K-615 Circa 1870-1890

Boxwood Place

Near Massey

Private

Located on the east side of the Massey-Sassafras road, the house at Boxwood Place (so called because it formerly was a nursery) is an elaborate Victorian Gothic Revival frame house. Main section and rear wing are both 2-1/2 storeys tall (though the rear wing is lower), five bays wide and two bays deep. The approach side of the main section, facing west toward the road, has a central gable in the main west roof, but the central-gable detail is also used on both sides of the wing. The exterior is covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard. The roof originally was slate, with some colored-slate floral patterning, but asphalt shingles now cover the roof. The main porch is five bays wide with elaborate detail. Opening to the porch are the four floor-to-ceiling double-hung windows of the two parlors. When the windows are raised, it is possible to walk through the opening onto the porch. There are seven dormers altogether. The three main-section dormers are very "gothic," with bracketed, steep, overhanging gable roofs and rafter ends cut parallel with the ground. On the interior there are notable first-storey mantels and a handsome main stair of catalogue parts continuous to the third storey. The Boxwood Place house is an example of the kind of house that was built in rural Kent County during the latter part of the nineteenth century when expense did not seem to be a constraint. The probable builder was David C. Blackiston, a prominent person in the county and apparently well-to-do, perhaps partly because of good peach crops. His considerable means was then displayed in the house he built, both on the exterior and interior.

Survey No. K-615

Magi No. 1506155604

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic D.C. Blackiston Farm

and/or common Boxwood Place

2. Location

street & number East side, Rt. 299, 2 miles north of Massey ___ not for publication

city, town Massey X 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 Walter R. & Mildred I. Ellis

street & number telephone no.: 928-5133

city, town Massey state and zip code Maryland 21650

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 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-615

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

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

Located on the east side of the Massey-Sassafras road, the house at Boxwood Place (so called because it formerly was a nursery) is an elaborate Victorian Gothic Revival frame house. Main section and rear wing are both 2-1/2 storeys tall (though the rear wing is lower), five bays wide and two bays deep. The approach side of the main section, facing west toward the road, has a central gable in the main west roof, but the central-gable detail is also used on both sides of the wing. There thus appear to be three quite formal facades, though the rear wing is partly a service wing. The exterior is with some colored slate floral patterning. Asphalt shingles now cover the roof. The main porch is five bays wide with elaborate detail. Opening to the porch are the four floor-to-ceiling double-hung windows of the two parlors. When the windows were raised, it was possible to walk through the opening onto the porch. There are seven dormers altogether. The three main-section dormers are very "gothic," with steep, overhanging roofs and rafter ends cut parallel with the ground. They have roof brackets on each pilaster. On the interior there are notable first-storey matels and a handsome main stair of catalogue parts continuous to the third storey.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-615

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 1870-1890 **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 Boxwood Place house is an example of the kind of house that was built in rural Kent County during the latter part of the nineteenth century when expense did not seem to be a constraint. The probable builder was a prominent person in the county and apparently well-to-do. His considerable means was then displayed in the house he built, both on the exterior and interior. Many of its elements were ordered from millwork catalogues and came from supply houses in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and elsewhere.

HISTORY

This rather house was probably built by David C. Balckiston, a prominent person in Kent County with the means to do so and, as an educated and well-traveled man, exposed to building styles and details in fashion elsewhere. Though he woned other properties in the area, probably farms, he undoubtedly lived here. This was not the sort of house one built for a tenant. Blackiston was a lawyer and at one time the clerk of the county court. He was a delegate to the state constitutional convention of 1864. He was one of the prosperous gentry of the upper county, though he may well have had a Chestertown house as well.

A house is shown at the site on both the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County and the 1877 atlas map of this part of the county. This house is not the one shown on the 1860 map, but an earlier one on the same site. The present house may have been built by 1877. There are some indications in the cellar of the present house that part of the foundation may predate the Victorian house, but the evidence is inconclusive.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-615

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	May 17, 1986
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.

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

PS-2746

Both main section and wing are 2-1/2 storeys tall, five bays wide, and two bays deep, though the wing is lower. There are three central roof gables: the west, approach side of the main section and both sides of the wing. This is unusual. In the main section there is one room on each side of the central hall with stair. The rear wing, whose long north wall is flush with the north end wall of the main section, has two rooms on the first and third storeys and three on the second. There is a secondary wing stair from first to second storey and two stairs there from second to third.

The exterior walls are covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard with 5" exposure. There are single cornerboards; on the main section they are on the long walls. The weatherboard continues uninterruptedly from main section to wing on the north.

The cellar is only partial--under the north part of the main section and under the front room of the wing. Access to it now is only through an opening in the north porch floor. The foundation as seen on the exterior is of parged brick.

There are quite small chimneys in the main section, one at the center of each gable end, within the wall. They are built of red common brick with a base. On the south chimney there is still part of the decorative cap, a one-course band and a one-course cap with a course recessed between. This detail seems to be gone from the north chimney. The wing also has two chimneys through the ridge, one at the rear wall of the dining room and one at the rear gable-end of the kitchen. The dining room chimney may once have had a corbelled cap. Both are in need of repair or rebuilding.

The roofs are now covered with asphalt shingles. Until fairly recently their original slate was still exposed. Apparently somewhat similar to the roof at Hickory Ridge Farm (K-639), the slate was laid with a pattern in colors of red flower petals and green leaves. The treatment of the roof edges is bold, both on wing and main section. Both are boxed, overhanging the walls about 15". Both have large cornice returns on the end, the main section's somewhat longer at about 36", the wing's about 30". The crown molding on both sections is a large cyma recta with upper fillet. A smaller one is used as a bed molding, on a frieze board in the gables. Both main section and wing have built-in gutters.

There are three gable-roofed dormers in the main section roof and two on each roof slope of the wing. Both sides of the wing also have a central gable. The dormers are heavy contributors to the "gothic" style of this house, though those of the main section have taller, steeper, and more overhanging gable roofs. They have double-hung sash with 2-over-2 lights. The cheeks are of wood shingles. The rafter ends are cut parallel with the ground, leading to an enveloping appearance; the cornice is not closed. A heavy, solid-looking, shaped roof bracket is on each pilaster. They are c. 24-28" long and not used on the wing. There are pilaster base brackets that flare the pilasters. They are scroll-sawn but solid. In the tympanum are hexagonal-exposure shingles. The central one is recessed and picked out with a contrasting paint color. The

(continued)

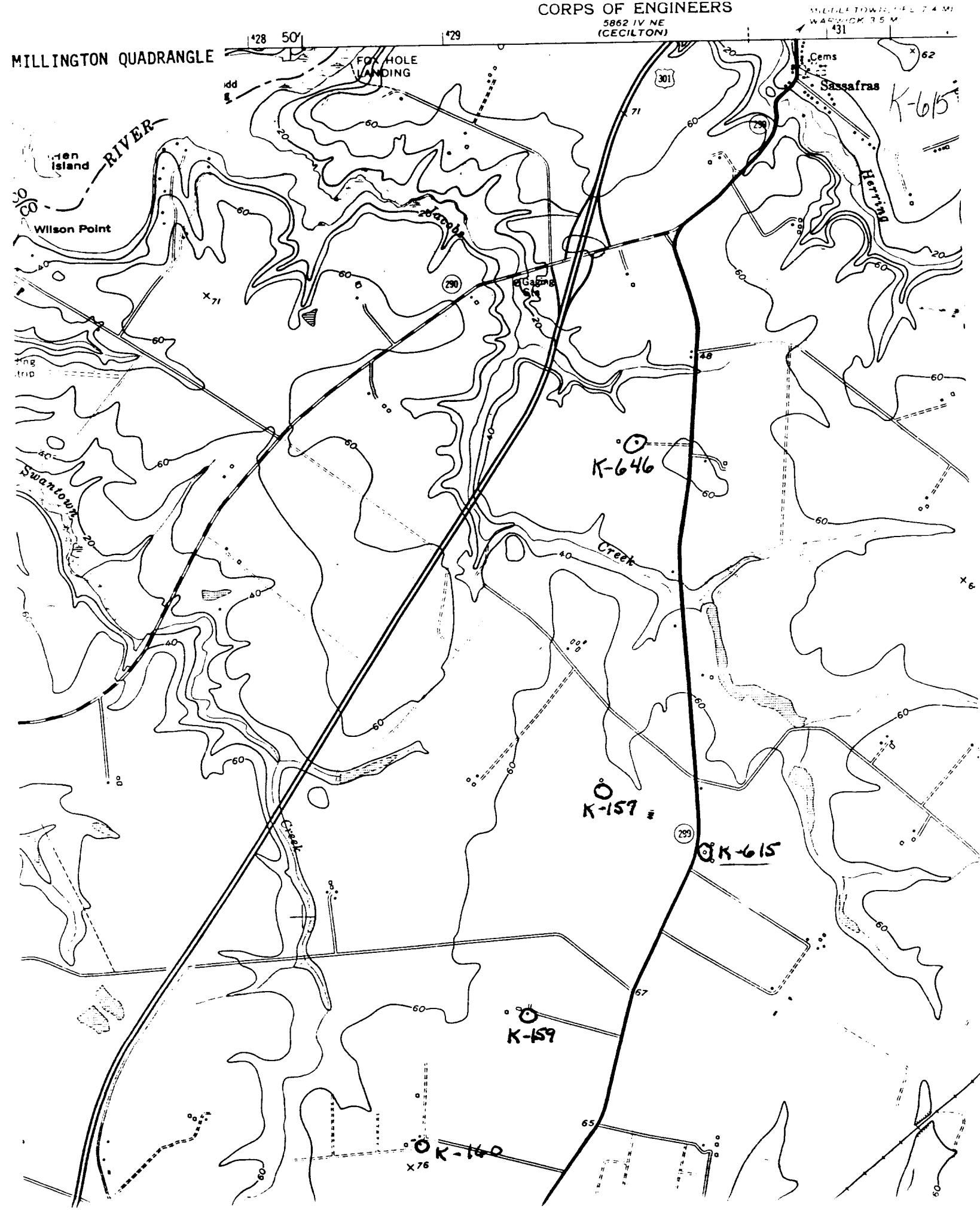
wing dormers's rafters are square cut and overhang the dormer walls c. 12". These dormers also have pilaster-roof overhang brackets but not as large as the main-section dormers. The pilaster bases are also flared with sawn brackets. In the tympanum there is an applique with scalloped lower edges.

At the main entry there are a large-scale Victorian architrave and ornate double doors. The architrave extends from porch floor to porch ceiling. Overall it is about 66" wide. The doors, now of varnished pine, have one tall vertical panel over the lock rail and two panels of unequal size below. On the interior the panels are recessed and then raised via a small ogee molding. There is applied, bold ogee-and-bevel panel molding. A glass knob is in place on both sides. There are large cst hings with finial and drop that are now painted. There are sidelights on each side with three colored, patterned lights over two panels treated as the door panels. Of the six original lights, five remain; one is a clear replacement. The ground is orange, and the design that appears painted is curvilinear but symmetrical in gold and frosted white. The orange is translucent. The transom is five-light. The two outside lights are smaller and plainly frosted. The three center ones that are large have an etched, symmetric floral pattern. On the exterior the doors are treated differently. There are large, compound bolection panel moldings with recessed-bullseye corner blocks. The smallest, center panel is plainly recessed, but the larger, lower one has an applied panel that is raised and beveled to the center. The largest, top panel receives the most attention. There a central round applique with a floret pattern is in the center, with the applied raised panels above and below. At the central floret the panel molding is curved around it. The trim has a 2-1/8" inside fillet and 2-1/4" compound backband. The main entry was one ordered from a millwork catalogue and probably represented a considerable expense.

The first storey windows of the main facade are double-hung and unusually tall, almost floor to ceiling. They have 4-over-6 lights. They can be raised for passage from house to front porch. At the rear of the south room (parlor) there are tall 4-over-4 windows, not as tall as the 4-over-6 facade ones, however. The second storey windows are shorter 4-over-4s.

On the interior, the main stair is continuous in an open stair hall to the third storey. The stair is dogleg with handsome Victorian catalogue parts. There is only the starting newel; the rail is continuous to the end of the run. It has a large tapered, octagonal main shaft on a square base; there is a large, round newel cap.

Mantels are Victorian catalogue mantels, with the two main-section first-storey ones the most impressive. Though molded and sectioned in the manner of the marbelized slate mantels of the period, the white south mantel may actually be marble. The two rooms also have notable plaster central ceiling medallions.


CORPS OF ENGINEERS
5862 IV NE
(CECILTON)
MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE
FOX HOLE LANDING
Cems
Sassafras
K-615
RIVER
Island
Wilson Point
Herring
Swantown
Creek
K-646
K-159
K-615
K-159
K-160

K-615
Boxwood Place
Rt. 299, near Massey
M. Q. Fallaw - 5/17/86
View to northeast

K-615 - 11

K-615
Boxwood Place
Rt. 299, near Massey
M. Q. Fallaw - 5/17/86
View to southeast

K-615.5