

K-574	Late 18th century?
Caldwell-Rudnick House	3rd quarter 19th century?
Galena	circa 1905-1910
Private	

The Caldwell-Rudnick House, at 119 N. Main Street, appears at first glance to be a typical 2-1/2 storey, 5-bay wide, central-gable, frame Victorian dwelling with rear ell. However, the three-bay wide northern part of the main section is one of the oldest houses in Galena. It had a side-hall plan with one room on each level and probably was Federal in style, as indicated by minimal surviving evidence on the third level. The first storey, at least, is said to be of planked-log construction. The first addition to the south was a 1-1/2 storey wing, replaced probably 1850-1875 by a two-bay extension of the original section, though it is inset slightly on the main facade. Behind it a perpendicular two-storey wing was added. About 1905-1910 the still-fashionable central gable was added, one dormer removed from the north section's roof, one added to the south roof, the hall partition wall removed on the first storey to enlarge the parlor, a new stair built, and a hall added to the long, north side of the ell. It has since been much remodelled and added to, but all in the rear. It is representative of Galena's few remaining early houses, none of which is relatively unchanged. It has been occupied for about two centuries and has been altered according to changing needs and architectural fashions. It now contains the offices of an auction business and two apartments.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Caldwell-Rudnick House

## 2. Location

street & number 119 N. Main Street  not for publicationcity, town Galena  vicinity of congressional district First

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Harry Rudnick &amp; Sons, Inc

street &amp; number telephone no.: 648-5601

city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21635

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber WHG 74

street &amp; number Cross Street folio 305

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-574

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Caldwell-Rudnick House at 119 N. Main Street in Galena appears at first to be a typical Kent County 2-1/2 story, five-bay, central-gable, frame Victorian dwelling with rear ell that has been modified during the twentieth century. Close inspection and research reveal, however, that part of the house is one of the oldest houses in Galena. Just to the south of the approach side's north three bays, the facade wall is inset slightly, with two bays to the south. The northern section is the older, the first story, at least, said to be of planked-log construction. Either originally or by the late eighteenth century or very early nineteenth century, the house was 2-1/2 stories, with a side-hall plan and one room on each of three levels; there were two facade dormers. The style probably was Federal. In the middle to late nineteenth century (probably by 1877) the house was extended two bays to the south (creating a central-hall plan), with roof lines continuous but front wall inset, and a three-bay deep rear wing built perpendicular to the extension. About 1905-1910 the still-fashionable central gable was added, one dormer removed from the north facade, one added to the south facade roof, the hall partition wall removed on the first story to enlarge the parlor, a new stair built, and a hall added to the long north side of the ell. It has since been much remodeled and added to: a two-story ell behind the original north section and a later one story rearward extension, an rear extension of the first rear ell, and a shed-roofed, one-story addition to the south of the original ell. The building now serves as offices for an auction business and contains two apartments. Evidence of the early building can be seen now only on the third level.

An old postcard, postmarked February, 1911, shows the house during the early period of ownership by Samuel G. Caldwell. His daughter, Mary Caldwell, now of Chestertown, says that the family moved there in 1904 or 1905. The postcard shows the house after its middle to late nineteenth century additions: the south facade extension and its rear ell. The old, north section had three bays on both stories; with the main entry in the southern bay. The openings were aligned from first story to second, but they were not equally spaced on the facade; the central bay's windows were off-center to the south, quite close to the southern, entry bay. There were two gable-roofed dormers, spaced with reference only to the roof area; their sash was double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. The wood-shingled roof was continuous over both sections. All windows of the first two story were double-hung with 6-over-6 lights, with shutters. There was a three-bay front porch spanning the joint of the two front sections and centered on the main entry in the south bay of the earlier section. The porch's roof was a very low hip; there was no balustrade, only large square (perhaps tapered) enriched posts. The main entry may have been the present one; narrow sidelights are visible. A two-bay porch with

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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 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/
<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 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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Although Galena (as Down's Crossroads and Georgetown Crossroads) was an important eighteenth-century crossroads community on Kent County's main north-south through route, none of its apparently few early houses survive even relatively unchanged. The Caldwell-Rudnick House is an example of an early Galena house that has been occupied for about 200 years and has been altered according to changing needs and architectural fashions.

During the occupancy of the Caldwell family, roughly during the first quarter of the twentieth century, the family's livestock sales business was conducted at the rear of the property. Samuel Caldwell has sales on the site and also bought stock from farmers to send by boat to Baltimore to sell there. According to his daughter, he went from Georgetown on the Monday morning boat and returned on Tuesday. Farmers drove cattle, horses, and sheep to his establishment to sell them; chickens were brought as well. Sometimes local people brought them, at sales held outside in the rear yard. All the old outbuildings are gone, including one large stable built for the livestock operation.

Martenet's 1860 map of Kent County shows an E. Kennard as the owner of the property at that time. By 1877 the owner, as shown on the Kent County atlas map of that year, was E. F. Miller. Both the south addition and its rear ell addition seem to have been made at that time.

According to Miss Caldwell, the owner preceding her family was a Dr. Latimer. Prior to the Rudnicks' purchase a Dr. Crum used the building for his home and office.

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construction identical to that of the front porch spanned the south end of the south part of the main section. The exterior walls were horizontal, lapped weatherboard. A picket fence with handsome gate posts and gates enclosed the yard, and there was a windmill with free-standing water storage tank in the side rear yard. A small, shed-roofed structure appeared to stand at the rear (west) end of the rear ell. Either it was attached to it, as a porch with end enclosed, or it was portion of a rear-yard structure, such as a summer kitchen, meathouse or shed. The Caldwell family used the north first-storey room as a formal parlor and the south room as the family living room. The room to its rear, in the rear ell, was a dining room, and the kitchen was behind it.

The Caldwell family had not lived in the house long before there was a fire on the second storey of the southern part of the main section that was started by a Latrobe stove. Though the fire was said to have done more damage outside than inside, especially to the end porch, and to have been controlled quickly, it seems to have been the impetus for the pre-World War I remodeling done by the Caldwells. The old stair, which would have been either dog-leg or half-turn with landings and was probably open to the third storey, was removed, only a few remnants remain on the third storey. The partition wall between the hall and north room was removed and a beam with column and half-wall about 36" long installed near the main entry; an engaged column is on the half-wall at the entry's wall. The replacement, very narrow, closed-string stair (ca. 27"-wide treads) is straight-run to a rear landing that is one step short of the level of the second-storey floor. At the landing, through the rear wall, is a door to a long hall added to the long north side of the rear ell, for direct access to the ell's two bedrooms and new bathroom at the rear. The new stair's newel is large and square with a small, simple trefoil design; the base and compound cap are square, the cap's top pyramidal. Balusters are turned and square, and the rail is Colonial Revival. The second-storey window in the facade of the north section's south bay (over the main entry) was closed and the first run begun along the facade wall of a new, enclosed quarter-turn stair to the third level. A closet was built under the second run. Headroom was achieved by building the facade central gable, whose width required removing the early section's south dormer. To balance the new composition, a dormer was built in the southern part of the main section. The new enclosed stair and closet were reached by the narrow front-to-rear hall space adjacent to the stair. The second-storey hall-room partition wall may have been moved somewhat to the south to gain more space in the bedroom. Doors from the hall to second-storey main-section bedrooms would have had to be relocated. New porches may have been built at this time as well. The concrete floor and shed roof of the present three-bay facade porch date from the mid twentieth century, though appearing to use the columns and Colonial Revival balustrade of the preceding porch, which was said to have been larger and wrapped around the south end and perhaps the north end as well. There was said to have been a two-storey back porch during the Caldwell occupancy. Whether it was to the rear of the kitchen wing or along its long north side, in the L with the main section, is not clear. The Caldwells also may have covered the exterior with German shiplap weatherboard.

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The Rudnick family, which has owned the house since the late 1930s, has used it for an office for their livestock and other auction operations. Two rental apartments have been created. Since their ownership, first and second storey windows have been replaced; they are now double-hung with 1-over-1 lights. A two-storey, gable-roofed rear wing has been added behind the original, north part of the main section and later a one-storey, shed-roofed addition to its rear. The earlier rear wing has had a small two-storey addition to its rear. Seen from the rear, the house is now a U-shape, with an open center area about 6-1/2 feet wide. A large one-storey shed-roofed storage room has been added to the original rear wing's south side. The entire exterior has been covered with white aluminum siding, and numerous interior surfaces have been covered with modern materials as well; original decorative details do not survive.

All sections of the building are built over a crawl space. Little of the earliest section's foundation could be seen because of siding low to the ground. At the north end both brick and fieldstone were seen. The original rear ell foundation appears to be parged brick.

The original north section chimney is in the center of the north gable end, within the wall. It is built of dark red brick and is quite large. There is a three-course cap. There are now no exposed fireplaces on the interior. At the south end of the main section there is a similar center chimney, quite large, but with bricks parged. The house's third chimney, in the first rear wing, was in the approximate center of the wing, between dining room and kitchen. It is of parged brick.

The roofs of main section and original rear ell are now covered with standing seam metal over wood shingles. Other roofs are asphalt shingles, corrugated metal, and imitation standing seam metal. The main-section roof edges were Victorianized during the nineteenth century. At the north end of the original section, which originally had flush beaded-pine verge boards, the roof ends were extended and returns of c. 20" created. The boxed cornices are now entirely covered with aluminum. Built-in cornice gutters were created and later revised.

Like the rest of the building, the added central-gable is covered with aluminum siding; it is continuous with that of the main wall below; there are c. 20" cornice returns at the lower edge of the gable, but it is not fully pedimented. The gable is located in the center of the overall main section. Though the central gable was probably added partly to make the house look more symmetrical, it does not quite succeed. The break between original section and south addition falls beneath the central gable, and the gable is not directly over the main entry. The remaining early gable-roofed dormer and the early twentieth-century one are now covered with aluminum siding; the architraves are covered.

The main entry is in the central bay of the main section, facing the street, but the bays' symmetry is imperfect. The entry appears to date from the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century, though the architrave

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is covered with aluminum. There are three-light sidelights above a recessed panel with compound, bold, bolection molding. The door has one large light over two pair of panels with the same molding as the sidelights; the panels have a small raised center portion. There are numerous other entries. The entry into the east bay of the south side of the original rear wing is an original entry location. When there was a side-hall plan, there most likely was an entry in the rear of the hall; if so, it has been closed.

The double-hung windows are all replacements, and the trim is covered by aluminum. There is one 6-over-1 window. The original north end has a pair of 2-over-2 casements. The north end windows on the first and second storeys may be in added openings.

The ceilings of the north, original section are notable low. In the second-storey room the plaster ceiling now measures only 6'-4" above the floor. The windows extend to the ceiling.

It is only on the third level that the early nature of the north section can be seen. The hall was altered when the new stair was built in the central gable, but numerous original elements remain. The north section once had a pair of casements in the south gable as well as in the north. One is now just a framed opening, and the west one has been enlarged and hung with a Victorian beaded board-and-batten door leading from the hall to the higher unfinished attic of the south addition. Added boards in the hall floor of the third level show the location of the original stair well. There is a remnant of the original balustrade. The balusters are gone, but ca. 5/8" x 1-1/8" holes remain in the floor. Two simple 29-1/2" tall intermediate newels remain that are 2-1/2" square with stop-chamfered edges. There is no separate cap, but the upper edges of the newel are chamfered on all edges above the rail. The rail is simple--a 1-3/4" astragal with beaded lower edges. The hall baseboard is 5" high, with upper edge beaded. The newels, rail, baseboard, and door to south attic have been grained, really a rather crude combing. The presence of the graining on the door to the south attic indicates that the graining is Victorian, done after the south addition to the house. The hall is 8'-2" wide and may also have been used as a chamber. The wide width of the hall, presumably the same on the two lower storeys, considered with the relatively narrow width of the third-level chamber (13 feet) may explain why in the early twentieth century the first storey partition was removed and such a narrow straight stair built.

The attic floor of the south section is higher than that of the finished hall and chamber of the north section. From within that attic the old beveled, horizontal, lapped weatherboard of the original north section can be seen. The exposure is 3"-4". The weatherboard is tapered from 5/8" thickness to 3/8". The weatherboard is severely weathered, with only traces of paint or whitewash remaining. One can see far down between the two sections. The pine flush verge boards are tapered and beaded. Ghosts on the south gable of the north section indicate that there was once a 1-1/2 storey section where the present later south addition is now. Its apex is about at the height of the top of the casement windows. The apex was slightly off center toward the

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street; the roof crossed part of the east-bay casement. The 1-1/2 story section thus appears to post-date the surviving north section. Lath of the north section is riven. Flooring is medium to wide random-width. In the south attic the mostly 3" x 4" rafters appear machine-sawn; rafter ties were added. This, of course, is the section that suffered the early twentieth-century fire; how extensive the damage was is not known.

The door to the chamber from the hall has what appears to be the original beaded-board-and-batten door; board widths are random medium to wide. There is no finish on the hall side but a wash of paint on the chamber side. The original hardware is gone. The door trim is plain and 3-3/8" wide, with an inside bead. The chamber (including the chimney) is plastered, curved at knee wall and tie beam joints. The ceiling at the center is only 5' -11" high. The baseboard is 4-1/2" high, with upper edge beaded.

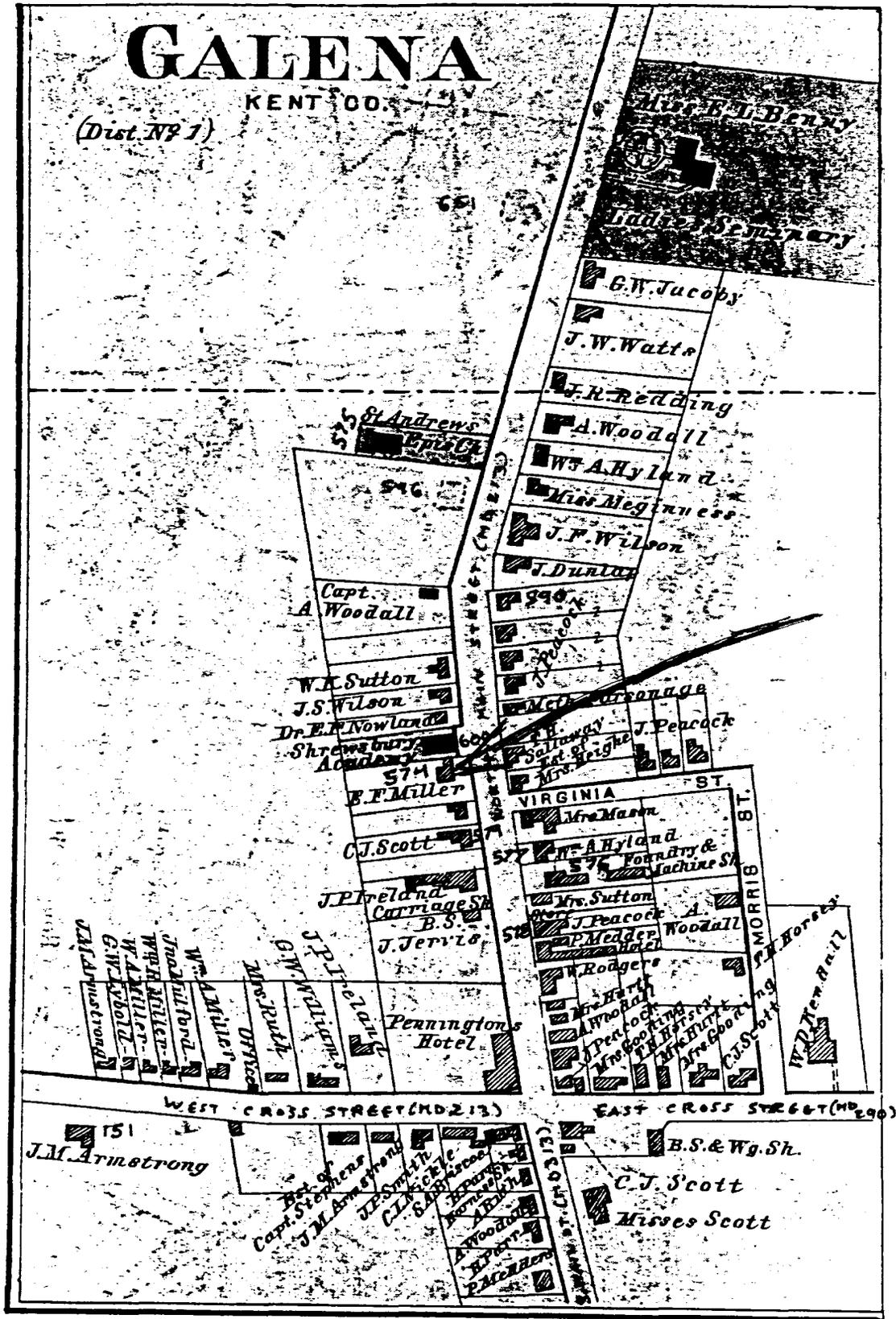
The house, on a level town lot and sited about 25 from the roadway, is part of the streetscape of the Town of Galena, though it now stands more isolated than it did earlier. Much of the space between it and the also early but greatly altered 1-1/2 storey house to the north is now a macadam driveway and parking area for the site's auction business. From 1858 until about 1940, when it was demolished, Shrewsbury Academy (K-600), a frame two-storey school with two classrooms downstairs and one upstairs, stood there. It was used for a school until 1918. The lot to the south, shown with an unattributed building on the 1877 atlas map, is also vacant. The next lot to the south until the early 1970s held the old Scott family home (also said to be partially of planked-log construction). Now all that remains on that lot is the small, frame office of Dr. Edward A. Scott (K-579).

To the rear (west) of the Caldwell-Rudnick House are the large parking lot and buildings associated with the present owners' auction sales business. Until quite recently several barns said to be quite old were among the buildings there, but they are gone. Beyond the buildings is a cultivated farm field.

Across the street, to the east, two-storey, frame middle to late nineteenth century dwellings can be seen. To the southeast the crossroads is visible, with some late nineteenth century commercial buildings near the crossroads.

A small community developed quite early in the eighteenth century around the Galena crossroads. From the north came the route from Cecil County that crossed the Sassafras River via ferry at Georgetown less than two miles away. This route was the Eastern Shore part of the main north-south colonial post road. According to Scharf's history of Maryland, in 1727 a "settled" post was opened from New Castle, Delaware (then the Lower Counties of Pennsylvania) that went every 14 days in the summer and once a month in the winter. Coming from the north, traffic could turn right at the crossroads to go to Chestertown, the route the mail took. The road straight ahead at the crossroads led to Massey's Crossroads and into Delaware. At Massey's Crossroads it was possible to turn left on the county's second most important through route and go north through Head of Sassafras and then Warwick in Cecil County, or to go south to Millington and into Queen Anne's County. The fourth road from the crossroads, in line with the road to Chestertown, led to the Head of Sassafras by skirting the necks of the Sassafras River; again the connection could be made with the other north-south route. Dwellings and other buildings, including Down's Tavern at the crossroads, were built along these roads near the crossroads, but few survive. Some were lost in the 1893 fire which destroyed at least seven stores, seven dwellings and Pennington's Hotel (the successor to Down's establishment). Later fires, in 1953 and 1956, destroyed smaller portions of Galena.

Many Galena buildings appear to date from the mid-nineteenth century, when apparently the community especially prospered as a service center for both area farmers and for travelers. The first quarter of the nineteenth century had been a period of agricultural depression and low productivity in Kent County, as elsewhere on the peninsula, but by the Civil War improved farming methods and the beginning of fruit as a market crop had brought new prosperity. The town, which had earlier been known as Down's Crossroads (for the inn) and then as Georgetown Crossroads, was incorporated in that period, in 1860, and officially named Galena, the name given because of the nearby one-time silver mine and the supposed ore from which it came. The boundaries of the town were described as a parallelogram resulting from measuring 840 yards north of the crossroads and 440 yards south of it, and 440 yards both east and west. Actual town-like development did not fill the space within these boundaries, however. Until the twentieth century most of the development was strip-style, along only the main roads, and much of the parallelogram is still unfilled. These boundaries endured until the mid twentieth century, when the town was extended somewhat. In 1811, by act of Assembly, the village had briefly been named Colchester (for the large tract to the northwest granted to the Pearce family in the seventeenth century and on which Georgetown was laid out). However, because of local opposition to the new name, it was repealed the following year. (Laws of 1811, 1812)



**GALENA BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

- JORGE STEEL**, Manufacturer of, and Dealer in Pumps of all kinds. Also Repairing done at short Notice.
- GEO. T. MCCAULEY**, Dealer in Groceries and Provisions. All kinds of Salt Meats, Fish, Flour, Meal, Choice Cigars, Tobacco, &c., very low for cash.
- HENRY PARR**, Manufacturer and Dealer in Saddles, Harness, Whips, Trunks, Valises, &c.

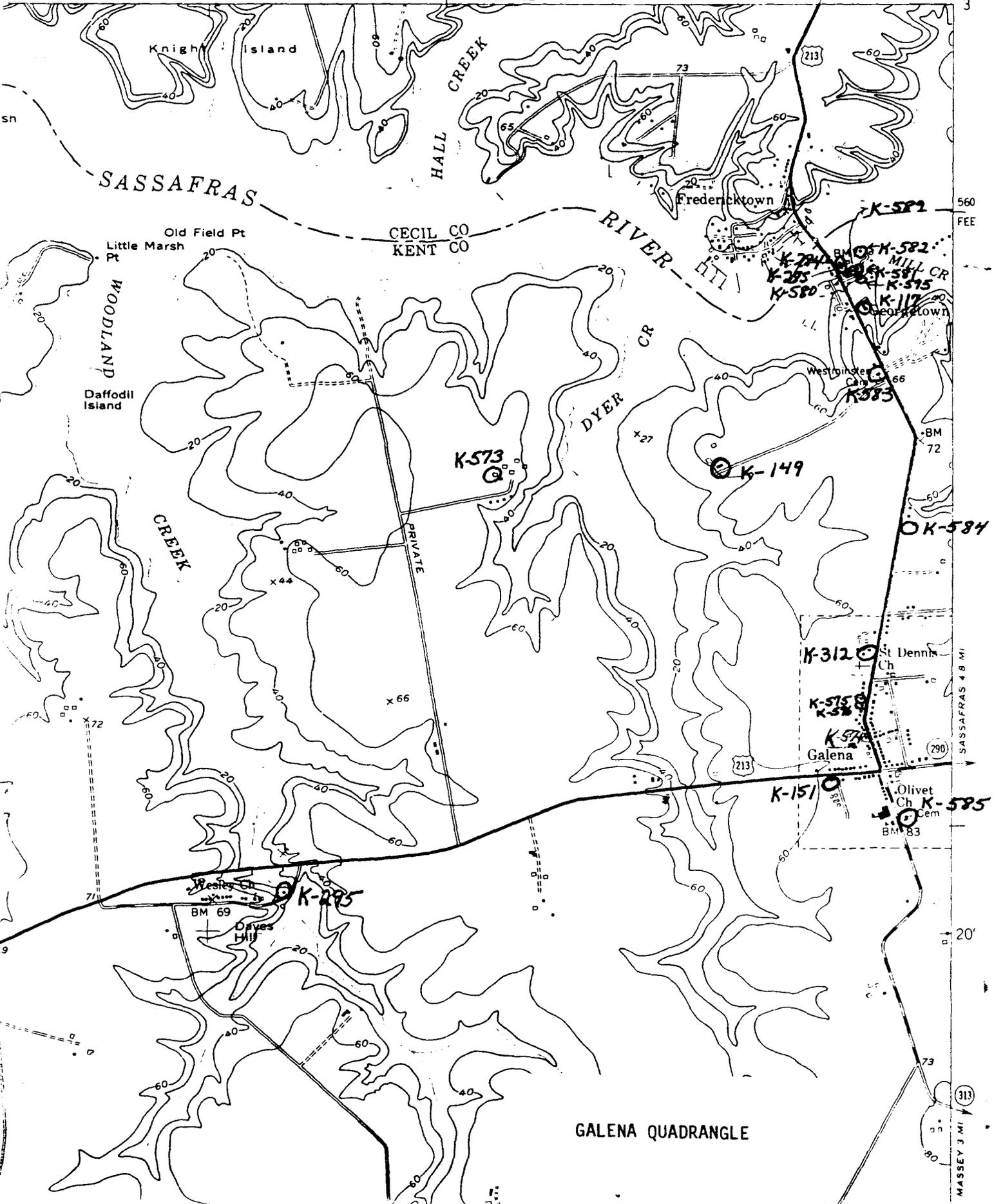
- G. W. WILLIAMS**, Blacksmith and Carriage-maker. Horse-shoeing and Repairing neatly and promptly done.
- G. W. LYBOLD**, Machinist and Engineer. Also Agent for Buckeye Reapers and Mowers and Sweep Stake Threshers, Eclipse Engine, Birdal Clover Huller, Ealien Rake and Agricultural Implements of all kinds. Engines repaired at short notice and reasonable terms.

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GALETA QUADRANGLE

MASSEY J MI



K-574

Caldwell-Rudnick House

Main Street, Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 1/12/86

View to west

K 574-6



K-574

Caldwell-Rudnick House

Main Street, Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 9/17/85

View to east

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