Until its demolition in the early 21st century, Taylor's Kindness was one of the best surviving second quarter of the nineteenth century farm dwellings to remain standing in the vicinity of Rhodesdale. Its characteristic three-part stepped form, indigenous to the region, included a two-story, side hall/parlor main block, a story-and-a-half, two-room plan center section, and a one-room plan kitchen. Architectural features written during a field visit by Michael Bourne in 1975 suggest the house dated from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Land record research indicates the house was likely built during the ownership of Levin or Matthew Smith, who held title to this section of Taylor's Kindness, beginning in 1831. Encompassing 443 acres, the farm passed from Matthew Smith to his only heir, Matthew J. T. Smith, who is designated at this site on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas of 1877. Matthew J. T. Smith was one of the largest landowners in what was then part of the East New Market Election District with title to 2000 acres. Like his father, Matthew J. T. Smith died intestate, leaving his widow Mary Jane Smith and children James L., Samuel J. T., Sarah, and India. James L. Smith acquired the interests of the others and maintained ownership of the farm until his death in 1944. Smith family tenure only lasted three more years.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)
historic Taylor’s Kindness
other Smith Farm

2. Location
street and number East New Market-Rhodesdale Road __ not for publication
city, town Rhodesdale x vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
name MAC Farms, Inc.
street and number P. O. Box 92 telephone 410-
city, town Rhodesdale state MD zip code 21659-0092

4. Location of Legal Description
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 439 folio 590
city, town Cambridge tax map 23 tax parcel 14 tax ID number 15-015837

5. Primary Location of Additional Data
Contributing Resource in National Register District
Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Recorded by HABS/HAER
Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
Other:

6. Classification

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The farm known as Taylor’s Kindness is located west of Rhodesdale and bordering MD Routes 14 and 331. The house was located at the corner of an ell-shaped lane and accessed both state roads. Facing south, the gable roof of the house was oriented on an east/west axis. Surveyed in June 1975 by Michael Bourne, the farmhouse stood until the early 21st century when it was demolished due to its interference with a pivot irrigation sweep.

Dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the two-story, three-part frame house was built in the characteristic steeped or telescope form common to the region. The three-part house was supported on a low, minimal brick foundation, and the exterior was clad with artificial siding. The steeply pitched gable roofs were covered with asphalt shingles.

The south façade of the main two-story, three-bay section followed a side hall/parlor plan with a side entrance flanked by sidelights and a transom typical of the mid nineteenth century. The entrance was sheltered by a neoclassical single-bay portico of Tuscan columns. The wall surface west of the doorway was marked by a pair of six-over-six sash windows, and three six-over-six sash windows lighted the second floor. The edge of the roof was trimmed with a boxed cornice, and the flush were flush. Rising through the west end was an interior end brick chimney stack.

The east gable end of the main block was largely covered by a story-and-a-half, four-bay service wing that had a tall brick chimney rising through its center. A pair of uneven sized gable roofed dormers marked the south roof slope.

The interior description of the house is very vague, but it mentions the central chimney stack in the center section having a back-to-back fireplaces. There is also mention of a section of beaded weatherboards exposed within a small enclosed staircase in a north side addition that extended from the center section.
8. Significance

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Specific dates

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<tr>
<td>Architect/Builder</td>
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</table>

Evaluation for:

- National Register
- Maryland Register
- not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Until its demolition in the early 21st century, Taylor’s Kindness was one of the best surviving second quarter of the nineteenth farm dwellings in the vicinity of Rhodesdale. Its characteristic three-part stepped form, indigenous to the region, included a two-story, side hall/parlor main block, a story-and-a-half two-room center section, and a one-room plan kitchen. Architectural features written during a field visit by Michael Bourne in 1975 suggest the house dated from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Land record research indicates the house was likely built during the ownership of Levin or Matthew Smith, who held title to this section of Taylor’s Kindness, beginning in 1831. Encompassing 443 acres, the farm passed from Matthew Smith to his only heir, Matthew J. T. Smith, who is located at this site on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas of 1877. Matthew J. T. Smith was one of the largest landowners in what was then the East New Market Election District with title to 2000 acres. Like his father, Matthew J. T. Smith died intestate, leaving his widow, Mary Jane Smith and children, James L. Smith, Samuel J. T. Smith and daughters Sarah E. Vickers, and India M. Baker. James L. Smith acquired the interests of the others and maintained ownership of the farm until his death in 1944. Smith family ownership lasted three more years when the farm was sold out of the family.

1 Dorchester County Land Record, ER 12/342, 4 June 1831, Dorchester County Courthouse.
3 Dorchester County Land Record, CL 34/484, 16 December 1908, Dorchester County Courthouse.
4 Dorchester County Will Book, RPS 5/284, 12 April 1944, Dorchester County Courthouse.
5 Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 64/332, 1 November 1947, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Taylor's Kindness
Rhodesdale vicinity, Dorchester County
Chain of title
Map 23, Parcel 14

MLB 439/590
Edward H. Nabb, Jr. Personal Representative of the Estate of Virginia D. Miller
to
MAC Farms
Lot No. 2 of the lands of Galen L. Miller, 5.2.1978, plat liber 21/41, 7.20 acres, said Virginia D. Miller departed this life, 10.14.2000

RSM 86/49-50
J. Spence Phelps, et ux.
to
11.23.1953
Galen L. Miller and Virginia D. Miller
Taylor's Kindness, containing 443 acres

RSM 64/332
Sheldon R. Smith and Viola I. Smith
to
11.1.1947
J. Spence Phelps and Mary C. Phelps
Dorchester County
Will Book
RPS 5/284

Last Will and Testament of James L. Smith

to, son

4.12.1944

Sheldon R. Smith

CL 34/484


to

12.16.1908

James L. Smith

First, whereas Matthew J. T. Smith departed this life intestate and and left surviving him Mary Jane Smith, his widow, James L. Smith, Samuel J.T. Smith intermarried with Mary R. Smith, Sarah E. Vickers intermarried with H. Lee Vickers and India M. Baker intermarried with John A. Baker

443 acres

Died Intestate

Matthew Smith

To only heir

Matthew J. T. Smith
Whereas Thomas Tolly of the county aforesaid purchased of the within named Levin Smith for $700 of part of the said purchase money and departed this life having a balance due and failing to obtain a conveyance for the same, and whereas Thomas Tolly the eldest male heir of Travers Tolly accepted to take the said real estate at the valuation of the commissioners appointed by Dorchester County Court to value and divide the real estate of said Travers Tolly and hath since contracted with and sold the same to within named Matthew Smith, Jr. who hath paid to said Levin Smith

Taylor’s Kindness

Sarah Waggaman, Dorchester County

to

Levin Smith

$1,329 “Taylor’s Kindness 443 acres
9. Major Bibliographical References

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Dorchester County Wills, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Interview with Irene Harper, 12.03.08

10. Geographical Data

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<td>Quadrangle name</td>
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<td>Quadrangle scale</td>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name/title</th>
<th>Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian</th>
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<tr>
<td>organization</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
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<td>state</td>
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600
D-262, Taylor's Kindness
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET**

**NOMINATION FORM**

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

---

**1. NAME**

- **Common:**
  - Taylor's Kindness

- **AND/OR HISTORIC:**

**2. LOCATION**

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - Md. Rt. 14, near Shiloh Church Road

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Rhodesdale, Maryland

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Site ☑</td>
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<td>In Process ☑</td>
<td>Unoccupied ☑ Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure ☑</td>
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<td>Being Considered ☑</td>
<td>Unoccupied ☑ Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Object ☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress ☑</td>
<td>No ☑</td>
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**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

- **OWNER'S NAME:**
  - Mr. and Mrs. Galen L. Miller

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - RFD

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Hurlock, Maryland

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
  - Dorchester County Courthouse

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - High Street

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Cambridge, Maryland

- **Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):**
  - 086/049

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:**

- **DATE OF SURVEY:**

- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**

- **CITY OR TOWN:**

- **STATE:**
Taylor's Kindness is the best preserved telescopic frame dwelling in the vicinity of Rhodesdale. It is composed of three early portions with a small modern extension and porch.

The tallest portion appears to have been built close to the middle of the 19th century and is three bays long and two stories tall. In its west gable is a brick chimney. The eastern most bay of the facade has a modern portico above the door. The middle section of the house is four bays long and has a central chimney and a window on each side of the chimney, the eastern dormer being smaller than the other. Slightly lower is the kitchen wing which is two bays long. All of the building is one room deep, however, a small addition is constructed on the north side of the east half of the center section.

The addition to the east end is the garage. A screened porch stretches across the kitchen and one bay of the middle section.

Inside, the two rooms of the middle section, which was heated by the central chimney, are now one, with the enormous side-by-side brick fireplaces standing as a screen between the living and dining rooms. This section appears to date from around 1820. A portion of the original beaded clapboard is exposed in the stair of the small bedroom wing north of the dining room.

In the northwest corner of the kitchen is a small enclosed stair. An old porch is located on its north side.
Taylor's Kindness is an important telescopic structure, not only for the vicinity, but for the county. It resembles the house at the southern end of Punch Island Road, Taylor's Island, but the center section of the latter house is only one room long.
### Geographic Data

#### Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property

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#### Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:

Acreage Justification:

District 15, Map 23, p. 14

---

### List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries

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<th>County</th>
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### Form Prepared By

**NAME AND TITLE:**

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

**ORGANIZATION:**

Maryland Historical Trust

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Annapolis, Maryland

**STATE:**

Maryland

**ZIP CODE:**

21401

---

### State Liaison Officer Review:

Significance of this property is:

- National [ ]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

Signature