

T-580  
Keithley House  
St. Michaels  
private

c. 1815-1825, c. 1860

Until 1955, this corner property fronting Mulberry Street and the north gate to St. Mary's Square had been held by the Kiethley family, beginning in 1783. James Keithley, a weaver, purchased "Lot 18" from Jonathan Harrison and evidently occupied the site until his decease in 1786, when the property passed to his wife. Their son, Richard Keithley, apparently inherited the "...dwelling house and lot where I now live...", which he sold to James Keithley in 1826. Due to the architectural features evident in the east end of the dwelling it is reasonable to believe that the east half of the house was erected at the time the property was transferred to James or slightly before. The major rebuilding of the house was accomplished around 1860-1870, perhaps by Captain John and Sophia Keithley Thomas or the next occupants, William K. and Mary Jane Thomas, who acquired title to the corner property in 1879.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-580

Magi No. 2105805404

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Keithley House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Mulberry 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name The Inn at Perry Cabin

street &amp; number P.O. Box 247 telephone no.:

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

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 550 550

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio 649 649

city, town Easton state MD. 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. T-580

<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.

The Keithley house, located on the southwest corner of Mulberry Street and the north entrance to St. Mary's Square, faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east west axis. Incorporated into the ell-shaped main block is an early nineteenth-century frame house.

Built in two principal periods, the ell-shaped main house is supported by a combination brick pier and continuous brick foundation. The space beneath the oldest section (the eastern half of the house) is excavated below ground level. The entire house is uniformly sheathed with vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a series of gabled and shed additions erected during the past century.

The north (main) facade is an asymmetrical five-bay elevation. The centrally located six-panel door has three-pane sidelights and a six-light transom. Flanking the front door are a pair of large-size six-over-six sash windows. All the window frames have beaded surrounds and most windows retain louvered shutters. Due to the two periods of construction the second floor windows of the oldest section are slightly unaligned with the windows of the mid nineteenth-century section. A three-bay front porch stretches across the front of the house and is supported by turned posts with sawn brackets and turned balusters.

The east (side) elevation is an asymmetrical four-bay facade pierced by a combination of large six-over-six sash windows and a four-panel door opening. Small two-light windows light the excavated cellar. A bulkhead entrance to the cellar has been added to the northeast corner of the house. The second floor is lighted by six-over-six sash windows as well.

The rear elevation is an uneven facade where the ell is filled with single-story gabled and shed additions. The exterior features remain consistent with the rest of the house. The west gable end is a plain weatherboard wall with a flush gable end trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

The interior finishes date largely from the mid nineteenth century. The centrally located stair has a heavily turned newel post, rectangular balusters and a oval-profile handrail. A six-panel door opens into closet beneath the first landing. The parlor is fitted with new bookcases to each side of the hearth. A simple post and lintel mantel frames the firebox. There is a one-step difference in floor level between the hall and the east room, which marks the shift between the early nineteenth-century section and the western addition. The eastern section has been stripped of any period finishes.

## Keithley House Description Continued

The second floor is detailed in a less elaborate manner than the first floor. A plastered arch marks the doorway that separates the two sections. Four-panel doors open into the various bedrooms. Access by a drop ladder into the attic revealed that the roof structure above the eastern section was rebuilt to match the roof height of the western addition. Early nineteenth-century features significant in the excavated cellar include common bond walls and pit-sawn floor joists. An independent foundation and sill system for the eastern half of the house reveals the rectangular shape of the former two-story frame house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-580

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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The Keithley house is a prominent two-story, ell-shaped frame house that marks the southwest corner of Mulberry Street and the north gate of St. Mary's Square. The early part of the house was evidently erected during the first half of the nineteenth century, while the western half was added during the third quarter of the century. The house occupies a prominent site and retains a large percentage of its period exterior fabric. Inside the finishes date from the mid nineteenth century reworking of the house.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Until 1955, this corner property fronting Mulberry Street had been held by the Keithley family since 1783. James Keithley, a weaver, purchased "Lot 18" from Jonathan Harrison and evidently occupied the site until his decease in 1786, when the property passed to his wife. Their son, Richard Keithley apparently inherited the "...dwelling house and lot where I now live..." which he sold to James Keithley in 1826. (46/605) Due to the architectural features evident in the east end of the dwelling it is reasonable to believe that the east half of the house was erected at the time the property was transferred to James or slightly before. The major reworking of the house was accomplished around 1860-1870, perhaps by Captain John and Sophia Keithley Thomas or the next occupants, William K. and Mary Jane Thomas, who acquired title to the corner property in 1879.(87/217)



KEITHLEY HOUSE

T-580

YEAR: 1980 VOL: 550 PAGE: 649  
FROM : Harry C Meyerhoff PRICE: \$100,000  
TO : The Inn at Perry Cabin, Inc.  
NOTES: "Designated on town plat number 18". Begin at W corner of North Gate on Mulberry Street; run with Mulberry W 60' to lot number 19; with number 19 S 120' to St. Mary's Square; E with St Mary's Square 60' to the SE corner of this lot; then N 120'.  
Conveyed to grantor by R Stewart & Evelyn S Bell 1978, 525/295

YEAR: 1978 VOL: 525 PAGE: 295  
FROM : R Stewart Bell and Evelyn S Bell PRICE: \$64,000  
TO : Harry C Meyerhoff  
NOTES: Same as 1980, 550/649.  
Conveyed to grantors by G K Harrison and C Eugene Keithley, extras of estate of Elva Willey Keithley dcd, 1955, 327/304.

YEAR: 1955 VOL: 327 PAGE: 305  
FROM : G K Harrison and C Eugene Keithley, extras.\* PRICE: \$7000  
TO : R Stewart Bell and Evelyn S Bell  
NOTES: Harrison and Keithley are executors of the estate of Elva Willey Keithley whose will is 1949, 29/23. Same description as 1980.  
THE PROPERTY HAD BEEN IN THE KEITHLEY FAMILY FOR 172 YEARS.  
Conveyed to Elva Willey Keithley by T Willey Keithley 1933, 231/544.

YEAR: 1933 VOL: 231 PAGE: 544  
FROM : Heirs of Deborah Keithley PRICE: L & A  
TO : Elva Willey Keithley  
NOTES: The grantors were: T Willey Keithley & Devona; Victor P Keithley & Grace (Wilmington, Del.); Eugene & Annie Keithley (N Y State); Addie C McQuay & William T; Myrtle Y Harrison & George K. Same description as 1980.  
Conveyed to Deborah A Keithley by Elizabeth A Cochel, et al 1895, 125/279.  
Deborah died intestate in 1923 leaving as heirs her children, the grantors above.

YEAR: 1895 VOL: 125 PAGE: 279  
FROM : Elizabeth A Cochel (Baltimore) et al\* PRICE: \$500  
TO : Deborah A Keithley  
NOTES: \* The others were: India May Cochel Hews & Clarence A; and Charles A Cochel of Malden, Mass.  
Conveyed to James Keithley by Richard Keithley 1826, 46/605; also same lot conveyed to Sophia E Thomas by her father and mother, James & Sophia Keithley 1848, 61/140. Sophia E Thomas died intestate leaving heirs William K Thomas and Elizabeth A Cochel. William K Thomas conveyed his half to Elizabeth and Charles Cochel 1879, 87/217. Charles died, leaving Elizabeth.

YEAR: 1879 VOL: 87 PAGE: 217

FROM : William K and Mary Jane Thomas PRICE: \$500

TO : Charles F and Elizabeth A Cochel

NOTES: The lot was owned by Sophia E Thomas (1848, 61/140). She died intestate and the property was inherited by her children, William K Thomas and Elizabeth A Cochel. In this deed, William K Thomas and wife May Jane transfer their interest to the "house and lot" to his sister and her husband.

Conveyed to Sophia E Thomas by James and Sophia Keithley 1848, 61/140.

YEAR: 1848 VOL: 61 PAGE: 140

FROM : James and Sophia Keithley PRICE: L & A

TO : Sophia E Thomas (wife of Capt. John Thomas)

NOTES: "Lot number 18".

Conveyed to grantors by Richard Keithley 1826, 46/605.

YEAR: 1826 VOL: 46 PAGE: 605

FROM : Richard Keithley (Carpenter, of Baltimore) PRICE: \$100

TO : James Keithley (Carpenter)

NOTES: "All that lot...."

Conveyed to James Keithley by Jonathan Harrison 1783, 21/310.

YEAR: 1783 VOL: 21 PAGE: 310

FROM : Jonathan Harrison, Wheelwright PRICE: p7 10s sp

TO : James Keithley, Weaver

NOTES: "One lot, number 18".

Conveyed to Jonathan Harrison by James Braddock 1781, 21/228.

James Keithley had three sons: Richard, James, and Thomas. He also had two daughters: Elender and Nancy. Thomas A Mueller, a Keithley descendent, has written a manuscript entitled KEITHLEY NOTES (1986). In this he refers to an unsigned, unwitnessed, and unrecorded will of James Keithley in the possession of Annie Lou Martyn, Newark, Delaware. The will, dated 1786, leaves his wife all of his real and personal property during her life. On her decease, son Richard is to get "the dwelling house and lot where I now live"; James is to get lot 36 and 1/2 37 "at the meeting house"; Thomas, lots 29 and 30. The will was apparently honored by the heirs and accounts for Richard's sale to James in 1826.

YEAR: 1781 VOL: 21 PAGE: 228

FROM : James Braddock PRICE: p40 cm

TO : Jonathan Harrison, House Carpenter

NOTES: The price paid for the lot is the same as that paid for six other single lots sold by Braddock between 1778 and 1781. The land was part of Jane's Progress.

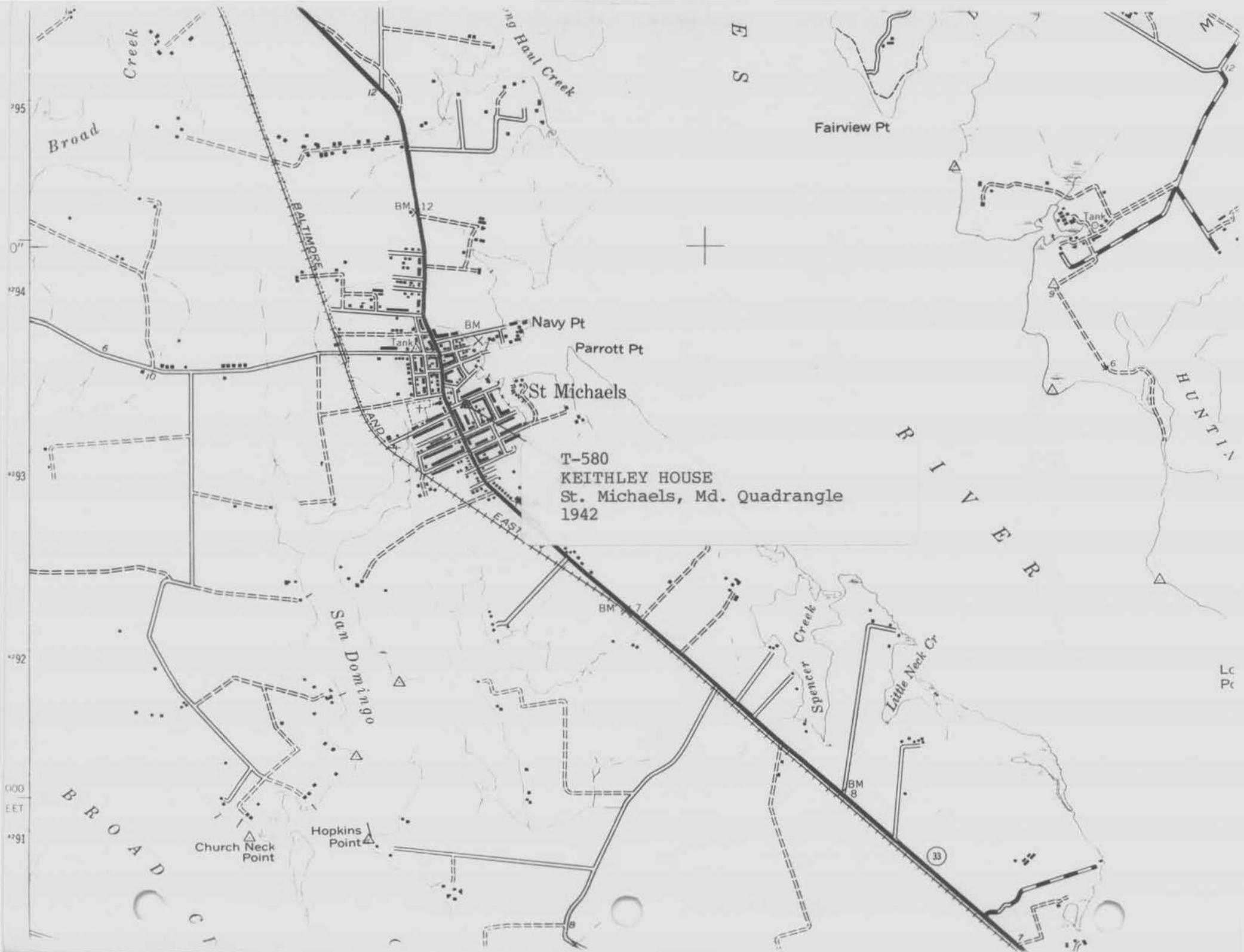
# ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



## ST. MICHAELS BUSINESS REFERENCES,

- DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Corsets, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds. Also Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Candles, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- HADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
- W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
- W. DYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- W. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- W. B. HARRISON**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.
- W. SPARKS**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
- W. SMITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- W. S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Indicate Machinery carefully repaired. Farming Implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specialty.
- W. WILLIAM CAULK**, Physician and Surgeon.
- W. JAMES BETH**, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.
- W. LIAM S. HARRISON**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.
- W. J. NEAVITT & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.
- W. T. HARRINGTON**, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.
- W. NIEL J. KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.
- W. GEORGE W. COLLINS**, Tinner, Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.
- W. E. BLADES**, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.
- W. SEPH HERGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
- W. IVER FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.
- W. HARRISON & RICHARDSON**, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- W. J. HOLLAND**, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.
- W. PT. C. R. LEONARD**, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.
- W. TOMA ADES**, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
- W. WEMEL HARRISON**, Dealer in Groceries, Confectioneries &c.
- W. S. KILMON**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- W. A. DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.





KEITHLEY HOUSE

T-580

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

North elevation

10/86, Paul Touart, photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



KEITHLEY HOUSE

T-580

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

Northeast elevation

10/86, Paul Touart, photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust