

T-587

James Jefferson House  
St. Michaels  
private

c. 1850

From available information assembled in the chain-of-title along with the architectural evidence, it appears this two-story, side hall-parlor frame house was erected by James Jefferson around 1850, shortly after he began leasing the lot from Samuel A. Harrison in 1849. In December of 1850, James Jefferson mortgaged the property to James M. Seth, and the document includes the phrase, "...where Jefferson resides." Seven years later, Seth sold the house to John T. Ford for \$340. Beginning in 1915 the property was held by the Marshall family who finally sold the property in 1980.

The James Jefferson house, now St. Michaels Realty office, survives as one of the oldest frame structures standing along Talbot Street within the central business district. Although the exterior has been reworked with, the interior remains with a period entrance and stair.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James Jefferson House

and/or common St. Michaels Realty Office

## 2. Location

street & number 207 Talbot Street  not for publication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	
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Robert Vojvoda - Knapp Foundation

street & number 205 Talbot Street 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

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 467

city, town Easton state MD. 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. T-587

<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 James Jefferson house, now the location of St. Michaels Realty office, stands on the east side of Talbot Street in the center business district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, two-bay frame structure faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1850, this two-story, side hall/parlor house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and sheathed with a layer of vinyl siding. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Covering the front of the main block is a two-story porch that has been enclosed to provide additional office space.

The west (main) elevation is a modern three-bay storefront with a side entrance and a pair of adjacent display windows. Located above the first floor openings and stretching across the full front is a shingled eave. The second floor is lighted by a pair of six-over-six sash windows.

The south gable end is marked by single six-over-six sash windows that light each floor of the former porch, and a stuccoed brick stove stack protrudes through the gable end. The eaves are slightly extended. The north gable end, on the other hand, is largely obscured by the shop which stands directly north. Extending from the east (rear) elevation of the main block is a twentieth-century service wing.

The interior of the house has been generally modified as an office, but several mid nineteenth-century features remain intact. The front door of the house, located in the northernmost bay, is partially glazed and it is framed by three-light sidelights and a three-light transom. Fixed in the northeast corner of the side hall is a tight winder stair that survives with a slender, turned newel post and a circular profile handrail. Two square balusters to each tread support the handrail. A beaded board-and-batten door opens into the closet space beneath the stair. The balance of the first floor has been generally reworked with the removal of most mid nineteenth-century finishes.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-587

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.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The James Jefferson house survives as one of the oldest frame structures standing along Talbot Street within the central business district of St. Michaels. Built during the middle years of the nineteenth century, the interior retains a period entrance and a winder stair. The two-story front porch, a common feature for mid nineteenth-century houses in St. Michaels, has been enclosed. Despite the exterior alterations, the two-story side hall-parlor house contributes to the row of nineteenth-century structures that line Talbot Street.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

From available information assembled in the chain-of-title along with architectural evidence, it appears this two-story, side hall/parlor frame house was erected by James Jefferson around 1850 shortly after he began leasing the lot from Samuel A. Harrison in 1849. In December of 1850, James Jefferson mortgaged the property to James M. Seth, and the document includes the phrase, "...where Jefferson resides."(63/85) Seven years later, Seth is recorded selling the house to John T. Ford for \$340.(67/517) Beginning in 1915 the property was held by the Marshall family who finally sold the house in 1980. (550/467)



YEAR: 1980 VOL: 550 PAGE: 467  
FROM: Norman D Marshall and Gertrude B PRICE:  
TO: Knapp Foundation  
NOTES See plats 53/27 and 54/04  
Conveyed to Norman D and Gertrude B Marshall by Elsie W Huntteman and Frank E Mason 1980, 550/464.

YEAR: 1980 VOL: 550 PAGE: 464  
FROM: Elsie W Huntteman and Frank E Mason for estate Emily Stants PRICE:  
TO: Norman D and Gertrude "D" Marshall  
NOTES See plat of survey made 3 Oct 1980.  
Part of the property in Norman D Marshall to Norman D and Gertrude B Marshall 1972, 467/543 also part of same devised to Elsie W Huntteman by will of Emily L Stants 40/14.

YEAR: 1972 VOL: 467 PAGE: 543  
FROM: Norman D Marshall PRICE:  
TO: Norman D Marshall and Gertrude B Marshall  
NOTES Is "Eighth" in deed. Begins E side Talbot Street at NW corner of B. Benneman; run E with Benneman 78' to James H Covey; with Covey N 21' to Thomas E Harrison; W with Harrison 61' to NE corner of shop of Dr. Joseph B Seth; then S with shop 13'6"; then W with shop 17'6" to Talbot Street; with Talbot Street S 24' to the beginning.  
Same as Norman D Marshall, Personal Representatiye to Norman D Marshall 1972, 466/471.

YEAR: 1972 VOL: 466 PAGE: 471  
FROM: Norman D Marshall, Pers. Rep. of Ethel D Marshall, dcd PRICE:  
TO: Norman D Marshall  
NOTES "Eighth" same as 467/543.  
Conveyed to J Norman Marshall and Ethel D Marshall by Celia Marshall 1938, 242/245.

YEAR: 1938 VOL: 242 PAGE: 245  
FROM: Celia Mashall PRICE:  
TO: J Norman Marshall and Ethel D Marshall  
NOTES In fee. Same as 467/543.  
Conveyed to Celia Marshall by Ella Virginia Watkins and J Edward Watkins 1915, 179/187.

YEAR: 1915 VOL: 179 PAGE: 187

FROM: Ella Virginia Watkins and J Edward Watkins PRICE: \$1000

TO: Celia Marshall

NOTES "All that lot....conveyed to Ella Virginia Watkins by W Reese Young and J Edward Watkins executors of Jane B Watkins 1910, 157/343

YEAR: 1910 VOL: 157 PAGE: 342

FROM: Heirs of James B Watkins\* PRICE: \$50+ovc

TO: Ella Virginia Watkins

NOTES The heirs are: J Edward Watkins, Joseph W Caulk, Amelia A Young and W Reese Young. James B Watkins will is 1900, 15/278. Begins at E side Talbot Street at NW corner of Alexander Hambleton, now B. Benneman. Run E 78' to former James M Seth now estate James H Covey; with Covey N 21' to former IOOF Hall now Thomas E Harrison; W with Harrison 61' to NE corner of shop of former Mrs E A Camper now Dr. Joseph B Seth; then S with shop 13'6"; then W with shop 17'6" to Talbot Street; with Talbot Street S 24' to beginning. Same M & B as 467/543.

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 74 PAGE: 227

FROM: Nicholas Orem and Sarah Mc. PRICE: \$850

TO: James B Watkins

NOTES Begins on Talbot Street at NW corner of Alexander Hambleton; runs E with Hambleton 78' to James M Seth; N with Seth 21' to IOOF Hall; W 61' to NE corner of a shop of Mrs. E A Camper; S with the shop 13'2"; W with the shop 17'6" to Talbot Street; then S 24' to the beginning.

YEAR: 1859 VOL: 68 PAGE: 423

FROM: John T Ford and Martha W. PRICE: \$500

TO: Nicholas Orem

NOTES "All of a lot deeded to John T Gord by James M Seth and Louisa F. 1857, 67/517". Begin at the NW corner of Alexander Hambleton; run E with Hambleton 78' to Wm. P. Blades; with Blades 21' to IOOF Hall; then W with Odd Fellows to ground leased by Samuel A Harrison to James M Seth in 1851; then S 38'6" with Seth to the beginning. Except a small shop owned by James B Way and occupied by R. A. Dodson, MD.

YEAR: 1857 VOL: 67 PAGE: 517

FROM: James M Seth and Louisa PRICE: \$340

TO: John T Ford

NOTES In fee. "A piece of a lot deeded by Samuel H Wrightson in 1849 to James Jefferson of John". Part of lot 25. Deeded by Jefferson to Seth 17 December 1850, 63/375.

YEAR: 1850 VOL: 63 PAGE: 375

FROM: James Jefferson of John PRICE: \$400

TO: James M Seth

NOTES "that lot at this time occupied by James Jefferson of John being part of a lot purchased by James Jefferson of Samuel H Wrightson in 1849. Lot is known as number 35 on the town plat (should be 25) at corner of Talbot Street and Carpenters Alley. Begins at a post at SE corner of the lot on the line between James Jefferson of John and a lot owned and occupied by Alexander Hambleton and Samuel S Harrison; run NW 78' to a lot upon which the Odd Fellows Hall stands; then W 65' fair with the SE end of the Odd Fellows Hall to a lot leased by Richard C Lane, agent for Dr. Samuel A Harrison to James Jefferson of John; from there 38'6" to the beginning.

The metes and bounds of this deed are faulty but the property seems to include "where Jefferson resides" in 1850, 63/85.

17 December 1850

YEAR: 1850 VOL: 63 PAGE: 85

FROM: James Jefferson of John PRICE: mort.

TO: James M Seth

NOTES James wants two notes of \$50 each to pay Shadrach Ledenham. The security is lot where James Jefferson of John resides (T-587). Property is part fee, part leasehold. On Talbot Street between the IOOF Hall now building and a lot occupied by firm of Harrison and Hambleton, carpenters. 2 May 1850.

The leasehold is: Richard C Lane, agent for Samuel A Harrison to James Jefferson of John 1849, 62/438.

YEAR: 1850 VOL: 62 PAGE: 440

FROM: Samuel H Wrightson and Hester PRICE: \$50

TO: James Jefferson

NOTES Begins at stone #16 at southernmost corner of Carpenters Alley and the Main Road; run with Carpenters Alley 43' to a lot occupied by John Barwick; with Barwick 89' to Samuel S Harrison; with Harrison 77' to the Main Road; with the road 87' to the beginning.

4 March 1850.

The beginning stone #16 definitely locates the beginning as the IOOF corner of Talbot and Carpenters Alley. Stones 15 and 16 were mentioned in the Survey of 1806 as the corner stones of Carpenters Alley and Talbot Street. This deed takes in all the land on Talbot Street from the corner of Carpenters Alley south to the lot of T-573 (Keeler Gallery) and includes the IOOF Hall.

YEAR: 1849 VOL: 62 PAGE: 438

FROM: Richard C Lane, agent for Samuel A Harrison PRICE: lease

TO: James Jefferson of John

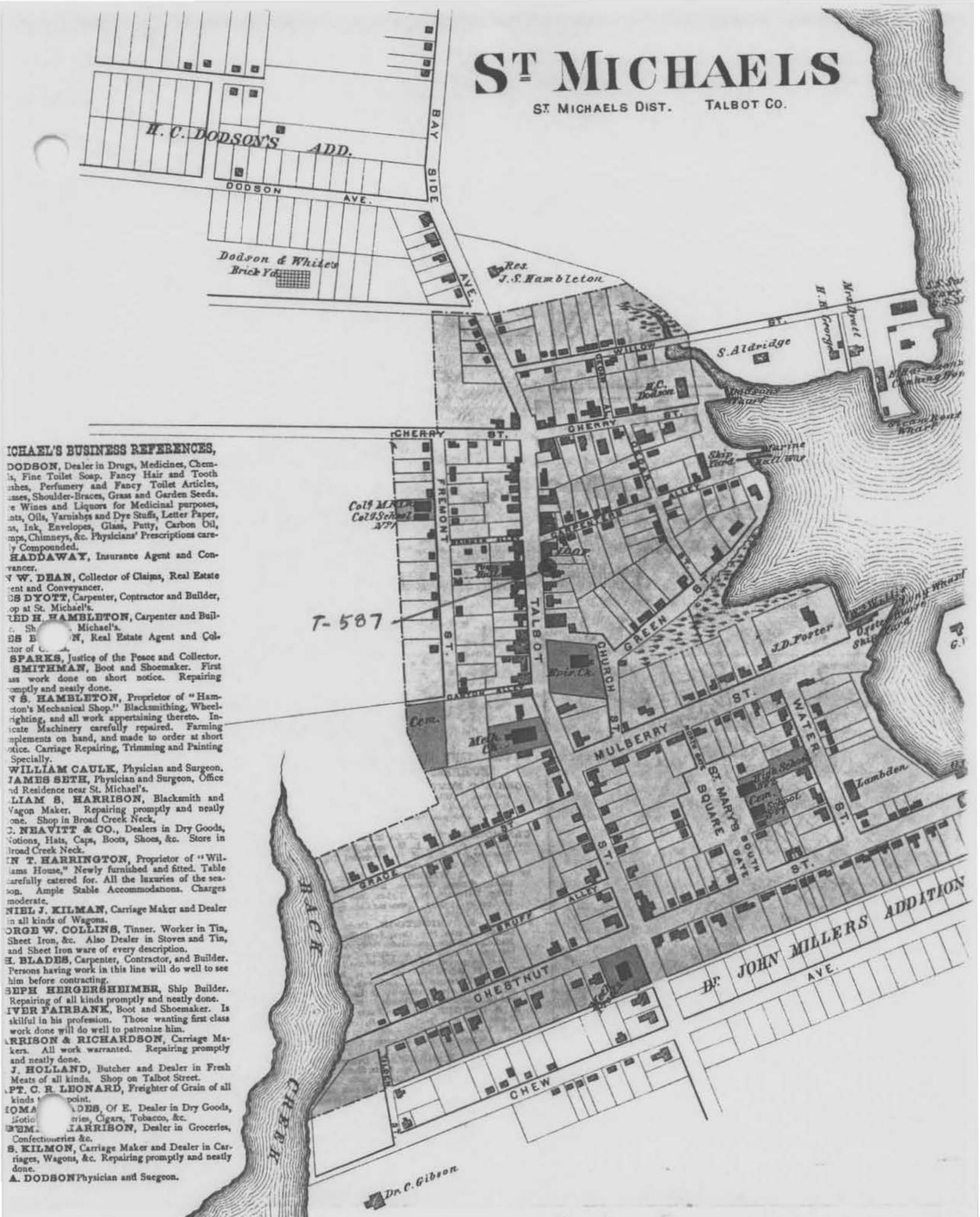
NOTES A lot at the S corner of Carpenters Alley and Talbot Street. Begins at the NW corner of lot number 25 on Carpenter Street; run S 89'; then SW 11' to Talbot Street; then N 87' to Carpenters Alley; with the alley 21' to the beginning.  
17 July 1849.

This is the earliest deed in which this property is identifiable. It appears to be a lot 11' to 21' deep with a frontage of 87' on Talbot Street. It includes part of the Odd Fellows lot, T-586 and T-587. It is definitely Harrison land - part of "Joseph's Lot" or "Stopper". It's early history is involved in the missing title of Samuel H Wrightson. From a study of the above deeds it would appear that Wrightson sold the FEE title while Samuel A Harrison sold the leasehold interest.



# 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, Razors, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Fine Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Envelopes, Ink, Putty, Carbon Oil, 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 B...**, 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.

**W. S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheel-righting, and all work appertaining thereto. Industrial 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. Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

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

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

**IN 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.

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

**SEPH HERGENSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

**IVER 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.

**EDMUND DEES OF E.** Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

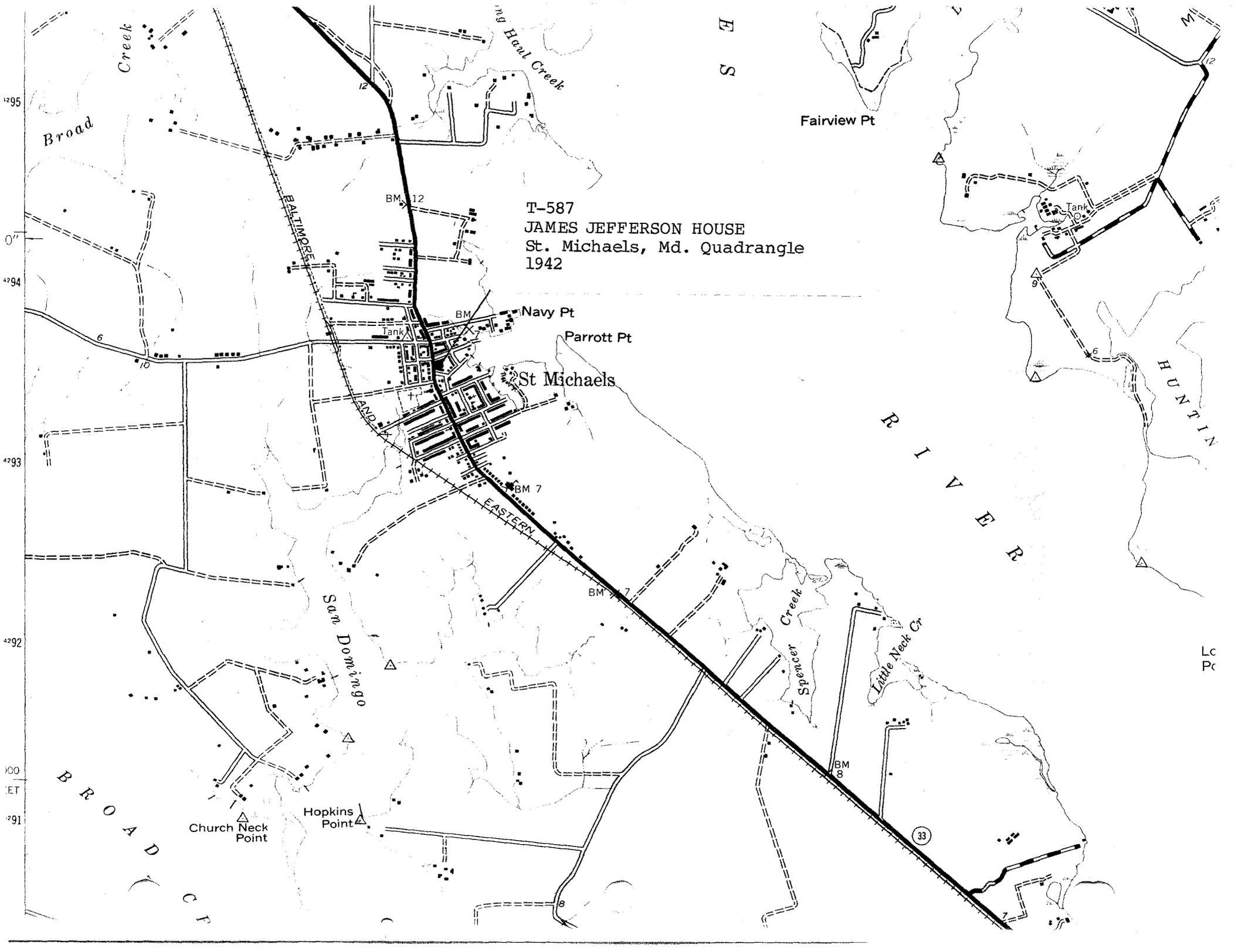
**EDMUND HARRISON**, Dealer in Groceries, Confectioneries &c.

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

**A. DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.

T-587

Dr. C. Gibson



T-587  
JAMES JEFFERSON HOUSE  
St. Michaels, Md. Quadrangle  
1942

Navy Pt  
Parrott Pt  
St Michaels

Fairview Pt

HUNTING RIVER

LC  
PC

BROAD CREEK

San Domingo

Spencer Creek

Little Neck Cr

BALTIMORE

EASTERN

N  
S  
E  
W

4295  
0'  
4294  
4293  
4292  
100  
ET  
4291

33

BM 12

BM

BM 7

BM 7

BM 8

Tank

Tank

Tank

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point



JAMES JEFFERSON HOUSE

T-587

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

Southwest elevation

10/86, Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



JAMES JEFFERSON HOUSE

T-587

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

Stair

10/86, Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust