

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Boulden House Inventory Number: CE-1068  
 Address: 135 Kemp Lane Historic district: yes  no  
 City: Elkton Zip Code: 21921 County: Cecil  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Elkton  
 Property Owner: William R. Kemp, Thomas G. Kemp, Barbara Russell Tax Account ID Number: 17281  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 2239 Tax Map Number: 312  
 Project: MD 281 at Muddy Lane Roundabout Agency: MD SHA  
 Agency Prepared By: MD SHA Consultant  
 Preparer's Name: Jon Schmidt Date Prepared: 08/19/2014  
 Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:  
 Name of the District/Property:  
 Inventory Number: Eligible: yes Listed: yes  
 Site visit by MHT Staff: yes  no Name: Date:

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

After disembarking at Head of Elk on August 25, 1777, British General William Howe reportedly camped at Gray's Hill between August 30 and September 3, 1777. In the absence of specific maps of the encampment, the exact location of the Revolutionary War camp is unknown. Future archaeological investigations would be able to identify the encampment. National Park Service guidelines state that a property must have been extant at the time an event and be associated with that event. Furthermore, a property cannot eligible under Criterion A if its associations are speculative. Since the exact location of General Howe's camp is unknown and the Boulden House was not constructed until c. 1864, the property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A.

The persons most closely associated with the Charles L. Bolden House are those who owned and actively farmed the property after the dwelling's construction. Although the house is named for Charles L. Bolden, the owner who made the most noteworthy contributions to local history was Richard Thomas, who occupied the property between 1875 and 1880. Thomas served as sheriff of Cecil County between 1871 and 1873, crier of the Circuit Court of Cecil County between 1881 and 1892 and register of voters between 1887 and 1889.(64) Although Mr. Thomas was a prominent citizen of Elkton and involved in civic life, research has not been able to identify any significant contributions he made to local, state, regional or national history. During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, Gray's Hill was owned by the politically powerful and economically successful Gilpin and Partridge

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

MHT Comments:

*Jon Schmidt*  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services  
 Date: 9/23/14

*Eric R...*  
 Reviewer, National Register Program  
 Date: 9/23/14

families. However, their period of ownership predates the construction of the dwelling on the property. As a result, the Boulden House is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Boulden House exhibits the refined proportions, restrained ornament, and architectural details that are emblematic of the Greek Revival style. The dwelling features a low-pitched hipped roof, prominent one-story porch, symmetrical façade, multi-light and frieze windows, and an elaborate door surround. These elements mark the Boulden House as an excellent example of a late-period, Greek Revival style dwelling in Cecil County. The dwelling retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship, design, feeling, association, materials, location and setting. Modern materials such as the vinyl soffit applied to the underside of the cornice and asphalt shingles on the roof have been applied in a manner capable of being reversed and do not detract from the significant masonry, windows, and frame elements. Owing to their inconspicuous location on the north elevation of the addition of the rear ell, the modern windows do not detract from the significant elements of the Greek Revival architecture of the main block.

While Greek Revival dwellings continued to be built in rural outposts during the 1860s and 1870s, the aesthetic choice made by the Bouldens to build in the style at this time and at this location is quite curious. Hardly relegated to the hinterlands, the dwelling is situated on a conspicuous geographic rise above Elkton, located along the northeast corridor between Baltimore and Philadelphia where the latest styles were frequently adopted quickly. At a time when many residents would have erected dwellings in the more fashionable Gothic Revival style, the Boulden House stands out as a unique and significant anachronism. The Boulden House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a late-period example of the Greek Revival style in Cecil County.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this investigation.

The period of significance for the Boulden House is c. 1860 to c. 1870. The former being the approximate date of construction, while the latter represents the approximate conclusion of construction in the Greek Revival style.

The historic boundary for the property is congruent with the 19.64 acre tax parcel number 2239 as identified on Cecil County tax map 312.

(64). "Death of Mr. Richard Thomas." The Sun (1837-1988): 2 November 1892, 6.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1068

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Boulden House (preferred)  
other Graymount, Hill Farm, Thomas L. Kemp House

## 2. Location

street and number 129 Kemp Lane \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Elkton \_\_\_ vicinity  
county Cecil

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

name William R. Kemp, Thomas G. Kemp, Barbara Russell  
street and number 141 E. Main Street telephone  
city, town Elkton state MD zip code 21921

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Recorder of Deeds liber 1769 folio 347, etc.  
city, town Elkton tax map 312 tax parcel 2239 tax ID number 17281

## 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 at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>          </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>          </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>          </u> Total
		<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 type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>None</u>

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CE-1068

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Boulden House (CE-1068) at 135 Kemp Lane in Elkton, Cecil County is a three-story stone dwelling located south of the intersection of MD 273 and Muddy Lane. Oriented toward the south, the dwelling is situated at the center of a 19 acre parcel that is shaped as an irregular pentagon. Historically known as Graymount, the house was constructed at the apex of Gray's Hill. Along with Chestnut Hill and Iron Hill in Delaware, Gray's Hill is one of three prominent and geologically similar features that mark the southern end of the Piedmont and beginning of the coastal plain. The lot slopes gently in all directions from the 330-foot zenith of Gray's Hill, the highest point of which is approximately 150 feet west of the dwelling. The house is located in a clearing with overgrown shrubs planted along the base of the façade and east elevation. A variety of mature deciduous trees are planted around the boundary of the parcel. The property is accessed via MD 281 from the north via a narrow dirt track that leads to a broken pavement driveway. The driveway forks as it approaches the house, the northern fork terminates at the east elevation of an attached garage and the southern fork wraps around the south elevation of the dwelling.

The Department of Assessments and Taxation identifies 1784 as the date of construction. Documents in possession of the Cecil County Historical Society identify the date of construction as 1769. Research has not been able to verify these dates and it is believed these dates refer to a nearby farmhouse demolished during the 1950s. Careful study of the building's architecture and a close reading of property deeds and other historical documents indicate the dwelling was more likely constructed between 1864 and 1868 by Charles L. Boulden. The house was built in three sections, roughly arranged in the shape of an integral (J). The rectangular, hipped-roof main block constructed in the Greek Revival style and the rear ell attached at the eastern end of the north elevation were constructed during the 1860s. The one-story, uncoursed stone addition at the north gable-end of the rear ell was erected shortly afterwards. The asymmetrically gabled, two-bay garage attached to the east elevation of the addition was built during the middle of the twentieth century.

### Facade

The stucco-clad Boulden House is a three-story, hipped-roof, double-pile dwelling with a symmetrical three-bay façade that demonstrates the refined proportion and restrained ornament emblematic of the Greek Revival style. The primary entrance is a single-leaf, recessed-panel wood door fitted with a two-light wood storm door at center. Set atop a granite threshold, the entry is trimmed with a three-light, fixed transom and four-light over one-panel side lights. The entrance is sheltered by a portico adorned by a simple architrave, frieze and cornice and capped by a plain balustrade. Square columns perched atop a brick porch support the portico.

(See Continuation Sheet 7-1)

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CE-1068

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1860-1870 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** c. 1860

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Boulden House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a significant example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture in Cecil County. The dwelling exhibits the refined proportions, restrained ornament, and architectural details that are emblematic of the Greek Revival style. The character defining features of the property are the low-pitched roof, prominent one-story porch, symmetrical façade, multi-light and frieze windows, and an elaborate door surround. These elements mark the Boulden House as an excellent example of a late-period, Greek Revival dwelling in Cecil County. The house retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship, design, feeling, association, materials, location and setting.

The property on which the Boulden House stands boasts an extensive history. The land was originally granted to John Thomas (an ancestor of Charles' mother Ann Thomas Boulden) in 1724 as part of a patent for 356 acres called Matthias Hill.<sup>1</sup> However, before the patent could be recorded, Thomas's lands were seized on October 25, 1725 by the sheriff of Cecil County John Smith over a debt of eight pounds to a man named Griffith Nicholas.<sup>2</sup> One month later, a patent for the same land was reissued to Rees Jones.<sup>3</sup> When the ways and courses were surveyed, the patent was found to contain 256 acres rather than the previously recorded 356. Once again, the property changed ownership before the patent could be recorded. Rees Jones assigned the right to all his lands and property to Charles Delay.<sup>4</sup> In 1739, Delay sold the vacant property to John Gray. After the land was resurveyed the following year, John Gray assigned his own name to the property, which endures to this day: Gray's Hill.<sup>5</sup> The property remained in Gray's family through 1769 when his widow Martha and son John Gray conveyed the 256 acre parcel to Joseph Gilpin in two separate transactions.<sup>6</sup> The property remained part of the extensive land holdings of the extended Gilpin family for the next 80 years.

(See Continuation Sheet 8-1)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CE-1068

See Continuation Sheet 9-1

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 19.64  
Acreage of historical setting 19.64  
Quadrangle name Elkton

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic boundary for the property is congruent with the 19.64 acre tax parcel number 2239 as identified on Cecil County tax map 312.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Jon Schmidt, Consultant Senior Architectural Historian		
organization	MD SHA	date	August 18, 2014
street & number	707 N Calvert Street	telephone	410.545.2899
city or town	Baltimore	state	MD

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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

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Fenestration on the façade is regular and symmetrical and consists of six-over-six wood sash fitted with one-over-one vinyl storm windows at the first and second stories. Windows are trimmed with narrowly projecting wood sills. Trim surrounds are plain except for a narrow band of cyma recta at the outside edge. The façade is capped by a series of three-over-three wood sash frieze windows. These are trimmed identically to their first and second story counterparts and are also fitted with one-over-one, vinyl storm windows. All windows on the façade feature replacement, paneled wood shutters held into place by iron shutter dogs. The shutters are not hung correctly to be functional, nor are they properly sized. In vertical alignment with the exterior bays, the two windows at the basement level are fitted with iron grates.

The shallowly pitched, hipped roof is clad with asphalt shingles and features integrated gutters. The copper downspouts at either end of the façade lead to stone splash blocks connected to an underground drainage system. The elevation is capped by a plan box cornice. The underside of the soffit has been finished with modern vinyl. A balustrade at the peak of the hipped roof that was depicted in photographs taken in 1981 is no longer present.<sup>7</sup>

### West elevation

The six-bay west elevation consists of the Greek Revival main block (2 bays), the rear ell (3 bays), and the addition to the rear ell (1 bay). To ease understanding, each section will be described independently. Fenestration on the Greek Revival main block is regular, symmetrical and continues the pattern from to the façade. It consists of six-over-six wood sash fitted with one-over-one vinyl storm windows trimmed with narrowly projecting wood sills and replacement, paneled wood shutters. The frieze windows are three-over-three wood sash trimmed and fitted in the same manner. As on the south-facing facade, the basement windows are fitted with iron grates. An interior brick chimney rises from the center of the elevation.

The three-bay, side-gable, rear ell is recessed a distance of two bays from the main block's west elevation. The rear ell features a single-bay shed roof portico filling the corner between the rear ell's west elevation and the main block's north elevation. The porch foundation is a concrete pad topped by a course of decorative brick. The porch shelters an entry at the southern end of the elevation and the porch's northwest corner is supported by a single wooden post. The entry consists of a single leaf, one-light over three-panel, glass and wood door fitted with a two-light, metal storm door.

Fenestration on the rear ell is regular and asymmetrical and consists of six-over-six wood sash fitted with one-over-one vinyl storm windows. An indicator that the main block and rear ell were constructed at the same time, the windows of the rear ell feature identical muntins, trim and sills as those in the Greek Revival section. Windows are trimmed with narrowly projecting wood sills, broad plain

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# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

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surrounds featuring cyma recta molding at the outer edges, and fitted with replacement, paneled wood shutters held in place by iron shutter dogs. In a reflection of the interior floor plan, the second story windows are out of vertical alignment and slightly smaller than their first story counterparts. The shallowly pitched, side-gable roof features a broad, plain cornice and overhanging eaves finished with vinyl.

The one-bay, one-story, uncoursed stone addition is situated north of the two-story rear ell, continuing the line of its west elevation. The small addition features a side-gable roof with narrow overhanging eaves and a plain cornice. There are no openings on the west elevation. A former window opening has been enclosed with stone. This is the only section of the dwelling with exposed, unfinished stone. There is an old wellhead at the center of a brick patio situated directly north of the addition.

### North elevation

The telescoping north elevation is comprised of three planes: the rear of the three-story Greek Revival main block, the rear of the two-story rear ell, and the one-story rear of the addition to the rear ell. While the Greek Revival main block is three bays wide, the eastern bay of its north elevation is occupied by the rear ell, leaving the two west bays revealed. . As on the west and south elevations of the Greek Revival main block, fenestration is regular and symmetrical and consists of six-over-six wood sash fitted with one-over-one vinyl storm windows. Windows are trimmed with narrowly projecting wood sills and broad plain surrounds featuring cyma recta molding at the outer edges. All windows are fitted with replacement, paneled wood shutters held in place with iron shutter dogs. The three-over-three frieze windows feature one-over-one storm windows and are trimmed in the same manner. A basement window in the western bay is adorned with an ornamental iron grate. The roof and eaves of the Greek Revival section are consistent with the west and south elevations. The north elevation of the Greek Revival section has one entrance: a six-panel, wood door fitted with a two-light, wood storm door at the eastern end of the elevation, where it adjoins the rear ell. The entry features a cyma recta surround and is situated beneath the shed-roof portico between the two sections. The second story of the rear ell is finished with a smooth coat of stucco. The shallowly pitched roof features a cyma reversa raking cornice with open returns.

The northern-most plane is the north elevation of the addition to the rear ell. One story in height and stone-constructed, it is attached to a frame hyphen and garage described below. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical and consists of a modern ribbon of five one-light casement windows at the center of the addition. Each casement window is fitted with an eight-light muntin insert. The casement windows are capped by a five-light triangular window that sits beneath the gable peak. The roof features a narrowly overhanging raking cornice with closed cornice returns.

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Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

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### East elevation

The four-bay east elevation consists of the two-bay rear ell and two-bay Greek Revival section. Fenestration in the rear ell is regular and symmetrical and consists of six-over-six wood sash fitted with one-over-one vinyl storm windows. Trim includes narrowly projecting wood sills, broad surrounds featuring cyma recta molding at the outer edges, and paneled wood shutters held in place with iron shutter dogs. Along the base of the rear ell is a short concrete retaining wall is capped by a wire metal fence. This marks the location of a concrete stair to the basement beneath the Greek Revival section. The door was not visible for survey.

The Greek Revival section's fenestration is regular and symmetrical and consists of six-over-six wood sash fitted with one-over-one vinyl storm windows. Windows are trimmed with narrowly projecting wood sills and broad plain surrounds featuring cyma recta molding at the outer edges. All windows are fitted with replacement, paneled wood shutters held in place with iron shutter dogs. The three-over-three frieze windows feature one-over-one storm windows and are trimmed in the same manner. Basement windows are adorned with ornamental iron grates. The roof and eaves of the Greek Revival section are consistent with the south, west, and north elevations.

### Garage Addition and Hyphen

A mid-twentieth century, two-car garage is offset to the north of the rear ell, attached by a narrow, frame hyphen. The two-bay, side-gable hyphen is clad with whitewashed wood siding and is built on the partially exposed stone foundation of an earlier structure at this location. The north and south elevations of the hyphen feature nine-light over three-panel, glass and wood doors fitted with glass-and-wood storm doors. The doors are located at the western end of the elevations, where the hyphen adjoins the stone addition to the rear ell. The south elevation of the hyphen features an additional pair of four-over-four wood sash windows fitted with paneled wood shutters.

The two-bay, asymmetrical side-gable garage features two roll-up, vinyl garage doors centered on the east elevation. Iron pintles project from the wood surrounds, vestiges of the original wood doors that opened horizontally. The garage is built into a hill that slopes from west to east. The first story is finished with stucco and the area beneath the gable peak is finished with wood siding. The lone fenestration opening on the garage is a four-over-four wood sash window at the center of the south elevation fitted with paneled wood shutters. A concrete sidewalk along the base of the south elevation leads to the concrete steps along the east elevation of the rear ell.

### Outbuildings

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The lone remaining outbuilding on the property is a mid-twentieth century gambrel roof, frame barn situated approximately 50 yards northeast of the dwelling. Oriented toward the north, the barn is approximately 20 feet by 50 feet and features a variety of entries for people and animals. Previously used for storage, the building is severely smoke damaged from a recent fire. All windows and doors have been removed and several sections of wood siding are missing from the second story of the north elevation.

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Continuation Sheet

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The son of a miller, Pennsylvania-born Joseph Gilpin (1727 – 1790) expanded upon his father's trade and amassed considerable wealth during his lifetime. Prior to the Revolutionary War, Gilpin operated mills on Northeast River north of North East, Big Elk Creek north of Elkton, as well as another near Chestertown in Kent County.<sup>8</sup> In addition to his successful milling enterprise, Gilpin had an extensive career in public service, where he served as a Justice of the Peace in Cecil County (1764-1790), Delegate in the Colonial Maryland General Assembly (1770, 1773-1774, 1777), Justice of the Cecil County Orphan's Court (1777-1790), and a delegate from Cecil County to the Constitution Ratification convention in 1788.<sup>9</sup> As a testament to the prominence of the Gilpin family, Joseph's brother George Gilpin (1740-1813), a successful merchant in Alexandria and an aid to General Washington during the Philadelphia campaign, served as a pallbearer at George Washington's funeral.<sup>10</sup>

Situated at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, Elkton was a strategic shipping port during the Revolutionary War. Joseph Gilpin owned the two grist mills closest to Elkton at that time and held a contract to supply flour to the troops.<sup>11</sup> Conveniently, his brother Samuel Gilpin served as a wheat buyer for the Continental Army.<sup>12</sup> This relationship was undoubtedly profitable. The port of Elkton was protected by the Elk Battalion of the Maryland Militia, headed by Cecil County native Colonel Henry Hollingsworth, who also served as commissary general for the Eastern Shore during the war.<sup>13</sup> He was responsible for securing goods and provisions and shipping them to the Continental Army. The political and economic Gilpin-Hollingsworth connection lasted for several decades, but became familiar in 1797 when Joseph Gilpin's son John married Colonel Hollingsworth's daughter Mary.<sup>14</sup>

As just one property among the several mills and hundreds of acres owned by the Gilpin family, Gray's Hill was not selected for the family homestead. Rather, Joseph Gilpin resided in a stately, brick mansion south of his mill on Big Elk Creek.<sup>15</sup> Known as Gilpin Manor (CE-162), the dwelling still stands on Walnut Lane. It is not clear why Gilpin purchased the high ground located two miles southeast of his mill and 1.5 miles east of Elkton. Cleared of trees, Gray's Hill affords a striking view of the town and on a clear day, the head of Elk River.

Gray's Hill vantage point played a role in Elkton's brief Revolutionary War occupation by British troops under the command of General William Howe. On August 25, 1777, approximately 15,000 troops disembarked at Head of Elk, en route to Philadelphia, seat of the Continental Congress.<sup>16</sup> Legend has it that this endeavor was reconnoitered by General Washington and a group of American officers from the peak of Grey's Hill. British and German troops under the command of General Howe slowly moved northeast along the main road away from the landing. The British camped in the fields northwest of town during several days of rainy weather, reportedly rummaging for supplies and ransacking the Continental Army's stores in Elkton.<sup>17</sup> Howe sent two detachments of troops northeast, while he led another column of troops to Gray's Hill, where they camped between August 30 and September 3, 1777.<sup>18</sup> The

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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exact location of the Revolutionary War camp is unknown. On September 3, the British engaged the Americans at Cooch's Bridge in Delaware, one week prior to routing the Americans at the Battle of Brandywine and marching on Philadelphia, which they captured September 26, 1777.

After the death of Joseph Gilpin in 1790, John Gilpin inherited the milling business and several hundred acres, including Gray's Hill.<sup>19</sup> In 1794, he entered into a partnership with his future father-in-law Colonel Hollingsworth and brothers-in-law Paschall Hollingsworth and Francis Partridge. The collective formed the Cecil Manufacturing Company, reportedly the first to manufacture wool in Maryland.<sup>20</sup> After a devastating fire destroyed the mill in February 1796, Francis Partridge sold his share of the partnership to his brothers John and James Partridge.<sup>21</sup>

On June 1, 1800, John Partridge purchased the Hollingsworth House (Partridge Hill, CE-246) in Elkton along with 60 acres of land on Gray's Hill from the heirs of Joseph Gilpin, who by that time had been deceased for ten years.<sup>22</sup> Partridge married Mary Gilpin and remained a principal in the Cecil Manufacturing Company, which produced cloth fine enough to make Thomas Jefferson's inauguration suit.<sup>23</sup> After Colonel Hollingsworth died in 1803 and John Gilpin died at the age of 43 in 1808, the Cecil Manufacturing Company slowly dissolved. The mill's overseer left to open a competing mill at the next dam upstream, and the Maryland Gilpin family's involvement in the milling business waned. Cousins in Wilmington continued to mill paper on the Brandywine River through the middle of the nineteenth century.

Gray's Hill remained in the Partridge family through 1850. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> of that year John Partridge's nephews Francis E. Partridge and the Harvard educated James R. Partridge conveyed the now 58 acre tract to Thomas Boulden for \$1200.<sup>24</sup> The modest purchase price suggests the land remained unimproved. Furthermore, the dwelling is not present on Martenet's 1858 map of Cecil County. The oldest of ten children by Jesse Boulden (1774-1855) and Hannah Griffith (1782-1842), Thomas Boulden descended from two of Cecil County's oldest families and married into a third.<sup>25</sup> After marrying Ann Thomas (1803-1885) on January 13, 1829, during the ensuing decades Boulden methodically acquired the farmsteads and vacant lands along the Elkton and Christiana Turnpike (MD 281) near the Delaware border.<sup>26</sup> At the time of the 1850 census, Thomas Boulden reported real estate worth \$14,000, suggesting a vast portfolio.<sup>27</sup> At the age of 46, Thomas Boulden and his wife Ann (45) had five children: Mary (18), Theodore (17), Charles (16), Harriet (14), and William (8). He also housed an unrelated farm laborer named David Rossine (20).<sup>28</sup> Ten years later, Boulden valued his real estate at \$20,000 and personal wealth at \$2300. His household at this time included his wife Anne (57) and children Harriet (22) and William H. (18).<sup>29</sup> By this time Mary had married and moved away and Charles had evidently struck out on his own.<sup>30</sup> Thomas' oldest son Theodore died in the ten year interim between censuses. To make up for the change in his available labor, Boulden housed and employed three free black men as laborers: Ellis Pennington (25), John Miller (22), and James Freeman (12).<sup>31</sup>

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Thomas Boulden died October 11, 1860 at the relatively young age of 56. Although the details of his estate are unknown, his property was transferred to his widow and surviving children. As a 55 year old farmer's widow, Ann Boulden had few options to support herself financially. She moved in with her daughter Mary and son-in-law William P. Howard, an Elkton lumber merchant.<sup>32</sup> Sons Charles L. and William H. continued to farm and live on the 450-acre property assembled by their father. William H. Boulden resided on the 240 acre farm that straddled the Delaware and Maryland border, occupying the same house where his father lived at the time of his death.<sup>33</sup> By 1877, this property is owned by Boulden's brother-on-law William P. Howard. In 1864 and at the age of 26, Charles L. Boulden acquired the adjoining 216.25 acre "Hill Farm" from his father's estate for \$10,000.<sup>34</sup>

This price represents half of the value of Thomas' estate as reported in the 1860 census. Yet, the deed for William's farm indicates Thomas Boulden lived on the eastern portion of his property. Thomas may have been constructing the Greek Revival house as a retirement residence while his sons took over the family farm. As urban areas industrialized rapidly, the 1860s brought dynamic changes to the established social relationships between farm owners and farm laborers. At the cusp of the Perhaps the labor pool new technologies It is also possible that Thomas' estate oversaw the construction of the Greek Revival dwelling with the intention of selling it to Charles. Between 1864 and 1868, Boulden and his wife Laura took out \$8200 in mortgages to defray the costs of his purchase.<sup>35</sup> Unable to repay these debts, Boulden's farm was sold at auction to Richard Thomas on April 9, 1875.<sup>36</sup>

Greek Revival was the dominant style of American domestic architecture between 1830 and 1850, though examples can be found as early as the 1810s. The style's arrival on American shores is typically credited to the end of the War of 1812 and a desire for a more stringent break from British cultural influences.<sup>37</sup> Greece fought a war for independence between 1821 and 1832 that also aroused interest in the architecture of the culture that founded democracy. The style is also considered to be an outgrowth of the neoclassical architecture built in America after the Revolutionary War. Pattern and style books written by Benjamin Asher and William Strickland were influential in disseminating the Greek Revival style across the country.<sup>38</sup> After an extended period as the fashionable style, the decline of Greek Revival was gradual. Popular tastes and cultural influences shifted during the middle of the nineteenth century. The writings of Andrew Jackson Downing and ubiquitous works of Andrew Jackson Davis presaged the ascendancy of the Gothic Revival and Italianate movements in popular architecture.<sup>39</sup>

It is interesting that Gray's Hill was the subject of repeated financial troubles. During the middle of the nineteenth century, the parcel was surrounded by farms and summer retreats owned by several prominent Marylanders. The location of the house was undoubtedly, purposefully selected. In *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland* Christopher Weeks refers to a similarly perched manor house on the crest of a hill as situated upon "the choice of prospect."<sup>40</sup> Meaning, a piece of land sought after by the wealthy

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# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1068

Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

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keen on making a prominent display of the power or station. At this time, the house perched upon Grey's Hill would have offered expansive panoramic views to the south with Elkton in the middle distance and the Elk River and mouth of the Chesapeake Bay on the horizon. Other wealthy persons owning nearby parcels included United States Representative, Senator and Postmaster General John A.J. Creswell, who owned the farm to the southwest.<sup>41</sup> J.C. Groome, an attorney who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1857, owned the farm to the south.<sup>42</sup> James McIntire, a respected farmer, and trustee of the Elkton Presbyterian Church owned the property to the west.<sup>43</sup> Henry Hollingsworth Gilpin and later William Ricketts Gilpin owned the farmBoul on the north side of the Elkton and Christiana Turnpike.<sup>44</sup> Indeed, historic maps indicate that during the middle of the nineteenth century, Kemp Lane functioned as a public road that connected these properties with the road from Elkton to Christiana and the road from Elkton to Glasgow, DE. At the end of the nineteenth century, the old road was truncated when Delancey Road was constructed to the east.<sup>45</sup>

Richard Thomas (1819 – 1892) emigrated from England in 1842 and worked in the canal boat and lumber business in Port Deposit. Familiar with the politically connected Jacob Tome, Thomas was elected and served as sheriff of Cecil County between 1871 and 1873.<sup>46</sup> In order to afford his acquisition of Gray's Hill and its assumed debt, Richard Thomas took out a \$2500 mortgage from Mary Hollingsworth, an agent for the National Bank of Elkton.<sup>47</sup> Thomas defaulted on this mortgage in less than five years and in 1880 the property was again subject to a sheriff's sale. The highest bidder was the Port Deposit Homestead Association (PDHA), organized by Jacob Tome for the improvement of the town.<sup>48</sup> In 1882 the organization conveyed the property to Hannah D. Wilson, the wife of Elkton lawyer John E. Wilson.<sup>49</sup> The Wilsons resided at Gray's Hill through 1901, selling off 60 acres at the eastern end of the property to John J. Williams in 1887.<sup>50</sup>

A variety of property owners occupied Gray's Hill during the twentieth century. After Hannah Wilson's death in 1901, her estate conveyed the 151-acre Gray's Hill property to Louis O.I. Atwood (1862 – 1939) for \$2500.<sup>51</sup> Atwood was born in Brooklyn, NY and worked as a carpenter.<sup>52</sup> In 1906, Atwood re-acquired the 60-acre tract adjoining Gray's Hill at a sheriff's sale.<sup>53</sup> One year later, in an attempt to protect his property from his creditors, he placed his farm in a trust and conveyed it to Elkton banker George A. Blake.<sup>54</sup> In 1908, Blake sold the property to Louis's oldest son Daniel Atwood (1886 – 1976).<sup>55</sup> When the younger Atwood, also a carpenter, could no longer make payments on the property's two mortgages, he too lost the farm property at a sheriff's sale. In 1915, the two mortgages on the property were assigned to E. Kirk Brown and Charles P. Bartley, who conveyed Gray's Hill to John B. Delancey and his wife Mary.<sup>56</sup> The Delanceys owned Gray's Hill through 1935 when it was conveyed to William Edward Hayes.<sup>57</sup> Although he resided on Gray's Hill for just five years, Hayes occupation is notable in that he published three mystery novels during that period: *The Black Doll* (1936), *Before the Cock Crowed: Death Answered the Call of the Crowing Cock* (1937), and *The Black Chronicle* (1938).<sup>58</sup> Of the three, *The Black Doll* was the most successful and reached four printings.

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# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1068

Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

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Hayes moved to New York in 1940 and conveyed the now 129-acre Gray's Hill property to Frank and Louise Kohut.<sup>59</sup> The attached garage was likely constructed while the Kohuts owned the property. The property was acquired by William G. Kemp and his wife Margaret in 1966.<sup>60</sup> Kemp was a decorated World War II veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit for heroism by General William J. Donovan. He was an expert in sabotage and demolition.<sup>61</sup> As a member of the Office of Strategic Services (forerunner to the CIA), he parachuted behind German lines in Africa and France, where he worked with the French underground.<sup>62</sup> After the war Kemp attended George Washington University and was admitted to the Maryland State Bar in 1952. He established a general law practice in Elkton, which he maintained until his retirement in 1996. William Kemp died October 21, 2005. His wife of 53 years passed away two weeks later at the age of 79.<sup>63</sup> Gray's Hill and the Boulden House have remained in the Kemp family since that time and are currently owned by William's children Thomas G. Kemp, Barbara K. Russell, and William R. Kemp.

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# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1068

Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

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<sup>4</sup> Matthias Hills. Rees Jones to Charles Delay. 22 April 1726. Cecil County Recorder of Deeds. Liber EJ 5 Folio 542. [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net). Accessed 25 July 2014.

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Jordan, John W. Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania: Genealogical and personal memoirs, Vol. 1. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978, 608.

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<sup>15</sup> Bourne, Michael. Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory Form. CE-196: Gilpin Manor. [www.mdihp.net](http://www.mdihp.net). Accessed August 8, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> Johnston, George. History of Cecil County. Baltimore: Regional Publishing, 1967, 332.

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Maryland Inventory of  
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1068

Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 334.

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Inventory No. CE-1068

Boulden House  
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Number 9 Page 3

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- <sup>38</sup> Ibid., 180.
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Boulden House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4

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August 2014.

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# Cultural Resources Map



Boulden House (CE-1068)  
 135 Kemp Lane  
 USGS Elkton Topo Quad

August 15, 2014  
 1:24,000

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet



# Cultural Resources Map



Boulden House (CE-1068)

Boulden House (CE-1068)  
135 Kemp Lane  
Tax Map 312, Tax Parcel 2239  
USGS Elkton Topo Quad

August 15, 2014  
1:24,000

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet



**Maryland State Highway Administration  
Cultural Resources Section  
Photo Log**

**Project No.:** CE449A21

**Project Name:** MD 281 at Muddy Lane Roundabout

**MIHP No.:** CE-1068

**MIHP Name:** Boulden House

**County:** Cecil

**Photographer:** Jon Schmidt

**Date:** February 12, 2014

**Ink and Paper Combination:** Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

**CD/DVD:** Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

<b>Image File Name</b>	<b>Description of View</b>
CE-1068_2014-2-12_001.tif	View of the south-facing façade and east elevation of the Boulden House, looking northwest.
CE-1068_2014-2-12_002.tif	View of the façade, looking north.
CE-1068_2014-2-12_003.tif	View of the west elevation of the Greek Revival section, looking northeast.
CE-1068_2014-2-12_004.tif	View of the west elevation of the rear ell, looking east.
CE-1068_2014-2-12_005.tif	View of the north elevation, looking south.
CE-1068_2014-2-12_006.tif	View of the south and east elevations of the attached garage, looking northwest.
CE-1068_2014-2-12_007.tif	View from the driveway of the house and small, gambrel roof barn, looking southwest.



CE-1068

BOULDEN HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY, MD

Photographed by JON SCHMIST

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHA

VIEW OF THE SOUTH-FACING FACADE AND EAST ELEVATION  
OF THE BOULDEN HOUSE, LOOKING NORTHWEST

CE-1068\_2014-2-12\_01.TIF

1 OF 7



CE-1068

BOULDEN HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JON SCHMIDT

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHA

VIEW OF THE FACADE, LOOKING NORTH

CE-1068-2014-2-12\_02.TIF

2 of 7



CE-1068

BOULDEN HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JON SCHMIDT

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHA

VIEW OF THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE GREEK  
REVIVAL SECTION, LOOKING NORTHEAST.

CE-1068-2014-2-12\_03.TIF

3 of 7



CE-1068

BOULDEN HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY

PHOTO BY JON SCHMIDT

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

DIGITAL FILE AT SHAA

VIEW OF THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE REAR  
ELL, LOOKING EAST.

CE-1068\_2014-2-12\_04.TIF

4 of 7



CE-1068

BOULDING HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY

PHOTO BY: JON SCHMIDT

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

DIGITAL FILE AT MDSHA

VIEW OF THE NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH,

CE-1068\_2014-2-12\_05.TIF

5 of 7



CE-1068

BOULDEN HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY

PHOTO BY JON SCHMIDT

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

DIGITAL FILE AT MDSHA

VIEW OF THE SOUTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS OF  
THE ATTACHED GARAGE, LOOKING NORTHWEST.

CE-1068\_2014-2-12\_06.TIF

6 OF 7



CE-1068

BOULDEN HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY

PHOTO BY JON SCHMIDT

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

DIGITAL FILE AT MD SHA

VIEW FROM THE DRIVEWAY OF THE HOUSE AND  
SMALL, GAMBREL ROOF BARN, LOOKING  
SOUTH WEST.

CE-1068\_2014-2-12-07.TIF

7 of 7

CE - 1068  
Thomas-Kemp House  
Near Elkton  
Private

C. 1850-1870

A uniform coat of stucco and extensive interior alterations have completely removed any hint of an 18th century house within these walls. The major portions of this stuccoed masonry three story hip roofed house speak of the mid 19th century, and whether or not an 18th century house is somewhere to be found remains purely speculative, without major investigation. For mid 19th century standards, Richard Thomas owned an impressive house on Gray's Hill along with 216 acres.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 0810685504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CE-1068

File 3-115

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Gray's Hill Thomas-Kemp House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East of Elkton south of East Main extended

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William G. Kemp

Telephone #: 398-4048

STREET & NUMBER

135 Kemp Lane

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21921

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: WAS 362

Folio #: 867

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CE-1068

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CE-1068

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**

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

11/02/81

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-0200

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

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

11. TO MD. 273  
HILL 2.6 MI.

NEWARK, DEL. 5.7 MI  
0.7 MI TO MD. 316

5863 III NE  
(NEWARK WEST)

50'

429

431

47'30"



Gilpin Cem

High Sch

George Washington  
Carver Sch

ELKTON

CREEK

Grays Hill  
1068

Elkton  
Reservoir  
180

Armory

Union  
Hospital

Courthouse

Cem

Holly  
Hall

Drive-in  
Theater

BM  
80

Crouch  
Chapel

ELKTON MD - DEL  
QUAD

DELAWARE  
MARYLAND

NEW CASTLE CO  
CECIL CO

BM  
103

94

80

80

60

60

60

60

60

60

60

72

80

80

Elkton  
adding

enchtown



CE-1068

THOMAS - KEMP HOUSE

SOUTH ELEV.

NR ELKTON

6/86 PBT

NEL. / MD. HIST TRUST