

K-100

Hinchingham Farm
Near Rock Hall
4th quarter 18th Century

Hinchingham was a 2200 acre tract granted to Thomas Hynson in 1659, one of the earlier patents in present day Kent County. Undoubtedly the name is derived from "Hynsonham", meaning Hynson's home or village. In 1675, a part of Hinchingham and some vacancy totaling 700 acres was purchased by Michael Miller and at that time renamed Miller's Purchase.¹

Michael Miller was a significant resident of late 17th Century Kent County. He was elected as one of the County Burgesses in 1685 and was appointed vestryman of St. Paul's Parish in 1693-94. He also acquired the 1000 acre tract on the upper end of Quaker Neck known as Godlington Manor. In his will witnessed by his friend Simon Wilmer, he bequeathed Miller's Purchase and lands on Kent Island to his son Michael Miller, Jr. and Godlington Manor and 1200 acres nearby to his son Arthur.²

The property called Miller's Purchase Resurveyed passed from Michael Miller, Jr. in 1738 to his son Michael, III (d. 1746)³ and two other brothers.⁴ How the land was divided later during the 18th Century has not yet been determined.

By 1783, when the tax assessor visited Swan Creek, Miller's Purchase was divided between Michael, Walter (probable builder), Samuel and Richard Miller.⁵ In 1852 that part of Miller's Purchase which contained the house was owned by Merritt Miller, Walter's grandson and valued at \$4500 with "Frame House and other Buildings in good repair."⁶ On the 1860

Martinet Map, Merritt Miller is still listed as owner but in the 1877 Atlas the farm is listed as belonging to the Estate of Walter Theodore Hodges Miller, Merritt's son. Hinchingham remained in the Miller family until 1951, when it was sold by Severn A. Miller.

The house is traditionally said to have been built in the 17th Century, but from structural evidence, as well as millwork details, it appears to date from the last quarter of the 18th Century and later. The three bay, two story section have the earmarks of late 18th Century work, with original ovolo window trim and a well executed walnut balustrade. The plan of this section is like the Chambers Tenement, built in the late 1780's in Chestertown - a stairhall and parlor. A kitchen wing probably abutted the east gable, but it was replaced by the present dining room section in the 1820-30 period. This is immediately evident in the delicacy of the woodwork. This section also possesses a basement and the brick walls are built abutting the west section's walls. The latter wall, facing into the newer basement space has very rough joints, like walls intended to be backfilled.

Located several steps lower than the dining room, the kitchen or service wing is composed of two rooms, one the present day kitchen, built of frame and the final room, the old or original kitchen. The latter is constructed of planks, mortised and tenoned into braced corner posts. It has hewn and chamfered joists and a brick floor. The pyramidal fireplace and the floor are mid-20th century replacements.

By the time the original building project was completed, the Millers possessed a telescopic farmhouse, with a plan that was the epitome of a Kent County Farmhouse . . . a central stairhall flanked by a single room on

each side with two-room service wing, all in a straight line.

Hinchingham Farm is the best preserved telescopic house remaining in Kent County—an obvious example of one of the basic elements of vernacular architecture—one that is able to be enlarged.

1. Miller, John Haskel, A Family Chronicle, unpublished family history (courtesy of Michael Miller).
2. Wills, Lib. 1, fol. 57.
3. From the files of Michael Miller; Wills, 1738.
4. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 271.
5. 1783 Tax Assessment, Lower Langford Bay Hundred.
6. 1852 Tax Assessment, 1st District.

K-100
Hinchingham Farm
Rock Hall
Private

18th Century

Hinchingham Farm house is a telescoping frame building with tall brick chimneys. Probably constructed before 1800, the house has a kitchen and a smoke house built of notched planks. The house was built by descendents of Michael Miller, a large landowner and important figure in 17th century Kent.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-100

MAGI # 1501005204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Hinchingham Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Swan Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Rock Hall

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Wharton Wallis

Telephone #: 301-639-2135

STREET & NUMBER

Hinchingham Farm

CITY, TOWN

Rock Hall

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21661

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: W46 75

Folio #: 434

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-100

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	slightly	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hinchingham Farm is a frame telescope-type house of three sections. It faces south. The largest is a two story, three bay building with side stair, entrance hall, and gable roof; the central section is one and one-half stories high and two bays long with two gable dormers in each roof slope and a rear entry; the third portion is a lower one and one-half stories with gable dormers and two rooms, the end room being of plank construction. Roofs of the wings are very steep with beaded verge boards and wide brick chimneys enclosed in gable ends. Box cornices with moldings finish all roofs. The chimney back is exposed in the end gable. In the main house is a false chimney above the stair hall. The house is covered with medium width new weather-board, painted white. Shutters are painted green; roofs are shingled.

Fenestration of the main house is evenly spaced. Nine over six sash is used on second floor with nine over nine on the first. Second floor windows have quarter round backband moldings and rounded sills. The front entrance has a Victorian door and a modern gable roof porch. On the rear the door has a four pane transom light. The chimney-back on the gable is exposed almost to the second floor level. The cellar entrance has a gable roof enclosure. At the rear of the building is a screened porch with shed roof.

The central portion of the building has 6/6 sash windows, louvered shutters, and plain trim. It stands on a brick foundation.

Fenestration in the kitchen wing is less regular. A beaded batten door on the front is sheltered by a modern gable entrance. There are four pane attic windows and 6/6 sash windows front and rear. Alterations in this wing include the addition of two six-panel windows beside the door and removal of a chimney between the frame and plank sections of the wing. It originally had its chimney back exposed to the plack room perhaps indicating that the plank section is an addition instead of being the original portions. The kitchen wing stands on a modern brick foundation; the chimney cap has been rebuilt.

The main stair has plain balusters and turned newel and intermediates with block tops and bases. There are wave step bracketts on the open string. The stair is unusually wide with low rise steps and a low balustrade. There is a raised and beveled spandrel beneath the stair, and horizontally boarded wainscoting with a finely molded chair rail in the stair hall.

Early detailing was replaced in the mid-19th century in the single room on the first floor of the main house; doors and trim have broad flat applied moldings. There is a simple mantle with shelf dating from the same period. The present dining room in the middle wing has an old pine corner cupboard with raised and beveled panel doors. In that room is a mantle with rectangular opening surrounded by paneled frieze and pilasters and surmounted by a shelf. The chair rail has a narrow upper molding which is also raised as the window backband.

The end room has plank walls exposed inside; wainscoting is of horizontal beaded boards; ceiling beams are chamfered. The pyramidal

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Hinchingham is important as an example of the "telescope" type of house, with successively smaller, gable roof additions end to end. The interior retains some of its original detailing which is modest but attractive and nicely proportioned. The floor plan with a series of rooms on each floor is typical of rural houses which grew over the years. In most rural Maryland houses servants rooms, reached by a steep ladder stair, were not connected to the main house on the upper floor; this custom may still be observed at Hinchingham Farm.

The house was in the same family for many generations. About 1675, a portion of "Hinchingham," originally granted to Thomas Hynson of Kent Island, was purchased by Michael Miller. Mr. Miller was a vestryman of St. Paul's, High Sheriff of Kent County, and a representative of Kent County in the Assembly at St. Mary's City for 21 years. He was also a big land owner; his will (Dec. 29, 1698) granted all land on Swan Creek and Kent Island to his son Michael and Godlington Manor (K-88), then 1000 acres, to his son Arthur.

Tradition holds that the house was constructed by 1725; extensive examination of the building would be required to establish this very early date. Most visible interior detailing appears to be later; however, buildings of this type were a vernacular form used for many years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rock Hall Historical Collection, Rock Hall, Maryland, 1957.

Johnson, Robert J., "Gravesend," Serene But Still Profound, Rock Hall, American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Rock Hall, 1975.

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

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

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

7 Continued

brick fireplace and ladder stair resembles that in the old kitchen at Godlington Manor (K-88).

The west bedroom has a wall of recessed paneling with fireplace and flanking closets with six-panel doors hung from "H" hinges. Wainscoting in this room is beaded. At the head of the stair is a board wall with molded edges which is identical to that in 518 High Street, Chestertown, (K-63), a building of the late 18th or early 19th century.

Behind the house is a plank smokehouse with vertical boarding and steep gable roof.

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Rock Hall VICINITY STREET NO. Swan Creek Rd., .2 mile west of Rt. 445, (south) ORIGINAL OWNER Michael Miller ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Wharton Wallis PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION frame and log NO. OF STORIES 2 and 1½	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K - 100
	2. NAME Hinchingham Farm DATE OR PERIOD 17th & 18th centuries STYLE Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior good Exterior good	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Forman, H.C., Early Manor and plantation Houses of Maryland, 1934, p.220. Rock Hall centennial Historical collection, 1957, p.12.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne DATE OF RECORD March, 1969

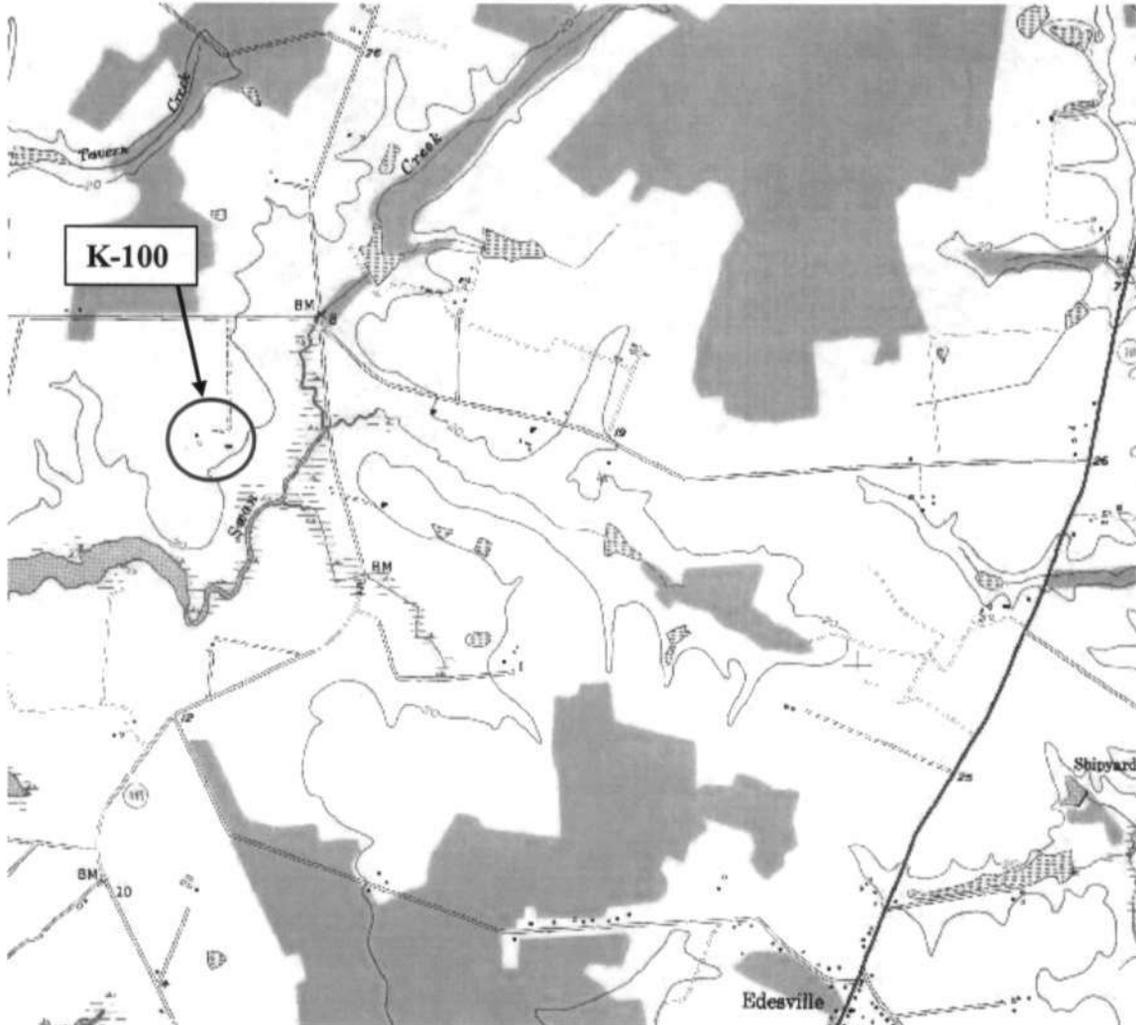
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

K-100

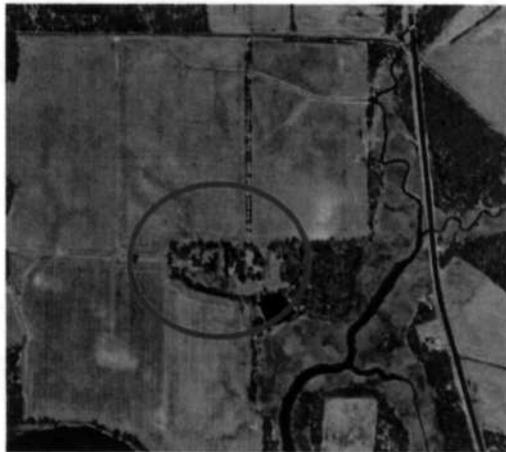
Hinchingham Farm was granted to Michael Miller in 1659 and part of this house is reputed to date from shortly after this date. It is a true telescopic type house with three portions, gradually diminishing in size from a three bay, two story portion to a two bay $1\frac{1}{2}$ story portion and finally a four bay, $1\frac{1}{2}$ story portion. The latter presumably the oldest and also constructed of logs. The other portions are built of frame and covered with clapboard. The fireplace backs of each end are exposed on the exterior and there are two more chimneys at each end of the center portion. The house stands on a brick foundation with a basement under the largest part and entrance thereto in the ~~at~~ west gable.

The door to the largest section is located on its east side and leads to a stair hall with a single living room west thereof. Sash is $9/6$ and $6/6$ on first and second stories respectively. All windows have louvered shutters and there is a one story screened porch on its south facade. The middle portion had a center door at one time which has now been removed. The last section has irregular fenestration with two $6/6$ sash on each side of a door and two six-pane casements on its south facade. A screened porch is built off the west half of this section. The entire structure is painted white with green shutters and black chimney caps. It sits on a high knoll and looks over the marsh and waters of Swan Creek

K-100
Hinchingham Farm
7333 Swan Creek Road, Rock Hall
Rock Hall Quadrangle



1992-95 Aerial Photo





K-100
Hinchingham Farm
7333 Swan Creek Road
Michael O. Bourne
3/13/1969
Neg. on file at MHT

K-100
Hinchingham Farm
7333 Swan Creek Road
Michael O. Bourne
3/13/1969
Neg. on file at MHT



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3/13/1969
Neg. on file at MHT

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3/13/1969
Neg. on file at MHT



Hinchingsham Farm. MNT R100
Susan Creek Rd. Luck Hall Md
Summit facade
©. Edgstrom Aug 19 77



Finchling Saw Farm MAT R100
Seven Creek. Rock Hill Md

East Facade

C. Engstrom

Aug 1972



Huechlingham Farm M. H. T. 100
Swan Creek Rd. - Rock Hall, Md
South Section - First Floor.
C. Engstrom Aug 1977



Hinchinshaw Farm N.W. 1/4 T. 100
Swan Creek Rd. Rock Hall, Md
North Section - Shire Hall.
C. Engstrom - Aug 1977

