

K-650

Circa 1810-1840

Old House at Circle Acres

Near Millington'

Private

The now-vacant, altered and deteriorated three-part frame house at the end of a long lane from the east side of Peacock Corners-#10 School Road is located behind a 1960s brick one-storey house. The front, two-storey, main section was built circa 1955 to accommodate a tenant family with many children. Perpendicular to it at its rear is a middle section that appears to date from quite early in the nineteenth century. It is a true 1-1/2 storey building in height, with two dormers in each slope of its gable roof. The style is vernacular late Federal. At its east end is a true 1-1/2 storey kitchen wing that dates from later in the nineteenth century. From its second storey beaded siding of the original main section can be seen and also "ghosts" from a previous lower gable-roofed end wing, probably also a kitchen. The old middle section has a side-hall plan, but the room above the hall is wider than the hall. A true 1-1/2 storey house that dates from fairly early in the nineteenth century is quite unusual, particularly one with dormers. This height building is more commonly seen later in the century, generally for a kitchen and to house farm workers on the upper storey. Some unusual joinery can be seen that is related to the use of this form, some similar to that of the planked-log house at Cypress Farm (K-630) nearby. The old middle section was is not a very sophisticated building, but for the relatively unproductive area it was located in, it probably was considered one of the finer houses of its time. The farm seems to have been tenanted for long periods historically, which perhaps helps account for the house's decline, though its lack of a proper foundation and/or footings probably caused early problems.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Old house at Circle Acres

2. Location

street & number Southeast side Peacock Corners-White Stone Rd., 1.6 miles northeast
of Rt. 291, east of Millington not for publication

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

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

name Mr. & Mrs. Jerome C. Pouska

street & number R. D. 1 Box 226 telephone no.: 928-3810

city, town Millington state and zip code Maryland 21651

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 18

street & number Cross Street folio 475

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-650

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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.

The old, now-vacant and deteriorated frame house at the end of a long lane on the east side of Peacock Corners-#10 School Road is located behind a 1960s brick "ranch" house. The front, two-story, main section that faces west was built about 1955 to accommodate a tenant family with many children. Perpendicular to the main section at its rear is a middle section, its main approach side facing south; is the oldest. It is a true 1-1/2 story dwelling with dormers appearing to date from about 1810 to 1840 (probably the latterpart of that period), though it is difficult to date because of alterations and removals and sometimes seemingly conflicting evidence. Its style appears to be vernacular Federal. Three bays wide on the south side and two in the rear, it has a side-hall plan although there is a slight possibility that the plan originally was hall-and-parlor. There are two dormers in each of the roof slopes. The easternmost kitchen section, added to the east gable-end of the earlier middle section, appears to date from the middle to late nineteenth century. It too is 1-1/2 story tall but without dormers. Its south wall is continuous with that of the middle section, and the south roof slope is nearly so, but its north wall is inset, with a shed-roofed porch protruding from the recess. "Ghosts" on the weatherboard of the east end of the middle section indicate that there was an earlier, lower (by about four feet) wing that preceded the present easternmost section. Unusual and interesting framing details are visible in some portions of the oldest section. The oldest section apparently suffered even in its youth from inadequate foundation/footing support, resulting in subsidence, racking, and alterations.

(Continued)

8. Significance

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 1810-1840 **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.

Though altered and deteriorated, the middle section of the old house at Circle Acres is quite unusual for being a true 1-1/2 story main house. These were usually constructed later in the nineteenth century for kitchen wings that housed farm workers on the second story. There is some unusual joinery related to its being in this form, probably the result of local carpenter ingenuity. The middle section was not a very sophisticated building, but for the relatively unproductive agricultural area it was located in, it probably was considered one of the finer houses of its time. The farm seems to have been tenanted for a long period of time, which perhaps accounts for the house's decline, though its lack of a proper foundation and/or footings may have been a problem from almost the beginning.

The 1860 Martent's map of Kent County seems to show the property as belonging to a T. F. of J. F. Smith. Another nearby property was also owned by J. F. Smith, and there were numerous other Smiths in the area. The 1877 atlas map shows this to be the residence of a Mrs. Smith, while T. J. F. Smith is shown as owning a nearby farm that is reached from the Millington-Delaware line road (Route 291).

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has been buying farms in this border area for a number of years, for its Millington Wildlife Demonstration Area. It now owns the area to the north of this farm and to the east of it. Much of the border area is wooded; it traditionally has been part of the Maryland-Delaware Forest. It is not known when fields were first cleared from the woods for farming, but this has evidently always been a marginal area of farming.

The middle section measures about 26 feet along its axis and is about 19-1/2 feet deep. The east-end section is about 14-1/2 feet wide by 16 feet deep.

There are several layers of wall cladding on the exterior of the old, middle section. The earliest was horizontal, lapped weatherboard with lower edges beaded (1/4") and an exposure of 5-1/2" to 6-1/4", seen on the second storey east wall from the kitchen wing. It is here that there are marks indicating the presence of a former, lower gable-roofed wing, probably an earlier kitchen. On the north side a section of what may be replacement horizontal, lapped weatherboard can be seen, without beading, though the exposure is only about 4-1/2". Next is red asphalted composition material imitating brick. The outermost layer is asbestos shingles, probably applied when the 1955 main section was built with that covering also. The eastern wing is covered with plain, lapped weatherboard, some of it replacement. What appears to be the original weatherboard is fastened with cut nails and has about a 6" exposure.

The entire house is built over a crawl space, but it is difficult to ascertain the nature of the foundation--whether it was built on piers or with a continuous foundation. The eastern, kitchen wing now is supported by concrete-block piers and some sills have been replaced, but there are some nearby large stones that lead to the conclusion that it may once have been supported by them. The old middle section's frame is very close to the ground, several sills even appearing now to be at ground level. Peering through an opening on the north side near the north end of the hall reveals that the present level of the first-storey flooring is quite a bit higher than it was originally. A second set of floor joists has been laid above the original floor, above the level of the original beaded baseboard that was left in place. The original flooring appears to be medium-width, random tongue-and-groove boards. Above the second floor sleepers were laid and a third layer of flooring added. Subsidence may have been the problem. It is even more severe with the chimney. On the second storey there also have been floor changes in some areas, both with the joists and the flooring material. The floor in the east room is buckled and twisted.

There is only one deteriorated chimney for the middle and eastern sections. It is in the center within the eastern wall of the middle section, and the kitchen stove of the kitchen was vented into it. The chimney is built of varigated brick but mostly dark-red bricks but with some dark headers. There are fragments of what appears to have been a two-course cap. The present owner of the farm states that he found evidence on the property of a former brickmaking operation. If the middle section ever had a hall-and-parlor plan, either the western rooms were unheated or a western chimney has been removed.

The gable roofs of the old sections are now covered with corrugated metal. The earlier roofing material has been removed.

The main entry for the middle section is in the west bay of the south
(continued)

side. There are no original materials there because of the floor alterations and the multiple layers of wall covering. The entry is into a hall with access to both the 1955 main section and the large first-storey room of the middle section. On the second storey the middle section's partition wall is not directly above the hall wall below. While not equal in size, the area into which the stair rises on the second storey is larger than the hall below. The rear, north hall door has been removed and a bathroom installed there. There is a new, small bathroom window in the former door location. A remnant of old door trim remains with a large corner bead that is more like a cyma on the face (13/16"), with an outside 2-1/4" fillet against which the weatherboard is butted. Evidently, at the time that enclosure was made, the original stair was altered, perhaps even entirely rebuilt. It now is quarter-turn with winders at the top of the run. It rises along the hall's west wall, toward the north wall. The original balustrade is gone, but marks in the flooring on the second storey indicate that the balusters may have been rectangular. A new, solid balustrade has been installed.

There is a north entry into the kitchen wing, in the east bay, from the porch. The later door has four lights over two panels; door trim is plain.

The middle-section windows were probably all double-hung with 6-over-6 lights, but only one survives, on the south side in the east bay. The sash opening is about 35" wide x 55" high. The trim was covered or removed on the exterior with the siding changes. The sills are double, with the outer, lower one 2+" thick. The eastern, kitchen wing has two double-hung 3-over-3-light windows on the south side of the second storey but none on the north side, due evidently to the porch roof. The single, strangely-placed window on the first storey of the kitchen wing has no sash, which probably would have been with 6-over-6 lights; it is smaller than the middle-section windows. On the east end of the kitchen wing there is a window on both stories in the south bay. They were double-hung, but the sash are gone. The north, first-storey window of the wing is a short replacement for an earlier window, to allow for a sink there. It has six lights but is hinged, casement-style. There are no shutters now.

There are two gable-roofed dormers in each roof slope of the middle section. On the south side they are directly over the side-bay openings. The north dormers are opposite the south ones but only relate to the old rear, hall opening below. The single north window of the first storey does not relate to any symmetrical plan. It is possible that it is not original and that originally, like the south side, the rear first storey was three bays with the dormers aligned over the side bays. The dormer roofs are of standing-seam metal; the cheeks are of asbestos shingles, and all original surfaces are either gone or covered. The sash is double-hung with 6-over-6 lights; they appear to be replacements.

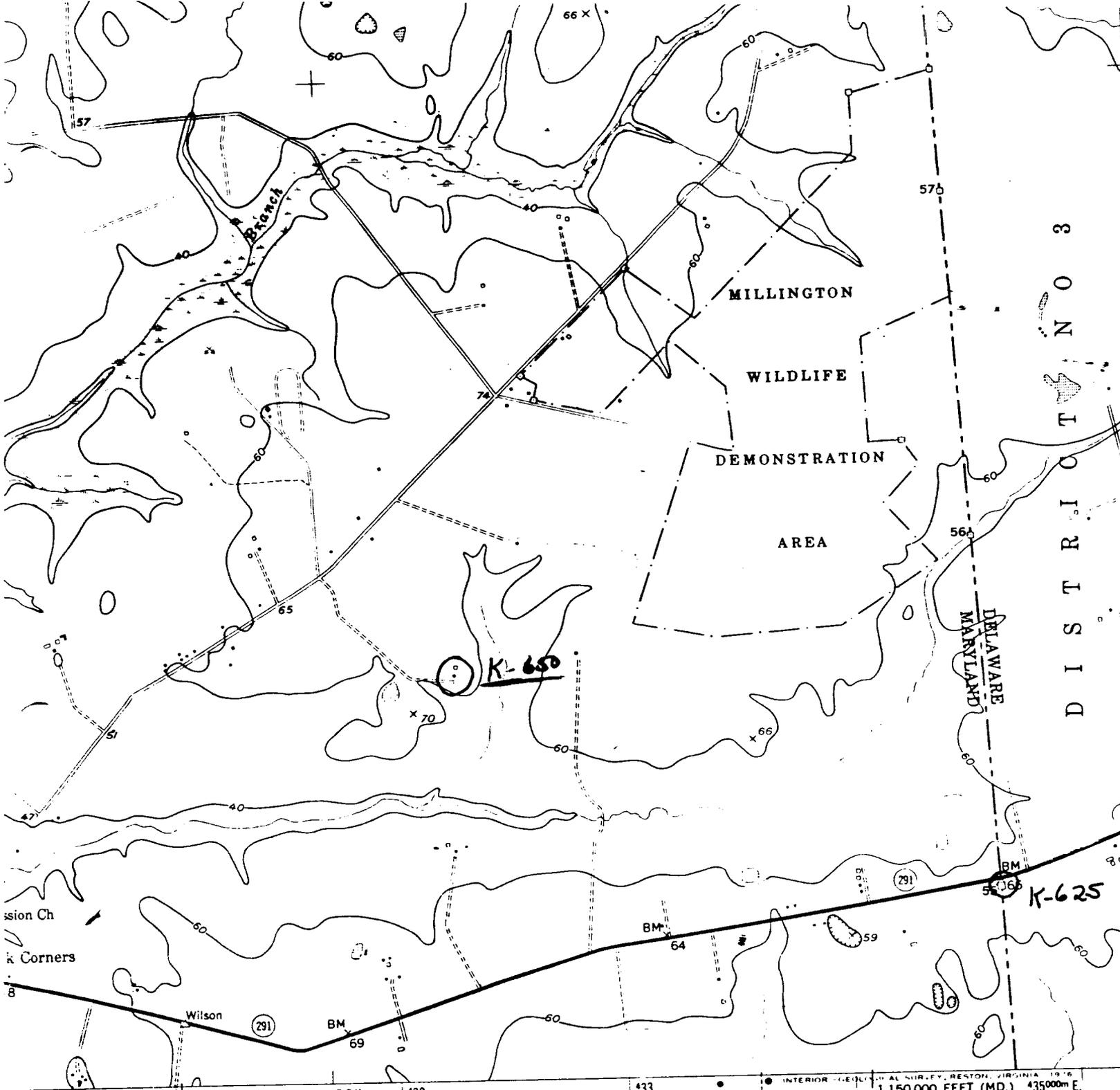
The middle section has a small boxed cornice that was impossible to create in this true 1-1/2 storey house through the usual method of the period--via extension of the ceiling joists of the storey below. The method used appears to resemble that used at the 1-1/2 storey planked-log house at
(continued)

Cypress Farm (K-630) not far away. The rafter ends have been cut to have a semi-birdsmouth, so that a portion rests on the large (4" x 5-1/2") plate but a thin, upper part continues outward over the plate. A block has been nailed to the side of each rafter, protruding slightly below its lower edge with its end abutting the plate, to prevent the rafter's slipping off the plate. It is possible that these are later additions, but they do not appear so. This is a sort of crude adaptation of a shouldered-toe joint. The small soffit would seem to be attached to small lookouts or blocking. A piece of the oldest section's vergeboard seen from the second-storey of the wing is tapered and beaded. The kitchen wing has a smaller, closed cornice.

On the interior the walls are of painted and papered plaster on lath; there is some sheetrock. The kitchen walls are covered with horizontal, shiplapped 7"-exposure boards, later papered. The wall covering has been largely removed from what was originally two rooms above the kitchen. There were divided by a board wall, of which only a remnant remains. There is an enclosed corner stair in the northeast corner of the kitchen; the door is gone. Inside the doorway is a small landing, from which the stair rises in a straight run against the east-end wall. The shiplapped board lines the stairwell. There is an understair closet with door at the south end of the stair enclosure, indicating that there was never a chimney in this section. In this kitchen wing the studs are not continuous from first-storey sill to plate under the roof. There is a sill to carry the second-storey floor joists, to which the half-storey studs are nailed. The joists and sill are held together by a wedge-shaped notch cut in the lower edge of the joists, with part of the outer sill correspondingly cut away. The second-storey floor of the middle section is several steps higher than that of the kitchen wing. The steps at the opening from one section to the other are gone.

Interior doors are gone, and most original trim appears to be. One possibly original door is used to contain several dogs in the hall, turned on edge. It has 2-over-2 plain panels on one side; the other side could not be seen. The lock rail is wide. The trim with 1-1/2" backband of cove with fillet may be original. Mantels remain on first storey and second of the middle section and appear to date from the period of the section. The second storey mantel is tall and narrow, and so is the opening, which is shallow and full of bricks. The bent-down rectangular shelf is 54" from the floor; its width is 37". It has an applied molded edge of a cyma reversa below a fillet, mitered at the corners. The frieze and pilasters are now plain; there are paint ghosts of a former surround backband, which may have been the same as used on the door trim. The frieze is deep (9-1/2"). The first-storey mantel uses the same coved backband material for its surround. This mantel may have been grained originally. The shelf is gone, and there may have been frieze blocks at end and center. The plain pilaster grounds for the coved surround extend to the ceiling on each side. The overmantel area between is plastered. There is an end chimney cupboard with two doors. There is a quite Federal-looking mantel standing on the second-storey against a wall, but its original location or source is not known.

DISTRICT NO 3



INTERIOR GEODETIC SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1976
1:150,000 FEET (MD.) 435,000m E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty 4 LANE 6 LANE Light-duty
- Medium-duty 4 LANE 6 LANE Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route State Route

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE

F. 1929
ATUM OF 1929



MILLINGTON, MD.—DE
SE/4 CECILTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3915—W7545/7.5

ACCURACY STANDARDS
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
SCHEDULES IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1973



K650-2

K-650

Circle Acres

Peacock Corners Road, near Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/26/86

View to north



K650 - 34

K-650

Circle Acres

Peacock Corners Road, near Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/26/86

View to south