

K-190

Deptford
Near Chesterville
1764

Near the head of New Bridge Branch a 300 acre tract called Deptford was surveyed in 1724 for William Comegys and John Tennant. One year later Tennant became the sole owner when Comegys sold his interest to him. For fifteen years the property was transferred to and from Edmund Huff, a Philadelphia merchant, three times.¹ Tennant died in the 1740's, after which time Deptford passed to his son John.² It was John and his wife Elizabeth who constructed the brick house, which in its original form had a gambrel roof. Using glazed headers, they placed their initials and the date 1764 in the west gable wall.

When first completed the house had a hall-parlor plan with the hall on the west end. Both rooms on the first floor had one large window on the north and south walls each. Like the Plains, built around the same time, the exterior was laid completely in Flemish bond with glazed headers above a molded water table which jogged up and over the basement windows.

Apparently Tennant predeceased his wife, for in 1783, Elizabeth Huff was listed as the owner of the 300 acre farm with brick house.³ It later passed into the hands of her son James Tennant. In the first decade of the 19th Century, James acquired a 67 acre parcel of Killingsworthmore which adjoined Deptford on the west.⁴ James died c. 1846 and bequeathed the farm to William Rayne. It was in possession of the Wallis family between 1850 and 1856,⁵ after which time it was owned by John Hurklock and family until 1883.⁶

It was most likely during the ownership of Lewin J. Usilton, after 1883, that the house was completely altered into what has come down to the present day.⁷ His remodeling involved the removal of the gambrel roof, raising of the walls to two full stories and the installation of a gable in the center of a new A roof. It was fitted with a front porch facing north over the road, and a bay window on the south. A three bay, two story kitchen wing was also constructed on the east gable.

In several of the land records, the original tract name was corrupted to "Dedford" or "Deadford" and after 1910, the name "Hibernia", as well as "Hurlock Farm" and "Tenant Farm" is used.

Other 20th century owners have included members of the Bennett, VanDyke and Fox families, the last two owning the farm for 84 out of 95 years.

1. Rent Rolls, Lib. 5, fol. 16.
2. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 228.
3. 1783 Tax Assessment.
4. Land Records, Lib. WS 2, fol. 30.
5. Land Records, Lib. JR 2, fol. 325.
6. Land Records, Lib. JFG 4, fol. 104.
7. Land Records, Lib. SB 5, fol. 94.

DEEP FORD FARM
Old Morgnec Road
Kennedyville, Maryland
(1764)

Deep Ford Farm is made up of the walls and foundation of a mid-18th century gambrel-roofed house and a second story and roof of about 1830; the building is brick. The date of original construction, 1764, and the initials of the original builders I. and J. or G. T. are set into one gambrel in glazed headers. There is an early 19th century frame kitchen as well as later additions.

The original building had Flemish bond brick walls and a stepped water table. There is extensive use of blue-grey headers and segmental arches above original window openings.

Major interior detailing dates from the date 19th century remodeling.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC DEEP FORD FARM

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER *South side , Morgnec Road, 3 miles west
of Chesterville**1st*

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland 21645

COUNTY

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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

*Mr. & Mrs. Norman E. Fox*Telephone #: *301-348-5855*

STREET & NUMBER

Box 214 Deep Ford Farm

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
*Maryland 21645***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Kent County Court House*Liber #: *E H P 38*Folio #: *711 97*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE

1968 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS*Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House 21 State Circle*

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-190

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Deep Ford Farm is made up of the walls and foundation of a mid-18th Century brick gambrel roof house which were incorporated into a larger 2-story brick building about 1880. The date of original construction, 1764, and the initials or insignia of the builders are visible in glazed brick in the west gable:

I T
 8
 1764

An early 19th century, 2-story frame wing stands against the east gable. There is also a plain, one-story gable-roofed addition at the west gable; this wing dates from the early part of this century and has no architectural interest.

Aside from the masonry no 18th century features have survived. The bricks, however, show detailing typical of the best of their period. Very irregular in shape, they measure an average of 3 inches by 8 1/2 inches by 4 inches in size. Mortar joints are quite wide: three courses measure 9 inches to 9 1/2 inches in height. No original pointing details are visible. All four walls are laid in Flemish bond with blue-grey glazed headers. The water table steps up over the basement windows in the two outer bays of the long facades and continue around the gambrel ends of the building. Segmental arches over the basement windows have double headers alternating with stretchers; the upper headers are glazed. The early

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <i>local history</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES *Date of original construction* 1764, later alterations BUILDER/ARCHITECT *I. and J. (?) T.*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Deep Ford Farm is significant as a dated example of a mid-18th century Kent farmhouse. Because so many of its earliest features have vanished, its importance is primarily as an historical document rather than as an example of 18th century architecture. The later kitchen and still later second story provide a chronicle of the evaluation of a building and of the impact of changing technology on an earlier structure.

The kitchen with its pyramidal fireplace, its ladder stair and its second floor plan typifies kitchens of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Planning Commission

DATE
778-4600 ext. 67

STREET & NUMBER
Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

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

walls remain up to the second floor level on the long facades and show there to have been a central entrance flanked by windows in each facade. No evidence of openings are visible in the gambrels. The original basement entry with an arched opening remains in the south facade east of the central door.

In the cellar portions of a brick floor remain as well as the early chimney arches. A tongue and groove partition once divided the basement into two parts; the eastern most had a plastered ceiling.

The ca. 1880 alteration to the building consisted of building on top of the early walls with light orange brick laid in common bond (1-7,) adding a central gable roof, replacing the windows and doors, and totally altering the interior detailing.

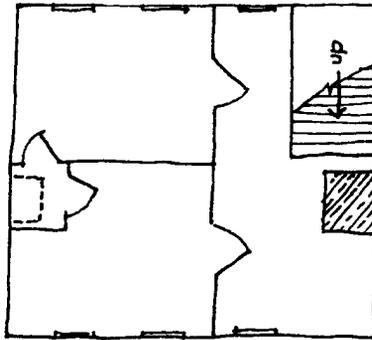
Fenestration consists of 2/2 sash set in a one inch bead frame with plain, wooden lintels and sills set flush with the surface of the brick. There are 2/2 attic sash and a pointed 2/2 sash window in the central gable.

The main entry has a 4-light transom and 3-pane side-lights with bolection molded lower panels. There are leaf-like wooden carvings on the transom bar and a four-panel door with round headed upper panels and bolection moldings.

Finishing the raised seam roof is an overhanging box cornice with simple crown and bed moldings, a beaded fascia, and returns at the gables. Like all exterior trim, it is painted white.

The kitchen wing is three bays in length with 3/6 sash in plain nailed frames in the second floor windows and entry doors randomly placed in both north and south facades. First floor fenestration is recent. The gable roof has a plain box cornice. There is a brick chimney enclosed in the gable and a brick foundation. No weather board is visible beneath the early 20th century imitation brick asphalt siding.

The interior of the kitchen wing retains most of its early detailing on the upper floor. Like many early farm buildings in this area, these rooms were used for storage or servants quarters and were reached via a ladder stair set in the gable in an alcove formed by the projecting kitchen fireplace. The upper floor was divided into three small rooms. An unusual closet with two doors has a later hatchway cut into its floor.



The flooring of the wing's upper rooms is very wide, random white pine. The walls and ceiling are plastered on sawn lath

which is fastened with cut nails. These features suggest an original construction date of about 1815 to 1830. One early four panel door remains in this portion of the house; it has raised and bevelled panels with quarterround panel mold on the front and recessed panel backs.

The old kitchen fireplace had a wide rectangular opening and corbelled shoulders. All other interior detailing in the present kitchen is recent.

In the 1880's when this house was remodeled virtually all early trim was removed. A central stair--extremely plain-- replaced the corner stairs of the probable hall and parlour plan. Window and door trim is in most places a flatboard although some 6-inch wide, double tiered door trim with a ogee type backband remains. There is one 4-panel door identical to that found in the attic and one hearth with early square bricks. Doors, hardware, and mantles are from the late 19th century, and are of the very simplest type. Hardwood floors cover the old pine boards.

The chief decorative feature beside the central gable is a 3-sided bay window in the rear of the building.

Fox House sits on a rise near the beginning of the central branch of the creek which empties into the Chester River at Spry Landing. The creek provides a tree line to the south and east. The view from the north of the house is across the fields to the tree line of Morgan Creek far in the distance. There is no landscape of historical design near the house and no important outbuildings.

Name Fox ~~House~~ House MHT# K-190

Location Kent
COUNTY town

Rt 447 - 3 miles west, Clatsville
address or road#

First owner of record I T DATE 1764

Present owner Norman E Fox (S) DATE _____

Address _____

Parcel or Deed # _____

Original use dwelling

Present use dwelling

Md. Map Coordinates _____

Long. & Lat. reading _____

Style Celovind - Victorian Farmhouse

Date(s) of construction begun 1764 (or 5) - remodeled about 1880

Architect _____

Builder _____

DESCRIPTION:

2 NUMBER of stories Brick type wall construction

Foundation-basement brick - Sep archs above basemnt

Windows - _____

Wall construction- Brick - Flemish w/ glazed headers

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls
step - for above basemnt windows, glazed date +

brick gable above door initials

Chimneys = each gable - non-decorat

Name _____ MHT# K-190

Entrance type & placement Center with side lights + transom
dating for 1830's

Windows 3 bays long x 1 bay deep

Shutters None

Roof type A - w/ gambrel covering —
Cornice, eaves —

Dormers, cupolas —

Porches —

Wings, hyphens frame non-descript wings on each side
1 story on W - 2 story on East

Interior:
Stairway _____

Doors _____

Trim _____

Other notable work _____

Name _____ MHT# K-190

Physical condition Very poor

Environment farm -

References:

MHT Color slide # _____

MHT B & W # _____

Owner contacted no

OTHER: _____

Recorder Michael Bourne

Date Sept 12, 1968

Summary: _____

T

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1764 Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan, and angle of photos, etc.

PENNSYLVANIA

K-190

77

Cem
371
385
387
391
Kerrville

Morgan

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349

375

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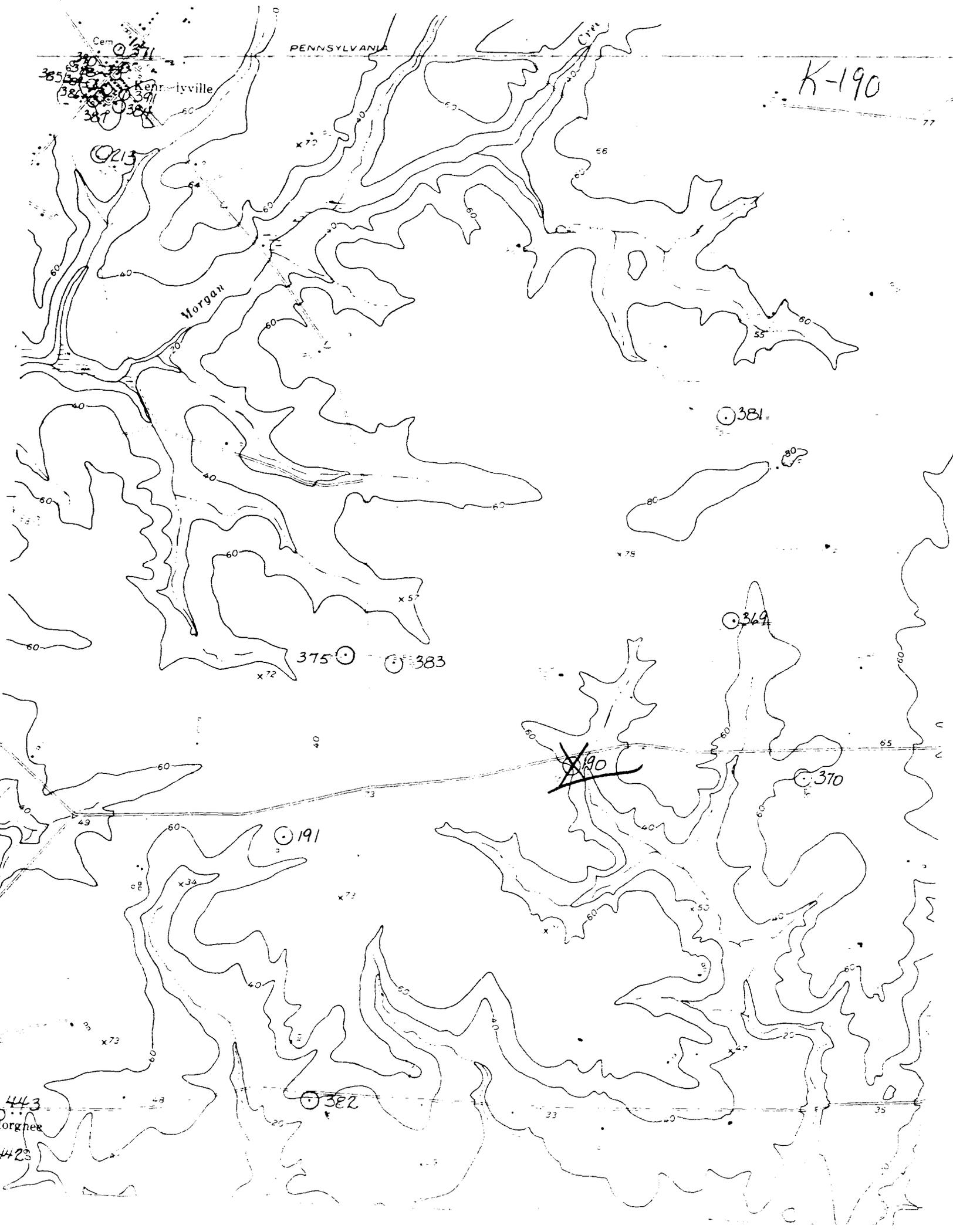
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Morgner

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K-190 #
Deeptord Farm
Kennedyville, Kent County
view from N.W.
(showing gambrel with date)

Photograph: M. L. Fritz, December 1979

J. Taylor Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTER TOWN, MARYLAND

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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