

Capsule Summary
SM-649
Louis and Louise Abell House
St. Inigoes
Private

c. 1915

Few examples of the Craftsman-style in St. Mary's County surpasses the Louis and Louise Abell House. Constructed in 1915 by the Abell family, the exterior of the house reveals the adherence to modern building conventions, while the interior reflects the family's reluctance to deviate from traditional house plans. This dichotomy points to how St. Mary's County residents chose to keep their interior spaces much more familiar and comfortable -- a theme that has been continually repeated since the eighteenth century.

The house, itself, is a one-and-a-half story, frame dwelling with a center passage, double-pile plan. The most prominent architectural component is seen on the primary elevation where a series of bold columns support a covered porch. These columns exhibit entasis and are constructed of concrete forms with interior wood supports. The most interesting interior detail is a rear service stair that allows domestic service to move about the house without being seen by visitors. This detail is a particularly late example of a service stair for they are largely abandoned by the early twentieth century.

Originally part of the tract called Cross Manor, the tract that surrounds the house has also been called "Part of St. Inigoes" and "Dunbarton." Sarah L. and Emerald E. Abell first purchased the property in 1921 from J. Clarence and Christine B. Raley. Some years prior to the land purchase, however, the Abell's had already built the dwelling. Current owner Louise Abell recalls that the house was built around 1915.

SM-649, Louis and Louise Abell House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Louis and Louise Abell House

2. Location

street & number 15031 Pt. Lookout Rd, W side of Route 5 ___ not for publication

city, town St. Inigoes ___ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Md county St. Mary's TM-67, G-10, P-13

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 Louise B. Abell

street & number 15031 Pt. Lookout Rd. telephone no.: 301-872-5225

city, town St. Inigoes state and zip code Md 20684-9999

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 14

street & number folio 421

city, town Leonardtown 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. SM-649

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Approached via a circular drive that extends westward from Maryland Route 5, the Louis and Louise Abell House is located near St. Inigoes, Maryland. Situated on a flat 94 +/- acre tract, the dwelling's well defined, one acre house lot is surrounded by cultivated fields of corn. Lined by formally planted oak, maple, and evergreen trees, the single lane drive lies directly on axis with the front door of the house. The lane branches out to create a circle just in front of the dwelling. In the middle of the circle is a large crepe myrtle while a series of rhododendrons line the front porch. A drive extends westward on the south side of the house to an early twentieth century agricultural courtyard consisting of an equipment shed, two tobacco barns, and a corn house.

Constructed c. 1915-1917, the Louis and Louise Abell House is a one-and-a-half story, center-passage, double-pile plan dwelling with a gable roof. Resting on a brick foundation, the frame walls are sheathed on three elevations with clapboard siding fastened with cut and wire nails. The fourth/primary elevation has been covered with vinyl siding. The cornice of the house is enclosed by beaded matchstick and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Two corbelled interior chimney flues pierce the roof.

Similar in plan, roof form, and architectural details to other early-twentieth century catalog or prefabricated houses, the Louis and Louise Abell House's most distinctive characteristic is a series of four large concrete columns with wood lined interiors. Situated on the east elevation, these columns support a broad overhanging porch whose ceiling is lined with matchstick. The fenestration on the first floor consists of a centrally located one-pane-over-three-panel door replete with panelled and glazed sidelights. A set of two, one-over-one, double-hung, sash windows lie on either side of the door (all windows are one-over-one unless further noted). Each side of the windows feature a non-functional louvered shutter. A long shed dormer projects from the roof to provide light to the half-story bedrooms. The dormer is pierced by three sets of double windows.

The south gable end exhibits a three sided projection from the first floor living room. Each side features a window. To the west of the projection is a bulkhead entry into the basement that is below a paired set of windows. The half-story has two windows and a louvered vent lies near the peak to provide ventilation for the attic.

The west elevation is dominated by a porch addition. This enclosed porch is lit by a centrally located door flanked on either side by a set of three windows. The main block of the house is pierced by a paired set of windows and two doors. The centrally located door is no longer used because of the installation of a bathroom at the end of the central passage. A new, five panel door into the kitchen was subsequently installed.

The north gable end features a small set of swinging casement windows and a one-over-one window. The second floor is pierced by two windows and a louvered vent lies just above them for appropriate ventilation.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-649

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Few examples of the Craftsman-style in St. Mary's County surpasses the Louis and Louise Abell House. Constructed in 1915 by the Abell family, the exterior of the house reveals the adherence to modern building conventions, while the interior reflects the family's reluctance to deviate from traditional house plans. This dichotomy points to how St. Mary's County residents chose to keep their interior spaces much more familiar and comfortable -- a theme that has been continually repeated since the eighteenth century.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-649

See Significance 8.0.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9 1/4 acres

Quadrangle name St. Mary's City

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 8-17-98

street & number 22740 Washington Street

telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Md

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-649, Louis and Louise Abell House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

The interior consists of a central passage, double-pile plan. The central passage, which disseminates traffic into every space of the house, features a double run, closed string stair with turned balusters and square newels at each turn. Interestingly, a rear service stair meets the primary stair at the first return. It remains segregated, however, by a door. This arrangement allows service to move between the kitchen and dining room without having to use the main stairway. The parlor and a bedroom represent the southeast and northeast rooms while the southwest and northwest rooms are the dining room and kitchen respectively. The dining room contains a modest mantle with a plain frieze and a shelf supported by two scrolled brackets. The dining room also features two, classically inspired corner cupboards. The second floor consists of four bedrooms which radiate from the central passage.

SM-649, Louis and Louisa Abell House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber CBG 14, Folio 421

Grantee: Louis C. and Louisa B. Abell

Grantor: Daisy S. Abell

Date: July 6, 1943

Notes: "Dunbarton" or more recently known as "Part of Cross Manor" is listed as containing 32 acres. Charles A. Heard is listed as completing a survey for the property on March 5, 1928.

Reference: Liber CBG 14, Folio 420

Grantee: Daisy S. Abell

Grantor: William T. Abell, Louis C. Abell, and Ruth A. Birch

Date: July 6, 1943

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 90 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 19, Folio 391

Grantee: Sarah L. and Emerald E. Abell

Grantor: J. Clarence and Christine B. Raley

Date: January 19, 1921

Notes: Called "Part of St. Inigoes" and "Dunbarton", the property contains 90 acres.

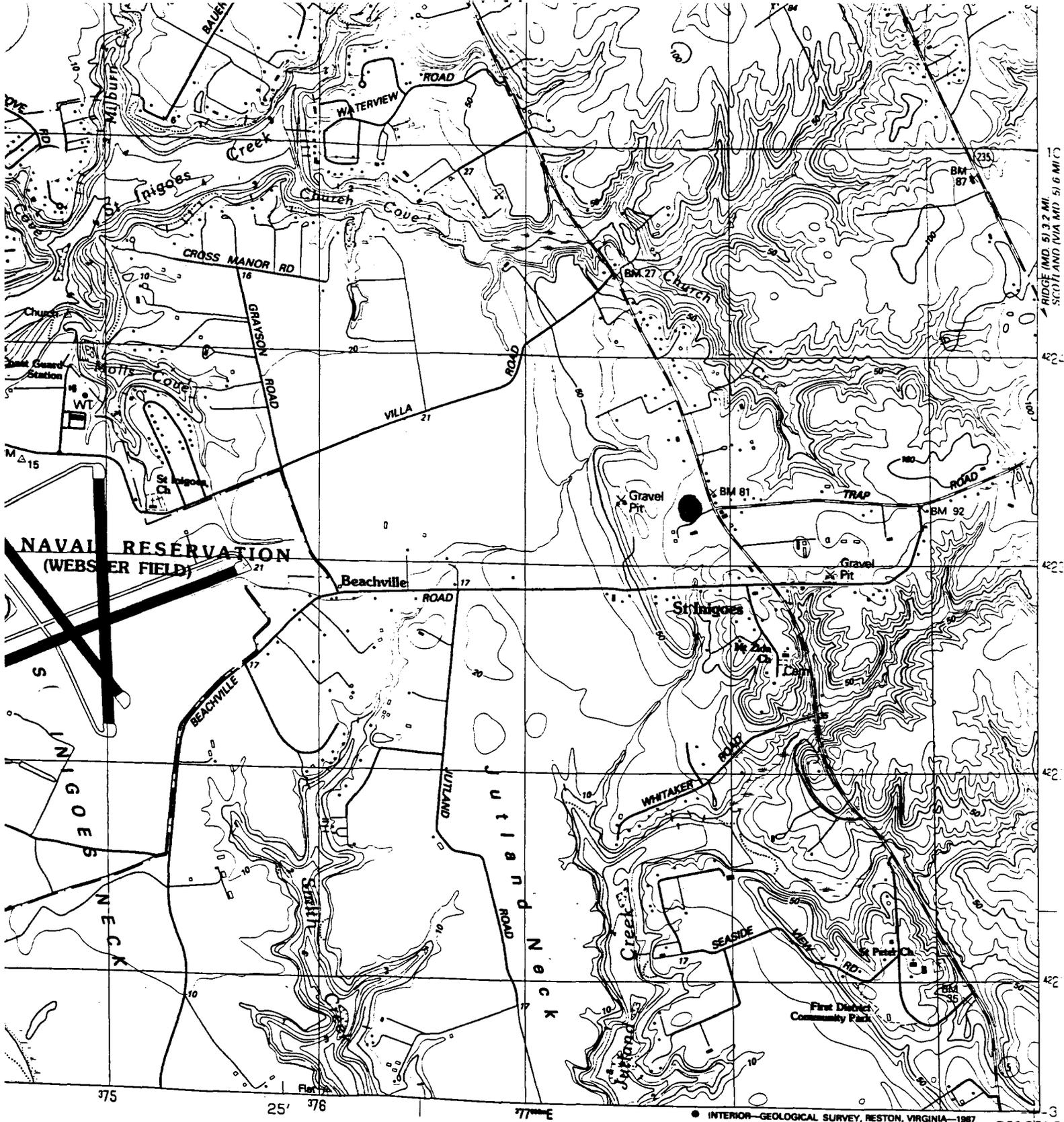
Reference: Liber EBA 5, Folio 453

Grantee: J. Clarence and Christine B. Raley

Grantor: Mary Robson Dunbar and W. Wallace Dunbar

Date: April 16, 1906

Notes: The deed notes that 21 acres of the tract was formerly owned by William Birch and Robert Crane and prior to that a Dr. A. Sappington (See Liber JIG 5, Folio 125-127). Another 39 acre portion of the property was formerly owned by Robert F. Taylor and S. Corinne Taylor (See Liber JIG 5, Folio 469).



RIDGE (MD 5) 3.2 MI
SCOTLAND (VA MD 5) 6 MI

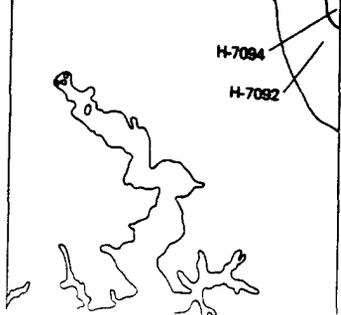
**NAVAL RESERVATION
(WEBSTER FIELD)**

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**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX**



T
1929
H SUPPLEMENTARY
LOW WATER
IS VARIABLE



Prima
hard
Secor
hard

SM-649, Louis and Louisa Abell House
St. Inigoes
St. Mary's County
St. Mary's City Quad

D.

38076-B4-TB-024

1987



SM-649

Louis + Louise (Bell) House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Rancetta

Aug/98

Chd SHPO

E + Calculations

1 of 2



SM-649

Louis + Louise Abell House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Aug/98

Mid SHPO

W + Notifications

2 of 2