

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 16 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 8 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

* *

HISTORIC

Morgan's Fresh

AND/OR COMMON

MORGAN HILL FARM (preferred); Hill Farm

LOCATION

West side of Sollers Road, approximately two miles south of its intersection with Maryland Route 2/4

STREET & NUMBER

W of Lusby

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Calvert

CODE

009

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Wohlgemuth

STREET & NUMBER

Morgan Hill Farm

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 20657

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's City Commission
HABS Architectural Survey of Tidewater Maryland

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

St. Mary's City Commission

CITY, TOWN

St. Mary's City

STATE

Maryland

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Morgan Hill Farm, commonly called Hill Farm, is situated on the crest of a hill at the terminus of a two mile long private lane that begins on the west side of Soller's Road, approximately two miles south of its intersection with Maryland Route 2/4, Calvert County, Maryland. The house is of a T-shaped plan, one and one-half stories in height with single exterior chimneys on each of the three exposed ends. The forward or upper part of the "T" constitutes the original building which, based on the structural and decorative elements, appears to have been built about 1700. An earlier date of construction, however, is entirely possible. Despite the fact that the original house was extensively remodeled in the early nineteenth century, there is a remarkable amount of original fabric, facilitating a reasonably accurate verbal, drawn, or physical reconstruction-restoration.

The present facade of Hill Farm faces southeast, although whether this elevation was the original front is not known. Its center door appears to occupy its original location, but the frames of the two windows flanking it are early nineteenth century enlargements of the originals. The earlier windows were probably similarly positioned but undoubtedly smaller. The same fenestration and door placement is repeated on the northwest elevation, but the door now provides passage between the original house and the later rear wing.

The front (southeast) elevation is sheathed with beaded random width flush boards. Although applied using wrought nails, the boards are believed to be contemporary with the early nineteenth century renovations. The remainder of the house is covered with random width lapped boards of about the same vintage. At the end of the house stand single exterior chimneys with stepped weatherings, free-standing stacks, and fieldstone bases. These chimneys were added to the house in the early nineteenth century when a massive central chimney was removed. On the south slope of the gable roof are three peaked dormers. Two dormers (originally three) are on the north slope. These windows were apparently added during the renovation and do not appear to have replaced earlier windows. The eaves are now boxed but were originally open, revealing projecting joist ends with rounded bases and diagonal false plates with chamfered edges. The exposure of the eaves was a fairly common treatment throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; however, few examples have been found that display the same decorative treatment as those at Hill Farm.

The first floor room configuration of Hill Farm (see plan A) consists of a center stair hall flanked by a single room on each side. Until the early nineteenth century, the center of the house was dominated by a massive chimney with expansive back to back fireplaces (see plan B). When the chimney was removed, two new (or altered) partition walls were built to provide for the existing center hall. The stair, which has an open balustrade and unusually designed newells composed of two chamfered posts joined at the top by an arched cap, stands in the northeast corner and rises in two flights to the attic. This stair, though undoubtedly

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Morgan Hill Farm
Calvert County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7. Description, continued

nineteenth century, probably occupies the same location as the original.

Hill Farm is framed in five ten-foot bays. Major wall posts, five on a side including corners, are exposed in all three first-floor rooms. These, as well as the exposed wall plates, end girt and ceiling joists, have beaded edges and are painted. The remaining wall surfaces are plastered. The baseboards, rails, window and door surrounds, doors, mantels and window sash are of the early nineteenth century. In the attic are two bedrooms and a hall, all with exposed and beaded principal rafters, purlins, diagonal wind braces and collars. Like the first floor, the remaining wall surfaces are plastered.

On the northeast end of the house, positioned east of center line, is a one-story log wing moved here from a former location near the town of Lusby. Its detailing suggests that it was first built in the early nineteenth century. It now houses a modern kitchen and has a large fireplace on the northeast end.

When the present owners acquired the property in 1949, they restored the house to its early nineteenth century appearance with the exception of the plaster which at that time covered the originally exposed ceiling joists. In 1952 a large rear wing added to the house that, utilizing the same materials and plan as the earlier part, complements rather than detracts from the original building. Near the house is a one-story log servants' quarter, moved from its original creek-side site on the property and remodeled for use as a guest cottage. There is also a log smokehouse and a large tobacco barn. In an area where log buildings are quickly disappearing, these once common-building types are unusual survivals. From physical evidence, all of the three buildings appear to have been built circa 1800.

The house and grounds of Hill Farm are beautifully maintained and the site commands a superb view of St. Leonard's Creek.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morgan Hill Farm was a land grant made to Phillip Morgan in 1651 under the name Morgan's Fresh. Although there is a paucity of extant information relating to this period of the farm's development, it is known that Phillip Morgan was a captain in the Puritan Militia and a locally prominent man. He lived somewhere on his Morgan's Fresh property. In 1670 Morgan sold the lands to Robert Day.

It is probable that Robert Day or one of his sons built the earliest part of the present house between 1670 and 1700. In 1836 the property was sold by Day's descendants to Richard Breeden. Breeden was probably responsible for the extensive renovations made to the house and the numerous improvements to the property. Hill Farm remained in the possession of Breeden's descendants until 1949 when the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Christian Wohlgenuth, the present owners.

Hill Farm, despite the extent of its alterations, retains a wealth of original fabric and for this reason is a valuable source in the study of our earliest architecture. Although such documented seventeenth-century houses as Cedar Park (circa 1660) and Holly Hill (1670) in adjacent Anne Arundel County display many of the same features as Hill Farm, their original forms and detailing have been completely covered by various alterations and improvements. At Hill Farm the major percentage of the original fabric remains intact and visible, thus making it a unique survival. An important feature of Hill Farm was the presence of a central chimney, a feature not known in any surviving house plans of this type and period of construction in Southern Maryland. However, archaeological excavations at St. Mary's City, Maryland, most notably at the St. John's site, have revealed that the use of central chimneys as part of the original house plan was not uncommon during the early and mid-seventeenth century.

The boundaries for the property include the mile-long wooded entrance and the house and its various dependencies. This acreage is nominated to help preserve the view of St. Leonard's Creek, thus maintaining a visible reminder of the early tobacco farms' dependence on inland waterways in their social and economic life.

This acreage also includes a graveyard which stands about 200 feet north of the guest house, in the woods. It is overgrown and divided into two sections, one for the family and one for the black slaves.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grosvenor, Beth. Research notes, Morgan Hill Farm, 1969. Files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.
 Maryland Historical Trust-St. Mary's City Commission Architectural Survey of Tidewater Maryland, 1972, architectural drawings and data sheets.
 Stein, Charles Francis. A History of Calvert County, Maryland. Baltimore: By the Author, 1960.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 195 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	37	05	610	41	25	27	70	B	18	37	14	00	42	52	310
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE		EASTING		ZONE		EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	
C	18	37	13	510	41	25	16	90	D	18	37	10	24	42	51	740
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE		EASTING		ZONE		EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 1.1 miles west of Sollers Road on the driveway and running south to the north branch of the creek at the head of Rollins Cove, then running west along the north shore of said cove, then north along the east shore of St. Leonard Creek to a small creek then following this creek inland to the northwest fork of the driveway then more or less following this fork and the northeast one to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian

pmj

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

July 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John N. Pearce

12/12/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Robert B. Ketting*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Acting

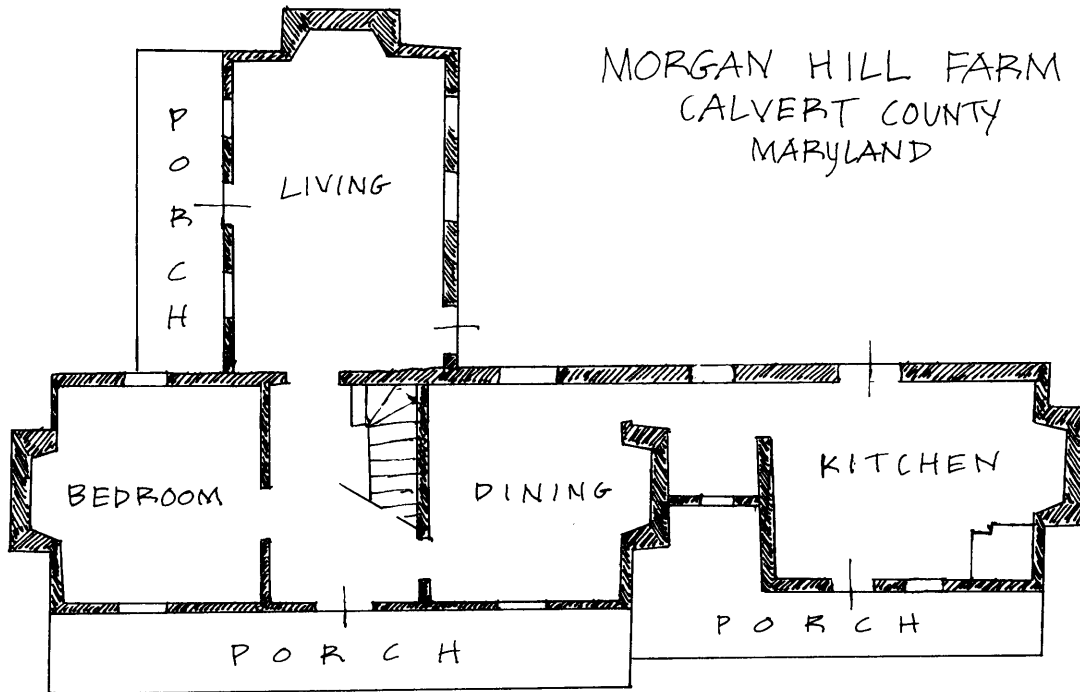
DATE

4/3/96

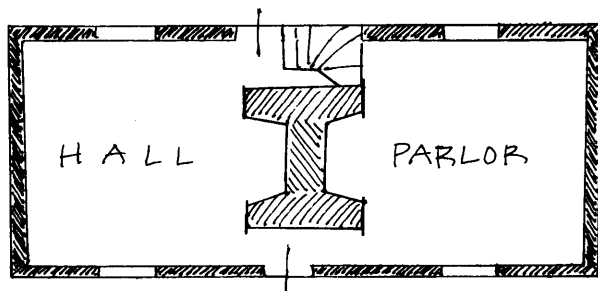
DATE

3-30-76

MORGAN HILL FARM
CALVERT COUNTY
MARYLAND



PLAN A



PLAN B

JRR/PMJ 8-11/75