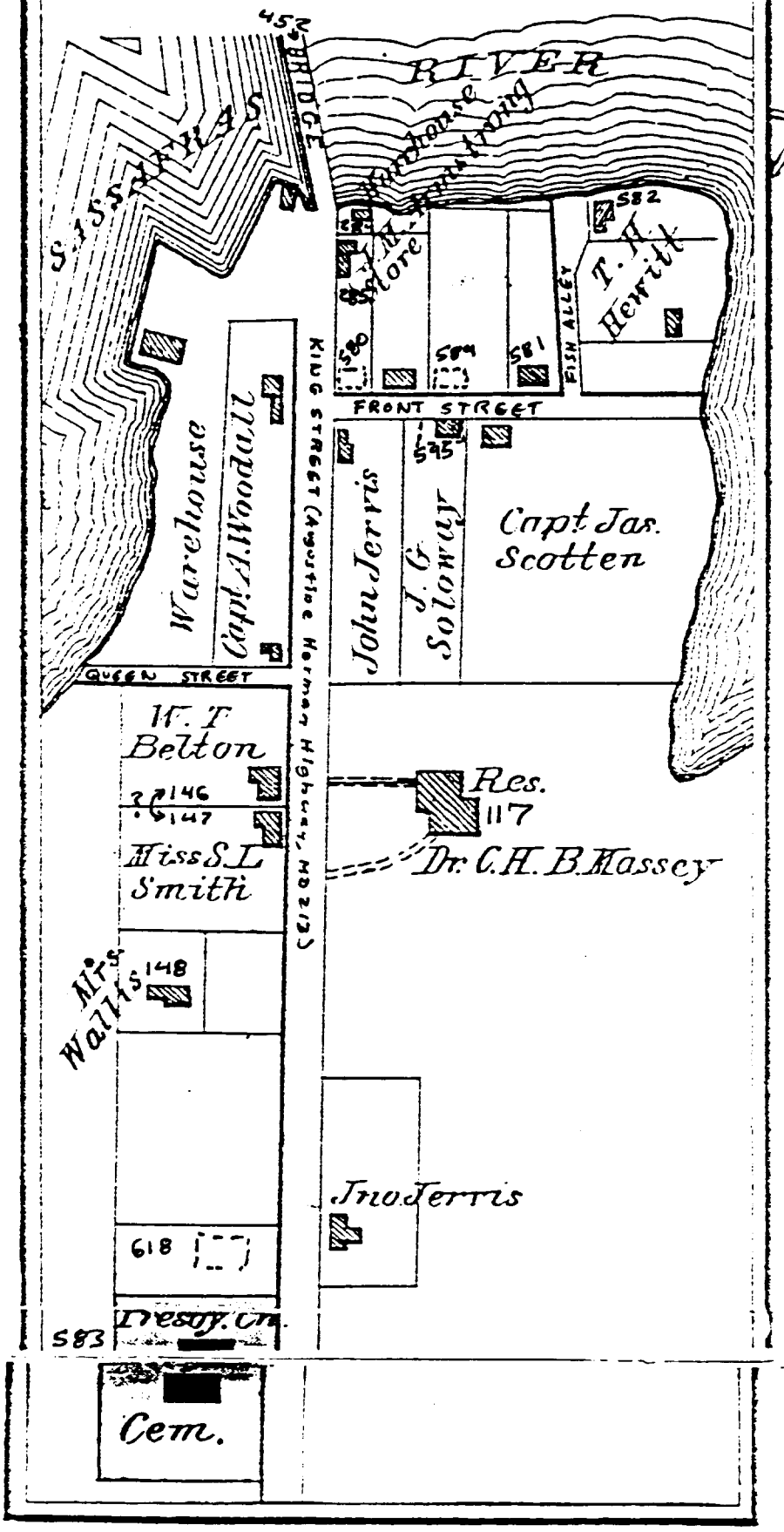
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PS-1108

K-581

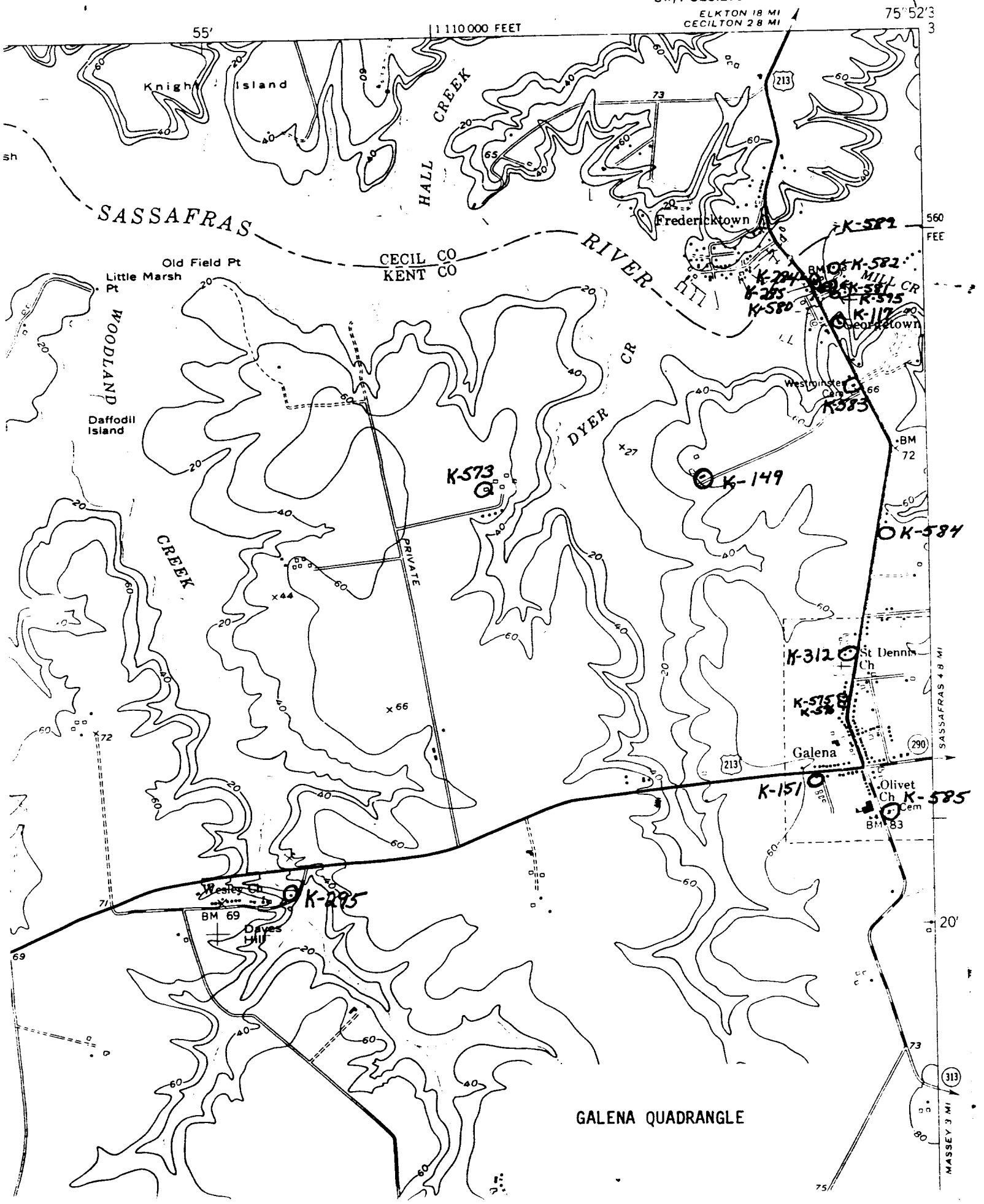
GEORGETOWN
KENT CO.

Dist. No 1



7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 CECILTON 15' QUADRANGLE



K-581
Julian Hurtt House
Front Street, Georgetwon
M. Q. Fallaw - 6/4/85
View to southeast

K581-28A

K-581
Julian Hurtt House
Front Street, Georgetown
M. Q. Fallaw - 4/29/85
View to northwest

K581-35

Woodall-Hurtt House
Georgetown

K-581

South

M. Bourne Oct 1979