NPS Form 10-900
(Expires 5-31-2012)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Miller's House

other names T-70

2. Location

street & number Old Wye Mills Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Wye Mills ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD County Talbot code 041 zip code 21679

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date 10-29-10

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Miller's House (T-70)
Name of Property

Talbot County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
1		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Funerary/cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

The Miller's House at Wye Mills village is a two and one-half story, three-bay, hall-parlor, single-pile, center-entrance, brick building that was constructed during the middle of the eighteenth century. Among its decorative features are an elevated foundation with a water table and a belt course on each outside wall. The bricks are laid in Flemish bond. An exact date is not available for the construction of the building. Documentary sources indicate that it was constructed prior to 1770 and it might have been erected as early as 1750. The house was built for Edward Lloyd III, master of Wye House and the owner of the Wye Mill, as a dwelling for the miller at Wye mill. There is physical evidence for three different former wings on the north side gable end of the building. Currently, there is no wing on the gable end. There have been some nineteenth-century alterations; notably a newer roof, porches on the front and rear of the house, a central internal stair. The house sits on a slight rise overlooking the village and the mill. There is a cemetery at one edge of the property for the family that owned the property for most of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The first deed reference to the Miller's House is in the transfer of Edward Lloyd IV's transfer to a large number of tracts of land to his brother, Richard Bennett Lloyd, in December of 1770. Their father had died earlier that year and left the majority of his lands and estates to the older brother, Edward. The Wye Mill, mill pond, and miller's dwelling house were mentioned as part of the tract known as Wilton and specifically excluded from the transfer of Wilton to Richard Bennett Lloyd. Edward Lloyd IV sold the mill, mill pond, and miller's house to William Hemsley. Hemsley, in turn, sold a one-half interest in the mill, pond, miller's house, and the mill equipment to Joshua Kinnard. Kinnard is listed as a miller in the deed. Hemsley is titled a gentlemen. This later sale occurred in 1780. After Hemsley and Kinnard, the ownership of the Mill and the Miller's House passed to the Hopkins family. They continue to own the property and the Hopkins family cemetery at one edge of the property.

These dates are significant in that they provide clues to some of the physical changes that occurred to the Miller's House during its early years. The house is mentioned in the transfer of Lloyd family lands between the two sons of Edward Lloyd III in 1770, indicating that it was constructed prior to that date. Although there are extensive Lloyd family papers available from this period, a search of those papers has failed to provide any description of the Miller's house or its construction.

As constructed for Edward Lloyd III, the Miller's House was a hall-parlor plan, brick building with a full basement. The basement is only partly set into the small rise on which the house sits. The basement or lower level rises out of the ground for four feet. The first-floor level is defined by a molded brick watertable on all four sides. The lower level is divided into three spaces. The two outer spaces are dominated by the chimney supports for the fireplaces above on the interior gable ends. A brick partition wall rises through the house. The

middle space, apparently a storage space, has the brick wall as its west wall and a vertical board wall as its easterly wall. This space is approximately eight feet wide. The entire basement has a dirt floor. All of the wall surfaces were whitewashed; a significant amount of the whitewash remains on the brick and on the board wall.

The easterly portion of the chimney support has an extension to the south between it and the exterior wall that might have been a basement fireplace. This extension has a heavy timber lintel that runs from a pier that is an integral part of the chimney base and a beam pocket on the inside of the outside wall. Much of the brick above the lintel has fallen out and the floor above does not show any evidence that there was once an opening in the floor for a second fireplace. However, the floor boards above this corner of the basement have shifted and are hanging in space without any underlying support. Part of this is due to the fact that the floor joists in this corner have rotted and are soft and spongy. In this portion of the basement there are almost three dozen meat hooks nailed into the floor joists. These meat hooks are hand-forged wrought iron.

The exterior and interior of the first floor or main level show the several changes that have been made to the house over the time since it was constructed. Both the north and south facades had full porches added during the third quarter of the nineteenth century; the porches are Hopkins family improvements. These porches extend just past the end of the windows on the first floor and do not extend to the edges of the facades. These porches begin at the top of the watertable. The porch roofs were set so that the rafter blades rested at the top of the belt courses. The porches were set on brick piers at the face of the outside wall, at the corner of the porches and then at a point that was one-third of the distance in from the corner. A porch column was placed on the tongue-and-groove porch flooring and set over the support piers. Wood sills spanned the piers and provided a resting point for the porch's floor joists. The porch columns were square posts with chamfered edges. Boards were nailed over the column bases to provide a decorative base. Decorative sawn brackets were set on the top of each column. The porch railings were constructed of rectangular sawn wood sections to provide the balusters and the top and bottom rails. The porch roofs were constructed with a half hip form. The current roofing material is sheet metal. Only the south porch remains intact. The north porch has collapsed.

Because the house is empty and not occupied, the windows and doors have been boarded over with plywood. On the inside, the windows show to be six over six, double-hung sash. The windows are very tall and suitable to the exaggerated verticality of the house. The muntins and rails of the sash are very thin and they might not be part of the original fabric of the house. The windows are set to the outside wall with flat boards to form part of the window frame and seat. The surrounds at the wall surface are thickly planned with a heavy projecting cornice over the window. This cornice matches the cornice in the west room on the first or main floor. The glass in the windows has been replaced over time and some of the extant glass shows the manufacturer's label from the most recent installation in the 1950s or 1960s.

The first or main floor of the house is divided into two rooms. Entering from the south door, the stairs run up to the second floor in an almost direct line with the door. The south door and the north door, as well as the north

and south windows, are aligned. The current stair is fitted with early twentieth-century balusters and railings. The location of the current stair dates to the nineteenth century. The original stair to the second floor was in the northeast corner. There is no direct physical evidence for that original stair because the walls have been replastered and the floors have been refinished. However, there is a stair in that location between the second and the upper floor. The underside of that stair is located in a closet and that closet is completely plastered and the underside of that closet is plastered in such a fashion as to show that it was once exposed as the slope within the stair from the first to the second floor. An additional consideration for the stair sequence is that the newel post fittings for the straight stair appear to be of slightly different visible notching and pegging construction in the rest of the house.

The easterly room is fully plastered. The fireplace surround remains in its original location. The windows are boarded over from the outside to protect the house. The mantel is Federal in style with reeded side columns, reeded upper columns, and a reeded center field under the mantel shelf. The reverse side of the north and south entrance doors can be seen from this easterly room. They are four-panel doors with wide rails and stiles. They appear to be from the late nineteenth century based on the evidence of the knob assembly and the locking device and the fact that no older locking system evidence is present on either door. The main door surrounds match the surrounds of the windows. Both doors have a heavy cornice or applied lintel that is similar to the cornice over the windows and the cornice in the westerly room of the main floor. The door from the easterly room to the westerly room is at the base of the modern stair. It has a plain surround that clearly shows the mortise and tenon joint at the corners. This door frame would date to the original period of construction of the house.

The westerly room has a fully-paneled chimney with a large paneled central field surrounded by a narrow field on the side and underneath. Attached to the surface of this paneled chimney piece is a wood mantel with an eared architrave and a raised narrow mantel shelf. A chair rail is also nailed over the paneled chimney piece and then continues around the room. At the top of the paneled chimney piece is a heavy wood cornice that is also nailed over the paneled chimney piece. This cornice continues around the room. The sides of the paneled chimney piece are finished with an ogee-carved end board. The central field of the chimney piece has a round flue hole for a later-period wood stove used to heat this room.

A close examination of the paneled chimney piece and the mantel that is fastened over it makes it clear that the mantel was not a part of the original design of the chimney decoration. The lower field continues below the mantel and no effort was made to blend the mantel into the chimney panels. Therefore, a reasonable speculation is that the mantel belongs to a later period of the building. The design of the mantel would suggest that it was an improvement that was part of the Hemsley-Kinnard period of ownership. However, it could have been added during the twentieth century and have been part of the general trade of architectural antiques for retrofitting older buildings.

There is an additional potential that the paneled chimney piece was part of a fully-paneled end wall that covered that entire west wall. There are doors on either side of the chimney which led to one of several wings that were formerly attached to the west gable end of the house. A close examination of the exterior of the west wall shows that the wings were added to the building after it was built. Therefore, the speculative paneled end wall might have hidden cupboards in the spaces on either side of the chimney. The frames of the current doors do not match the frames for the main entrances on the north and south sides of the house, or the frame for the door between the two rooms on the main floor. There are no building scars for a fully-paneled end wall on the plaster walls, the ceiling, or on the floor. The floors have been refinished. The plaster has been removed and replaced on the walls. Also, the plaster ceilings have been removed and replaced with drywall.

The second floor is accessed by the stair that leads up from the easterly room on the main floor. The stair climbs from south to the north. The stair does not end at the level of the second floor. Rather, the stair ends about one foot below the level of the second floor and the hallway that runs the entire length of the north side of the second floor. At the stair's landing, there are two steps to go to right to the room to the left of the stair and two steps that go to the hallway that leads to the two rooms to the right of the stair.

This hallway provides access to the three rooms on the second floor. At the east end of the hallway is the half-winder stair into the third level or attic. At the west end of the stair is the door that provided access to the second floor of the west gable end wing that no longer exists.

As one passes up the stairs and looks at the exposed floor boards for the second floor, the saw marks and cutting to create this opening in the floor for the stair are clearly seen. Also, marks and seams in the plaster on the left or west wall at the top of the stair show that there was once a door in that wall that provided access to the room to the east of the stair. Cracks in the plaster also reveal that this internal west wall, which rises up from the basement, is brick and that the door opening was part of the original design of the building.

Starting with the room on the easterly side of the second floor, the interior surfaces of the outside walls are coated with plaster that is applied directly to the brick. The easterly room has a simple single-board baseboard. There is a shallow cornice around the top of the walls. There is a chimney with a small heating fireplace against the gable end wall. The fireplace opening is offset to the right side of the chimney with the flue connecting further up the stack. To the right of the chimney stack is the underside of the half-winder stair that provides access to the attic. A short closet is placed under the stair. There are no marks under the stair in the floor or on the wall to show any evidence of the former half-winder stair that was the original access from the main floor to the second floor. Given the high economic status of the miller who occupied the house at the end of the eighteenth century and the Hopkins family that occupied it for most of the nineteenth century, it is understandable that they would not have wished the remodeling project that involved the stairs to leave any visible evidence.

The west wall of the easterly room on the second floor is a vertical board wall that is secured at the bottom and top by a baseboard and a cornice respectively. There is a chair rail along the length of the board wall but not on the plaster walls. The vertical boards have a beaded edge and appear to be an original feature of the house.

This vertical board wall forms the east wall of the middle room on the second floor. The west wall of the middle room is the brick wall that rises from the basement level. The middle room has the stair in it which makes this room an "L" set between the two end rooms and wrapped around the stair. There is a single window on the south wall.

The windows on the second floor are set close to the ceiling. They are six over four, double-hung sash. Each has a projecting cornice over the length of the window frame. The frames of the second-floor windows might be original to the house. Each consists of a board side with a round-edge projecting into the room. The sash and muntins are heavier and thicker than those of the first floor.

The westerly room is the largest room on the second floor. The walls are finished in plaster with a baseboard, chair rail, and cornice as decorative features. The room is dominated by the chimney piece. The fireplace mantel is a simple piece composed of planed boards pegged together with a narrow shelf at the top. The mantel is affixed to a paneled chimney piece. The paneling consists of wide vertical boards secured by edged boards and surmounted by a cornice. The mantel and fireplace are offset to the left or south side of the chimney.

The space to the left or south of the chimney is a plastered wall. There is a small closet set next to the chimney. It projects about five inches above the chair rail. The closet door consists of vertical, beaded boards. A small box lock secures the closet door to the frame. From the exterior of the house and on the west wall, there is evidence that there was once a door in this area. There are no breaks in the chair rail or cracks in the plaster to show the location of the door that was in this wall. However, there is a very visible crack in the plaster wall on the east wall of this room where there was once a passage into the middle room of the second floor. The chair rail stops at the edge location of this former passage. This door predated the current steps as the base of the door or passage is above the steps and there is no space or opportunity to have constructed a proper landing for an older set of steps.

At the west end of the second-floor hall or corridor, there is the very clear evidence that this hall ended at a door to the former west wing. The door and frame are now covered with plywood. Therefore, it is almost impossible to determine the style and age of the door.

Access to the upper level or attic of the house is by the half-winder stairs at the east end of the second-floor hallway. These steps lead to a third-floor hallway that runs along the north wall and provides access to the three rooms in the upper level. In some respects this hallway might be considered a separate room in that it extends from the north wall to almost the middle of the floor area. In addition, it ends before the west end wall of the

house so that the west room can extend from the north wall to the south wall. All of the walls in the third floor are plastered except for the two vertical board walls that form the middle room. The ceilings in the hallway and the two outer rooms are plastered and finished as flat ceilings. The third or middle room is open to the roof framing. There are no fireplaces in the third floor.

The gable windows in this upper floor are single-leaf casements with six lights or panes of glass. The frames and cases are wood. The dormer windows are six over six, double-hung sash.

Based on the small portion of the roof framing that is exposed in the middle room, the current roof is a common rafter roof with wide plank nailers that run perpendicular to the rafter blades. The wood singles that are underneath the tin roof are secured to the planks. The nails that are exposed from the roofing materials are a mixture of wire nails and machine-made cut nails.

At the floor level of the middle room the flooring does not extend to the edge of the roof. This exposes the wall plate, the floor joists, and the rafter feet. The floor joists have been extended about six inches beyond the wall, to provide a secure nailing surface for the cornice. The rafter feet rest at the end of the floor joist extension.

The last major portion of the house exists with the remains of its foundation and construction scars. The wing or wings that were attached to west wall were removed because of a fire that occurred toward the end of the 1950s (Massey; personal communication).

The current foundation for the former west wing has a concrete footer and a brick foundation. The brick foundation is keyed into the main wall up to the height of the water table. A set of concrete steps is located in the northwest corner of the foundation. A set of steps that would have led into the main level of the wing are located at the southwest corner and outside of the foundation. There is an opening in the main brick wall of the house on either side of the chimney in the basement level that permitted access to the principal basement area. At the main or first level of the main house, there are two door scars in the west wall, on either side of the chimney stack, that would have provided access to the wing. The door toward the north wall has an arched top.

Above the door openings into the main house at the first floor, there is a series of pockets set just below the belt course on the west wall. Between the joist pockets and the underside of the belt course, there is a slit in the brick that apparently accommodated flashing for the roof of a wing with a shed roof.

Continuing up the west wall, there is the scar for a gable-roofed wing that extended to about the level of the top of the second floor. The roof scar shows that the roof ran from the midpoint of the house at the top of the second floor and ended at the top of the belt course. Because of the slope of this roof, the current door on the second floor north side could not have been used to access any upper story of the gable wing. Likewise, the door or opening scar on the west wall at the south end would not have been able to be used to access an upper

level of the wing. Therefore, these door scars on the west wall of the second floor must have been used to access a third and different wing on this wall. That third wing has left no evidence other than the current door openings on the second floor.

There are no other buildings on the property. The Hopkins family cemetery is located toward the west end of the property. It is set below the upper slope of the property and is accessed by a set of steps from the higher ground. The cemetery is surrounded by a wrought-iron fence. The markers, all for members of the Hopkins family, are almost evenly divided between those set up in the nineteenth century and those set up in the twentieth century.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture

Period of Significance

c. 1750-1900

Significant Dates

c. 1750

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Miller's House at Wye Mills village is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the transformation of the agricultural base of Talbot County from tobacco to grain farming. The house derives additional significance under Criteron C as an example of mid-eighteenth-century vernacular domestic architecture in the Eastern Shore region of Maryland. The quality of its design and construction represent the high economic status accorded to the profession of miller in the region during the period; the house was provided as a perquisite to attract and retain a skilled miller to operate the adjacent Wye Mill. The property is associated with the prominent Lloyd family who had the house and mill built and who developed the village, and with the Hopkins family who maintained the house, mill, and village during the nineteenth century.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

The exterior of the Miller's House shows an early expression of the Georgian architecture that was introduced in the American Colonies in the middle of the eighteenth century and that became increasing popular as a basic building form by the last quarter of the eighteenth century. As a brick building that was standing by 1770 and was most likely built during the 1750s or 1760s, the Georgian stylistic expression of this house puts it at the forefront of the use of the Georgian concept of balance and symmetry in architecture. The raised foundation and full water table, along with the belt course, are stylistic details that were usually found in buildings erected for those at the upper end of the economic scale. However, the floor plan of the house uses a traditional or vernacular pattern of two principal rooms without any form of stair hall or passageway. The use of this traditional hall-parlor or two-room plan places the Miller's House within the mainstream of building construction in Talbot County and in most of the Mid-Atlantic region. The combination of the traditional floor plan and more sophisticated architectural style demonstrate how one was adaptable to the other and helps to explain the rapid adoption of the Georgian tradition as the principal form of dwelling for the next one-hundred years. The adaptability of the Georgian tradition and the hall-parlor plan used at this house also shows how easy it was for the nineteenth-century owners of the house to continue to find the house useful by inserting the straight stair in the center of the house and adding the porches to the north and the south exteriors.

This overlap of the Georgian architectural style and the more traditional or customary floor plan is timed, in Talbot County, with the transition from a tobacco-based economy to one that was based on grain crops. The individual for whom the house was constructed, Edward Lloyd III, was the largest and wealthiest landowner in Talbot County. He also had extensive tracts of land in Queen Anne's County and in Kent County. In addition, Lloyd had property interests in Annapolis and in Anne Arundel County. Lloyd's Eastern Shore wealth and other interests placed him among the wealthiest people in Maryland and in the American colonies.

An exact date of construction is not available for the Miller's House. The house was mentioned in the 1770 will of Edward Lloyd III and subsequent division of the property by Edward Lloyd IV, his oldest son, to a brother,

Richard Bennett Lloyd. In that division of the property, Edward Lloyd IV retained control over the Miller's House and the Wye Mill and pond. These properties were described as part of a larger tract of land titled "Wilton."

The original construction of the Miller's House and its early improvements reflect the general high status of a miller. The miller had the ability to process grain for market and to ensure that the mill operated properly. A grist mill was an expensive undertaking. Most of the mill stones were imported and the skills to craft the water wheel and mill gears and to ensure that the mill stones ran true were not common to most craftsmen. Edward Lloyd III ensured that his miller was properly housed by constructing a building that ranked among the best in Talbot County at the time.

A review of survey information (Weeks, 1984) demonstrates that the Miller's House is one of the best surviving examples of eighteenth-century architecture in Talbot County. With its full height, created by the relatively higher position of the location of the house, along with the raised foundation and two and one-half story elevation, it is comparable to several late eighteenth-century buildings in the county seat of Easton and in the Easton vicinity. For instance, the 1794 section of the Hampleton House (T-14) has a similar water table and full belt course. The roof of that building is not as steep as the Miller's House. Pleasant Valley (T-84) built in 1774 has a similar raised basement or foundation, watertable, and belt course. The brick work and other details are not the same, but the scale and massing are comparable. In addition, both Pleasant Valley and the Miller's House have windows with the same oversize relationship to the rest of the house. More directly comparable is White Marshes (T-105), dated 1735; its roof pitch, raised foundation, watertable, belt courses, and window and door arrangements are similar to the Miller's House.

Edward Lloyd IV only retained the Miller's House and the Wye Mill for a few years before he sold the property to William Hemsley. Hemsley, in turn, sold a one-half interest in the house and mill, along with the pond and the associated milling equipment to Joshua Kinnard. Hemsley and Kinnard are listed in tax records as joint owners. The sale of the Miller's House and the Wye Mill coincide with Lloyd's sale of other tracts of land that did not directly relate to the main body of his agricultural holdings centered around the Wye House property. The profits from the sale of this extra property appear to have been used to finance the construction of Wye House and the improvement of the agricultural lands retained by Edward Lloyd IV.

Paul Touart (1992:57) notes that the Wye Mill was rebuilt in the 1780s. This was during the early years of the Mill's operation by Hemsley and Kinnard. It is reasonable to speculate that the Miller's House was also improved at the same time and that Hemsley financed the improvements for the Kinnard who was the miller. The deed of sale from Hemsley to Kinnard for the one-half sale lists Hemsley as a gentleman and Kinnard as a miller. Among those improvements that would appear to have been made to the Miller's House at the end of the eighteenth century are the reworking of the mantel and paneled endwall of the west room of the main floor. The eared-architrave mantel in the west room of the main floor was a common late eighteenth century motif and

it very clearly fastened over the early paneled chimney piece which might be what remains of a fully paneled end wall. Also, the stair was removed from the northeast corner of the east room on the main floor and inserted against the partition wall between the two rooms of the main floor and constructed as a straight stair. This new stair probably caused the changes in the second floor and in the way that the rooms were accessed. It is also likely that the first wing on the west wall was added at this time.

The Hemsley-Kinnard period of ownership of the Miller's House and Mill is associated with the development of the town of Wye Mills. Under Lloyd family ownership, the land around the Miller's House and Mill was part of Wilton; a Lloyd holding. When Edward Lloyd IV sold the mill and house to Hemsley, there was a Lloyd-owned store near the mill, several houses, and the Old Wye Church. There may have been a tavern during the Lloyd's period of ownership as the main road from Easton to Queenstown passed by the mill. There was also a road that leads toward Chestertown and past the area that would later be developed as Centreville.

With Hemsley and Kinnard in control of the mill and Kinnard living in the Miller's House overlooking the village, additional houses were built in the growing village. A Methodist Chapel was erected in Wye Mills in 1789 as Francis Asbury, a founder of the Methodism in America, recorded that he preached in a new chapel on 23 November 1789 (Preston:159). Later, around 1800, a school (T-57) was established in the village. The brick building has survived to the present. Tradition states that this was the first school building built on the Eastern Shore and that it is among the oldest surviving schools in Maryland.

The next period of major growth at the Wye Mill and in the Wye Mill Village is associated with purchase of the Mill, the Miller's House, and additional property in and around the Village by John R. Hopkins. Born in Talbot County, Hopkins purchased the Mill and the Miller's House in 1840. Upon purchase, he renovated the Mill. Later he made minor improvements to the Miller's House. The date for the Mill's renovations is recorded on a beam that was part of the upgrade and refitting of the mill so that it could continue to operate as a viable rural custom mill for the local farmers. The Wye Mill appears to have been one of the few mills in this area of northern Talbot County/southern Queen Annes County. One mill is noted to the north in 1877. Another is shown to the west and one to the south. That same atlas also notes the presence of several wind mills but none near Wye Mills.

Hopkins' changes to the Miller's House are seen in the nineteenth-century porches that were added to the north and to the south walls. Also, Hopkins is responsible for at least one of the wings that were on the west wall of the house.

Hopkins' purchase of the mill coincides with a general improvement in the agricultural economy for the mid-Atlantic region and for the Eastern Shore and Delmarva Peninsula in particular. The counties on the Eastern Shore and the three counties in Delaware lost significant amounts of their population to westward migration; mostly to Ohio and to Illinois. This depopulation began in the 1790s and continued into the 1820s. Most of the

people who left the region did so because of poor agricultural practices that depleted the soil and lowered yields per acre. Some left to leave behind the political and social system that had developed on the Eastern Shore where large tracts of land and much of the political process was controlled by several wealthy and influential families.

John R. Hopkins operated the mill and tilled a large acreage around the Village of Wye Mills until his death in 1887. Upon his death, his family continued to operate the mill for a short time but they soon sold it outside the family. The Hopkins family retained ownership of the Miller's House into the twentieth century when it was sold out of the family for a short time. The property has since returned to, and remains in, Hopkins family ownership.

Major Bibliographical References:

Clemens, Paul G. E.
1980 *The Atlantic Economy and Colonial Maryland's Eastern Shore: From Tobacco to Grain.* Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Graham, John L., ed.
1976 *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland; Bicentennial Edition 1776-1976.* Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, Salisbury, Maryland.

Hughes, Elizabeth
1994 *The Built Environment of Wye Mills; Talbot County Land Record Research.* Wye Mills Committee, Maryland.

Lanier, Gabrielle M. and Bernard L. Herman
1997 *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic; Looking at Buildings and Landscapes.* The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.

Lloyd Family
var *Lloyd Family Papers.* Microfilm, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, MD.

Massey, MaryAnn
1999 *Personal Communication.*

Preston, Dickson J.
1983 *Talbot County; A History.* Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, MD.

Tilghman, Oswald, comp.
1915 *History of Talbot County, Maryland, 1661-1861, Compiled Principally from the Literary Relics of the late Samuel Alexander Harrison by his son-in-law Oswald Tilghman.* William & Wilkins, Baltimore, MD.

Touart, Paul Baker
1992 *Talbot County Thematic Context Study.* Talbot County Government, Easton, Maryland.

Weeks, Christopher
1984 *Where Land and Water Intertwine; An Architectural History of Talbot County, Maryland.* Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland.

Wilstach, Paul
1931 *Tidewater Maryland.* Blue Ribbon Books, Inc., New York.

Writers' Program of the Works Progress Administration in the State of Maryland
1940 *Maryland; A Guide to the Old Line State.* Oxford University Press, New York.

Miller's House (T-70)
Name of Property

Talbot County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.799 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	406240	4310490	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen G. Del Sordo and Ralph Crump
organization Heritage Resource Group date 6/99; revised 10/10
street & number 305 Oakley Street telephone 410-228-8934
city or town Cambridge state Maryland zip code 21613

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name
street & number telephone
city or town zip code

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

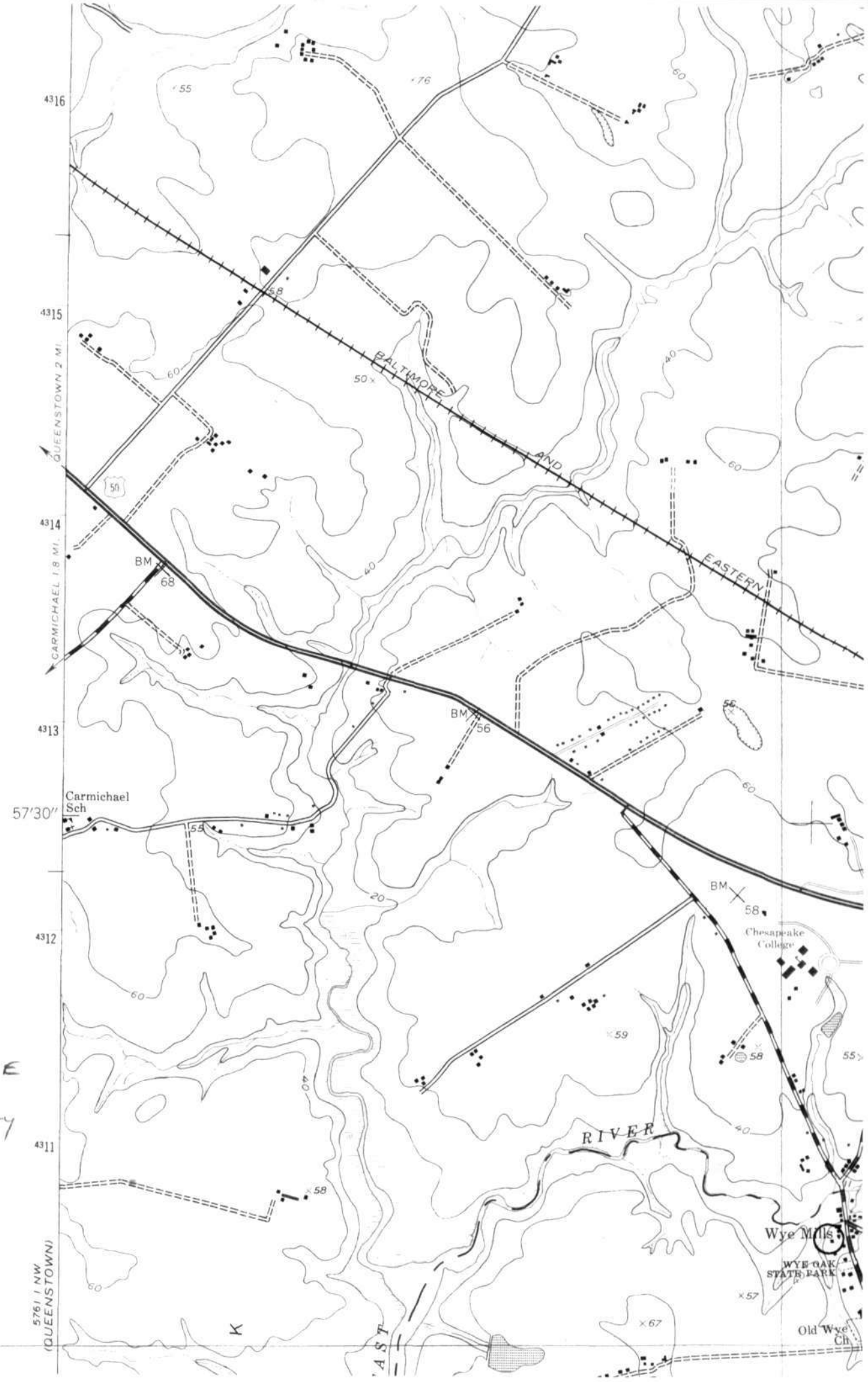
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the nominated property are indicated on Talbot County Assessments and Taxation Map 1, Grid 10, Parcel 4.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, 1.799 acres, represents the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource, and comprises the house and cemetery within their immediate landscaped setting.



T-70

MILLER'S HOUSE

TALBOT COUNTY
MARYLAND

18- 406240
4310490