

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Gray's Rocky Lodge Inventory Number: BA-820  
Address: West side of Falls Road near Stringtown Road City: Butler Zip Code: 21023  
County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Hereford  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the property being evaluated a district? \_\_\_ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Butler Stone Quarry Agency: Federal Communications Commission  
Site visit by MHT staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district? X yes \_\_\_ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: BA-2214  
NR-listed district X yes Eligible district \_\_\_ yes Name of District: Western Run - Belfast Road  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes \_\_\_ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_ yes

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

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland

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

Gray's Rocky Lodge was most recently observed and photographed in February, 2003. Its condition was largely unchanged since the preparation of the State Historic Sites Inventory Form in the library of the Maryland Historical Trust, dated September, 1976.

The property is described in the following documents located at the Maryland Historical Trust Library:

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, by Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., September 1976.

The following observations were made during the February, 2003 visit to the property:

Gray's Rocky Lodge has been well-maintained and remains in active use as a contributing resource to the Butler community. Historic detailing of the Property remains intact, conveying a sense of the character of its establishment around 1800.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <u>X</u>	Eligibility not recommended ___
Criteria: <u>X</u> A ___ B <u>X</u> C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
MHT Comments <u>Contributes to NRHD</u>	
<u>James G. Kelly</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>6/11/03</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>[Signature]</u> <u>6/30/03</u> Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Gray's Rocky Lodge

Inventory Number: BA-820

Page 2

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The Property is considered eligible for registration under Criterion C: Design/Construction.

Prepared by: William C. Riggs, RA Date Prepared: 5/19/2003



**SITE VICINITY MAP**

Hereford Quadrangle, MD  
(Dated 1991)  
SCALE: As Shown



**Determination of Eligibility**  
Grey's Rocky Lodge (BA-820)  
Falls Road  
Butler, Baltimore Co., Maryland 21023



GRAY'S ROCKY LODGE

BA-820

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PHOTO BY K. LEVIN

2/03

NEGATIVE LOC: MD S-FO

BA-820

Gray's Rocky Lodge  
Butler, MD 21023

02.03



GREY'S ROCKY LODGE BA-820

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TAKEN BY: KATHRYN ELGIN

DATE: FEB 2003

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: MARYLAND SHPO

BA-820

Gray's Rocky Lodge

Bother, MD 21023

02.03

64-82c

Gray's Rocky Lodge  
West side of Falls Rd  
near Stringtown Rd.  
Not accessible  
Early nineteenth century

This structure stands across the road from Kensey Johns' Mill, and was the miller's dwelling. Its earliest section is believed to have been built contemporaneously with the mill, although little of what was original in the interior remains. The building was also used as a store, a public house, and a post office. It is now a single family dwelling.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill and Store (Gray's Rocky Lodge)

AND/OR COMMON

Grist Mill Venture, Inc.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Both sides of Falls Road near Stringtown Road

CITY, TOWN

Butler

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Grist Mill Venture, Inc. c/o Kemp Byrnes Telephone #: 828-7200

STREET & NUMBER

200 East Joppa Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 611

Folio #: 391

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Baltimore County Landmarks

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville

STATE

Maryland

**DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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

Close to the east side of the Falls Road, between it and a north-erly branch of Western Run, the Kensey Johns Mill is a stone structure, three bays in length. Its north end is one and one-half storeys in height as is about half of its west front; grade falls to the south and east, allowing its south end and east front to be two and one-half storeys in height. Centered doors are in both storeys of the north end, the lower one being flanked by a 6/6 window. Another entrance is in the middle bay of the west front and a 6/6 window is in each flanking bay. Doors are centered in the principal and base-ment storeys of the south end, again with a single window on either side. In the south gable, 6/6 windows flank a datestone with the inscription which appears to be

Kensey  
Johns  
1800

but the last two digits of the date are less distinct than the name.

Only the ends of the east facade, facing the water, are of stone, the entire central portion being of frame covered with wood shingles; the absence of quoins at the inner ends of the stone east wall suggests that the frame infill replaces a missing original construc-tion.

Stone jack arches support masonry above each opening. A stone chimney rises flush with the southwest corner of the structure. The interior of the structure was not examined.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill  
and Store (Gray's Rocky  
Lodge)  
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Continued

Gray's Rocky Lodge appears to be an early 19th century structure, originally three bays in length facing east, closely oriented to Falls Road, directly opposite the Kensey Johns Mill. The main portion of this structure is two and one-half storeys in height and measures 20'x35'. A stone chimney rises flush with its south end and the principal entrance was in its northerly bay. Typical windows are 6/6 set in wide frames with backband. Three dormers, containing 3/6 sash, are in the roof.

A one and one-half storey wing extends to the north, two bays in length and measuring 15½'x17'. A stone chimney rises flush with its north gable end.

Stone additions extend the main house one bay to the south, the wing two bays to the north. A one storey, hipped-roof enclosed porch extends in front of the two northerly bays of the main house and the southerly bay of the wing.

The house is built close to the hillside to the west, held away from it by stone retaining walls; portions of the space between the house and the retaining walls have been enclosed as service rooms; a root cellar is west of the kitchen wing, within the bank.

In sequence, the main house with its four walls, appears to have been built first and the kitchen wing added, but the entire process was probably a single construction effort, ca. 1800-1825.

The middle bay of the main house contains two entrances

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill  
and Store (Gray's Rocky  
Lodge)  
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 Continued

centered beneath the window above; flanking bays contain a single window in each storey. Many wide window and door frames remain with their cavetto-with-astrigal backbands.

Internally the entire house is largely altered and refinished; the main house is now a single room in the first storey with a modern stone fireplace in its south wall, east of center; an open stair with 20th century detailing rises to the second floor along the west wall. No fireplace is obvious in the kitchen but it may have occupied the easterly portion of the north wall. An enclosed stair rises to the kitchen wing's second floor in the northwest corner. An enclosed winding stairway from the second floor rises to the third in the northeast corner of the main house; it appears original. In the attic are several beaded vertical-board ledge doors and a few rafters are exposed where the original attic joins the attic of the 20th century south wing; they are of straight-sawn oak, numbered and joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon. The westerly half of the south gable has been removed but the easterly half remains with its stone chimney. Perhaps there was a pair of south chimneys originally.

# SIGNIFICANCE

BP 570

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION					

SPECIFIC DATES 1800 (mill)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kensey Johns' Mill was known as Black Rock Mills. It is on the site of an earlier grist mill owned by Thomas Matthews and sold by his widow in 1794 to Richard Johns. The name of Kensey Johns, son of Richard, appears on the date stone which gives 1800 as the date for the present structure.

Operated as a mill until the 1930's, this building still contains one of the French burr millstones now used as a hearth in the lower of two apartments which have been constructed in modern times.

Across the Falls Road to the west stands a dwelling which was once the miller's home. The earliest section is believed to have been built contemporaneously with the mill. It was enlarged at least three times, but the original windows are still in place. The building had various uses: as a store, a public house and a post office. At one time it was the lodge for a summer cottage community. It is now occupied as a single family dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1852, 1876, 1896.

Plat of Richard Johns' estate (1873). Plat Book JWS 1 folio 153  
at Land Record Office of Baltimore County.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** 4.8 acres more or less  
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

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

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

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

Kensey Johns' Grist Mill  
and Store (Gray's Rocky  
Lodge)  
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #9 Continued

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland. (Baltimore, 1850).

Will of Richard Johns (1806). Will Book 8, folio 29. Baltimore County Register of Wills. at Hall of Records, Annapolis.