

S M -288

JOHN MEDLEY HOUSE  
Beachville  
Private

circa 1900

This attractive, unpainted frame house has an L shape. The two-story principal block in front is three bays in length, one room in depth and has an A roof with a cross gable in which a small Roman-arched window is centered. The floor plan consists of a side passage with one room downstairs and two upstairs. The 1 1/2-story extension in back has one room on both floors. Its northern length and one gable end of the principal block are sheltered by a colonnaded shed porch. The house was built as the family residence of Johnny Medley at the turn of the 20th century on land inherited from his father, Richard Medley, one of the founders of the black community in Beachville. It shows more attention to architectural designs popular in that period than do most houses in the community. It is now abandoned.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC JOHN MEDLEY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER South Side of St. Inigoes Rd., c. 250 yds. East of Jct. of St. Inigoes Rd & Grayson Rd.

CITY, TOWN St. Inigoes  VICINITY OF Beachville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

STATE Md. COUNTY St. Mary's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Abandoned

NAME Charles Medley

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Beachville

CITY, TOWN St. Inigoes  VICINITY OF STATE, zip code 20684

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #: JMM 6

COURTHOUSE, St. Mary's County Courthouse Folio #: 48  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Leonardtown STATE Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE NONE

DATE  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

according to Mr. Carroll.

The plan of the principal block is single parlor, side passage. The door leads to the open stairway, that is highlighted by a heavy turned newel post. The interior walls are lathed and plastered. The molded trim around the windows and doors inside and outside, along with the gable pediment with arc window reveal the stylistic aspirations <sup>of</sup> fo this family.

The house was probably built at the same time as Charles Medley house, c. 1890's, according to Mr. Carroll. The design and structural materials tend to confirm this.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

SM-288

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

Like the house built as the residence for Charles Medley (STMA-287), this house of his brother John is abandoned, its grounds overgrown, and the house is gradually rotting away. The two are located near one another, on land inherited by each brother from their father, Richard <sup>Medley</sup> (STMA-289).

This house faces east, and is oriented perpendicular to the dirt drive that leads through abandoned fields from the St. Inigoes Rd. Like the Charles Medley House, this dwelling consists of a principal block with an <sup>L</sup> extending from the rear length. Its principal block is three bays in length, with two windows of 6x6 lights on the north side of the front door. Above the door and northern window are matching windows illuminating each room upstairs. The roof line is accented by a cross gable pediment with an arc window of 6 lights.

Like the home of Charles Medley, this skeleton of a house is balloon frame and is sheathed with weatherboards that were probably painted white or whitewashed, as were most of the landowners' houses in this community, according to George S. Carroll (STMA-283), an oral informant. From the northern side of the rear length extends a two story <sup>L</sup> of one bay. The northern length of it was sheltered by a broad porch that is now sagging dangerously. The downstairs of the <sup>L</sup> served as the kitchen, and the upstairs as the sleeping quarters for the boys, as was the traditional arrangement

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1890's      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Charles Medley and Family

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is representative of one of the types of houses that black landowners built and occupied in the late 19th century. The plan as well as its construction materials (balloon frame) were commonly used by middle income farmers throughout Maryland during that period, and indicated the entry of this family into that social class.

It would be interesting to know if the arc window, molded trim, and other decorative features were ordered from a catalogue specifically for this house, <sup>OR</sup> if they were purchased from the nearest store and used because that was all that was available (see Stuckey House, Chas-328). No information sources <sup>for</sup> fro this house, however, could be found. At any rate, these features do reflect the increase in decoration made possible for middle income houses by the advances in manufacturing, marketing, and transportation in the last quarter of the 19th century.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History &amp; Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

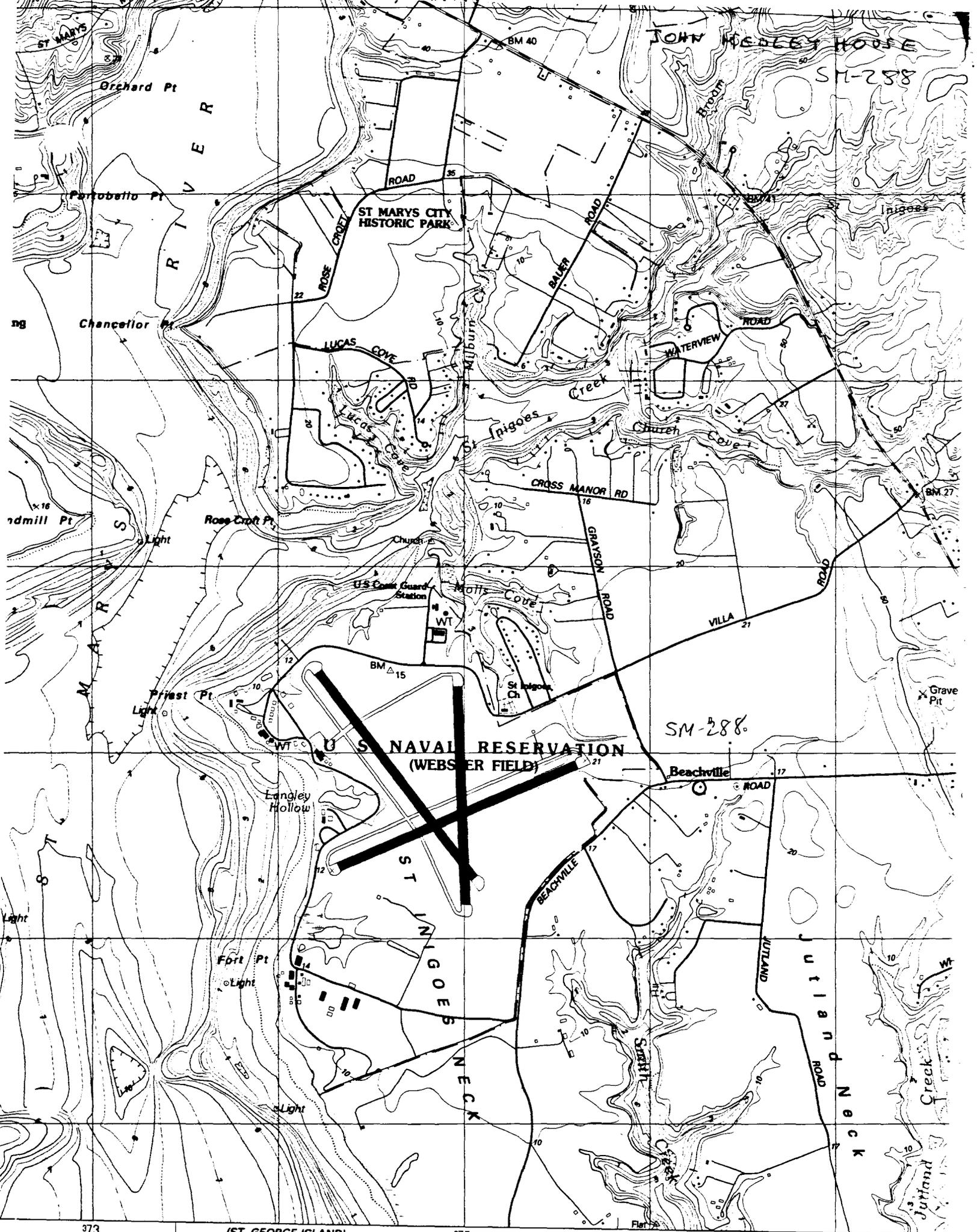
Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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



ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK

U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION  
(WEBER FIELD)

ST IGNACE  
NECK

JOHN HEDLEY HOUSE

SM-288

SM-288



John Medley House

STMA 288

St. Inigoes - Beachville

SOUTH VIEW

GWM - 4/77



John Medley House

STMA 288

St. Inigoes (Beachville)

WEST VIEW

GWM - 4/77



CREDIT TO  
GEORGE W. McDANIEL

STMA - 281

East facade - Elevation  
St. Inigoes (Beachville)

J. L. N. MEEDEY House

STMA - 281

GWM - 4/77

RECEIVED  
10/1