T-271

Gingerbread House

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 04-05-2004

T-271 1879

Gingerbread House

St. Michaels

private

Dated by a stamped brick to 1879, the Gingerbread house is an important St. Michaels building for several reasons. First, it is one of the few nineteenth-century structures with a confirmed date of construction, and secondly, it is one of the best preserved Victorian exteriors with its elaborate decorative trim, two-story porch, and arched sash windows flanked by corresponding shutters. The irregular T-plan houses were popularly built during the mid to late nineteenth century, and St. Michaels builders appear to have developed their own affinity for two-story porches on the front, side, or rear elevations. The history of this house is tied to the lots on the north and south sides. The single-story shop to the north, now used as an ice cream parlor (T-558), carries the same decorative roof trim as the house.

Survey No. T-271

Magi No. 2102715611

DOE ___yes X no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Gingerbread House

2. Location

street & number 103 Talbot Street ___ not for publication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	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ 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 Raymond F. & William J. Weisman

street & number P.O. Box 544 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 X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-271

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ 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.

Gingerbread House description

The Gingerbread House stands at 103 Talbot Street at the north end of the center business district in St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story tee-shaped frame house faces west.

Dated by a stamped brick to 1879, the Gingerbread house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and is sheathed by a uniform layer of novelty siding. The medium pitched asphalt shingle roof is trimmed on the front and north end with decorative sawn bargeboards and fascia.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical four-bay facade. The tee-plan provides a bold gable-front elevation, a recessed entrance, and corner space for a two-story porch covering the entrance. The gable-front (south) bay is distinguished on the first floor with a projecting bay window covered by a bracketed roof. The bay is pierced on three sides by arched single-pane sash windows with the west face having a pair of arched sash. The second floor is also marked by identical paired sash flanked by correspondingly arched shutters. The extended eave is finished with a pierced bargeboard. Interior brick chimneys rise from the center of the tee-plan as well as from the north and east gable ends. The datebrick is located in the southwest corner of the foundation and also carries the name "Watkins." The west elevation of the entrance facade is fully covered by a two-story shed-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts and trimmed with the same pierced sawnwork. Stretching between each porch post is a sawn baluster railing. Fixed between the first floor porch posts (hidden by the cloth awning) are two panels of "Eastlake" spindle decoration. The field of vertical spindles are interrupted with sunburst of cross patterns. The front door is located in the south bay of the recessed elevation. An oval window of beveled glass accompanied by applied floral ornament distinguishes the front door. The front door is flanked by two-light sidelights and a three-light transom. The adjacent first floor windows are four over four sash which are repeated on the second floor. Access to the second floor porch is gained through a four-panel door topped by a two-light transom that is located directly above the front door.

The north gable end has a single four over four sash window on each floor that pierce the wall to the left of the interior end brick chimney. The south wall is evenly divided into two bays also marked by four over four sash windows. Later openings have been cut in for an air conditioner.

Extending from the back of the house is a shorter two-story service wing with an interior end brick chimney.

The interior has been modified through the years with the replacement of the Victorian mantels. The stair is located in the center of the house and rises in an ell-shape. The large square newel post has flat paneled sides, while square balusters support a molded handrail. The north room retains a small closet to the left of the stove stack. The southern two rooms have early twentieth-century brick hearths. The second floor is divided in a similar manner to the first floor. Shallow four-panel doors are framed by late nineteenth-century molded surrounds. Bracketed mantel shelfs remain intact in the second floor bedrooms.

8. Significance

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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
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1879 **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 Gingerbread house is an important structure for several reasons. First it is one of the few nineteenth-century structures with a confirmed date of construction (1879), and secondly, it is one of the best preserved Victorian exteriors with its decorative trim, two-story porch, and arched sash with corresponding shutters. The irregular tee- or ell-plan houses were popularly built during the mid to late nineteenth century, and St. Michaels builders appear to have developed their own affinity for two-story porches on the front, side, or rear elevations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.

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 10/4/85

street & number telephone

city or town St. Michaels 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

YEAR: 1976 VOL: 500 PAGE: 398
FROM: Olivia G Smith PRICE: $5
TO : Raymond F Weisman and William J Weisman
NOTES: Begins on E side Talbot St at SE corner of parcel 1 of 467/541, 27.67' from the corner of Talbot and Cherry Streets; run (1) N 83.24 E 11.9' to a rod; (2) thru rod N 83.24 E 38.19' to rod; (3) N 04.00.11" W 19.77' to rod; (4) thru rod8.46' to Cherry Street; (5) with Cherry St , N 82.31 E 7.81'; (6) S 11.01.19" E 7.97' to rod; (7) continue 32.01' to NE corner frame garage; (8) S 04.59.43" E 13.55' to fence corner; (9) S 87.33.54"W 46.22' to rod; (12) continue 6.82' to curb on E side Talbot St; (13) with Talbot St N 00.21 E 39.11' to beginning. 2959 sq ft.
Conveyed to Olivia G Smith by George E Jackson, Sr. 1968, 425/422.

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 425 PAGE: 422
FROM: George E & Phoebe B Jackson and J F Johnson Lumber Co. PRICE: $5
TO : Olivia G Smith (Morristown, New Jersey)
NOTES: Begins 27'8" S of the SE corner Talbot and Cherry Streets; run with Talbot St S 32'4"; then E toward Locust St parallel with Cherry to T H Sewell, dcd; then N to Cherry Street; W along Cherry St across a 12 ft driveway (part of this lot) to land sold off of the original lot to Harry C Leib (later Norman D Marshall); then S with Leib or Marshall 27'8"; then W parallel with Cherry St 48' to Talbot Street and the beginning.
Conveyed to George E Jackson by Arthur Gunby Reese 1966, 416/58.
The J F Johnon Lumber Co held a mortgage for $6000 on the property:1967,423/77

YEAR: 1966 VOL: 416 PAGE: 58
FROM: Arthur Gunby Reese and Dolores G Reese PRICE: $5
TO : George E Jackson, Sr. and Phoebe B Jackson.
NOTES: Same description as 1968, 425/422.
There was a mortgage for $6000 to the St Michaels Bank, 1966, 416/62.
Conveyed to Arthur Gunby Reese and wife by William and Rosetta Willis 1966, 416/55.

YEAR: 1966 VOL: 416 PAGE: 55
FROM: William Willis and Rosetta B Willis PRICE: $5
TO : Arthur Gunby Reese and Dolores Reese
NOTES: Same description as 1968, 425/422. Title clearance.
Part of a tract conveyed to William Willis by Oliver S Milliken 1955, 325/478.
Reese acquired the leashold rights from Daisey F Jones 1944, 259/580.

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YEAR: 1944 VOL: 259 PAGE: 580
FROM: Daisey F and Garrett S Jones PRICE: $3250
TO : Dolores Reese and A Gunby Reese
NOTES: Same description as 1968, 425/422.
Conveyed to Daisey F Jones by Lee S Gillis 1940, 248/271.
Subject to annual rent of $5 in accordance with Samuel Harrison to Thomas Auld 1834, 51/457

YEAR: 1940 VOL: 248 PAGE: 271
FROM: Lee S Gillis PRICE: $5
TO : Garrett S and Daisey F Jones
NOTES: Same as 1944, 259/580.
Conveyed to Lee S Gillis by Garrett S and Daisey F Jones 1940, 248/270.

YEAR: 1940 VOL: 248 PAGE: 270
FROM: Garrett S and Daisey F Jones PRICE:
TO : Lee S Gillis
NOTES: Same as 1944, 259/580.
Conveyed to Garrett and Daisey Jones by Irvin and Rebecca Klein 1927,211/121.

YEAR: 1927 VOL: 211 PAGE: 121
FROM: Irvin and Rebecca Klein PRICE:
TO : Garrett and Daisey Jones
NOTES: Same as 1944, 259/580.
Part of the Harrison-Auld lease of 1834, 51/457.
Jones got a mortgage for $2750 from the Citizen's Bank (1927, 211/123).
Conveyed to Irvin and Rebecca Klein by Harry C Leib 1925, 201/398.
This deed is the first for the split of the original 60 x 60 foot lot.

YEAR: 1925 VOL: 201 PAGE: 398
FROM: Harry C Leib PRICE: $5
TO : Irvin and Rebecca Klein
NOTES: Deed calls for "60 feet on Talbot Street; running back 60'; a lot "about 60 x 60 ". Same as the original description Harrison to Auld of 1834. This deed is the last one for the original 60 x 60 ft lot.
Klein got a mortgage from the Citizen's Bank for $3750.
Conveyed to Harry C Leib by Annie L Harrison 1911, 159/166.

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YEAR: 1911 VOL: 159 PAGE: 166
FROM: Annie L Harrison PRICE: $1000
TO : Harry C Leib
NOTES: "nearly a 60 foot square"
Conveyed to Annie L Harrison by Wm Mason Shehan, adm of Ellen J Harrison 1904, 141/501.

YEAR: 1904 VOL: 141 PAGE: 501
FROM: Wm Mason Shehan, adm. of Ellen J Harrison PRICE:
TO : Annie L Harrison
NOTES: By will. Same description.
Conveyed to Ellen J Harrison by J Edward Watkins 1883, 95/294. An error in the deed gives the grantor as J Edward "Harrison".

YEAR: 1883 VOL: 95 PAGE: 294
FROM: James Edward Watkins PRICE: $2300
TO : Ellen J Harrison
NOTES: Same 60 x 60 lot.
Conveyed to J Edward Watkins by George E Hull 1879, 87/267.

YEAR: 1879 VOL: 87 PAGE: 267
FROM: George E Hull PRICE: $200
TO : James E Watkins
NOTES: 60 x 60 as in original description.
Conveyed to George Hull by William McQuay 1867, 74/45.

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 74 PAGE: 45
FROM: William McQuay PRICE: $1000
TO : George Hull
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to William McQuay by W E B Faithful 1867 73/208.

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 73 PAGE: 208
FROM: W E B Faithful PRICE: $850
TO : William McQuay
NOTES: 60 x 60. Deed makes the impossible statement: "running back to Water Street".
Conveyed to W E B Faithful by Thomas Auld 1866,72/367.

YEAR: 1866 VOL: 72 PAGE: 367
FROM: Thomas Auld PRICE: $800
TO : W E B Faithful
NOTES: Same as original lot.
Conveyed to Thomas Auld by Samuel Harrison 1834, 51/457.

YEAR: 1834 VOL: 51 PAGE: 457
FROM: Samuel Harrison PRICE: lease
TO : Thomas Auld
NOTES: "All that messuage or tenement in the Town of St Michaelsat the corner of Cherry Street and the main road or Talbot Street. Commencing at the corner running with the main road 60 feet, running back towards Water Street (!) 60 feet. Nearly a square 60' x 60'.
Conveyed to Samuel Harrison by Joseph Harrison of Thomas 1802, 29/354.

YEAR: 1802 VOL: 29 PAGE: 354
FROM: Joseph Harrison of Thomas PRICE: p1424
TO : Samuel Harrison
NOTES: "A lot within the town of St Michaels wherein a brick dwelling house hath lately been erected. Begin at Joseph Harrison's pales on the main road, run northerly to the street leading to Robert Dodson's; then with the street to the water; with the water to Haddaway's lot; then to the beginning"
The deed included 205 acres of"Crooked Intention". The "brick dwelling house" is the "Dr. Dodson House" on the corner of Locust and Cherry Streets.
The lot is part of the original grant called "Stopper", later called "Joseph's Lot" by Joseph Harrison.

ST MICHAELS

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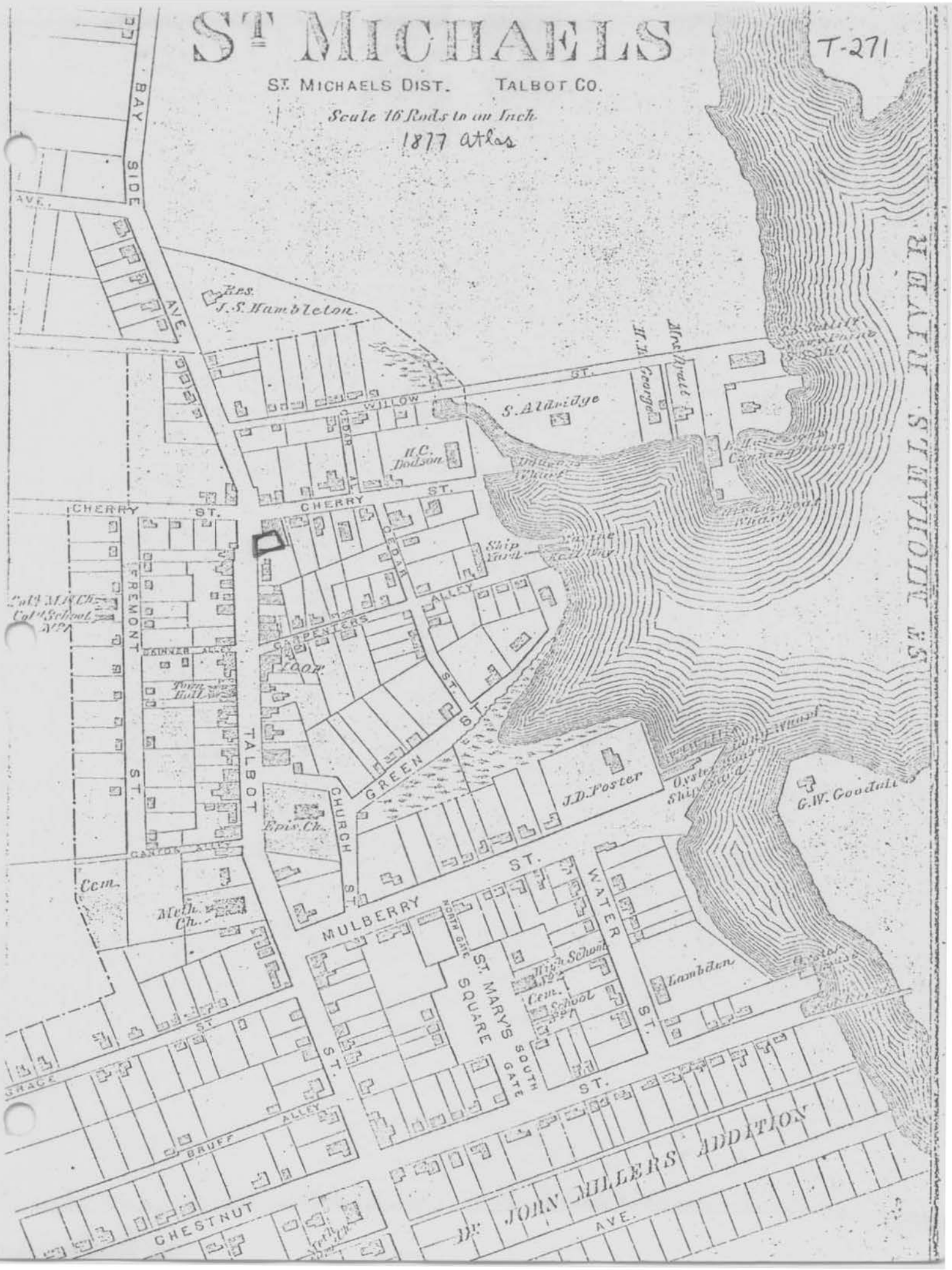
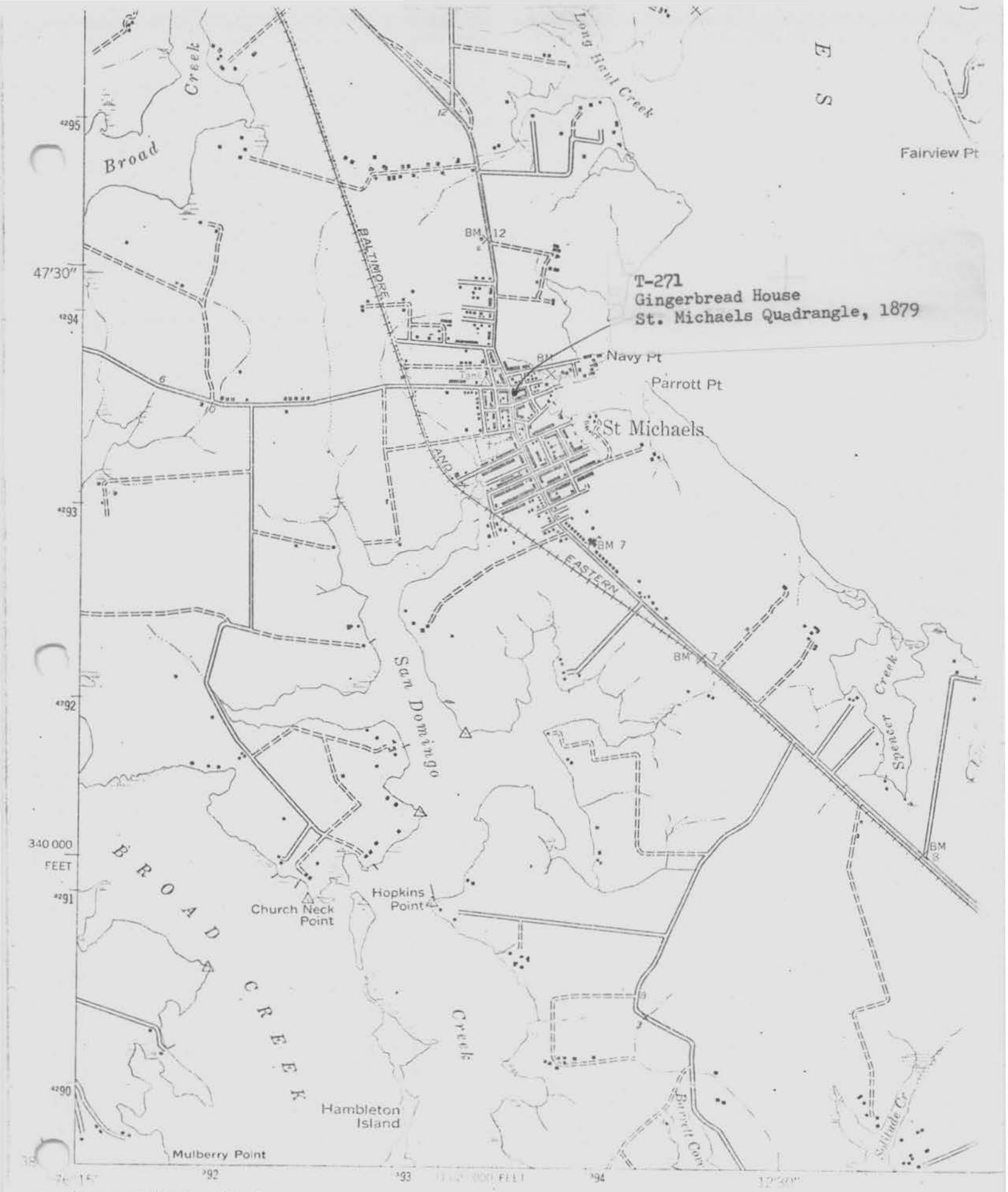
ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

1877 atlas



DR. DODSON'S
T-27
ST MARY'S
SQUARE
METHODIST
CEMETERY
BACK CREEK
MAP
OF
ST. MICHAELS
TALBOT CO. MARYLAND
SCALE
JAN. 1, 1925.
THOMAS K.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Gingerbread House
St. Michaels Quadrangle, 1879
Broad Creek
Long Haul Creek
Fairview Pt
BALTIMORE AND EASTERN
BM 12
Navy Pt
Parrott Pt
St Michaels
BM 7
San Domingo Creek
Spencer Creek
BM 8
Church Neck Point
Hopkins Point
BROAD CREEK
Hambleton Island
Mulberry Point
Barrett Cove
Solitude Cr
47'30"
340 000 FEET
Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS

GINGERBREAD HOUSE T-271
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
West Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

GINGERBREAD HOUSE T-271
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Northwest Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

GINGERBREAD HOUSE T-271
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Southwest Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

GINGERBREAD HOUSE T-271
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
West Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

GINGERBREAD HOUSE T-271
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Datebrick - 1879 -
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

.12 x 1.74 75% 271

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