T-241 c. 1791

Bruff House

St. Michaels

private

The Bruff house is architecturally significant for several strong reasons. The story-and-a-half hall/parlor frame house is one of the oldest standing structures identified in St. Michaels, and at the same time, it retains one of the most important interiors. Despite the renewal of the exterior siding, the two principal rooms contain some of the most sophisticated Federal period woodwork from St. Michaels' earliest period of domestic housing. The craftsmanship of the mantels is identical to the nearby Kemp House Inn (T-279), which points to the attributed expertise of John Bruff, an identified joiner in St. Michaels, who worked during 1790 and 1810.

John Wrightson purchased the lot on which this house stands in 1791 from John Thompson (24/369), and the Wrightson family continued to occupy the property until 1825 when Sarah Wrightson, et al. transferred the house and lot to Samuel and Alexander B. Harrison (46/107). Fourteen years later Alexander Harrison sold the house to John Bruff and the Stewards of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Talbot County (54/248). In 1857 William W. Bruff purchased the property from John Dunning, and the Bruff family occupied the house for the following thirty-seven years (67/510).

Survey No. T-241

Magi No. 2102415204

DOE ___yes X no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bruff House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Thompsons Alley ___ not for publication

city, town St. Michaels ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Reverend and Mrs. John Mount

street & number P.O. Box 814 telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot Clerk of Court liber

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-241

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Bruff house description

The Bruff house stands on the north side of Thompsons Alley in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame house faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

The c. 1790 one-and-a-half story frame house is supported by minimal brick foundation, and it is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. Remnants of wide beaded weatherboards remain on the north side, however the rest of the dwelling is covered by replacement weatherboard siding. Extending to the rear (north) is a modern story-and-a-half wing.

The south facade of the main block is four bays across, the eastern three of which comprise the original hall/parlor plan frame house. At some point, prior to 1798, a single story, one-room plan section was moved up to the west gable end to enlarge the house. Both sections are constructed with wrought-iron nails and have examples of late eighteenth-century woodwork. The main house is marked by three unevenly spaced bays with a center replacement door and flanking nine over six sash windows. The second floor is lighted by two six over six gabled dormers. Framing the dormer windows are surrounds with slightly flared bases. Interior end brick chimneys rise from the east gable end as well as the west end of the original house. The east end stack is flanked by gable end windows.

The north (rear) elevation is partially covered by the modern kitchen wing. The east section of wall still retains a few wide beaded weatherboards. The rear door is flanked by two nine over six sash windows.

The first floor interior of the old house is divided into three principal rooms. The east room or "hall" is distinguished by a plastered hearth wall with a Federal period mantel. The firebox is framed by a cavetto molded backband surround. Stretching across the top of the hearth surround is a band of gougework consisting of four short vertical gouges that alternate with three short horizontal ones. Three projecting fluted frieze blocks rise from the gougework band to support an elaborately molded cornice and mantel shelf. Another gougework band stretches across at the top of the frieze tablets and consists of a group of short gouge and punch strokes interspersed with a small flower-like motif. The complex series of bed moldings and the cove cornice greatly enrich the decorative qualities of the mantel. The parlor mantel is exactly like the mantel in the second floor south bedroom of the Kemp House Inn (Smithton Inn, T-279). Directly south of the mantel is the enclosed winder stair, which rises to the second floor behind a raised four-panel door. There are three steps exposed within the room with a chamfered newel post and square balusters. The space below the stair is entered through an adjacent raised two-panel door. The room is also fitted with molded chair rail and baseboard.

A plastered stud partition separates the hall from the equal-sized parlor. Featured on the hearth wall is another Federal period mantel with a molded hearth surround and a five-part blocked frieze. The rectangular panels between the frieze blocks have molded panels themselves. A decorative band directly above the frieze is treated in a double row of dentils, while the mantel shelf consists of an elaborate series of moldings. Set into the south niche of the hearth wall is a Federal period glazed door cupboard. The two twelve-pane upper doors have arched panes along the top and slightly recessed flat panels on the bottom. A chair rail molding separates the upper closet from the storage space below, which is enclosed by two single arched panel cupboard doors. On the other end of the chimney breast there are two small paneled door closets.

The third room has been converted to a bedroom, but from descriptions of the amount of soot and grease that had accumulated it was probably the original kitchen. A small hearth is located on the east wall of the room and a boxed winder stair rises in the northwest corner behind a raised four-panel door. A two-panel door allows access to the storage space below the stair. Beaded weatherboards attached with

wrought-iron nails are exposed in the bedroom closet and indicate the bedroom section was moved up to the house at some point. An early nineteenth-century raised six-panel door separates the bedroom from the parlor.

The second floor is divided into three rooms as well with a board partition and raised four-panel door separating the two rooms above the hall and parlor. The collar beams have been exposed. The west room has a small hearth with the firebox framed by a molded surround. The west room is simply finished. A small access door provides entrance into the space above the modern kitchen wing. Within the crawl space are exposed rafter feet fixed to a flat plate by wrought-iron spikes. The juncture of the two structures is also clearly evident. Located at the head of the winder stair is an early nineteenth-century newel post with rectangular balusters which support a circular profile handrail.

The new kitchen wing was added on the northwest corner of the old house.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-241

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

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

The Bruff house is architecturally significant for several strong reasons. The story-and-a-half hall/parlor frame house is one of the oldest standing structures identified in St. Michaels, and at the same time, it is one of the best preserved. Despite the renewal of the exterior siding, the two principal rooms contain some of the most sophisticated Federal period woodwork from St. Michaels' earliest period of domestic housing. In fact the craftsmanship of the mantels is identical to the nearby Kemp House Inn (Smithton Inn, T-279) and points to the attributed expertise of John Bruff, an identified joiner in St. Michaels, c. 1790-1810. The Federal period motifs of the Bruff house are repeated in at least two other mantels in town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.T -241

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels date 8/12/85

street & number telephone

city or town St. Michaels state MD 21663

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

PS-2746

T-241

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 446 PAGE: 163 DATE MADE: 1970 PRICE: $5 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM: AMSTERDAM CORP. SUCCESSOR TO QUINCY CORP.

TO: JOHN K. AND ALICE T. D. MOUNT

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Begin at SW corner of lot of James Seth; run north with Seth and Mrs John C Smith 120' to Sarah F Chesley (nee Valliant); then west with Chesley and Louis E Ross & O P Marshall 70' to stone at NW corner, this lot; then S 120' to the north side Thompson Street; then east 77' to beginning.

Quincy Corp from Andre Deschaene 1969, 438/459
Amsterdam-Quincy is 442/639, 1969

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 438 PAGE: 459 DATE MADE: 1969 PRICE: $5 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
ANDRE AND MACON DECHAENE

TO:
QUINCY CORPORATION (Florida)

NOTES:(In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Same description as 446/163

Dechaene from Lee 1968, 431/26

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

35-3

T-241

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 431 PAGE: 26 DATE MADE: 1968 PRICE: $13,500 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:

ADA W LEE

TO:

ANDRE AND MACON DECHAENE

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

SAME AS 446/163

Chester A Lee from William Donophon et al 1920, 191/90

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 191 PAGE: 90 DATE MADE: 1920 PRICE: $1000 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
WILLIAM A AND MARY E DONOPHON AND WILLIAM J AND MARY E SEVEIER

TO:
CHESTER A LEE

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Same as 446/163.

Also the following: Begin at NW corner of Talbot St. & Thompson's Alley; run with Alley S 65½° W 121½ ft to lot #41; then with #41 N 27½ W 55' to C R Smith; with Smith, N 65½° E 121½ ft to the west side of Talbot St then S 55' to beginning

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

T-241

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 168 PAGE: 442 DATE MADE: 1914 PRICE:_____ (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
DAISY B TAYLOR

TO:
Citizens Bank of St Michaels

NOTES:(In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Mortgage for $500

Insurance of buildings must be at least $500

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER _____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 168 PAGE: 441 DATE MADE: 1914 PRICE: $700 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM: DAISY B AND WILLIAM A TAYLOR

TO: WILLIAM A DONOPHON AND WILLIAM J SEVEIER

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Same as 446/163

Madagan to Taylor, 1899, 131/264

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER _____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 150 PAGE: 118 DATE MADE: 1907 PRICE: $800 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
MARY E MADAGAN, WIDOW

TO:
DAISY TAYLOR

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Same as 446/163

Sarah E Ridgeway to James L and Mary E Madagan 1899, 131/264

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (MOUNT)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 131 PAGE: 264 DATE MADE: 1899 PRICE: $700 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
SARAH E RIDGEWAY

TO:
JAMES L AND MARY E MADAGAN

NOTES:(In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Same as 446/163

Ridgeway from Seth 125/32, 1895

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER _____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 125 PAGE: 32 DATE MADE: 1895 PRICE: $525 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
JAMES AND JULIA SETH

TO:
SARAH E RIDGEWAY

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Part of the ground Seth obtained from Robinson W Cator, 1895, 122/311

This is first division of the property into the present lot.

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER _____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 122 PAGE: 311 DATE MADE: 1895 PRICE: $600 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
ROBINSON W CATOR

TO:
JAMES SETH

NOTES:(In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Adjoining lots of Dr James Seth and J C Smith on East; Miss Sadie Valliant, Lewis E Ross, Mrs Hattie Ford, and James Harrison,jr on North; and heirs of Capt. Elisha Thomas on West; front on Thompson Ave., 137' back, 120' total 16440 sq ft.

Conveyed to Cator by C E Shanahan, assignee 120/442, 1894

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 120 PAGE: 442 DATE MADE: 1894 PRICE: $700 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM: C E SHANAHAN

TO: ROBINSON CATOR

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Mortgage foreclosure on IDA L BRUFF and DAVID J BRUFF by Armstrong, Cator & Co. of Baltimore.

Mortgage was 112/171 for $700.

Land conveyed to IDA L BRUFF by LAWRENCE L BRUFF 1883, 96/384

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley (Mount)

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 96 PAGE: 384 DATE MADE: 1883 PRICE: $1 & L&A (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM: LAWRENCE L AND ADA M BRUFF AND DAVID F BRUFF

TO: IDA L BRUFF

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

In 1882 William W Bruff died intestate. His heirs were Lawrence and David.

The purpose of this transaction is to provide Ida L Bruff, the wife of David.

Begin at SW corner of Nicholas Orem's lot; run north with Orem and Sarah Harrington 120' to James Valliant; then west, parallel with Thompson's Alley 137' to lot of Laura Thomas; then south with Thomas 120' to Thompson's Alley; then to beginning.

Is same lot conveyed to W W Bruff by John Dunning 1857, 67/510

Also same lot conveyed to W W Bruff by James Valliant 1868, 74/27, except that portion conveyed by Bruff to C C Jump, 1876, 83/133.

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 103 Thompson's Alley

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 67 PAGE: 510 DATE MADE: 1857 PRICE: $620 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
JOHN DUNNING

TO:
WILLIAM W BRUFF

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

- Begin on Thompson's Alley, SW corner Nicholas Orem's Lot; run N with Sarah Harrington 120' to Alfred Harrison; then W with Alfred H. and Alexander Graham, 97' to John Dunning's lot; then S with Dunning 120' to Thompson's Alley, then E on Alley to beginning.

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 105 Thompson's Alley

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER _____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 67 PAGE: 330 DATE MADE: 1856 PRICE: $725 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM: Methodist Episcopal Church

TO: JOHN DUNNING

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Begin on N side Thompson's Alley about 120' from Talbot Street, at SE corner of Nicholas Orem's lot. Run W along Thompson's Alley about 251' to a lot belonging to the Rev. Samuel Grace,the with Grace and Charles A Smithson's lot, N 120' to James Harrison's lot; then E with Harrison to heirs of Alexander Graham's and Alfred Harrison's lots, 251' to NW corner of Sarah Harrington and Nicholas Orem's lots; then S with Harrington and Orem 120' to the beginning.

This parcel included all of the four original 60' foot lots on Thompson's Alley: nos. 7,8,9,10 (or as renumbered in 1804:38,39,40,41) plus about 11'. The lot under consideration is number 8 (39).

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER _____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 105 Thompson's Alley

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 54 PAGE: 248 DATE MADE: 1839 PRICE: $400 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
ALEXANDER B HARRISON, SURVIVING PARTNER OF SAMUEL & ALEXANDER B HARRISON

TO:
JOSEPH BRUFF AND STEWARDS OF THE METHODIST_EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF TALBOT COUNTY

NOTES:(In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

The house, lot, and premises on Thompson's Alley formerly the residence of John Wrightson dcd, now occupied by Rev. William Allen

The only way this makes sense is to assume that this deed included all of the property (four lots) bought by the Harrisons on 46/107, 1825.

The following sale, 67/330, 1856 M-E Church to John Dunning includes the same property.

This does not account for the present two houses on the four lots (105 and 103), nor does it identify which this house is.

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 105 Thompson's Alley

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 46 PAGE: 107 DATE MADE: 1825 PRICE: $490.52 (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM: SARAH WRIGHTSON, ET. AL.
(Sarah, Thomas, James, Sedgewicke, and John B Wrightson)

TO: SAMUEL & ALEXANDER B HARRISON

NOTES:(In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Between Church Creek and Broad Creek in the town of St. Michaels. Part of Janes Progress and Chance. Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 on plat of the "Addition to St. Michaels". Begin at the S corner of lot of John Bruff, run S 24°39' E 120' to Thompson's Alley; with Alley 246' to the corner of lot no.11; then N 24°30' W 120' to the corner of Bruff's lot, then to beginning. 2 acres.

This is the block of four lots, shown on Tax Map as Mount, Johnston, Reeves, and Johnson.

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION:
105 Thompson's Alley

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 24 PAGE: 369 DATE MADE: 1791 PRICE: £ 12 cm (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
JOHN THOMPSON, extr. of Baltimore County

TO:
JOHN WRIGHTSON

NOTES:(In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

Same description as 46/107

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 105 Thompson's Alley

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER_____ Braddock Thompson Harrison

VOL: 21 PAGE: 413 DATE MADE: 1784 PRICE: £500 sp (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:

JAMES WIGNALS

TO:

JOHN THOMPSON

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

"All that part of two tracts of land near St. Michaels Church called Chance and Janes Progress which was purchased by James Braddock from George Gleave, formerly in the possession of James Hewes, on the South side of the main road..."

This sale also included Lot #7 and Lot #14 ("The Shipyard") on Mulberry Street.

See diagram for approximate boundaries of Chance and Janes Progress.

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER_____

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS-BAY HUNDRED

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 105 THOMPSON'S ALLEY

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER _____

Braddock
Thompson
Harrison

VOL: 21 PAGE: 417 DATE MADE: 1784 PRICE: £600 sp (ovc,cm,specie)

FROM:
JOHN THOMPSON

TO:
JAMES WIGNAL

NOTES: (In a series on any one property include at least one description from a deed which will definitely identify the property and note any subsequent changes . Also include here - if given - the reference to previous deeds, wills, etc. which indicate how the seller acquired the property.)

By this deed, James Wignal, representative of Gildart & Gawith, purchased from John Thompson all of the remaining unsold real estate which had been left to Thompson by James Braddock. This included the parts of Chance and Janes Progress which lay "South" or West of the main road.

Thompson immediately bought back this property and two additional lots inside the original limits of the town laid out by Braddock. (See 21/413, 1784)

Was a house or other building specifically mentioned in this deed? YES NO

RESEARCHER _____

T-241

2102415504

The Bruff House

The Bruff House, located on a side street in St. Michaels is a small 1½-story frame structure built on a brick foundation. ~~The original~~. Its facade is three bays long, with central door, between two interior brick chimneys, plus a one-bay wing on its west gable, the same height as the remainder of the house. On the steep A roof are two 'A'-roof dormers with 6/6 sash; the 1st story windows are 'restored' with 6/9 sash. Flanking the chimney on the east gable are two small windows with 4/2 ~~sash~~.

Within the past two years the house has been 'restored', and enlarged with a wing to the north of the building.

MDB 3/17/71

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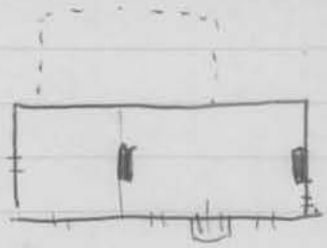
Alex Bragg House



1½ frame on brick foundations
with new wing to rear –

4 bays long (3 btw chimneys)
2 dormers on A roof –
both flanking with gables
2 4/4 sash – E gable –
restored w/ 6/9 sash

MMB
2/71

Bruff bought 97' in 1857 from Dunning
Valliant bought the rest, 152' in 1860

On 1845 Seth bought mortgage from Cator

In 1894 Cator foreclosed on Bruff and got same as above.

Original blocks of 4 lots: 7(38), 8(39), 9(40), 10(41)
each 60x120

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YEAR: 1970 VOL: 446 PAGE: 163
FROM: Amsterdam Corp. (successor to Quincy Corp.) PRICE: $5
TO : John K and Alice T D Mount
NOTES: Begin SW corner of lot of James Seth; run N with Seth and Mrs John C Smith 120' to Sarah F Chesley (nee Valliant); then W with Chesley and Lewis E Ross & O P Marshall 70' to stone at NW corner this lot; then S 120' to the N side of Thompson Street; then 77' E to the beginning.
Conveyed by Quincy Corporation to Amsterdam Corporation 1969, 442/639.

YEAR: 1969 VOL: 442 PAGE: 639
FROM: Quincy Corporation PRICE: $5
TO : Amsterdam Corporation
NOTES: This is an "agreement of merger" in which the "Free State Tobacco Company" of Maryland and the "Quincy Corporation" of Florida merge and become the "Amsterdam Corporation" of Delaware. No names are mentioned.

YEAR: 1969 VOL: 438 PAGE: 459
FROM: Andre and Macon Dechaene PRICE: $5
TO : Quincy Corporation
NOTES: Same description as above.
Conveyed to Andre Dechaene by Ada W Lee 1968, 431/26.

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 431 PAGE: 26
FROM: Ada W Lee PRICE: $13,500
TO : Andre and Macon Dechaene
NOTES: Same description as above. There were two parcels conveyed in this deed. The second parcel was lot number 41, the adjacent lot which is the corner of Thompson Street and Talbot Street.
Conveyed to Chester and Ada Lee by Wm A Donophon, et al, 1920, 191/90. Ada Lee was widow and sole survivor of Chester A Lee, deceased.

YEAR: 1920 VOL: 191 PAGE: 90
FROM: Wm A & Mary E Donophon and Wm J & Edna C Sevier PRICE: $1000
TO : Chester A & Ada W Lee
NOTES: Begins at SW corner of a lot of James Seth; runs N with Seth and Mrs John C Smith 120' to Sarah F Chesley (nee Valliant); then W with Chesley and the lots of Louis E Ross and Oliver P Marshall 70' to a stone at the NW corner of this lot; then S with another Seth lot 120' to Thompson Street; then E with street 77' to the beginning.
Conveyed to Wm A Donophon and Wm J Sevier by Daisey B Taylor 1914, 168/441.

YEAR: 1914 VOL: 168 PAGE: 441
FROM: Daisey B and William A Taylor PRICE: $700
TO : William A Donophon and William J Sevier
NOTES: Same description as previous.
Conveyed to Daisey B Taylor by Mary E Madagan, widow 1907, 150/118

YEAR: 1907 VOL: 150 PAGE: 118
FROM: Mary E Madagan, widow PRICE: $800
TO : Daisy B Taylor
NOTES: Same as previous description.
Conveyed to James L & Mary E Madagan by Sarah E Ridgeway 1899, 131/264

1914, 168/442 is a mortgage for $500 to the Citizen's Bank of St Michaels

YEAR: 1899 VOL: 131 PAGE: 264
FROM: Sarah E Ridgeway PRICE: $700
TO : James L & Mary E Madagan
NOTES: Same as previous description.
Conveyed to Sarah E Ridgeway by James & Julia Seth 1895, 125/32.

YEAR: 1895 VOL: 125 PAGE: 32
FROM: James and Julia Seth PRICE: $525
TO : Sarah E Ridgeway
NOTES: This is first division of the land into the present lot.
Part of the land James Seth obtained from Robinson W Cator 1895, 122/311.

YEAR: 1895 VOL: 122 PAGE: 311
FROM: Robinson W Cator PRICE: $600
TO : James Seth
NOTES: Adjoining the lots of Dr James Seth and J C Smith on the East; Miss Sadie Valliant, Louis E Ross, Mrs Hattie Ford, and James Harrison, jr on the North; and heirs of Capt Elisha Thomas on the West; fronting 137' on Thompson Avenue, 120 feet across the back, for a total of 16,440 square feet.
Conveyed to Robinson W Cator by C E Shannahan, assignee 1894,120/442.

YEAR: 1894 VOL: 120 PAGE: 442
FROM: C E Shannahan, assignee PRICE: $700
TO : Robinson Cator
NOTES: This sale was the result of a foreclosure of a mortgage on Ida S Bruff and David F Bruff by Armstrong, Cator & Co of Baltimore.
Conveyed to Ida S Bruff by Lawrence L Bruff 1883, 96/384

YEAR: 1890 VOL: 112 PAGE: 171
FROM: Ida S Bruff and David T Bruff PRICE: $550
TO : Armstrong, Cator, & Co , Baltimore
NOTES: A mortgage. Security was: Beginning Thompson's Alley at the SW corner of Nicholas Orem; run N with Orem and Sarah Harrington 120' to the lot now owned by James Valliant; then W parallel with Thompson's Alley 137' to Laura Thompson; then S 120' to Thompson's Alley; then with the Alley, E 137' to the beginning.
Conveyed to Ida S Bruff by Lawrence L Bruff et al 1883, 96/384.

YEAR: 1883 VOL: 96 PAGE: 384
FROM: Lawrence L and Ada M Bruff and David F Bruff PRICE: $1+L&A
TO : Ida S Bruff
NOTES: In 1882, William W Bruff died intestate. His heirs were Lawrence and David. The purpose of this transaction is to provide for Ida S Bruff, the wife of David. The lot is 120 x 137'.
Convyed to W W Bruff by John Dunning 1857, 67/510 and part conveyed by James Valliant 1868, 74/27 (except the portion conveyed by W W Bruff to C C Jump 1876, 83/133).

YEAR: 1857 VOL: 67 PAGE: 510
FROM: John Dunning PRICE: $620
TO : William W Bruff
NOTES: Begins on Thompson's Alley at SW corner of Nicholas Orem's lot; run N with Sarah Harrington 120' to Alfred Harrison; then W with Harrison and Alexander Graham, 97' to John Dunning's lot; then S with Dunning 120 ' to Thompson's Alley; then E on alley to beginning.

YEAR: 1856 VOL: 67 PAGE: 330
FROM: Methodist Episcopal Church PRICE: $725
TO : John Dunning
NOTES: Begins on N side of Thojpson's Alley about 120' from Talbot St at SE corner of Nicholas Orem's lot. Run W along Alley about 251' to a lot belonging to the Rev. Samuel Grace; then with Grace and Charles A Smithson's lot, N 120' to James Harrison's lot; then E with Harrison to heirs of Alexander Graham's and Alfred Harrison's lots, 251' to NW corner of Sarah Harrington and Nicholas Orem's lots; then S with Harrington and Orem 120' to the beginning.
This parcel included all of the four original 60' lots on Thompson's Alley: nos. 7, 8, 9, 10 (or as renumbered in 1804:38, 39, 40, 41) plus about 11'. This lot is number 8 (39).

YEAR: 1839 VOL: 54 PAGE: 248
FROM: Alexander B Harrison* PRICE: $400
TO : Joseph Bruff and Stewards of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Talbot County.
NOTES: *Surviving partner of Samuel and Alexander B Harrison.
Description: "the house, lot, and premises on Thompson's Alley formerly the residence of John Wrightson, dcd, now occupied by Rev. William Allen".
It must be assumed that this deed included all of John Wrightson's property (the four lots) bought by the Harrison's (1825, 46/107).

YEAR: 1825 VOL: 46 PAGE: 107
FROM: Sarah Wrightson, and others* PRICE: $490.52
TO : Samuel and Alexander Harrison
NOTES: * The "others" were the heirs of John Wrightson: Sarah, Thomas, James, Sedgewicke, and John B.
Defined as: between Church Creek and Broad Creek in the Town of St Michaels. Part of Janes Progress and Chance. Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 on plat of "Addition to St Michaels". Begin at the S corner of the lot of John Bruff; run S 24,39 E 120' to Thompson's Alley; with alley 246' to the corner of lot number 11; then N 24,30 W 120' to the corner of Bruff's lot; then to the beginning. 2 acres

YEAR: 1791 VOL: 24 PAGE: 369
FROM: John Thompson, Extr. (of Baltimore County) PRICE: p12 cm
TO : John Wrightson
NOTES: Same description as 1825, 46/107.

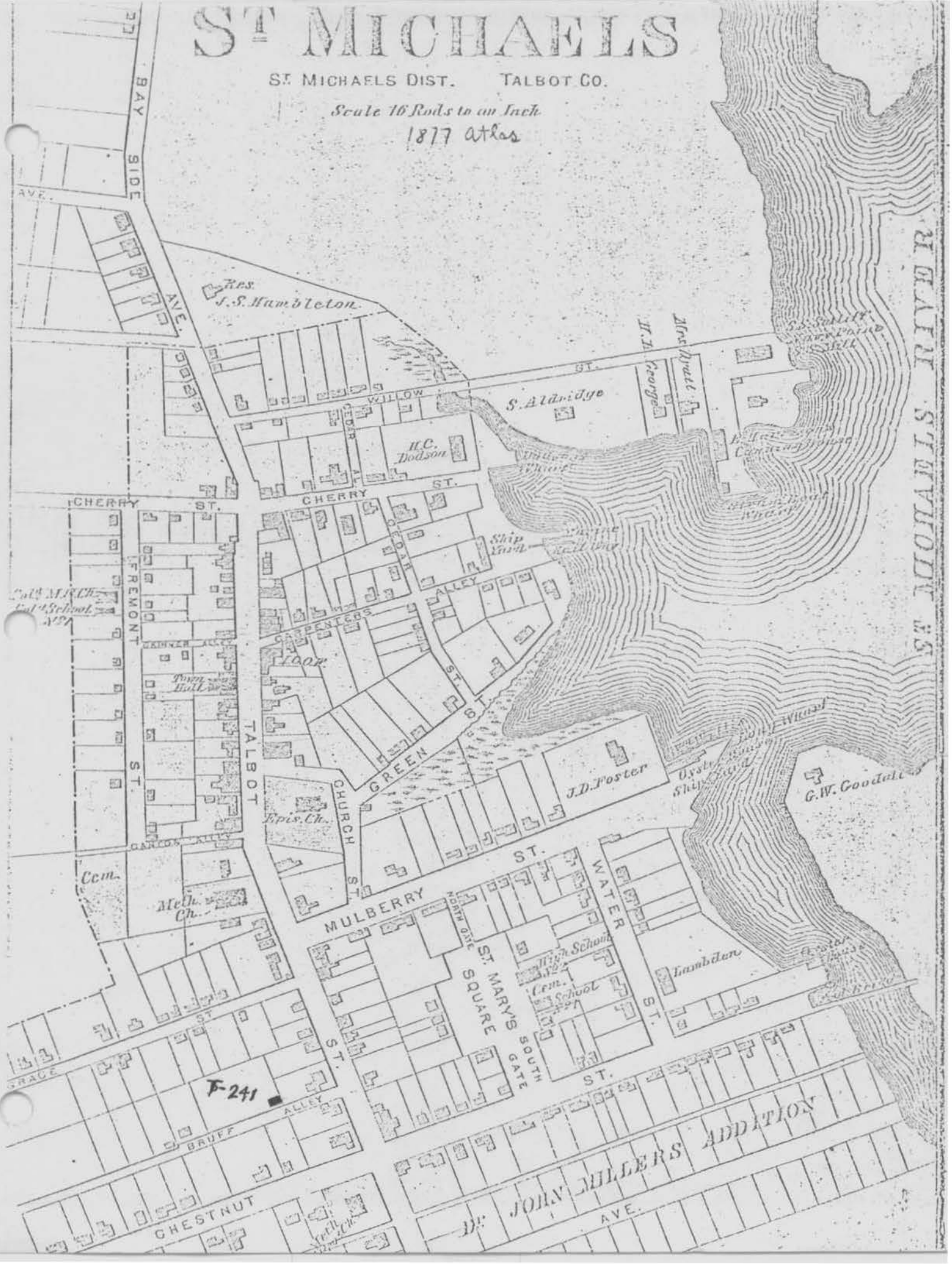
YEAR: 1784 VOL: 21 PAGE: 413
FROM: James Wignal PRICE: p500 sp
TO : John Thompson
NOTES: "All that part of two tracts of land near St Michaels Church called "Chance" and "Janes Progress" which was purchased by James Braddock from George Gleave, formerly in the possession of James Hewes, on the South side of the main road ....." Also included was lot number 7 and lot number 14 ("The Shipyard") on Mulberry Street. John Thompson's 60' brick house was located on lot number 7.
The story of Braddock, Thompson, and Wignal is related in the general history of St Michaels as an introduction to this Survey and in the paper by Bodenstein in Maryland Historical Magazine 80 (3):228-239. 1985.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

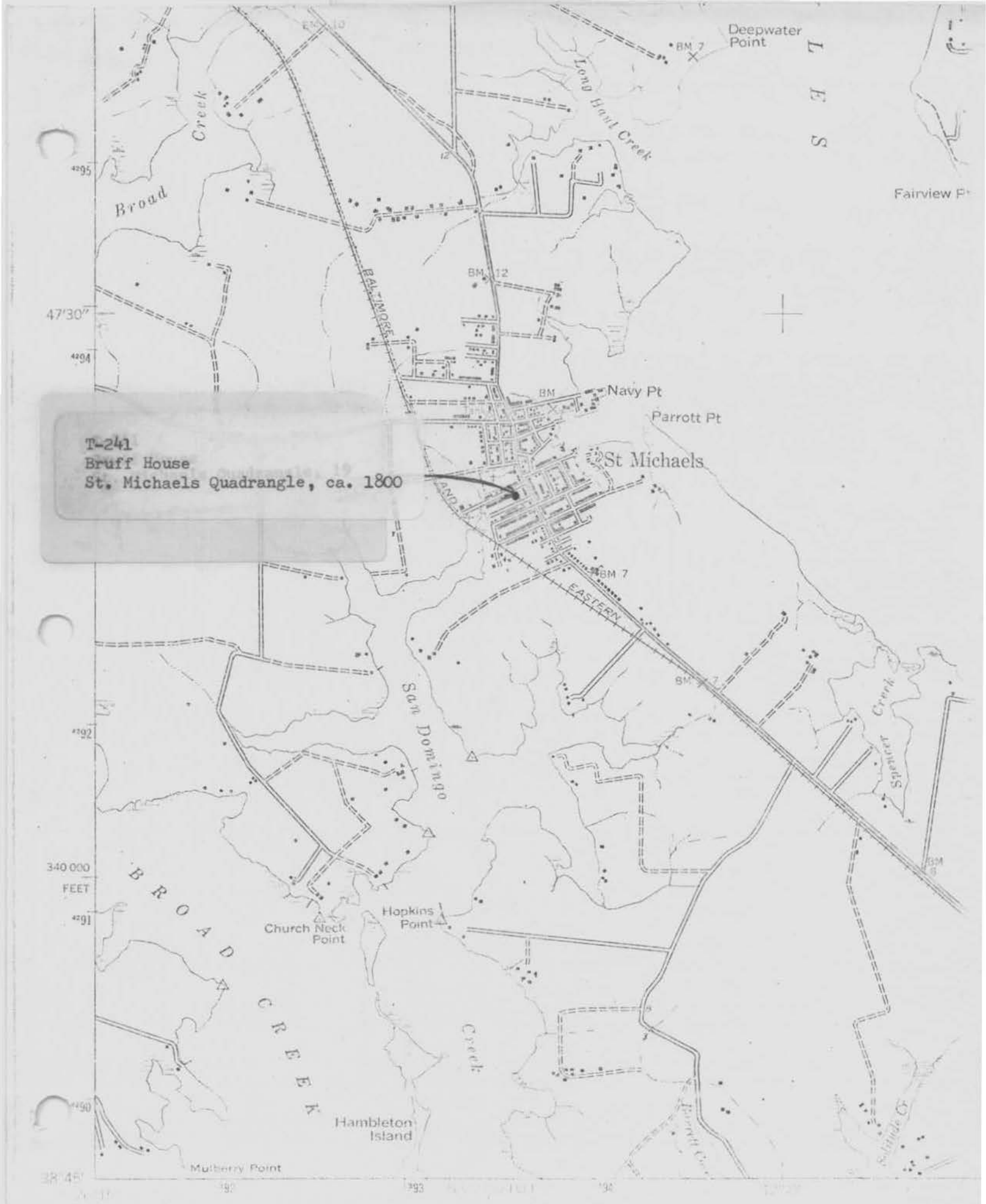
Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

1877 atlas



F-241

DR. DODSON'S
ST MARY'S
SQUARE
METHODIST
CEMETERY
T-241
BACK CREEK
MAP
OF
ST. MICHAELS
TALBOT CO. MARYLAND
SCALE
JAN. 1, 1882.


T-241
Bruff House
St. Michaels Quadrangle, ca. 1800
Deepwater Point
Long Haul Creek
Broad Creek
Fairview Pt
BM 12
BALTIMORE
47'30"
Navy Pt
Parrott Pt
St Michaels
BM 7
EASTERN
San Domingo
Creek
Speaks Creek
340 000 FEET
BROAD CREEK
Hopkins Point
Church Neck Point
Hambleton Island
Mulberry Point
Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

BRUFF HOUSE T-241
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Southeast Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

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St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
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BRUFF HOUSE T-241
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Bedroom
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

BRUFF HOUSE T-241
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
"Hall" - Enclosed Stair
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
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S.t Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Hall Mantel
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BRUFF HOUSE T-241
St. MIchaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Bedroom Door
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NEG/MD. Historical Trust

BRUFF HOUSE T-241
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Bedroom Mantel
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St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Parlor Mantel
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BRUFF HOUSE T-241
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Parlor Cupboard
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
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St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
"Hall" Mantel
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
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BRUFF HOUSE T-241
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
"Hall" Mantel Detail
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
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.10 x 1.70

50% 241

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Bruff House
St. Michaels