

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Vinecroft Survey Number: D -99

Project: Dorchester County Power Plant Agency: Delmarva

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The property known as Vinecroft or Little Mill Farm is located at the end of a tree-lined drive in Dorchester County, Maryland. The property includes a primary residence, possibly built as early as the mid-18th century, ruins of a 19th-century mill and millrace, and several non-contributing resources. The 1-1/2-story, central-passage brick house has been restored in recent years and stands as the only surviving local example of a once-common dwelling form.

The property, presently called "Little Mill Farm" consists of three historically separate parcels of land which were consolidated by one owner in 1930. The house and mill were independent and unrelated properties until that time. According to tradition, the house was built by George Boniwell between 1750 and 1790. This is consistent with historical evidence which indicates that Boniwell purchased the property in 1778. Architecturally, however, the overall form of the dwelling, including its steep gable roof, five-bay configuration and end chimneys, is consistent with this date, while certain details, such as the five-course American bond brickwork, and the corbelled brick cornice suggest a later date of construction (ca. 1810). It is possible that the house was built in the mid-to late 18th century and was later rebuilt or modified to include these later details and features.

Vinecroft is a 1-1/2-story, five-bay house covered with a steeply pitched gable roof with corbelled end chimneys and a stepped, corbelled cornice. The front elevation is divided into five bays with a central entry flanked by windows on the first story and three gabled dormers in the half-story. The entry, set within a segmental-arched opening, features a multi-light transom. The windows are similarly set within segmental-arched surrounds and have 6/9 sash. A contemporary rear ell replaced an 1898 frame wing.

The interior of the house features a central-passage, single-pile plan. The center hall contains the stair with an octagonal newel and rail and rectangular balusters. A mid-19th-century mantel is located in the south room. Original materials, such as door hardware, wood wall paneling, tongue and groove flooring and hewn beams, exposed in the basement, are intact.

Also on the property are ruins of the masonry mill race and part of the gristmill's foundation. Three non-contributing outbuildings, including a garage/carport, a greenhouse and open storage shed are located to the east and north of the house.

The house at Vinecroft survives as an excellent example of a 1-1/2-story, central-passage brick dwelling. In addition, the property retains its rural landscape and its associations with the agricultural economy of the region. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: MAAR Associates

*JMG*

Beth Hannold  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

1/25/96

Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Orlando Rubovitz

Reviewer, NR program

Feb. 13, 1996

Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Family Dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. D-99

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic "Vinecroft" part of Maiden Forest, Hickory Ridge

and/or common Little Mill Farm

**2. Location**

street & number 5115 Maiden Forest Road  not for publication

city, town Rhodesdale  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Dorchester

**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	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Christopher C. Betts, Jr.

street & number 5115 Maiden Forest Road telephone no.:(410)228-6636

city, town Rhodesdale state and zip code MD 21659

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber PLC-181

street & number High Street folio 336

city, town Cambridge state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Maryland Historic Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. D-99

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

D-99

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** (?) Michael Boniwell

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.



# 7. Description

Survey No. D-99

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

This structure, known locally as Little Mill Farm, dates from at least 1800, and portions of it may date to the mid-eighteenth century. The structure is laid in common bond brick. The house has 1 1/2 stories and a steeply pitched gable roof with two corbeled brick chimneys on the end walls. The cornice consists of two stepped bricks typical of the 1810 period. The house is five bays long, with three dormer windows on the front (east) side of the house and two on the back. The front door has a multi-light transom and windows are 6/9 sash type, flanked by louvered shutters. There are segmental arches above all windows and doors, even in the basement. The original partial basement was a root cellar which the owner expanded to form a full basement.

According to the owner, an 1898 frame addition was removed (sometime after 1972) and a modern hyphen and wing or "T" addition was added to the rear (south) of the house. The entire structure was also restored; with the wing removed, one of the doors to the wing was an original opening, but it has been bricked in. The restoration has maintained the overall integrity and roof pitch of the original house.

On the inside, the house has a symmetrical plan with a center hall flanked by two rooms. A mid-nineteenth century mantel is located in the south room. The balustrade is very simple, with an octagonal newel and octagonal rail, with rectangular balusters. Also, original detailing such as door hardware, wood wall panelling, tongue and groove flooring and original 20-foot long beams in the basement are present. There is a single-story rear wing with a gable roof and a dormer window. The house has been restored and is in excellent condition.

The property is accessed by a tree-lined driveway; a brick walkway leads to the front entrance of the house.

### Outbuildings

The masonry mill race is still visible, and part of the gristmill's foundation is still standing. At the rear of the house (to the east) is a modern frame garage/carport; to the north of the house is a single-story frame structure with greenhouse. Slightly to the west is a small, open storage shed.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. D-99

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 checked="" 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect (?) Michael Boniwell

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.

This property, presently called "Little Mill Farm," is made up of all or parts of three parcels of land consolidated for the first time under one owner in 1930, when Howard I. Henry finally acquired all three tracts of land. The house presently stands on Parcel 3, which fronts on Maiden Forest Road.

Parcel 2 and Parcel 3 were originally part of the same tract of land which Thomas Hodson conveyed to George Boniwell, planter, in 1778. At the time of the sale to Boniwell, the land is described as adjoining (but not part of) "Hodson's Old Mill." Parcel 2 and Parcel 3 were finally separated in the early twentieth century by James W. Waddell, who sold Parcel 3 to Ann M. Young in 1900 and Parcel 2 to Ida M. Stanley in 1912.

Parcel 1, Little Brick Mills, is historically unrelated (except by proximity) to Parcel 2 and Parcel 3 until 1927, when Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 were consolidated under the ownership of C. Edwin Bell and S.J.T. Smith who, in turn, sold the two parcels to Howard I. Henry in 1928. Parcel 3, the house site, was not added until 1930 when Henry purchased it from the County Commissioners.

According to local tradition, the dwelling was built by George Boniwell between 1750 and 1790. Architectural evidence suggests that this early construction date is accurate for at least part of the dwelling. It is also consistent with historical evidence which indicates that Boniwell purchased the property in 1778. However, it is also possible that the house was actually constructed by a member of the Hodson family prior to the sale of the property to Boniwell. Architecturally, this is significant, because the Hodsons were known to have built substantial brick buildings in the area since at least the late seventeenth century. For example, John's Point (D-223) was attributed to John Hodson, to whom Maiden Forest was originally granted. That structure, which is no longer standing, was probably erected around 1670. No doubt a rarity in the Dorchester County area, John's Point featured a jerkinhead roof and was laid entirely in Flemish bond.

Although the property is locally known as "Little Mill Farm," historical evidence suggests that the house and Little Brick Mills were historically independent and remained so until the three parcels of land were consolidated under one owner in the mid-twentieth century. In the early twentieth century, the house was called "Vinecroft."

Vinecroft is one of the few one-and-one-half story brick houses in the county and is a welcome sight in its present restored state. It is a very significant vernacular structure, for here we have the fully developed facade

D-99: Vinecroft, Dorchester County, Maryland

8. Significance continued

which is a product of Georgian symmetry, as well as the floor plan. Today, Vinecroft is one of the few Georgian style, 1 1/2 story brick houses in the county. The house shows fine workmanship, and the surrounding landscape and farmlands are still intact.

D-99 - Chain of Title  
(Hickory Ridge, Vinecroft, part of Maiden Forest)

Tract #2 and Tract #3

27 August 1776  
HD-3-617  
Thomas Hodson Sr.  
to  
George Boniwell and Charles Dean

Bond to convey part of Maiden Forest in the E. side of the main branch of the Chicamacomico River according to power of attorney to sd. Thomas Sr. from Thomas Hodson of Boston.

10 January 1778  
JHC-1-73  
Thomas Hodson, Boston Mass.  
to  
George Bonwell, planter

"Maiden's Forest" on a branch of the Chicamacomico River adjacent to Hodson's Old Mill and Charles Dean's part of "Maiden Forest."

11 June 1785  
Betty Bonwell  
to  
Michael Hall Bonwell

Her dower rights to several tracts of land including Maiden Forest.

8 September 1792  
Michael Hall Bonwell  
to  
William Littleton

Parts of two tracts or parcels of land called Maiden Forest and Hickory Ridge Enlarged being on the E side of Bonwell's Mill Pond cont. 97 1/2 Acres.

4 May 1808  
HD-25-262  
William Webster  
to  
William Littleton

Parts of Hickory Ridge Regulated Addition to Hickory Ridge, Johns's Outlet and Turkey Nest cont. 141 acres.

7 Sept 1812  
James Chaplin, estate of William Littleton  
to  
Sarah Lecompte et al.

Whereas James Chaplin on 4 December 1811 sold Levin Lecompte land which Little purchased from Michael H. Bonwell and William Webster. Levin Lecompte is dead, land is now conveyed to heirs.

**1 October 1873**

FJH-9-144

William H. Briley and Sarah {Lecompte}, his wife.

to

Docia Hayes

Tracts of land known as Maiden Forest and Hickory Ridge Enlarge lying and being on the E side of the road from Little Brick Mills to E. New Market bounded N by Mary Lecompte, and part of Deann's land now James Wallace. S by the Forest Road leading from afsd. County Road through the farm of Thomas Hodson

**3 July 1886**

CL-9-48

William H. Andrews (?) Assignee

to

Frederick Wright

Tract of land described below.

**20 February 1892**

CL-16-346

Frederick Wright and wife

to

Stephen Dockins et al.

Tracts of land called Maiden Forest and Hickory Ridge situate on the road from Little Brick Mills to E. New Market cont. 56 1/2 acres.

Tract #2

**5 February 1912**

WLR-4-294

James W. Waddell, assignee of Stephen Dockins et al.

to

Ida M. Stanley

At public sale. Lot on the E side of Road from Little Brick Mills to E. New Market via Hackett's Gate at the end of 62 perches from Maiden Forest Road cont 45 acres.

**20 December 1924**

JFD-15-620

Richard Jones, assignee of mortgage (Ida M. Stanley)

to

E. Edwin Bell and S.J.T. Smith

At public sale. Tract of land in the E. Mew Market Election District, E side of County road leading from Little Brick Mills to E. New Market via Hackett's Gate at the end of 62 perches from Maiden Forest road cont. 45 acres 8 perches.

Tract #3

**4 May 1900**

CL-24-614

James W. Waddell, Assignee

to

Ann M. Young

Foreclosure mortgage Stephen Dockins et al. to Fred Wright d. 20 February 1892. Lot with improvements on the N side of Maiden Forest Road 12 acres 51 perches exclusive of 1/2 acre sold to Dorchester Co. in 1893.

**7 February 1908**

WLR-2-117

Georgia Camper et al. Estate of Ann Young

to

James S. Young

Land located in the E. New Market election district part of Maiden Forest or Hickory Ridge located on the road from Little Brick Mills to East New Market beginning on the N side of Maiden Forest Road at the center of the bridge, containing 12 acres 51 perches.

**17 February 1908**

Recited WHM-5-102

James S. Young

to

Belvin B. Brinsfield

Tract #3 described below.

**17 August 1918**

WHM-5-102

Belvin B. Brinsfield and wife

to

William F. Smith, Philadelphia

Land in the Vienna Election District, part of Hickory Ridge called Vinecroft cont 12 acres in angle formed by the road from Little Brick Mills to Alonzo Hacketts Farms and Little Brick Mills to Reid's Grove containing 12 acres.

**16 September 1930**

JFD-26-217

County Commissioners

to

Howard I. Henry

Tract of land in Vienna Election district called "Hickory Ridge" and "Vinecroft," Same which was conveyed to W.F. Smith.

Tract #1

**25 January 1856**

Land Commissioners Records FJH-1-80

Division of the Estate of Silas Flemming, died intestate

Estate partitioned into six parcels by Land Commissioners.

Tract #6 - Little Brick Mills including dwelling, out houses and tillable land purchased from James Wallace excepting the part deeded by said Fleming (the mill and mill seat) to Joseph Stafford.

**15 June 1867**

FJH-8-317

Commissioners to Divide lands of Silas Fleming

to

Josiah B. Nesbott

Property known as Little Brick Mills

11 October 1871  
 FJH-8-317  
 Joseph B. Nesbitt  
 to  
 James H. Kelly

24 November 1900  
 CL-25-4  
 Vaughn Vickers, Trustee  
 to  
 S. James May  
 Farm and mill property known as Little Brick Mills.

28 February 1925  
 JFD-16-140  
 Cyrus May, Trustee  
 to  
 Alonzo Hackett

All that mill and farm property called Little Brick Mills.

19 February 1927  
 JFD-19-486  
 Alonzo Hackett  
 to  
 C. Edwin Bell and Ella, his wife and S.J.T. Smith and Mary, his wife

Tract #1 and Tract #2

16 April 1928  
 JFD-22-33  
 C. Edwin Bell and Ella, his wife and S.J.T. Smith and Mary, his wife  
 to  
 Howard I. Henry

Little Brick Mills (Tract #1) and Tract #2

Tract # 1, Tract #2, and Tract #3

6 February 1935  
 JFD-32-213  
 Howard I. Henry  
 to  
 Christopher G. Betts and wife

Three tracts of land, 1 & 2 conveyed together.

Tract #1-Tract or parcel of land a.k.a. "Little Brick Mills" cont. 50 acres situate in Linkwood Election District. This property is outside the Project Area.

Tract #2-Tract of land in Vienna Election district described first in deed between C. Edwin Bell and J. richard Jones, Assignee.

Tract #3-All that tract of land called "Hickory Ridge" or "Vinecroft" Conveyed to Henry from County Commissioners.

8 April 1941  
 RSM-42-517  
 Calvin Harrington, Assignee or Mortgage from Stephenson to Betz.  
 to  
 Edgar L. Stephenson

Property described below. Same conveyed to Christopher Betz by Howard I. Henry., foreclosure of mortgage.

**22 January 1945**

RSM-51-193

Roy t. Jenkins and wife

to

Edgar L. Stephenson and wife

Same having been conveyed to Stephenson for the purpose of foreclosure of mortgage.

**27 November 1945**

RSM-56-430

Roy T. Jenkins and wife

to

Christopher Betts

Tracts of land in the Linkwood and Vienna Election Districts.

**9 December 1970**

PLC-167-200

Christopher C. Betts

to

Christopher C. Betts Jr. and Gloria, his wife

Same as described above.

**17 August 1973**

PLC-181-363

Christopher Betts Jr. and Gloria, his wife

to

Christopher Betts Jr. his heirs and assignee

Tracts of land in Linkwood and Vienna Election Districts on the road from Little Brick Mills to Hawk-eye and Little Brick Mills to Reid's Grove about 1 mile from the State Road from Vienna to Salem:

Tract #1-All that tract of land Called the Little Brick Mills Property in the Linkwood Election district cont. 50 acres more or less. 45 acres 8 perches in the Vienna Election District,

Tract #2-All that land in the Vienna Election district in the angle formed by the County Road leading from Little Brick Mills to Alonzo Hackett's farm and the road leading from Little Brick Mills to Reids Grove being part of Hickory Ridge and also known as Vinecroft.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. D-99

Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank, Christopher Weeks, Editor, published by Johns Hopkins University Press and the MD Historic Trust. McGrain, Molinography of Dorchester County.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 44 acres

Quadrangle name East New Market

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Acreage justification: District 17, Map 44, p.26.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lauren Archibald and Judith Rosentel and Betty C. Zebooker

organization MAAR Associates, Inc. date November 1993

street & number P.O. Box 655 telephone (302) 368-5777

city or town Newark state DE

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-3600

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

**D-99 - Vinecroft**

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period: Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815 and  
Agricultural- Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: None

1000775304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Little Mill Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: On Maiden  
Forest Road, .1 mile north of Hawkeye Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cambridge

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Dorchester

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Christopher C. Betts, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 220

CITY OR TOWN: Rhodesdale STATE: Maryland 21659

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland 21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 167/200

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncolored <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Little Mill Farm house is the only brick house for miles and also the only house for miles to have a full cellar. It is a five bay long, one and one-half story structure, with three dormers on the east side of the 'A' roof and two on the rear. The entire structure is laid in Common bond brick and the cornice consists of two stepped bricks typical of the 1810 period. There are segmental arches above all windows and doors, even the basement. Louvered shutters remain on some of the windows which have nine over six sash. On the south side the house is a frame addition, two stories tall, set at right angles to the brick structure.</p> <p>The floor plan is the usual two rooms with central stair hall. A mantel of the mid-19th century is located in the south room. The balustrade is very simple, with an octagonal newel and octagonal rail, with rectangular balusters. From the first story there appears to be raised paneled partitions on the second floor! In the wing are also two additional rooms.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M. Bourne 11/72</p> <p>Since the house was visited in 1972 the two-story portion was removed and a hyphen and wing was built on the rear of the house and the entire building was restored: with the wing removed, one of the doors to the wing was an original opening, but it has been bricked in. This is one of the most attractive preservation efforts in the county.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Little Mill is located on the headwaters of the Chicamacomico River one and one-half miles from Big Mill Pond which is on Rt. 50 five miles west of Vienna.

It gets its name from the grist mill that was on the property. It was the second of three mills within a five mile course of the river. They were known as Payne's Mill, Little Mill and Big Mill. The mill race and the foundation are still visible although the building deteriorated in the 1940's. The machinery was sold for scrap just prior to World War II.

A through search of the history of the property has not been made but people searching their family history have mentioned that it may have been a part of a grant known as Halls Seat and the house may have been built by a man named Boniwell sometime between 1750 and 1790."

LITTLE MILL

Little Mill was the counterpart of Big Mill and north of it on Big Mill Pond. It was built of brick and apparently also owned by Silas Flemming; it was believed to pre-date 1800; now extinct. Little Brick Mill was mentioned in the Acts of 1906, Chapter 494 as on a branch leading to the Chicamacomico River in District 17.

Little Mill House is one of the few one and one-half story brick houses in the County and is a welcome sight in its present restored state. It is a very significant vernacular structure for here we have the fully developed facade which is a product of Georgian symmetry, as well as the floor plan.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

McGrain, Molography of Dorchester County.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

District 17, Map 44, p. 26.  
44 acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: 11/30/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      ZIP: 21401

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National       State       Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u>          COUNTY <u>Dorchester</u>          TOWN <u>Cambridge</u> VICINITY <u>Salem</u>          STREET NO. <u>Forest Rd. 1/2 mile north</u>  <u>of Hawkeye Rd. (west)</u>          ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u>          PRESENT OWNER <u>Christopher C. Betts</u>          PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u>          NO. OF STORIES <u>1 1/2</u></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY          INVENTORY <u>D-99</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>Little Mill Farm</u></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD          STYLE          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
--	--

35 acres

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

Little Mill Farm house is the only brick house for miles and also the only house for miles to have a full cellar. It is a five bay-long, one and one half story structure, with three dormers on the east side of the "A" roof and two on the rear. The entire structure is laid in common bond brick and the cornice consists of two stepped bricks typical of the 1810 period. There are segmented archs above all windows and doors, even the basement. Louvered shutters remain on some of the windows which have nine over six sash. On the south side the house is a frame addition, two stories tall, set at right angles to the brick structure.

The floor plan is the usual two rooms with central stair hall. A mantel of the mid-19th Century is located in the south room. The balustrade is very simple, with an octagonal newel and octagonal rail, with rectangular balusters. From the first the first story there appears to be raised paneled positions on the second floor! In the wing are also two additional rooms.

East of the house formerly stood Little Mill which was still in operation in this century, (see Molography of Dorchester Co., McGrain).

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

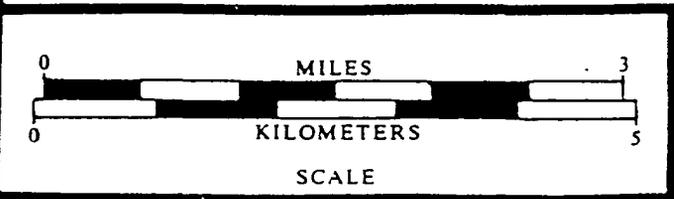
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p></p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <span style="float: right;"><u>MSB</u></span>  <u>Michael O. Bourne, Field Surveyor</u>  <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u>  <u>2525 Riva Road</u>  <u>Annapolis, Md. 21401</u>          DATE OF RECORD <span style="float: right;"><u>11/30/72</u></span></p>

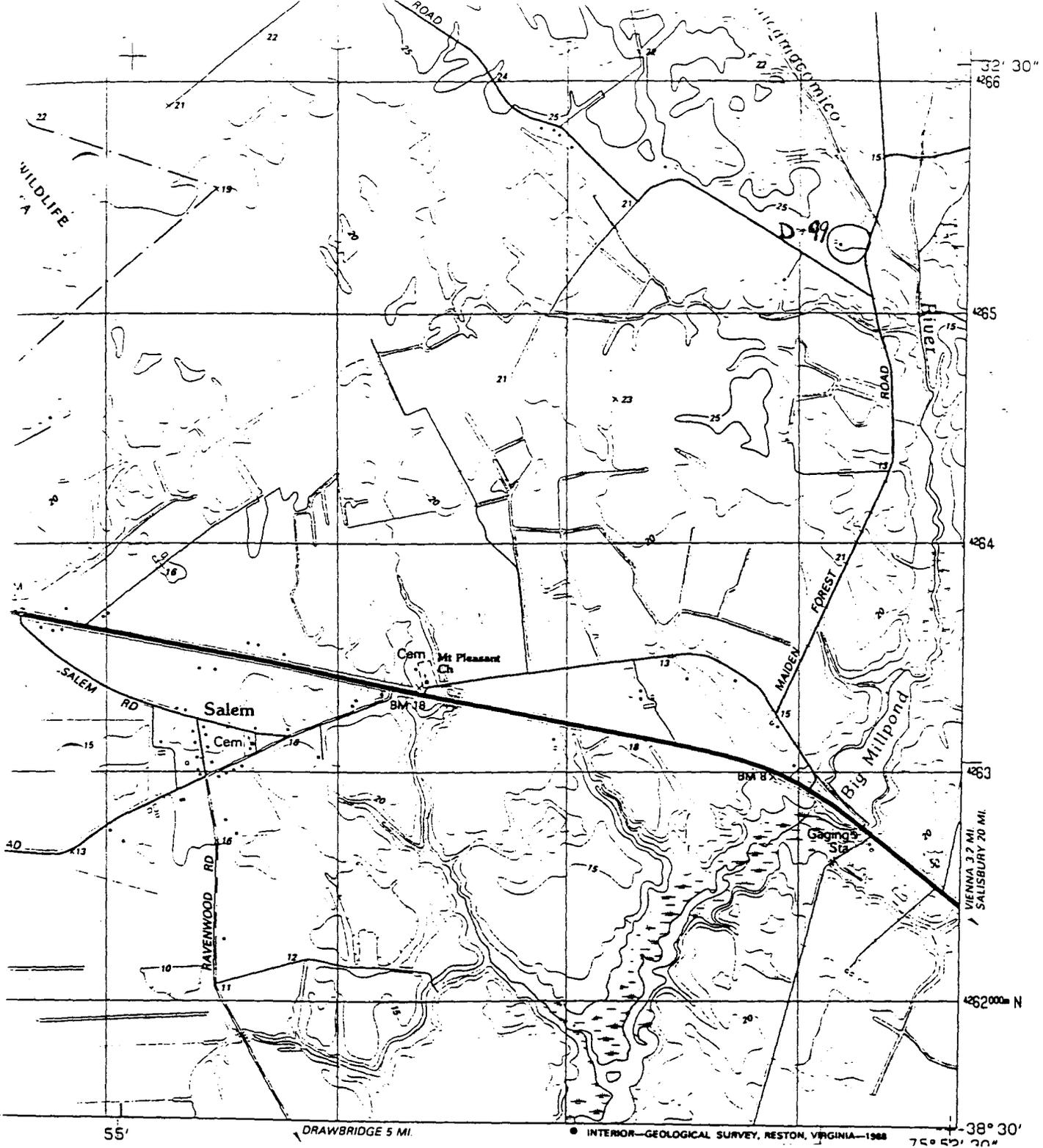


D-99

Vincroft  
Vicinity of Rhodesdale  
Dorchester County

An Illustrated Atlas of Talbot  
& Dorchester Counties, Md.,  
Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson, 1877.





R1  
 Primary highway,  
 hard surface .....  
 Secondary highway,  
 hard surface .....  
 Interstate Ro

D-99  
 Vinecroft  
 Vicinity of Rhodesdale  
 Dorchester County  
 East New Market quad

EAST NEW MARKET, MD.  
 38075-E8-TF-024

1988

DMA 5861 III SW-SERIES V833

RGINIA 22092  
 EST



DOUGHERTY, J. G.

1. RC IN B...

2. BRYAN, 1979

3. ...

4. ...

5. ...











10-11-19

10-12-19

10-13-19

10-14-19

10-15-19

10-16-19

10-17-19



DO-99

VINE CRAFT

DORCHESTER, MD

APRIL 1994

L. ARCHIBALD

MARYLAND SHAD

VIEW OF OUTBUILDING TO NORTH OF

VIEW TO NW

at use

5 of 9



D-99

Vinecroft

DORCHESTER, MD

SEPTEMBER 1994

L. ARCHIBALD

MARYLAND SHPD

VIEW OF GARAGE / CARPORT TO

EAST OF HOUSE, LOOKING W

6 of 9



4 4'93

1.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1 \times 3}{2 \times 4} = \frac{3}{8}$   
 2.  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{5}{6} = \frac{2 \times 5}{3 \times 6} = \frac{10}{18} = \frac{5}{9}$   
 3.  $\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{4}{7} = \frac{3 \times 4}{5 \times 7} = \frac{12}{35}$   
 4.  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1 \times 2}{4 \times 3} = \frac{2}{12} = \frac{1}{6}$   
 5.  $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{10} = \frac{5 \times 3}{8 \times 10} = \frac{15}{80} = \frac{3}{16}$   
 6.  $\frac{7}{9} \times \frac{2}{5} = \frac{7 \times 2}{9 \times 5} = \frac{14}{45}$   
 7.  $\frac{4}{6} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4 \times 1}{6 \times 2} = \frac{4}{12} = \frac{1}{3}$   
 8.  $\frac{6}{8} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{6 \times 3}{8 \times 4} = \frac{18}{32} = \frac{9}{16}$   
 9.  $\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{4}{7} = \frac{2 \times 4}{5 \times 7} = \frac{8}{35}$   
 10.  $\frac{3}{7} \times \frac{5}{8} = \frac{3 \times 5}{7 \times 8} = \frac{15}{56}$



4 4 '93

1000  
1000

APRIL 1993

LANCASHIRE

1000

1000



D-99

VINECROFT  
DORCHESTER, MD

3 2000

5 2000

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW OF MIL RUINS TO EAST OF HOUSE,  
Looking NE

9 of 9

D-99



Little Mill Farm

D-99

M. Bourne Nov 1975

. 11 x 1.72 75% D-99



Little Mill Farm

D-99

M. Bourne Nov 1975