

K-645

1868-1877

No. 10 School (District 1)

Near Millington

Private

Converted to a dwelling following its closing about 1926, the old No. 10 School of District 1 is located in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of No. 10 School Road and Peacock's Corner Road, northeast of Millington. The school was constructed between 1868 and 1877. It is a simple, small, gable-roofed, frame, one-storey, one-room rural school two bays deep with a lower-gable-roofed vestibule wing centered on the south gable end and facing south, toward No. 10 School Road. The school is one of relatively few survivors of the period in Kent County's educational history in which one-room schools were the most common type of school. Its construction is representative of the small, simple, inexpensive, gable-roofed-with-entry structures that housed under the tutelage of one teacher seven grades of students who lived within walking distance. For most students, this was the only type of school attended since until well into the twentieth century high school attendance for rural Kent Countians was the exception rather than the norm.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic No. 10 School (District)

and/or common Larry Moffett House

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner, intersection of Peacock's Corner Rd. and No. 10 School Rd., northeast of Millington. not for publication

city, town Millington 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 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 Larry David Moffett

street & number telephone no.: unlisted

city, town Millington state and zip code Maryland 21651

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 26

street & number Cross Street folio 685

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-645

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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.

Converted to a dwelling following its closing about 1926, the old No. 10 School of District 1 is located on a lot of a little over one acre in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of No. 10 School Road and Peacock's Corner Road, northeast of Millington. The school was constructed (probably in the 1870s) as a simple small gable-roofed frame one-story, one-room rural school two bays deep with a small lower-gable roofed frame vestibule wing centered on the south gable end and facing south toward No. 10 School Road.

Considerably altered for use as a dwelling, the old school probably was entered only through a single door in the vestibule, which has been altered and extended southward to provide space for both a bathroom and small foyer. The vestibule wing now measures ca. 14'-3" wide by 6'-6" deep. According to the present owner, the original vestibule door was located in the center of the gable end; he relocated the entry, with a modern steel door, to the single west-side bay of the vestibule. A large flat field stone serves as a step and may have served the same purpose at the original entry. Narrower and shorter than the main section windows, a double-hung 4/4 window with doweled sash but no evidence of former shutters in now in the center end. A similar single window is now opposite the door in the east bay. Both light the bathroom.

The vestibule wing most likely was constructed like the one at Cliffs School (K-309), also a small (though somewhat larger) one-room school with end vestibule. At Cliffs, which is unaltered, there is a single window on each side of the vestibule, and the door is in the center of the gable end. Not all Kent County one-room schools were constructed originally with vestibule wings, though many were. ("Pig Pen College," designated officially as School No. 5 of District 1, of which only a late nineteenth-century photograph remains, was a small two-bay school with no wing.) In some cases vestibules were added later, but it could not be determined in this case whether the vestibule was a later addition to the main section. Vestibule wings usually contained an area for the children to hang their outer clothing and place their lunches and sometimes had a partitioned area, open only to the classroom, for a teacher's office or storage. Vestibules also served as "weatherlocks."

(Continued)

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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
1900-ca. 1926		<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.

The old No. 10 School of District 1, built between 1868 and 1877, is one of relatively few survivors of the period in Kent County's educational history in which one-room schools were the most common type of school. Although it has been converted to a dwelling and altered, as have most of the county's other surviving one-room schools, it is representative of the small, simple, inexpensive, frame, gable-roofed-with-entry-vestibule structures that housed under the tutelage of one teacher seven grades of students who lived within walking distance. For most students, this was the only type of school attended since until well into the twentieth century high school attendance rural Kent Countians was the exception rather than the norm.

School No. 10 probably was built between the years 1868 and 1877. It is not shown on Martenet's map of 1860, nor is it shown in the county school report of 1868, which listed seven schools within District 1. The school is shown, however, on the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas of Kent County. A land transaction to the school commissioners could not be found, though later deeds state that it stands on property once owned by Dr. T. H. (or L. H.) Crane.

The educational system of Kent County as well as that of the other counties of the state, was revolutionized by the new state constitution of 1864-65, which mandated a system of state and local funding, requirements for density of schools and length school year, and a state school board, which would appoint county school commissioners. Up until that time there had been what could be termed public schools in Kent County, but they were relatively few, not accessible to all, inadequately and irregularly funded, and suffered a poor reputation for quality.

(Continued)

Entry to the building is now also through a door in the center of the north gable end of the main section, where a one-story, shed-roofed kitchen erected by a previous owner once stood but was removed by the present owner. Although a separately weather-boarded area above this door suggests that the door might once have had a transom and been the original entry to the building, the door probably replaced a window opening. There is similar fenestration at Cliffs School, where, however, the vestibule entry door does have a transom. It is possible that the approach end of No. 10 School was once the north end and that the sole entry was once in its center, with the vestibule added later to the south end. However, this is not very likely since the road that came to be called No. 10 School Road was in place and shown on the 1877 map of Kent County, and the school probably was oriented to the south from the beginning.

The ca. 18' by 24' main section, originally a single classroom, has been divided into two nearly equal rooms--a living room/kitchen and a bedroom. Originally two tall (sash opening ca. 34" x 70") double-hung windows with 6/6 lights on each long side wall, symmetrically placed and opposite each other, lit the classroom. Now one window on each side lights each room. Interior window trim is plain and 4-1/8" wide; exterior trim is 4" wide, also plain, and shows mortises from former shutters. The vestibule is reached from the main section by a door opening in the south end, near the west corner. The door is modern.

The original interior wall surfaces have been covered, but a simple chair rail that is continuous with the window sills suggests that there may have been wainscoting (probably of vertical narrow beaded tongue-and-groove board, as seen in other schools, though possibly of plain horizontal board). The upper walls were plaster on lath. The present owner states that he removed chalk boards from the rear (north) gable end, on each side of the door. Others may have been present as well. The original flooring has been covered with plywood. The ceiling is notably high (10 feet) and of plaster. A stove pipe stub enters the north room on the east side near the partition wall. The chimney dating from the mid-twentieth century rises from a concrete base on the exterior of the east side in its approximate center. It is constructed of concrete block and lined with clay flue tiles. Although it is possible that it is in the original chimney location, it is likely that the original stove was in the approximate center of the classroom, with either stovepipe and chimney above or with the flue running to a side-wall chimney.

Of heavy frame construction, with both studs and floor joists resting on heavy sills on very low brick piers, the main section and probably the vestibule wing were clad originally in horizontal, lapped weatherboard with ca. 6" exposure. Corner boards have been covered or removed. The vestibule wing is now covered with painted plywood and most of the main section with heavy, interlocking grey asphalt panels that simulate shingles or cut stone. The north end, for a time within the now-gone kitchen, is covered with sheet rock over weatherboard, the original weatherboard between former kitchen ceiling and roof and, in the gable, dark green asphalt shingles. The small, partially covered double-hung window in the center of the north gable is probably not original. The foundation of the wing could not be seen.

The main section's gable roof is covered with corrugated metal over

wood shingles. The wing roof is roll asphalt over plywood. Reworked with much new material, the main section's roof overhang on the sides is ca. 8". The soffit is closed along the rafters' lower edges, which may have been open originally, as seen elsewhere on Kent County schools. The original roof trim of the gable ends is gone; presumably there were flush verge boards.

The building is not well-maintained and admits water at many points due to the absence or looseness of building parts. It is so low to the ground, possibly due partly to subsidence, that some of the sills appear to rest on the ground. This old school is not likely to survive over the long term.

Located near the south end of a wedge-shaped lot, with the point to the north, the old school has large lawns to the south and west with a few scattered trees. A driveway from No. 10 School Road passes to the east of the building. Formerly a small barn stood to the east of the driveway, but now there are only several large piles of debris and a concrete-block, gable-roofed storage shed.

Across No. 10 School Road to the south there are woods, where it was reported that formerly a small general store stood. To the west Peacock's Corner Road is visible, with recently-grown-up scrub beyond. To the east on an adjacent lot is a twentieth-century dwelling half hidden from the old school site by a tall hedge at the property line. To the north Peacock's Corner Road (which runs southwest to northeast) with woods beyond can be seen, with a dwelling and its outbuildings glimpsed beyond it to the distant northwest. The area is sparsely populated.

Although the new constitution as well as educational reform met considerable opposition from Kent Countians, the persistence and determination of the president of the school commissioners from 1865 to at least 1867, Howard Meeks of Edesville, resulted in a restructuring, revitalizing, and growth of the county school system. Many new buildings were built between the late 1860s and 1900, most appearing on the 1877 atlas map. Not only indicating a heightened commitment to education, they reflected the growing population of that period. In 1900 there were some 20,000 Kent Countians, a number that has not been reached since then. Schools built after 1900 appear to have been replacements for earlier schools or intended to handle the increased numbers brought by consolidation.

In 1865 Meeks reported that the old school system "had, with very few exceptions, attained but a very slight degree of efficiency, many of them being taught by persons destitute of the necessary qualifications, either of scholarship or aptness to teach The School Houses were mainly old dilapidated structures, wholly devoid of taste or even ordinary comfort." In 1867 he wrote that since his last report, in 1866, "there has been no essential change in the condition of the Public Free Schools of this County. The School Houses were the same forlorn and cheerless aspect, and the same rude and uncomfortable furniture continues to punish the pupils in attendance. There is, however, I think, a better state of public opinion beginning to manifest itself. Several School District meetings were held, and various sums voted to be levied to build and repair School Houses," though only two (Locust Grove and Chestertown) of "these applications were successful" with the County Commissioners.

The "rural improvement" movement began in the teens and gained strenght in the 1920s. One aspect of it was improved education for rural children, which proponents felt could not be achieved in the often spartan, small, one-room schools in which one teacher taught many grades. Consolidation of schools, which would make available a variety of facilities, teachers and courses, was the answer, it was thought. Large, centrally-located schools were made possible only by the growing use and availability of motor vehicles. It seems to have been in the 1920s that Kent County began to transport schoolchildren and close the smallest and most inadequate one-room schools, though the number of schools overall had decreased since 1900. It was during this decade that School No. 10 evidently closed, for in February 1927 the Board of Education of Kent County sold the property to Frank and Anna Livora of Philadelphia for \$150.00 (Kent Co. Land Records, RRA 9/116). Most likely the school had closed within the preceding year or two. It was one of the smallest of county school buildings and served a sparsely populated area. Children in its attendance area thereafter were transported to Millington.

Consolidation accelerated in the 1930s, pressed by the difficult economic times and a county school superintendent who favored consolidation for its educational as well as economic benefits. In 1932 Superintendent Robinson proposed closing 16 one-room schools. Although consolidation had its advocates, there was also considerable opposition. One opponent wrote the Kent News in 1932 that "The consolidated schools may have more health facilities but when an epidemic strikes it goes like wildfire. One-room schools have little sickness . . . they are more economical. We don't need more taxes now."

In 1900 there had been 48 schools of all sizes for white children in Kent County. Ten of them were in District 1 (the northeastern section of the county), including School No. 10, very likely the last established in the district. Clara H. Bryan is listed as the teacher. By 1922 there were still 40 schools (35 elementary, 5 high school) for whites in the county but only seven in District 1. Of all the county schools, 24 were one-room. By 1924 there were 11 larger elementary schools and 23 one-teacher schools, No. 10 among them with an enrollment of seven boys and thirteen girls. By 1934, after No. 10 was closed, there were only 13 one-teacher schools, and by 1944 only one remained, in Still Pond. It closed in 1951, marking an end to an era in Kent County education.

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Eleanora M. Lynn, "A History of Education in Kent County, Maryland," unpublished typescript chapter of forthcoming history of Kent County. Rock Hall, Md.: n.d.

Anecdotal history of Kent County schools, with some old school reports attached, located at Cliffs School, Chestertown. Prepared by the Kent County Retired Teachers Association, n.d.

MILLINGTON QUADR

59

58

KENT CO

57

DIST NO
NEW CASTLE
KENT CO

K-630

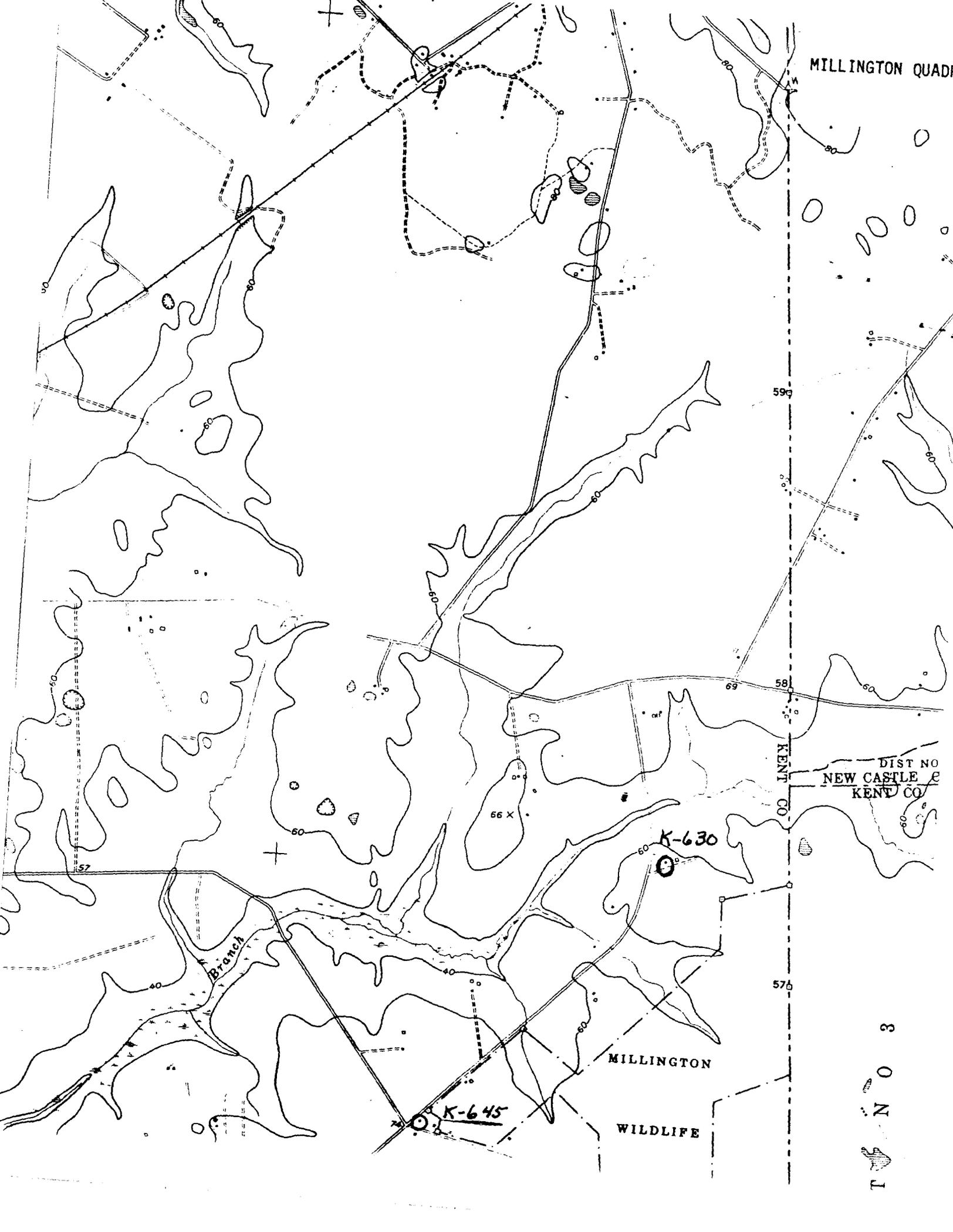
K-645

MILLINGTON

WILDLIFE

Branch

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K-645

No. 10 School

No. 10 School Rd., near Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/18/86

View to northeast

K645-7



K-645

No. 10 School

No. 10 School Rd., near Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/18/86

View to ~~north~~ south

K645-7