

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. KC 262

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic TAVERN CREEK FARM; Part of Hinchingham

and/or common Tavern Creek Farm

2. Location

street & number 6631 Swan Creek Road not for publication

city, town Rock Hall vicinity of 1st congressional district

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Dr. & Mrs. John Durocher

street & number 6631 Swan Creek Road telephone no.: (410) 639-7315

city, town Rock Hall, Maryland state and zip code 21661

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Cross Street folio

city, town Chestertown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Windshield Survey

date 1968 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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.

On the western most neck of land in Kent County, called Swan Point Neck, bordered by the Chesapeake Bay and Tavern Creek, stands an early-nineteenth century vernacular farmhouse composed of a two-bay, two-story brick section with two frame wings. Its principal facade faces east toward Tavern Creek. On the property is also a contemporary frame barn approximately sixty feet long.

The brick section is built over a full basement which has a window in each facade. The east facade and south gable are laid in flemish bond and the other two walls are laid in common bond (three courses of stretchers to one of headers). There is a chamfered water table around all four sides. The doors on the east and west facades are located in the northern bay. The windows appear to have been large enough to have had 12/12 sash originally but they were replaced with 1/1 sash. The headers over the last openings have rowlock arches, while the window on the west side has a segmental arch. The east door appears to have had a transom originally as the rowlock is located several courses above the door. To the north of the west door is a 4-pane casement at chest height above the screened porch floor. Flanking the window are two seams in the brickwork indicating the position of an original basement door that gave access thereto beneath the main stair. This feature is similar to the Violet Farm and Comegys Bight houses that were built in the 1760s. A chimney rises within the center of the south gable and has a sloped weathering where the thickness of the stack is reduced. This feature is similar to Springfield Farm (1770) nearby. Flanking the chimney stack on the first floor are two doors opening onto the screened porch. These doors and the windows above were added at a later date, but the two attic casements are original. The north gable also has two casements. The double shed dormers give additional light to the finished attic.

A lower three (two bays on east) frame wing on low brick foundation adjoins the north gable. Each facade has a large picture window with flankers. The walls are covered with asbestos siding. A chimney rises from the roof one bay south of the gable. On plane with the two facades is a one-and-one-half story frame wing with modern shed dormers in its steeply pitched roof. The fenestration in this probable original kitchen has been altered, as has the middle section.

Like the outside, the interior has been renewed in the mid-twentieth century. the only feature on the first floor that appears partly original is the close string stair, which has a balustrade from around the 1870s or 1880s. It rises in two flights to the second floor, but from the landing there is access to the second floor of the frame wing. The plan consists of a parlor and stair hall in the brick section, a living room and lavatory (perhaps an original pantry) in the middle section, and a kitchen in the northernmost section. The plan is the same as Hinchingham Farm on Swan Creek, close by, but the form is different.

The building is the latest of the Kent County houses to have had the unique feature mentioned above, the sloped weathering and exterior basement entrance. It is a late vernacular structure akin to the building tradition of nearly fifty years before.

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 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
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Tavern Creek Farm is significant as an early-nineteenth century vernacular farmhouse possessing a common plan but with a slightly different form. Even with its difference in form from nearby Hinchingham Farm, it remains a telescopic three part composition. On the property is also one of the earliest barns to have survived the termites, fires and general neglect. Its original use, while not yet ascertained, appears to have had at least a dual purpose, if not more. It appears to be an early transitional example of the bank barns that were built in mid-nineteenth century in the northeastern section of Kent County and adjoining Kent County, Delaware.

Tavern Creek Farm is part of the large seventeenth century tract (2200 acres) that was patented to Thomas Hynson. Before 1831, the southern 1010 acre part of Hinchingham, called Swan Point Estate, was owned by Benjamin Chew of Philadelphia. In the year above-mentioned, it was sold to Chestertown attorney James E. Burwell, who in turn sold part of it to Daniel Diehl. Diehl appears on the 1852 tax assessment with slightly more acreage and "Brick House and other Buildings in good repair. . . ." Apparently he did not live on the farm since there are no household belongings nor slaves mentioned in the assessment. Between 1860, when he is still listed as owner on the Martenet Map, and 1877, the farm was acquired by Richard Hynson, another of Chestertown's prominent attorneys.

TAVERN CREEK FARM
K-262
CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 7.1

On the property to the north of the residence is a large barn and shed complex. The center of the complex is a two-story frame barn, probably contemporary with the house. It measures approximately sixty feet in length and possesses some original siding and shuttered openings on the second story, above a shed addition. When the latter was built, the entire first story structure was removed. The structure is divided into six bays with the gables being three shorter bays. The rear (north) wall has vertical slats on the outside on approximately the eastern half of the barn. It has been covered with corrugated metal and painted red along with the remainder of the complex.

Above the plates is brick nogging visible between the joists (c.3X10), which extends up the wall to about three feet above second floor level. Above the floor level, the nogging is protected by wide white pine boards fastened with cut nails.

The eastern half of the second story has joists extending over the plate, with every other one removed. The western half has the same number of joists overhanging the wall, but there, the joists extend inside the space approximately one foot, the ends of which are neatly hewn in a rounded manner. On top of them is a 3X10 on which short studs rise to support the rafters. The studs appear to be fastened with wrought nails.

The steeply pitched roof rafters are hewn and sawn, tapered, and are fastened at the apex with a mortise and tenon joint and a wood peg. There were originally three tie beams above the joists but they were replaced with 4X4 purlins and diagonal braces at a late date. One other curiosity about the western half of the barn was that the lowest set of tie beams appear to have been about 10" wide members half dovetailed into the rafters.

Three of the original shuttered openings on the second floor remain from the first period. They are vertical board outside and horizontal inside, the two thicknesses being fastened with clinched rosehead nails in an overall pattern. They are hung on penny-ended strap hinges on drive pintels.

K 100

Tavern Creek Farm house has one brick part, two bays by two bays by $2\frac{1}{2}$ storys. The chimney is located on its south gable and is the one outstanding feature of the house, because it has a sloping set-back at the ridge of the roof, similar to Ringgold's Fortune, Ree's Corner, Comegys Bight, Clarke's Conveniency, etc, all located in Kent County. The brick appears to have been sand blasted and the windows are of modern design. To the north is a three bay, two story frame portion covered with red asbestos siding and farther, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story portion. The house itself has little interest but has some nice planting and a view of Tavern Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. The point of land south of this is one of the points which is indicated as Borne's Point on John Smith's earliest map.

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<p>1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Rock Hall VICINITY Swan Point STREET NO. Swan Creek Road, 2.6 miles west of Rt. 445, (east).</p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Gerard Bos PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 2½</p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K - 262</p>
	<p>2. NAME Tavern Creek Farm</p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD late 18th century STYLE colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER</p>
	<p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC no</p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior Exterior fair</p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> 	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Rock Hall Historical collection, 1957, p.13</p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne</p> <p>DATE OF RECORD March, 1969</p>

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



Tavern Creek Farm K. 262

East elevation

M. Bourne

Nov 1996



Tavern Creek Farm K-262

Barn

South side

M. Bourne

Nov 1996



Tavern Creek Farm K-262

South Gable

M. Bourne

Nov 1996



Tavern Creek Farm K-262

Barn - detail ; window

South wall

M. Bowne

Nov 1996