

T-584
MacSorley House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1810, c. 1860

The MacSorley house provides an interesting example of two building periods in St. Michaels. Originally the house only comprised the first floor of the western section of the ell-shaped house. The initial story-and-a-half, two-room deep frame house followed closely the form of the earliest surviving structures built during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Around 1860-1870, the old house was radically altered with a raising of the roof and the addition of an ell to the east. After the alterations were complete the newly reworked house repeated the asymmetrical Victorian designs fashionable during the Civil War era. Common to the entire town was the two-story porch nestled into the corner of the ell plan. Despite the major reworking, the house displays a significant blending of features common to both periods.

A chain-of-title for this Carpenter Street lot indicates the property was in the hands of the Harrison family until 1839. At the time of transfer in 1839 the property was described as, "One house and lot where certain Robert Harrison doth at present reside." It appears from available records that the house was erected by the Harrisons, perhaps Robert, during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Mary Ann Graham, daughter of Mary Harrison, sold "Lot 22" to Philemon T. Hambleton in 1839, who in turn transferred the house and lot to Philip Willey three years later. In 1864, the property reentered the hands of the Harrison family when the Carpenter Street lot was purchased by Louisa J. Harrison from the heirs of Philip Willey. It was probably after this transfer when the house was reworked.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common MacSorley House

2. Location

street & number 107 Carpenter 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 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 Victor H. and Linda M. MacSorley

street & number 107 Carpenter Street telephone no.:

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot Co. Clerk of Court liber 530

street & number Talbot County Court House folio 53

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-584

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 MacSorley house, built in two principal stages, stands at 107 Carpenter Street in the center of the St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, ell-shaped house faces south with the main gable oriented on an east-west axis.

The house displays a combination of materials which reflects the two distinct periods from which the house dates. Initially erected around 1810, the early house followed the story-and-a-half, two-room deep plan of many of its nearby contemporaries. (see Marshall house, T-563; and Haddaway house, T-569) The early portion involves the first floor of the western portion of the dwelling. Around 1860-1870, the old story-and-a-half, two-room plan house was raised and enlarged into an ell-shaped Victorian structure with an asymmetrical street facade and mid to late nineteenth-century decoration. The two-part house rests partially on a continuous brick foundation as well as brick piers. German siding covers large portions of the main elevations, but remnants of older and wider weatherboards can be found on the back of the house. The medium sloped roof is covered with asphalt tiles. Stuccoed brick stacks rise from each section.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical ell-shaped facade with a two-story porch that fills the inside corner of the ell plan. The two-bay gabled elevation is marked by six-over-six sash windows on each floor, and a single four-over-two sash lights lights the attic. The eaves are slightly extended, the cornice is boxed, the short returns finish the base of the roof. The three-bay entrance wall of the house is fully covered by the two-story shed roofed porch. Chamfered porch posts are embellished with Victorian sawn brackets. A square baluster handrail stretches between the posts on the first floor, but a sawn baluster handrail survives on the second floor. The first floor entrance is distinguished by a five-panel front door framed by three-light sidelights and a three-light transom. The adjacent two bays are filled with six-over-six sash windows. A similar arrangement marks the second floor with a door in the west bay and two six-over-six sash windows to the east.

The west side of the house is two bays deep with six-over-six or reused nine-over-six sash windows filling each first or second floor bay. The minimal brick foundation is continuous along the west wall.

The north (back) wall of the house is an asymmetrical elevation with a distinct seam in the weatherboards that indicates the shift between the two sections. Wider and less regular weatherboards mark the western portion of the rear wall which is pierced by a partially glazed rear door. The upper wall surface of the western portion is marked by two six-over-six sash windows. The eastern portion on the other hand is lighted on the first and second floors by reused nine-over-six sash windows.

The interior of the early nineteenth-century section retains a small amount of its period woodwork. Most notable are the wide pine floors and the raised four-panel closet door that provides access under the stair. The reworked straight stair rises in the north room to a second floor hall. A slender square newel post and rectangular balusters characterize the upstairs handrail. Evidence in the floor indicates the former location of the partitions. Each room is finished with standard mid to late nineteenth century features.

8. Significance

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: <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.

SIGNIFICANCE

The MacSorley house provides an interesting example of two building periods in St. Michaels. The initial story-and-a-half, two-room deep frame house followed closely the form of the earliest surviving structures built during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Around 1860, the old house was radically altered with a raising of the roof and a ell addition to the east. After the alterations were complete the newly reworked house repeated the asymmetrical Victorian designs fashionable during the second half of the century. Common to St. Michaels was the popular two-story porch nestled into the corner of the ell plan. Despite the major reworking, the house displays a significant blending of features common to the early nineteenth century and the post-bellum period.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A chain of title for this Carpenter Street lot indicates the property was in the hands of the Harrison family until 1839. At the time of the transfer the property was described as, "One house and lot where certain Robert Harrison doth at present reside." (54/573) It appears from available records the house was erected by the Harrisons, perhaps Robert, during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Mary Ann Graham, daughter of Mary Harrison sold "Lot 22" to Philemon T. Hambleton in 1839, who in turn transferred the house and lot to Philip Willey three years later. (56/518) In 1864, the property reentered the hands of the Harrisons when the Carpenter Street lot was purchased by Louisa J. Harrison from heirs of Philip Willey. (71/320)

MACSORLEY HOUSE

T-584

YEAR: 1978 VOL: 530 PAGE: 53

FROM : Hillard L Sterling and Catherine N Sterling PRICE:

TO : Victor H MacSorley and Linda M MacSorley

NOTES: Begins on Carpenter Street at corner of Martha J Seymour lot; run N 120' to the Reynolds lot; E with Reynolds 56'; then S with Alverta Bailey lot 120' to Carpenter Street. Is lot number 22 on Town Plat.

Conveyed to Hillard L Sterling by James W Rouse, Willard Rouse III., and Mercantile Safe Deposit Co, trustee of Willard G Rouse 1977, 509/79.

YEAR: 1977 VOL: 509 PAGE: 79

FROM : Trustees of Willard G Rouse PRICE: \$30,000

TO : Hillard L Sterling and Catherine N Sterling

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to the personal representatives of the estate of Willard G Rouse, dcd 1974, 490/374

YEAR: 1974 VOL: 490 PAGE: 374

FROM : Que Holding Corp PRICE:

TO : pers reps of Willard G Rouse, dcd

NOTES: Of several parcels, this is parcel 3. Purchased by Que Holding Corp for the estate of Willard G Rouse, dcd. Same description.

Refer to 1971, 457/550.

YEAR: 1971 VOL: 457 PAGE: 550

FROM : Sarah Joshua, widow PRICE:

TO : Que Holding Corp

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Raymond Henry Joshua and Sarah Joshua by Oliver M Morris, etal 1953, 307/67.

YEAR: 1953 VOL: 307 PAGE: 67

FROM : Oliver M Morris and Katherine T Morris PRICE:

TO : Raymond Henry Joshua and Sarah Joshua

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Oliver M Morris by County Trust Company 1942, 254/342.

YEAR: 1942 VOL: 254 PAGE: 342

FROM : County Trust Company PRICE:

TO : Oliver M Morris

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to the County Trust Co by County Corp 1942, 254/17

YEAR: 1942 VOL: 254 PAGE: 17

FROM : County Corporation of Maryland PRICE:

TO : County Trust Co of Maryland

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to County Corp by the Citizen's Bank of the Eastern Shore Trust Co 1933, 230/596.

YEAR: 1933 VOL: 230 PAGE: 596

FROM : Citizens Bank of the Eastern Shore Trust Co PRICE:

TO : County Corporation of Maryland

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed by Henry P Turner, late Treasurer of Talbot County to the Eastern Shore Trust Co trading as the Citizens Bank of St Michaels 1931, 230/595

YEAR: 1931 VOL: 230 PAGE: 595

FROM : Henry P Turner, late treasurer of Talbot County PRICE: \$550

TO : Eastern Shore Trust Co trading as Citizens Bank of St Michaels

NOTES: Same description.

On 1 March 1930 Turner, at public sale, sold the grantees the house and lot for \$550. Sale was for default for taxes assessed to Harry Jenkins.

Conveyed to Harry Jenkins by Richard S Dodson and Florence K Dodson 1919, 183/176.

YEAR: 1919 VOL: 183 PAGE: 176

FROM : Richard S Dodson and Florence K Dodson PRICE: \$750

TO : Harry Jenkins

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Richard S Dodson by Robert Lee Porter, etal 1910, 158/127.

1919, 183/177 Harry Jenkins to Richard S Dodson is a mortgage for \$300.

YEAR: 1910 VOL: 158 PAGE: 127

FROM : Robert Lee Porter & Vir. May; Annie B Mervin & Harry B PRICE: \$450

TO : Richard S Dodson

NOTES: Originally purchased by Thomas J Porter who died 1905 leaving daughter Annie G , now Mrs Harry Mervin, and son Robert Lee who married Virginia May Schuler. Thomas left will leaving property to Annie for life or as long as she remained unmarried. Will was never probated so Annie is on this deed.

Conveyed to Thomas J Porter by Louisa J Harrison, 1887, 106/63.

YEAR: 1887 VOL: 106 PAGE: 63
FROM : Louisa J Harrison PRICE: \$425
TO : Thomas J Porter
NOTES: Same description. Conveyed to Louisa J Harrison by heirs of Phillip Willey 1864, 71/320.

YEAR: 1864 VOL: 71 PAGE: 320
FROM : Heirs of Philip Willey PRICE: \$315
TO : Louisa J Harrison
NOTES: A lot on Carpenters Alley that is now occupied by William T Wharton and Cyrus Brooks. On town plat, number 22. Conveyed to Philip Willey by Philemon T Hambleton 1842, 56/518

YEAR: 1842 VOL: 56 PAGE: 518
FROM : Philemon T Hambleton and Susan PRICE: \$250
TO : Phillip Willey
NOTES: "one house and lot on Carpenters Alley where Daniel H Willing resides. On plat, number 22."
Same house and lot conveyed to Philemon T Hambleton by Mary Ann Graham 1839, 54/573.

YEAR: 1839 VOL: 54 PAGE: 573
FROM : Mary Ann Graham PRICE: \$232.50
TO : Philemon T Hambleton
NOTES: "One house and lot where a certain Robert Harrison doth at present reside". Number 22 on plat.

Mary Ann Graham was the daughter of Mary Harrison who inherited the unsold or unleased property of Joseph Harrison. This lot is apparently part of the land inherited by Mary Ann from her mother, Mary (see T-263, Ira Hopkins on adjoining lot). Although the lot had been built-on it does not seem to have been sold previous to this deed. It is part of "Stopper" ("Joseph's Lot").

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Brushes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Fine Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Pens, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Stoves, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

ES DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ES BLANKIN, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.

SPARKS, Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

F. S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Precise Machinery carefully repaired. Farming Implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.

WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.

JAMES SETE, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

LIAM S. HARRISON, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

N. 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.

NIEL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.

GEORGE W. COLLINS, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

T. BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

LEPH HERGERSHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

EVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

HARRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

PT. C. R. LEONARD, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to point.

OMAS ADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

EMILIA HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Confectioneries &c.

J. KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

L. DODSON Physician and Surgeon.

Dr. C. Gibson



T-584
MACSORLEY HOUSE
St. Michaels, Md. Quadrangle
1942

Broad
Creek

Fairview Pt

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

HUNTING
RIVER

San Domingo

San Domingo
Creek

Little Neck Cr.

BROAD
CREEK

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

BM 12

BM 4

BM 7

BM 7

BM 8

33

E
S

Lo
Po



MACSORLEY HOUSE

T-584

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

South elevation

10/86, Paul Touart, photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



MACSORLEY HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

North elevation

10/86, Paul Touart, photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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