

K-626

Coleman-Thompson Farm or Part of Partnership
Address?
c. 1860

Similar in form to Windy Curve Farm and Shipyard Farm, the Coleman-Thompson farmhouse is a five-bay, two-story, rectangular, frame structure with low-pitched hip roof which probably had balustrade around its central deck. It, like the other houses above, is two rooms deep. Constructed around 1860 in the popular Italianate style, the Coleman-Thompson Farm lies on part of a tract called Partnership which was originally patented to Daniel Toaos in 1682.¹

The front porch and bracketed cornice which gave it the distinctive Italianate flavor, have been removed and replaced with aluminum and/or vinyl. Inside, its four room plan with central stairhall retains many original features, even the graining on some of the mantels and doors. Much of the interior trim is actually more Greek Revival than Italianate. A three-centered arch divides the hall into front and main stairhalls. The appearance of the arch is similar to the double parlor separator in Fort Belvedere in Chestertown.

At one time there was a two-story kitchen wing out the back of the house, but it was demolished and the kitchen is now located in the northeast room. This room has had a distinct purpose from the beginning since it had a winder stair to the space above, thought to be chambers for the kitchen/farm help.

In the 1877 Atlas, the farm is owned by Biggs & Ely, who apparently

K-626²

lived in Wilmington and kept the farm tenanted. In 1944, the father of the present owners purchased the farm from a Mr. Biggs.²

1. Patents:
2. Land Records, Lib. WHG 74, fol. 420.

K-626

Circa 1860

Coleman-Thompson Farm

Near Millington

Private

The Coleman-Thompson farmhouse, on the northeast side of the Chesterville-Millington road, is a large, frame, two-storey, shallowly hipped-roof building built circa 1860 in a vernacular Greek Revival-Italianate style. It is five bays wide on both storeys of the southwest, approach facade, with the main entry in the central bay. There are four tall chimneys, two within each side wall, that are centered on the rooms they serve. The plan is central hall with stair, with two rooms on each side, one behind the other, all approximately equal. The northwest side contains a double parlor, the large opening between them with large, paneled, hinged doors, similar to Middle Plantation (K-252) in at Langford. The trim is bold, with crossettes, and a pedimented head. Although there have been numerous alterations, including the application of vinyl siding to the once weatherboarded exterior, many Greek Revival details remain. This farmhouse is one of very few frame, hipped-roof, two-storey farmhouses in the upper part of Kent County that date from the middle of the nineteenth century. Either not many were built in the first place or not many survive, or perhaps it is some of both. This appears to be the only one of this size and that is two rooms deep. A short distance to the west the 1860 house at Fellowship Farm is similar in conception though more costly since built of brick and three storeys tall. There may be some relationship between the building of the two. Though still rectangular in form, these houses were something of a departure in a county that was conservative architecturally. Although an evidently independently-constructed kitchen with second-storey bedrooms for farm help once stood to the rear of this house, perhaps moved from elsewhere, the farmhouse was a departure in being built with no wing intended or necessary, presaging the four-square houses of the early twentieth century.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-626

Magi No. 1506265504

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Part of Old Partnership Farm

and/or common Coleman-Thompson Farm

2. Location

street & number North side Chesterville-Millington Rd., .6 mile northwest of Rt. 313 northwest of Millington not for publication

city, town Millington vicinity of First 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 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"/> 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. & Mrs. Allen Bennett Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas N. Coleman 929-5152

street & number RD 1 Box 251 telephone no.:

Box 107B

city, town Millington state and zip code Maryland 21651
Galena 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House EHP 94
liber WHG 74

street & number Cross Street 173
folio 420

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-626

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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 Coleman-Thompson farmhouse, on the northeast side of the Chesterville-Millington road near Millington is a large, frame, two-story shallowly hipped-roof building built circa 1860 in a vernacular Greek Revival-Italianate style. It is five bays wide on both stories of the southwest, approach facade, with the main entry in the central bay. There are four tall chimneys, two within each side wall, that are centered on the rooms they serve. The plan is central hall with stair, with two rooms on each side one behind the other, all approximately equal. The west side contains a double parlor, the large opening between them with large, paneled, hinged doors, similar to Middle Plantation (K-252) in at Langford. Although there have been numerous alterations, including the application of vinyl siding to the once weatherboarded exterior, many Greek Revival details remain.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-626

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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1860 **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.

The farmhouse is one of very few frame, hipped-roof, two story farmhouses in the upper part of Kent County that date from the middle of the nineteenth century. Either not many were built in the first place or not many survive, or perhaps it is some of both. This appears to be the only one of this size and that is two rooms deep. A short distance down the road to the west the house at Fellowship Farm is similar in conception though more costly since built of brick and three stories tall. One wonders if there is some relationship between the building of the two. Fellowship has an exterior date stone giving 1860 as the building date. Though still rectangular in form, these houses were something of a departure in a county that was conservative architecturally, and on the interior unusually bold Greek Revival details were adopted wholeheartedly. Although an evidently independent kitchen with second-story bedrooms for farm help once stood to the rear of this house, perhaps moved from elsewhere, the farmhouse was a departure in being built with no wing intended or necessary.

The house is not shown on Martent's 1860 map of Kent County, indicating that it was not yet built (though this map is know to have errors). By 1877, the year of the atlas maps of Kent County, it is shown as owned by Biggs & Ely, Wilmington investors in Kent County land. Mr. Coleman's father bought the farm from a Biggs in 1944, after having lived on the farm as a tenant for two years. It probably was tenanted during all the intervening years, explaining the necessity for extensive rehabilitation by the present family of owners.

The main building measures about 40 feet wide by 32 feet deep. There is an enclosed, shed-roofed porch with additions now along much of the rear wall. The facade bays are symmetrically arranged, evenly spaced, and aligned from first to second storey. There is a window over the central, main entry. First-storey windows are taller than second-storey windows. There are no windows on the northwest end. On the southeast end there is a pair of windows on each storey between the chimneys and a first-storey window northeast of the rear chimney, in the kitchen, which may be added.

The house is built over a crawl space, with the joists said to run northwest-southeast, necessitating intermediate beam support. The foundation is built of red brick, with some concrete block at the northwest corner where the brick had deteriorated beyond repair. The foundation is now covered with foam insulation board.

The chimneys, two per side, are centered on the rooms they serve. They are tall and built of dark-red brick. They each have a three-course corbelled cap, with a one-course band four courses below it. There is a recent, square, parged-block chimney exterior to the southeast side at its rear corner, for a furnace.

The walls are now covered with horizontal, lapped white vinyl siding applied over asbestos shingles. The horizontal, lapped weatherboard beneath the shingles was reinstalled flat on the wall, as sheathing, before installation of the asbestos shingles. There were said to have been double, wide cornerboards, probably treated as pilasters, though Mr. Coleman says they were plain.

The shallowly pitched roof is hipped to an almost flat center section, to which there is an access hatch, now closed. Presumably there would have been a perimeter balustrade, but there was none by the time the Coleman family came to the farm. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles now; the center section could not be seen.

There is a closed box cornice at all roof edges, overhanging the walls about 16-18". It is entirely rebuilt and covered with aluminum. A built-in gutter system has been removed because it leaked. The roof brackets also have been removed.

The windows are all double-hung with large 6-over-6 lights in the sash. The first-storey windows are taller. All exterior architraves are covered with aluminum. The original shutters are gone and fixed plastic ones installed.

The original main-entry door is gone but the bold architrave remains. Extending from porch floor to the ceiling of the present replacement porch, the architrave is about 6'-9" wide x 10'-0" tall. It may originally have been painted Spanish brown. The door may have had bolection moldings, according to the owner's description. There are three-light sidelights over one plain recessed panel with ogee-and-bevel panel molding on each side. The transom

(continued)

has four lights. The transom bar is 6" deep, consisting of three corbelled courses projecting over the plain, wide pilasters between door and sidelights. The transom bar has a broken edge to follow the ins and outs of sidelights, pilasters, and door area. The outer architrave pilasters are 9" wide and plain, with shallow three-course corbelling at the base. The corbelling is repeated in the lintel. There are composite moldings as pilaster caps and lintel cap, with deep frieze and hood above, treated like a cornice. The bed is a large cyma recta with fillets. There is a heavy wood sill.

The central stair's first run begins in the rear half of the hall, just behind the plastered nearly three-center arch covering what must be a transverse beam across the hall. The stair is open string and dogleg, with two round, tapered balusters per tread that appear to be of oak. The treads are carpeted. The risers are shallow (6"), for a very easy ascent. The balustrade is low and the rail continuous with no intermediates. The newel is large and multiply turned in a plain, short, octagonal base. There is a large (c. 8-1/2" diameter) cap from which the rail rises. In the spandrel there are six narrow, vertical panels, with ogee-and-bevel applied panel molding. The door under the stair formerly led to a closet that later was converted to a shortcut from one rear room of the house to the other. It now is a powder room. The door has two vertical plain panels with the same panel molding as the spandrel panels. A rear hall door originally went to the porch. The hall is eight feet wide and originally provided direct access to three rooms, the northwest side's double parlors and the southeast room. An enclosed corner stair with winders has been removed from the northeast corner of the kitchen. It rose into a bedroom above that had been partitioned, probably for a cook and other household help.

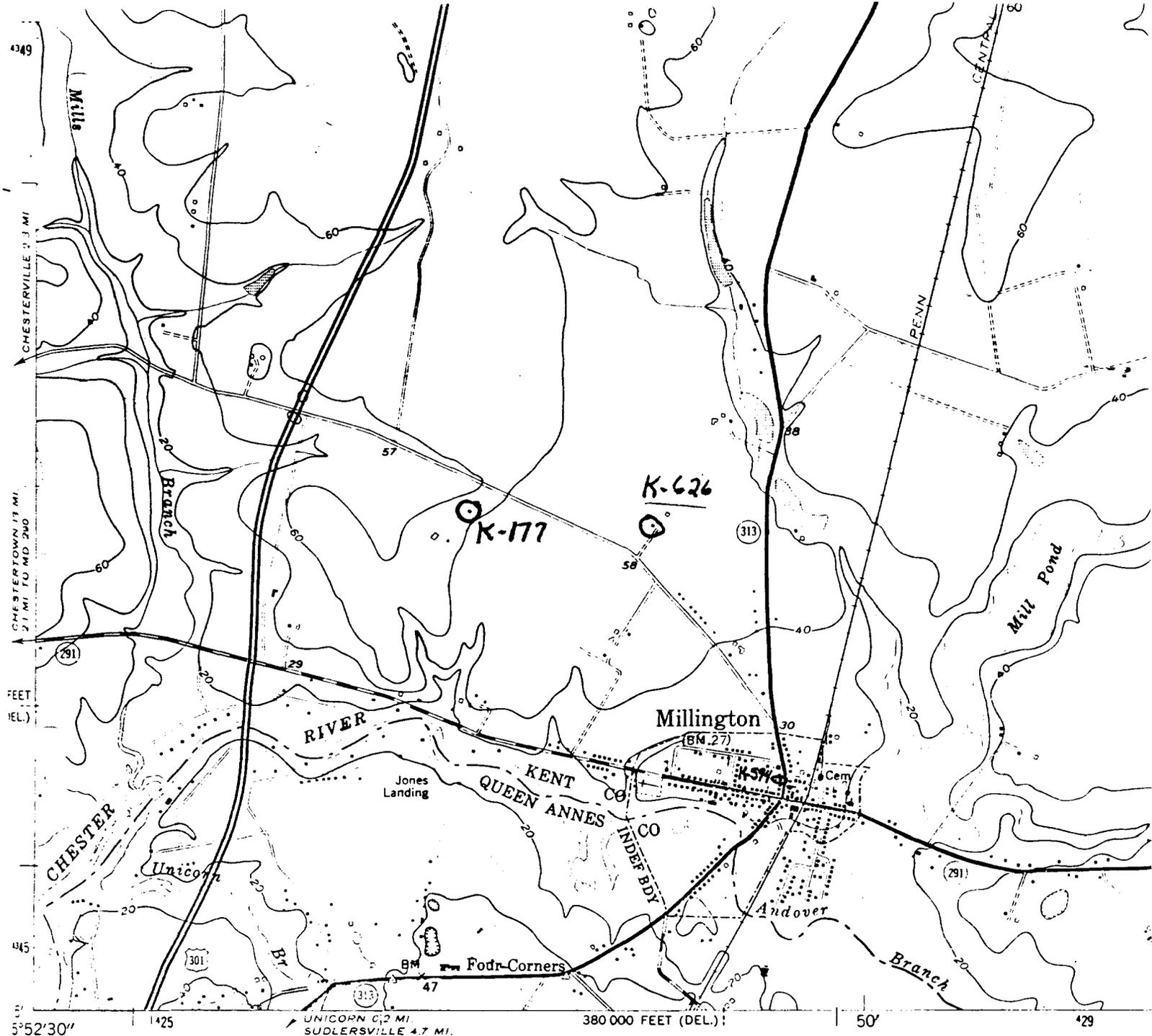
There originally were eight mantels in the house. Seven are still exposed; the first-storey southeast room's mantel shelf remains. The four second-storey mantels are all the same and smaller than the first-storey mantels. All have been painted; whether or not they were originally grained is unknown. They are simple Greek Revival mantels with plain pilasters and deep (12") plain friezes. The shelves are rectangular with rounded corners. The openings are all closed.

The mantels of the double parlor are identical. They are Greek Revival in style and still with their original graining, a medium brown that is slightly reddish. They have 6" plain pilasters with corbelled bases. The friezes are 11" deep. The openings are rectangular but plastered closed. There are old stove holes in the closures. The shelves are 1-3/4" thick and boldly curved with short backplates, or overmantel, above the shelves that match the profile of the shelf edge curves. The rooms on the other side of the hall have simpler mantels; the old kitchen mantel is especially worn.

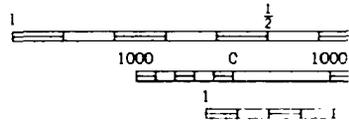
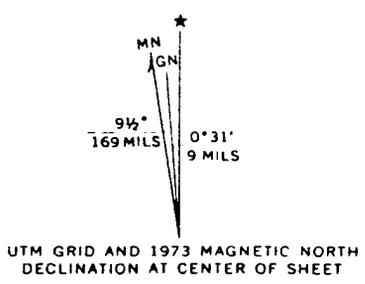
Between the southwest side's parlors there is a large opening with a pair of hinged doors that measure 43" wide x 8'-10" tall. They still have their graining, as do the parlor-hall doors on the parlor side. This wide opening is trimmed, as are the others in these two rooms, with wide trim that has crossettes and is shallowly pedimented at the lintel. The trim is split face,
(continued)

the outside fillet being 4-1/2" wide. On the second storey the trim has no backband, but on the first storey it is applied on the wide outer fillet. The trim may once have been grained. The window aprons are also deep and split face. Window muntins of what old sash survive are thin, deep, and quite pointed.

Old farm buildings are gone except for a large, almost square, gable-roofed meathouse with root cellar. It was originally covered with vertical boards and wood-shingled roof. Circular saw marks can be seen on some structural parts and vertical boards.



Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1942. Topography by plane-table surveys 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Maryland and Delaware
 coordinate systems
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue
 Contours shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
 aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

NATION
 THIS MAP COM
 FOR SALE BY
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K-626

Coleman-Thompson Farm

Chesterville-Millington Rd., near Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/18/86

View to northwest

K-626-21

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY

C. 1860

Coleman-Thompson Farm K-626



K-626

Coleman-Thompson Farm

Chesterville-Millington Rd., near Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/18/86

View to southwest

K-626-05

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY

Coleman-Thompson Farm

K-626

C.1860