

GROVES HOUSE
Kennedyville, Maryland
(ca 1870-75)

The Groves House is one of the earliest Kennedyville houses. It was constructed by John Kennedy, the founder of the town, as a speculative building in about 1870-75. In form, plan, and fenestration, it more nearly resembles the vernacular buildings of southeastern Pennsylvania than those of the Upper Shore and probably was constructed by workers from Mr. Kennedy's home in Port Kennedy in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kennedy began actively buying land in the Kennedyville area in 1853. By the late 1860's when the Kent County Railroad was acquiring rights-of-way in the area, Mr. Kennedy had already laid out his town. Sales of the lots began in about 1868. In addition to selling lots, Mr. Kennedy erected several buildings for sale. This house and the Parish House are both double houses and were both constructed before 1877. The building was sold from the Kennedy estate in 1878.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Groves House

2 LOCATION

East side of Main Street

STREET & NUMBER

1st

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

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

Mrs. James Groves

Telephone #: 301-348-5270

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21645

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: W H G 63

Folio #: 135

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-389

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building is one of two brick double houses in Kennedyville, Maryland. It is located on the east side of Route 213 north on lot number 4 of the Kennedy Plat of the town. The lot measures approximately 50' X 160'.

The Groves House is four bays wide, two rooms deep and a true two-and-one-half stories tall. Behind the main house is a two room, one-and-one-half story shed which contained two kitchens, side by side. The building is symmetrical and originally contained two "mirror-image" dwelling units.

The shallow gable roof of the main house has its ridge set parallel to the street. It has box cornices with 4½" cyma recta crownmold and simple composite bedmoldings. At the gables the roof is finished against tapered verge boards which run from the front and rear cornices to pairs of centrally located chimneys. The chimneys are connected by a low brick curtain. The kitchens are covered by a single shallow gable roof with its ridge perpendicular to the street.

Originally there were windows in the front and rear walls of the main house only. They are evenly spaced on the main facade; entry doors are located in the central two bays. On floors one and two the windows have six over six sash, but on the third story they have three over three sash. All sash are set in unbeaded wooden frames with flattened-quarterround backbands and wooden sills. Remaining hardware shows that there were exterior shutters on all windows.* There is an original entry door on the northern unit; it has two long raised but unbeveled panels with Greek ogee and bevel panel moldings. The other door dates from the early 20th century and has a beveled glass light with

* They were probably identical to those on the Parrish House (K-390.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-389

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1870-75

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Kennedy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Groves House is one of the earliest Kennedyville houses. It was constructed by John Kennedy, the founder of the town, as a speculative building in about 1870-75. In form, plan, and fenestration, it more nearly resembles the vernacular buildings of southeastern Pennsylvania than those of the Upper Shore and probably was constructed by workers from Mr. Kennedy's home in Port Kennedy in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kennedy began actively buying land in the Kennedyville area in 1853. By the late 1860's when the Kent County Railroad was acquiring rights-of-way in the area, Mr. Kennedy had already laid out his town. Sales of the lots began in about 1868. In addition to selling lots, Mr. Kennedy erected several buildings for sale. This house and the Parish House are both double houses and were both constructed before 1877. The building was sold from the Kennedy estate in 1878.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-389

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

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

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.

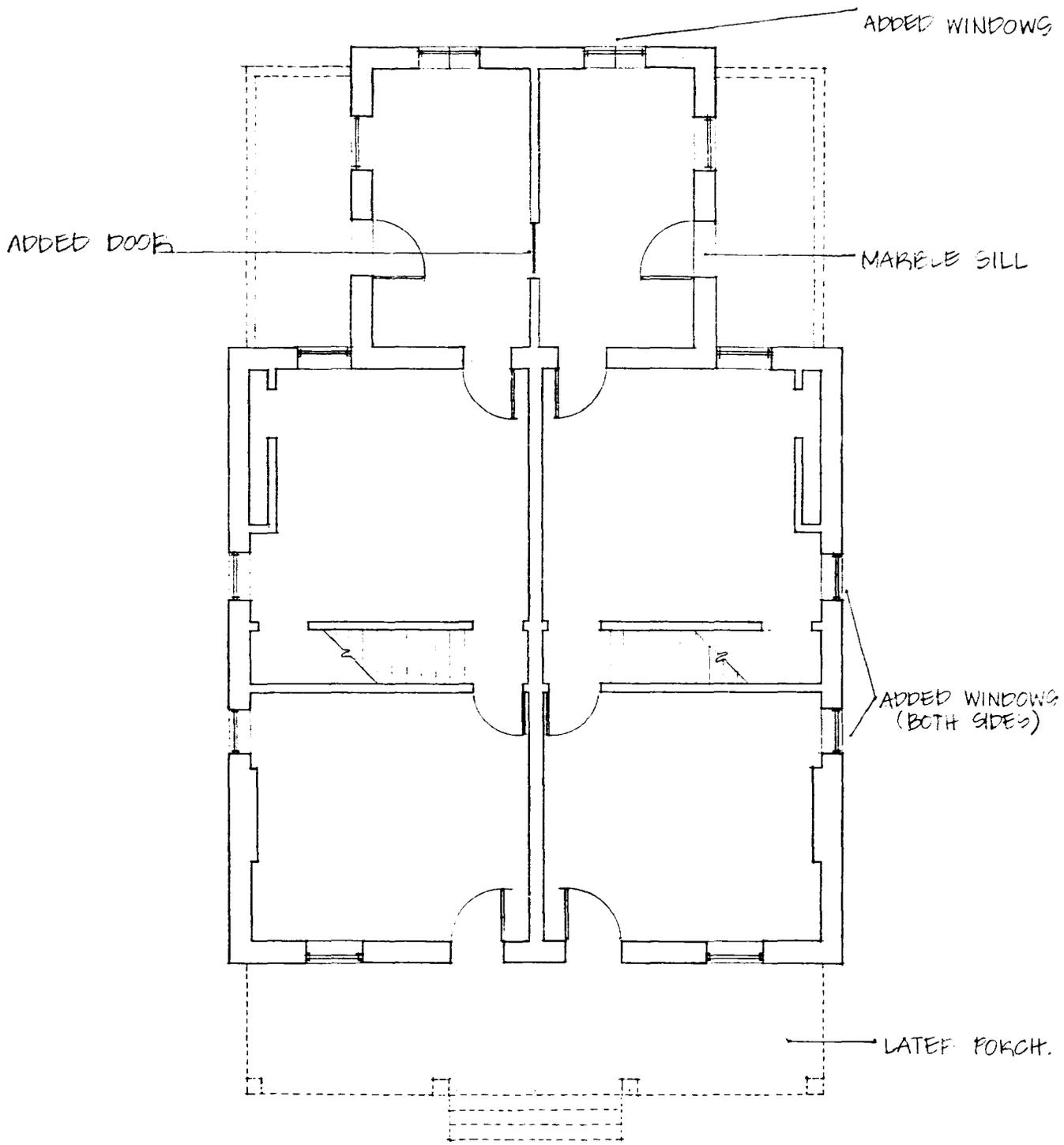
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

wooden applique work below. Both doorways have two pane transom lights and the same trim as the windows.

A one-story, hipped roof porch covers the entire front of the structure. There is an additional porch, now enclosed off the kitchen.

The floor plan shows the placement of the stair between the two major rooms, an unusual feature in buildings in this area. The closet shown is original; there is a simple mantle shelf, implying that the room was heated by a stove. In the southern living room the mantle is wooden but very simple; in the other portion of the house the mantle is marbelized slate. Interior doors have four panels and box locks. The flooring is random yellow pine averaging 6" in width. Other interior trim is illustrated.

The house has been changed very little. Windows were added in the side walls and kitchen and the building was stuccoed. On the interior, a winder stair was removed from kitchen and a doorway cut between the low kitchen chamber to the main house. The building is very well maintained and used as a single family residence.



GROVES HOUSE (K-389)

KENNEDYVILLE, MARYLAND.

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Chain of Title

GROVES HOUSE (K-389)
Kennedyville, Maryland

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

WHG 63
135

TO: James H. & Blanche Groves
FROM: Ella L. Hill, widow of Robert
DATE: December 5, 1959

"That lot measuring 50 by 160 feet..."

APR 7
564

TO: Robert R. Hill
FROM: John N. Bennett, Executor
DATE: January 4, 1921

John N. Bennett as Executor is authorized by will to sell the property of John R. Bennett. (Kent, Wills Liber JRC1/462.) This property was sold on Feb. 24, 1920, for \$3,100.00.

JTD 4
288

TO: John R. Bennett
FROM: James K.H. Jacobs & wife
DATE: December 29, 1900

The lot "improved by a comfortable brick dwelling."

SB 4
42

TO: James K.H. Jacobs & wife
FROM: Richard Hynson, Executor of Jacob Highley
DATE: February 3, 1883

An Orphans Court transaction directed that J. Highley's property be sold along with its "double brick dwelling" for \$1,4500.00 to the highest bidder.

SB 2
301

TO: Jacob Highley
FROM: Joseph H. & Julia A. Hossinger
DATE: September 5, 1881

For \$1,200.00 with the "three story brick dwelling of eight rooms." Here described as lot#4 and measuring 50 X 160.

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

DCB 5
524

TO: Joseph H. & Julia A. Hossinger
FROM: Margaret S. Kennedy & Edwin Moore of Montgomery
Co., Pa., & Jacob Highley of Kent Co., Md.
DATE: January 24, 1880

The lot in Kennedyville improved with a double brick dwelling with three stories each, five rooms and a kitchen; purchase price--\$1,285.00.

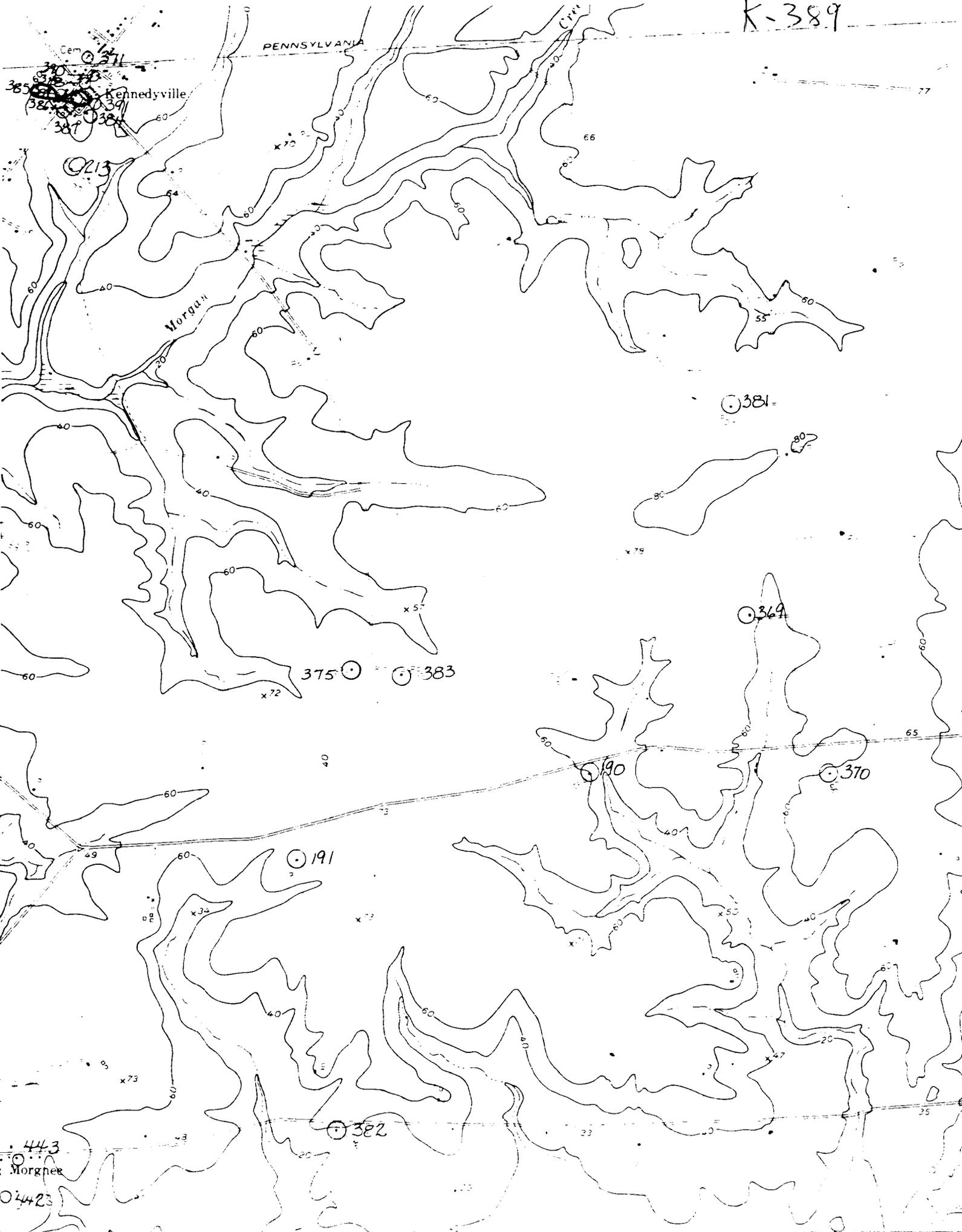
At the same time Hossinger bought "The Wheelwright Shop" Lot for \$476.00 (lot#22) plus a part of lot#23.

DCB 4
115

TO: J. Highley, et al
FROM: Moore C. Kennedy, et al
DATE: May 31, 1878

John Kennedy late of Montgomery Co., Pa., had recently died leaving instructions for several of his properties to be sold by his heirs. This deed records the sales.

K-389





K-389

Groves House

View to Northeast

Kennedyville

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell

FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND