

K-641

Russell Farm/Free Gift/Cummins Farm
Near Galena
c. 1820

Richard Holding purchased 210 acres of Free Gift from the heirs of George W. Forrester in 1813.¹ He is listed on the 1822 Tax Assessment owning the same parcel, which is valued at \$860.00. Whether the existing house was built before or after 1822 is questionable. It was, however, built before Holding's death in the early 1840's. Holding's daughter and son-in-law purchased it from the estate and sold it in 1849 to John H. Cummins.² Thereafter it is referred to as the Cummins Farm.

The Federal style house which Holding constructed is a two-story, frame structure, three bays wide and two bays deep (23' x 30'). It has a side passage or townhouse plan, with two parlors on the east. Connected to these, the kitchen wing was later replaced by the Cummins family. It is said that the kitchen wing was one room longer than the existing two-room, two-story structure.

Holding's house has an open-string stair with delicately turned newels and intermediates and three rectangular balusters per step, beneath which there is beaded panel spandrel. The mantels in both parlors are identical. In form and plan the Russell Farm is similar to two other houses which stood near Millington, one on the Chesterville-Millington Road and the other at Unicorn in Queen Anne's County.

In the 1877 Atlas, the Russell Farm is owned by J. G. Black.

1. Land Records, Lib. BC 7, fol. 432.
2. Land Records, Lib. JNG 12, fol. 133.

K-641

Circa 1810-1840

Russell Farm

Near Galena

Private

The Russell Farm is located on the east side of the Galena-Chesterville road, about two miles south of Galena, near what came to be called Lambson's Station after the Kent County Railroad built a station at its intersection with the road. The Lambson-Millington Forest road borders the farm on the southwest. The house's two sections are frame. The earlier, two-storey, main section, built in a late Federal style perhaps as early as 1810 or as late as 1840, has a side-hall plan two rooms deep. This gable-roofed section is deeper than it is wide. The main facade faces south. On the east end, there is a shallower kitchen wing with lower-pitched gable roof that has had a room removed from its east end. Appearing to date from about the middle of the nineteenth century, it is about half the depth of the main section and has a porch along its entire south wall. The wing rear wall is continuous with that of the main section. There are two tall chimneys in the east end of the main section, each serving fireplaces on both storeys. There is a handsome Federal stair to the third level (though it is now closed off) and especially handsome first-storey mantels, which are identical. They are similar to those seen at Lambson Farm (K-187) and at Timber Level Farm (K-598), which has a building date of 1837. The side-hall plan, with one front and one rear room adjacent to the hall, is very unusual for a Kent County farmhouse. It is really a townhouse plan, for a narrow lot. The only other upper-county house in which this plan is seen is in Georgetown, at Duckhollow (K-117), built of brick in the 1780s by a person with probable Philadelphia connections, and in a town-like location, though there, too, there is a side wing, hardly a space saver. In fact, this plan virtually duplicates that of Duckhollow, including the location of the wing door and the rear room's cupboard. The hall extends the depth of the Russell farmhouse on the first story and is generously wide, devotion of an unusual amount of space for a farmhouse to a formal, little used area.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Russell Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 290, .1 mile north of Lambson-Millington
Forest Rd., 2 miles south of Galena 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 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 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. Howard Lee Russell, Jr.

street & number telephone no.: 648-5288

city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber WHG 38

street & number Cross Street folio 12

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-641

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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.

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(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-641

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

Specific dates Circa 1820-1840 **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 side-hall plan, with one front and one rear room adjacent to the hall, is very unusual for a Kent County farmhouse. It is really a townhouse plan, for a narrow lot. The only other house in which this plan is seen in the upper county is in Georgetown, at Duckhollow (K-117), built of brick in the 1780s by a person with probable Philadelphia connections, and in a town-like location, though there, too, there is a side wing, hardly a space saver. In fact, this plan virtually duplicates that of Duckhollow, including the location of the wing door and the rear room's cupboard. The hall extends the depth of the Russell farmhouse on the first story and is generously wide, devotion of an unusual amount of space for a farmhouse to a formal, little used area. Though the original main section was small (but presumably with a wing or separate kitchen earlier than the present wing), it was nicely appointed with the kind of details that might more likely be seen in a larger, grander house. The stair, the mantels, and the doors are all handsome.

The main section is about 23 feet wide and 30 feet deep. The south, main facade is three bays wide on both storeys, with openings evenly spaced and aligned from first storey to second. The rear is also three bays wide, though in the west bay there is only a single window between storeys, for the stair landing. In the west gable end there is a centered pair of attic windows, and one off-center window below to light the hall. The off-center door to the west end porch at the foot of the stair is an addition. The east gable has one window, in the south bay. The one that was in the north bay has been removed. The wing is 26 feet wide by 16 feet deep. It is four bays wide on the south side and two in the rear. There are no openings on the east end. The cellar is under this section of the house, entered through the south wing porch floor, and there is some evidence that a previous building or wing was once in that location.

The foundation of the main section is field stone. The foundation of the wing is partially parged. It is of brick, but irregularly laid in places and repaired. At the entry to the cellar there is some Port Deposit granite, but this does not seem to have been used throughout. Field stone may be in the lower part of the brick walls. There is too much whitewashing and repair work to be certain of the kind of stone.

There are two tall main section chimneys, within the east end wall and centered within each bay. They are necessarily tall to be able to prevent downdrafts from blowing over the ridge and into the chimneys. They are parged, with a two-course cap. The wing chimney is through the ridge not quite at the east gable-end wall, between the first and second bays from the east. There is a three-course corbelled cap. There are now two metal flues in place with hoods or baffles. The room below which this chimney served is now the kitchen, though it may once have been a dining room if there was once a room farther to the east, which might have been a kitchen.

The east end of the main section is covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard with an exposure of about 5-1/2". In the attic old beveled weatherboard was seen under this. The other three exterior walls of the main section are covered with asbestos cement shingles applied over the weatherboard. There are now no cornerboards. The wing is covered with asbestos shingles everywhere except on the main, south facade.

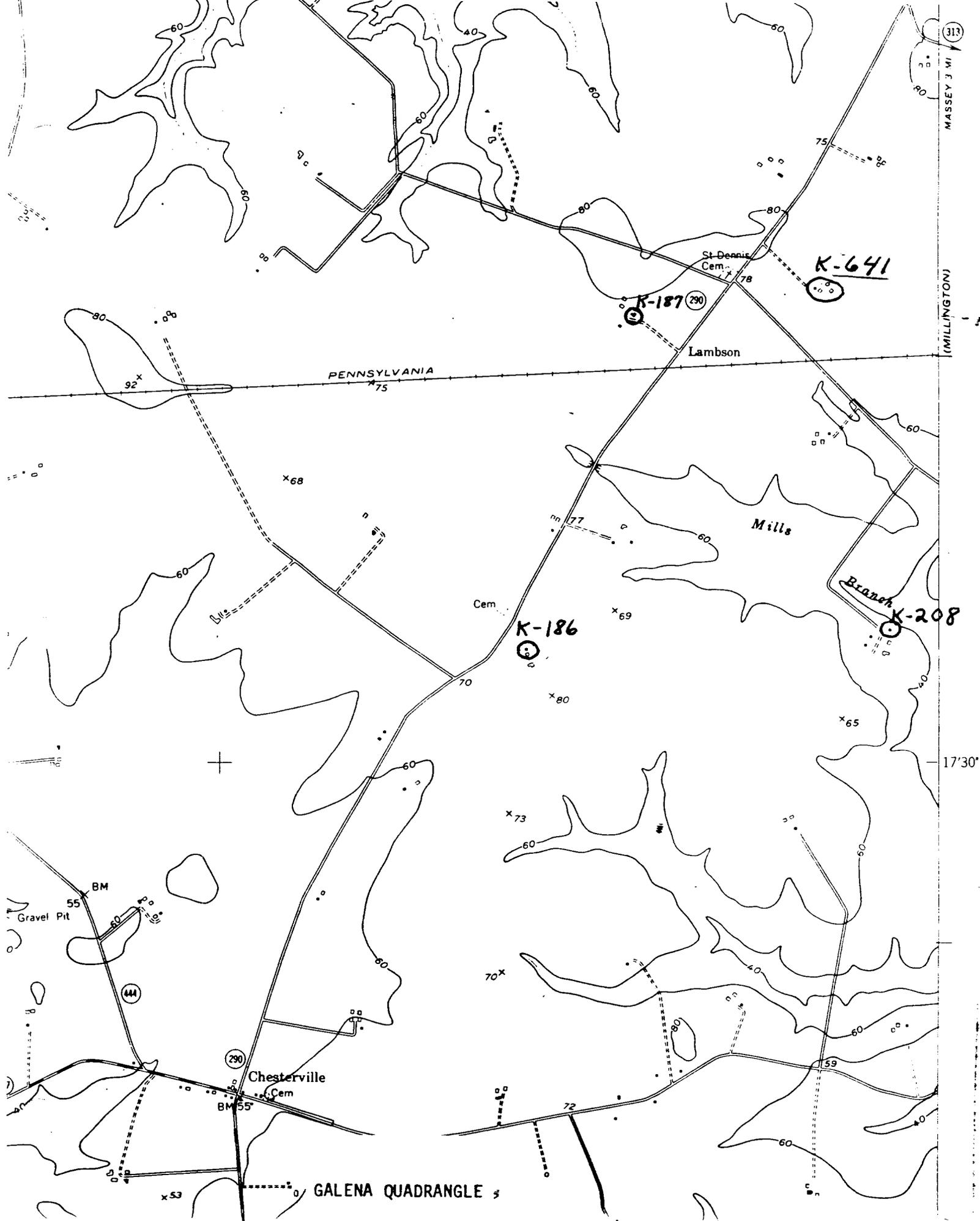
Asphalt shingles over wood shingles cover the roofs. The main section has flush verge boards. Some that is tapered and with lower edge beaded remains on the east end and is entirely present on the west end. There is a small box cornice, with overhang of about 8". On the south side the crown and bed have been replaced or covered, but early material may still be present on the north, though it is an unusual crown material. It is symmetrical, with upper and lower coves and two large beads with a point in between. The bed molding is a cove above a cyma reversa. The wing cornice is plain and boxed. On the south there is a bed of a cyma reversa with fillets. The overhang of the eaves is about 12". At the east end there are flush verge boards. These are probably all new materials applied after re-siding.

(continued)

The main section windows are double hung with 6-over-6 lights except for one rear 2-over-2 replacement. Wooden 2-light storm windows are in place. The attic windows (3) are double-hung with 2-over-4 lights. Second storey windows appear shorter than those of the first storey. Some of the trim has been replaced, but the oldest trim appears to have an ovolo-with-fillet backband. The architrave of first storey windows is about 37" x 64". The shutters have been removed, but pintles remain. The wing windows are double-hung and casement, the latter being replaced kitchen windows on the south side. The wing 6-over-6 windows are taller than the main-section windows. Most are covered with mill aluminum storms-screens. The south windows have narrow beaded trim. Wing shutters are also gone, but hinges remain.

The main entry is in the west bay of the south, approach side. There is a five-light transom. The original trim appears to be in place, 4-1/4" wide split-face with an inside bead and a backband. The door appears later; it has two vertical panels.

The stair rises to the north on the hall west wall. It is open string. The spandrel is panelled, with ten panels that are recessed and slightly raised, with a double-bead panel molding, as used on the house doors, but smaller. There are three balusters per painted tread. A cove molding is applied as a tread bed. There are simple lattice step-end brackets. The balusters are about 1-1/8" x 7/8", though they appear somewhat variable while still being original appearing. The newel is slender and turned, with the main shaft entasized, on a 3-1/4" square, plain base. There are simple turnings at upper and lower main shaft ends. The rail is nearly round, about 2-1/4" to 2-3/8". It is continuous to the end of the stair on the third level, rising over intermediates that are the same as the starting newel; the rail "goose necks" at each of these. It appears that the house was built with the intention of finishing the third level, but it has never been done. For mantels, see photos.



313

(MILLINGTON)

17°30'

MASSEY J MI

PENNSYLVANIA

Lambson

Mills

Branch

Chesterville
Cem

St Dennis
Cem

Gravel Pit

GALENA QUADRANGLE

K-641

K-187

K-186

K-208

Bl

x68

x77

x69

x80

x65

x73

70x

72

59

BM 55

BM

444

290

290

92x

x53

75

78

70

60

40

60

60

60

80

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K-641

Russell Farm

Rt. 290, near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/12/86

View to northwest

K-641 - 2

Cummins

Farm

~~WESTLAND HISTORICAL TRUST~~

~~R-381~~

~~Rote~~ Acres

~~C. 1870~~



K-641

Russell Farm

Rt. 290, near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/12/86

View to southeast

K-641-5

CUMMINS FEDERAL TRUST
LIBRARY

K-641 Cummins Farm C.1830