

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Federal Hill Farm Inventory Number: K-632

Address: 32762 Galena Sassafras Road City: Galena Zip Code: 21635

County: Kent USGS Topographic Map: Millington

Owner: James F. Hurtt

Tax Parcel Number: 5 Tax Map Number: 08 Tax Account ID Number: 008277

Project: American Towers-Galena Site Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? no yes Name of district: _____

Is district listed? no yes Determined eligible? no yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP form completed by Margaret Q. Fallaw (1986)

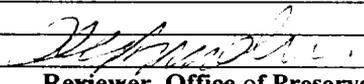
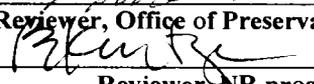
Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Federal Hill Farm is a farmstead comprised of a 2 1/2-story frame Gothic Revival house, barn with a silo, stable/garage, windmill, and other outbuildings located north of MD Route 290. According to the owner, the house was built in 1883. The farm continues to operate as a working agricultural enterprise.

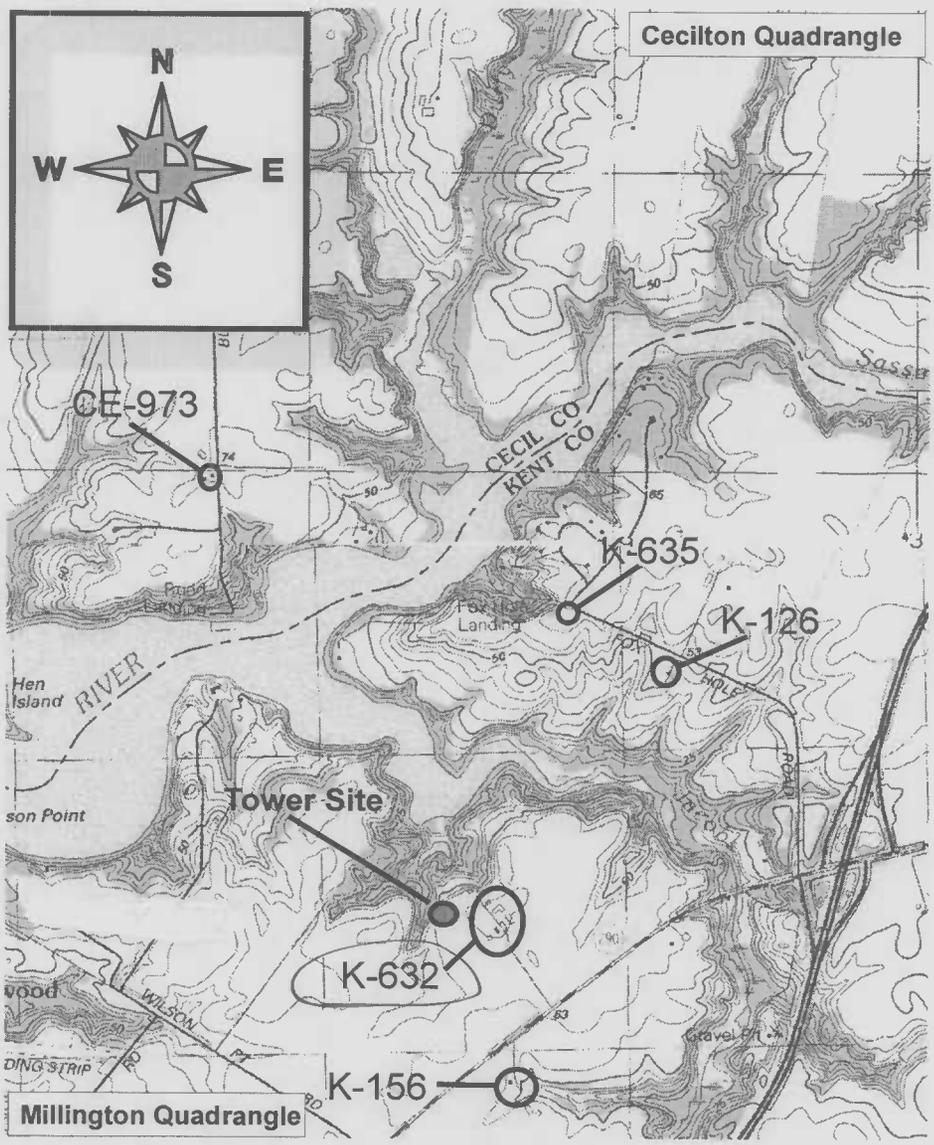
The property remains as it was described and photographed by Fallaw and reported in the 1986 MIHP form. The property is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of its architectural integrity (house, barn, outbuildings) and its historic plan. The property appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an outstanding example of a late nineteenth century farmstead with a Gothic Revival style house.

Prepared by: David S. Rotenstein

Date Prepared: November 2000

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <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 <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>Jan 10, 2001</u> Date
 Reviewer, NR program	<u>2/7/01</u> Date

K-632





K-632

Federal Hill Farm

32762 Galena Sassafras Road

Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rotenstein

Photo Date: November, 2000

Negative: MDSHPD

Subject: House, view to the North

Photo: 1/8



K-632

Federal Hill Farm

32762 Galena Sassafras Road

Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rotenstein

Photo Date: November, 2000

Negative: MD SHPO

Subject: House, side and rear
ell addition, view to the
NW

Photo: 2/8



K-632
Federal Hill Farm
32762 Galena Sassafras Rd.
Kent Co., MD

Photographer : David S. Rotenstein

Photo Date : November, 2000

Negative : MDSNPO

Subject : Concrete Block outbuilding,
in outbuilding complex, barn
in background; view to the
North

Photo : 3/8



K-632
Federal Hill Farm
32762 Calena Sassafras Rd.
Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rotenstein
Photo Date: November, 2000
Negative: MDSHP0

Subject: Barn, silo and windmill;
view to the east

Photo: 4/8



K-632
Federal Hill Farm
32762 Galena Sassafras Road
Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rostenstein

Photo Date: November, 2000

Negative: MDSHPO

Subject: Barn and equipment
Shed (background) and
Concrete Block building (fore),
view to the North

Photo: 5/8



K. 632
Federal Hill Farm
32762 Galena Sassafras Road
Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S Rotenstein

Photo Date: November, 2000

Negative: MDSHPO

Subject: Enclosed rear yard,
view to the South

Photo: 7/8



K-632
Federal Hill Farm
32762 Galena Sassafras Road
Kent Co, MD

Photographer: David S. Rotenstein
Photo Date: November, 2000
Negative: MDSHPO
Subject: Garage and equipment
Storage building; view to
the NE

Photo: 6/8



K-632
Federal Hill Farm
32762 Galena Sassafras Road
Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rotenstein

Photo Date: November, 2000

Negative: MDS HPO

Subject: View of Farmstead from
drive, view to the North

Photo - 8/8

K-632

Circa 1880

Federal Hill Farm

Near Sassafras

Private

In a number of ways the house at Federal Hill Farm, located southwest of Sassafras, is typical of the large, frame, five-bay-wide, 2-1/2 storey Victorian Gothic Revival farmhouses with central gable built in all parts of Kent County during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. This sort of house was the most common style and form for houses built by the county's most prosperous farmers, who very likely were enabled to do so through the bumper peach and pear crops harvested and sold during this period. Much of this farm, like seemingly every other farm along the Sassafras River, was planted in orchards during the period when these houses were built. Stylistically, this house is especially notable for the fine, almost lacy front-porch trim that arched between the posts, with a center drop. The farm is also notable for several of its outbuildings. There is an unusually long barn, measuring about 122 feet, that may have been built in several stages but is essentially a bank barn more often seen in Pennsylvania and Cecil County. Fewer and fewer of these large old barns survive as with modern farm operations there is little use for them. Near the house there is a large planked meathouse, and farther back on the property is a small, moved one-room-with-loft structure that if not a slave cabin was the dwelling of free farm help. It is strikingly similar to Charley's House (K-322), a dwelling that was moved from the extension of Court Street in Chestertown to the Kent Museum property at Turner's Creek. Most of these small dwellings, probably housing a considerable number of people all over the county, have been lost, whereas the bigger, finer houses survive out of proportion to their numbers initially. The big main house and the small dwelling provide an interesting study in contrasts.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Federal Hill Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Northwest side Rt. 290, 1.7 miles southeast of
Sassafras ___ not for publication

city, town Sassafras 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. & Mrs. James F. Hurtt Jr.

street & number Federal Hill Farm telephone no.: 648-5142

city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 71

street & number Cross Street folio 741

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-632

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Federal Hill Farm is located on the northwest side of Route 290, the Galena-Sassafras road, about 1-1/2 miles southwest of the village of Sassafras. The frame farmhouse, facing southeast, has a large, five-bay-wide, 2-1/2 storey, gable-roofed main section with a central gable and a dormer on each side. The rear, perpendicular wing, two storeys tall, is set in several feet from the northeast end of the main section. It has a porch on each side. The main section plan is central-hall with one room on each side. In this circa 1880 vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival farmhouse there is unusually good access from main section family living room to the rear wing. Evidence in the cellar indicates that under at least this portion the foundation is not a new one but re-used from a former building. There are several notable nineteenth-century farm outbuildings on the farm.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-632

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1880 **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.

In a number of ways the house at Federal Hill Farm is typical of the large, frame, five-bay-wide, 2-1/2 storey Victorian Gothic Revival farmhouses with central gable built in all parts of Kent County during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. This sort of house was the most common style and form for houses built by the county's most prosperous farmers, who very likely were enabled to do so through the bumper peach and pear crops harvested and sold during this period. Much of this farm, like seemingly every other farm along the Sassafra River, was planted in orchards during the period when these houses were built. Stylistically, this house is especially notable for the fine, almost lacy front-porch trim that arches between the posts, with a center drop. The farm is also notable for several of its **outbuildings**. There is an unusually long barn, measuring about 122 feet, that may have been built in several stages but is essentially a bank barn more often seen in Pennsylvania and Cecil County. Near the house there is a large planked meathouse, and farther back on the property is a small one-room-with-loft structure that if not a slave cabin was the dwelling of free farm help. It is strikingly similar to Charley's House (K-322), a dwelling that was moved from the extension of Court Street in Chestertown to the Kent Museum property at Turner's Creek. Most of these small dwellings, probably housing a considerable number of people all over the county, have been lost, whereas the bigger, finer houses survive out of proportion to their numbers initially. The big main house and the small dwelling provide an interesting study in contrasts.

(Continued)

The main section of Federal Hill's house is about 40 feet wide and 18 feet deep. The lower, two-storey section measures about 20 feet wide and 40 feet deep, in actuality, then, the larger part of the house. Attached to the rear gable-end of the wing is a one-storey, one-bay deep porch that is now enclosed; it has a shed roof.

The exterior walls of both sections are covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard with 4-1/2" to 5" exposure. There are double cornerboards of about 4" wide. Most of the weatherboard on the long sides of the wing's first storey has been replaced. The enclosed porch is sided with German shiplap siding, applied during the 1940s. The weatherboard is continuous from the main wall up into the central gable. In the center of the gable is a double-hung 2-over-2 window with triangularly-pointed upper sash. Its trim is plain and wide.

The main section is built over a crawl space; the foundation is built of brick and has been parged. The foundation of the wing is stone. Under the first wing room, the dining room, is a cellar, which tapers off into a crawl space toward the rear of the wing. The foundation and some sills appear to have been used for a previous building, one whose axis may have been the other direction from that of the present wing. There is an indication of a previous chimney base in the area under the entry in the southeast side of the dining room. Most of the stone appears to have been re-used in the new foundation. An old man, who worked on the farm before the new house was built, told the present owner's father that there was indeed a building in the location of the dining room and that it extended out to the northeast, beyond the present wing porch there.

There are four chimneys, as is most usual with this type of house. One is located at each side outside the central hall, within the side rooms. This moving from the formerly traditional gable-end chimney location that was typical of the later of this type of house freed the gable end for decorative treatment and addition of windows for additional light. Accordingly, a three-part, one-storey bay is in the northeast end of the main section, and on the other end there is a centered window on each storey. The chimneys located near the center of the house probably were more efficient as well. They rise through the roof ridge at each side of the central gable. These chimneys are built of quite bright-red brick. They have a two-course band just below chimney-top. The other two chimneys are wing chimneys, one at the rear dining room wall and one at the rear gable-end of the wing, for the kitchen. They rise through the roof ridge. The dining room chimney has a four-course cap and the kitchen chimney three courses of corbelling, out and in.

The roofs are covered with metal roofing, both standing-seam type and corrugated, dating from the 1950s. They replaced wood shingles.

The main entry is in the central bay of the main section's southeast side. The architrave is wide and tall, 5'-9" wide by 9'-0" tall at the center, including the sill. The architrave is quite simple in comparison to some
(continued)

others in similar houses. The trim is 5" wide and plain except for a 9/16" inside bead. The sill is wood. There are double wooden screen doors that appear original or very early; each has one panel over two. There is a three-light transom, over which the head trim is slightly pedimented. The double main doors are typical catalogue doors of the period, with bold bolection molding around the panels that is 2-1/4" wide, with 2-3/8" square corner blocks having incised concentric circles (bullseyes). Each door has a large, vertical top panel, a small, horizontal central panel, and a lower almost square panel. The panels are recessed and slightly raised with applied panel molding and the bolection molding besides. In the center of each panel is an applied raised and beveled panel framed with compound symmetrical trim. The hinges are decorative Victorian cast hinges. The original operating hardware is in place, of embossed, cast brass--knobs and keyhole with escutcheon. There is a box lock.

Main-section windows are double-hung with 2-over-2 lights. Second-storey windows are shorter than those of the first storey. They are trimmed in the same manner as the main entry, including the pedimented head trim. Muntins are wide, and the sills are double. The first-storey shutters have a top section of movable louvers and a lower section of a plain recessed panel with ogee-and-bevel panel molding. Second-storey shutters are entirely with movable louvers. On the west end window the shutters have 1-over-1 panels.

One wonders about any possible connection of the name Federal Hill Farm with the Federal Hill area of Baltimore. However, the name is an old one. The farm was designated by that name in an 1834 deed conveying the property from John L. Wilmer and William D. Wilmer, both of Kent County, to Ebenezer Welch of Kent County. (Kent County Land Records, JNG/350) The present house, of course, was not there at this time, though the one whose fragment now appears to be under the dining room may have been. The selling price was \$1,477.50, or at least the amount mentioned in the deed. Since Thomas Jacobs was yet to become owner of this farm, the creek that borders the farm on the northeast naturally was not yet known by his name. It was called Herring Creek, evidently because at that time the herring still came up the Sassafras that far during the spawning season. The size of the farm was 246+ acres.

Ebenezer Welch, who was a vestryman of St. Clement's Church and a part owner of the Swantown Mill to the west on Route 290 as well as a farmer, owned the property until his death, which probably was soon after writing his will dated January 29, 1858, for in it he says he is "weak in body." Besides making provisions for freeing his slaves and providing them with land, he left the farm to his nephew Thomas A. Jacobs, though an income was to be provided his wife from the farm if her stated income from other sources was insufficient. Some of his other bequests were also charged against the farm. Jacobs evidently got the farm subject to a number of financial commitments. In the early 1880s he built the present house, but by 1896 he was on his way to losing the farm because he was unable to pay his creditors. It was first assigned to Charles T. Westcott and John D. Urie in trust. They were authorized to sell to convert as much of his property as possible into cash. The trustees sold the farm at public sale to Andrew Woodall of Georgetown, the shipping, grain and lumber entrepreneur who seemed to collect Kent and Cecil County farms as investments, owning over 30 by the time of his death in 1906. Woodall paid \$7,7750 for the farm, still 246 acres. The farm is still in the Woodall family. After his death in 1906, the present owner's grandmother Emily A. Woodall, wife of James F. M. Woodall (a Woodall had married a Woodall), inherited this farm along with others after the division of Andrew Woodall's estate into six portions. After her death, it passed to her two heirs, and then to the sons of one of them, one of whom was the father of the present owner.



K-632

Federal Hill Farm

Rt. 290, near Sassafras

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/20/86

View to northwest

K-632-20



K-632

Federal Hill Farm

Rt. 290, near Sassafras

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/19/86

View to southeast

K-632-11