

NITLD STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Old Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast corner of Talbot and Mulberry Sts. (401)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

St. Michaels

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Talbot

041

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Lanham

Telephone: (301) 745-5231

STREET & NUMBER

401 South Talbot Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

St. Michaels

VICINITY OF

Maryland 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Easton

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-257

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 Old Inn is located on the southeast corner of South Talbot Street and Mulberry Street in St. Michaels. It is a large brick structure, four bays wide and two-and-one-half stories high, with flush brick chimneys centered at each end of a pitched gable roof. A two-story porch stretches across the entire front facade, and three pitched roof dormer windows are symmetrically ranged across the roof.

Numerous additions have been made to the original building. Most significant of these is a small brick wing on the south gable. It is two bays wide and a full two stories high on the front facade, but has a pitched shed roof that slopes back to the rear, so the second floor is actually a small loft with limited head room.

The main building dates to the early 19th century, and the brick wing appears to have been added in the second quarter of the 19th century. It has been suggested that the brick wing may pre-date the main building, but architectural evidence clearly demonstrates that this is not the case, and although the wing could have been built at the same time as the larger structure, the brick walls of the two sections are not bonded together, indicating the wing was added later.

Much of the rear facade of both sections is now covered by a series of frame additions. These include a two-story rear ell that projects from the north portion of the main building, a one-story addition adjoining the south wall of the ell, and a two-part, one-story addition that projects from the rear wall of the brick wing. The rear ell probably dates to the latter half of the 19th century, while the remaining additions are all more recent and of no architectural significance.

The front facade of the original building, facing South Talbot Street, is particularly distinctive because of the two-story porch. This is an original feature of the building, as it is set back under the main roof and the north brick gable originally extended out and enclosed the north end of the porch. In the late 19th century, the first floor portion of this wall was removed, leaving the wall intact on the second floor supported by a heavy wooden brace. This modification opened up the first floor front facade to the sidewalk, allowing pedestrian traffic to pass under the porch, and undoubtedly enhanced the building from a commercial point of view.

The fenestration pattern on the first floor of the street facade is ideally suited for commercial purposes. There are two doors, one in the extreme north bay and a second in the third bay from the north, with large nine-over-six windows in the second and fourth bays. Both door openings are original, and feature slate sills,

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Description (continued)

large raised panel doors, paneled soffits and jambs, and transoms. The transom above the north door is plain, divided into four lights, but the south door has decorative fretwork muntins typical of the Federal period.

The window in the second bay, to the right of the north door, was at one time enlarged, probably to form a large shop window. It has been returned to its original size, however, as demonstrated by the original splayed jack arch above the opening. Original cellar window openings remain on either side of the south door, and these retain early wooden frames with vertical diamond section wooden bars.

On the second floor, there is a single door in the third bay from the north, allowing access onto the second floor porch. The windows are all six-over-six. The dormer windows have arched upper sash, with decorative muntins typical of the Federal period.

The north gable faces Town Dock Street and features a pair of windows on each floor, flanking the flush chimney. The first floor windows were probably originally nine-over-six, but the openings have been enlarged to accommodate large eighteen-over-twelve shop windows. The second floor windows are six-over-six; the third floor windows are four-over-two. A bulkhead entrance fitted with a raised panel door has been cut in to the left of the chimney, replacing an original bulkhead entrance on both the front and rear facades.

On the south gable, the brick wing covers most of the first floor. On the second floor a pair of six-over-six windows flank the chimney, and two four-over-two windows are similarly placed in the upper gable.

Originally the rear facade was completely exposed, though protected by a two-story porch similar to the front porch. Later additions have left a single nine-over-six window exposed in the south bay on the first floor and two six-over-six windows on the second floor. The south dormer window remains, but the north dormer was removed to accommodate the roof of the late 19th century rear ell.

The brickwork consists of Flemish bond on a five-course bond foundation on the front facade and the north gable, while the rear facade and south gable are laid entirely in five-course bond. The roof is asphalt shingle, but evidence remains of early if not original roofing, which consisted of square-butt cedar shingles with six-inch exposure. The cornice is relatively simple, with a complex crown

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Description (continued)

mold applied to a plain fascia; the rakeboards are tapered and beaded. Both the front and rear porches remain relatively intact, with delicate turned posts on the second floor and simple balustrades with square section balusters set into a plain bottom rail and a simple molded top rail. The first floor supports have been replaced on the front facade, but one early square-section post with chamfered edges remains on the rear. Scrolled Victorian brackets have been added on either side of the posts, and a similar bracket adds refinement to the heavy brace which supports the front portion of the north gable wall.

The interior on the first floor is laid out in a central hall plan, with a single parlor on either side of the central stair hall. The somewhat larger size of the north parlor, the exterior door in the street facade, and the very handsome mantel suggest this served more of a commercial function, while the hall and south parlour are down played. The rear wall of the north parlor has been opened up, expanding the room into the later rear ell, and the north windows have been enlarged. The mantel, both the interior and exterior doors, and much of the trim remains original, while the baseboard and chairrail appear to date to later alterations.

The stair hall has undergone few changes of consequence. The stair rises along the north wall to a landing at the rear, then turns and ascends to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with turned newels, a molded and ramped railing, and square section balusters. The stair ends are embellished with delicately scrolled console brackets. The space below the carriage has been covered in recent years with modern paneling, which probably conceals a single large triangular raised panel. A door below the landing leads to the cellar stairs. Both front and rear exterior doors are original and have very bold raised panels on the exterior face and diagonal boards nailed and clenched to the interior face. The center stile on the exterior face of the rear door has a beaded groove down the center to give the appearance of a double door, and the original frame remains with paneled soffits and jambs.

The south parlor is relatively small, with a fireplace centered on the gable wall and an original door to the left of the fireplace which now leads to the small brick wing. The mantel in the room is typical of the Federal period, with delicate pilasters applied to a board surround and tall thin sideblocks supporting a molded shelf. The

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pilasters and sideblocks are embellished with fine reeded panels, and a sawtooth dentil course dominates the molding below the shelf. The original door and window architraves remain, and the baseboard and chairrail have survived, but the fascia board of the chairrail has been covered by modern paneling.

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor. A door leads from the west end of the hall out onto the porch, and the stair rises along the north wall to a landing at the rear, then turns and ascends to the third floor. The railing, newels, and balusters are identical to those on the first floor, but the step ends are left plain.

The north chamber is larger than the south chamber, and the rear wall has been opened up into the second floor of the rear ell. The fireplace on the center of the north gable wall has been fitted with a modern iron stove, but the original Federal mantel remains. This is a relatively ornate surround with reeded pilasters and sideblocks, a large center block with an oval panel of horizontal reeding, and a complex molded shelf that breaks forward above each of the blocks. All of the original trim has survived, including door and window surrounds, a molded baseboard, and a two-piece chairrail with a molded fascia below the shelf.

The south chamber is smaller, but is bright and airy, with large windows in all three exterior walls. The original mantel and all of the trim has also survived in this room. This mantel is almost identical to the mantel in the south room on the first floor, with only slight variation in the reeding and the moldings.

The third floor plan has been modified in this century to form a separate apartment. The south chamber remains intact, but the west end of the hall has been partitioned to accommodate a modern bathroom, and the north chamber has been partitioned to form a small entry hall, a bedroom, and a kitchen. There is a fireplace on the north gable wall with a very plain Federal mantel, while the south chamber bears no evidence of either a fireplace or a stove flue. The original door surrounds remain, as well as the beaded baseboard and a simple chairrail. The dormer windows have arched plaster soffits, and the edges of the dormer niches are trimmed with beaded boards. Two small paneled doors are located in the knee walls of each facade. These are hung on wrought H-L hinges and allow access to the eaves. A trap door in

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Description (continued)

the ceiling of the bathroom leads to the crawl space above the collar beams.

The roof is of common rafter construction, set at a pitch ranging from 40 to 43 degrees. The rafters are secured at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints and rest on flat false plates. Each rafter pair is reinforced with a collar beam that is half-lapped and nailed. The nails appear to be machine-made with hand-struck heads.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick partition that corresponds to the north wall of the first floor hall. The door that connects these two rooms has apparently been cut through, and evidence of bulkhead entrances serving both rooms suggests that they were not originally connected.

The south room clearly served as a kitchen, as there is a large fireplace on the south gable wall with eyebolts set into the firebox to hold an iron cooking crane. Seams in the rear wall of this room suggest that there was a bulkhead entrance that opened into the rear yard. Framing evidence below the first floor stairs demonstrates that the present cellar stairs replace an original stair that was much steeper.

The north room probably served as a separate storeroom, with a bulkhead entrance on the west or street facade. The north chimney base has an arched recess but no fireplace. The present bulkhead entrance to the right of the fireplace (on the north gable) has been cut in, replacing the bricked-up entrance on the front facade.

The small brick wing on the south gable is set back 5½ feet from the front facade of the main building. The street facade is two bays wide and two stories high, with a door in the left bay and a six-over-six window in the right bay on the first floor and two six-over-six windows on the second floor. The roof is somewhat unusual, consisting of a pitched leanto or shed roof, sloping to the rear at a 25-degree pitch. A flush chimney rises at the center of the south gable, and a small window is located to the right of the chimney on the second floor. The rear wall has been completely covered by later additions. The brickwork is laid in five-course bond and is not keyed into the main house. The roof is asphalt shingle, and the eaves are finished with plain fascia boards.

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Description (continued)

The interior of the wing consists of a single room on the first floor and a loft with a low, sloping ceiling on the second floor. The first floor has been completely renovated. A modern fireplace has been constructed on the south gable wall, and a large doorway in the rear wall opens up into the rear addition. The ceiling joists have been exposed, and a steep ladder-stair constructed to provide access to the loft. This last feature probably corresponds to the original stair, as the opening is original, and an early balustrade remains on the second floor.

The second floor remains relatively intact, except for repairs to the chimney and the installation of a fiber board ceiling. Beaded baseboard encircles the second floor loft, and a simple chairrail, window surrounds, and a section of beaded picture rail or coat rail remain. The original wide floor boards are secured with wrought T-head nails.

The frame additions to the rear of the building are all late 19th or 20th century and have little architectural significance.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1816 and later BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Inn is a unique combination of form and plan in the architectural history of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Its use as an inn is documented to the mid-19th century, and its floor plans suggest it was used as such from its construction circa 1816.

In overall form, the Old Inn is atypical of Tidewater building tradition. Both the four-bay fenestration and the original two-story porches on both facades are features found only in scattered examples on this part of the Shore. This particular example may be unique to this area, however, as it is the only recorded example in which the north gable wall is carried across the ends of the porches. This is a relatively common feature in the counties of Western Maryland, as is the four-bay facade, suggesting the possibility of some tie with that area on the part of the builder.

The central hall plan is also of interest. While the side hall, double parlor plan is far more common in Federal townhouses, the central hall plan is found on occasion. This particular example, however, appears to be adapted to serve both residential and commercial purposes. The north parlor on the ground floor is noticeably larger than the south parlor and is served by a separate exterior door on the street facade. This seems to suggest a commercial function for this room, while the rest of the house could have served as either a private residence, or could be readily utilized as an inn or similar public place. The apparent separation of the cellar into a kitchen and a storeroom with no cross access seems to reinforce this conclusion, particularly since the storeroom entrance was on the street facade, while the kitchen entrance was on the rear facade.

The interior of the building retains virtually all of the original trim, including five handsome Federal mantels.

Also of interest is the small brick wing on the south gable. This was apparently added at an early date, and according to documentary evidence, was used at one time as a shop. The most unusual feature of this wing is the original leanto pitch of the roof. This is a relatively unusual feature, but is evidently related to a similar wing on the nearby Cannonball House (T-61). The interior has been renovated on the first

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Significance (continued)

floor, leaving only a few samples of original trim. The ceiling joists are now exposed, although nail holes indicate it was originally plastered. The loft remains almost entirely intact, with all of the trim in place, as well as the early floorboards and chimney stack.

HISTORY

In July of 1816, Wrightson Jones bought three fourths of Lot 21 and all of Lots 22 and 23, as laid out on the plat of the town of St. Michaels, situated on the southeast corner of Talbot and Mulberry Streets. This had been part of a tract called "The Pertagon." Jones paid \$250.00 to Samuel Tennant for this land (34/425, 1816). James Braddock, a factor for a Liverpool firm, had purchased nearly a hundred acres in about 1776, principally from the Hopkins family, with smaller additions from Jeremiah Banning and John Dorgan. He laid out this part of the town in neat, numbered lots which were eagerly bought up by rich planters in the area.

Wrightson Jones presumably built the Old Inn on his lots soon after his purchase of 1816. He was married in St. Michaels in 1808 to Elizabeth Harrington. Little else is known of him. He was presumably a shipwright, and must have prospered to be able to build this fine building. He lived at "Beverly" also, a Spencer home on Broad Creek nearby (52/88, 1834). Among his land purchases was one at the foot of Mulberry, on the water side of Water Street, which had likewise been a Spencer property. Colonel Perry Spencer and Henry Spencer were shipbuilders of considerable reknown. Henry Spencer is credited with building the "Enterprise," a Naval vessel of great accomplishments.

In 1853 the eldest son, also Wrightson Jones, acquired this brick house from the other heirs of his father, who had died in 1834 without a will(65/127, 1853). He was occupying the house at the time and was running a drug store in the little wing. The following year, 1854, he and his wife Mary (Denny) took out a \$1,500.00 mortgage on the property, but this debt and others were more than he could handle and he left the house and storehouse in the rear to be disposed of by his brother James (65/428, 1854).

Complainants forced a public sale in 1855 to settle their claims, and Hugh Marshall, at \$2,100.00, was the high bidder. Unfortunately, Clement Clark, the then Sheriff, seems to have pocketed the money from

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History (continued)

the sale. He failed to pay off the creditors, and he failed to give Hugh Marshall a valid deed to the property. Marshall died in 1863 and Clark had also died when the erstwhile creditors, in 1867, again claimed the property (Chancery records 12/415, 1876). The appointed trustees again sold the lot known as The Hotel Property to Denny Williams (81/426, 1875). Thus it would seem that the Marshalls had run an inn of sorts here.

Denny Williams, by the terms of his will (Will 15/215), left the house to his daughter, Willie, now the wife of George Tarr. After her death, to arrive at a fair distribution of her estate, the house was sold to Clifton Hope and William D. J. Morris for \$1,000.00 (147/59, 1905). Other owners followed in fairly rapid succession, such as Joseph Caulk (185/393), Ludwig Eglseider (188/219, 1921), Vida Van Lennep and David Stockwell (259/147), Harry Baldwin (275/153, 1947), and H. Eyler Jones of Springfield, Vermont (290/580, 1951). During the latter part of these tenures the house was again converted to an eating place under the leasehold of "Longfellow's."

In 1954 Mrs. Catherine W. Tarbutton bought the place to use as a residence (316/337). Elmer Jackson, Jr. was the next owner in 1975 (491/297). Now, in 1979, it is in the sympathetic hands of James O. Lanham and his wife, Nina, who are planning extensive restoration work.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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Talbot County Courthouse, Easton, Md. Land and probate records, chancery records, marriage records.  
 Talbot County Free Library, Md. Room, Easton, Md. Census of 1783, Census of 1798, Church records (compiled by J. C. Mullikin).  
 Harper, Anna Ellis. History of St. Michaels Parish. Privately printed, 1956.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 120 X 60

QUADRANGLE NAME St. Michael's Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,9,3,7,3,0	4,2,9,3,2,7,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Talbot and Mulberry Streets, following Mulberry Street east 120 feet, then moving south 60 feet, then west 120 feet to Talbot Street, then north along Talbot Street 60 feet to the point of beginning, containing 7,200 square feet. (Talbot County Deed 526/564).

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM PREPARED BY**

njm

NAME/TITLE Orlando Ridout V, Architectural Historian;  
Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust; DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Talbot County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust 2/6/79

STREET & NUMBER c/o 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis, STATE Maryland 21401

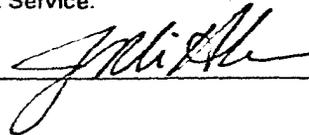
**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL X

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



1-11-80

TITLE

DATE

**FDR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION