

T-604
Ford's Tavern
St. Michaels
private

c. 1850-1860

This large, two-story five-bay frame structure is a pivotal building for the northern business district of St. Michaels. Marking the northeast corner of the intersection of Talbot and Cherry streets, the imposing two-story two-part dwelling and store building is a prominent architectural element for this crossroads. The two period buildings on the adjacent western corners have been lost, and the distinctive Victorian shop building, now an ice cream parlor, occupies the southeast corner. Although the ice cream parlor is a distinctive single-story building with its decorative bargeboards, the old Ford's Tavern commands more attention with its two-story, five-bay elevation. This version of a combination dwelling and commercial space is not repeated in St. Michaels by another structure

A chain-of-title for this corner property suggests the composite building was erected as a combination house and tavern during the middle years of the nineteenth century. Mary Jane Atwood inherited this lot from her uncle, Thomas Hanna, in 1832. Two years later Mary Jane Atwood married Littleton D. Ford, and it is assumed a tavern was operated on this site during the 1830s, 1840s, 1850s, and early 1860s. It is estimated that the extant improvements were raised during the 1850s. The children and heirs of Littleton D. and Mary Jane Ford sold the corner property in 1865 to Thomas Blades, who is known to have operated a grocery store in this structure. Thomas Blades (of E.) is cited on the 1877 St. Michaels town map as a dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, & c. The property remained in Blades family hands until 1920.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic FORD'S TAVERN

and/or common VILLAGE LAUNDRY

2. Location

street & number NE corner of Talbot and Cherry streets ¹⁰¹ not for publication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 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 Theodore A. Mohlman

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 536

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 749

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-604

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 Village Laundry building, known historically as "Ford's Tavern," is a large two-story, two-part frame structure that stands at 101 Cherry Street in the northern commercial district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The five-bay structure faces south with the gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1850-1860, the two-part frame structure consists of a two-story, three-bay, single-pile dwelling that was enlarged shortly after initial construction by a slightly taller and deeper two-story, two-bay frame structure that evidently housed a tavern business during the middle years of the nineteenth century. Seams in the brick foundation and the cornice moldings suggest that the two periods of construction were relatively close together. The entire building is sheathed with asbestos shingles and covered by an asphalt shingle roof.

The eastern half of the building, now used as an apartment, is supported by a raised common bond brick foundation that is largely stuccoed. The center four-panel front door is framed by a five-light transom and four-light sidelights. Currently, the entrance is sheltered by a single-bay hip roofed porch reached by sets of steps to each side. Small four-pane foundation windows flank the stair. An original six-over-six sash window flanks the entrance to the west, while the eastern bay window opening has been reduced in size. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Stretching across the base of the roof is a boxed cornice trimmed with mid nineteenth-century bed and crown moldings.

The east gable end is a plain wall surface with a flush end trimmed with a period bargeboard. Protruding through the gable is a stuccoed brick stack. The west gable end is fully covered by the larger two-story addition. An identical brick stack protrudes through the roof at the juncture of the two structures. The north side of the eastern half of the building is partially covered by a more modern commercial addition, and period details remain consistent with the rest of the house.

The western half of the building, now used as a laundry and apartment house, is two bays across by two bays deep. The south side is marked by an asymmetrical fenestration with a large multi-pane window and an adjacent six-over-six sash window. Fixed on the southwest corner of the building is the entrance to the laundry. The second floor is lighted by two unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. The west gable end is detailed in a similar manner with a large multi-pane picture window on the floor. The west window along with the entrance and south window are sheltered by a shed roof porch. Piercing the second floor as well as the upper gable are pairs of six-over-six sash windows. The gable end is fitted with a slightly extended eave with short returns at the base.

The north side of the laundry is partially finished in a similar manner without unusual features. An exterior stair has been added to provide access to the second floor apartment.

The first floor interior of the laundry has been stripped of period woodwork, and the balance of the building was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-604

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 checked="" 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.

A chain-of-title for this corner property suggests this two-story, two-part frame structure was erected as a combination house and tavern during the middle years of the nineteenth century. Mary Jane Atwood inherited this lot from her uncle, Thomas Hanna, in 1832. (Will book, 9/9) Two years later Mary Jane Atwood married Littleton D. Ford, and it is assumed a tavern was operated on this site during the 1830s, 1840s, 1850s, and early 1860s. It is estimated that the extant improvements were raised during the 1850s. The children and heirs of Littleton D. Ford sold the corner property in 1865 to Thomas Blades, who is known to have operated a grocery store in this building. Thomas Blades (of E.) is cited on the 1877 St. Michaels town map as a dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, & c. The property remained in Blades family hands until 1920. (185/331)

This large, two-story, five-bay frame structure is a pivotal building for the northern business district of St. Michaels. Marking the northeast corner of the intersection of Talbot and Cherry streets, the imposing two-story, two-part dwelling and store building is a prominent architectural element for this crossroads. The two period buildings on the adjacent western corners have been lost, and the distinctive Victorian shop building, now an ice cream parlor, occupies the southeast corner. Although the ice cream parlor is a distinctive single-story building with its decorative bargeboards, the Village Laundry commands more attention with its two-story, five-bay elevation. This version of a combination dwelling and commercial space is not repeated in St. Michaels by another structure.

FORD'S TAVERN

T-604

YEAR: 1979 VOL: 536 PAGE: 749
FROM: Edward H. Higgins and Barbara V. Higgins PRICE: \$80,000
TO: Theodore A. Mohlman and Celeste W. Mohlman
NOTES Begins at a point on the lot of the late Edward N. Dodson; run west with the late P. T. Hambleton 83 feet to Talbot Street; with Talbot Street south 120 feet to Cherry Street; with Cherry Street east 60 feet to Dodson; north with Dodson 120 feet to the beginning.
Conveyed to Higgins by Lawrence E. Roe 1975, 490/257.

YEAR: 1975 VOL: 490 PAGE: 257
FROM: Lawrence E. Roe and Dorothy S. Roe PRICE:
TO: Edward H. Higgins and Barbara V. Higgins
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to Roe by Dorothy D. Keithley, et al 1970, 447/367.
1975, 490/260 is a mortgage from Higgins to Roe for \$10,000.

YEAR: 1970 VOL: 447 PAGE: 367
FROM: Dorothy D. Keithley, et al PRICE:
TO: Lawrence E. Roe and Dorothy S. Roe
NOTES Same description.
The et al are Edith D. Lee, Warthman H. Dodson and William Lyell Dodson.
Conveyed to Robert A. Dodson by Oliver S. Mullikin, assignee 1944, 259/88.
Robert A. Dodson died intestate in 1948. The property went to his mother, Ethel W. Dodson. Ethel devised it to her children by her will 1956, 33/83 who inherited when she died in 1964.

YEAR: 1944 VOL: 259 PAGE: 88
FROM: Oliver S. Mullikin, assignee PRICE: \$3,650
TO: Robert A. Dodson
NOTES Same description. Public Sale on default of mortgage, Curtis B. Sewell to the St. Michaels Bank 1920, 185/333.
Conveyed to Curtis B. Sewell by Thomas H. H. Blades 1920, 185/331.
Robert A. Dodson got a mortgage from the St. Michaels Bank for \$2,500 (1944, 259/89).

YEAR: 1920 VOL: 185 PAGE: 331
FROM: Thomas H. H. Blades and wife and others PRICE: \$3,500
TO: Curtis B. Sewell
NOTES Same description. The "others" on the deed are: Susie F. Blades, Amelia A. Kirby and John R. Kirby, and Mary L. Marshall, widow (of Garrett County). Thomas H. H., Susie, Amelia, and Mary were the surviving children of T B of E and inherited by his will, 16/146.
T B of E purchased the leasehold from Hester A. Ford and others 1865, 72/64.
He purchased the freehold from Elizabeth A Harrison 1888, 108/105.
1920, 185/333 is a mortgage to the St. Michaels Bank for \$2000.

YEAR: 1888 VOL: 108 PAGE: 105

FROM: Elizabeth A. Harrison PRICE: \$100

TO: Thomas Blades of E

NOTES This is the fee simple title to a lot on the corner of Cherry and Talbot Streets.

Willed to Elizabeth Addie Harrison by Susan Thompson. The description is the modern one. Will is 1880, 19/461 probated 1880.

From the Sanborn maps and descendents of TB of E it is evident that Blades operated a grocery store here.

YEAR: 1880 VOL: 19 PAGE: 461 (Will)

FROM: Susan Thompson (nee Susan Harrison) PRICE:

TO: Adeline Harrison

NOTES Susan leaves all her personal and real estate to her niece, Adeline Harrison. Thomas Medford was executor.

YEAR: 1865 VOL: 72 PAGE: 64

FROM: Hester A., Thomas H. M., and Gustavus L. Ford PRICE:

TO: Thomas Blades of E

NOTES "All that lot corner of Cherry and Talbot Streets leased to Thomas Hanna by Joseph Harrison". Blades operated a grocery here.

The above Fords were children and heirs of Littleton D. Ford.

YEAR: 1848 VOL: 61 PAGE: 318

FROM: Catharine Atwood PRICE: \$500

TO: Mary Jane Ford

NOTES Sale included lot #43 on Chestnut & Water Streets. Also her dwelling house on lot number 11 on the corner of Talbot and Cherry Streets.

Have not found a conveyance of these lots to Catharine Atwood.

Mary Jane Atwood was the daughter of Catharine and was the niece of Mary Ridgely Hanna, wife of Thomas Hanna.

YEAR: 1829 VOL: 9 PAGE: 9 WILL

FROM: WILL OF THOMAS HANNA PRICE:

TO:

NOTES By his will, Thomas Hanna leaves a lot (#47) on Water Street to the Associated Methodist Reformers for a cemetery. He leaves his wife, Mary Ridgely Hanna everything else as long as she lives; upon her decease the house he now lives in is to go to his wife's niece, Mary Jane Atwood. Probated 1832.

Mary Jane Atwood married tavernkeeper Littleton D. Ford in 1834. It is difficult to understand why Mary Jane's mother, Catharine, would sell lot number 11 to Mary Jane -- when Mary Jane already received it under Thomas Hanna's will. (1848, 61/131).

YEAR: 1801 VOL: 29 PAGE: 53

FROM: Thomas Harrison PRICE: Lease

TO: Thomas Hanna

NOTES Part of "Joseph's Lot". Begins at a post on the North side of the Main Road from St. Michaels Church to the Bayside nearly opposite to the road or lane leading in to the said Harrison's dwelling house. N 78 E 60 feet; then N 12 W 120 feet; then S 78 W 60 feet; then straight to the beginning. \$4 per year.

"Joseph's Lot" was the name given to Joseph Harrison's resurvey and patent of "Stopper" granted to him in 1741.

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, Lamps, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
N. W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
EDDYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
RES. H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
RES. E. DEAN, 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.
N. S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop," Blacksmithing, Wheel-righting, 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 Specially.
WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.
JAMES BETH, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Residence near St. Michael's.
WILLIAM 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.
H. BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.
SEPH HERGERSHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
EVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skilful 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.
P. T. C. R. LEONARD, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.
THOMAS BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
WILLIAM S. 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.





S-604

Ford's Tavern

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southwest elevation

1/88 Paul Touart photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



S-604

Ford's Tavern

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southeast elevation

1/88 Paul Touart photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust