

K-293	1700-1800?
Anthony's Mill	1800-1899
Near Galena	1900-c. 1918

Located on Mill Creek east of Galena and Georgetown, the site of the old Anthony Mill is to the northeast of the large millpond that was reconstructed in the 1940s in the location of the original millpond that drained when the earthen dam broke circa 1918. From the 1940s to the 1980s the pond, with additions, was used for the owner's fish-hatching and -raising business. He has ascertained the location of the old mill, found old iron gears and mill stones (the latter now gone), and located the site of the miller's house. The area is now a beautiful, carefully-planted and well-maintained wildlife sanctuary, with the large pond a reminder of the period in which numerous mills were an important industrial contribution to the Kent County agricultural economy.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Site of Anthony's Mill (preferred); "Joshua Vasant Mill"

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East end of Mill Lane, .3 mile east of Rt. 213,
northeast of Galena not for publication

city, town Galena 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Clinton J. Riley

street & number Mill Lane telephone no.:

city, town Galena, state and zip code Maryland 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber RAS 23

street & number Cross Street folio 205

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title UNKNOWN

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-293

Site: Not applicable

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on Mill Creek east of Galena and Georgetown, the site of the old Anthony Mill is to the northeast of the large millpond that was reconstructed in the 1940s in the location of the original mill pond that drained when the earthen dam broke circa 1915-1918. From the 1940s to the 1980s the pond, with additions, was used for the owner's fish hatching and raising business. He has ascertained the location of the old mill (removing its fieldstone foundation), found old iron gears, and located where the miller's house stood. The area is now an idyllic, carefully planted and maintained wildlife sanctuary.

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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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

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.

Grist mills were encouraged by the early Maryland colonial legislatures as necessary for a healthy agricultural economy, and it is likely that this was a particularly early mill location as well as a profitable one. It was close to the eighteenth century town and port of Georgetown and to the cross roads village now called Galena (earlier Georgetown Crossroads). Its location would have been particularly helpful during the Revolutionary War, when the upper Eastern Shore and much of Delaware became noted, because of wheat production, as the "Breadbasket of the Revolution." The county's grain mills were an important early industry for agricultural Kent County, and this site, where the general nature of the old milling operation can still be discerned, documents that fact.

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The site of the old Anthony Mill is on the first creek of the Sassafras River to the east of Georgetown and Galena, with Gregg Neck to the east of the creek. On modern maps the creek is called Mill Creek, a rather nonspecific name that has been applied to other Kent County creeks both past and present. This particular Mill Creek earlier was known as what appears to be Crudley's Creek (1877 atlas), probably a corruption or misspelling of Quidley's Creek or Qigley's Creek. There is a 1749 reference to it by that name that also cites it as Plumber's Creek.

The present owner of the mill property and surrounding area bought it in 1939, some twenty years after the dam had washed out and not been repaired. He found it an overgrown, brambly, quite dry ravine with the creek merely trickling through it. It had been used as a dumping ground and for tree cutting. At one time the owner "collected" old mill ponds for his fish-hatching and raising business, owning as many as 26 at once in Maryland and elsewhere. Intending to use it for a fish hatchery, he restored the area to what probably resembles its state when used for a milling operation, with a large pond again extending south from the original dam location to Route 290. He has also added several modern buildings and built a smaller lower pond and several side impoundments for storage of fish. The pond is both spring fed (from the side of Olivet Hill) and fed from several headwaters branches of the creek, though now several owners of the up-creek farms have created farm ponds, possibly reducing the flow. The watershed area of Mill Creek is quite large.

The old mill site, now as well as historically, can be reached from Route 213 by going east on Mill Lane just north of Galena. Mill customers taking this route had to cross the old earthen dam (and probably a bridge over the millrace, to reach the mill, located just to the northeast of the dam. Historically (at least from the early to middle nineteenth century), the mill owner also had a right-of-way providing access for customers from the east, in the area of the present Route 290 (the Galena-Sassafras Road). After turning north onto what is now the Gregg Neck public road, mill patrons turned west onto the private road leading directly to the mill. This old route is now closed to the public but is evident if one looks closely. The old roadway is low between banks, having been eroded over the years by horse-and-wagon traffic. On each side, after an initial open area, there is a large osage orange hedgerow, very likely planted at the time the right-of-way from Gregg Neck Road was acquired and intended to hold the soil of the roadside banks. The hedge also marks the perimeter of the Burns Lots (see below).

Through careful investigation by the present owner, the location of the various elements of the old mill operation can be discerned. He has deduced that in its last years the mill was converted to a turbine operation, with a pipe diverting the flow as desired from the northeast end of the pond and with the old millrace dammed. He found evidences of the old outlet for this purpose. The original millrace also would have been in the same approximate location, flowing northeast and then northwest past the mill itself. At the approximate location of the old mill there is an abrupt drop, down what is

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now a ravine, indicating that an overshot wheel probably was used. In this area he found abandoned an old iron pinion gear, ring gear, and shaft, which he thinks dates from the nineteenth century, perhaps from 1850 or earlier. He believes other parts were removed for the scrap iron. He found evidence that the old overflow outlet was to the west/northwest of the mill pond. Old millstones were also on the property when the present owner purchased it, but they vanished. They were composite stones, radial segments (like pie slices) that were banded together with iron strapping like a wagon wheel. He said the segments were mortared together with oyster-shell lime mortar. Several different types of stones were found, varying in hardness and porosity, used for grinding various types of grain and for the production of varying kinds of products from the grain.

He feels that he has located the site of the old miller's house, to the northeast of the dam but still south of the mill itself. This is consistent with the 1877 atlas map, which shows the house of H. Anthony to the south of the dam and access roads from east and west. The mill itself is shown to the north of the road, directly north of the house. The present owner said that part of the old fieldstone foundation of the mill was present when he bought the property; he removed it. He judged the mill to not have been large. Just to the east of the mill, along the private road leading to Gregg Neck Road, is a house attributed to Thomas Burn, on what came to be known as the Burn's Lots. Totalling about 11 acres, the Burns Lots for many years have been transferred with the 56 acre mill property. Any possible relationship between Burns and the mill operation is now unknown. The old house site was found there, with an open well. The Burns Lots are now somewhat grown up, but the owner keeps the road through them cleared. In the Burns Lots area there is a small graveyard, for at least two people and one dog. The latter is recent. For one of the others there is only a fieldstone. The other has a modern marker placed by the DAR before 1939 that reads "John Anthony, Quartermaster, 6th Pa. Militia, Revolutionary War." The present owner later added to his original 67-acre parcel, accumulating about 88 acres (but then also selling small areas in the vicinity of Route 290).

The present owner estimates that the large, upper pond is about 40 acres while the lower pond he constructed (where formerly there were only marsh and mud flats) is about 7 acres. Below the smaller pond (to the north of the larger pond) the creek is shallow, mostly mud flats at low tide. Historically the creek may also been used for access to the mill, when perhaps the creek bed was not as silted as it has become. The entire mill site is now a beautiful, rather idyllic site that has not only been cleaned up but planted by the now 98-year-old owner, who propagates and cultivates numerous plants (some exotic) and maintains the area as a wildlife sanctuary. He hopes to see it preserved in its present state and so is negotiating with the Natural Lands Trust, Baltimore. The ponds are no longer used for the owner's fish hatching business, which he practiced here from about 1945 to 1983, when there was a major fish kill possibly due to runoff of pesticides from nearby farmlands that drain into the ponds.

On the high ground at the end of the mill lane from Galena and west of
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the large pond he has built a modern brick one-storey house. At the foot of the lane from the end of Mill Lane, along the old roadway that still continues to and across the dam, he once built a house but later removed it. Farther back from the pond western shore he then built a two-storey structure. It was intended to house garages and a shop for his live-fish raising and hauling business on the first storey and apartments for his drivers on the second, though it was never used for that purpose. The first storey is now used for a shop and general work space.

John McGrain's typescript "The Molinography of Kent County" (1971) includes a reference to a Joshua Vansant mill right that was probably for a mill on the site. On December 2, 1749 (Chancery, IR 5/42) he took out a writ of ad quod damnum on Quigleys Creek (also called Plumbers Creek). "The jurors found 19 acres in possession of William Rasin [known to also have Georgetown property] and one acre in possession of John and George Browning. Total damages were three shilings yearly."

For much of the nineteenth century, and perhaps the latter part of the eighteenth century as well, the mill was owned and perhaps operated by successive members of the Anthony family, evidently originally from Pennsylvania. The name H[enry]. Anthony is shown on the 1877 atlas map of Kent County adjacent to the old mill building and mill house, though William A. Miller may have owned it at that time (from about 1862 to about 1883 at least). The February 24, 1883, Kent County News noted that W. J. Spicer purchased the mill, known as Miller's Mill, for \$2,000. Shortly afterward (issue of March 24, 1883) it was stated that William A. Fowler has rented the Miller Mill near Galena and will grind wheat, corn and chops. Between Anthony ownership and Miller's ownership, Aaron L. (or J.) Gooding seems to have owned it. The Gooding family seems to have owned more than one Kent County mill during this period.

According to Miss Mary Caldwell, now of Chestertown but originally of Galena, the old dam (on which she remembers skating) broke circa 1914-1918. Because of coinciding with technological changes in grain processing and changes in marketing, the pond and dam were never restored. The area was an overgrown wasteland until bought by the present owner in 1939.

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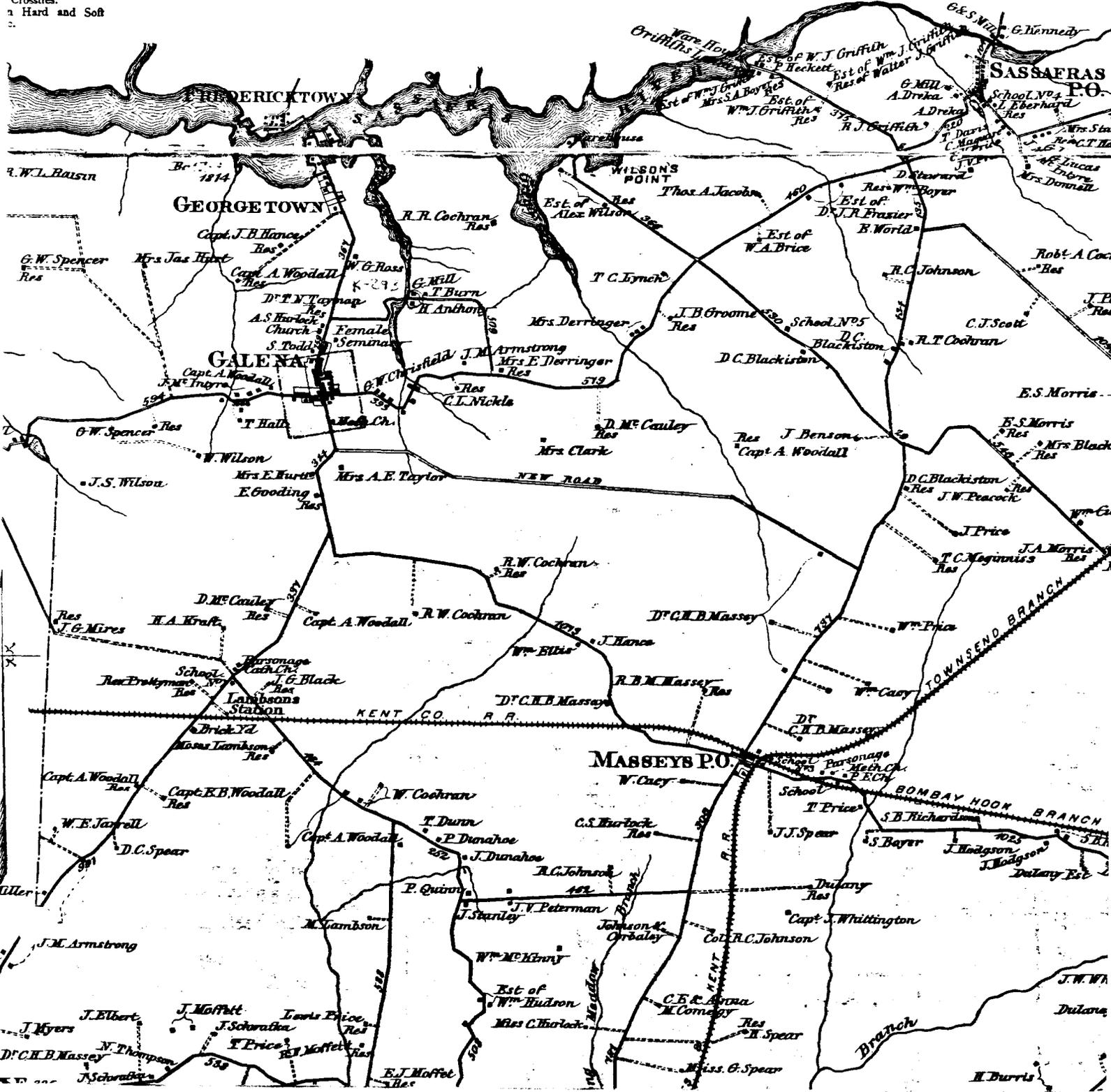
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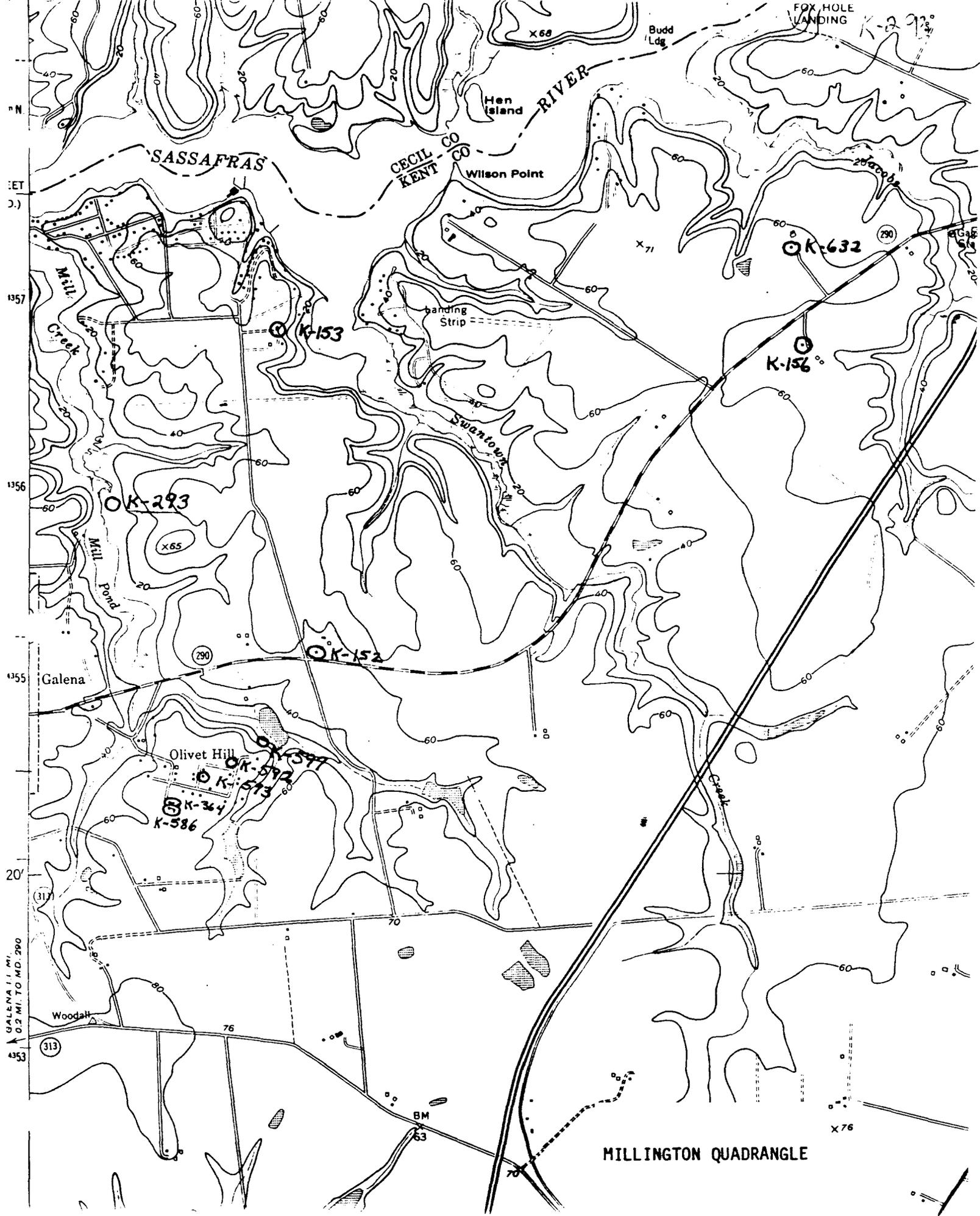
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FIRST DISTRICT

MILLINGTON

KENT CO





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SASSAFRAS

CECIL
KENT CO

Wilson Point

RIVER

banding Strip

Swanton

OK-632

K-156

OK-293

OK-152

Olivet Hill
OK-597
OK-592
OK-513
OK-364
K-586

Galena

Woodall

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE

X 76

BM
63

FOX HOLE
LANDING K-293

Budd Ldg

Hen Island

Mill
Creek

Mill
Pond

Creek