

S M -289  
RICHARD MEDLEY HOUSE  
Beachville  
Private

circa 1890

Though modernization has altered the appearance of this frame house, its original design is still apparent. With a two-story, A-roof principal block and a 1 1/2-story kitchen attached to a gable end, its original size and design are identical to those of most other houses of the black watermen/landowning farmers who settled in the area known as Gum Landing in Beachville near the turn of the 20th century. This house was probably built circa 1890 on the land Richard Medley purchased at that time. He was the first Negro known to have bought and cleared land in Gum Landing, and after him came the Carrolls, Butlers, Coles, Smallwoods and other black families.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE RICHARD MEDLEY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER St. Inigoes Rd. south side of St. Inigoes Rd., 200 yards west of Jct. Grayson Rd. and St. Inigoes Rd

CITY, TOWN St. Inigoes CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

STATE Md. VICINITY OF Beachville COUNTY St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

Table with 4 columns: CATEGORY, OWNERSHIP, STATUS, PRESENT USE. Includes options like DISTRICT, BUILDING(S), STRUCTURE, SITE, OBJECT, PUBLIC ACQUISITION, ACCESSIBLE, AGRICULTURE, MUSEUM, PARK, PRIVATE RESIDENCE, RELIGIOUS, SCIENTIFIC, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Earl Welch Telephone #: 872-5972

STREET & NUMBER Star Route

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

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse Liber #: J.F.F. 11 Folio #: 502

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 type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

According to George S. Carroll (STMA-283), this one and a half story, balloon frame house was originally built and designed in similar fashion to the other houses of black farmers/watermen in Beachville. It consisted of a principal block of three bays arranged with bilateral symmetry, with a one story kitchen attached to the west gable end. The house faces north, towards St. Inigoes Rd. A short distance behind it is Gum Landing, where the boats of the Beachville watermen were harbored. See aerial photographs of this community <sup>(in slide collection, STMA-283)</sup> taken in the 1950's by the U.S. Navy.

In recent years, a small screen porch has been added along the facade of the principal block, and the kitchen raised almost a half story. A story and a half has been added to the east side of the rear length, and later a one story room was joined to the L and back length of the original house, filling in the L and making a rectangle. Thus, the amount of living space has been doubled in recent years, separating household activities and creating more privacy.

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 Richard Medley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to George S. Carroll, this house was the home of Richard Medley, one of the most prominent of the black farmers/watermen in Beachville. Land records (Deed, J.F.F. 11/502) show that he purchased this property in 1890 from James A. Tennison, whose family had been antebellum planters. This is the earliest recorded deed of the black families who founded this community at Beachville. He was, therefore, probably one of the first, if not the first, of the landowning families to clear this land and to develop it into farmland. Medley was also one of the largest landowners in the community of small farmers, deeds showing that he purchased three separate small tracts totalling 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres in the 1890's and in the first quarter of the 20th century he added to this. He left parcels of his holdings to his daughter, Henrietta Medley Shurbrooks and his sons: Prophet, Charles, and John. The houses of the last two are still standing and have been recorded as part of this survey.

According to George S. Carroll, Richard Medley was a carpenter and built this house. He passed on these skills to his sons, and they in turn built their houses, the only ones in the Community to do so.

**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 & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Md.

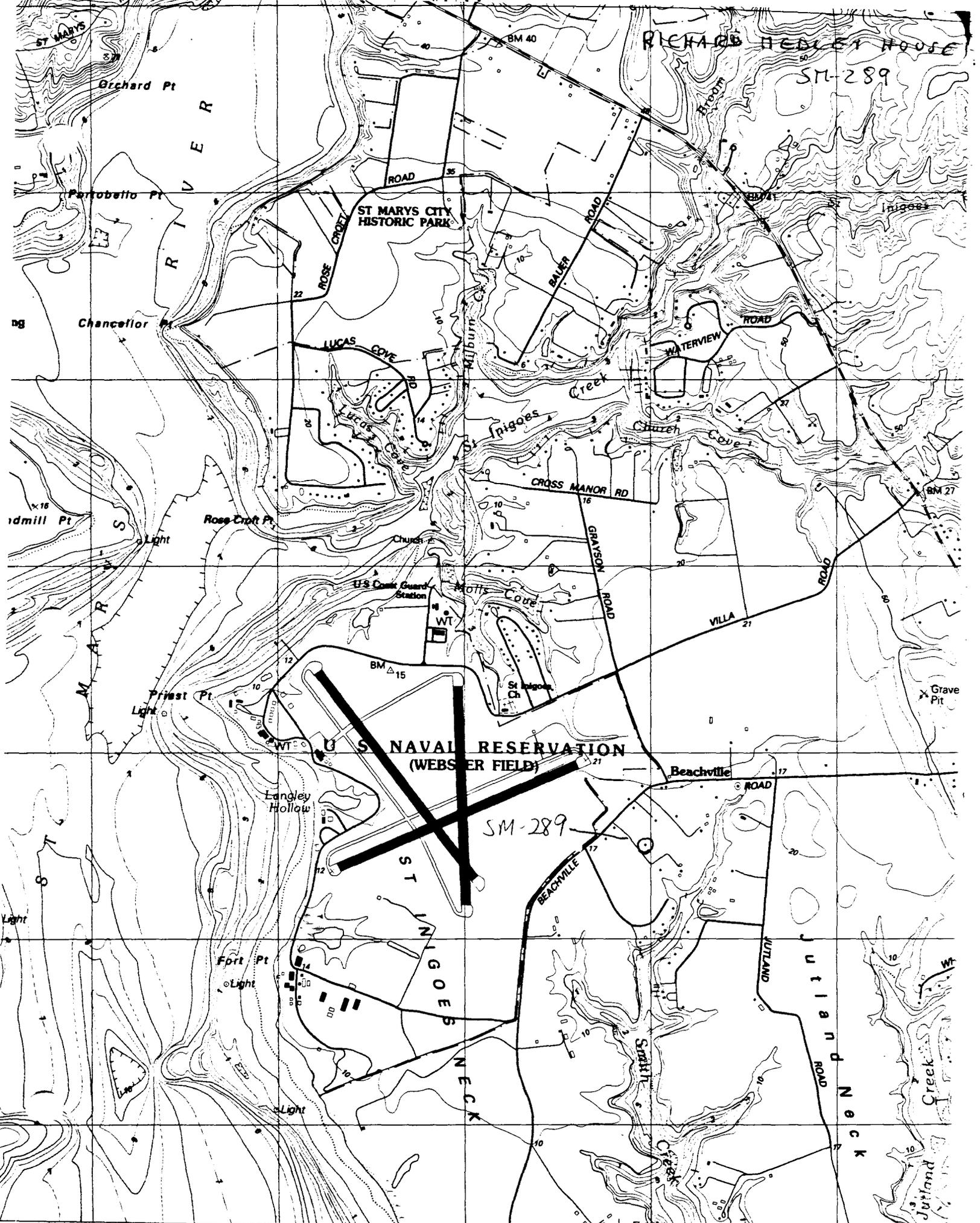
STATE

21401

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



RICHARD HEDLEY HOUSE  
SM-289

ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK

U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION  
(WEBER FIELD)

SM-289

373

(ST. GEORGE ISLAND)  
5760 III SW

ST. MARY'S CITY QUADRANGLE

375

25'

376

SCALE



Richard Medley House  
STMA 289

St. Inigoes - Beachville  
North facade  
GWM - 04/77



SM-437

Richard Medley House

STMA 289

St. Inigoes, Beachville

South facade

GWM 4/77



SM-289

Richard Medley Louse  
STMA 289  
St. Inigoes, Beachville  
EAST VIEW  
GWM — 4/77