

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
John Grinder Farm  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER North of Mason Springs Chicamuxen Road (MD 224),  
Southeast of Smallwood's Retreat located within Smallwood State Park  
CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_  
Rison \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY Charles  
Maryland \_\_\_\_\_

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	<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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
State of Maryland, Dept. of Natural Resources Telephone #:  
STREET & NUMBER  
Taylor Avenue  
CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code  
Annapolis \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ Maryland 21401

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Charles County Court House  
STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Liber #: 131  
Folio #: 544

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE  
La Plata \_\_\_\_\_ Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_\_STATE \_\_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The John . Grinder house (1840-1850), located southeast of Smallwood's Retreat, is a two-story, gable-roofed, brick house with a lower two-story brick ell projecting from the central bay of the rear (south) facade. One-story, shed-roof additions dating from the 1940s extend from the east and west facades of this rear wing.

The main (north) three-bay facade is defined by a central doorway flanked by two windows on the first story, and three symmetrically positioned windows on the second story. A barrel vaulted, gabled portico (probably a later addition) with simple wooden doric column supports enhances the main entrance. First story windows have flat arched brick lintels and wooden sills. The second story windows are distinguished by wooden lintels and sills. All windows are 6/6 double-hung sash.

A secondary entrance is located on the east facade. A tiny 6/6 double-hung sash window exists above this door. Both openings are framed by simple architrave trim.

Internal corbel capped brick chimneys are located in both gable ends of the main block.

The gable roof is further distinguished by a boxed cornice with rake boards.

The lower two-story rear addition is two bays wide and one bay deep. Window details are identical to those of the main block. The gable roof also has a boxed cornice and rake boards. An internal corbeled capped chimney is located in the southern gable end of this section.

Little distinguishes the Twentieth Century shed-roofed, brick additions which flank the older ell.

Behind the house is a gable-roofed frame outbuilding which has been obscured by overgrown vegetation. Hand-hewn structural members are visible.

The main structure is currently leased by the Department of Natural Resources to Smallwood State Park's superintendent, and therefore is in very good condition.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Grinder purchased this parcel of land in 1868 from John T. Stoddart, a relative of General William Smallwood. It is believed that it was then that Grinder built the house.<sup>1</sup>

Grinder, a successful brickmaker in Washington, D.C., is listed in Polks City Directory of 1870 as working near the U.S. Capitol at Half and K Streets, S.E. Also listed are several other Grinders working nearby in brick-related occupations. The materials for his Charles County farm-house reputedly were manufactured at his brick yard.<sup>2</sup>

After the property was deeded to Edward M. Grinder in 1879, the farm was tenanted by J. Wesley Carpenter<sup>3</sup> (a relative of Grinder) who would later acquire the land in his own right. Wheat, corn and tobacco were the principal crops. The smoke house behind the main structure is the sole remaining outbuilding of the complex.

The farm remained active and in the Carpenter family until 1945 when it was purchased by Herbert Staiger. Four month later he sold it to the State of Maryland through the Department of Natural Resources for inclusion in Smallwood State Park.

<sup>1</sup>Rambler, The Washington Star, Interview with the Carpenters 2/79.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>The Ceremonies at the Unveiling of the Monument Erected over the Remains of Major General William Smallwood. p. 5. Lord Baltimore Press, 4 July 1898.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

Bridget Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

February 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

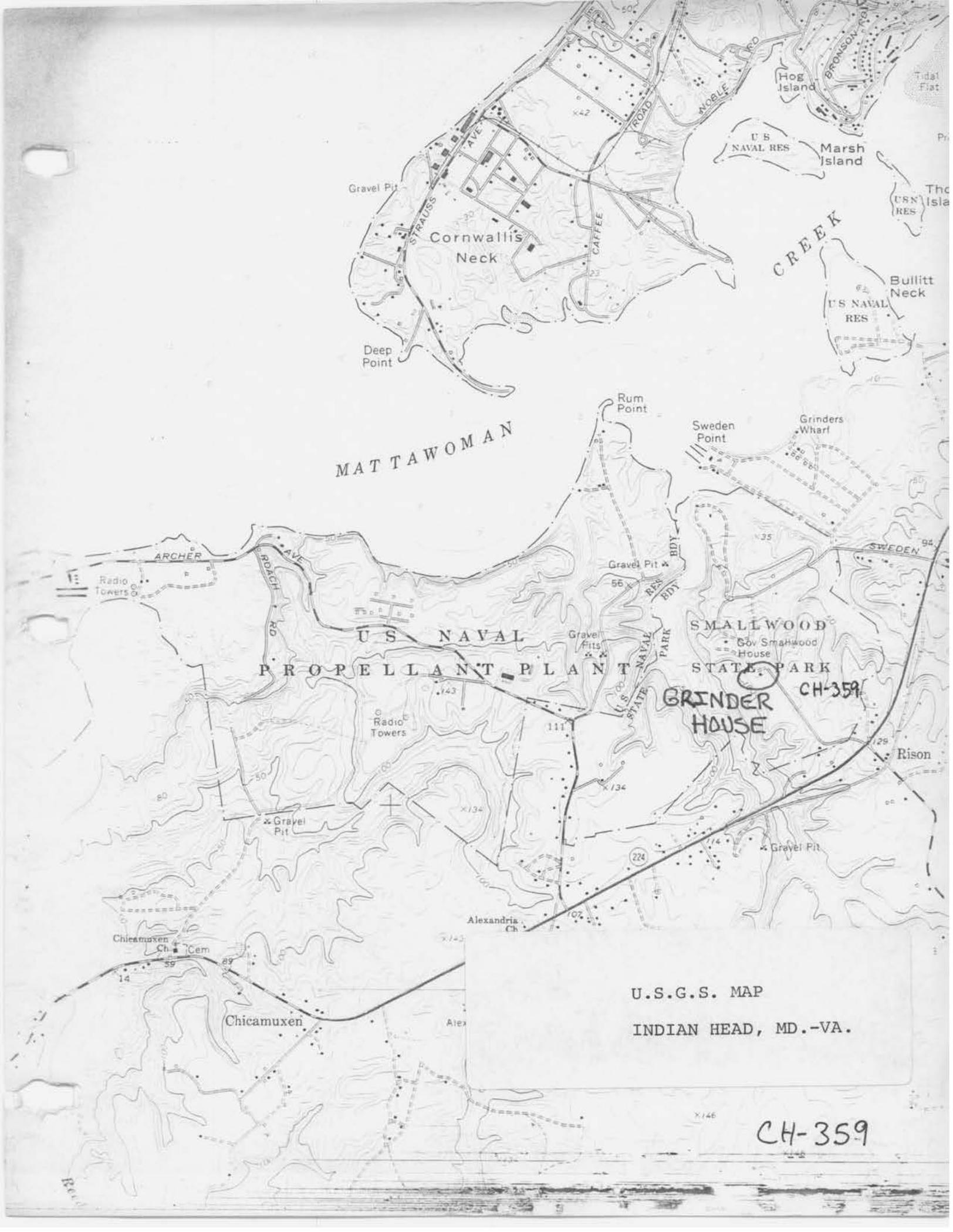
STATE

Maryland

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



MATTAWOMAN

U.S. NAVAL  
PROPELLANT PLANT

GRINDER  
HOUSE

CH-359

U.S.G.S. MAP

INDIAN HEAD, MD.-VA.

CH-359



CH 359

; SM/DNR 18

EDWARD GRINDER HOUSE  
SMALLWOOD S.P.

RISON, MD

7/78; BMD

NORTHEAST ELEV.



CH 359

; SM/DNR 18

EDWARD GRINDER HOUSE

SMALLWOOD S.P.

RISON, MD

7/78 BMD

SW ELEVATION



CH 359

; SM/DNR ~~18~~ 19

EDWARD GRINDER OUTBLDG.

SMALLWOOD S.P.

RISON, MD.

7/78 BMD

SOUTHWEST ELEV.