

K-261

Heatherfield Farm or Miller's Purchase
Near Rock Hall
Late 18th century

Miller's Purchase was a 900 acre tract first acquired by the Miller family in the 17th century.¹ Starting with Michael Miller, I, the property remained in the family's ownership over the next three generations before the house in question was constructed by Thomas Miller in the late 18th century.

Miller's Purchase, in its original form was a three-bay, one-and-a-half story, well-constructed frame house. Erected over a tall brick basement, the gables were also built of brick laid in Flemish bond, but only to the height of the second floor where they turn to frame. The large windows of the south facade have 12/12 sash, while those on the north have 9/9 and the central door has a rectangular transom. A two-room kitchen wing of nearly equal size exists on the west side of the building. And while it is of some age, it is most likely a 19th century replacement of an earlier structure. At present, two double shed dormers pierce the 'A' roof on each side of its slope. These replace earlier single dormers. In plan the house would have been similar to Godlington Manor, the home of some distant cousins of the Millers.

The plan consisted of a hall-parlor plan in the main section and a pantry and kitchen in the kitchen wing. The hall was well-finished with enclosed stair in the northeast corner, a fireplace with dentil-molded mantel and a closet to the south. This room had a dentil cornice which matched the mantel, and the windows and doors had crossetted trim. The millwork was

similar to that at the Dunn House, River House and the Buck Chamber House, all in Chestertown, and all of which were constructed in the late 18th century. The remainder of the house while well-trimmed, is not exactly of the same caliber as the hall. The parlor and parlor chamber both had fireplaces and like the east side, the chimney was constructed within the house.

The house probably remained in much the same condition throughout the 19th century, or at least throughout the Miller ownership which continued to the third quarter of the century.

By 1877 the farm is denoted as the property of Wm. R. Jones in the Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas. In the 1911 will of Richard W. Jones, the "Thomas Miller Farm" is listed as the residence of his grandson, Ringgold Jones, to whom he bequeathed the same.² Jones had owned two other farms across Swan Creek, one of which was Rosedale, his home farm. The Miller Farm remained the property of Ringgold and Nellie Jones until sold by their trustee in 1973.³

1. Wills, Lib. 1, fol. 57.
2. Wills, Lib. JEM 1, fol. 475.
3. Land Records, Lib. EHP 50, fol. 289.

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-261

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Millers Purchase

and/or common Heatherfield Farm, Ringgold Jones Farm

2. Location

street & number 7307 Swan Creek Road not for publication

city, town Rock Hall vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. Irvin C. Tillman

street & number 800 Huntsman Road telephone no.: 410-639-2314

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 50

street & number Cross Street folio 289

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Kent County Windshield Survey

date 1970 federal state county local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. K-261

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 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.

Heatherfield Farm was built in the last quarter of the 18th Century by a fifth generation family member of the Miller family. It was a well-built, hall-parlor plan frame structure, one and one-half storys tall, facing Swan Creek. It was built on part of "Miller's Purchase", a late 17th Century resurvey of part of "Hinchingham".

The building was built on a full basement of large bricks. The east end, to the height of the second floor, was built of brick laid in Flemish Bond and had a partial brick bulk-head basement entrance with 'A' roof on the north side of the fireplace. Above second floor level, the gable was frame. It is now covered with vinyl siding as is the north facade.

The south facade, now mostly covered by a porch, retains its original beaded weather-board, window and door trim. The three bay facade has 12/12 sash windows and the 6-panel door has a four lite transom above. The beaded trim is about 4½" wide with an ovolo molding. The north facade is identical except that the windows have 9/9 sash windows. They were originally fit with shutters, but none remain.

The 'A' roof now has two double shed roof dormers on each slope between the brick chimneys. Originally, there would have been single dormers. Originally too, there would have been a kitchen wing, but the present wing appears to date from the 19th Century. It is a four bay frame structure with floor level about three steps lower than the oldest part. The roof line continues the height of the oldest part for half its length, then it drops a few feet lower. On the south side, a large gable roof projection was built late in the 19th Century, three windows wide. Another single dormer is located on the lower roof.

After it was acquired by the present owner in 1973, a large brick addition was constructed on the north side of the wing consisting of a single car garage, mudroom, dining room. The entire house was refurbished thereafter.

Inside the oldest part of the house, the hall-parlor plan was used, with the hall being at the eastern end. In its northeast corner is a stair, with about four treads up to a door. Its balustrade is very simple with turned columner newel and small square balusters. The closet beneath the stair is on the diagonal. The remainder of the east wall is plaster with a well-designed Federal mantel having paneled pilasters with course of reeding at the top of the pilasters and a dentil course beneath the shelf. On the south side of the fireplace is a simple paneled closet door. All three doors have raised panels with ovolo molding around the panels. They are all hung on HL hinges, but the latter closet hinges have foliated ends, obviously re-used from an earlier structure. The front and back doors have diagonal battens. Window and door trim throughout the first floor is wider than the exterior trim and has a bead, intermediate ogee and ovolo or ogee back band. Fragements of chair rail exist beneath the window sills. The original yellow pine flooring exists in the old section. A cornice appears to date from the 1970's remodeling.

The parlor (now a library) has exposed joists and flooring overhead. It was originally plastered. Centered on its west wall is a fireplace chimney breast with simple late Georgian mantel. The mantel has crossetted trim around the opening with a plain frieze above and a superior dentil cornice beneath the shelf.

In the 4-bay wing is a hallway with enclosed stair and cellar entrance. Originally there was a fireplace beneath the stair, backed up to the parlor fireplace, but it was closed and the flue is now used for the furnace. To the north of this room is a large 1970's Dining Room, with wide opening between the two. The westernmost room is the kitchen which has an enclosed stair in its southwest corner adjacent a fireplace.

(continued on sepearte page)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-261

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1780's **Builder/Architect** unknown

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.

Miller's Purchase was a 900 acre tract acquired in the 17th Century by Michael Miller (I). Michael Miller, II inherited the property from his father in 1700 and he in turn left it to his three sons Michael, Samuel and Nathaniel in 1738. When Michael, III died in 1746, he left his part of Miller's Purchase to his sons, Michael, Thomas and James. In the 1783 Tax Assessment Michael, IV was listed with 249 acres of the tract, but before he died in 1786, he transferred it to his son Thomas. And, Thomas was most likely responsible for constructing the house on Miller's Purchase.

Miller died in 1819, leaving the land to his son Thomas. When the latter died in 1844, he left everything to his wife, Sarah, and children in common, including Thomas W.K. Miller, a son.

In the 1852 Tax Assessment, Sarah Miller is listed as follows:

"Pt Miller Purchase 239 a
Pt Arcadia 13 a
Frame House & other
Buildings in Tolerable repair"

She also owned four slaves, livestock, furniture and silver, all valued with the farm at \$6,346.00.

Thomas W. Miller is indicated the owner on the 1860 Martinet Map, but by 1877, the farm had been acquired by Wm. R. Jones. By 1911 the "Thomas Miller Farm" was in the ownership of Richard W. Jones who in 1877 owned two farms across Swan Creek, including Rosedale, his home farm. After Richard's death, the Miller Farm became the property of Ringgold Jones, Richard's grandson, who already resided on the property. It remained the property of Ringgold and Nealie Jones until sold by their trustee in 1973.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-261

Rock Hall Historical Collection, 1957 p. 13
Kent County Land Records & Wills

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>				
	Zone	Easting		Northing	

B	<input type="text"/>				
	Zone	Easting		Northing	

C	<input type="text"/>				
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D	<input type="text"/>				
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E	<input type="text"/>				
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F	<input type="text"/>				
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G	<input type="text"/>				
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H	<input type="text"/>				
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Historical Society of Kent County, Inc. date February 1995

street & number P.O. Box 663 telephone 410-778-3499

city or town Chestertown 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DOROTHY
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

NAME

Millers Purchase

survey no. K-261

Heatherfield Farm, Ringgold Jones Farm

DESCRIPTION (continued)

On the second floor in the old part are now two bedrooms with lots of head-room due to the double dormers. At the head of the stair is a balustrade with jig-sawed splats, the only ones in Kent County to be recorded to date. The parlor chamber has a small fireplace with crossetted trim.

Above the wing were originally two rooms accessible from their own stairs without a door between. The kitchen chamber was most probably used by the servants. In the remodeling, the whole was converted into a large suite. A fourth room is built above the 1970's dining room.

In the basement, both chimney bases with semi-circular arches and insets for shelves remain. Nearly all of the joists and flooring exist overhead. It is obvious that the house was very well constructed and maintained over the two hundred years of its existence. One other note of interest is the fact that the walls are brick nogged, including the partition between the hall and parlor.

The site of Heatherfield is extraordinary in that it is as it has been for years. The yard slopes down to Swan Creek and in the distance can be seen Rosedale, William's Venture, and Little Neck amidst the relatively low lying lands. Only Little Neck is encumbered by the beginnings of a development. This is certainly one of the important viewscopes in Kent.

(Miller Farmhouse)

Ringgold Jones farm house is built on part of the old Hinchingham tract.

In its original form, it was a three bay long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling. Now there is a kitchen wing on its west side with large dormers and leanto's, almost obscuring the old house. On its south facade are 12/12 sash, a center door with transom, and screened porch. It sits on a brick foundation and has the first story of the east gable laid in flemish bond brick with a frame gable above the second floor level, unique in this area. On north side are 9/9 sash. The structure is covered with white asbestos siding and has two double flat headed dormers on each side of the "A" roof. There is a brick chimney in each gable of the original portion.

The lawn on the south slopes down to Swan Creek and in the distance, William's Venture can be seen.

1502615204

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Rock Hall VICINITY STREET NO. Swan Creek Rd., .8 mile west of Rt. 445, (south) ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Ringgold Jones PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION frame and brick NO. OF STORIES 1½	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K - 261
	2. NAME Ringgold Jones' House DATE OR PERIOD mid- 18th century 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 fair Exterior fair	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Rock Hall Historical Collection, 1957, p. 13	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

Lake, Griffing, Stevenson
Atlas of Kent Co., 1877
Fifth District Map

K-261



J. I. Gale

REES CORNER

EDESVILLE P.O.

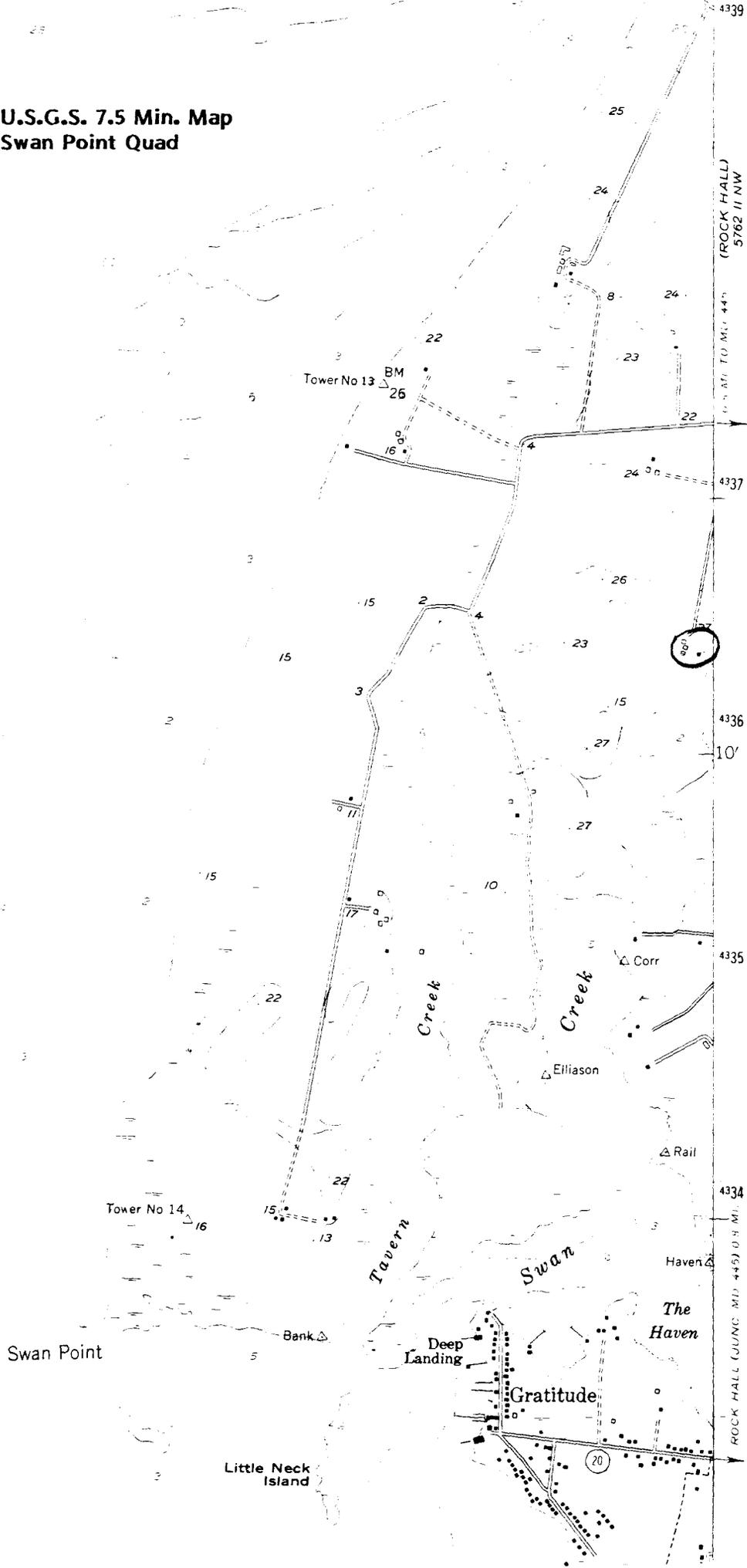
ROCK HALL P.O.

School No. 4

K-261

School No. 7

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map
Swan Point Quad



K-261



Heatherfield Farm K-261
OR Miller's Purchase

North elevation

M. Bourne

March 1995



Heatherfield Farm K.261

OR Miller's Purchase

E. Balustrade

M. Bourne

March 1996