

CT-263

William D. Gray House and Barns

Bowens

1863 and 1910

Private

William D. Gray built this two-story frame farmhouse and its adjoining one-story kitchen in 1863. Six generations of the Gray family have lived here. A large brick chimney serves both parts of the house. The three-bay-long by two-bay-deep dwelling was built with a center-hall plan. The buildings cypress clapboards were cut and milled at the adjacent Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.

In 1910 a two-story rear ell replaced a single-story log room. A porch was added to the front of the house in the early 1920's. The front walkway incorporates a grindstone from CT-264, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Mill.

Two barns, one incorporating a carriage house, and a meathouse remain on the farm. A small building still contains the equipment for producing carbide gas to light the house.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William D. Gray House and Barns

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Sixes Road (Maryland Route 506)

CITY, TOWN

Bowens

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street (Maryland Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE :

7 DESCRIPTION

CT-263

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

William D. Gray built this two-story frame farmhouse and its adjoining one-story kitchen in 1863. Six generations of the Gray family have lived here. A large brick chimney serves both parts of the house. The three-bay-long by two-bay-deep dwelling was built with a center-hall plan. The building's cypress clapboards were cut and milled at the adjacent Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.

In 1910 a two-story rear ell replaced a single-story log room. A porch was added to the front of the house in the early 1920's. The front walkway incorporates a grindstone from CT-264, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Mill.

Two barns, one incorporating a carriage house, and a weathouse remain on the farm. A small building still contains the equipment for producing carbide gas to light the house.

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 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 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 1863

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Six generations of the Gray family have lived in this house and it may be the oldest standing dwelling along Sixes Road. A deed in the possession of the family indicates that William D. Gray built this house c. 1863. There are two barns on this property which could be contemporary with the house.

The front or north portion is the original house. The rear or south wing was added c. 1910. It replaced a single story log room. The west wing is a kitchen wing that is thought to be original. A large brick chimney serves fireplaces in both the main block and kitchen wing.

The main facade is characterized by the cross gable, center hall plan, and gingerbread porch. Mrs. Lee recalls that this porch was added when she was a little girl c. 55 years ago and she further remembers that it was important to her parents that the porch be "in keeping" with the style of the house.

According to the Gray sisters the clapboards of this house are made of cypress cut and milled in the swamp. There are two barns on this property and both are worth recording. Each is an eight room barn with a hewn post-and-beam frame. The barn closest to Sixes Road (Barn #1) incorporates a carriage house that still contains a sleigh hook-up. Miss Gray and her sister recall the importance of sleighs in winter time travel. The barn in the hollow behind the house (Barn #2) incorporated a "cupin" (cow pen) on its south side that consisted of an open shed, the length of the barn, which cattle could enter for protection.

There is a meathouse on the property as well as a small building just east of the house which still contains the equipment that produced carbide gas for lighting the house.

9 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 Significance statement: Wayne Nield. Form Compiled by:

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson

May 1978

ORGANIZATION

architectural consultant

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 5 Box 262 B

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Md. 21401

STATE

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

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