

T-262

c. 1800-1810

Bruff-Mansfield House

St. Michaels

private

The Bruff-Mansfield house, like its neighbor the Tarr house, was evidently built during the first decade of the nineteenth century. The story-and-a-half frame house has retained its essential form and some significant interior woodwork, but large sections of the exterior have been completely renewed. The most significant survival is the parlor mantel and floor to ceiling raised paneling. The oval-shaped decorative carving used in the mantel parallels the motifs found on one bedroom mantel in the Kemp House Inn (T-279), which points to a shared carpenter, John Bruff.

Survey No. T-262

Magi No. 210625304

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Bruff - Mansfield House

2. Location

street & number Green Street not for publication

city, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

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 David Mann

street & number Willow Street telephone no.:

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

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-262

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.

Bruff-Mansfield house description

The Bruff-Mansfield house stands on the northwest corner of Green Street and Locust Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame house faces southeast with the principal gable oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

The c. 1800-1810 story-and-a-half frame house rests on a minimal brick foundation, and it is completely sheathed with a layer of new beaded weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. Extending to the rear is a modern shed addition with an attached screened-in porch.

The southeast (main) elevation is three bays across with a center door and flanking six over nine sash windows. The windows as well as the front door are modern replacements. A boxed cornice finishes the base of the roof. Centered on the southeast roof slope is a gabled dormer pierced by a six over six sash window.

The northeast gable end is marked by an exposed three-course common bond brick firewall. The interior end chimney is flanked on the second floor by four over four sash windows. The gable end is finished with a plain bargeboard. A single six over nine sash window fills the bay directly north of the firewall.

The north (rear) elevation of the main house is covered by a modern shed roofed addition. The southwest gable end is finished in a similar manner with two windows on the first floor and two on the second.

The interior of the house has been fully remodeled, and the original two-room plan was consolidated into one room. The Federal period mantel framing the front hearth along with the raised paneling was preserved. The mantel consists of a molded surround that support wide frieze blocks with decorative fluting and oval shaped carving. Topping the frieze is a mantel shelf embellished with a cove cornice and a dentil bed molding. The overmantel is plastered and framed by a molded surround.

The wall surface to the right (south) of the mantel is distinguished by floor to ceiling paneling. A raised four-panel door opens into the closet space beneath the corner winder stair. The stair, which has three exposed steps, a slender square newel post and a molded handrail, rises behind a raised six-panel door. Each raised panel has a small fillet that usually marks late eighteenth or early nineteenth century raised paneling. The rest of the room has been reworked with modern materials.

The second floor is an undivided space with a small hearth framed by a molded surround. Storage closets have been added.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-262

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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Bruff-Mansfield house, like its neighbor the Tarr house, was evidently erected during the first decade of the nineteenth century. Although the story-and-a-half house has retained its original form, all exterior historic fabric has been removed. The most significant survival is the parlor mantel and floor to ceiling raised paneling. In fact, the oval-shaped decorative carving used in the mantel parallels the motifs found on one mantel in the Kemp House Inn (T-279).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-262

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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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
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels date 10/4/85

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

T-262

DRAFT

BRUFF MANSFIELD

DRAFT

YEAR: 1778 VOL: 21 PAGE: 95 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION:

FROM: James Braddock PRICE: p60 cm

TO : John Bruff, Wheelwright

NOTES: This is Braddock's lot number 3. Part of Janes Progress.

YEAR: 1863 VOL: 71 PAGE: 423 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION: 2-2

FROM: John F Mansfield & Laura PRICE: \$100

TO : Commissioners of St Michaels

NOTES: A lot adjoining Mrs Elizabeth Mansfield; run with her line N 134'; then E 40' to E side of J F Mansfield; then S to Mill street 130'; then W 40' to beginning. For the purpose of continuing Racket Alley through to Mill Street.

YEAR: 1873 VOL: 78 PAGE: 534 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION: R51

FROM: John Thomas Harrison, atty for heirs of PRICE: \$500
Thomas Harrison

TO : John F Mansfield

NOTES: By power of attorney from Charles Harrison and other heirs, bearing date 1853.

Adjoining Thomas Willey; at intersection of Mill and Locust; 108'5" on Mill, 130' on Locust.

YEAR: 1892 VOL: 116 PAGE: 234 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION: R50

FROM: John F Mansfield PRICE: \$400

TO : Workingmen's Building & Loan Assn of St Michaels

NOTES: Adjoining Thomas Willey. Intersection of Mill and Locust Streets, starting on Mill. From Willey to Locust, 108'5"; on Locust, 130'

Conveyed to John F Mansfield by John Thomas Harrison, atty., 1873, 78/534.

YEAR: 1892 VOL: 117 PAGE: 173 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION: R51

FROM: John F Mansfield PRICE: \$200

T-262

TO : Charles F Willey

NOTES: Begin on N side of Green Street, formerly Mill St, at SW corner of a lot designated #1 on town plat, belonging to Charles E Willey; run N with #1 117'6" to a lot belonging to E Marion Jefferson; W with Jefferson, 20' to a post; then S with lot of John F Mansfield 119' to Green St.; E with Green St 20' to beginning. A lot designated #2 on Town plat.

YEAR: 1954 VOL: 311 PAGE: 65 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION: R50

FROM: Nancy C Spencer, unmarried PRICE: \$5

TO : Randolph B Mortimer and Lillian B.

NOTES: See 1954, 311/62 and 63 to trace title from John T Mansfield to Nancy C Spencer. (attached)

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 425 PAGE: 441 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION: R50

FROM: Lillian B Mortimer, widow PRICE:

TO : John C North, II.

NOTES: Same as 1969,440/288 Parcel 1.

Conveyed to Randolph B Mortimer and Lillian B Mortimer by Nancy Spencer, 1954, 311/65.

YEAR: 1969 VOL: 440 PAGE: 288 AREA: SM-BM LOCATION:

FROM: Lillian B Mortimer, Edwina M & Daniel H PRICE: \$5
Murphy

TO : J David Mann, Jr & Sheila H

NOTES: See copy of deed, attached.

YEAR: 1969 VOL: 440 PAGE: 288
FROM: Lillian B Mortimer, Edwina M & Daniel H PRICE: \$5
Murphy
TO : J David Mann, Jr & Sheila H
NOTES: See copy of deed, attached.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

RECEIVED

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 425 PAGE: 441
FROM: Lillian B Mortimer, widow PRICE:
TO : John C North, II.
NOTES: Same as 1969, 440/288 Parcel 1.

JUN 19 1987

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

Conveyed to Randolph B Mortimer and Lillian B Mortimer by Nancy
Spencer, 1954, 311/65.

YEAR: 1954 VOL: 311 PAGE: 65
FROM: Nancy C Spencer, unmarried PRICE: \$5
TO : Randolph B Mortimer and Lillian B.
NOTES: See 1954, 311/62 and 63 to trace title from John T Mansfield to
Nancy C Spencer. (attached)

YEAR: 1954 VOL: 311 PAGE: 62
FROM: Heirs of Grace B. Mortimer PRICE:
TO : Nancy C. Spencer, single
NOTES: The following is a summary of genealogical information contained in an
article by Bernice Leonard in CHESAPEAKE COUSINS, vol. 13 (2):25-26. 1987:
Grace Burns Mortimer, daughter of Lydia D. Mansfield and Thomas E. Burns, inher-
ited the property from her uncle, John Thomas Mansfield. He died about 1912,
intestate and without children.
John T. Mansfield was the son of Elizabeth A. and Richard D. Mansfield. He in-
herited the house and lot from his mother who died in 1901. Elizabeth Ann Bruff
was the daughter of John Bruff, Jr. and Lydia Kemp.
John Bruff, Jr. was the son of John Bruff, Senior who bought the land from James
Braddock in 1778 and presumably built the house. Probate records have not been
found.

YEAR: 1778 VOL: 21 PAGE: 95
FROM: Jammes Braddock PRICE: p 60 cm
TO : John Bruff, Wheelwright
NOTES: This is Braddock's lot number 3 consisting of 80 feet on Mill Street.
It was one of the first group of eight lots sold by Braddock on 31 December
1778. It was part of "Janes Progress".

1798 TAX LIST

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JOHN BRUFF - Lots in St Michaels. 1 Dwelling House, framed, 1 story, 50 x 16.
7 windows, 60 x 26. 1 ditto 20 x 16 \$250
Joiners Shop 19 x 16. 3 windows 20 x 26. \$20
Meat House 16 x 8. \$6 Framed carriage house
16 x 9 \$10. Framed dwelling house, 10 x 15,
1 window 30 x 16. \$16

JUN 19 1987

THE BRUFF-MANSFIELD HOUSE

On the north side of Willow Street in the town of St. Michaels, Md. stands a small dwelling known as the "Bruff-Mansfield House." When built it was of very small dimensions and only since it passed from the family has it been enlarged. Like the eye of Cyclops, a single dormer centered in the roof affords it's occupants a view of Church Cove and St. Michaels harbor.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

John Bruff, a wheelwright, purchased the lot on which this dwelling was erected from James Braddock, an eighteenth century developer who had laid off lots along a street then called Mill Street on part of a tract of land called "Jane's Progress." Bruff is known to have been in Talbot County by 1764 (Dorchester Co. Land 19 OLD 242) but it was fourteen years later, in 1778, when, for the sum of sixty pounds he purchased Lot #3 in the settlement around St. Michaels Church (Talbot Land 21:95). With this acquisition came an entailment which endured nearly 190 years - a record unsurpassed in the town.

John Bruff's wife is said to have been Lucy Hopkins of Kent Island; a lady who lived to the venerable age of ninety-seven years and died in 1839. It is not known when her husband passed away. Six children were raised by John and Lucy in their tiny cottage on the cove:

1. Thomas, married Mary Valliant; (2) Sarah Brascup.
2. John, Jr., born 1775, married 16 March, 1798, Lydia Kemp.
3. Sarah (Sallie), married John Wrightson.
4. Nancy (Ann), married Nathan Harrington.
5. Joseph, married Eleanor B. Hopkins.
6. Maria, married Samuel Phillips.

There are no probate records on the estate of John Bruff, Sr. extant; it is only through the land records that the dispersal of his real estate is revealed. Either by pre-arrangement or mutual agreement between the Bruff children and their mother, each seems to have received his portion; and John, Jr., a house carpenter, inherited the house and lot on Mill Street.

Here ten children were born to John and Lydia Bruff; the first two, Rachel and Joseph, died in infancy.

3. Thomas, a shipwright, married Eliza Kemp; (2) Hannah L. Collison, a widow. He died after 1870.
4. John Kemp Bruff, married Sarah Coleman of Kent Co., Md.; died there 17 August, 1875.
5. Mary Amanda, married William Skinner Lambdin; died 3 July 1885.
6. Lydia married Joseph Newnam; died 11 October, 1865.
7. Joseph, died in infancy.
8. Rebecca Melvina, married James Wrightson Lambdin Lowe; died 1850.
9. Joseph Denny Bruff married Martha Guest of Baltimore, (2) Ann Maria Carroll; died 7 June 1887.
10. Elizabeth Ann Bruff, married Capt. Richard D. Mansfield, 29 May 1845.

Lydia Bruff, mother of these children, died 25 February, 1853; John Bruff, the father, died 4 August, 1857. After the deaths of their parents,

the seven surviving children jointly held the Mill Street property and by mutual consent, their widowed sister, Elizabeth A. Mansfield, continued to occupy the house.

Capt. Richard D. Mansfield was drowned off Sharp's Island in the Chesapeake Bay, 22 December 1858. His negro crew, after an unsuccessful attempt to save him, carried his vessel on to Baltimore and unloaded the cargo. About 12 March, 1859, his body drifted ashore on Kent Island. He was the father of six children, all born in the Bruff house:

1. Alice Anna, born 1846, died 1849.
2. Lydia D., born 1848.
3. John Thomas, born 1851.
4. Sarah Lizza, born 1853, died 1854.
5. Richard E., born and died 1856.
6. Mary, born and died 1857.

Lydia D. Mansfield was married 24 April, 1871 to Thomas E. Burns of St. Michaels and to this union a daughter, Grace, was born. She married James Edwin Mortimer, son of John and Elizabeth Chamberlaine Mortimer of Broad Creek Neck.

Elizabeth A. Mansfield died 23 September, 1901, in the little house which had sheltered her from birth. Having outlived all of her brothers and sisters, title to the property was vested in her and after her death passed to John Thomas, her son.

John T. Mansfield was married at age forty-six; on 25 January, 1899, he and Mary Jerusha Blades were united in matrimony and his new bride became the mistress of the "Bruff-Mansfield" house. John died about 1912, intestate and without issue, and the property passed to his niece, Grace Burns Mortimer. His widow, Mary Jerusha, married his cousin, Richard Mansfield and through the largess of the Mortimer family continued to occupy the house until their deaths.

In 1954 the three daughters of Grace B. Mortimer, deceased, Gladys M. Sebastian, Grace M. Platzner and Lydia M. Abell, gave their interests in the Bruff-Mansfield house to their brother, Randolph (Ta. Land 311:62), and under his tenure it passed from the family.

Submitted by Mrs. William T. Leonard.



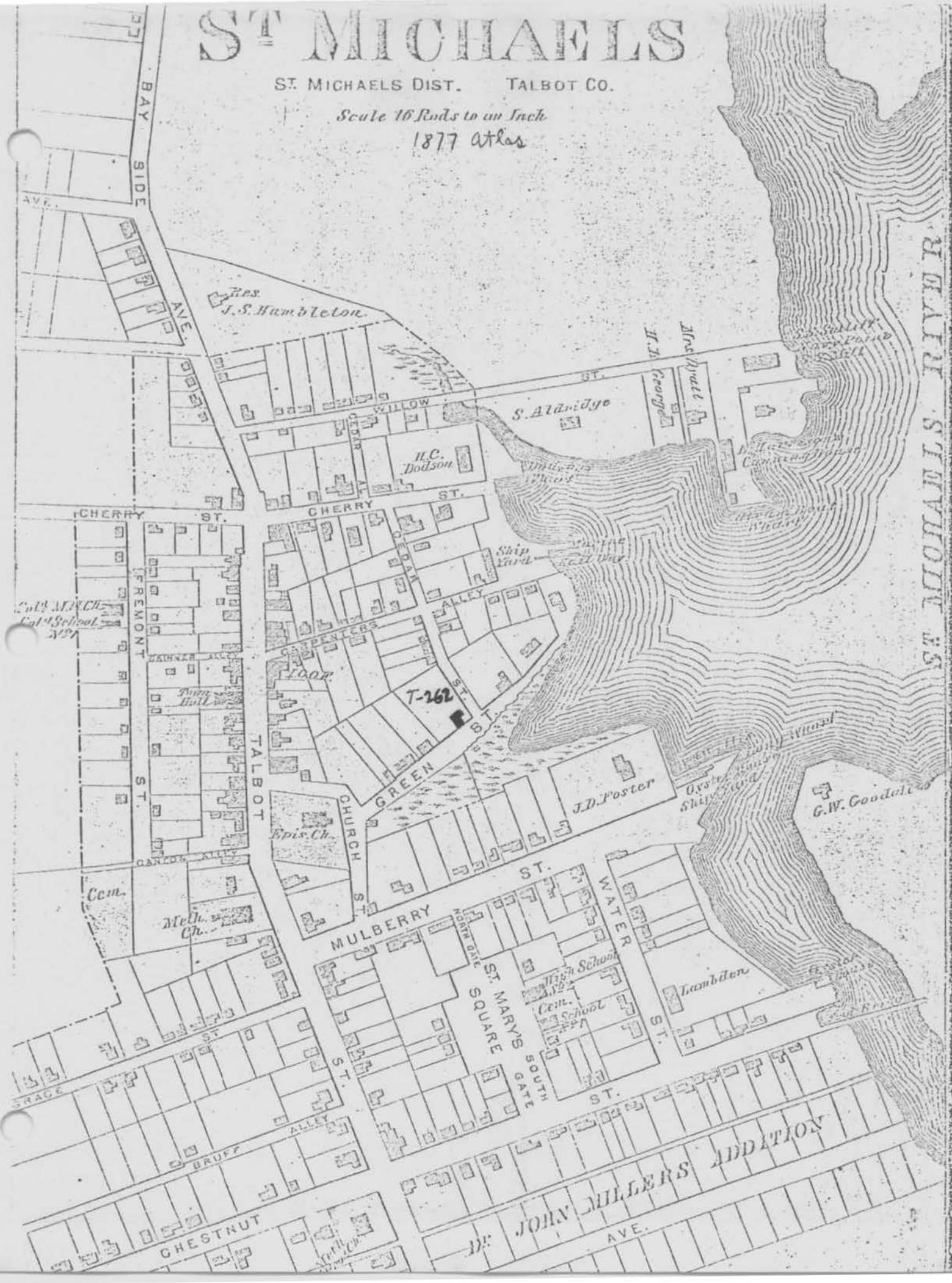
Queries - Are an important part of CHESAPEAKE COUSINS and we encourage our members to make use of this free opportunity to find that "missing link".

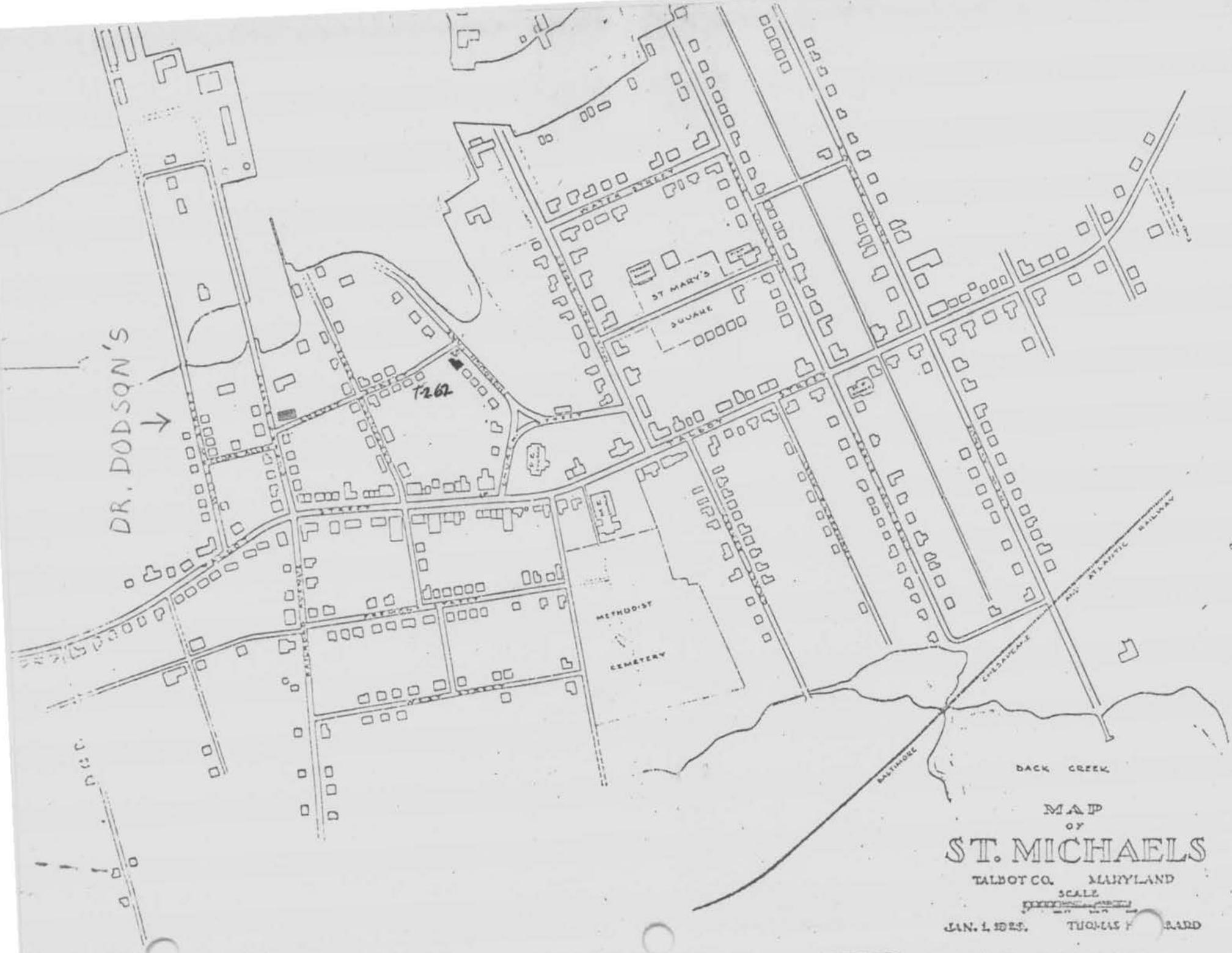
- Articles - Family Charts - Stories for Gold Dust In The Attic -
Send these to the Editors at the address shown on page 37.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch
1877 Atlas





DR. DODSON'S
↓

1262

ST MARY'S
SQUARE

METHODIST
CEMETERY

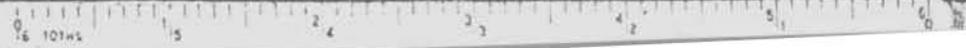
BACK CREEK

MAP
OF
ST. MICHAELS

TALBOT CO. MARYLAND

SCALE

JAN. 1. 1825. THOMAS F. BARD



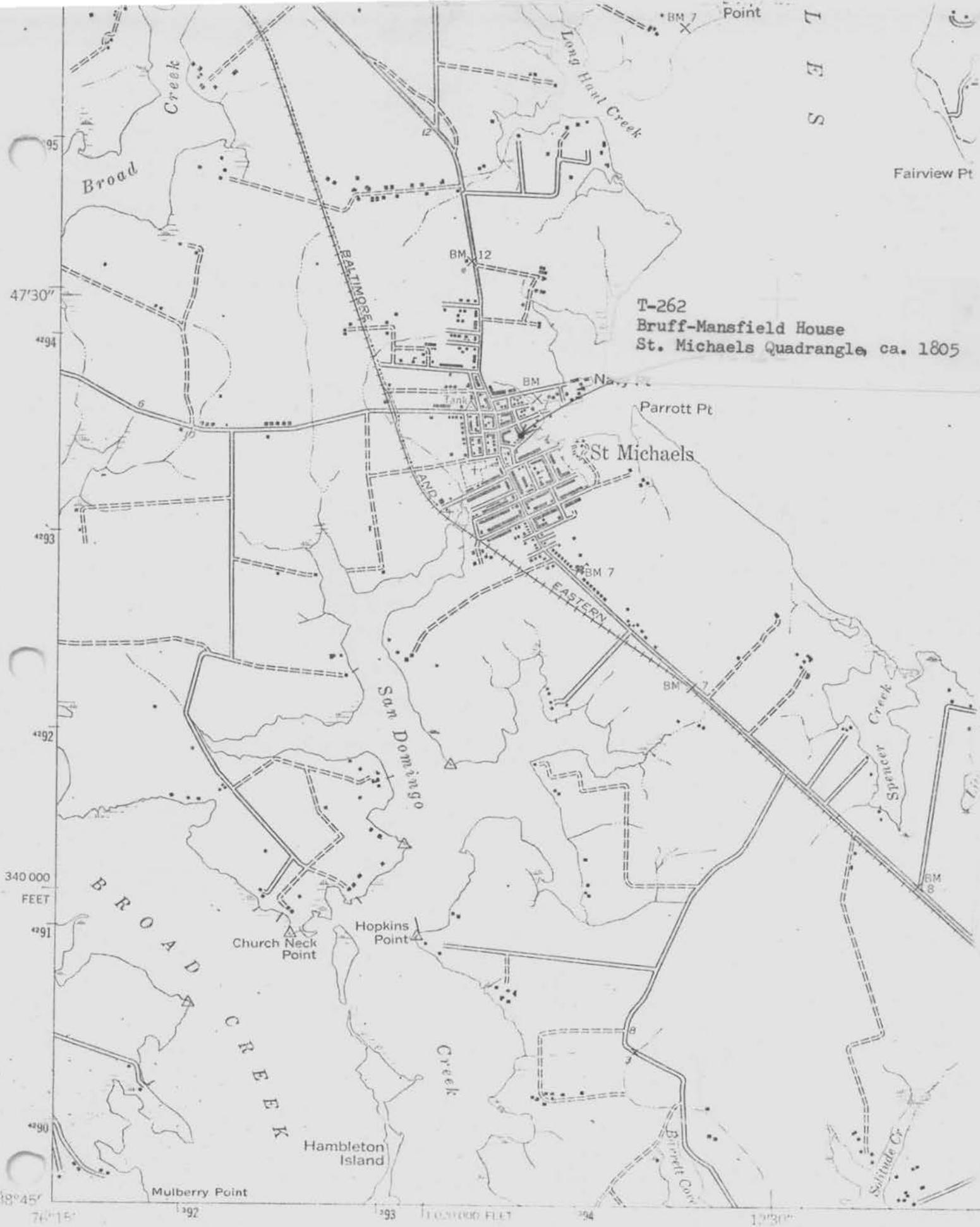


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T-262

1891





Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
 Control by USC&GS

MN



BRUFF-MANSFIELD HOUSE T-262
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Southeast Elevation
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



BRUFF-MANSFIELD HOUSE T-262
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Raised-Panel End Wall
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



BRUFF-MANSFIELD HOUSE T-262
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Newel Post
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



BRUFF-MANSFIELD HOUSE T-262
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Federal Mantel
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



BRUFF-MANSFIELD HOUSE T-262
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Federal Mantel Detail
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



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T-262

Bruff Mansfield House

St. Michaels