Description of Property and Eligibility Determination:

The Elmer C. Ray House is considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Constructed circa 1900-1910, the two story cross gable house features a standing seam metal roof, interior ridge line chimney, vinyl siding, and several additions. The front façade consists of a gable vent window, three 2/2 double hung sash windows, and an enclosed front porch (the front door and windows were not visible through the porch). There is a large rear ell addition and shed additions on each side of the rear ell. There are several small outbuilding associated with the property, and one identified tobacco barn "in an advanced state of deterioration" as stated in the 2003 Revised MIHP form for this property.

At the turn of the century, Calvert County was the third largest tobacco producing county in Maryland. There was a county-wide increase in the construction of tobacco barns and farmhouses during this period. The Elmer C. Ray house is typical of dwellings built during this time period.

The Elmer C. Ray House is considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Calvert County has a rich agricultural history. Based on the revised MIHP inventory form, it was noted that this property was once part of a larger tobacco farm. However, due to the lack of associated fields and the current dilapidated condition of the one...
remaining tobacco barn, the Elmer C Ray House is not exemplary of the tobacco/agricultural era of Calvert County's history. There are other, more intact, examples of late 19th, early 20th century tobacco farmsteads in Calvert County, as well as other nearby Counties. Research did not indicate that it was associated with other broad patterns of history.

The Elmer C. Ray House is considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B as research did not indicate it is associated with persons of historical significance.

The Elmer C. Ray House is considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architecture. While the Elmer C. Ray House clearly states the evolution of this once simple farm house, it not considered a good example of the cross gable house type. Moreover, it has lost integrity of original building materials with the vinyl siding, modified front porch, and enclosed window openings (south façade). There are many other examples of cross gable houses in Calvert County that retain original building materials.

The Elmer C. Ray House is not being evaluated for its National Register eligibility under Criterion D.

Prepared by: Becky Kermes Date Prepared: 8/15/2003

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ______ A ______ B ______ C ______ D Considerations: ______ A ______ B ______ C ______ D ______ E ______ F ______ G ______ None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services __________________________ Date __________________________
Reviewer, NR Program __________________________ Date __________________________
Elmer C. Ray House
CT-379
Calvert County, MD
North Beach USGS
Elmer Property
Calvert County, MD
B. Kermes, photographer
July 2003
Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of the north facade - standing from
the driveway off of Ponds Mill Road.

1 of 8
Oblique of the rear (east) and side facades.

Elmer Property

Calvert County, MD

July 2003

Negatives @ MDHPO

B. Keremos, Photographer

Prestige A

3248 25 N N N N 17 AC+01 AS+03 SH005 MND8 20TH/100

Techlab AND 1802098END
Elmer Property
Calvert County, MD
B. Kermes, photographer,
July 2003
Negatives @ MD SHPO

Front (west) and north side of the house.

(3 of 8)
Elmer Property
Calvert County, MD
B. Kermes, photographer
July 2003
Negatives @ MD StPD

Photo is oblique of the southwest corner. Note all window openings on the south facade of the main house have been enclosed.

(5048)
Elmer Property
Calvert County, MD
B. Kermes, photographer
July 2003
Negatives @ MD SHPO

Outbuildings are located to the southeastern edge of the yard.

(7 of 8)
Elmer Property
Calvert County, MD
B. Kermes, Photographer
July 2003
Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of MD 2/4 and Ponds Mill Road Intersection taken from the Elmer House driveway—so looking West to MD 2/4.
ADDENDUM

Section 7. Description

An interview with Eloise Ray, widow of Elmer C. Ray, identified the agricultural outbuildings located on the farmstead. The building northeast of the tobacco barn is a corn house, not a barn, according to Mrs. Ray. In addition, the nearest shed, located due north of the tobacco barn, is a chicken house.

Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Section 8. Significance

The Elmer C. Ray property was determined not eligible for National Register status by reviewers in 2003. The lack of associated fields and the dilapidated condition of the tobacco barn were given as reasons why the property was “not exemplary of the tobacco/agricultural era of Calvert County’s history.” Further, the DOE form stated that research did not indicate that it was associated with other broad patterns of history. (Determination of Eligibility Form, CT-379, 14 October 2003, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD)

A survey undertaken in 2007 linked the property with a historical development which helped reshape Calvert County society: the transition from tenancy to landownership among African Americans in the Ponds Wood Road community during the period 1889 to 1957. The Elmer C. Ray property was identified as a contributing resource in the survey. Elmer C. Ray and his wife, Eloise, were tenant farmers before moving to Ponds Wood Road and purchasing the property at 135 Ponds Wood Road in 1944. The Ponds Wood Road Community is documented as CT-1314 on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.
CT- 379
ELMER C. RAY HOUSE
HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO
ROSEMARY PROLA
31 MARCH 2007
TOBACCO BARN, NORTH EL
1 OF 5
CT-379  ELMER C RAY HOUSE
TOBACCO BARN, SOUTH ELEVATION
HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO
ROSEMARY PROLA
31 MARCH 07
20F5
CT-379
ELMER C RAY HOUSE
HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO
ROSEMARY PROLA
31 MARCH 2007
TOBACCO BARN, EAST EL
3 OF 5
CT-379
ELMER C RAY HOUSE
HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO.
ROSEMARY PROLA
31 MARCH 2007
VIEW OF CORNHOUSE & TOBACCO BARN FROM S.W.

4 of 5
CT-379
ELMER C. RAY HOUSE
HUNTINGTOWN, CALVERT CO.
ROSEMARY PROLA
31 MARCH 2007
VIEW SOUTH FROM HOUSE TOWARD TOBACCO BARN
5 OF 5
In 1900 there were over 1,000 farms in Calvert County primarily engaged in tobacco cultivation, with an average size of approximately 125 acres. The house at 135 Ponds Wood Road, dating to circa 1900, was originally constructed as the primary residence for one such tobacco farm. Like other rural dwellings constructed in Calvert County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the house adopts the local vernacular in its two-story cross-gable form with a rear ell and simplified late-Victorian-era elements such as the triangular-arch window. Although the property has been significantly reduced in size, the historic house and associated tobacco barn, agricultural buildings, and immediately adjacent lands are representative of the agricultural lifestyle of Calvert County residents during the early 20th century.

Located in a rural agricultural setting, the historic dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height, clad in aluminum siding, and has a cross-gable roof sheathed in v-crimp metal sheets. The foundation of the house consists of brick piers, with concrete-block infill. The façade is defined by a one-story, half-hip-roof, full-width front porch which has been enclosed, and the central gable with a triangular-arch four-light window in the tympanum. The enclosed front porch features aluminum jalousie windows. Windows are 2/2 wood-sash with aluminum surrounds. One-story shed-roof porches have been enclosed on the northeast and southwest elevations. Other notable features include an aluminum box cornice, two interior square brick chimneys with corbeled caps, and a concrete-block stove chimney on the southwest enclosed porch elevation. When constructed, the house was the primary residence for the surrounding tobacco farm, and a medium-sized tobacco barn, circa 1930, still exists on the property as well as several other agricultural outbuildings.
Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property  
   (indicate preferred name)
   
   historic Elmer C. Ray House
   
   other

2. Location
   
   street and number 135 Ponds Wood Road
   
   city, town Huntingtown
   
   county Calvert

3. Owner of Property  
   (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
   
   name Elmer C. Ray and Eloise Ray
   
   street and number 135 Ponds Wood Road
   
   city, town Huntingtown
   
   state MD
   
   telephone Unknown
   
   zip code 20639

4. Location of Legal Description
   
   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse
   
   tax map and parcel: 15:93
   
   city, town Pr. Frederick
   
   liber AWR3
   
   folio 189

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

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   Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
   
   1
7. Description

Located in a rural agricultural setting in Calvert County, Maryland, the circa 1900 dwelling at 135 Ponds Wood Road is a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame building with a two-story ell clad in aluminum siding, a cross-gable roof and a solid foundation. The house has enclosed one-story porches on the front, or northwest, elevation, the southeast elevation, and the northeast elevation. When constructed, the house was the primary residence for the surrounding tobacco farm, and a medium-sized tobacco barn, circa 1930, still exists on the property as well as several other agricultural outbuildings.

SETTING. The historic house is located at the southeast corner of North Solomons Island Road (Route 2) and Ponds Wood Road, in the small community of Huntingtown. The house faces North Solomons Island Road and sits a short distance back from it on a high steep knoll. Ponds Wood Road runs along the northeast side of the house, which is accessed by a semicircular gravel driveway. The driveway curves around the southeast and southwest sides of the house. The 5.33-acre parcel on which the house sits is primarily open land bordered by North Solomons Island Road to the west, Ponds Wood Road to the north, and wooded land to the east and south. Directly across Ponds Wood Road is a heavily wooded area. Mature trees line the semi-circular drive and are scattered around the house and outbuildings. Smaller plantings are located along the house foundation.

PRIMARY RESOURCE. The wood-frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height, clad in aluminum siding, and has a cross-gable roof sheathed in v-crimp metal sheets. The foundation of the house consists of brick piers, with concrete-block infill. Some areas of the foundation have been covered with pressed-metal sheets simulating rock-face concrete-block. The façade is defined by a one-story, half-hip-roof, full-width front porch which has been enclosed, and the central gable with a triangular-arch four-light window in the tympanum. The enclosed front porch features aluminum jalousie windows. Windows are 2/2 wood-sash with aluminum surrounds. One-story shed-roof porches have been enclosed on the northeast and southwest elevations. Other notable features include an aluminum box cornice, two interior, square, brick chimneys with corbeled caps, and a concrete-block stove chimney on the southwest enclosed porch elevation.

SECONDARY RESOURCES. Southwest of the house are located four agricultural buildings, dating to circa 1930, in an advanced state of deterioration. Furthest from the house is a medium-sized wood-frame tobacco barn that rests on a concrete-block pier foundation, is clad in vertical flush wood boards, and has a gable-roof sheathed in corrugated metal. The barn features air-doors for curing with metal hinges characteristic of tobacco barns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There is a one-story shed extension to the southeast elevation, and a partially raised basement in the south corner with windows. East of the tobacco barn is a smaller one-story wood-frame barn clad in vertical flush wood boards. The barn rests on a concrete-block pier foundation and has a gable-roof sheathed in corrugated metal. There is a shed-roof extension on the southwest elevation. Northeast of the tobacco barn is a one-story wood-frame shed clad in vertical flush wood boards with a shed roof sheathed in v-crimp metal sheets. This shed has several hinged doors. Directly northeast of this shed is another, much smaller one-story wood-frame shed that is clad in plywood boards and has a front-gable roof sheathed in corrugated metal.

Also present on the site, located directly southwest of the house is a well, circa 1940. It has a square concrete surround and a metal spigot.
8. Significance

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

Specific dates | c1900
Construction dates | c1900

Evaluation for:
- National Register
- Maryland Register
X 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 and the associated agricultural buildings at 135 Ponds Wood Road are representative of the agricultural lifestyle of Calvert County residents during the early 20th century.

Throughout most of its history until the second half of the 20th century, Calvert County was a highly rural, agricultural county engaged primarily in tobacco cultivation and characterized by an isolated, highly dispersed population. At the time of the 1890 federal census, Calvert County was the smallest county in the state of Maryland both in land area and population, but fifth in annual tobacco production behind a number of significantly larger, wealthier and more populous counties. Just ten years later in 1900, Calvert County had more than doubled its tobacco production and had risen to the third largest tobacco producing county in the state behind nearby Charles and Prince George's Counties.

Accordingly, there was a county-wide increase in the construction of tobacco barns and associated domestic farmhouses during this period. Dwellings built during this period were largely two-story, wood-frame buildings three or five bays in width, with a center hall or side hall plan. Most had a side-gable roof or a cross-gable roof with a central front gable, a one-story full-width or wrap-around front porch with turned posts, and a two-story rear ell. Stylistically, they featured such late Victorian era or Queen Anne stylistic elements as lancet or round-arched windows, fishscale shingles in the gable ends, and sawn brackets. These elements are particularly common in houses built during the late 19th century. By the first decade of the 20th century, houses exhibit less of these flamboyant decorative elements and favor a more simplified architectural expression. Interiors were heated by wood-burning stoves vented through narrow, square, brick chimneys.

During this period there were over 1,000 farms in Calvert County primarily engaged in tobacco cultivation, with an average size of approximately 125 acres. The house at 135 Ponds Wood Road, dating to circa 1900, was originally constructed as the primary residence for one such tobacco farm. Like other rural dwellings constructed in Calvert County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the house adopts the local vernacular in its two-story cross-gable form with a rear ell and simplified late-Victorian-era elements such as the triangular-arch window. Although the property has been significantly reduced in size, the historic house and associated tobacco barn, agricultural buildings, and immediately adjacent lands are representative of an early-20th-century Calvert County farmstead.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property  5.33 acres
Acreage of historical setting  Unknown
Quadrangle name  North Beach
Quadrangle scale  1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic house is located 135 Ponds Wood Road in Huntingtown, Calvert County, Maryland. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 15, Parcel 93 since its construction at the turn of the 20th century. The current deed to the property is found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Deed Book AWR 3, Folio 189.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Carrie E. Albee, Architectural Historian
organization  EHT Traceries, Inc.
street and number  1121 5th Street, NW
city or town  Washington
state  DC
zip code  20001
date  1/24/03
telephone  202-393-1199

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
"Elmer C. Ray House," CT-379, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

United States Federal Agricultural Census, 1890, 1900.

United States Federal Census, 1890, 1900.
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
CR-319
ELMER RAY HOUSE
HUNTINGTOWN
CALVERT COUNTY

barn

barn

concrete pad

gravel

pond

woods Rd.

pump set into concrete

sheds
NORTH BEACH, MD.
N38°37.5'-W76°30.7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 5661 II RE-SERIES V633

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL, 20 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 FOOT AT CHESAPEAKE BEACH

CT-379
Elmer C. Ray House
135 Ponds Wood Road
Huntingtown, Calvert County
North Beach USGS Quad

appered, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Elmer Ray House
135 Ponds Wood Road
Calvert County, MD
Traceries
1/2003
MD SHPO
House, West Corner
1 of 4
CT-379
ELMER RAY HOUSE
135 PONDS WOOD ROAD
CALVERT COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
1/2003
MD SHPO
HOUSE, SOUTH CORNER
2 of 4
CT-379
ELMER RAY HOUSE
135 PONDS WOOD ROAD
CALVERT COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
1/2003
MDSHPO
House, EAST CORNER
3 of 4
CT-379
ELMER BAY HOUSE
135 PONDS WOOD ROAD
CALVERT COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
1/2003
MD SHPO
OUTBUILDINGS, VIEW LOOKING WEST
4 of 4
This two-story frame house measures three-bays wide by one-bay deep. A prominent cross-gable distinguishes the facade. The gable-roofed house includes a front porch and a rear kitchen. 2/2 sash windows light the dwelling. The structure is covered with narrow gage wooden siding.
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

**INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY**

### 1 NAME

**HISTORIC**

AND/OR COMMON

Elmer C. Ray House

### 2 LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**

Ponds Wood Road

**CITY, TOWN**

Huntingtown

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #: AWR 3

**STREET & NUMBER**

Main Street (MD Route 765)

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Calvert County Courthouse

**CITY, TOWN**

Prince Frederick

**STATE, ZIP CODE**

MD 20639

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

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### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**

Elmer C. Ray

**STREET & NUMBER**

Ponds Wood Road

**CITY, TOWN**

Huntingtown

**STATE, ZIP CODE**

MD 20639

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**Liber #:** AWR 3

**Folio #:** 189

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Calvert County Courthouse

**CITY, TOWN**

Prince Frederick

**STATE**

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**

**DATE**

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**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**

STATE
This two-story frame house measures three bays wide by one bay deep. A prominent cross-gable distinguishes the facade. The gable-roofed house includes a front porch and a rear kitchen. 2/2 sash windows light the dwelling.

The structure is covered with narrow guage wooden siding. A hipped roof porch which has been partially enclosed extends across the front elevation, obscuring a view of the main entrance. A similar porch extends along part of the north side. In the gables of the main section of the house are small gothic windows with pointed tops. A brick chimney is located inside the south gable end and a second is located in the ell.
This is a typical Calvert County farmhouse. Similar frame houses were built from c. 1875-1925. It is of no known historical significance.
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