### Evergreen (Maxwell's Purchase)

#### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 01-23-2020

Maxwell's Purchase, Evergreen Farm Near Kennedyville c. 1820's

On the east side of the road from Kennedyville to Turner's Creek there is a tract of land called Maxwell's Purchase on which stands a two part brick farmhouse nearly identical in form and fenestration to State's Adventure two miles to the east.

Maxwell's Purchase was assembled by Captain William Maxwell. It came into the possession of John and Rebecca Maxwell and by the time of their deaths in 1829 totaled 900 acres. The house they built was typical of those built by prosperous farmers in Kent County in the late 18th and early 19th century—a culmination of 100 or more years of temporary or inadequate housing and answering to a desire for more efficiency and space.

The Maxwell's house consisted of two parts, both two stories tall, the main part being five bays long and the lower part four. Both facades were laid in Flemish bond of uniform brick, while the other walls were laid in common. Neither water table nor belt course was used, but the lintels above the doors and windows were stetcher-long jack arches.

The interior of Evergreen Farm is extraordinary in its use of walnut and walnut graining and fine corner block trim. Two parlors and a central stairhall comprise the main section. The wing typically contains the kitchen and dining room. One mantel removed from the house in the early 19th century had pairs of colonettes on each leg and an impressive array of fluting and gougework. It was made of walnut, as was the balustrade which

has three slender turned balusters per step and an elliptically molded handrail. Newels and intermediates are also turned as are the drop finials beneath the intermediates. Foliated tracery graces the step ends and landings. Fluted pilasters and a half rail echo the hand rail along the wall of the stair.

Various alterations were made to the house during the late 19th Century, including the installation of new trim in the east room and the chamber above. Dormers were added to the attic around the same period. A usual occurrence in the modernization of old houses, the updating of the kitchen, took place at Evergreen Farm at least two times before the 1970's.

Both John and Rebecca Maxwell died in 1829 and left wills providing for the distribution of their lands and education of their one minor child. The farm was divided into three parts, two going to sons and the third to a grandson, John H. M. Wallis, son of their daughter, Sophia.<sup>1</sup>

By 1850, Emily Wallis had acquired all of the original 900 acres. After 1864, it began to be divided again, the part with the house having been acquired by William Welsh, another prosperous farmer. It remained the property of his descendants until 1971 when it was acquired by the present owners.

1. Wills, Lib. 11, fol. 118.

# EVERGREEN Kennedyville, Maryland (ca 1825)

Evergreen, a simple five-bay, two story brick building with a side wing, is architecturally significant because of its late Federal design. The moldings used in the wing are typical of the kind seen in structures constructed ca 1800-1810 on the Eastern Shore and elsewhere. However, the reeded moldings used on doorways and windows in the major rooms show strong Greek Revival influence particularly in the curvature of the molding profiles and in the use of turned corner blocks. These moldings closely resemble those used in the Mitchell House (K-276) a building in Tolchester, Kent County, Maryland, which was constructed in 1825. Thus, Evergreen House is transitional stylistically and exhibits the evolution of moldings from Federal to Greek Revival. In addition to its outstanding moldings, the building has an elegant stair beautifully designed and carefully made of walnut. The combination of unpainted walnut and walnut grained baseboards, both original finishes, probably typifies the period.

The builders of this house were Rebecca and John Maxwell who owned the nine hundred acre farm, "Maxwell's Purchase", and lived there when they died in 1829.

### INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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STATE Maryland 21645			COUNTY	
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SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		<b>.</b> ₩.NO	MILITARY	OTHER
		<b>X</b> :NO	MILITARY	OTHER
OWNER OF	PROPERTY	<b>X</b> NO	MILITARY	OTHER
_	PROPERTY		<del></del>	
NAME	PROPERTY . George Elmer Koppe		<del></del>	
NAME			MILITARY  Telephone #: 301	
NAME Mr. & Mrs			Telephone #: 301	l-348-5648
NAME Mr. & Mrs STREET & NUMBER BOX 31 CITY. TOWN	. George Elmer Koppe	elman, Jr.	Telephone #: 301	1-348-5648 ip code
NAME Mr. & Mrs STREET & NUMBER BOX 31 CITY TOWN Kennedyvi	. George Elmer Koppe	elman, Jr.	Telephone #: 301	l-348-5648
Mr. & Mrs STREET & NUMBER BOX 31 CITY. TOWN Kennedyvi	. George Elmer Koppe	elman, Jr.	Telephone #: 301  STATE, Z  Maryland	ip code 21645
Mr. & Mrs STREET & NUMBER BOX 31 CITY. TOWN Kennedyvi	. George Elmer Koppe	elman, Jr.	Telephone #: 301  STATE, Z  Maryland  Liber #: E H P	1-348-5648 ip code
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#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_EXCELLENT x\_GOOD

\_DETERIORATED \_\_RUINS

\_\_UNALTERED \*ALTERED

\*ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_FAIR

UNEXPOSED

... MOVED DATE\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Evergreen Farmhouse was one of Kent's finest Federal buildings. A simple, even austere, brick structure on the outside, the interior detailing includes an elegant walnut stair, beautifully proportioned mantles, and fine trim. The stair and second floor of the building is largely intact; the first floor has been considerably altered.

The building consists of two portions; a five-bay, two-and-one-half story main house and a four-bay, two-story side wing. Both portions are one room deep and have gable roofs. There is a basement with windows under the main house and under two bays of the wing.

Both portions of the house were constructed at the same time; the walls are continuous and brick identical throughout. Flemish bond is used on the front (south) facade with 1/5 English bond on the sides and rear. The cornice of both portions is a three-step brick corbel. Bricks are soft orange in color and even in shape. Slightly sprayed flat arches of stretcher are used at window and door openings. There is no water table and no belt course.

The five window bays of the main house, south facade, are evenly spaced with a central entrance into the stair hall. On the north facade, there is a 6/6 window on the stair landing; the former entry door under this window has been bricked in and a small bathroom window installed. Also on this facade there is only one window west of the central entry on both floors.

Fenestration in the four-bay wing is evenly spaced with entry doors on both north and south facades as shown in the floor plans. A modern picture window has been installed in the north facade and a door in the west gable has been replaced by a double window. There are pairs of four-light casements to light

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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	<b>X</b> _ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
<b>∡</b> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION	
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION			
				·-··	
SPECIFIC DATES Ca 1825		BUILDER/ARCHITECT John and Rebecca Maxwell			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is architecturally significant because of its late Federal design. The moldings used in the wing are typical of the kind seen in structures constructed ca 1800-1810 on the Eastern Shore and elsewhere. However, the reeded moldings used on doorways and windows in the major rooms show strong Greek Revival influence particularly in the curvature of the molding profiles and in the use of turned corner blocks. These moldings closely resemble those used in the Mitchell House (K-276) a building in Tolchester, Kent County, Maryland, which was constructed in 1825. Thus , Evergreen House is transitional stylistically and exhibits the evolution of moldings from Federal to Greek Revival.

In addition to its outstanding moldings, the building has an elegant stair beautifully designed and carefully made of walnut. The combination of unpainted walnut and walnut grained baseboards, both original finishes, probably typifies the period.

The builders of this house were probably Rebecca and John Maxwell who owned the nine hundred acre farm, "Maxwell's Purchase", and lived there when they died in 1829. Exactly how and when they acquired the land where the house now stands is unclear, but in 1810 John purchased a parcel of land which was "adjacent to" Maxwell's Purchase, and inherited additional land on the road to Turners Creek from a Captain William Maxwell, of Kent County. Also another John Maxwell (d 1816),

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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11 FORM PREPARED BY	Harry Commencer (1997)				
NAME / TITLE					
Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant ORGANIZATION	DATE				
Kent County Planning Commission	778-4600 ext.67				
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE				
Court House					
CITY OR TOWN	STATE				
Chestertown, Maryland 21620					

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

the attic in each gable.

All original windows have narrow  $l_2^{*''}$  bead frames, flat non-projecting wooden sills, and 6/6 sash windows. Shutter pintels remain in place although the exterior shutters formerly on all windows are gone.

Changes in the roof framing show the dormers of the main house to be additions. Their date is uncertain, but they probably were installed late in the 19th century. They have gable roofs, 6/6 windows with a segmentally arched upper sash, and pilastered dormer faces.

The main entry retains its original six-panel door and handsom sunburst transom light. The jambs of the doorway are paneled and the transom bar is decorated with shallow reeding.

The interior of Evergreen is notable for the extraordinary stair and fine woodwork.

A set of molding profiles has been prepared and will be included in this report.

The stair has three slender turned balusters per step and an eliptical, molded handrail. The newels and intermediates are turned and there are turned finials beneath the intermediates Foliated step brackets are used on steps and landings. There are fluted pilasters opposite the newel and intermediate newels and a shadow rail. All major parts of the stair are natural walnut; the stair string and baseboard opposite are grained walnut.

All walls on the first floor of Evergreen house have been covered with modern plywood paneling and floors have been carpeted or tiled. Original mantles—some with sunburst designs on the frieze—were removed in the early 1970's and fire—places closed or replaced with brick mantles. Most trim and doors remain although they are covered with paneling. In room number one, the Federal trim was replaced in the 19th century by flat plain moldings 9" wide.

The kitchen (Room #4) has undergone at least two extensive remodelings; the wide fireplace has been boxed in and no early features remain.

The eastern-most bedroom on the second floor (Room #5) has woodwork and mantle which dates from the middle or late 19th century and resembles that used in the room below.

The other second floor bedroom in the main portion of the house, the stair hall, and the second floor of the wing are intact.

Splayed jambs of the main house, second floor, are enriched with Greek Revival reeding and cornerblocks. In addition, shallow gauge-work reeding is used on the window arpons. Six-panel doors are used everywhere except on doors which lead to closets or corner stairs.

The mantle in Room #6 has fine composite moldings on the shelf and pilasters. Like the reedings on the window jambs, these profiles whow distinct Greek Revival influence.

The wing is reached by a hallway which leads from Room #6 and formerly via a stair in the corner of Room #3. This secondary stair was an enclosed corner stair which extended from attic to basement.

On the second floor of the wing are two small rooms and a hallway. Chair-rails and baseboards are used on all walls and window trim is uniform. Fireplaces have rectangular openings; the mantle shelves have reeding on their edges and on their small frieze blocks. Closets with original peg boards are found beside each fireplace; they have five-panel doors.

In the hallway is an unusual built-in closet with pairs of paneled doors. The walls of this section of the house are plain white plaster; all wooden trim is painted medium grey; both appear to be original finishes. In addition, there are remnants of 19th century swag-design wallpaper at the cornice level of Room #8.

a doctor, and his wife Sarah had began trading in Kent County property in 1768 and some of it was in the general area of Evergreen House.

In any case John and Rebecca probably were typical of prosperous farmers of the first decade of the 19th century, sophisticated and careful enough to insist upon well designed and beautifully constructed interior details, but conservative and modest in the selection of building form and proportion.

The Maxwells died in 1829 with their "worldly affairs" in good order. Both left wills that provided for the desposition of their lands, the education of their only minor child, and the eventual freeing of the slaves they owned. The nine hundred acres were divided between their two sons and a grandson, John H. M. Wallis, the child of their daughter, Sophia. Household furnishings such as silverware, cut glass lamps, and "the old family clock," were also divided among the children, slaves, and friends. One item inherited by Sophia was a "dining room carpet," an early reference to that room.

The Maxwell sons moved away and sold their lands but Maxwell's Purchase was reunited and extended by Emily Wallis a relative by marriage of John and Rebecca. By 1850 she had managed to acquire all three "undivided thirds" of the old Maxwell property. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the farm was known as the Wallis Farm.

The third of the Wallis Farm which included Evergreen was purchased by William Welsh another large landowner in 1864 and remained in the possession of his descendants until it was purchased by the Koppelman family in 1971.

### Chain of Title EVERGREEN (K-140)

## Land Records of Kent County, Md.

#### Transaction

EHP 38 356 TO: Mr. & Mrs. George Elmer Koppelman FROM: Doris B. Dietz

DATE: February 5, 1971

Wallace Farm (sic), 322 acres. Doris B. Dietz was an heir of William Welsh who died before 1877 leaving this property to his family.

JKH 4 146 TO: William Welsh

FROM: Francis A. & Emily Wallis

DATE: February 10, 1864

JKH 1 784 TO: Francis Wallis FROM: Emily Wallis DATE: January 26, 1860

For \$14,000 315 acres of the "John Maxwell Farm." The additional 7 acres were assembled through a series of small purchases of land immediately adjacent the road. Emily Wallis acquired the entire "John Maxwell Farm" in three purchases.

JKH 1 524 TO: Emily Wallis

FROM: John B. Eccleston & George S. Hollyday, trustees for George W.

Thomas

DATE: May 19, 1859

In 1849, the trustees sold for \$2,500 the "undivided third" of the Maxwell Farm; it included 358 acres and adjoined the lands of George W. Perkins. This is the third inherited by John W. Maxwell and sold to Mr. Thomas plus fifty additional acres. The estate was settled ten years later.

### Land Records of Kent County, Md.

JNG 2 321

JNG 6 481

JR 1 186

Will, Kent County, Md. 11/118

#### Transaction

TO: George W. Thomas

FROM: John M. Maxwell of New York City

DATE: August 23, 1830

For \$1,200, 308 acres of Maxwell's Purchase. Evidently this portion inherited by the eldest son of John and Rebecca included the house.

TO: Emily Wallis

FROM: Albert G. Maxwell, Franklin, La.

DATE: September 27, 1840

For \$2,500, the 308 acres of Maxwell's Purchase inherited by Albert from his parents. At the time of his parents death in 1829, Albert was a minor.

TO: Emily Wallis FROM: F. A. Wallis DATE: March 28, 1850

For \$2,500, 308 acres of "Maxwell's Purchase" which had been devised by John and Rebecca Maxwell to their grandson, John H.M. Wallis, and sold by John Wallis and his wife Irene to Francis S. Wallis on March 27, 1849. Emily was the wife of Francis S. Wallace. The land was subsequently sold to Francis A. Wallis; here Emily is purchasing it back. The relationship of Francis S. and Emily Wallis to John Wallis is not known.

John Maxwell Recorded January 11, 1829

Bequeth to his wife Rebecca 1/3 of his real estate during her natural life and his Negro woman Henrietta Maria Trusty who belonged to Mrs. Maxwell prior to their marriage he gives back. Also he gives her 1/3 of whatever remains after his debts are paid. He freed slave Julia Maxwell on January 1, 1838, Emeline Maxwell (b 1825)

on January 1, 1847, and so on, freeing all slaves or their children when they were in their late 20's except Julia and Abe who were to stay with his wife on the farm "I now occupy" as long as she stayed there. He also gave Abe \$30/year out of his estate "to make him more comfortable in his old age." There after his sons, John and Albert, and grandson, John H.M. Wallis, who each received 1/3 of the land were to take care of Abe. Daughter Sophia Ann Maxwell Wallis(?) only got \$50 because another relative provided for her. With this \$50 she was to buy a "ladies" cabinet or wardrobe as a "small token of my particular affection."

John was dead by February 7, 1829.

Will, Kent County, Md. 11/124

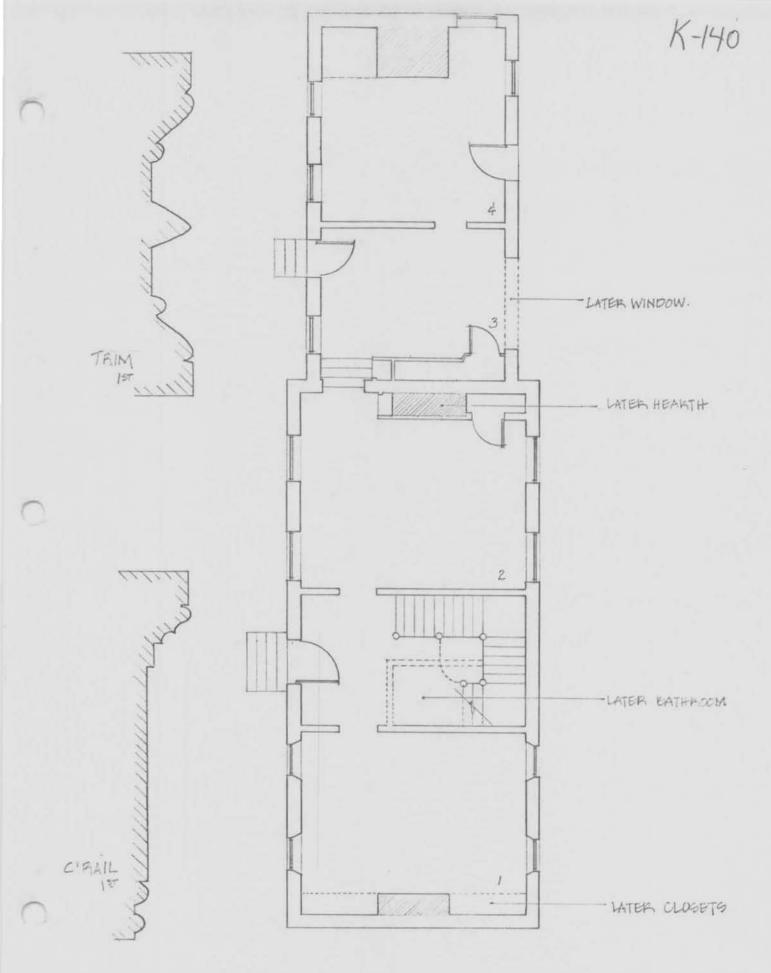
Rebecca Maxwell Recorded July 14, 1829

She owned property in Cambridge and Ann Arundle Co. and ordered them to be sold at her death. She bequeathed to her children silver, carpets, "the old family clock," "Dining room carpet", "cut glass lamps," "hearth rug." Also various items were bequeathed to the slaves. George W. Thomas was the executor.

TO: John Maxwell FROM: William Maxwell DATE: March 6, 1811

John Maxwell acquired from William Maxwell property adjacent to Maxwell's Purchase. Maxwell's Purchase had formerly belonged to a Captain William Maxwell.

BC 6 338



EVERGREEN FARM (K-140) KENNEDYVILLE, MD. SALE: 10"- 1'0".

Form 16-445 (5/62) ORIGINAL USE
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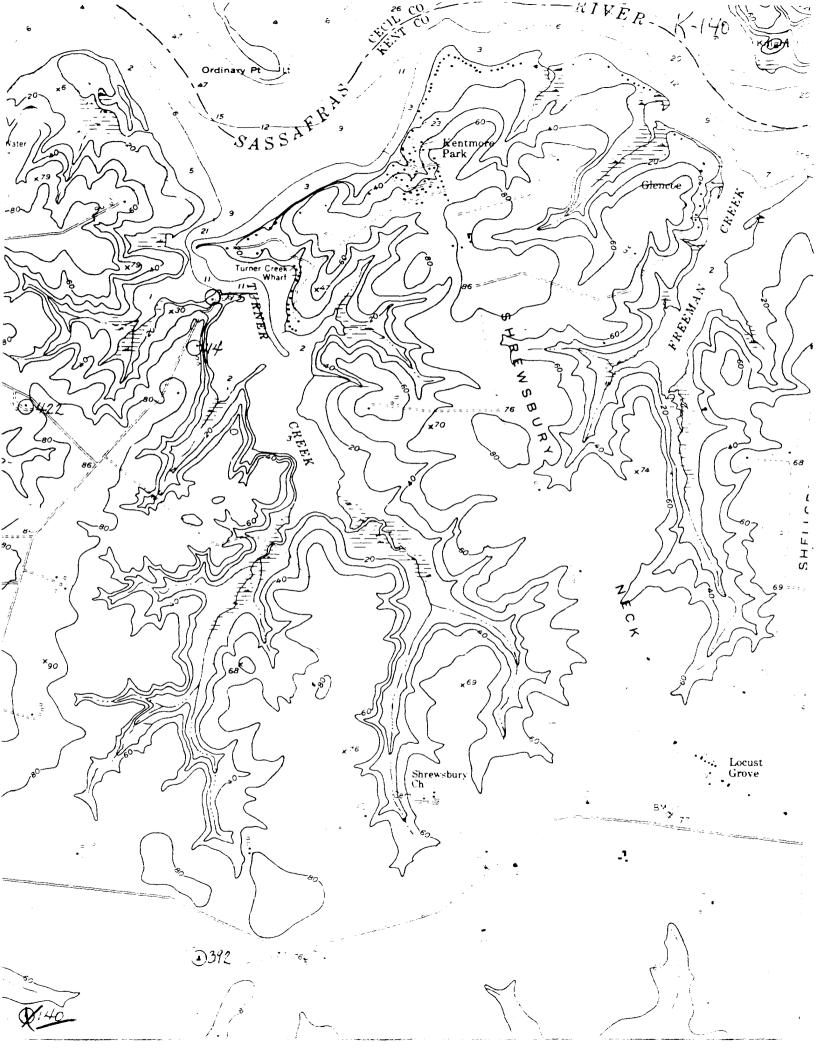
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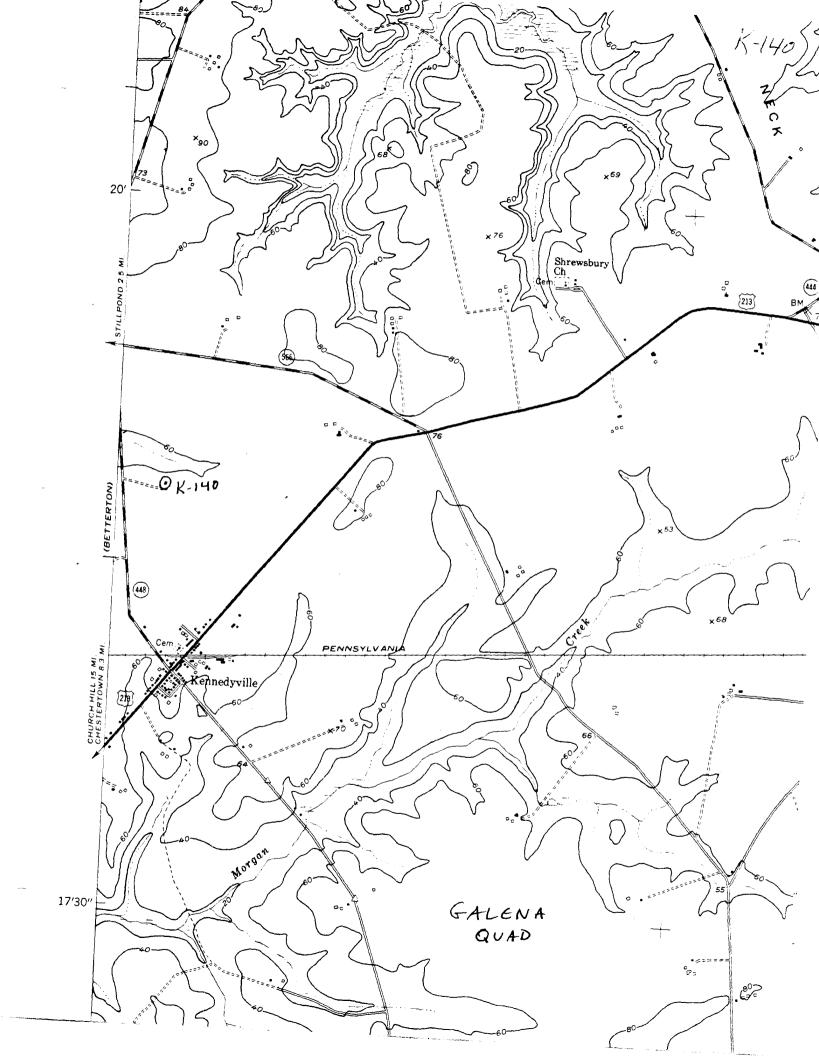
7. PHOTOGRAPH

NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD Sup + 50 196 00

Evergreen Farm house is a two-and-one-half story brick house laid in Flenish bond on the south facade. It is five bays long and one room deep under a steeply pitched A roof. Above the windows, which have narrow frames and 0/0 sashes, are flat brick arches. There are also flat arches above the basement windows. To the west gable is attached a two story four bay long brick wing, also laid in Flenish bond and having the same features as the main portion. The cornice is composed of stepped bricks, like nearby Suffolk. Also like Suffolk, the windows of the north side are assymmetrical, there being one window at the level of the stair landing, and only one window west of that. The center entrance of the facade has panelled door and jambs and a rectangular transom with oval panes on each side of a center cross. There has been an enclosed porch added to the north side of the wing and storm sashes have been installed on all windows. There are three dormers on each side of the A roof with segmental arched upper sashes and pilaster-like treatment on each side with 0/0 sashes. Chimneys are located within each gable and have single caps.







Majwell's Purchase

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
JAN 1 5 1980

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-140 Maxwell's Purchase cl8\_