

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Gray Gables

and or common Scriven - Stokes House

2. Location

street & number 4528 Conowingo Road N/A not for publication

city, town Darlington  vicinity of First Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Harford code 025

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. George B. Scriven

street & number 413 Hollen Road

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21212

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Bel Air state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: residential

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Gray Gables is an intact 1880s shingle-sided Queen Anne style frame house, two and a half stories high with steeply pitched multiple roofs, a large entrance porch, half timbering in the facade and gable, projecting bays, and an asymmetrical floor plan which includes a large entrance hall with built-in bookcases, symmetrical molding which retains an early if not original finish, and elaborate mantel pieces in the hall and dining room. The house is sited on the north side of the road some distance back and reached by a drive that loops to the east of the house. Included on the property and contributing to its character are an 1880s two and a half story frame barn and an early twentieth-century two-story frame garage. A noncontributing 1960s one-story frame garden shed stands north of the barn.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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Gray Gables

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Gray Gables, an 1880s shingled Queen Anne style frame house, is located on the north side of Conowingo Road, U. S. Route 1, west of Darlington in northeast Harford County. The house is situated back some distance from the road and is surrounded by lawn with cultivated fields beyond. The terrain slopes gently from the road and sharply behind the house. The ancillary buildings stand to the north and northeast of the house.

The house is a Queen Anne influenced frame structure with an irregular plan, projecting bays, steeply pitched multiple gables, and covered with wooden shingles. A wide porch with chamfered square posts, segmental arches, and a projecting gable runs along the southeast corner portions. The south gable and the porch gable have half-timbering decoration. The wooden shingles covering the sides are arranged in a stagger-butt pattern. The roof and its multiple slopes are covered with slate shingles. The building sits on a random ashlar foundation.

The principal windows are rectangular with double-hung wooden sashes and louvered exterior shutters. Each of these has two lights in the bottom sash. The upper sashes on the first and second floors have nine lights with a large rectangular center light. The top sash of the attic level windows have sixteen to twenty-five lights depending on the elevation. Many of the windows are arranged in groups of two and three, such as those of the south and west gables and the first floor hall. A group of six square side-hinged windows, each with nine lights matching the upper sashes of the principal windows, are arranged vertically in pairs in the projecting stair bay. The window in the triangular shaped dormer in the principal facade (south) and the shed-roofed dormer on the top floor of the back also have the side-hinged windows. The gable-roofed second story dormer on the back (north) has casement windows of eight lights each.

The roofline is pierced by two interior brick chimneystacks. The largest, and in cross-form, is located at the intersection of the south (front) and the east gables near the center of the house. The other chimney which appears as a single stack rises from the back between the back gable and the shed-roof dormer. Both chimneys have brick capping and belts. Porches with steeply pitched gable roofs project from the west and north elevations. These porches are smaller than the front porch and have wooden shingles in a feather pattern in the gables.

Each story is generally delineated by a simulated overhang formed by a slight concave curving of the shingles with simple molding below. The front or south gable projects from the wall line with a scroll bracket on the west end and the projecting stair bay on the east end by the porch. Heavily molded trim supports the stair bay and the bay projecting from the second floor of the west elevation.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

A shed roof addition, approximately six feet deep and one story high, was built on the east side in 1972 when the dining room was enlarged. This addition has a rubble stone foundation, stagger-butt shingles that are similar but not identical to the original shingles, and an original pair of double-hung windows. This addition was built in a manner to compromise very little the overall character of the house and setting.

On the interior, the rooms are arranged in an irregular pattern. The first floor consists of three principal formal rooms, a large squarish entrance hall or sitting room in the southeast corner, a large rectangular dining room to the north, and a rectangular parlor to the west. A wide passageway, now lined with a closet and a bathroom, leads off the entrance hall along the north wall of the parlor and opens into another passage, parallel but narrower, that contains the back staircase that goes from the basement to the second floor. Behind this passageway and along the west wall of the dining room is the kitchen. The dining room is reached through a small pantry. The main staircase stands in the southwest corner of the entrance hall along the east wall of the parlor in a projecting bay. This staircase is dogleg in form and connects only the first and second stories.

On the second floor, the room arrangement consists of three bed rooms corresponding to the location of the principal rooms on the first floor, with a central passage that runs north/south. A bath room, a large closet, and a storage room under the eave of the back roof are located over the kitchen. The third or top floor has a large room on the west side (now partitioned into two spaces) and smaller rooms in each of the other gables. The third floor is reached by an open staircase along the west side of the second floor hall behind the front room.

The interior decorative detailing consists primarily of symmetrical moldings with mitered joints on the first and second floors; flat trim with an interior bead and plain corner blocks on the third floor; plain baseboards with molded crown and toe pieces and plain baseblocks at the doorways. The principal interior doors on the first floor have seven raised panels (six vertical and one horizontal). Those on the second and third floors have four raised vertical panels with a narrow horizontal panel of reeding. The main entranceway has a Dutch door with eight raised panels (four small horizontals and two large verticals).

The principal rooms of the first and second floors have fireplaces with wooden mantelpieces. The most elaborate one is in the entrance hall or room which has a paneled frieze, attenuated scrolled side pieces, a shelf with a

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

molded edge, and a mirrored over mantel piece with shelves. The fire box has an iron liner on the back and sides with a large, raised fleur-de-lis motif in alternating rows. The other fireplace openings are lined with brick. The dining room mantel has a strong horizontal feel created by two wide columns of raised square and rectangular panels that flank the firebox. The mantel shelf has a molded edge shelf supported by a wide molding with five symmetrically arranged convex consoles that give the image of clasping the molding. The mantels in the parlor and the bedrooms have attenuated side pieces with simple friezes, and molded edge shelves.

Other decorative features of the interior are built-in bookcases flanking the three windows in the east wall of the entrance hall and creating a window box effect with a connecting shelf along the window sill; the staircase balustrades with turned balusters and square newels with round finials; and iron hot water radiators with an 1883 patent date that consist of rows of horizontal tubes flanked by rectangular blocks and topped with a decorative grill. A series of horizontal heating pipes line the wall of the backstair on the first floor. The second floor bathroom contains a sink and tub installed about 1916. A corner sink from about the same period is located in the first floor wide passage way behind the door into the entrance hall.

The landing of the main staircase has a strong feel of light and air created by the high ceiling height and the vertical column of four pairs of rectangular windows facing south. A series of closets and storage space which were a part of the original design are found in the bedrooms, under the main staircase, and under the eaves on the second and third floors. Walls throughout the house are plastered. The house contains no decorative plaster work or floor patterns. The second floor bathroom walls are covered with narrow vertical wood strips.

Standing to the northeast of the house is an 1880s two and a half story gable roofed barn with German siding and shed-roof open air stall. The building stands on a stone foundation and has six-over-six, double-hung wooden sash windows. A two story gable roofed garage from the first quarter of the twentieth century stands closer to the house to the north. It has clapboard siding and one-over-one double-hung sash windows. A 1960s period one story frame garden shed stands north of the barn.

Gray Gables has a high level of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association with the late nineteenth century when the house was built and the first third of the twentieth century when electrical and plumbing modifications were made for the grandparents of the present owner. In 1972 the present owner and her husband had the dining room enlarged with an addition to the east end. In this addition, existing woodwork and windows were used and some new woodwork was milled to replicate the original, apparently only for the baseboard. A seam in the floor marks the addition.

# 8. Significance

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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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** circa 1885 ~~Builder~~ Architect Walter Cope, architect (Philadelphia)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: C  
 Applicable exceptions: none  
 Significance evaluated: local

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

Gray Gables is an 1880s shingle sided frame house of modest scale that is significant in Maryland as an important example of the Queen Anne style house that was popular in this country in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The major factors that set Gray Gables apart from other examples in the state are the rural location of the house and the high level of integrity of its original character. In general, the Queen Anne house expressed in the full character found in Gray Gables was built in urban and suburban areas, rarely in rural settings as northeastern Harford County. Among the features that characterize these buildings and prominent in Gray Gables include an asymmetrical plan and massing, multiple roof lines, a variety of surface textures such as shingles and half-timbering, multi-paned windows, bay windows, and small scale woodwork. Gray Gables also has the characteristic floor plan that includes a large entrance hall that no longer functions merely as a passage way or stair hall but also became a living space that is the precursor of the mid-twentieth century living room; a formal parlor set off to one side indicating its use for formal functions; and a dining room which opens off the large entrance hall and served as an extension of this living space. The house also acquires significance as an intact example of the early work of Walter Cope (1860-1902), a principal in one of Philadelphia's most important and prestigious firms, Cope and Stewardson, at the turn of the century. Although Cope and the firm after his death designed other buildings in the Darlington, Harford County area, Gray Gables is the most intact example of the houses.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 4

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**HISTORY AND SUPPORT:**

By tradition, Gray Gables was built in 1884 for the son of Henry Smith who owned a papermill in the Darlington Area. No Smith, however, is recorded in the land records as owning the property, at least in the early period. In 1885, the first parcel of the property was purchased by Helen Stokes for whom the house may have been built. Stokes purchased the property from Jane E. Mason. The Stokes attribution is based on the fact that the architect was a member of the Stokes family. The architect was Walter Cope (1860-1902), a principal in one of Philadelphia's most important and prestigious firms at the turn of the century. He was born in Philadelphia, the son of Thomas P. and Elizabeth Waln (Stokes) Cope. Following graduation from Friend's School in Germantown, Cope entered the offices of Addison Hutton, where he spent six months. He then spent two years training in the office of Theophilus Parsons Chandler, and in 1883 attended classes at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In 1884 he traveled to England and France, spending approximately 14 months sketching. By July, 1885, he was back in the United States and had set up the firm of Cope and Stewardson with John Stewardson. They were joined by Stewardson's younger brother Emlen L. Stewardson in 1887. Following the elder Stewardson's death in 1896, Cope continued the firm with Emlen Stewardson. Cope and the firm of Cope and Stewardson designed several buildings in the Darlington area including houses, institutional buildings, and a church. Of the known houses, approximately four, Gray Gables remains the most intact.<sup>1</sup>

The present owner's grandfather, James W. Wilson, purchased the property in 1916. Wilson, a retired merchant, installed electricity and modernized the bathroom. The present owner and her husband enlarged the dining room in 1972. Mrs. Scriven gave a preservation easement on the property to the Maryland Historical Trust in 1985.

Footnote

1. Cope biographical data from Tatman, see bibliography

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Chain of Title  
Harford County Land Records

- 1885, 2 April Book A.L.J. #54, p. 411  
grantor: Jane L. Mason, etc.  
grantee: Helen Stokes
- 1891, 1 April Book J.L.J. #69, p. 428  
grantor: Charles A. McGan, Sheriff  
grantee: James M. Stokes
- 1900, 10 December Book W.S.F. #100, p. 471  
grantor: James M. Stokes & Anna D. (wife)  
grantee: Mary E. Bayless (spinster)
- 1916 26 September Book J.A.R. #153, p. 92  
grantor: Mary B. Massey and James R. Massey  
grantee: James W. Wilson

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Continuation sheet Gray House Harford County, Maryland Item number 10 and 9 Page

10. BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries are drawn to include both the immediate designed landscaped area surrounding the house and outbuildings and the cultivated fields that border this area on the west and north that contribute to the sense of the historic rural setting. Conowingo Road (US Route 1) runs along the south border. The next parcel west contains another Cope designed house, though much altered. At some point in history, the occupants of these houses were related with the intervening land then a part of that parcel. To the north is a stand of trees that forms a visual barrier. Along the east side is a defined shrub and tree line that has been in place for almost a century.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Harford County Land Records, Courthouse, Bel Air, MD.

Tatman, Sandra L. and Roger W. Moss. Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects: 1700-1930. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1985, "Walter Cope," pp. 165-170.

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory: Harford County (HA-310), 1970; Jean S. Ewing, surveyor.

10. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary is delineated on the attached scaled map and described in Harford County Land Records as follows: Liber J.A.R. No. 153, folio 292; Liber G.R.G. No. 761, folio 429; and Liber G.R.G. No. 710, folio 478.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 7

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 14.5 acres

Quadrangle name Conowingo Dam, MD-PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 8	3 9 5 4 2 0	4 3 8 9 9 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 1 8	3 9 5 3 0 0	4 3 8 9 6 1 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	3 9 5 1 1 0	4 3 8 9 6 8 0
---	-----	-------------	---------------

D	1 8	3 9 5 2 0 0	4 3 8 9 9 4 0
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E			
---	--	--	--

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheets No. 7

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald L. Andrews, National Register Administrator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date 1985

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. Smith* 2-24-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

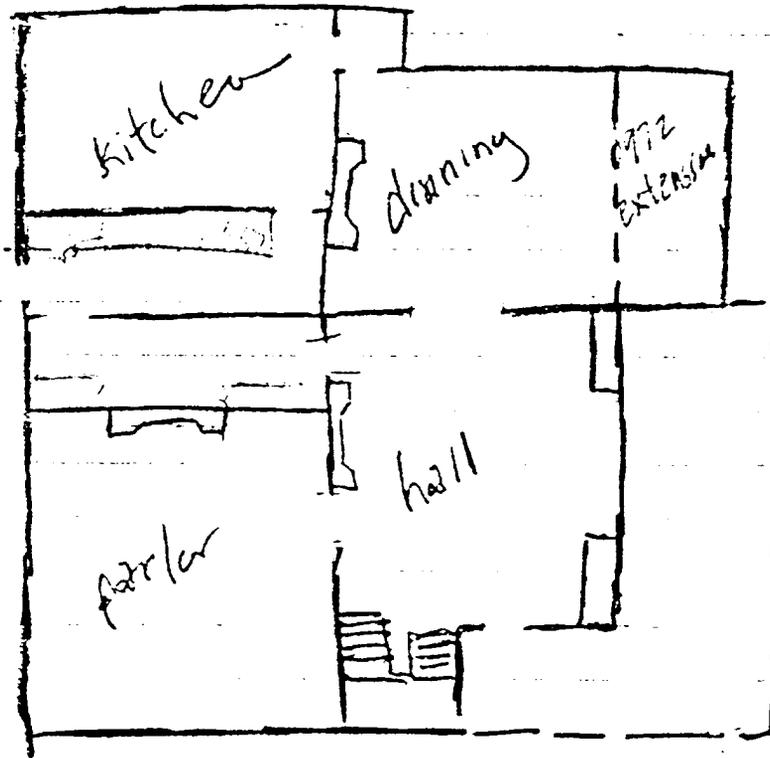
Attest:

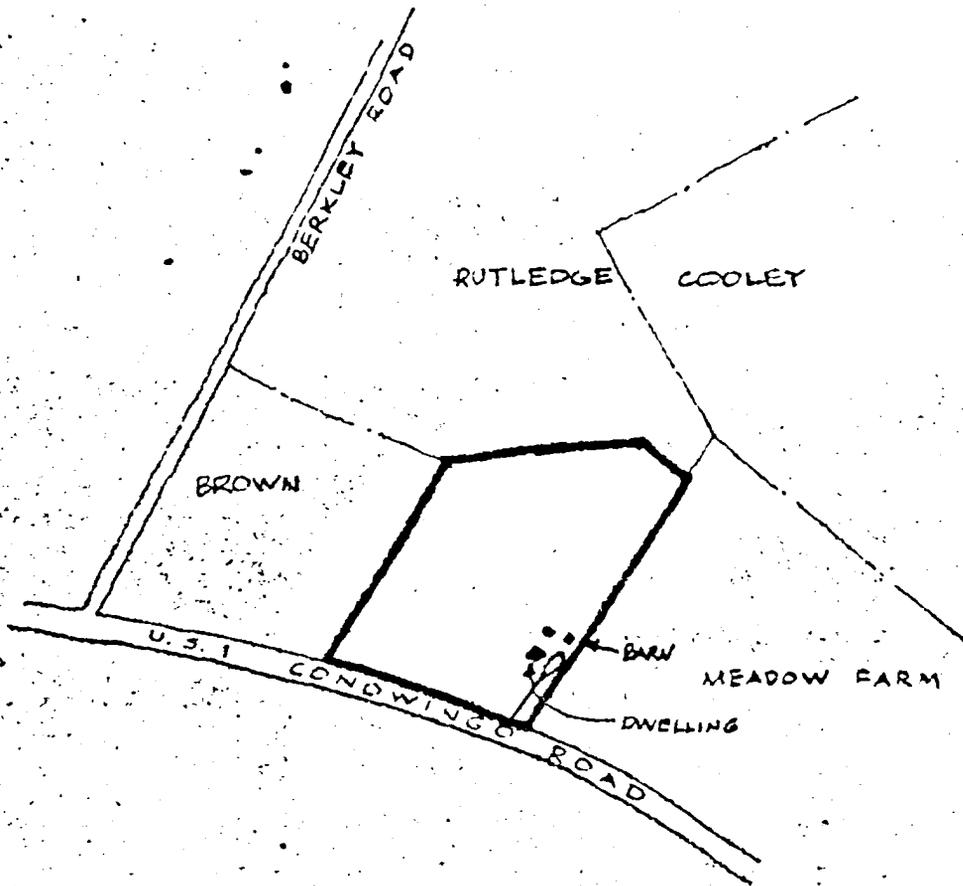
date

Chief of Registration

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first floor plan, not to scale





NORTH



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GRAY GABLES

Harford County, Maryland

boundary and sketch map, 1986  
scale 1:600

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GRAY GABLES  
HARFORD COUNTY  
MARYLAND

A: 1B-395420-4389980

B: 1B-395300-4389660

C: 1B-395110-4389680

D: 1B-395200-4389940

