

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
John Grinder Farm
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North of Mason Springs Chicamuxen Road (MD 224),
Southeast of Smallwood's Retreat located within Smallwood State Park
CITY, TOWN Rison CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Maryland VICINITY OF COUNTY Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
State of Maryland, Dept. of Natural Resources Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER
Taylor Avenue
CITY, TOWN Annapolis VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Court House

Liber #: 131
Folio #: 544

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Grinder house (1840-1850), located southeast of Smallwood's Retreat, is a two-story, gable-roofed, brick house with a lower two-story brick ell projecting from the central bay of the rear (south) facade. One-story, shed-roof additions dating from the 1940s extend from the east and west facades of this rear wing.

The main (north) three-bay facade is defined by a central doorway flanked by two windows on the first story, and three symmetrically positioned windows on the second story. A barrel vaulted, gabled portico (probably a later addition) with simple wooden doric column supports enhances the main entrance. First story windows have flat arched brick lintels and wooden sills. The second story windows are distinguished by wooden lintels and sills. All windows are 6/6 double-hung sash.

A secondary entrance is located on the east facade. A tiny 6/6 double-hung sash window exists above this door. Both openings are framed by simple architrave trim.

Internal corbel capped brick chimneys are located in both gable ends of the main block.

The gable roof is further distinguished by a boxed cornice with rake boards.

The lower two-story rear addition is two bays wide and one bay deep. Window details are identical to those of the main block. The gable roof also has a boxed cornice and rake boards. An internal corbeled capped chimney is located in the southern gable end of this section.

Little distinguishes the Twentieth Century shed-roofed, brick additions which flank the older ell.

Behind the house is a gable-roofed frame outbuilding which has been obscured by overgrown vegetation. Hand-hewn structural members are visible.

The main structure is currently leased by the Department of Natural Resources to Smallwood State Park's superintendant, and therefore is in very good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 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 circa 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Grinder purchased this parcel of land in 1868 from John T. Stoddart, a relative of General William Smallwood. It is believed that it was then that Grinder built the house.¹

Grinder, a successful brickmaker in Washington, D.C., is listed in Polks City Directory of 1870 as working near the U.S. Capitol at Half and K Streets, S.E. Also listed are several other Grinders working nearby in brick-related occupations. The materials for his Charles County farmhouse reputedly were manufactured at his brick yard.²

After the property was deeded to Edward M. Grinder in 1879, the farm was tenanted by J. Wesley Carpenter³ (a relative of Grinder) who would later acquire the land in his own right. Wheat, corn and tobacco were the principal crops. The smoke house behind the main structure is the sole remaining outbuilding of the complex.

The farm remained active and in the Carpenter family until 1945 when it was purchased by Herbert Staiger. Four month later he sold it to the State of Maryland through the Department of Natural Resources for inclusion in Smallwood State Park.

¹Rambler, The Washington Star, Interview with the Carpenters 2/79.

²Ibid.

³The Ceremonies at the Unveiling of the Monument Erected over the Remains of Major General William Smallwood. p. 5. Lord Baltimore Press, 4 July 1898.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Bridget Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

February 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

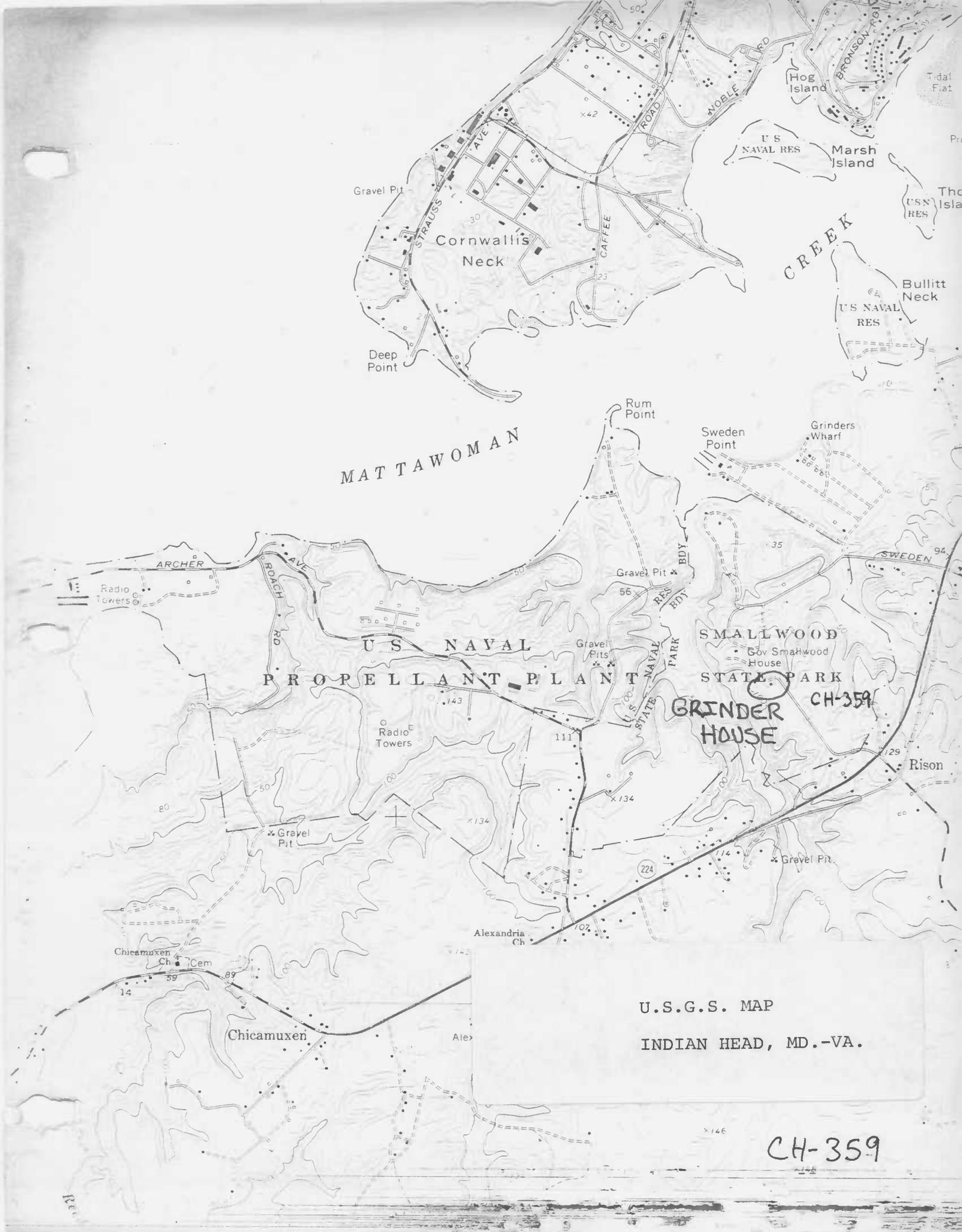
STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



MATTAWOMAN

U.S. NAVAL
PROPELLANT PLANT

SMALLWOOD
STATE PARK

GRINDER HOUSE

CH-359

U.S.G.S. MAP
INDIAN HEAD, MD.-VA.

CH-359



CH 359

; SM/DNR 18

EDWARD GRINDER HOUSE
SMALLWOOD S.P.

RISON, MD

7/78; BMD

NORTHEAST ELEV.



CH 359

; SM/DNR 18

EDWARD GRINDER HOUSE

SMALLWOOD S.P.

RISON, MD

7/78 BMD

SW ELEVATION



CH 359

; SM/DNR ~~18~~ 19

EDWARD GRINDER OUTBLDG.

SMALLWOOD S.P.

RISON, MD.

7/78 BMD

SOUTHWEST ELEV.