

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-893

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common James Gray house

2. Location

street & number Rich Neck Road not for publication

city, town Claiborne vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Talbot

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Philip and Carolee Kennedy

street & number Rich Neck Road telephone no.: 745-5863

city, town Claiborne state and zip code MD 21624

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 569

street & number folio 70

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-893

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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The James Gray house is located on the west side of Rich Neck Road in Claiborne, Talbot County, Maryland. It is the third house to the north of the intersection of Rich Neck Road and Talbot Street. The house faces east with the principle gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The Gray house is a two-story frame structure dating from the late 1890s with a T-shaped footprint. The exterior is sheathed in dark brown wood shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation consists of brick piers which are now infilled with brick and sealed with cement.

The east (main) elevation consists of three bays. The northern most bay is a two-story, projecting gable end wing lit on the first and second floors by one two-over-two sash window with white, louvered shutters. The gable is finished with boxed cornice returns and is lit by one one-over-one sash window. The remaining two bays of the house's first floor consist of a central entrance door and a one-over-one sash window, both of which are obscured behind a screened porch with turned supports. The door has a central light and two panels above and below, like that of The Bungalow. The second floor is lit by two one-over-one sash windows with white louvered shutters. An interior brick chimney rises from the center of the house.

The south elevation is a gable end lit by one two-over-two sash window with white louvered shutters on the first and second floors. The gable is lit by one one-over-one sash window and finished with cornice returns. The south side of the eastern projecting wing is pierced with one one-over-one sash window on both the first and second floors. The second floor window has white, louvered shutters.

The west elevation has a two-story, gable end projection as its northern most bay. This wing is lit by one two-over-two sash window on the first and second floors, and at the attic level. A one story, gable roof addition was added to this wing in the 1950s and sits next to a large cement pad once used as a patio. The main body of the house has a four-panel door opening onto a shed roof porch constructed in the 1940s. The second story of the house is lit by two two-over-two sash windows.

8. Significance

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

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The James Gray house appears on the 1902 Atlas of Maryland. Gray worked as a freight man with the B.C.&A. Railroad and had this house built there once he was stationed in Claiborne. Some time before 1912 the Claiborne Post Office building sat in a lot to the south of the Gray house. Mr. Gray had built this building for his daughter, Virginia Gray Brown, who had been appointed postmistress. A white gate marks the former walkway to the building which was later moved to serve as the Claiborne Church's kitchen on Talbot Street. The lot to the north of the house was once the site of a large vegetable garden and fruit trees, of which one plum tree survives today.

Following ownership by the Gray family, the property went to the Truitts who were related by marriage, and then to the current owner. One peculiar, and no longer valid, stipulation of the original deed was that the property was not to be sold to anyone of African descent.

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John Gray house Description cont'd.

The north elevation is lit by two two-over-two sash windows with white, louvered shutters on the first and second floors.

There are two outbuildings on the property including one rectangular, asbestos shingle shed built in the 1950s, and one long and narrow shed of white wainscoating with a tin roof. Attached to the wooden shed is a small structure of wide weatherboard with a tin roof. The outhouse which once stood on the property at the end of a stepping stone trail was removed when the house received interior plumbing in the 1950s.



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JAMES GRAY HOUSE

SE ELEVATION