

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes  
no

Property Name: Miller Farm Inventory Number: S-518  
 Address: 7435 Old Westover-Marion Road City: Westover Zip Code: 21871  
 County: Somerset USGS Topographic Map: Kingston  
 Owner: Kevin & Vicky Miller, 7520 Mennonite Church Road  
Westover, MD 21871 Is the property being evaluated a district? yes  
 Tax Parcel Number: 0125 Tax Map Number: 0049 Tax Account ID Number: 13-003793  
 Project: Great Bay Wind Energy Center Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the property located within a historic district? yes X no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_\_\_

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None  
 Documentation on the property/district is presented in: N/A

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Miller Farm is a two-story, T-plan, dual-gabled farm house dating to the third quarter of the nineteenth century, with a number of small, twentieth century outbuildings. The farm is located at the end of a long driveway on Old Westover-Marion Road near Westover. Somerset Count tax assessment records note the house was built in 1870. It is currently located on 134 acres of actively farmed land. The property is bordered by tall deciduous trees with much of the land used for agriculture. Corn is planted south of the house between the driveway and Old Westover-Marion Road, with soybean fields dominating the property to the north and east of the house. The house is two stories tall, with exterior walls clad in asbestos shingle. The roof is clad in metal. A one-story addition on the northeast corner of the house displays walls clad in asphalt shingle, and a metal roof. The roof of the main block is topped by dual brick chimneys near the center, and a single chimney along the roof ridge of service wing.

The main block of the house is three bays wide on the west (street) façade by one bay deep on the north and south facades. The west façade displays a symmetrical arrangement, with dual, gabled bays with cornice returns on either side of the center entry bay. The outer bays contain two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows on each story, with the gable end windows containing a decorative wood arch in the upper sash. The entry door is four-paneled, with two-light sidelights located on either side. Paired, two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows are located above a front-gabled entry porch with metal roof.

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|---|--|
| <b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>       |  |
| Eligibility recommended _____                 | Eligibility not recommended <u>X</u>   |
| Criteria: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u> | Considerations: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>G</u> <u>None</u> |
| Comments: _____                               |  |
| Reviewer: <u>Smethen Sager</u>                | Date: <u>5/1/14</u>  |
| Office of Preservation Services               | Date: <u>5/1/14</u>  |
| Reviewer, NR Program                          | Date: _____  |

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

The north and south facades of the main block are identical, with two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows on the first and second stories, and one-over-one sash windows on the attic story.

A two-story service wing is attached to the rear (east) portion of the house. It is one bay wide on the east façade by two bays deep on the north and south facades. The north façade contains four, two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows on the first story, and two smaller windows of similar construction on the second story. The east façade displays a single window of this type on the second story, while the first story contains offset paired, three-over-one wood sash windows on the first story. A one-story shed-roofed addition is attached to the first story of the south façade, with tripartite, six-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows on the first story. A one-story enclosed hyphen is located at the east end of the shed-roofed addition, leading to a one-story enclosed addition currently serving as a porch entry, but was likely originally constructed as a summer kitchen. The summer kitchen has a side gable roof clad in metal, and exterior walls clad in asphalt shingle. It contains screened openings on its south and west facades, with the openings on the north and east facades covered with plywood.

A low outbuilding with cinder block walls and gabled roof clad in asphalt shingle is located immediately adjacent to the north façade of the service wing. Three one-story outbuildings of similar construction are located along the north edge of the rear yard of the house. The westernmost structure is a small frame utility shed of mid-twentieth century stud construction, clad with vertical boards that were later covered with brick-pattern asphalt siding, and the exterior is now sheathed with weathered plywood. The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The edges of the roof have a slightly extended eave with open soffits. The interior is an open framework with utility meters and equipment attached to the west wall.

The middle outbuilding in the line of three structures on the north side of the house is a former animal pen built of stud frame construction and held together with wire nails. The gable-front structure has a board door that swings on modern strap hinges. The interior is divided by slated partitions into three narrow spaces. The easternmost of three outbuildings is a small frame structure, possibly a storage or drying shed dating to the early twentieth century. Supported on tapered concrete piers, the gable roofed building is covered with plywood over vertical board sheathing. The gable-front structure has an off-center door. The gable roof, originally sheathed with wood shingles, is currently covered with asphalt shingles. The interior has a board floor and it is lighted by side window openings covered with nailed-on two-pane sash. A roughly built set of board shelves is located on two of the four interior walls.

A one-story, five-bay, open-fronted frame horse stall topped by a modified gable roof clad in metal is located southeast of the house. A large, frame manure shed of late twentieth century construction is set back farther from the house along the farm lane. Large salt-treated posts support a prefabricated common rafter system of roof trusses. A board knee wall rises approximately four feet above the ground level on each side, and the front and back are open. To the west is a side shed used for implement storage.

## HISTORY

The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house, located on the property currently known as the Miller farm, is estimated to date around 1870-80, and it was built during the ownership of George Robertson Dennis (1822-1882). A structure is noted at this location on the 1877 Lake, Griffith and Stevenson *Atlas of Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Cos., MD*, with "Geo. Dennis" labeled as the owner. George Robertson Dennis (1822-1882) was the owner of a large tract of land in the area, including Kingston Hall, one of the most historically significant houses in Somerset County, which is located directly west across Old Westover-Marion Road. George R. Dennis was a prominent Maryland politician who served in the Maryland State Senate (1854 and 1871), Maryland House of Delegates (1867), and the United States Senate (1873-1879). Dennis inherited the Kingston Hall property following the death of his father, John Upshur Dennis, in 1851.<sup>1</sup> John Upshur Dennis' principal plantation was Beverly, on the Pocomoke River in Worcester County. George R. Dennis is also shown as the owner of several structures in the vicinity of Kingston Hall in the 1877 atlas, including a steam saw mill located on the west side the county road (Old Westover-Marion Road). The 1860 census lists George R. Dennis as a physician with a large estate of \$30,000 in personal property and \$25,000 in real estate.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See MIHP form S-63 in MHT Library for Kingston Hall.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census Bureau, 1860.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 3

| Book/Page Number | Date       | Grantor   | Grantee  | Notes   |
|------------------|------------|---|--|---|
| 2/319<br>(HFL)   | 7/12/1883  | J. Upshur Dennis, Trustee   | Edwin D. Long  | Chancery Case, Dennis vs. Dennis, involving 240 acres of "Bloomsborough" and "Oragon"   |
| 11/523<br>(HFL)  | 11/5/1892  | Edwin E. Long and Fannie D. Long, his wife  | Oliver W. Wilson   | 100 acres; sold for \$1500; "Being a part of two tracts called Bloomsborough and Oragon, the same being a part of the late George R. Dennis Land which said Edwin D. Long bought at a trustees sale." |
| 91/178<br>(WJS)  | 10/31/1924 | Henry Waters, Assignee  | James H. Marshall and Nora Lee Marshall                                  | "...and which was devised to Oliver Henry Wilson by his father Oliver W. Wilson."   |
| 110/42<br>(JMT)  | 7/29/1935  | James H. Marshall and Nora Lee Marshall   | Somerset Mortgage and Certificates Corporation                           | Whereas by mortgage dated 31 May 1924, WJS 88/568   |
| 123/344<br>(BLB) | 10/16/1942 | Somerset Mortgage and Certificates Corporation  | Harold E. Massey and Esther W. Massey                                    |   |
| 283/531          | 11/7/1974  | Harold E. Massey, widower   | Charles E. Massey  | Parcel 1  |
| 283/662          | 11/19/1974 | Charles E. Massey   | Harold E. Massey   | Parcel 1, 100 acres; "...being same land conveyed to grantor herein, 283/531, 11/7/1974."   |
| 425/677<br>(ITP) | 1/10/1995  | Charles E. Massey, Personal Representative of Harold E. Massey                              | Charles E. Massey, with remainder to Harold G. Massey and John H. Massey | Whereas Harold E. Massey died on 7/25/1993; Parcel 1, 100 acres; Parcel 2, Small Lot; Parcel 3, 46 acres; Parcel 4, East side of Old Route 413; Parcel 5, Henry C. Long lot, 13.75 acres              |
| 520/871          | 3/15/2002  | Charles E. Massey, Personal Representative of Estate of Harold G. Massey and John H. Massey | Kevin L. Miller and Vicki B. Miller                                      | Parcel 1, East side of State Road, 100 acres; Parcel 2, 32/100ths acre; Parcel 3, 4.01 acres; Parcels 4 & 5   |

Featuring characteristic post-Civil War construction features, the dual cross-gabled, single-pile house with a two-story service wing was probably erected as a tenant house to the Kingston Hall estate. The land on the east side of the county road (Old Westover-Marion Road) is comprised of parts of two tracts, "Bloomsborough" and "Oragon," which figured in the division of George Robertson Dennis' estate after his death in 1882. The following year, J. Upshur Dennis, a trustee, sold the "Bloomsborough" and "Oragon" acreage, then containing 240 acres to Edwin D. Long.<sup>3</sup> The Bloomsborough and Oragon tracts with their improvements were held by Edwin D. Long for a little less than ten years when the property was transferred to Oliver W. Wilson,<sup>4</sup> in whose family the farm remained until the 1920s. For much of the twentieth century the property has been known as the Massey farm; Harold E. and Esther W. Massey purchased the property in 1942,<sup>5</sup> and it remained in Massey family hands until 2002.<sup>6</sup>

#### ELIGIBILITY

<sup>3</sup> Somerset County Land Record, HFL 2/319, 12 July 1883, Somerset County Courthouse; this is the first recorded deed transaction for the property identified during research.

<sup>4</sup> Somerset County Land Record, HFL 11/523, 5 November 1892, Somerset County Courthouse.

<sup>5</sup> Somerset County Land Record, BLB 123/344, 16 October 1942, Somerset County Courthouse.

<sup>6</sup> Somerset County Land Record, 520/871, 15 March 2002, Somerset County Courthouse.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORMContinuation Sheet No. 4

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The Miller farmhouse repeats an architectural form very common to the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland in the late nineteenth century. Even though it is marginally distinguished by its dual-gabled west elevation, the farmhouse and its associated outbuildings do not reflect noteworthy or significant elements of design and/or construction that would make the site eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The three, early twentieth century outbuildings do not retain period architectural features that convey outwardly well-preserved and significant examples of domestic or agricultural processes that formerly occurred in these structures.

The Miller Farm is eligible under Criterion B for the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the historic ownership of George R. Dennis and the neighboring Kingston Hall. Though the house and outbuildings have undergone noticeable alteration, the property retains integrity of location, setting and feeling of a nineteenth century Somerset County farm with a dual-gabled farm house located on a large agricultural parcel.

Prepared by: Grant Johnson, Paul Baker TouartDate Prepared: February 2014

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**Great Bay Wind Energy Center**  
Somerset County - Maryland

**Historic Resources Assessment**  
February 2014

Notes: Basemap: ESRI USA Topomaps Online Map Service

- EDR Recommends NRHP-Eligible
- EDR Recommends Not NRHP-Eligible



www.edrdpc.com





7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2014

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPS

VIEW E TOWARDS NORTH & WEST FACADES OF HOUSE

PHOTO #1/10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013-08-28-01

5-518

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Professional Paper

EPSON

paper



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHRO

VIEW NE TOWARD SOUTH & WEST FACROSS OF HOUSE, & FORMER  
SUMMER KITCHEN

PHOTO #2 / 10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013 - 08 - 28 - 02  
S-518



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPO

VIEW NIV TOWARDS SOUTHERN WEST FACADES OF HOUSE & SUMMER KITCHEN.

PHOTO #3 / 10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013-08-28-03

S-518



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MO

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MO SHPO

VIEW SW TOWARD NORTH & EAST FACADES OF HOME - W/ YARD

PHOTO # 4/10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD. 2013.08.28\_04

S-518



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPO

VIEW NE TOWARD HORSE STALLS

PHOTO #5 / 10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013-08-28-05  
S-518



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT SCHINSON

08/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MID. SHPO

VIEW SW TOWARDS EAST OUTBUILDING

PHOTO # 6/10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013-08-28-06  
S-518



7435 OLD WESTOVER-MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPO

VIEW SW TOWARD FORMER ANIMAL PEN

PHOTO # 7/10

7435 OLD WESTOVER-MARION ROAD - 2013-08-28\_07

S-518



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD  
MILLER FARM  
SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MID SHPO

VIEW E TOWARD MANURE SHED & IMPLEMENT SHED

PHOTO #8/10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013-08-28-08  
S-518



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPO

VIEW SW TOWARDS SOYFIELD

PHOTO # 9/10

7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013 - 08-28 - 09

S-518

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Professional



7435 OLD WESTOVER - MARION ROAD

MILLER FARM

SOMERSET COUNTY, MD

GRANT JOHNSON

8/28/2013

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHPO

VIEW E ALONG ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY.

PHOTO #10/10

7435 OLD-WESTOVER - MARION ROAD - 2013 - 08-28

S-518

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Professional Paper