

K-643

Circa 1905

Old Gale Store

Millington

Private

The Old Gale Store, so-called for brothers Hurlock and Leo Gale who operated a general store and meat market there during part of the early twentieth century, is essentially a two-part, two-storey, frame, weatherboarded building that is T-shaped in plan; there have been some insubstantial one-storey, shed-roofed additions at the rear. The section with its gable-end facing Cypress Street contained the commercial space on the first-storey and part of the shopkeeper's dwelling space on the second storey. It is three bays wide with central entry. The perpendicular, rear section, with its ends extending only slightly beyond the sides of the storefront section, was essentially a three-bay-wide dwelling. While frame gable-front store buildings were quite commonly built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Kent County, a gable-front store with a two-storey front porch is a rarity. Gable-front dwellings with such front porches are also a rarity, though there is one in Millington and at least one in the Rock Hall area. The Old Gale Store was built after the 1904 fire that destroyed over four acres of Millington, including every store, both hotels, the Episcopal chapel, the railroad depot, warehouses, and many dwellings. The store that had been on the site burned, as did every other building at or very near the main crossroads. While essentially a simple T-shaped building to accommodate both residential and commercial functions, it derives its eye-appeal from the handsome two-storey porches that are constructed very similarly to those of Bailey's Hotel across the street, also built after the fire. The porches were also functional, providing shelter from the elements for store patrons and window-shoppers and a sense of enclosure for the gathering places that storefronts seemed to have been in Kent County. Most were equipped with outside benches or chairs. The second-storey porch provided the shopkeeper's family with the customary front porch, affording both privacy and a place from which to observe crossroads activity. The method of combining a dwelling with a store is somewhat different than seen elsewhere. It is not merely an above-the-shop apartment, though some of its space was on the second storey above the store. It is also a grafting of a three-bay wide dwelling onto the rear of the store, with a private, house-like side entry.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Gale Store

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Cypress Street

5-8-77

not for publication

city, town Millington  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 Mr. and Mrs. Kennard C. Coleman

street & number P.O. Box 158 telephone no.: 348-5155

city, town Millington state and zip code Maryland 21651

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 70

street & number Cross Street folio 628

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-643

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 Old Gale Store, so-called for brothers Hurlock and Leo Gale who operated a general store and meat market three during part of the early twentieth century, is located on the north side of Cypress Street in Millington, on the second lot west of the main crossroads. The store building that stood on the corner lot to the east is now gone, and a gas station is in its place, but toward the rear of the lot. The store is essentially a two-part, two-storey, frame, weatherboarded building that is T-shaped in plan; there have been some insubstantial one-storey, shed-roofed additions at the rear. The section with its gable-end facing Cypress Street contained the commercial space on the first-storey and part of the shopkeeper's dwelling space on the second storey. It is three bays wide with central entry. The perpendicular, rear section, with its ends extending only slightly beyond the sides of the storefront section, was essentially a three-bay-wide dwelling. There are notable two-storey porches on the street gable-end, very similar to the porches at Bailey's Hotel across the street. It was built circa 1905 in a vernacular late Victorian style. A beauty shop now occupies part of the first storey and an office another section. There are also two apartments.

(Continued)

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** Circa 1905 **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.

While frame gable-front store buildings were quite commonly built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Kent County, a gable-front store with a two-storey front porch is a rarity. Gable-front dwellings with such front porches are also a rarity, though there is one in Millington and at least one in the Rock Hall area. The Old Gale Store was built after the 1904 fire that destroyed over four acres of Millington, including every store, both hotels, the Episcopal chapel, the railroad depot, warehouses, and many dwellings. The store that had been on the site burned, as did every other building at or very near the main crossroads. The new store building was one of the last vernacular Victorian store buildings built in the county. While essentially a simple T-shaped building to accommodate both residential and commercial functions, it derives its eye-appeal from the handsome porches that are constructed very similarly to those of Bailey's Hotel across the street, also built after the fire. The porches were also functional, providing shelter from the elements for store patrons and window-shoppers and a sense of enclosure for the gathering places that storefronts inevitably seemed to have been in Kent County. Most were equipped with outside benches or chairs. The second-storey porch provided the shopkeeper's family with the customary front porch, affording both privacy and a place from which to observe crossroads activity. The method of incorporating a dwelling into the store is somewhat different than seen elsewhere, also. It is not merely an above-the-shop apartment, though some of its space was on the second storey above the store. It is also a grafting of a three-bay wide dwelling onto the rear of the store, with a private house-like side entry. This is in contrast to store dwelling combinations where more space was available --the Locust Grove Store (K-567) and the Hicks-Whitaker Store in Galena (K-578), where a dwelling is attached perpendicularly to side or corner.



The street gable-end facade of the store section is three bays wide on both storeys. On the first storey the main entry is in the central bay, with typically large display windows in the side bays. On the second storey a door from dwelling to front porch is in the center bay; a window is at each side. The long sides of the store section show some signs of alteration; there are now no first-storey east side openings though there are two windows on the second storey, for the dwelling. The west side also had two second-storey openings and perhaps two on the first storey, but a side door has been added there to a stair leading to a second-storey apartment. This most likely was an original straight-stair location (it is now quarter-turn), but with access from the inside of the store. The rear, dwelling wing is not much wider than the front store section. It extends beyond the store west side about 3-1/2 feet, while the east dwelling end protrudes about 2-1/2 feet. The dwelling's main entry is located facing the street in the west projection, and in the east projection is a narrow but tall double-hung window.

The walls of the main two sections of the building were originally covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard with an exposure of 4-1/2" to 5", with double cornerboards. Most of the original weatherboard, now badly weathered, is in place, but there is one large replacement area, on the east side of the store section.

The foundations of both main sections appear to be brick, but it could not be ascertained whether a cellar is under part of the building. No cellar windows were seen. The weatherboard is quite low to the ground, as are the sills of at least the rear dwelling, which appear rotted where seen.

There are three chimneys. What appears to be a short stub of a chimney, probably a remnant, is at the center rear of the store section. Most likely it would have been for a store stove. The dwelling section has a chimney within its north wall just east of the center bay. It is built of red common brick with a two course band and a corbelled cap (1 course, then 2 and 2 at the top). The third chimney is exterior to one of the shed extensions to the rear of the dwelling, to its west. This area is tenanted.

The store section roof is gable and quite shallowly pitched. The dwelling roof is also gable but steeper. They intersect at the same height because the store is a wider building section. Both roofs are finished the same way. The cornices are boxed, with a large cyma recta molding (with fillets) as crown. The bed molding is a smaller cyma. There are large returns on each exposed gable end. Those of the storefront are about 24-28" wide but are largely obscured by the porch roof. The soffits are of narrow tongue-and-groove boards. The overhang on sides and ends is about 15-18".

The store's main entry is in the center bay of the south end, facing Cypress Street. The door has a tall, large single light over one horizontal panel. The rails and stiles around the glass are chamfered with stops. The plain, recessed panel is trimmed with bold bolection molding. The door has been rehung outside of the jam to swing outward, where a screen door was formerly attached. The chamfering matches that around the display windows.

(continued)

The lower edge of the door's light also aligns with the lower edge of the lights of the nearby display windows. The transom is now closed with plywood. It formerly was one of five equally-sized fixed-glass units extending above the whole storefront door-window array (two over each window, matching the lights, and one over the door). The first-storey floor is one large step up from the concrete porch floor that is slightly above the level of the adjacent town sidewalk. An intermediate concrete step has been added.

The windows, other than the shopfront windows and a probably fixed Queen Anne-type window in the facade gable with small lights around a large one, are double-hung with 1-over-1 lights. The pilaster trim is 4-3/8" wide and plain. The lintel trim of the first storey windows is a plain cap with a bed molding of cyma reversa-and-bevel. There is no lintel trim above second-storey windows; there the broad cornice frieze extends downward to the windows.

The shop display windows, in each side bay of the south end, are plainer than those seen in stores that are 20 and 30 years earlier (Locust Grove, Georgetown). Each has two large lights (36" wide x 57" tall), with a large recessed, horizontal panel above each light and a shorter one below. The upper panel is now plywood; it may well originally have been glass. The lights and panels are unmolded, but as with the door, the inside stile, rail and muntin edges are chamfered with stops. The lower panels now have added quarter-round panel molding. The entire array is enframed with ogee-and-bevel molding inside plain wide trim.

The three-bay, two-storey porch on the south store end has a hipped roof. The first storey posts are 6" square and supported by pipes set into base stones with concrete for the on-the-ground porch poured around them. The post edges are chamfered. There is a pair of brackets at each post and at the facade wall below a spandrel of plain, bold, square balusters that match (though not in length) and align with those of the balustrade of the second-storey porch. The brackets are pierced and sawn. The 6" posts on the second-storey porch are square only to the top of the rail, above which they are compoundly turned. The posts are identical to those used at Bailey's Hotel across the street; they must have been standard millwork items. The same brackets are used on the second-storey posts. Between joists the main and secondary beams lower edges are chamfered. The porch ceiling on the second storey follows the hipped roof's framing. The second-storey porch floor is of narrow tongue-and-groove boards.

K-643

# MILLINGTON

KENT CO

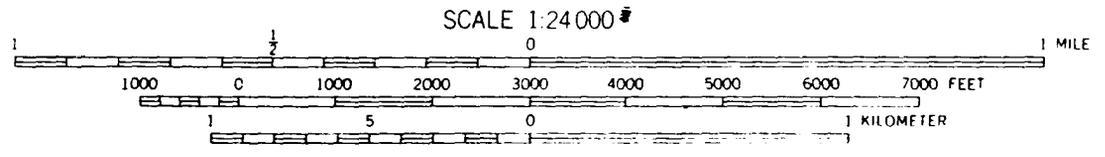
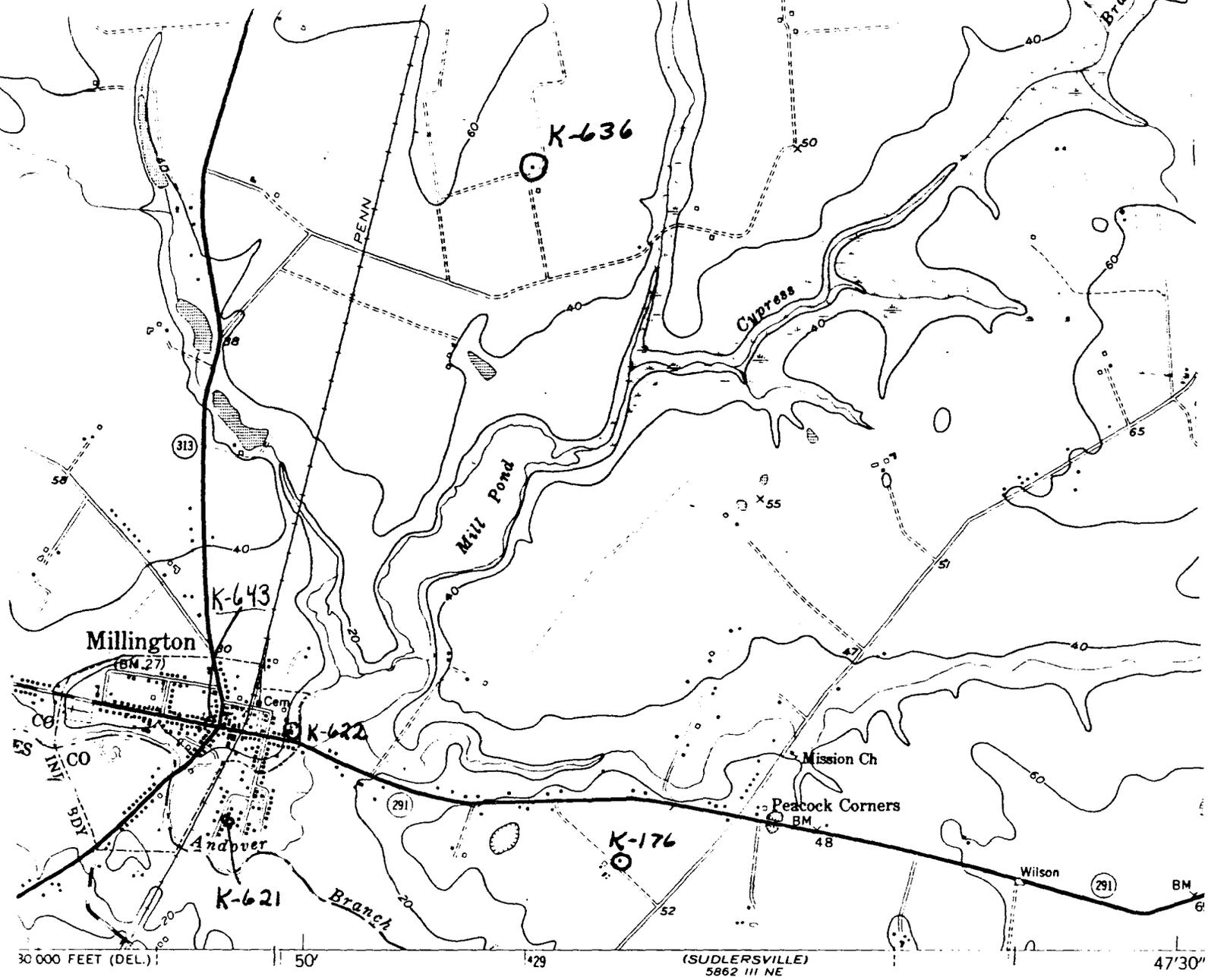
(Dist. No. 1)



\* NOTE: 1877 MAP IS EARLIER THAN STORE

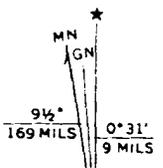
QUEEN ANNE COUNTY

J. H. Thomas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



TM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K-643  
Old Gale Store  
Cypress St. Millington  
M. Q. Fallaw - 7/4/86  
View to north

*Faded handwritten text, possibly a date or location note.*

**ENTLEIGH HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**GENEVA**

K-643 Old Gale Store



K-643

Old Gale Store

Cypress St. Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/4/86

View to south