MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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 Rison

STATE Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>X PUBLIC</td>
<td>X OCCUPIED</td>
<td>_AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>_PRIVATE</td>
<td>_UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>_MUSEUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>_BOTH</td>
<td>_WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>_COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>_EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>_&quot; PROCESS</td>
<td>_YES RESTRICTED</td>
<td>_ENTERTAINMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>_YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>_RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X NO</td>
<td>_GOVERNMENT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Maryland, Dept. of Natural Resources

STREET & NUMBER Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN Annapolis

STATE, zip code Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE Charles County Court House

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Liber #: 131

Folio #: 544

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN La Plata

STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
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 superintendant, and therefore is in very good condition.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1850

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.¹

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.²

After the property was deeded to Edward M. Grinder in 1879, the farm was tenanted by J. Wesley Carpenter³ (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.

²Ibid.
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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Bridget Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN
Annapolis

STATE
Maryland

DATE
February 1979

TELEPHONE
269-2438

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
CH 359  JSM/DNR 18
EDWARD GRINDER HOUSE
SMALLWOOD S.P.
RISON, M.D
7/78, BMD
NORTHEAST ELEV.
EDWARD GRINDER HOUSE
SMALLWOOD S.P.
RISON, MD
7/78 BMD
SW ELEVATION
CH 359

SM/DNR 19

EDWARD GRINDER OUTBLDG.

SMALLWOOD S.P.

RISON, MD.

7/18 BMD

SOUTHWEST ELEV.