

T-575

c. 1800-1815

Wilson House

St. Michaels

private

The Wilson house is one of the small collection of early nineteenth-century frame houses that stand in the immediate vicinity of "Hell's Crossing." The most significant architectural feature is the exposed timber frame visible on the first floor. The stair also appears to be an original feature. In an effort to ungrade the house the exterior was altered with the addition of a shed dormer on the front and a raising of the roof in back. Windows and doors have also been replaced.

The full history of this lot is unclear, and the first reference dates to 1864 when Thomas H. Willey bought the half lot from the heirs of Philip Willey (71/321). A gap in the chain between Philip Willey's purchase and 1926 leaves much in question about this early frame house.



# 7. Description

Survey No. T-575

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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.

## Wilson House description

The Wilson house is located on the west side of Locust Street near the intersection of Carpenter Street in St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The single-story frame house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

The c. 1800-1815 single-story frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and it is covered with weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof has been modified with a shed dormer in front and a second story raising in back.

The single-story, three-bay by two-room house has a center door and flanking four over one sash windows. A gabled stoop protects the front door. The shed dormer is lighted by three 3/1 sash windows. The gable ends of the house are marked by an asymmetrical placement of four over one sash windows or smaller lights. A seam in the weatherboard indicates the former size of the original house.

The two-room interior of the house is plainly finished with plaster walls. The most unusual features are the exposed corner posts and plates. Exposed framing members are not found in any other early house so far documented. The stair rises against the north wall. A chamfered newel post and rectangular balusters support a molded handrail. The stair closet has been closed off. A pair of glazed doors open into the second, smaller room. The second floor has been divided into four rooms, two to either side of a narrow passage. The visible second floor interior fabric appears to date to the early twentieth century.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-575

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

### 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 Wilson house is one of a small collection of early nineteenth-century frame houses that stand in the immediate vicinity of "Hell's Crossing." The most significant surviving architectural feature is the exposed timber frame visible on the first floor interior. The stair appears to be an original feature.



202 LOCUST STREET - WILSON

YEAR: 1976 VOL: 509 PAGE: 6  
FROM: James W. Rouse and others, trustees PRICE: \$10,000  
TO : George W. Wilson and Gracie I. Wilson (wife)  
NOTES: See attached deed.

Conveyed to James W. Rouse and others (trustees) by James W. Rouse and Willard G. Rouse, III. Personal Representatives of the Estate of Willard G. Rouse and also by deed (1974, 490/374) from Que Holding Corporation to James W. Rouse and Willard G. Rouse, III.

YEAR: 1976 VOL: 508 PAGE: 229  
FROM: James W. Rouse and Willard G. Rouse, III. Pers. Reps. PRICE: \$5  
TO : James W. Rouse, Willard G. Rouse, III. & Mercantile Safe Dep. & Trust Co.  
NOTES: Refer to 1976, 509/6, Item "First". Clearing title for sale of the lot to Wilson. The lot was part of the Estate of Willard G. Rouse.  
Conveyed to James W. Rouse and Willard G. Rouse, III. by Que Holding Corporation 1974, 409/374.

YEAR: 1974 VOL: 409 PAGE: 374  
FROM: Que Holding Corporation PRICE:  
TO : James W. Rouse and Willard G. Rouse, III.  
NOTES: See 509/6, "First".  
Conveyed to Que Holding Corporation by Marvin K. Turner, 1968,429/201.

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 429 PAGE: 201  
FROM: Marvin Kermit Turner & Ida Marie Turner (wife) PRICE: \$5  
TO : Que Holding Corporation  
NOTES: See 509/6.  
Conveyed to Marvin Kermit Turner and Hester M. Turner (wife) by William D. J. Morris, 1940, 247/66.

YEAR: 1940 VOL: 247 PAGE: 66  
FROM: William D. J. Morris PRICE: \$5  
TO : Marvin K. Turner and Hester M. Turner  
NOTES: See 509/6.  
Conveyed to William D. J. Morris by Henry P. Turner, County Treasurer, 1929, 220/21.

YEAR: 1929 VOL: 220 PAGE: 21

FROM: Henry P. Turner, County Treasurer PRICE: \$135

TO : William D. J. Morris

NOTES: See 509/6. Note that the lot is still 30 x 120.

This was a tax sale, 7 July 1928. Property was assessed to James Spencer's heirs and was in default for taxes for 1926. W. D. J. Morris was THE St. Michaels lawyer. As such, he handled many trust cases and engaged in many land speculations.

The chain breaks here. I have not been able to find in the land records or wills or Orphan's Court any reference to James Spencer and this property. Deed 1869, 75/391 mentioned in the Ira Hopkins chain refers to Thomas H. Willey as the owner of this lot. Since Hopkins' lot was 32' at that time, it follows that this one was also a "half lot".

Thomas H. Willey acquired the property in 1864, 71/321.

YEAR: 1864 VOL: 71 PAGE: 321

FROM: Heirs of Philip Willey PRICE: \$303.75

TO : Thomas H. Willey

NOTES: "Two houses and lots on the west side of Locust Street". This one is number two - Daniel Lyman's house. Begins NE corner of house of Thomas Blades of E ; runs N with Locust Street 32'6" to a stone; west 118' to heirs of John Porte Porter; south with Porter 32'6" to T B of E; then east 118' to the beginning. Part of the land obtained by Philip Willey from Mary Ann Graham and George H. Hopkins, 1838, 54/96. Thomas H Willey is cited as owning the lot as late as 1889 but I cannot connect him with James Spencer (or any other ~~Spencer~~). Daniel Lyman BOUGHT the half of lot #30, next to Bruff, in 1868.

The remarks concerning 1838, 54/96 for Ira Hopkins apply here. I think the answer may be found in the Orphan's Court records, but I have not found it yet!

The original lot - number 29 on the 1804-1806 Survey - was part of "Stopper" or "Joseph's Lot" coming down through the Harrisons. Tradition has it that most of the people living in the Locust Street - Carpenter's Alley area worked in the shipyards - the Willeys having Kirby's Yard on lot 17, with Samuel Harrison having his sawmill on 16 and owning 17 also. He is reputed to have financed the building of vessels. And before Harrison, in the 18th Century there was Thomas L. Haddaway who had a yard on lot 17. With the workers living where they did, with the "Dr. Dodson House starting life as a tavern...no wonder the corner of Carpenter's Alley and Locust Street was called Hell's Corner. And the original extension of Locust Street to Mill Street was called "Racket Alley" (or the name might even have been applied to the whole of Locust Street!

T-575

Time 3:20 P.M.

FEB 10-77 * 2 513	*****82.00
FEB 10-77 B #2 513	*****50.00
FEB 10-77 B #2 512	*****22.00
FEB 10-77 B #2 511	*****10.00

THIS DEED. Made this *29<sup>th</sup>* day of *December*

in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six, by JAMES W. ROUSE, WILLARD G. ROUSE, III, and MERCANTILE-SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY, a Body Corporate, Trustees under the Last Will and Testament of Willard G. Rouse.

WITNESSETH. that for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars, the said JAMES W. ROUSE, WILLARD G. ROUSE, III, and MERCANTILE-SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY, Trustees, do hereby grant and convey unto GEORGE W. WILSON and GRACIE I. WILSON, his wife, as tenants by the entireties their heirs and assigns, in fee simple,

ALL that lot or parcel of ground situate, lying and being in the Town of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland, with a frontage of approximately 30 feet on the west side of Locust Street and a depth of approximately 120 feet, more or less, known as 202 Locust Street.

BEING Item "FIRST" in a deed from JAMES W. ROUSE and WILLARD G. ROUSE, III, Personal Representatives of the Estate of Willard G. Rouse to James W. Rouse, Willard G. Rouse, III, and Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company, Trustees dated *Dec 29, (508/200)* and recorded immediately prior hereto in the Land Records of Talbot County, and also Item "FIRST" in a deed from Que Holding Corporation to James W. Rouse and Willard G. Rouse, III, by deed dated September 19, 1974 and recorded in the Land Record Books of Talbot County in Liber 490, folio 374.

TOGETHER with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, made or being; and all and every the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances, and advantages to the same belonging, or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lot or parcel of ground and premises above described and mentioned, and hereby intended to be conveyed; together with the rights, privileges, appurtenances, and advantages thereto belonging or appertaining unto and to the proper use and benefit of the said George W. Wilson and Gracie I. Wilson, his wife, as tenants by the entireties, their heirs and assigns, in fee simple.

*Examined* and mailed to Mr. and Mrs. George W. Wilson, Locust St., St. Michaels, Md. 21663 2-28-77

T-575

DR. DODSON'S



T-575

WATER STREET

ST MARY'S  
SQUARE

METHODIST  
CEMETERY

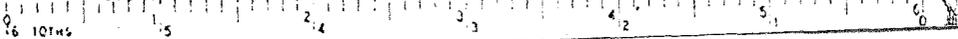
BACK CREEK

MAP  
OF  
ST. MICHAELS

TALBOT CO. MARYLAND

SCALE  
ONE INCH = ONE MILE

JAN. 1, 1825. THOMAS BEARD

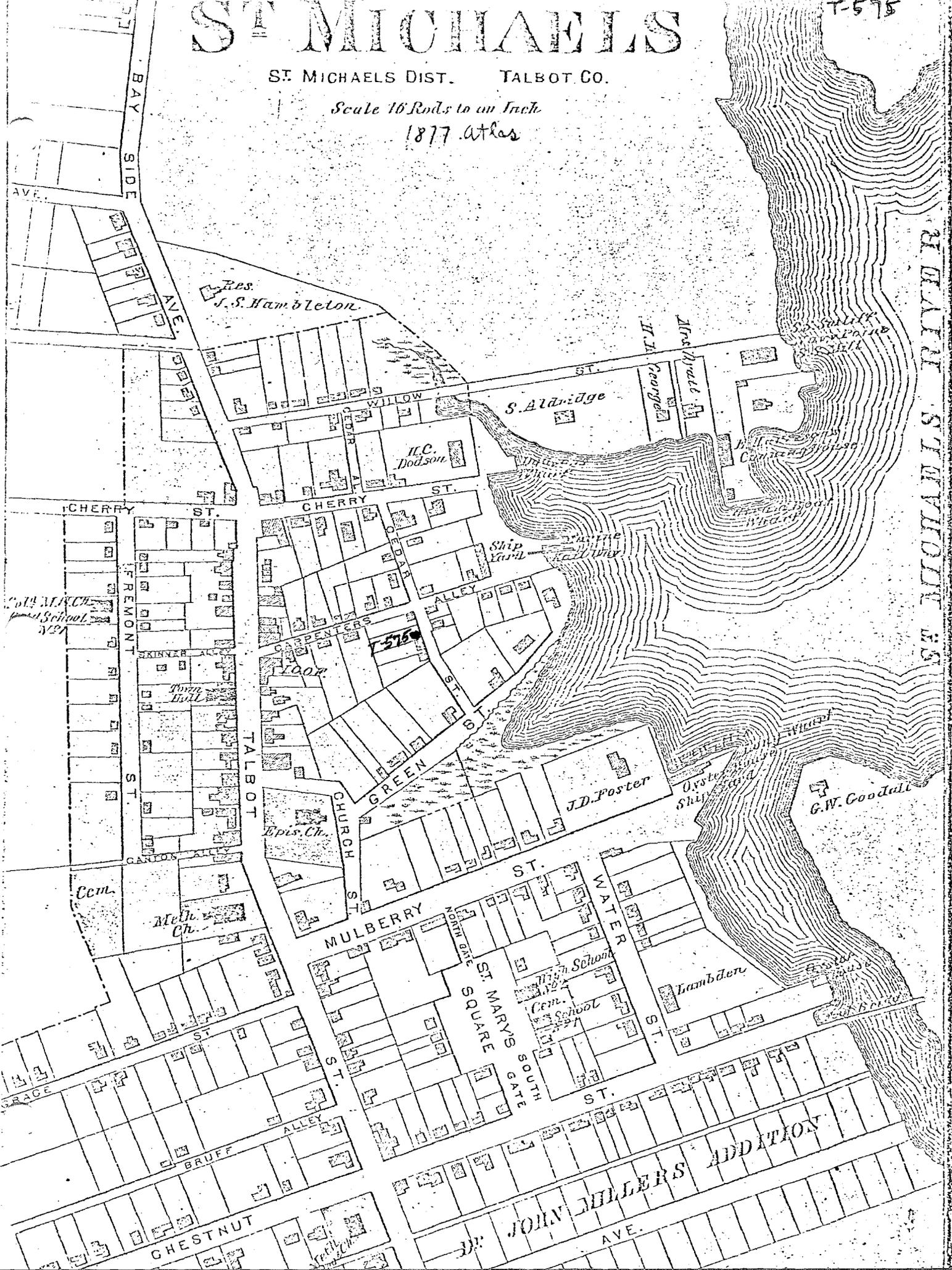


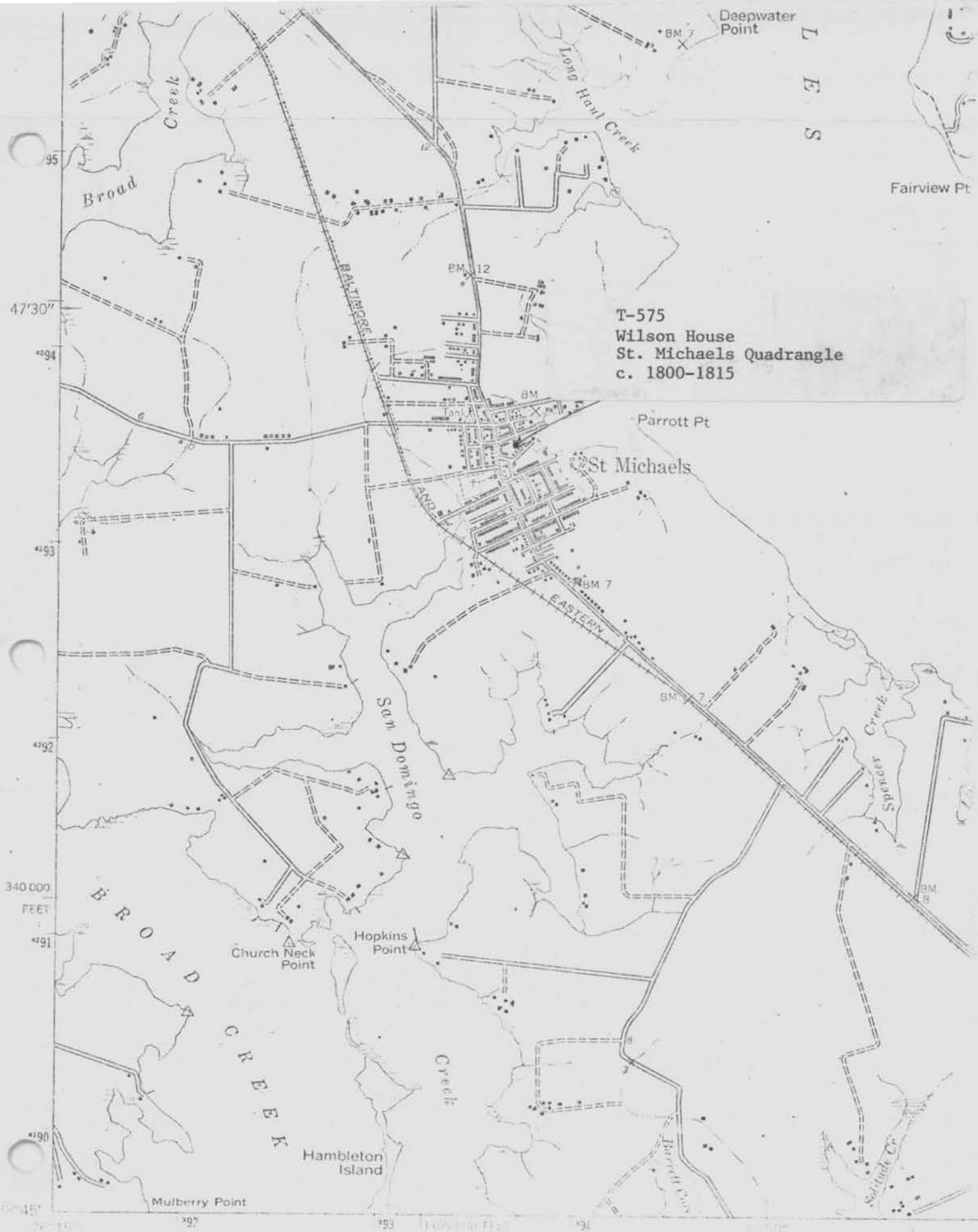
# ST MICHAELS

T-575

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch  
1877 Atlas





Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Engraved for civil use by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGCS



GEORGE WILSON HOUSE

T-575

Southeast Elevation

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



GEORGE WILSON HOUSE

T-575

Northeast Elevation

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



Wilson House

T-575

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

southeast elevation

8/85, Paul Touart-photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust