

**Elgin's Store**  
**CH-710**  
**Cobb Island**  
**Private**

**Circa 1925**

Elgin's Store is one of Cobb Island's earliest structures and the Island's earliest example of commercial architecture. In 1925 Charles Elgin and his wife Lottie built a cottage on Oakley Avenue and in the following year constructed a small store to the north. The storehouse was operated by the Elgin family for 15-20 years and housed the Island's first post office. Marked by its simplicity, the structure is rectangular in form with a shallow pitched roof and exposed rafters. Local accounts associate this store with the sale of bootleg whiskey and local moonshine during Prohibition.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-710

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

historic Elgin's Store

other

### 2. Location

street and number Corner of Oakley Drive and Main Avenue not for publication

city, town Cobb Island vicinity

county Charles

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

name Harold F. Pierce

street and number 13209 Main Avenue telephone Unknown

city, town Cobb Island state MD zip code 20625-0340

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 90 p.5, lt169

city, town LaPlata liber 2979 folio 579

### 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	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	2	Total
		<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 type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-710

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### Condition

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" 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.

Elgin's Store, erected around 1925, is a one-story, front gable structure with an enclosed hipped roof porch. The original frame structure stands at the corner of Main Avenue and Oakley Drive near the heart of Cobb Island's earliest settlement. Marked by its simplicity, the structure is rectangular in form with a shallow pitched roof and exposed rafters. A exterior brick chimney is attached to the east eave wall. 2/2 windows are found on the main block.

The store is currently attached to a later frame cottage which in itself was built in at least two stages. Originally, the store was associated with the cottage to the south. This simple, relatively unaltered, three-bay cottage is defined by its overall side-gable orientation broken by a single dormer on the principal facade. The structure includes German siding, 5-panel doors, exposed rafters, and some original 2/2 windows. This was the home occupied by the Elgin family who ran the corner store to the north.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-710

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 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 checked="" 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** 1925-1940

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** Circa 1925

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.)

Elgin Store is one of Cobb Island's earliest structures and the Island's earliest surviving example of commercial architecture. In 1925 Charles Elgin and his wife Lottie built a cottage on Oakley Avenue and in the following year constructed a small store to the north which was operated by the Elgin family for 15-20 years. Elgin's store housed the first post office on the Island.

Cobb Island, long regarded as a peninsula rather than an island, was part of the acreage associated with Pine Grove (CH-703) for much of the 19th century. The first home was established in 1889, with the construction of the Vickers House. In 1918, the entire island was purchased by Robert Crain of nearby Mt. Victoria. Quickly, Crain organized the Cobb Island Development Company with F. B. Bannister & Company as agents. By 1922, surveyors had laid out small narrow building lots and intersecting roads under the direction of civil engineer, Edmund P. Russell of Washington. The first bridge to the island, connecting Bridge Drive to Chigger City was completed in 1923. Within a few years over 80 homes had been built, serving a summer population of between 500 and 700 people.

Elgin's Store has been associated with Cobb Island's locally infamous moonshine and bootlegging activity during Prohibition in the 1930's. A local history published in 1989 quotes resident, James Jenkins, Sr. who remembers Elgin's Store as a place where he and his family would produce bottle and sell "home brew". Jenkins also recounts that the store sold other local moonshine as well as bootleg whiskey from Baltimore. (1)

### ENDNOTES

(1) Hickling, Lee. An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island. Ambrell Press, Cobb Island, MD. 1989. p. 60.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-710

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property N/A

Acreage of historical setting N/A

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Elgin's Store is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 90, Parcel 5. Lot 169 & 170.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Dept.

date 9/17/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

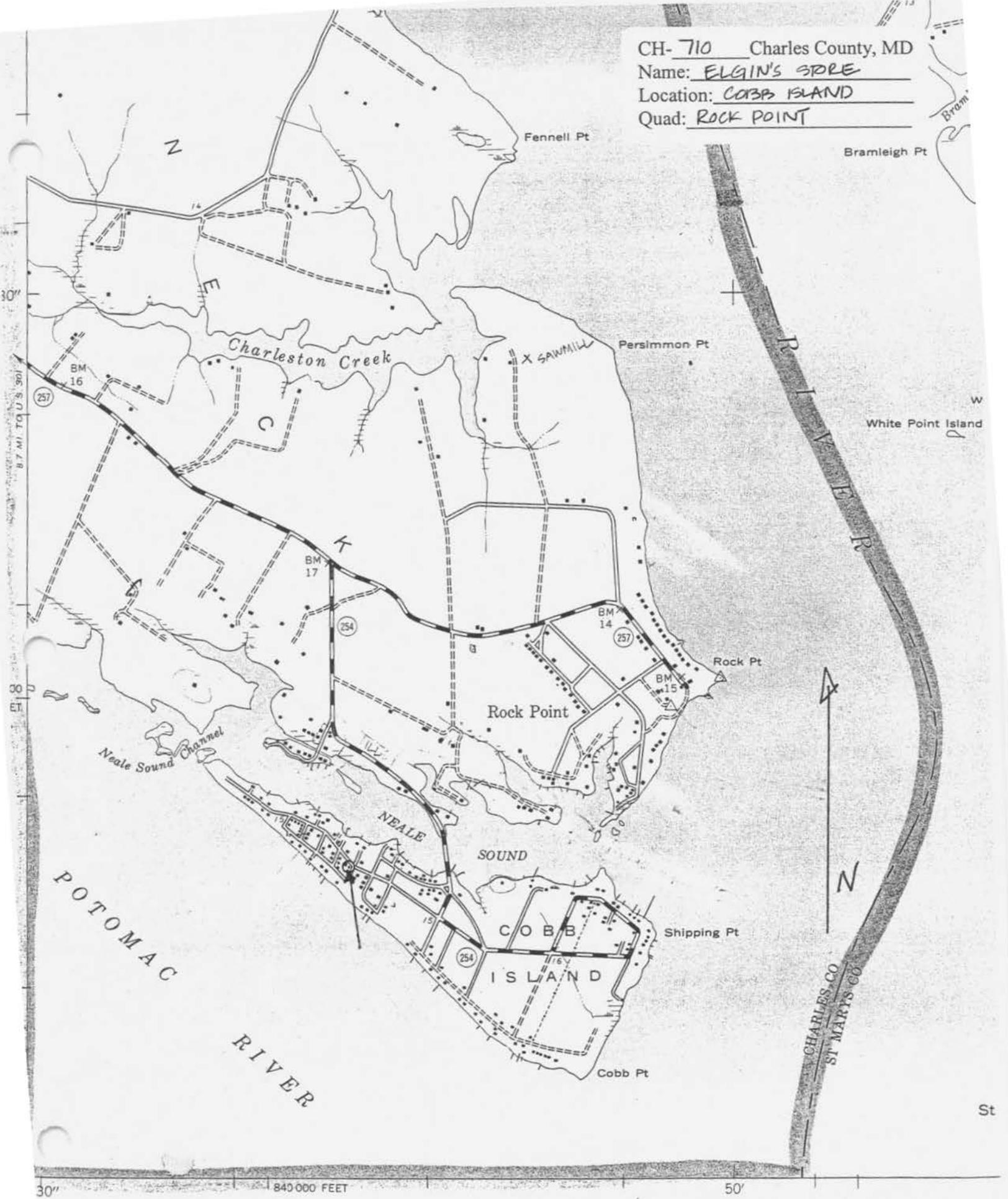
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

CH-710 Charles County, MD  
 Name: ELGIN'S SPRE  
 Location: COBB ISLAND  
 Quad: ROCK POINT



Approved by the Army Map Service  
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS





CH-710  
ELGIN'S STORE  
CHARLES CO, MD  
C. CURREY  
7/2001  
MD SHPO  
1 OF 2



CH-710  
ELGIN'S STORE  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. CURREY

7/2001

MD SAPO

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