

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-262A

Lawrence Gray Tenant House

~~3200 Sixes Road~~ *2870 Grays Road*

Prince Frederick, Calvert County

c1920

Private

The historic dwelling at ~~3200 Sixes Road~~ *2870 Grays Road* was constructed circa 1915 as a tenant house for laborers on Lawrence R. Gray's tobacco farm. The tenant farming system developed during the late 19th century to support the continued need for labor on the tobacco farms. Farm laborers were hired by a landowner whose property was large enough that it required more than the land-owning family to support. The landowner provided housing for the laborer on the land that they were hired to work. Farm laborers would be paid outright, receive free rent, or a percentage of the tobacco profits for the tobacco that they cultivated. They might also be given a certain amount of land to cultivate their own crop, for which they would retain the profits. In 1900, tenant farmers (or sharecroppers) accounted for the cultivation of 41% of the farmland in Calvert County. This percentage tended to fluctuate according to the condition of the tobacco economy. In the early 20th century, Lawrence R. Gray owned several hundred acres of farmland in the area of Sixes and Grays Road. The nearby Cypress Swamp Tenant House (CT-600) was also built for Gray in 1942. The property was acquired by the Nature Conservancy in 1957 and established as the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, operated as a public park. The tenant house at 3200 Sixes Road, now vacant, is known to have been occupied as late as 1978.

The single-family dwelling stands one-and-a-half stories in height on a concrete block pier foundation. It is constructed of wood frame clad in lapped weatherboard with corner boards. The front-gabled roof, finished with v-crimped metal sheets, has projecting eaves with exposed cut rafter ends. A single brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the northern slope of the roof. The central entry on the façade, which faces east, holds a four-paneled wood door with wide square-edged surrounds. It is flanked by 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmitred surrounds. A circa 1940 well is located on the property, to the south of the tenant house.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-262A

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Lawrence Gray Tenant House

other

2. Location

street and number *2870 Grays Road* ~~3200 Sixes Road~~ not for publication

city, town Prince Frederick vicinity

county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Nature Conservancy

street and number 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100 telephone Unknown

city, town Bethesda state MD zip code 20814-2144

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 27:86

city, town Pr. Frederick liber JLB 11 folio 160

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	_____ 1 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ 1 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ 2 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ Total _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-262A

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SETTING. The dwelling is located on the south side of Sixes Road east of the small rural crossroads community of Bowens. It is surrounded by heavily overgrown woods with no visible vehicular drive or walkway visible. The property is located in the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Reserve, with wetlands to the west.

PRIMARY RESOURCE. The single-family dwelling, constructed circa 1915 as a tenant house, stands one-and-a-half stories in height on a concrete block pier foundation. It is constructed of wood frame clad in lapped weatherboard with corner boards. The front-gabled roof, finished with v-crimped metal sheets, has projecting eaves with exposed cut rafter ends. A single brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the northern slope of the roof. The central entry on the façade, which faces east, holds a four-paneled wood door with wide square-edged surrounds. It is flanked by 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmitred surrounds. The side and rear elevations have 2/2 wood sash windows, although 2/6 wood sash windows were noted on the west and south elevations. A rear entry is located on the west elevation. This single-leaf opening holds a five-paneled door.

SECONDARY RESOURCE. A well is located to the south of the tenant house. The well has a concrete cap dating to circa 1940 and metal pipe that once held the no-longer-extant pump.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-262A

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates c1915 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates c1915

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The historic dwelling at ^{2870 Grays Road} ~~3200 Sixes Road~~ was constructed circa 1915 as a tenant house for laborers on Lawrence R. Gray's tobacco farm. The tenant farming system appeared in Calvert County following the Civil War (1861-1865) and the subsequent loss of the enslaved labor force. Tobacco, an extremely labor-intensive crop, remained the primary crop grown by Calvert County farmers after the war. The tenant farming system developed during the late 19th century to support the continued need for labor on the tobacco farms. Farm laborers were hired by a landowner whose property was large enough that it required more than the land-owning family to support. The landowner provided housing for the laborer on the land that they were hired to work. Farm laborers were paid outright, receive free rent, or a percentage of the tobacco profits for the tobacco that they cultivated. They might also be given a certain amount of land to cultivate their own crop, for which they would retain the profits. In 1900, tenant farmers (or sharecroppers) accounted for the cultivation of 41% of the farmland in Calvert County. (1) This percentage tended to fluctuate according to the condition of the tobacco economy. In the early 20th century, Lawrence R. Gray owned several hundred acres of farmland in the area of Sixes and Grays Road. The nearby Cypress Swamp Tenant House (CT-600) was also built for Gray in 1942. The property was acquired by the Nature Conservancy in 1957 and established as the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, operated as a public park. The tenant house at 3200 Sixes Road, now vacant, is known to have been occupied as late as 1978.

ENDNOTES

(1) United States Federal Agricultural Census, 1900.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-262A

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 99.86 Acres

Acreage of historical setting UnknownQuadrangle name Broomes IslandQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This historic house is located at ^{2870 Grays Road}~~3200 Sixes Road~~ on a tract of land owned by the Nature Conservance and operated as the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Reserve, a public park in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The house has been associated with Tax Map 27, Parcel 86 since its construction in the early 20th century. The current deed to the property can be found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Deed Book JLB 11, Page 160.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carrie E. Albee and Laura V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historians

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date

2/3/03

street and number 1121 5th Street, NW

telephone

202-393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC

zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-262A

Name Lawrence Gray Tenant House

Continuation Sheet

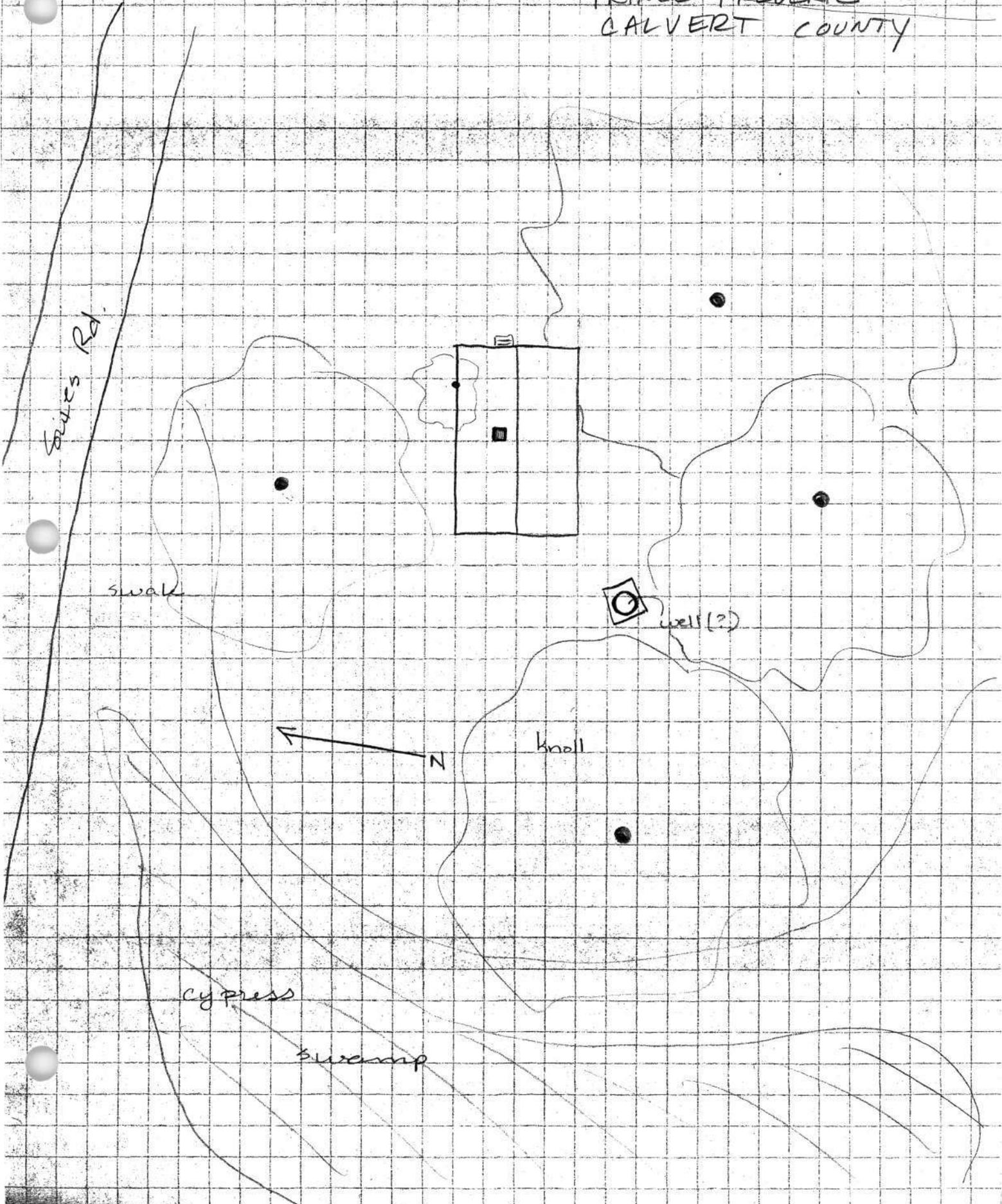
Number 9 Page 1

United States Federal Agricultural Census, 1900.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

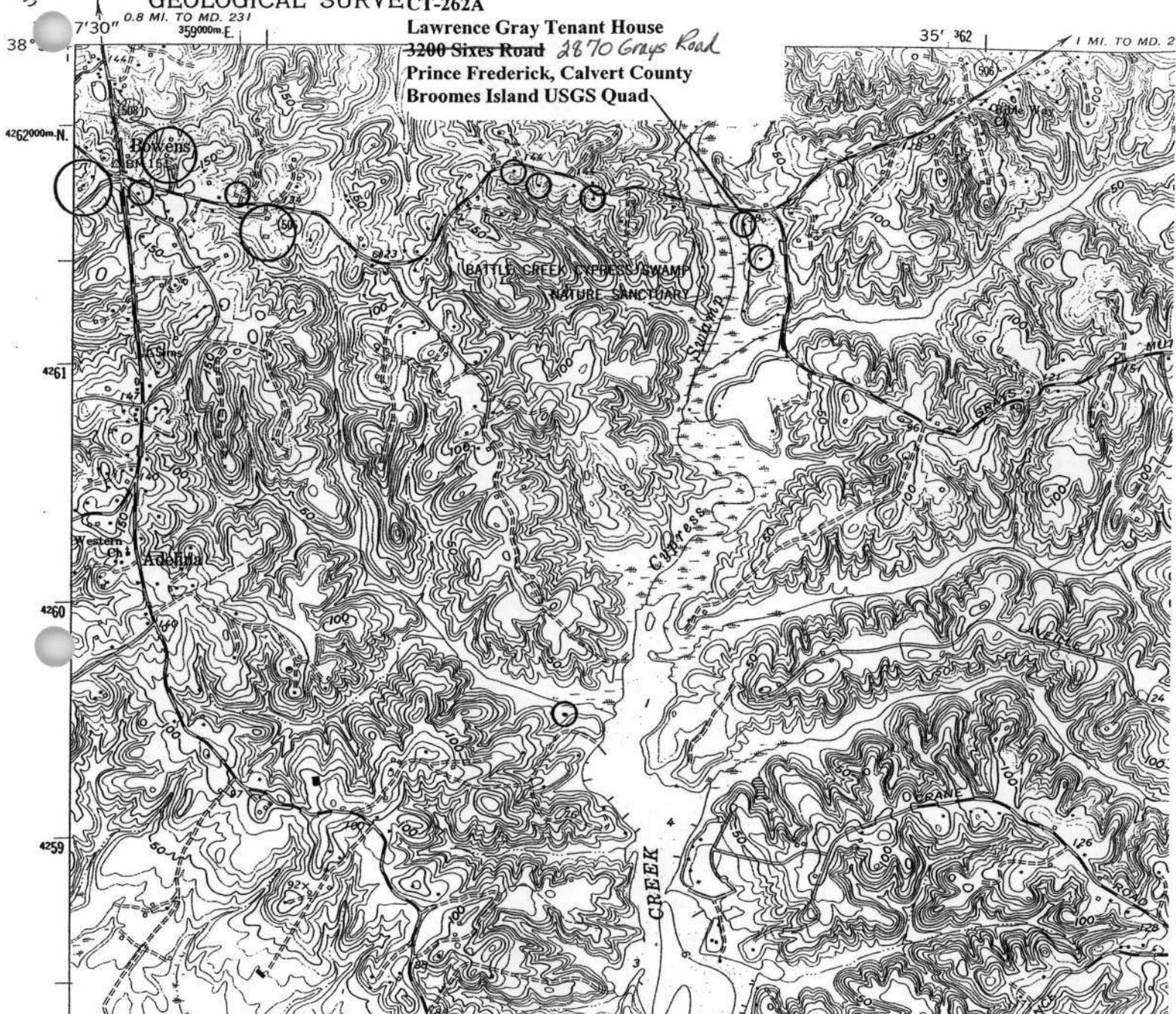
CT-262A

LAWRENCE GRAY TENANT HOUSE
PRINCE FREDERIC
CALVERT COUNTY



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CT-262A

Lawrence Gray Tenant House
3200 Sixes Road 2870 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, Calvert County
Broomes Island USGS Quad



BROOMES ISLAND, MD.

NE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

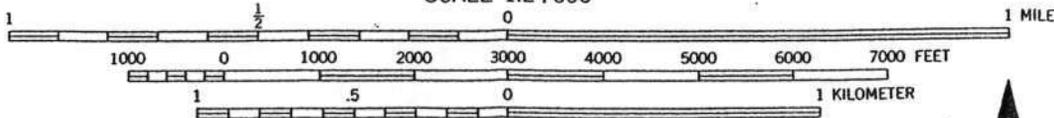
38076-D5-TF-024

1963

PHOTOREVISED 1986

DMA 5660 I NE-SERIES V833

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 1.3 FEET



CT-262A

LAWRENCE GRAY TENANT HOUSE

~~3200 Sixes Road~~ 2870 Grays Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

1/2003

MD SHPO

House, SW corner

1084



CT-202A

LAWRENCE GRAY TENANT HOUSE
~~3200 Sixes Road~~ 2870 Grays Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

1/2003

MD SHPO

House, NW corner

2 of 4



CT-262A

LAWRENCE GRAY TENANT HOUSE

~~3000 Stiles Road~~ 2870 Grays Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

1/2003

MD SHPO

House, SE corner

3 of 4



CT- 202 A

LAWRENCE GRAY TENANT HOUSE

~~3200 Sixes Road~~ 2870 Grays Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

1/2003

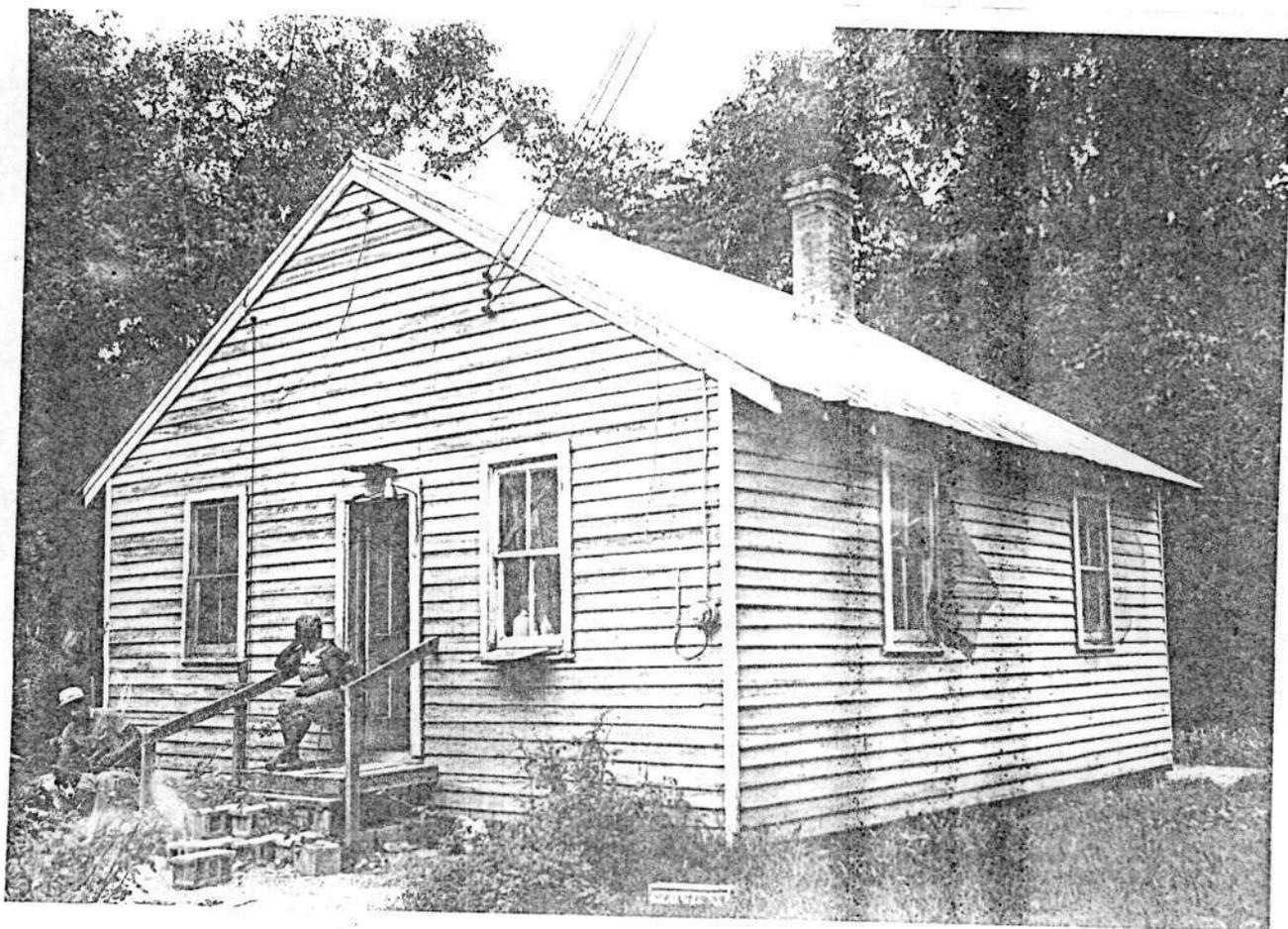
MD SHPO

House, NE corner

4 of 4

CT-262A
Tenant House (L. Gray)
Bowens 20th century
Private

This one-story frame cottage measures three bays wide by two bays deep. It is heated by a wood stove.



INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tenant House (Lawrence Gray) Lawrence Gray Tenant House

AND/OR COMMON

Paul G. Myers Tenant House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Sixes Road (Maryland Route 506)

CITY, TOWN

Bowens

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Calvert

3 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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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

Paul G. Myers

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Sixes Road (Maryland Route 506)

CITY, TOWN

Bowens

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20678

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

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The tenant house belongs to the same parcel of land as CT-262. It may not be a pre-1925 structure, but it is typical of a type of structure common in this region during the early Twentieth Century. It is a one story frame-and-clapboard building put together with wire nails. It is characterized by its gable-end entrance and pre-modern 2/2 windows. This single unit has been subdivided into four rooms and is heated with a wood stove.

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 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.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

CT-262A
Tenant House, Paul G. Meyers Farmhouse
Broomes Island Quad

