

CT-42

GRAY HOUSE

ca. 19th. c.

The initial stage of this two part house is a one and one half story frame block, two bays in length, with the originally exposed end chimney now partially covered by a twentieth century frame addition.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Gray House

AND/OR COMMON

Louis Gray's Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Gray Point - Gray's Road

CITY, TOWN

Mutual

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Louis Gray

Telephone #: 586-1169

STREET & NUMBER

Gray's Road

CITY, TOWN

Mutual

___ VICINITY OF

Maryland 20676

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland 20678

Liber #: AWR 18

Folio #: 149

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Family tradition holds that this house was moved to this site by Billy D. Gray from another location "further up the road".

The central core consists of one room down and one up with a hall and stairs on the east end. The massive chimney on the west end of the central block served two fireplaces, one in the main block and another in a kitchen addition on the west end. This "small" kitchen was torn down and replaced by the present wing during Mr. L. Gray's memory. The wing on the east end was built just a few years ago and was the result of remodeling a stripping shed. The fireplaces have been covered up but a mantel survives in the main room, which is decidedly Federal in nature. Mr. Gray says that the fireplace in the old kitchen still contains the crane from which to hang a pot.

A brief examination of the interior provided few other clues to the early date attributed to this house although the 9/6 sash windows that still contain bubbled glass are certainly one early feature. The single chamfered post which was "reused" in constructing the back porch is another.

Another substantial element of this building is the stone foundation which raises it c. 2' off of the ground on the south side.

Meathouse: Although it contains circular sawn materials, there is a meathouse located c. 10' south of the south-west corner of the house that appears to have some age to it. The cut nails present are consistent with a late Nineteenth Century date. Mr. Gray has vivid memories of the sights, smells and tastes of the meat cured in this building. He raised his own hogs until recently. Mr. Gray has a general praise for the conveniences of modern living with the tractor and automobile by his favorites. He admits, however, that store-bought meats fail to compare with the taste of those cured in this old meathouse.

Barn: Fortunately there is still a good number of tobacco barns in Calvert County. Many of these claim an early construction date and a few exhibit structure details that support this claim. Post-and-beam construction itself is an indication of early building technique, although it alone is unreliable in differentiating between a 1790 and 1890 structure. Barns which have had their siding replaced are of little help in producing datable hardware and roofs seem to have been altered and replaced just as often as siding. The nails and siding on the barn at Woodlaun (CT-2), however, are quite early and the plan and construction of the double-log pen at Willow Glen (CT-34) also suggests a pre-nineteenth century construction. Rose-head nails in the door of the barn at the Ray House (CT-104) support the claim of an early date for this barn, however, doors are not a totally reliable dating device.

The barn with the greatest amount of datable structural details is the barn on the Gray property (CT-42). In addition to post-and-beam construction, continuous sills (pre-tractor-and-wagon), doors with rose-head nails, and forged loop-end strap hinges. The Gray barn contains on its east end vertical siding fixed with hand made

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(CONTINUED)

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
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The only house which matches Brinkman's description and the location cited on the county historic sites map is that owned by Louis Gray. There is little reason readily apparent for designating this as a "slave house". Mr. Gray is a white man who is seventy-five years old, and he says that both his father and his grandfather were born here. He knows of no reason for seeing this as a slave dwelling.

The massive chimney, well decorated pedimented dormers and end-hall plan are features not normally associated with slave dwellings. It is the experience of this surveyor that few slave dwellings in this area were frame.

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 Description and significance statements: Wayne CS Nield

NAME / TITLE	Ms. Merry Stinson	DATE	March 1, 1978
ORGANIZATION		TELEPHONE	757-2815
STREET & NUMBER	Route 5 Box 262B	STATE	Maryland 21401
CITY OR TOWN	Annapolis,		

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Gray House
Calvert County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

nails. It is the only barn, thus far recorded, which has contained a full wall of vertical weatherboard held with such nails. Similar nails were observed in the collars of the roof along with, what were perceived to be, early spikes fixing the rafters to the ends of the tie-beams.

The main block is 20' wide and 7 rooms (c. 28') in depth. A 12' shed runs the full length of the south side and it appears to be original. There is evidence that this shed once had rafters which were mortised-and-tenoned and fixed with trunnels into the posts of the south wall about 7' above the sill. Another shed measuring 10' is attached to the east end but is probably a later addition. This shed housed a screw-prize (according to Mr. Gray) and the 8' x 6' shed attached to it occupies the space in which he and his brother used to "pull down" on the prize's lever.

Typical of early post-and-beam construction are the massive plates and sills. They are continuous making the doors impassible to any vehicles. The plates are c. 7" thick and where they receive the tenon of an upright they are carved out for a space of c. 16".

The tie-beams or joists are cut out to lap over the plate and are held in place by trunnels. The ends of these beams protrude c. 1" and support a plate c. 1" thick by 1' in width. Where the tie-beams intersect this plate the rafters are nailed into place. Large spikes with irregularly shaped heads fix these rafters and a collection of early and late cut nails reinforce the spike.

Each truss is reinforced by three collars between the tie-beam and ridge, and they are lap-joined and fixed by early cut nails. There is no ridge pole of any sort. The rafters are lap-joined and nailed at the apex. The lack of nail holes in the south rafters of the truss system suggest that there has never been a perfect A frame roof and that the south shed is original to the plan, given the presence of hand made nails in the east siding and doors, this fact is significant. The unusual hipped roof of Maryland tobacco barns, while the results of additions in some barns, may be original to others. It is certainly so in this case.

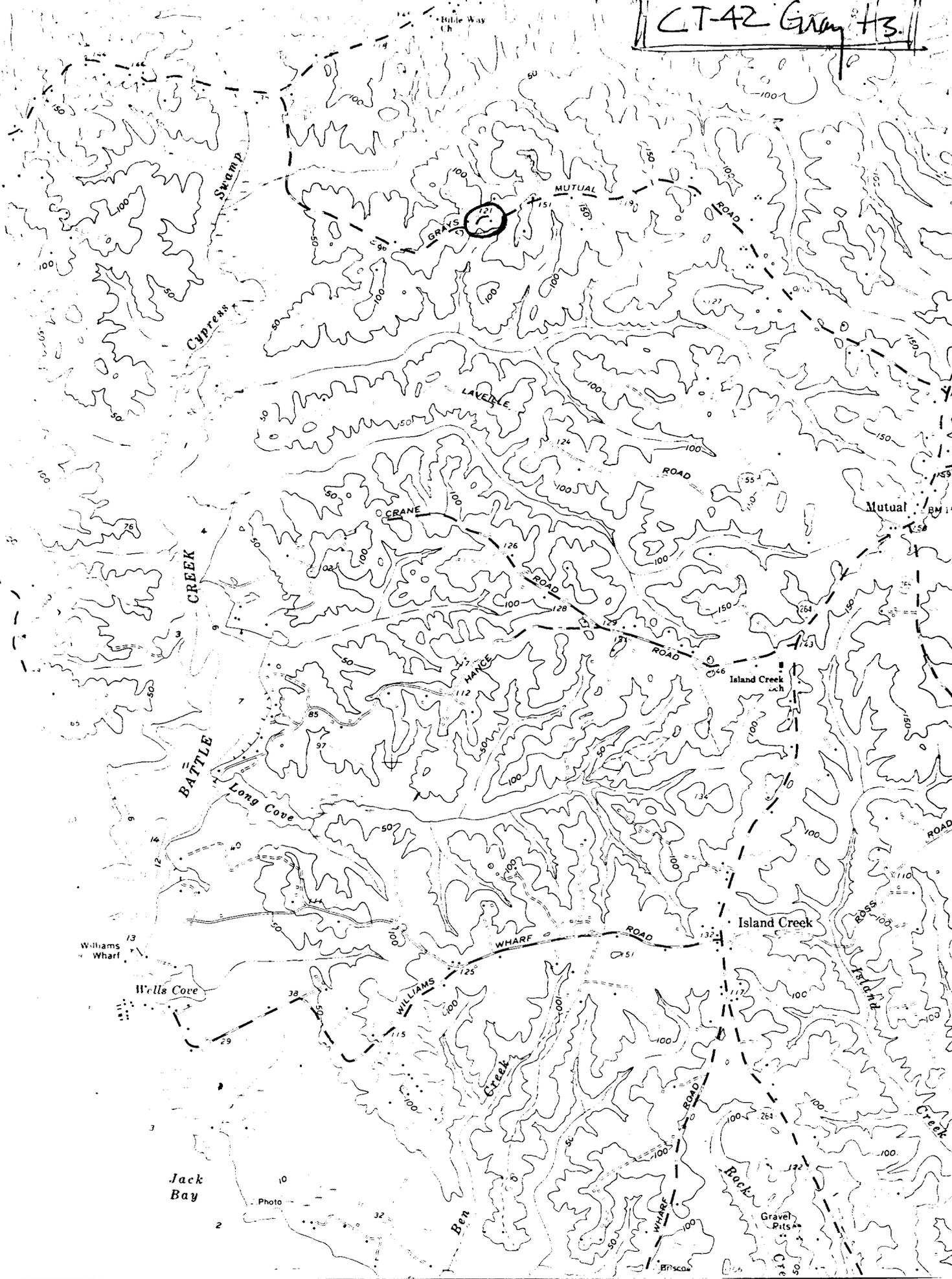
The result is an original structure c. 20' x 28' with an A-frame roof, modified to accommodate a 12' x 28' single story addition on the south side. The outer most walls of this shed were formed by cedar tree-posts with runners. The posts were fastened into a hewn plate via mortise-and-tenon with trunnels. If the east wall can speak for the rest of the structure, the exterior was covered with vertical weatherboards averaging " in width (poplar?) fixed by hand made nails (struck heads, cut shanks, beaten points).

050642S304

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Calvert County TOWN Mutual VICINITY STREET NO. ORIGINAL OWNER - ORIGINAL USE Slave dwelling PRESENT OWNER - PRESENT USE Tenant farmer's house WALL CONSTRUCTION Wide clapboard NO. OF STORIES 1½	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY CT-42 2. NAME Slave house (Gray House) DATE OR PERIOD c.1800 STYLE Maritime Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC No <p>This is a fine small example of a maritime house with the roof extending over both the front and rear to form a porch. The house is 2 bays wide with the door on the left with an overlight. The windows are 9/6. The old brick exterior chimney on the right end is now enclosed in a fairly recent addition. There are 2 peaked dormers on the roof of the old house.</p> <p>This small very attractive structure deserves further study as a fine example of it's type, and one of the few to survive.</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior <p style="text-align: center;">Good</p>	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <p style="text-align: center;">Paul A. Brinkman</p> DATE OF RECORD July 17, 1967

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

CT-42 Grid #3





CT-42.





CT-42

Sl. 11 use





CT-42

FARM HOUSE (GRAY)

N. W.

WAYNE NIELD

JUL. '77



CT- 42
FARMHOUSE (GRAY)
S.

Wayne Nield

Jul '77



CT-42
FARMHOUSE (CANY)
N.
(No Negative)

Wayne Niebo
Jul. '77



CT-42
FARMHOUSE (CANY)
X.
(No Negative)

Wayne Nield

Jul. '77