

PH0229288

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	SEP 15, 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hinchingham *uneth.*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hinchingham; Wilmer Farm; Bay Shore Farm; Gale Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Route 445, 1.7 miles south of Maryland Route 21
On Chesapeake Bay at the end of 1.2 mile driveway on west side

CITY OR TOWN: Rock Hall *uneth.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. Samuel F. Thomas

STREET AND NUMBER: R.D. 2, Box 72

CITY OR TOWN: Rock Hall STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kent County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

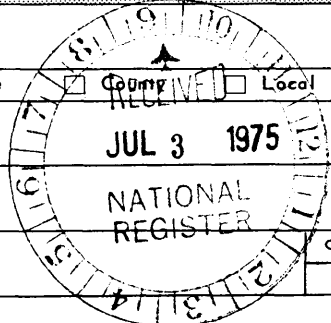
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Kent

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ENTRY NUMBER: SEP 15 1975

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent, Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated directly on the shore of Chesapeake Bay, Hinchingham stands at the end of a 1.2 mile driveway on the west side of Maryland Route 445, 1.7 miles south of Maryland Route 21. It is a 2 1/2-story brick house with a 1 1/2-story brick wing to the north. The main block has two brick chimneys, a box cornice with identical bed and crown ogee moldings, 9/6 sash windows on the first floor, and 6/6 sash windows on the second floor and in the pedimented roof dormers. There are exterior blinds on the main block which appear to be replacements. The main and rear facades of the main block are laid in Flemish bond with Queen closers and have a molded brick watertable of English bond (which also runs along the south gable-end), gauged flat arches, and a three-brick belt course between the first and second floors. The gable walls are laid in English bond with some glazed headers. The 1 1/2-story wing has one brick chimney at the north end and a porch on both front and rear facades. The first floor windows are 6/6, as are the windows in the shed-roofed dormers. The brickwork in the wing is all English bond, with an unornamented water table.

The principal facade of the main block, which faces west, is five bays wide, with an eight panel door occupying the center bay. The wing is three bays in width, and there are three dormers on each section. A modern, one-story, screened porch extends across the entire front of the house.

The south gable wall of the main block has two attic windows and a centered porch covering the cellar entrance. The date 1774 is set in glazed headers in the gable. Also on this elevation is the outline of the steeply pitched roof of a later addition, recorded as standing in 1934.¹

The rear facade of the main block, facing east, is five bays across, with an eight-panel door in the center. The wing is three bays wide on this same elevation and has a door located in the south bay. The main block has three dormers, the wing has two.

The north end of the main block has a six-panel door toward the northeast corner which opens into the east porch of the wing. In the gable are two small windows. The north end of the wing has a later door and two attic windows. The east porch of the wing is under the roof of the wing, while the west porch has a shed roof.

¹Swepson Earle, The Chesapeake Bay Country (4th ed.; Baltimore: Thomas-Ellis Co., Publishers, 1934), p. 318. There is a photograph showing this addition partially obscured by trees.

see continuation sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1774

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hinchingham, a well-preserved, large brick house built in 1774, is similar to a number of other 18th century Kent County buildings. H. Chandlee Forman generally described this group as follows:

There existed in the Langford Bay section of Kent County, between the middle of the Eighteenth Century and the American Revolution, a distinct type of house, consisting of a two-storey brick dwelling with a low kitchen wing on one side. A room stood on either side of a central Hall. . . . In the gable-end was the date written large in burnt black headers. . . .¹

These buildings are especially important because they are specifically dated, making them instrumental in dating other early buildings in Kent County. Hinchingham was built later than most of this type, and probably because of this, is larger and more elegant in appearance.

Hinchingham is also similar in some respects to several other buildings in Kent County. The covered porch beneath the symmetrical roof of the kitchen wing resembles that of Springfield Farm and Thornton. On the interior, the living room paneling, a good example of the well-developed early Georgian style, is like that of Rich Hill in the upper county. The paneled fireplace walls in the other three first-floor rooms are also well-executed examples of the period and still in excellent condition.

The land known as Hinchingham began as a grant of 2200 acres "on the East side of Chesepick Bay" made to Thomas Hynson in 1659.² By the mid-18th century, this huge quantity of land had been divided into nine parcels. The largest,

¹H. Chandlee Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland (Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934), p. 217.

²Rent Roll, Vol. 1, Kent & Cecil #1, Liber 5/folio 47, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland
 Census of 1790, Maryland
 Land Records of Kent County (also in Kent County Courthouse,
 Chestertown, Maryland
 Probate Records of Kent County
 Tax Assessment of 1783, Kent County

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 39 ° 12 , 01 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 76 ° 15 , 03 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		
NE	39 ° 11 , 45 "	76 ° 14 , 35 "				
SE	39 ° 11 , 21 "	76 ° 14 , 49 "				
SW	39 ° 11 , 36 "	76 ° 15 , 18 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **139.7 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Anthony O. James, Summer Surveyor; Pamela James, Research Asst.

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **21 Jan. 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:
21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name John N. Pearce
 John N. Pearce
 Acting Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland
 Date June 12, 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/5/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper, The National Register

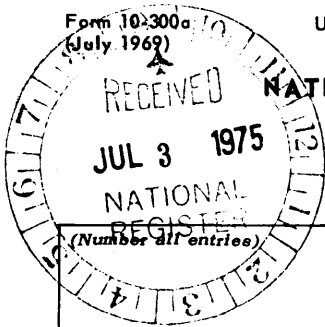
Date **SEP 4 1975**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Kent	
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Hinchingham

#7 Description, continued

The main block has a center hall plan with one room on each side. The south room has two circular headed cupboards with fluted pilasters, one on each side of the fireplace. The walls have paneled wainscoting below the chair rail and there is a modillioned ceiling cornice. The north room has a paneled chimney breast with a closet to the left. The closet door is hinged on the left but has scar marks of H-L hinges on the right side.

The wing has a fireplace at each end, but has otherwise been altered by the addition of new woodwork and partitions and modern kitchen facilities.

There is a square brick office building contemporary to the house to the southeast. It has a pyramidal roof and a fireplace on the south wall. The east and west walls of this small building have one 6/6 sash window each. The north wall has one 6/6 window to the east and a six-panel door to the west.

#8 Significance, continued

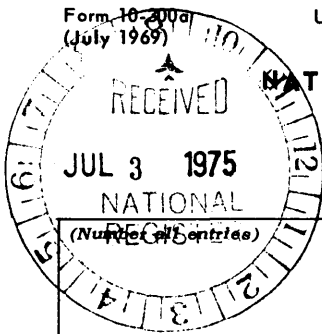
containing 700 acres, was obtained by the Frisby family during the first quarter of the century. In 1747, William (III) Frisby deeded 200 acres described as "all that tract called Frisby's Convenience being part of a tract called Hinsingham . . . between Chesapeake Bay and Tavern Creek"³ to his brother, James (III) Frisby. Their father, William (II) Frisby had died intestate in 1738 and William (III), as the oldest son, apparently inherited all of his land. He then gave these 200 acres to his brother "in consideration of the natural love and affection" which he held for him. It was during the sixty years that James (III) Frisby owned the property that the house now called Hinchingham was erected.

³ Deed JS 26/38, Kent County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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STATE Maryland	
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Hinchingham

#8 Significance, continued

The Frisby family settled early in Maryland. James (I) Frisby, a merchant, brought his family and seventeen others from Virginia in about 1663.⁴ His son, William (I) Frisby, served Kent County in several capacities, including that of representative to the Maryland Assembly. It was this William Frisby who purchased the 700-acre Hinchingham tract.

James (III) Frisby, probable builder of Hinchingham, was a Commissioner and Justice in Kent County in 1763 and 1768-1774.⁵ He was married four times and had eleven children. He is listed as the owner of thirty slaves, a large number for the times, in the 1790 census. His three daughters, Margaret, wife of Dr. Morgan Brown; Mary, wife of Dr. J. N. Gordon; and Rebecca, wife of the Reverend Simon Wilmer, inherited the Hinchingham tract from their father in 1807. In the following year, the Browns and the Gordons sold their shares in the land to the Wilmers for \$1156. The parcel at that time contained 145 acres.

The Reverend Wilmer served as Protestant Episcopal minister of Shrewsbury Parish from 1803 until 1806.⁶ In 1804, he was appointed a deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. He resigned his parish post for reasons of health, but soon took up a similar position in St. Paul's Parish.⁷

Wilmer apparently originally studied for the ministry in St. Paul's Parish under the Reverend George Dashiell in the 1790s. A letter from that time records a conversation between Wilmer and a parishioner regarding the changes Dashiell was making in the traditional Episcopal service. Wilmer is quoted as saying,

⁴Francis B. Culver, "Frisby Family," Maryland Historical Magazine, XXXI (December, 1936), 337-338.

⁵Culver, p. 348.

⁶Ethan Allen, Eastern Shore Parishes, Historical Notes, Vol. I, Cecil, Kent & Caroline Counties, MSS in Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, p. 119.

⁷Allen, p. 146.

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(Number all entries)

Hinchingham

#8 Significance, continued

Why, Sir, the Church Service is now become like an old song that nobody cares for. The people want something new, and Mr. Dashiell and I think that we can do more good using Extempore prayer and the new hymns⁸

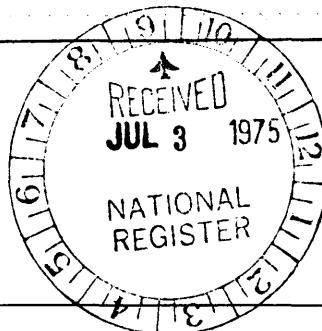
He was reprimanded for this attitude by the influential parishioner and, it was noted, he responded with some rudeness. When he became minister in this parish, however, he was apparently warmly received. He stayed for only two years, until 1808, at which time he moved to New Jersey.⁹ This was the same year in which he and his wife purchased Hinchingham so it is possible that they never lived there permanently.

In 1819, Simon Wilmer sold Hinchingham, then containing 165 1/4 acres, to John W. Wilmer of Baltimore City. Five years later, it was sold to Mrs. Juliana Frances Scott of Kent County. Mrs. Scott and her husband Beckington were unable to meet the payments due on the property and it subsequently passed through a number of hands until the Gale family obtained it in the mid-19th century. The Gales, an early and well-known family in Kent County, owned Hinchingham for a quarter of a century. An addition built onto the south gable-end, no longer standing, may have been added during their ownership.

Boxwood hedges were planted on the east or landward side of the house some time after 1934. They now stand at a height of about four feet.

⁸Allen, p. 192.

⁹Allen, p. 147.



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STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 5 1975

(Number all entries)

Hinchingham

#9 Major Bibliographical References, continued

SECONDARY SOURCES

Allen, Ethan. Eastern Shore Parishes, Historical Notes. Volume I, Cecil, Kent, and Caroline Counties. MSS in Hall of Records, Annapolis. [1858].

Culver, Francis B. "Frisby Family." Maryland Historical Magazine, XXXI (December, 1936), 337-353.

Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country. 4th ed. Baltimore: Thomas-Ellis Co., Publishers, 1934.

Forman, H. Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934.

Hanson, George A. Old Kent: the Eastern Shore of Maryland; Reprint of 1876 ed. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967.

