

Rev. refs.

K-138

"States Adventure"  
Near Kennedyville  
1797

States Adventure stands across the highway from Shrewsbury Protestant Episcopal Church. A large brick farm house, it is composed of two sections plus a one story frame wing. The house faces north, with a view of Shrewsbury Church in the distance.

The facade is five bays long and two and one half stories tall, laid in Flemish bond with both water table and string course. The wing facade is four bays long and two stories tall and is laid in the same manner as the principal section. The remainder is laid in common bond with less uniform brick, some glazed. In the west gable there is a date plaque with initials and the date 1797.

Like many of Kent's farmhouses, States Adventure has a central stairhall with flanking rooms. At a lower level there were originally two more rooms (now one large "country" kitchen). The interior is noted for its fine Federal period carved woodwork, similar to Evergreen Farm. It also boasts some original marbled baseboards, like Shepherd's Delight and Knock's Folly, all of which date from the same period.

In the deed to Lambert Wickes of Cecil County in 1816, the following reference points to the builder of the house:

"Whereas Alexander Briscoe formerly of Kent County . . . died seized of a tract of land lying in Kent County aforesaid called States Adventure granted to him by Patent dated the fourth day of December in the year of our Lord

one thousand seven hundred ninety two . . . containing 277 acres. . .”<sup>1</sup>

Alexander Briscoe’s heirs sold the property to Lambert Wickes, but it is uncertain whether he lived on the farm or remained in Cecil County. After his death, it descended to his daughters, one of whom sold her half to her sister and brother-in-law, Louise and Peregrine Wethered, not to be confused with Peregrine who owned Knock’s Folly.<sup>2</sup>

Lewin Wethered, trustee of Peregrine Wethered’s estate, sold it to Samuel Wethered of Baltimore (probably the son of Samuel) and he in turn sold it in 1847 to William Maxwell.<sup>3</sup> Maxwell sold the 277 acre farm to Margaret B. Polk, who had owned part of the Cadwalader farm down Shrewsbury Neck.<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Polk appears as owner on the 1860 Martinet Map, but by the time of the 1877 Atlas, she had willed it to her daughter. The Atlas actually lists the name of her son-in-law, C. Beaston, as owner.

From the time of the Briscoe ownership this house on States Adventure has been used more as a tenant house than a primary residence. It is most fortunate that the exquisite woodwork has survived.

- 1. Land Records, Lib. BC 8, fol. 514.
- 2. Land Records, Lib. JNG 11, fol. 520.
- 3. Ibid.
- 4. Land Records, Lib. JFG 1, fol. 501.

K-138

1797

Nau Farm

Near Locust Grove

Private

The Nau farm is located on the southeast side of Route 213 east of Harmony Corner and southwest of the village of Locust Grove. The main facade faces north/northwest. The house at the Nau Farm is a large two-part brick house dating from the Federal period. There is also a modern, frame one-storey addition to the east gable-end of the wing. The 2-1/2 storey, five bay wide main section has the date 1797 incised into a pair of bricks turned flat-stretcher-side-out and recessed into the east gable. The lower, four-bay-wide, two-storey wing at the east end of the main section appears to have been built at the same time as the main section or later, but in the same location as a slightly smaller earlier building. Reuse of some of its bricks may account for some of the strange brickwork on the wing. The wing first-storey was hall and parlor, with the kitchen at the east end, but the partition was removed fairly recently and a new kitchen that is open built at the east end of the now one-room space. The plan of the main section is central hall, with a handsome stair open to the third level. The house at the Nau Farm is an unusually fine example of Federal-period construction and an indication of the apparent prosperity in the last years of the eighteenth century, before the agricultural economy of the county declined. Although portions of the house have been altered, apparently in the late nineteenth century as well as more recently, the detail that remains in the west parlor is particularly outstanding and includes unusual examples of the delicate hand-carving of the period. The chair rail and architraves are particularly notable. Though it has been partially removed, that room also has unusual marbelized baseboards and surround of the fireplace opening. The stair is notable not only for its balustrade but also for its engaged rail on the opposite wall and the fine detailing, including Wall of Troy molding, on the second-storey joist header trim.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Nau Farm

## 2. Location

street & number South side Rt. 213,  
.8 mile west of Rt. 444  not for publication

city, town Locust Grove  vicinity of congressional district

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles E. Nau, Sr.

street & number RD. 1, Box 361 telephone no.: 348-5198

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 4

street & number Cross Street folio 607

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS

date October, 1968  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town 21 State Circle, Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-138

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

The Nau farm is located on the southeast side of Route 213 east of Harmony Corner and southwest of the village of Locust Grove. The main facade faces north/northwest. The house at the Nau Farm is a large two-part brick house dating from the Federal period. There is also a modern, frame one-storey addition to the east gable-end of the wing. The 2-1/2 storey, five bay wide main section has the date 1797 incised into a pair of bricks turned flat stretcher side out and recessed into the east gable. The lower, four-bay-wide, two-storey wing at the east end of the main section appears to have been built at the same time as the main section or slightly later, but in the same location as a slightly smaller earlier building. Reuse of some of its bricks may account for some of the strange brickwork on the wing. The wing first-storey was hall and parlor, with the kitchen at the east end, but the partition was removed fairly recently and a new kitchen that is open built at the east end of the now one-room space. The plan of the main section is central hall, with a handsome stair open to the third level. Although the east parlor has been altered and mantel removed, the west parlor, though deteriorated, is a catalogue of finely-detailed Federal details. In the past the main section in particular has been badly affected by insects and/or rot, even on the third storey.

(Continued)





At the time of the site visit the first storey of the brick wing was undergoing further remodeling. The old, apparently original windows and their frames, with splayed jambs, were being removed and replaced by modern Andersen double-hung windows. The splay was not retained.

The brick bond of the north facade of the main section is Flemish; elsewhere it is 1-to-3 common. There has been considerable repointing, some with modern gray cement mortar. The joints are generally wide and unstruck although the facade bricks seem shallowly struck. The bricks of the main facade and the ends are deep red and quite uniform, with no dark-burnt bricks. It seems to be higher quality brick than that of the rear. Brick size is variable, but in the range of 4-1/4" x 2-1/4" x 8-1/4" to 8-1/2". There are numerous random dark headers and stretchers in the rear. On the front and rear facades there is a plain, shallow (1-3/4") water table. On the main, north facade there is a three-course belt laid in Flemish bond to within one stretcher's distance of the corners. In general, there appear to have been many repairs to the brickwork.

The facade of the brick wing also a three-course belt, with the wall laid in Flemish bond. The east end is laid in 1-to-5 common bond. On the east end there is evidence of old joist or rafter pockets, very likely for the porch that once stood at this end before the present frame addition was built; it must have had a shed roof. The east end bricks are much more red than the facade bricks, which are brown-red. It is possible that this wing was built over an extended period of time or, more likely, that the old, dark bricks from a previous building that stood in the place of the present wing were reused for the facade and the rear facade up to the level of the second-storey windows. It is not likely that this section was once 1-1/2 storeys and then raised. The wing is three-sided, and inspection of the crawl space shows that within the present foundation there are the remains of old flat footing stones for an earlier building that was smaller and that stood a few feet away from the east end of the main section. It is quite possible that the large, new main section was built first and then the old wing removed and the new begun, which would also account for the somewhat later flattened ogee-and-bevel applied door trim on the wing stair door and door to the cellar. This is not Victorian ogee-and-bevel trim, but somewhat later, probably than 1797. The wing has no water table.

Chimneys are located within each gable end of the main section, in the center. They are built of the same brick as the house walls. The west chimney is plain and parged, with no cap. The east chimney has a two-course cap with possible a band below, though it is difficult to tell because of parging. The east end of the wing has a center, within-wall chimney. There is a two-course cap with corbelling below. There is partial parging on this chimney as well. There never seems to have been a chimney at the west end of the main section, though a stove was vented into the east chimney at the common wall at this end of the wing.

The brick sections' roofs are covered with wood shingles. The new frame addition has a roof of asphalt shingles. The main section roof has a boxed  
(continued)

cornice with overhang of about 14-18". The soffit and fascia are covered with white aluminum, though on the fascia it is slanted, indicating a crown molding behind. There is a deep, compoundly molded bed molding that appears original, on a deep frieze that stops about 9" short of the corners. The series molding on the frieze is outstanding, a series of drops with pendant. On the gable ends there are aluminum-covered verge boards.

The wing has no dormers. The main section's main-facade roof has three, in the center bay and between the outer bays. They have gable roofs with wood shingles; the cheeks appear to be covered with white aluminum. The pilasters are plain and flush with the sill. All seems to be aluminum-covered. The pilaster caps appear as roof returns, making a broken pediment of the gable. The sash are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. The upper sash are shallowly segmentally arched. The verge boards are compoundly molded. These details are found only on the facade dormers. The rear two dormers, between the outer bays, are much plainer, with the west one altered (part of the pilaster cap is gone). These dormers lack the deep, molded verge boards or bed molding. The plain tympanum of the west dormer is covered with aluminum.

The main windows are double-hung with large 6-over-6 lights. There is a smaller 6-over-6 window in the center rear bay between first and second storey, at the stair landing, and a 3-over-3 window at the landing between second and third storeys. All trim is covered with plain white aluminum, and all sills are covered. The front windows are treated with more refinement than those of the rear. At the front there are flat, splayed stretcher arches of possibly rubbed bricks on both storeys. They are redder. On the second storey, however, the arch is partially covered by the cornice frieze. On the rear, the second storey windows have no arches, though the first-storey windows do have flat stretcher arches (not splayed) of common brick. At the first landing window, the arch is flat and built with headers. The second storey lights measure about 10-3/8" x 15-1/4". The second-storey windows do not appear smaller than those of the first storey. Muntins are thin and sharp. The original shutters are gone; in their places are black plastic louvered shutters affixed to the wall.

Some wing windows have been altered in the past and are being altered in 1985. In general the windows are 6-over-6, but most are recent replacements in original openings. These windows are smaller than those of the main section. The rear and end windows originally had flat header arches (where not removed in alterations), also over the attic gable casements. The front facade on the first storey has flat, splayed stretcher arches, which are perhaps on the second storey as well, though they are partially covered by the cornice bed. The shutters at these windows are fixed, louvered, and of metal.

The main entry is in the central bay of the north facade. The architrave and doors appear to date from circa 1840-1860. The doors each have 1-over-1 panels. On the exterior the panels are recessed and slightly raised, with a bulbous ogee-and-bevel panel molding applied. The lock rail is deep (14" high). The old hardware is gone. On the interior the panels are also recessed and slightly raised, with a flattened ogee similar to that on the doors in the wing  
(continued)

and as seen on one door in the main section. On the interior the whole architrave appears a replacement, done in imitation of other door architraves but to different effect. It is tall, nearly to the ceiling, with crossettes. The trim is wide (6-1/2") and composite. From the inside, it includes: 1/2" bead, a narrow fillet (1"), a flattened ogee, fillet (1-7/8", bold ogee with bevel, and a 5/8 fillet on the outer backband. There is a large single-light transom. The jambs are plain and deep. On the exterior there is a 6-1/2" thick concrete or parged sill. The steps and stoops are of massive granite blocks about 6 feet wide, all pieces measuring 8" thick. It is not likely that these were placed in 1797. The exterior main-entry architrave is a replacement.

For interior details, see photographs. The main stair is half-turn with landings and open string.

A search was made to discover who had this fine house built and the old name for this farm, which is now unknown, although it apparently has been known as La Belle View because of the bell-like shape of its farm fields. The search hit a dead-end with the ownership of of Olivia R. M. Beasten, who owned the property up until her death about 1884. She did not appear to have lived at the farm herself, being from St. George's Hundred in New Castle County, Delaware. Mrs. Beasten is shown as the owner on the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas of Kent County map for this section of the county. On the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County a Mrs. Polk is shown as the owner, possibly Mrs. Robert Polk. Over the years the farm is said to have been often tenanted, a common occurrence in a county where until well into the twentieth century over half the farms were tenanted, sometimes with results disastrous to fine old farmhouses.

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Kent</b> TOWN <b>Kennedyville</b> VICINITY <b>Shrewsbury Ch.</b> STREET NO. <b>Rt. 213, 1/2 mile east of Rt 298</b>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>K - 138</b>
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <b>dwelling</b> PRESENT OWNER <b>Charles Nau</b> PRESENT USE <b>dwelling</b> WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>brick</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2 1/2</b>	2. NAME <b>Nau House</b>  DATE OR PERIOD <b>1797 (dated brick)</b> STYLE <b>Federal</b> ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC  NO

The Nau house is a large Federal brick farm house which has the date 1797 etched in a brick on the west gable. It is five bays long, 2 1/2 story tall and has, on its east side, a four bay long, two story brick wing and finally a frame enclosed lean-to porch. The north facade is laid in Flemish bond with a stepped water table. Between stories is a three brick string course. Other walls are laid in common bond. The entrance in center bay has double doors, later trim with dentil molding and a one - pane transom. All sash are 6/6 and there are no shutters. The wood cornice is good with corbels on the fascia. On the "A" roof are three dormers with arched upper sash (two dormers on south side of roof).

From the south side, it can be presumed, due to the difference in color of the brick above the second floor level <sup>of the wing</sup>, that the roof was raised at a later date and may have been the earliest house. The door <sup>of the main portion</sup> is slightly off-center and the windows above are located at the stair landing levels, producing an unsymmetrical arrangement, like the north side of Edick Farm House. Original stone steps lead to the south door. Chimneys are located at each gable.

The interior of the main portion has dog-ear trim around doors and windows, paneled jambs, fine federal mantels and overmantels and a good stair to the attic.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE **Endangered**  **NO** **Interior** **poor** **Exterior** **poor**

It is presently being renovated by the owners and it stands in the midst of a 200 acre farm, directly across the road from Shrewsbury Church.

This building is called "Blays Range" in the WPA Guide, but ~~this~~ "Bley's Range" is located across the Road and is slightly west of Shrewsbury Church, according to local families.

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <b>FORMAN, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, privately printed, 1934, p.217 (Old House at Locust Grove 1797)</b>	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <b>Michael Bourne</b>  DATE OF RECORD <b>October, 1968</b>
---	--

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

New House is a large Federal <sup>brick</sup> four house which has the date 1797. Carved into a ~~brick~~ <sup>brick</sup> in the west gable. It is 5 bays long, 2 1/2 stories tall and has <sup>on east side</sup> a 4 bay long, 2 story brick wing and finally a frame arched bento porch. The north facade is laid in Flemish bond above a stepped water table. Between story is a 3 brick string course. Other walls are laid in common bond. The <sup>entrance</sup> located in center bay has double doors, letter hie with dentil molding and a one-pane transom. All sash are 6/6 and there are no shutters. The wood cornice is good with corbels on the fascia. On the "A" roof are 3 dormers with arched upper sash (2 dormers on south pitch of roof)

From the south side, it can be presumed, due to the difference in color of the brick above 2<sup>nd</sup> floor level, that the roof was raised at a later date and may have been the earliest house. The door is slightly off-center and the windows above are located a step below level, producing an unsymmetrical arrangement. Original stone steps lead to the ~~the~~ south door. Chimneys are located at each gable.

The interior, the main portion has dog-ear pine and brass + mahogany, painted joists, fine Federal moldings + ornaments and a good steeple.

It is presently being renovated by the owners and it stands in the midst of a 200 acre farm, directly across the road from Strawberry Church.

Name Nau House  
~~Bluffs Range~~ MHT# K-138  
Location Kent Kennedyville  
COUNTY town

address or road#

First owner of record \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Present owner Charles Nau DATE 1968

Address Kennedyville

Parcel or Deed # \_\_\_\_\_

Original use dwelling

Present use dwelling

Md. Map Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

Long. & Lat. reading \_\_\_\_\_

Style \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of construction c. 1797

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Builder \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION:

2 1/2 NUMBER of stories brick type wall construction

Foundation-basement Brick

Wall construction- Flem bond - corners darker brick  
Common else

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls  
Step w.t. - 3 birds and string on broken arches

Chimneys to each gable

Name \_\_\_\_\_ MHT# K-138Entrance type & placement Center - double -later trim w/ details - One pane transom.Windows 6/6 - 5 x 1 baysShutters NO

Roof type \_\_\_\_\_ covering \_\_\_\_\_

Cornice, eaves wood - fascia has oak w/ drops (cornels)Dormers, cupolas 3 w/ oiled upper sash + "A" roof -2 - rearPorches beams anchored on E gableWings, hyphens 4 bay wing - brick

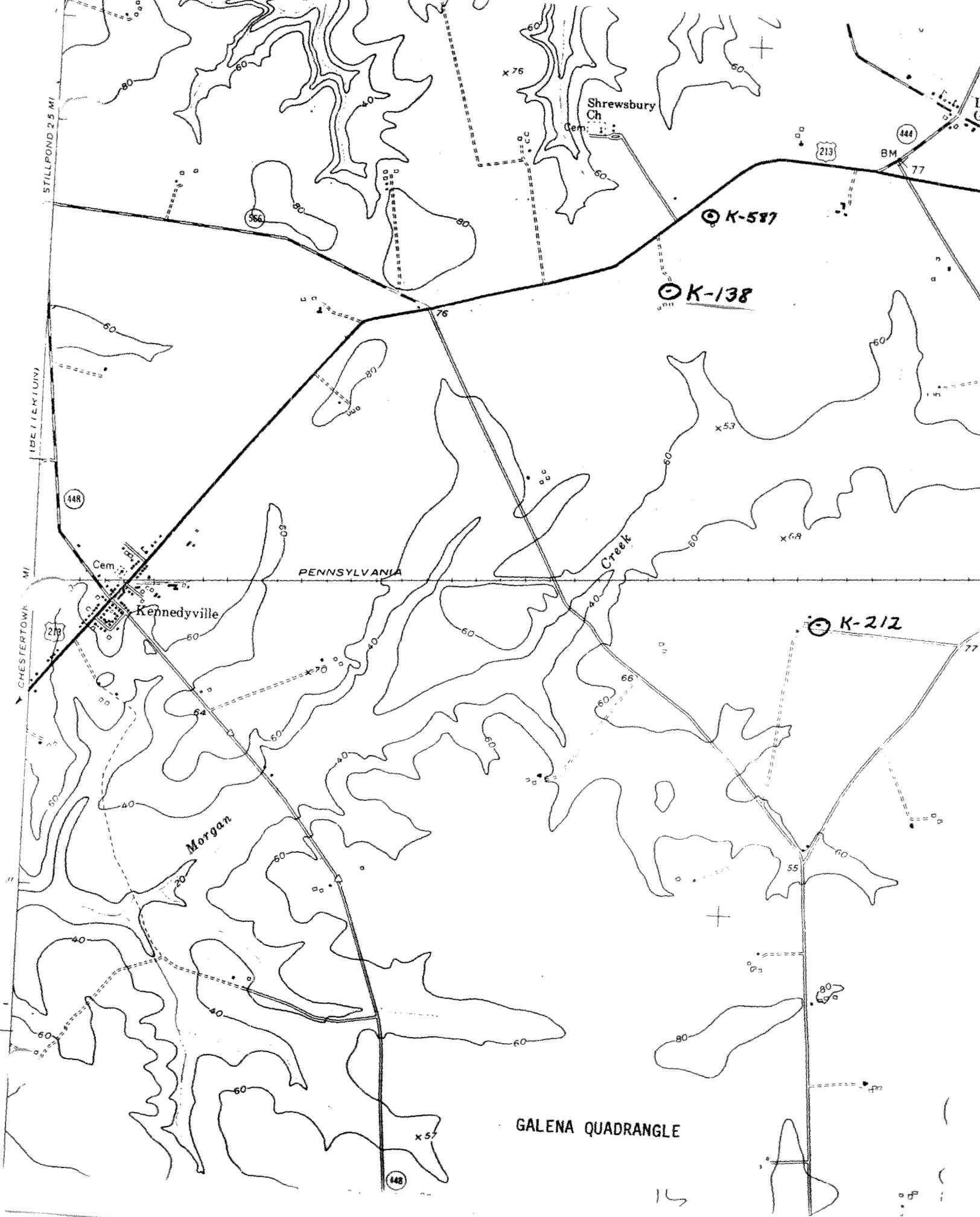
## Interior:

Stairway Federal

Doors \_\_\_\_\_

Trim \_\_\_\_\_

Other noteable work \_\_\_\_\_



STILLPOND 2.5 MI

1/2 (1/2 MI)

CHESERTOWN MI

Shrewsbury Ch

Cem.

213

444

BM

77

K-517

K-138

448

Cem.

PENNSYLVANIA

Kennedyville

Creek

K-212

Morgan

GALENA QUADRANGLE

448

15



K-138  
Nau Farm  
Rt. 213, near Locust Grove  
M. Q. Fallaw - 5/30/85  
View to south

K138

#13A

5sec 00/26ten



K-138

Nau Farm

Rt 213, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 1/21/86

View to north

K/38

#32

6 1/2 sec.