

TATE HOMESTEAD  
Morgnec, Maryland  
(ca 1900, ca 1950)

K-442

The material culture of two periods in Morgnec is illustrated by the Tate Homestead building. The older home house is a 2 story, one cell house with a kitchen lean-to, and is the type commonly constructed by white farmers for their Black tenants. Examples of this kind of folk housing are seen all over the Eastern Shore. This building was constructed about 1900 for Oscar and Jennie Tate, who later bought the property. The newer house was constructed for a granddaughter of the Tate's and reflects the common vernacular house-type of the 1950's.

In Morgnec and many other Black villages of the Tidewater region, homesteads of 1 to 10 acres were purchased in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and farmed intensively. Residences, outbuildings, and livestock pens were constructed and the homesteads, clustered in little rural communities, became almost self-sufficient. The thickets visible surrounding the houses in Morgnec are the site of these old fields and orchards. As farming declined, pieces of the agricultural land were used for building lots, usually for descendants of the original homesteaders.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K - 442

MAGI # 1504425604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC TATE HOMESTEAD

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

Morgnec, south east of Joshua Chapel

STREET & NUMBER

Morgnec Road

1st

July 2/1991

CITY, TOWN

Morgnec

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Estate of Henry E. Tate

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Morgnec

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 20

Folio #: 18

STREET & NUMBER

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

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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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The older house on the property is a two-story, one-cell frame structure with a gable roof and side lean-to kitchen. The main house roof has overhanging eaves, but no dormers. The lean-to roof is finished against verge boards and a plain box cornice. There was originally a shed porch on the west facade the length of the kitchen shed. The main entry is in the south side of the front; north of it is a small 6 over 6 sash window with a similiar window above it. There is a door in the west facade of the kitchen; windows on the east facade are located opposite the openings on the west. There is a stuccoed brick chimney between the two sections of the house.

The building is sheathed by 5"-6" unpainted weather boarding. It rests on brick piers.

The other house on the property is a one story, rectangular structure with a very shallow, overhanging gable roof. There is a central entry door in the west facade and two sash windows on either side of the door in the gables. The roof is extended over the door and window to provide additional shelter. There is a brick chimney in the gable and the building rests on a concrete block foundation. The exterior walls are covered by asphalt shingles; the roof has asbestous shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>PERIOD</b>		<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b>			
<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 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 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)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			<b>material Folk culture</b>

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<b>SPECIFIC DATES</b>	<b>BUILDER/ARCHITECT</b>
ca 1900 , ca 1950	

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The material culture of two periods in Morgnec is illustrated in this photograph. The older house was the type commonly constructed by white farmers for their Black tenant farmers, and examples of this kind of folk housing are seen all over the Eastern Shore. This house was constructed about 1900 for Oscar and Jennie Tate who later bought the homestead. Mrs. Martha Tate Pinkney and her 10 brothers and sisters grew up in this house and it is now owned by the estate of her brother. The outhouse on the property was in use until recent years.

The newer modern house was constructed for a granddaughter of the Tate's and reflects the common vernacular house-type of the 1950's.

In Morgnec and many other Black villages of the Tidewater region, homesteads of 1 to 10 acres were purchased in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and farmed intensively. Residences, outbuildings, and livestock pens were constructed and the homesteads, clustered in little rural communities, became almost self-sufficient. The thickets visible surrounding the houses in Morgnec are the site of these old fields and orchards. As farming declined, pieces of the agricultural land were used for building lots, usually for descendants of the original homesteaders.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

Interview with Mrs. Martha Tate Pinkney, October 1979.

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

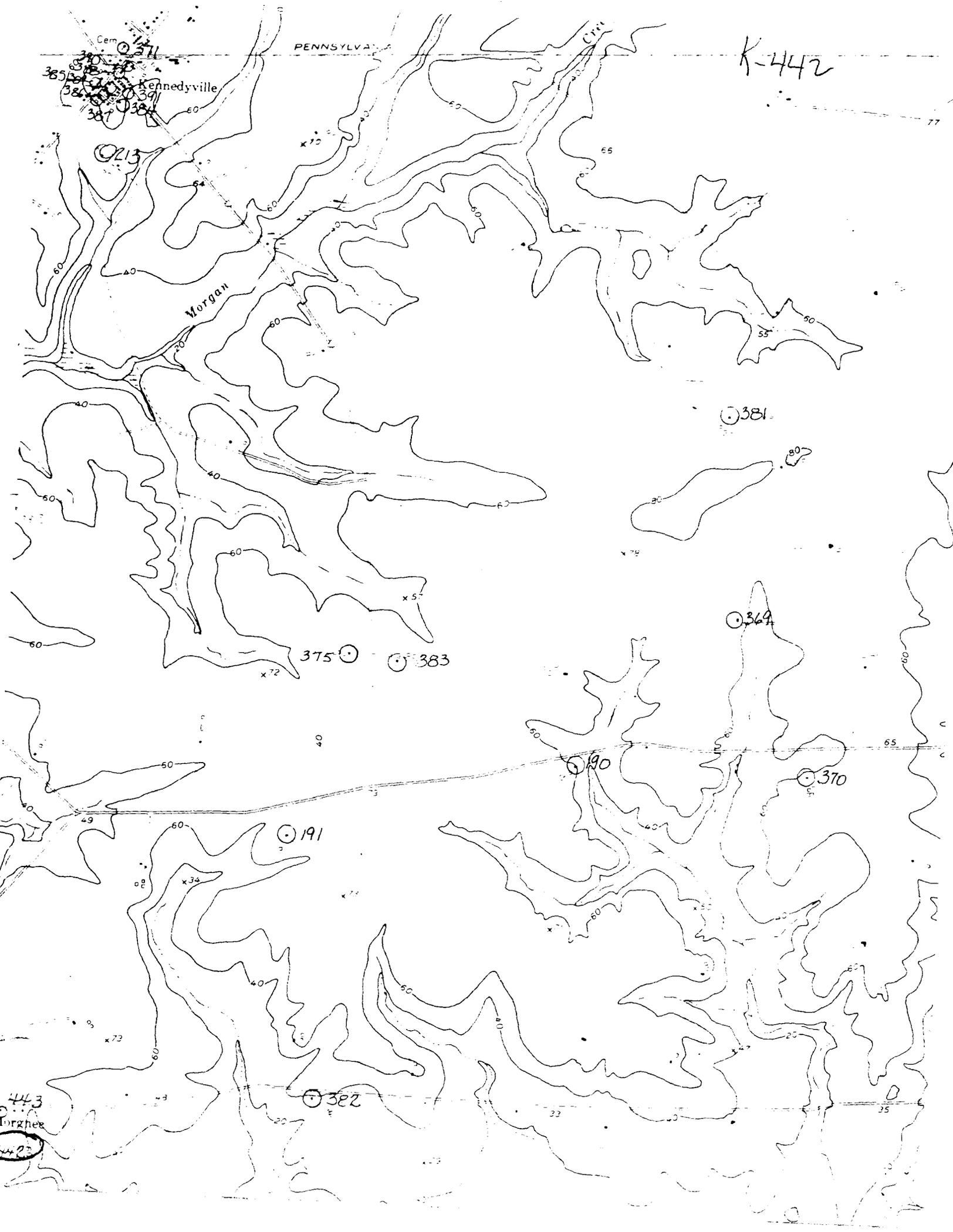
STREET & NUMBER Court House TELEPHONE

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





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Tate Homestead

View to East

Morgnet,

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell  
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND