

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.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-271

Magi No. 2102715611

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Gingerbread House

2. Location

street & number 103 Talbot Street not for publicationcity, 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 checked="" 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 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 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 state county local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

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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.

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 shelves remain intact in the second floor bedrooms.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1879 **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 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.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

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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 rod 8.46' 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 Johnson 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 leasehold rights from Daisey F Jones 1944, 259/580.

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.

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.

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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 Michaels at 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.

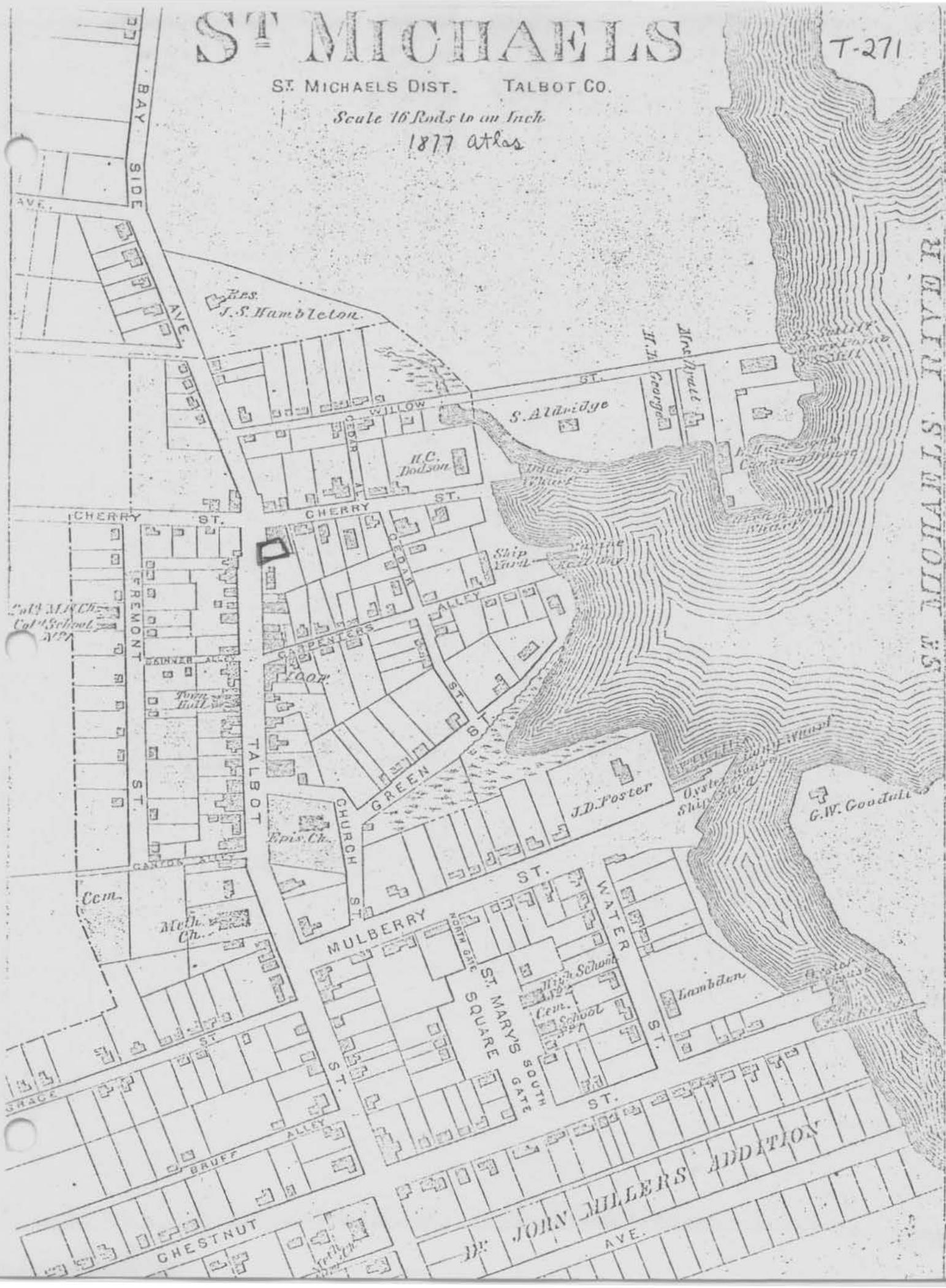
YEAR: 1802 VOL: 29 PAGE: 354
 FROM: Joseph Harrison of Thomas PRICE: p1424
 TO : Samuel Harrison
 NOTES: "A lot within the town of St Michaels wherein a brick dwelling house hath lately been erected. Begin at Joseph Harrison's pales on the main road, run northerly to the street leading to Robert Dodson's; 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
↓

7-271

ST MARY'S
SQUARE

METHODIST
CEMETERY

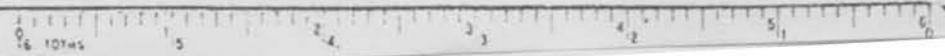
BACK CREEK

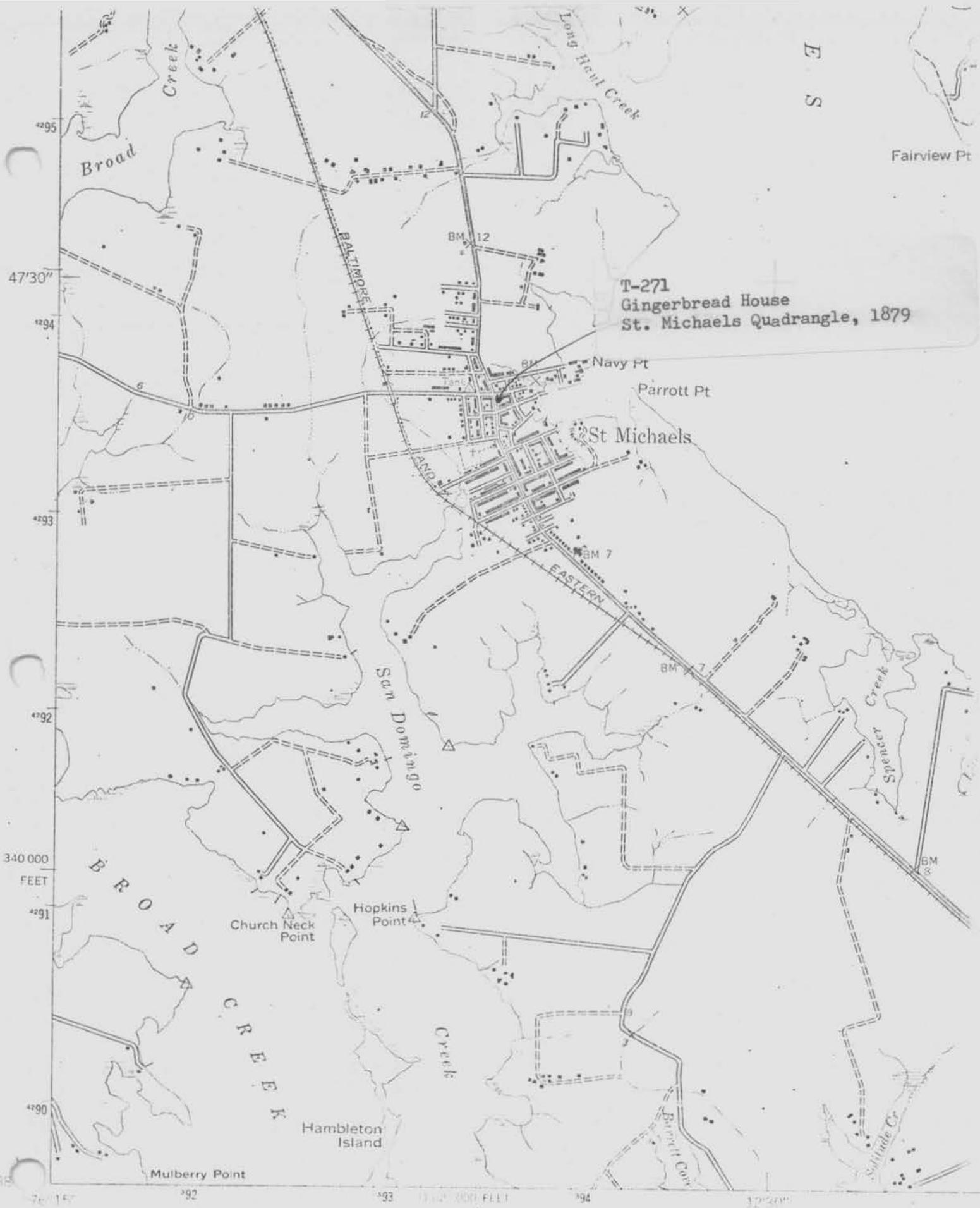
MAP
OF
ST. MICHAELS

TALBOT CO. MARYLAND

SCALE

JAN. 1, 1883. THOMAS K. BIRD





Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
 Control by USCG&G





GINGERBREAD HOUSE

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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

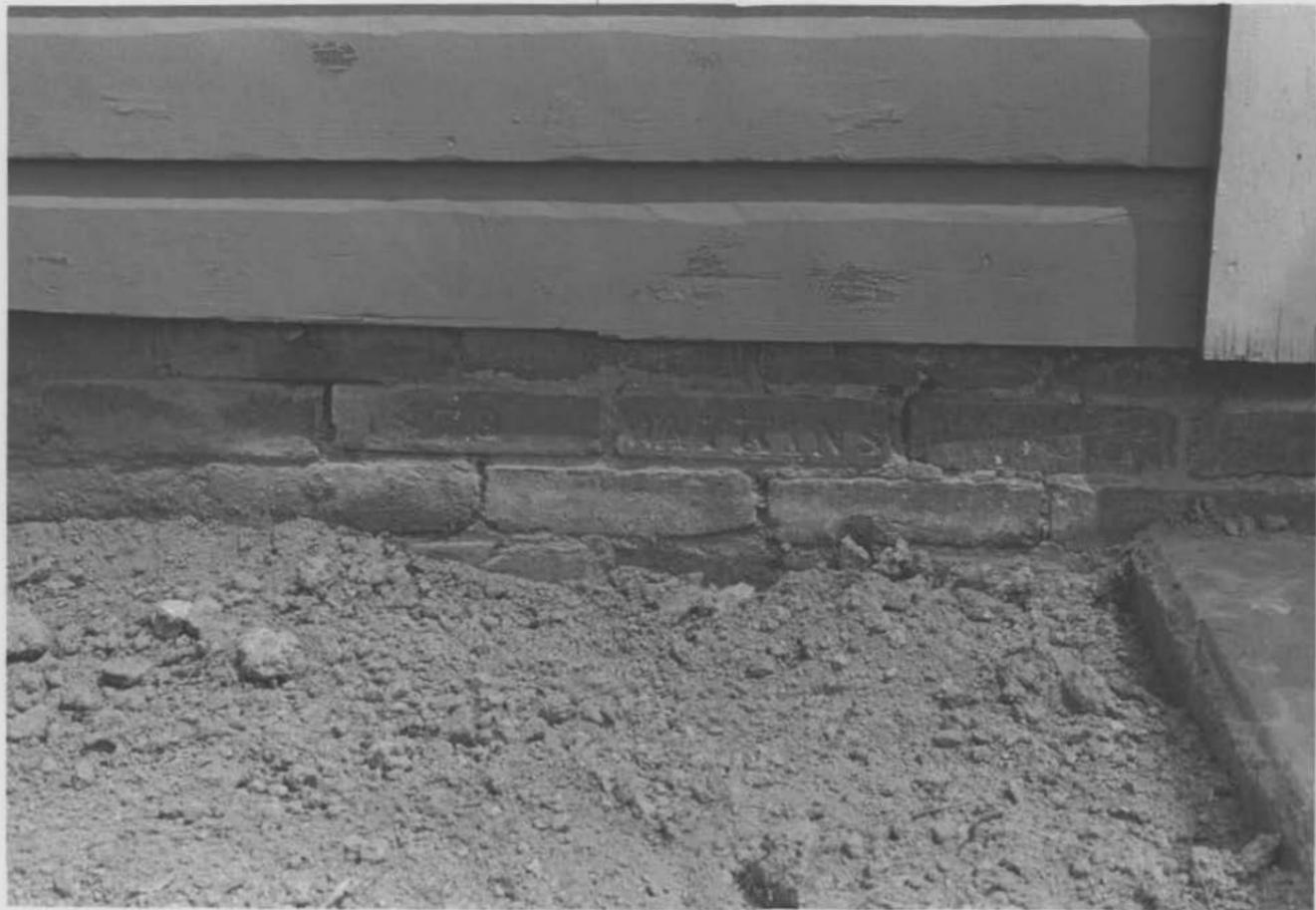
T-271

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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