

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CE-863

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

File # 845

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Ray House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1/2 mile south of Pilettown crossroads

CITY, TOWN

Pilettown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

x VICINITY OF

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

L. E. Ray

Telephone #: 378-3889

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Conowingo

x VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21918

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: WAS 233

Folio #: 651

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CE-863

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

The Ray House c. 1877-1900 is a 2 story frame house located on Old Conowingo Road just south of the Pilot Town Crossroads. The structure has a north/south orientation with the main facade facing east.

The frame structure is larger than the others on the street. It is 3 bays across by one room deep. There is a 2 story ell addition, 2 bays across by 1 room deep, off the west side of the main block. There are shed addition attached to both. Inside walls of the ell shape.

The entire structure rests on an uncoursed stone foundation. The exterior weatherboards have been covered with aluminum and the medium sloped roof with tin. A stretcher bond brick stack is centrally located.

The east (main) facade is three bays across with the central opening as the entrance. The early door has been replaced. The fenestration is symmetrical with 6/6 sash remaining. The trim is plain with slightly extended lintels. The ~~soffit~~ <sup>eaves</sup> is closed but <sup>soffit</sup> sloped.

The south gable end has two 6/6 sash on each floor and 2 four pane windows that illuminate the attic. The eaves are extended with sloped and closed soffits. A small gabled cellar entrance is located between the two first floor windows.

The north end is identical in detailing except for no entry. The 2 bay addition extends from the main block. Window treatment along with other detailing remains the same.

The west side consists of the gable end of the ell and closed in shed roof addition extending off the south side of the ell. The shed additions have block foundation and are most likely 20th century additions.

Entrance was not permitted in this case and not particularly important since the house would not have much out of the ordinary late 19th century woodwork.

A single story gabled board and batten outbuilding is located behind the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

CE-863

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ray House is more significant than its immediate neighbors in that it varies from the normal 2 bay by one room form. The house is larger and offers a needed variation in late 19th century form. Although altered the house does retain its 19th century character.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Verbal boundary description of the property to be inventoried. This area is bounded by the following: [faded text]

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Teuart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

7/25/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-7568

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

## Pilot Town

CE- 840, 842, 843, 844, 845 (log house), 846, 847 (school no. 3), 848, 849 (store), 850, 851, 852, 853 (Johnson Victorian), 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863.

Pilot Town owes its existence to two primary reasons: The first is the 19th Century mining activity in the area and the second is the shift of the Susquehanna crossing from the Bald Friar ferry to the town of Conowingo. The road from Pennsylvania to the Bald Friar ferry passed west of the present Pilot Town crossroads. It is obvious that this route predated any other southerly route in the vicinity especially since the earlier farms and houses are oriented to it. St. Patrick's Church (CE-834), Pembroke Farm (CE-836), Moore-Love log house (CE-845), and the Fulton-Alexander House (CE-841) all date from before the mid 19th Century and stand near or next to the earlier route. Due to the treacherous descent to the ferry and easier access at Conowingo a covered bridge was built across the Susquehanna at Conowingo, which eclipsed activity at Bald Friar. With the construction of a bridge at Conowingo a more direct southerly route from Pennsylvania was needed, which necessitated an easterly shift in travel. It amounted to a difference of a few hundred yards but was enough to form an intersection with the east/west Mount Pleasant road. Continued interest in the mining of feldspar, soapstone, and gravel in the mid 19th Century brought more development and change. Pilot Town was a definite result of these two factors and the mid to late 19th Century housing that exists today is ample evidence for this occurrence. Pilot Town supported a local market till the early 20th Century (CE-849) and its own school (CE-847) till about the same time.

The houses that make up Pilot Town are traditional two<sup>story</sup> frame structures that one sees throughout Cecil County. (see CE-840, CE-842, CE-844, CE-846,

Pilot Town

2

CE-848, CE-851, CE-852, CE-853, CE-854, CE-855, CE-856, CE-857, CE-858, CE-859, CE-860, CE-861, CE-862, CE-863) The structures are basically

plain straightforward buildings that are typical houses for workers in a mining area. This is not to say that the previous agricultural life of area was replaced by the mines. The farming community continued as it had since the late 18th Century but now alongside mining operations that brought Irish immigrants in the early 19th Century.





Ray House

CE-863

EAST ELEVATION

NR

PILLOT TOWN, MD.

PBT 6/78

NEG. / no. INST. MUST



RAY HOUSE

CE-863

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

NK

PILOTTOWN, MD.

PST 6/28

NEG. / M.D. HIST. TRUST



CE-863

RAY HOUSE  
EAST ELEV. OF OUTBUILDING

NEAR  
PLOT TOWN, MD.

PBT 6/78

NEG / M.D. HIST. TRUST