K-588 Circa 1860

Caw Croft

Near Locust Grove

Private

The five-bay wide main section of the frame, two-storey farmhouse at Caw Croft, on the southeast side of Vansant's Corner Road near Locust Grove, appears from the exterior to have been built all at once with a central-hall plan in a vernacular transitional style (some Greek Revival influences on a still basically Federal house). However, the shallow gable-roofed, mid-nineteenth-century building began with only the three-bay northeastern end of the main section, probably having a side-hall plan. Later, perhaps in 1877 if the name and date found in a closet are any indication, a two-bay addition was made to the southwest end, converting the plan at that time to central-hall. A Victorian porch was built that spanned the joint. The long, four-bay rear wing probably was added at this time as well to create an asymmetrical T-shaped plan. Since then the house has been considerably altered and remodeled. A shed kitchen has been removed from the rear of the wing, a two-storey later bump-out removed from the southwest side of the wing, the main stair relocated and hall wall removed, and the northeast porch between main section and wing enlarged and enclosed. Many interior details have been changed, but the original handsome front door and some window trim remain. This house illustrates how dwellings in Kent County have changed over the years because they were lived in continuously by people with varying needs and means. From a very small dwelling perhaps built for a tenant by a Colonel Groome, it grew to considerable size. Although it was initially a small, basic house, it did include at lest a few handsome details popular in its period.

Survey No. K-588

Magi No. 1505885504

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Caw Croft

2. Location

(MD 553)

street & number Southeast side Vansant's Corner Rd., 1 mile south of Rt. 213, southeast of Locust Grove

JCK 2/7/94

___ not for publication

city, town Locust Grove X vicinity of congressional district First

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 Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Crow Sr.

street & number RD 1 Box 164 telephone no.: 648-5364

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 64 EHP 64

street & number Cross Street folio 21 124

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-588

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 five-bay wide main section of the frame, two-story farmhouse at Caw Croft, on the southeast side of Vansant's Corner Road near Locust Grove, appears from the exterior to have been built all at once in a vernacular transitional style (some Greek Revival influences) with a central-hall plan, one room on each side. However, the shall gable-roofed, mid-nineteenth-century building began with only the three-bay northeastern end of the main section, probably having a side-hall plan. It may have been built for a tenant. Later, perhaps in 1877 if the name and date found in a main-section closet are any indication, a two-bay addition was made to the southwest end, probably converting the plan at that time to central-hall. A Victorian porch was built that spanned the joint. The long, four-bay rear wing probably was added at this time as well to create an asymmetrical T-shaped plan. Since then the house has been considerably altered and remodeled. A shed kitchen has been removed from the rear of the wing, a two-story later bump-out removed from the southwest side of the wing, the main stair relocated and hall wall removed, and the northeast porch between main section and wing enlarged and enclosed. Many interior details have been changed, but the original handsome front door and some window trim remain.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-588

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 Circa 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.

The house at Caw Croft is one illustration of how houses in Kent County have changed over the years because they were lived in continuously by people with varying needs and means. From a very small dwelling perhaps built for a tenant by a Colonel Groome, it grew to considerable size. Although it was initially a small, basic house, it did include at least a few handsome details popular in its middle nineteenth-century period. The main entry door and architrave are handsome, and the early window trim more than the bare minimum. Mantels and some other decorative elements have been removed during recent remodelings, however.

The 1860 Martenet map of Kent County shows a Colonel J. C. (or J. B.) Groome as the owner of this and a number of other farm properties in the vicinity. He did not live at this farm but farther to the south, at Black's Crossroads, where a train station subsequently was built. By 1877 the owner was William Knight, said to have been an heir of Groome. He may have lived there and been responsible for the additions.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-588

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, Surveyor Consultant

organization County Commissioners of Kent County
Historical Society of Kent County **date** April 4, 1985

street & number Court House
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 exterior walls of this well-kept house are now covered with asbestos shingles applied over the original horizontal, lapped weatherboard. The early part of the main section was built with a cellar, with walls about 19-21" thick of uncoursed Port Deposit granite. By the second quarter of the nineteenth century there was considerable traffic in this stone for building houses in the upper part of the county. Much of it was probably landed at Georgetown after being brought down the Bay. Such stone foundations are not found to the same extent elsewhere in the county. The cellar walls are so thick that it may have been considered unnecessary to have a separate chimney base for the chimney that stood within the wall in the center of the northeast gable end. That chimney has been removed and a new exterior chimney built, but there never seems to have been a base within the cellar. The end extension of the main section was made over a crawl space and with a foundation of stone. The end chimney of this section has been removed, and so has the wing chimney for the kitchen, which had a fireplace. Some sections have been parged on the exterior. The rear wing is built over a crawl space and originally supported by stone piers, though brick infill has been added.

The gable roof of the original section was shallow, as was typical of the middle nineteenth century. The cornice of the five-bay front section, possibly retrimmed when the addition was made, is boxed with a small overhang (about 8-10" on all sides). There is a large (5-6") cyma crown molding and a plain 5" bed. Gutters are in place. Details of the wing roof edge could not be seen.

The main entry, now in the central bay of the northwest side, is entered through a small, shed-roofed screen porch that covers only the central bay, which is wider than the side bays to both sides. It was rebuilt from a fairly ornate Victorian porch with brackets and other gingerbread. The door has 1-over-1 panels. On the interior they are flush and rectangular. However, on the exterior they are octagonal, recessed and molded. The upper panel is taller than the lower one. Within the recessed panel there is a simpler, second recess, with straight sides and segmental top and bottom. The bold panel molding is 2-1/4" wide, the inside shape a cyma and the other an astragal. The door has an unusually deep lock rail (15"). A white porcelain knob with lockbox is in place, but there are signs of earlier hardware. This door is quite similar to the pair at Foxhole (K-635), probably built circa 1867. There are very narrow three-light sidelights on each side of the door. They are above one shallowly-recessed plain, unmolded panel. The architrave is plain and wide, with quarter-round backband added when the asbestos shingles were applied. There is a heavy lintel cap, with a cyma reversa beneath it (possibly an addition). There is a four-light transom, with the two outer lights approximately one-third the size of the center pair. The transom bar is only partially visible.

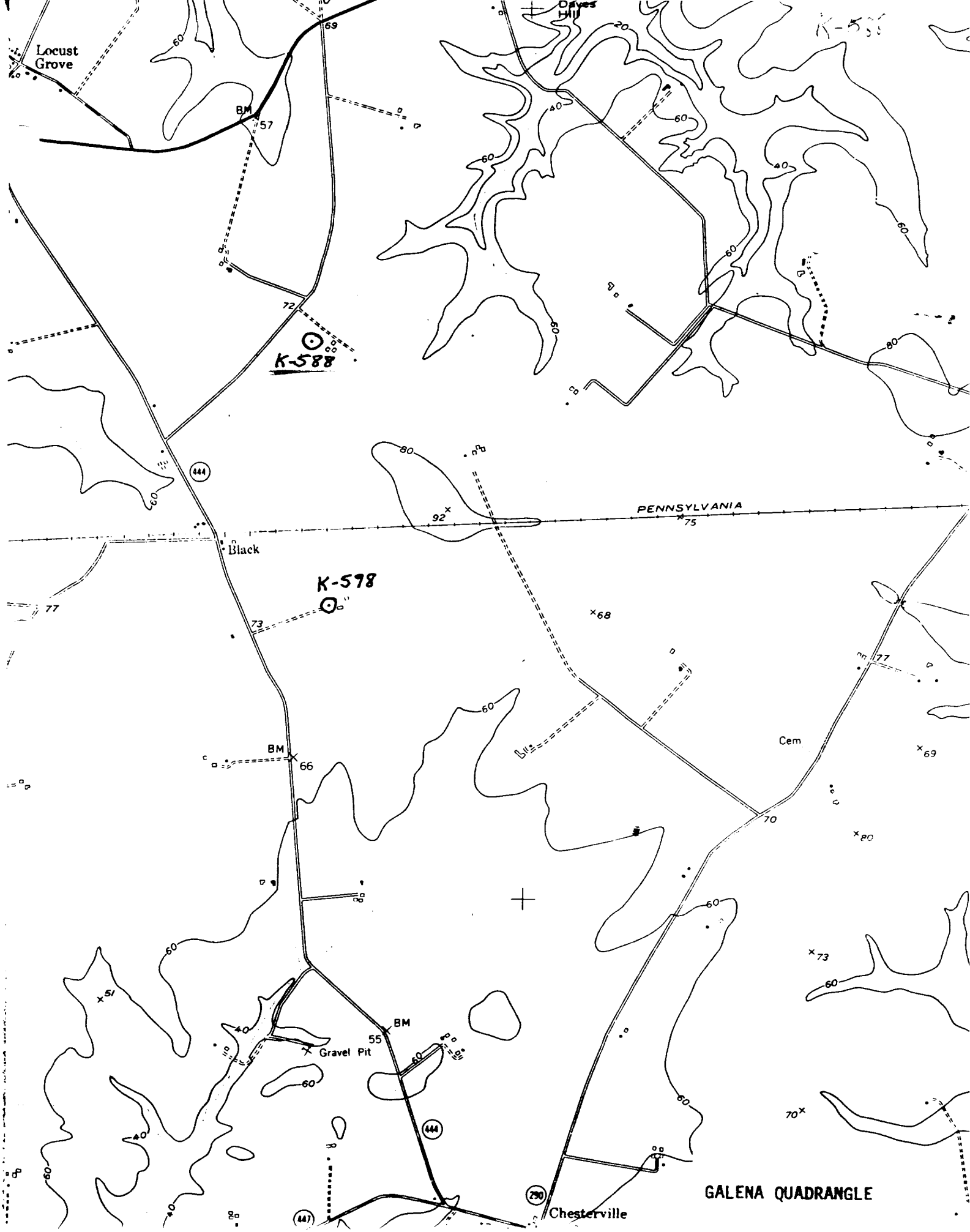
Windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. Second-storey windows are shorter than the quite tall first-storey windows. Trim is plain except for added quarter-round backband. Most notable is the shallowly-pedimented, plain head trim, which may have been begun with the original three-bay section and then continued with the end addition. The old shutters are gone

(continued)

and new louvered plastic ones fixed to the walls. On the interior, the windows have handsome, deep aprons that are split-faced (or corbelled, a popular device of the time). The lower edge of the sill is beaded. The upper apron face is 3-1/4" deep while the recessed lower section is 2-1/4" deep with lower edge beaded. The jamb trim is 3" wide with a large bevel toward the inside from the outside fillet; the inside bead/stop is applied. The present owners relocated the central-bay window on the second storey to center it over the door.

The only stair remaining in the house was probably originally the wing stair. There was already no hall stair by the time the present owners purchased the house, but they removed the northeast hall wall to enlarge the northeast room. The straight-run stair is actually in the wing, along the wall adjoining the main section. It was entirely enclosed upon the present owners' arrival, with a door at the bottom. They removed the door and partially opened the stair to the original main-section room below, installing a balustrade. The stair rises to the northeast side of the rear wing, where there is a long hall along the long northeast wall leading to the three (formerly more) bedrooms. Also accessible from the stair is a long hall along the rear of the main section. The second story of the original portion formerly had two small bedrooms, but they are now combined into one.

The house is part of a large, well-maintained farmstead. To the southwest of the rear wing is an old reworked gable-roofed meathouse of braced bay-frame construction. Now covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard, it was originally covered with vertical boards. Other farm buildings, to the rear of the farmhouse, appear to date from the middle twentieth century, with the possible exception of an old calf barn now considerably altered and used for equipment storage.


Locust Grove
Daves Hill
K-588
K-598
PENNSYLVANIA
Black
Cem
Gravel Pit
Chesterville
444
447
290
BM
57
72
69
60
40
20
80
92
75
68
77
73
66
70
51
55
GALENA QUADRANGLE

K 588-18

K-588
Caw Croft
Vansant's Corner Rd., near Locust Grove
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/19/86
View to west

K588-11

K-588
Caw Croft
Vansant's Corner Rd., near Locust Grove
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/19/86
View to southeast