

K-290

1700-1799?

Site of Andover Mill (Turner's Mill)

1800-1899

Near Millington

Private

The Andover Mill site is located northeast of the junction of the Andover Branch of the Chester River with the modern Peacock's Corner-Andover Bridge road into Queen Anne's County (once a private mill lane through the farm also owned by the mill owners). The Andover Mill, certainly operating during the nineteenth century and probably during the eighteenth century as well, was one of five or six mills said to have operated simultaneously within a three-mile radius of the town of Millington (earlier called Head of Chester). It was for much of its existence owned by members of the Turner family, a leading Quaker family associated with the Head of Chester Meeting. Though no mill-associated buildings remain on the densely wooded site, a portion of the old mill race is visible, and to the west of the road a portion of the old tail race also can be seen. Both races are to the north of the branch. The dam now in the probable approximate location of the mill dam is of concrete, built about 1918 by the electric company providing power to the town of Millington. Though deteriorated, the dam still serves to impound water used by a large farming operation for irrigation. The old electric plant foundation remains along the old tail race about 100-150 feet west of the present road. This water-powered mill, like the others of Kent County, was an early and enduring industry related to the county's dominant agricultural economy. There is also evidence that about 1830, at least, a sawmill was also operated at the site.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Site of Andover mill (preferred); Turner's Mill

and/or common

2. Location

Southeast side, Peacock's Corners-Andover Bridge Rd., .7 mile
street & number south of Rt. 291, southeast of Millington not for publication

city, town Millington vicinity of congressional district

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 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 checked="" 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: vacant

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

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Cross Street folio

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys Unknown

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Not Applicable

Survey No. K-290

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Andover Mill was located northeast of the present junction of the Andover Branch of the Chester River with the Peacock's Corners-Andover Bridge road that leads from Kent County into Queen Anne's County. This lane was once merely a farm lane of Andover Farm (K-176), whose owners during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries seem to have also been the owners of the mill. The mill property was in both Kent and Queen Anne's counties. The road near the mill site has been somewhat altered in the mid-twentieth century to remove the eastward swing on the north side of the branch toward the mill. Though no mill-associated old buildings remain on the densely wooded site, a portion of the old mill race is visible, and to the west of the road a portion of the old tail race is also visible. Both races are to the north of the branch. Old foundation materials may be present but were not seen, and the likely sort of wheel used could not be determined. The flow, apparently varying considerably seasonally, is now in the natural creek bed, said to have been insignificant when a mill or electric company operated here. The bridge then was over the mill race, and the stream bed was forded. Whereas presumably the old mill operation had an earthen dam, the dam now in its probable location is of concrete, built about 1918 by an electric company to serve nearby Millington. Though deteriorated, the dam still serves to impound water used by a large farming operation for irrigation. The electric plant was said to have been northwest of the junction between road and branch, where an old concrete foundation remain along the old tail race about 100-150 feet west of the present road. A house northeast of the junction of road and branch is said to have burned fairly recently. Its location could be discerned, but its relationship to the mill operation is unknown. It may have been a miller's house. The vicinity seems to be a popular fishing spot.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-290

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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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.

Within a radius of three miles of the town of Millington (known until about the 1830s as Head of Chester) there are said to have been five or six mills for the grinding of grain. Andover Mill was one of them, apparently serving the farming community east of Millington from the Peacock's Corners area to the Delaware line as well as farmers in nearby Queen Anne's County to the south of the Andover branch of the Chester River. Water-powered mill operations were one of the important early industries of Kent County, a necessity for a healthy agricultural economy. This mill is known to have been for the grinding of grain, but there is some indication that there was also a saw mill operation as well. With the dense forests then and still near the Maryland-Delaware line, such an operation would have been logical.

(Continued)

For a long period, the Andover Branch Mill was associated with the Turner family, a noted Quaker family of Kent County whose Millington branch seems to have been a mainstay of the Head of Chester Meeting there from its beginning in the late eighteenth century to its demise in 1840. E. J. Turner is shown as the owner of the associated farm (K-176) in the 1877 atlas of Kent County. Although the Andover grist mill was mapped and noted as a mill, no name was assigned to it. John McGrain in his 1970 typescript "Molinography of Kent County" mistakenly assigns ownership in 1877 to J. H. Pennington, who owned the farm north of the mill, not taking into account the fact that Turner property was split by the mill lane and that in fact it was Turner land immediately to the north of the mill, not Pennington property. Martenet's 1860 map of Kent County also shows Edward Turner as owner of the farm, but more importantly labels the mill as Turner's Mill.

This may have been the mill called Justice's Mill that was shown on Dennis Griffith's 1795 map of Maryland although it is possible that it is instead the mill in Millington at the foot of Sassafras Street. It is also possible that an 1762 Joshua Vansant mill right noted in McGrain's work is for the Andover Mill, but again it is possible it also may refer to the mill within Millington itself. Other possibly pertinent legal records are noted by him, but the old locations are vague and now unknown. A reprint of a Baltimore Sunday Sun article in the Kent County News on July 13, 1935 states that Andover Mill was built about the time of the Revolution and abandoned in 1890. A descendant of the Turner family says that the dam broke about 1913, an event that was generally fatal for mill operations during that period, when technological and marketing changes were already making water-powered grain mills obsolete. However, it is not clear whether the mill was still operating at the time of this dam break.

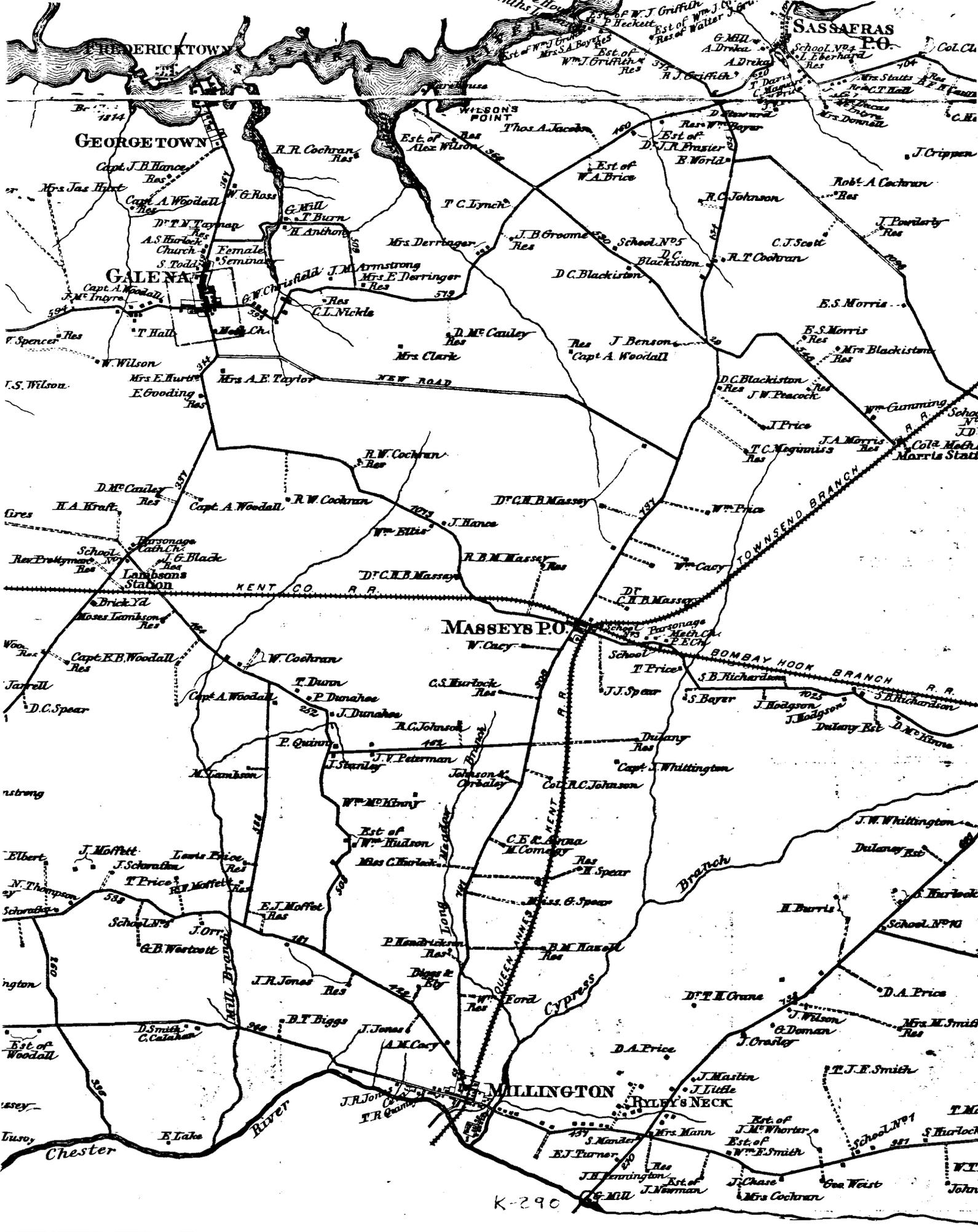
The only certain information found to date for this report are from the nineteenth century, circa 1830. The state legislature's Laws of 1828, chapter 108, permitted Samuel R. Turner, noted as owner of a grist mill and sawmill near Millington, to cut a canal, or head race, and erect dams through the lands of John Turner, Nicholas Smith, Rebecca Smith (the Smiths may have owned the next farm to the west of the Turner farm), Joshua J. Massey, Harriet M. Massey, and Solomon Smith. This evidently was for a revision to the existing mill operation, for the law states: "For many years the failure of the water in his pond, during the summer months, has been so great as nearly to stop his business, for three or four months, annually; he attributes this failure to evaporation, by reason of the expanded surface of said pound" and believes the health of the neighborhood would be promoted, and the water power increased, by the reduction of the pond. The persons listed who would be affected by the changes agreed; the law provided for protection and compensation for them and their heirs. There is an 1831 survey of a mill race for Samuel Turner recorded in Book JNG 2, page 675, of the Kent County land records, though locating the race with reference to the surrounding area is now difficult. There is said to be an 1839 survey of the mill property in connection with the division of John Turner's estate, but it was not found.

The Jester family, some of whose members are buried within what appears to be an old, small house foundation on the portion of Andover Farm to the east of the mill lane (now the public road), may have preceded the Turners as mill owners or operators. The grave markers are for deaths about 1800.

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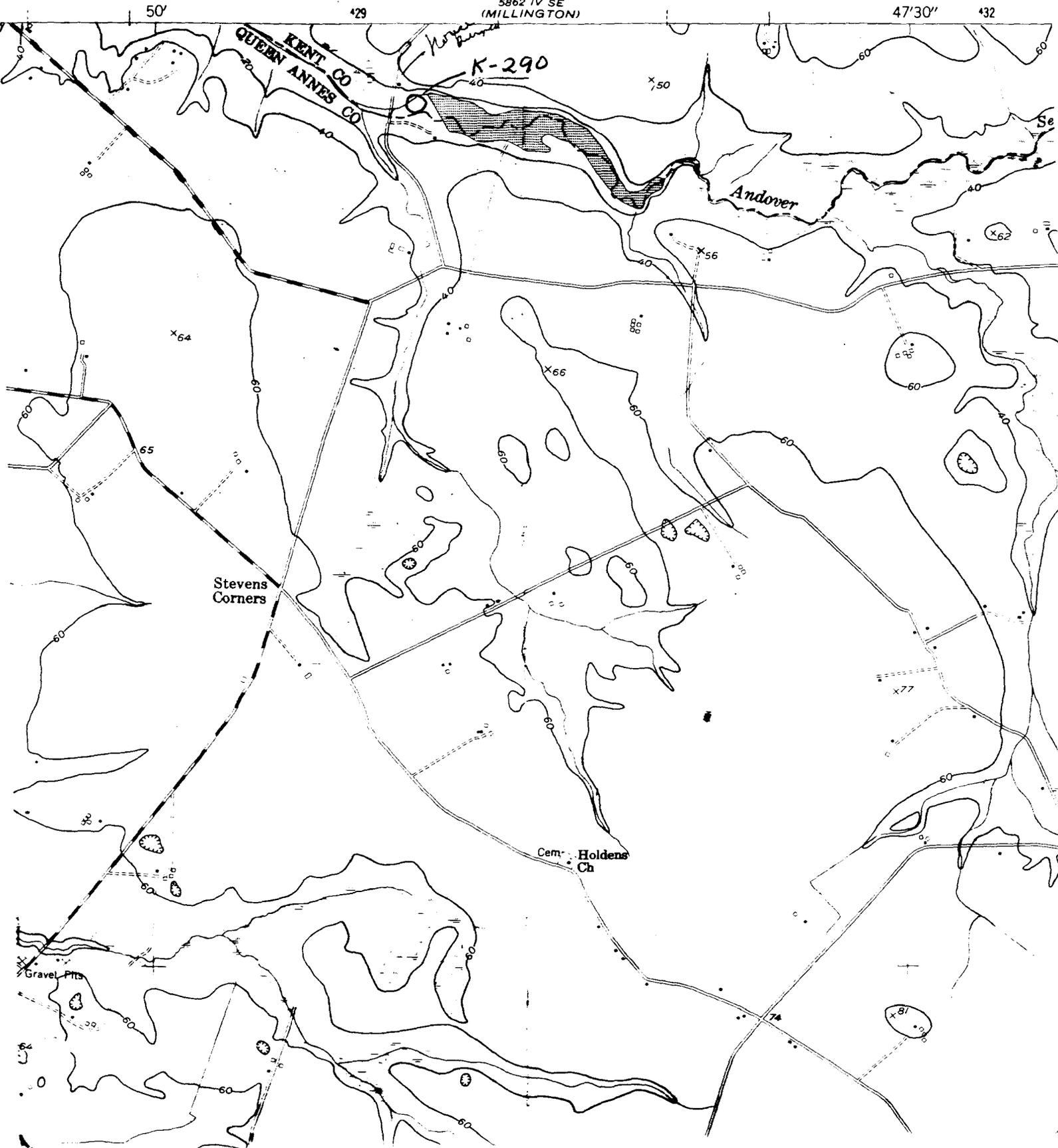
1. STATE <i>Maryland</i> COUNTY <i>Kent</i> TOWN <i>Millington</i> VICINITY STREET NO. <i>#10 School Rd. at Andover Branch</i> <i>(South of Rt. 291)</i> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <i>Mill</i> PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE <i>Site</i> WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <i>K-290</i>
	2. NAME <i>Andover Mill Site</i> DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER
	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <i>NO</i>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <i>Endangered</i> <i>Interior</i> <i>Exterior</i>	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <i>Mr. Everett Lamden, Chestertown, Md.</i> <i>200 Campus Ave. c. 2/620</i>	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <i>Michael Bourne</i> DATE OF RECORD <i>Jan, 1969</i>

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

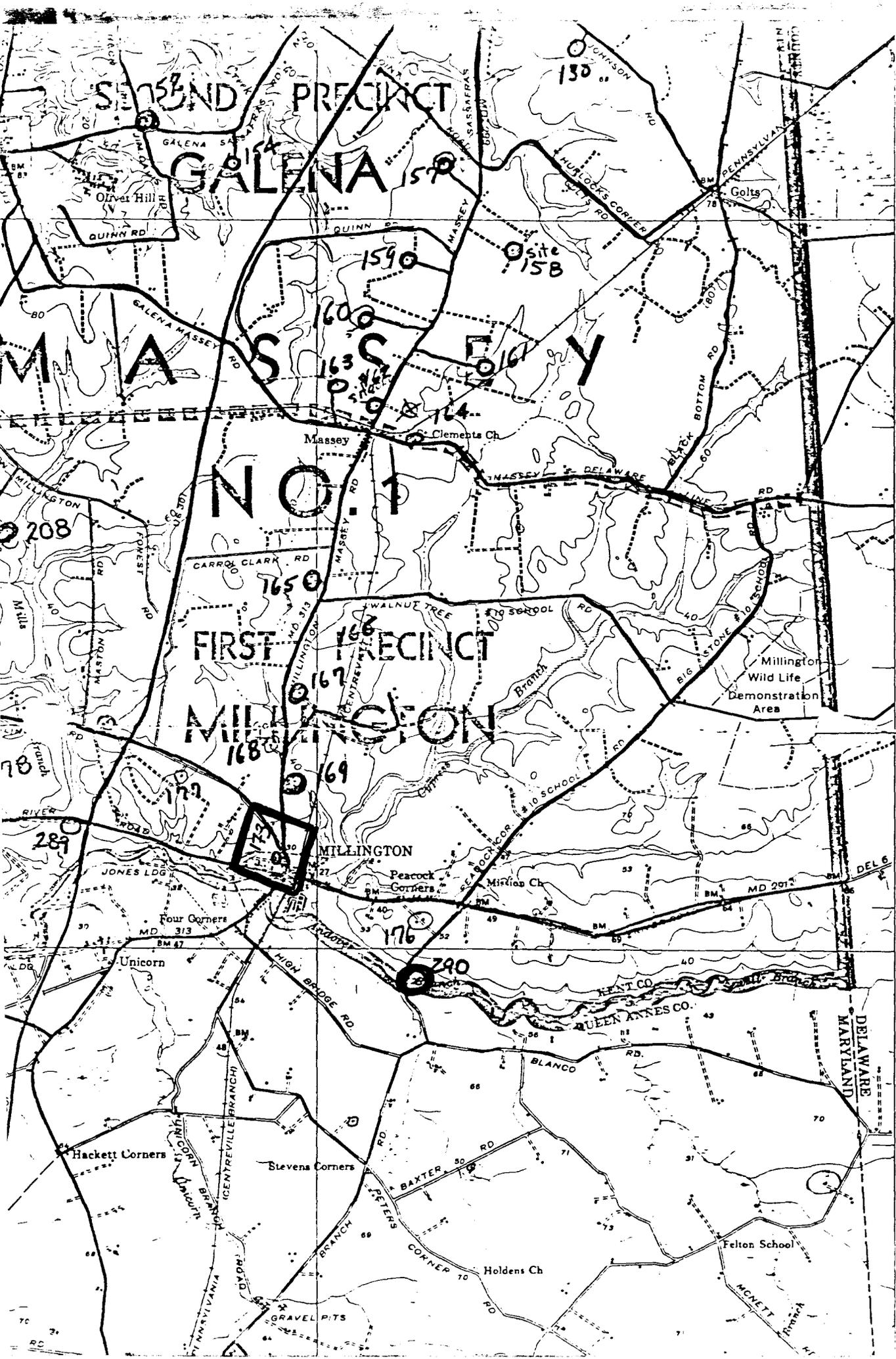


K-290
SUDLERSVILLE QUADRANGLE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
5862 IV SE
(MILLINGTON)



K-290



550
20'
540
530
520
15'
510