

T-608
Book Nook
St. Michaels
private

c. 1873

The Book Nook is a relatively unaltered example of the modest sized, two-story frame dwellings erected in St. Michaels during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century. Construction of the side hall-parlor house is credited to William N. Kirby who purchased this Main Street lot in 1873 from William J. Fairbank. Fairbank sold part of his Talbot Street holdings, which was evidently improved a short time later by this house. The property transfer to Kirby includes the clause, "...A part of the town lot now owned and occupied by William J. Fairbank..." After having purchased the lot for \$125 in 1873, Kirby sold the dwelling and lot six years later for \$700, a price increase that would suggest major improvements. The grantees in 1879, James and Sarah Harrison, held title to the property until the early twentieth century.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-608

Magi No. 2106082511

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WILLIAM N. KIRBY HOUSE

and/or common BOOK NOOK

2. Location

street & number 411 Talbot 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 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 Dorothy Caton Watson

street & number 411 Talbot Street telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code Maryland 21601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 474

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 52

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-608

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 Book Nook, historically known as the William N. Kirby house, stands at 411 Talbot Street at the southern end of the principal commercial district in St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, side hall-parlor frame house faces west with the gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Probably built between around 1873, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and is sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboards and German siding. The medium sloped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. The front door has four heavily molded panels. Covering the entire front of the house is a two-story shed-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts. The sawn baluster handrail and decorative sawn corner brackets survive on the second floor. The openings that define the second floor include a side entrance and adjacent six-over-six sash windows.

Unlike the front wall which is covered with German siding, the south gable end retains a layer of plain weatherboards, and a single six-over-six sash window lights the second floor. The window retains its pair of louvered shutters. Finishing the flush gable end is a simple bargeboard. A stuccoed brick stack protrudes through the north gable end.

The east side of the main block is largely covered by the two-story service wing which appears to have been erected in at least two stages. A vertical seam in the weatherboards between the two bays suggests the gradual building history. Six-over-six sash windows flanked with louvered shutters define the first and second floors. A brick chimney protrudes through the center of the service wing. Extending from the back of the kitchen is a single-story shed roofed enclosed pantry and chamfered post porch. The first and second floors are lighted by six-over-six sash windows. The balance of the exterior is treated with similar details.

The interior has not been modified to any great degree. The side hall still contains a mid nineteenth-century winder stair which is distinguished by a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a decorated stringer. A four-panel door provides access to the stair closet.

Shallow four-panel doors framed by simple surrounds provide movement between rooms. The parlor is fitted with standard mid nineteenth-century finishes. Fixed to the chimney breast is a plain post and lintel Greek Revival style mantel.

The middle room or dining room is fitted with contemporary mid nineteenth-century features including a post and lintel mantel and a four-panel closet door. Behind the dining room is the kitchen which has beaded board wainscoting as well as an enclosed rear stair.

The second floor was unseen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-608

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 Book Nook is a relatively unaltered survival of the modest sized, two-story frame dwellings erected in St. Michaels during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century. Left undisturbed is the two-story shed roof front porch that is distinguished on the second floor by decorative brackets and sawn balusters. The side hall-parlor frame dwelling is fitted inside with original mid nineteenth-century finishes. The Book Nook contributes to the relatively continuous row of nineteenth-century structures that line Talbot Street between Mulberry and East Chestnut streets.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Construction of this two-story frame house is credited to William N. Kirby who purchased this Main Street lot in 1873 from William J. Fairbank. Fairbank sold part of his Talbot Street property, which was evidently improved shortly after by this two-story frame dwelling. The property transfer to Kirby includes the clause, "...A part of the town lot now owned and occupied by William J. Fairbank..."(79/200) After having purchased the lot for \$125 in 1873, Kirby sold the dwelling and lot six years later for \$700, a price increase that would suggest major improvements. The grantees, James and Sarah Harrison held title to the property until the early twentieth century. The current owner purchased the dwelling in 1973 and converted part of the structure into a book store.

YEAR: 1973 VOL: 474 PAGE: 52

FROM: Thomas Walter Harper & Irma S. Harper PRICE:

TO: Dorothy Caton Watson

NOTES See deed for details. Known as the "Emory B. Allen Property".

The property is composed of two separate parcels: (1) 20 feet by 122 feet containing the house. This is the most northerly of the two and includes a six foot right-of-way over the lot immediately to the north; (2) runs 14.5 feet south from the end of the 20 foot parcel and is 120 feet deep. The lot is thus 34.5 feet wide on Talbot Street.

Conveyed to the Harpers by Ethel D. Marshall, widow 1965, 403/42.

YEAR: 1965 VOL: 403 PAGE: 42

FROM: Ethel D. Marshall PRICE: \$2,750

TO: Thomas Walter Harper and Irma S. Harper

NOTES Same description. 34 1/2 feet wide,, in two parcels.

Conveyed to J. Norman Marshall and Ethel D. Marshall by John C. North, trustee 1936, 237/335.

YEAR: 1936 VOL: 237 PAGE: 335

FROM: John C. North, Trustee PRICE: \$590

TO: J. Norman Marshall and Ethel D. Marshall

NOTES Same description.

Per Orphan's Court decree 24 Sept 1936: J. Norman Marshall vs Emory B Allen. Includes a 6 ft. right-of-way over Mary J. Stoker on S side of Stoker and N side of this land; Composed of two parcels, one 20 feet, the other 14 1/2 feet wide. The 20-foot parcel was conveyed to James E. Allen by James E. Harrison 1912, 163/239.

The 14 1/2-foot parcel was part of a 59'6" lot conveyed to James E. Allen by James E. Schroll 1923/195/469.

YEAR: 1923 VOL: 195 PAGE: 469

FROM: James E. Schroll PRICE: \$200

TO: James E. Allen

NOTES Adjoins a lot of James E. Allen on the N and J. Fletcher Fairbank on the S. 59'6" on Talbot Street by 120' back. This was lot number 25 of Braddock's original "town" of St. Michaels. It contained a house or other structure which burned or was taken down and replaced by the cement-block building presently on the property.

In 1926, (208/422) Allen sold a part of this lot, 45' x 120' to Hubert F Daubach and Frank M. Lomax and retained 14 1/2 feet x 120 feet which is now included with Allen's 20-foot lot, containing T-608.

YEAR: 1912 VOL: 163 PAGE: 239

FROM: James E. Harrison and Sarah M. Harrison PRICE:

TO: James E. Allen

NOTES Begins 8' from the kerb on Talbot Street; runs with the street South 20' to Clifton Hope (formerly Sarah Hopkins); E with Hope 122' to former Lewis Tarr; N 20' to Mary J. Stoker; with Stoker 122' to the beginning; includes a 6' right-of-way over south boundary of Stoker.

Conveyed to James E. Harrison by William N. Kirby and Mahala Kirby 1879, 88/346. The right-of-way appears in the deed of Wm. J. Fairbanks to Wm. N. Kirby 1873, 79/200.

163/240 is a mortgage, James E. Allen to St. Michaels Savings Bank for \$300. The mortgage gives the width of the lot as 22 feet!

YEAR: 1879 VOL: 88 PAGE: 346

FROM: William N. Kirby and Mahala PRICE: \$700

TO: James E. Harrison

NOTES Same description as 1912, 163/239.

Conveyed to Kirby by William J. Fairbank 1873, 79/200.

YEAR: 1873 VOL: 79 PAGE: 200

FROM: William J. Fairbank PRICE: \$125

TO: William N. Kirby

NOTES " A part of the town lot now owned and occupied by William J. Fairbank " Rns 20' S to George H. Hopkins; with Hopkins E 122' to Lewis Tarr; N 20'; then W 122' to the beginning. This deed assigns an "alley" (right-of-way) 6' wide between the property conveyed and the land retained by William J. Fairbank. It also makes the lot 122 feet deep. The Harrison-Fairbank deed of 1867 has a lot depth of only 120 feet. This deed and the following ones are also part of the history of T-602.

Conveyed to William J. Fairbank by Emily Harrison 1867, 74/32.

The Easton STAR for May 30, 1871 has a note on the laying of the cornerstone of the new ME Church on Talbot Street. It mentions that lots were bought from Skinner and Murphy for the church and that the house on the Skinner property was sold to William J. Fairbank for \$100.

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 74 PAGE: 32

FROM: Emily Harrison PRICE: \$375

TO: William J. Fairbank

NOTES Begins at the line with J. Lawrence Jones; run S with Talbot Street 61 feet to Edward Blades heirs; then E 120 feet to Lewis Tarr; with Tarr N 63 feet to J. Lawrence Jones; with Jones W 120 feet to the beginning.

Unable to find a transfer of the property to Emily Harrison; however, she was in the line of inheritance from Samuel Harrison.

This lot, number 24 of Braddock's original 58, had not been sold by Braddock at the time of his death. Thus, it passed to John Thompson by Braddock's will and was included in Braddock's property sold to Captain Wignal (1784, 21/417). It was not included in the property resold by Wignal to Thompson (1784, 21/413). See following deed.

YEAR: 1789 VOL: 23 PAGE: 598

FROM: James Wignal PRICE: p7 5s sp

TO: Meredith Marshall, "Planter"

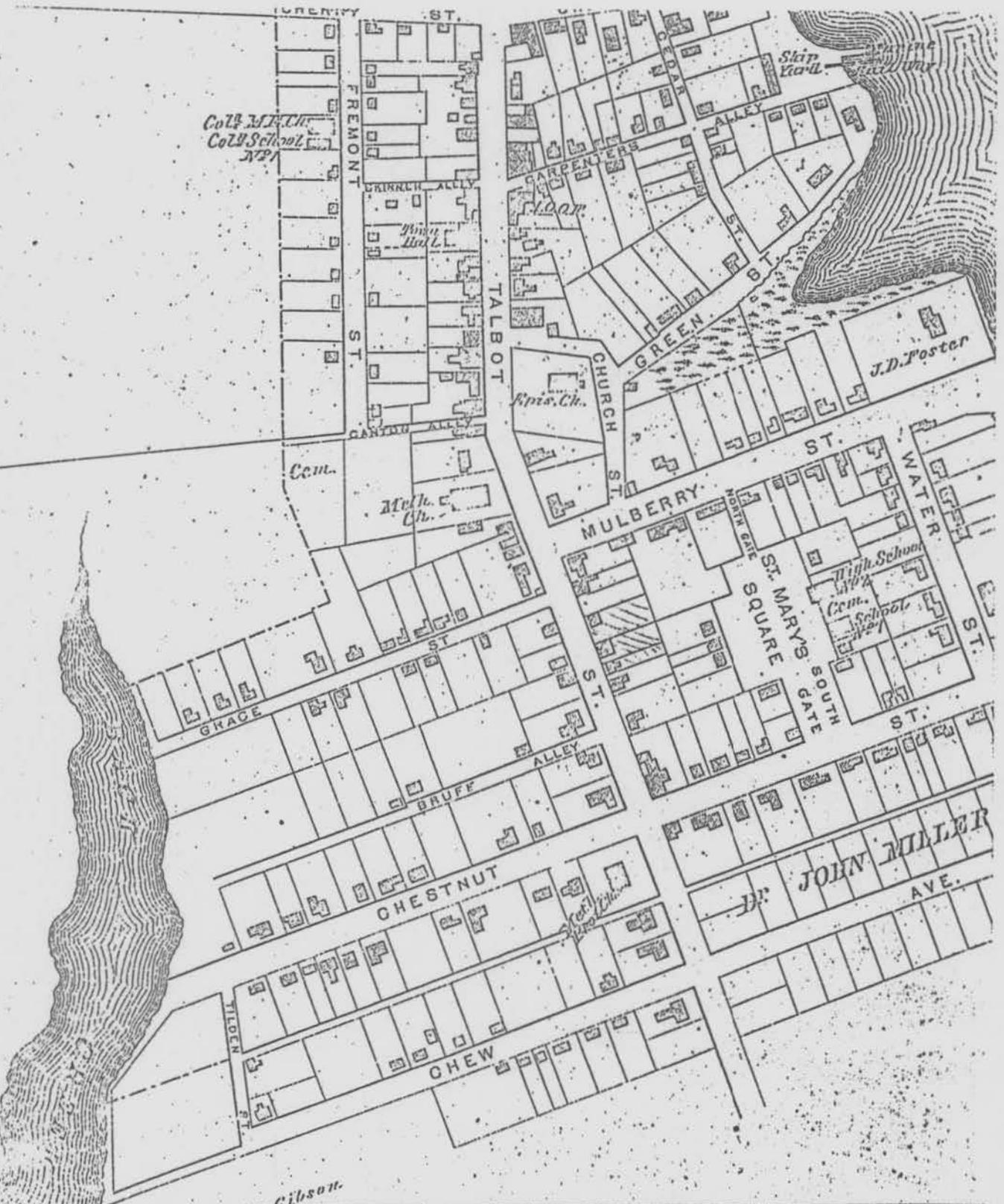
NOTES The deal included this lot (number 24) and also one-half of lot number 38 and lot 39 on St. Mary's Square. There is a record of the sale of lots 1/2 38 and 39 by Meredith Marshall but was not able to locate a sale of number 24.

Meredith Marshall died before 1822 and in 1822, 44/126 Nancy Seymour sold all of her father, Meredith Marshall's land to Samuel Harrison for \$390.96. Also, in 1823 Samuel Harrison acquired additional - unstated - portions of Meredith Marshall's estate from Levin Marshall.

Emily Harrison inherited numerous houses and lots - unspecified - from her father, Alexander Bradford Harrison who was also a partner of his uncle Samuel.

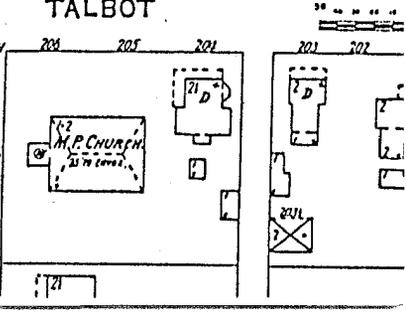
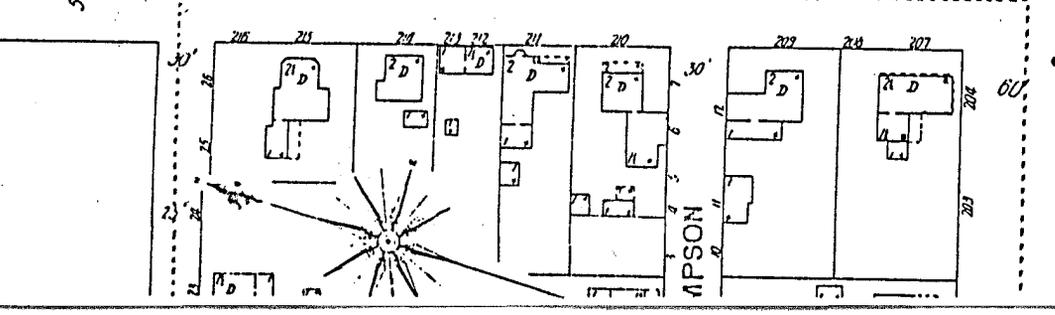
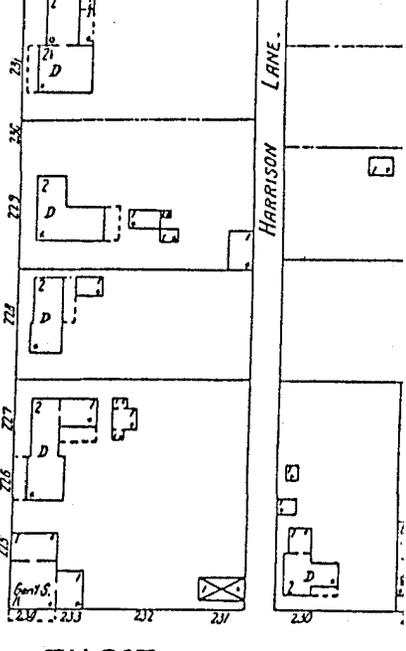
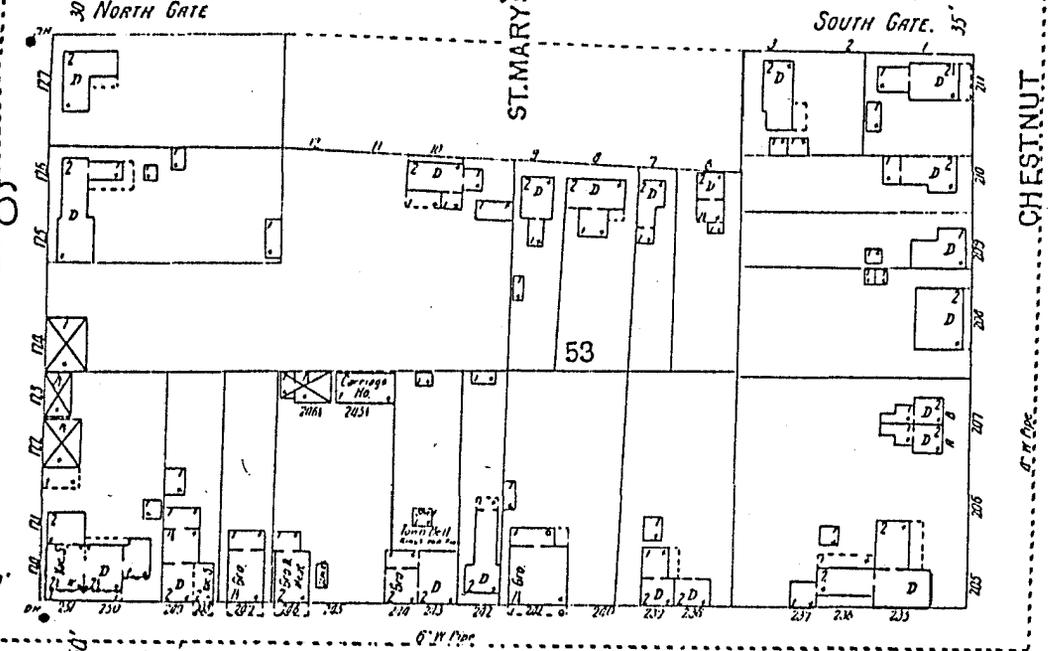
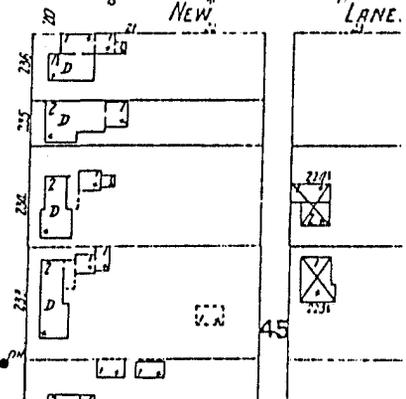
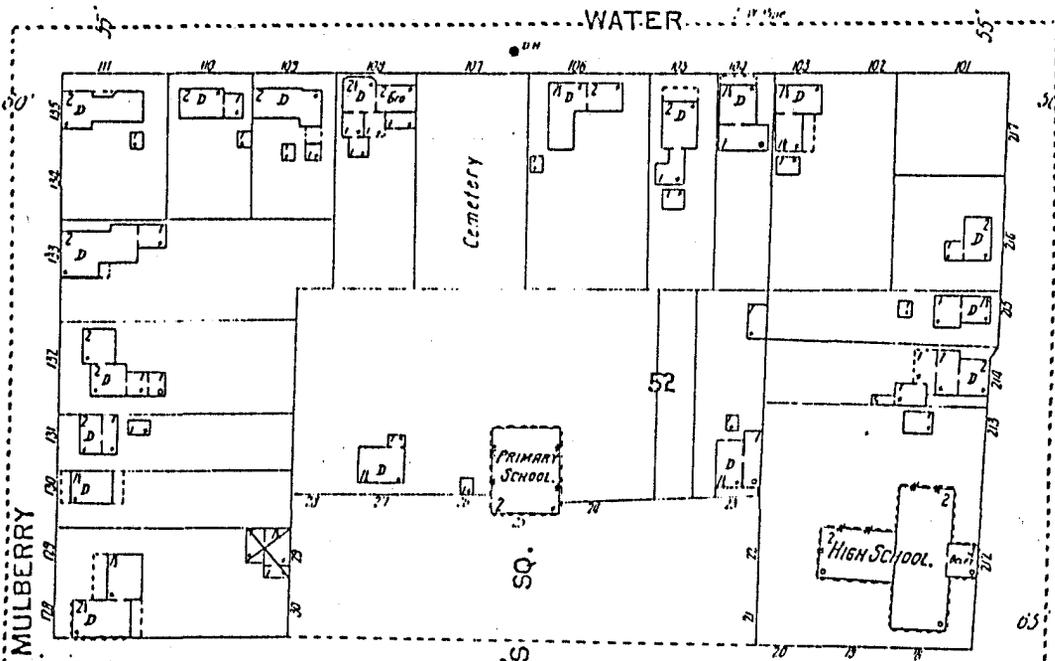
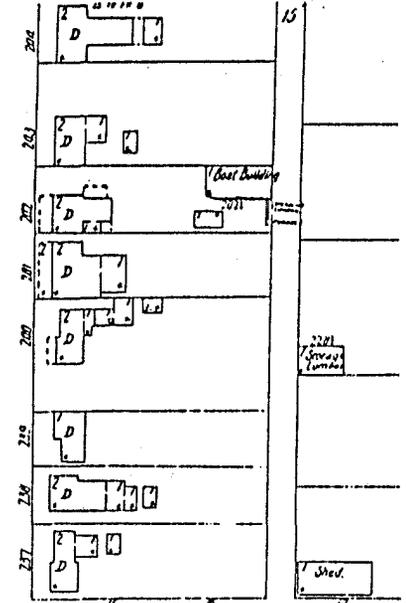
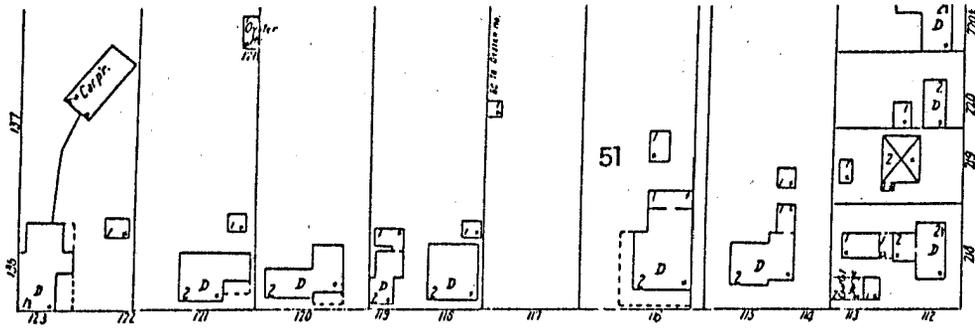
The lot was within Jane's Progress and came to James Braddock at the auction of Philip Wetheral's real estate in 1778, 21/66.

...ERVICES,
 ...Hines, Chem-
 ...and Tooth
 ...Articles,
 ...Garden Seeds,
 ...for medicinal purposes,
 ...Letter Paper,
 ...Butty, Carbon Oil,
 ...Prescriptions care-
 ...ce Agent and Con-
 ...f Claims, Real Estate
 ...ontractor and Builder,
 ...Carpenter and Build-
 ...ate Agent and Col-
 ...Perce and Collector.
 ...id Shoemaker. First
 ...notice. Repairing
 ...Proprietor of "Ham-
 ...blacksmithing, Wheel-
 ...staining thereto. In-
 ...repaired. Farming
 ...ide to order at short
 ...rimming and Painting
 ...and Surgeon.
 ...con, Office
 ...Blacksmith and
 ...neatly and neatly
 ...in Dry Goods,
 ...Store in
 ...Proprietor of "Will-
 ...and fitted. Table
 ...luxuries of the sea-
 ...modations. Charges
 ...ge Maker and Dealer
 ...ner. Worker in Tin,
 ...r in Stoves and Tin,
 ...description.
 ...ntractor, and Builder.
 ...ne will do well to see
 ...Ship Builder.
 ...ly and neatly done.
 ...and Shoemaker. Is
 ...se wanting first class
 ...onize him.
 ...SON, Carriage Ma-
 ...Repairing promptly
 ...Dealer in Fresh
 ...Street.
 ...gister of Grain of all
 ...Dealer in Dry Goods,
 ...Dealer in Groceries,
 ...r and Dealer in Car-
 ...and neatly
 ...



Dr. C. Gibson

Lake. Riffing of Stevenson
 Mass of Talbot & Dorchester
 187



C and mailed to Samuel M. Shroy, Esq. - 144 State of Maryland St. - Annapolis Md. 5.

Receipt No. 155038

John T. Baynard Clerk

RECORDED

T-608

This Deed, Made this first day of May

in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy-three . by and between THOMAS WALTER HARPER and IRMA S. HARPER, his wife, .

parties , of the first part, and DOROTHY CATON WATSON, party of the second part.

Witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars and other good and valuable consideration, them unto moving, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

the said Thomas Walter Harper and Irma S. Harper, his wife

does hereby grant and convey unto the said Dorothy Caton Watson, her

heirs and assigns,

in fee simple, all that lot(s) of ground, situate, lying and being in

Second Election District of

Talbot County , State of Maryland, and described as follows, that is to say:—

~~BEING THE SAME~~ ALL those lots of ground known as the Emory B. Allen property on the East side of Talbot Street in the Town of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland, and described as follows, that is to say:

1. BEGINNING at a post set in the ground eight (8) feet from the curb of Talbot Street and running thence Southwardly twenty (20) feet to Parcel 2 herein; thence Eastwardly with Parcel 2, one hundred twenty-two (122) feet to the land formerly belonging to Lewis Tarr; thence therewith Northwardly twenty (20) feet to the land now or formerly belonging to Mary J. Stoker, and thence with said Stoker land, Westwardly one hundred twenty-two (122) feet to the place of beginning. TOGETHER with a right-of-way six (6) feet wide over said Stoker land on the South side thereof adjoining the North line of this land for ingress and egress, to the use of the Grantees, their heirs and assigns forever.

2. BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of Parcel 1, and running thence with the East side of Talbot Street Southerly fourteen and one-half (14½) feet to the North side of the lands now or formerly belonging to Frank M. Lomax; thence Eastwardly an even width of fourteen and one-half (14½) feet for a distance of one hundred twenty (120) feet; thence Northwardly fourteen and one-half (14½) feet and thence Westwardly to the beginning.

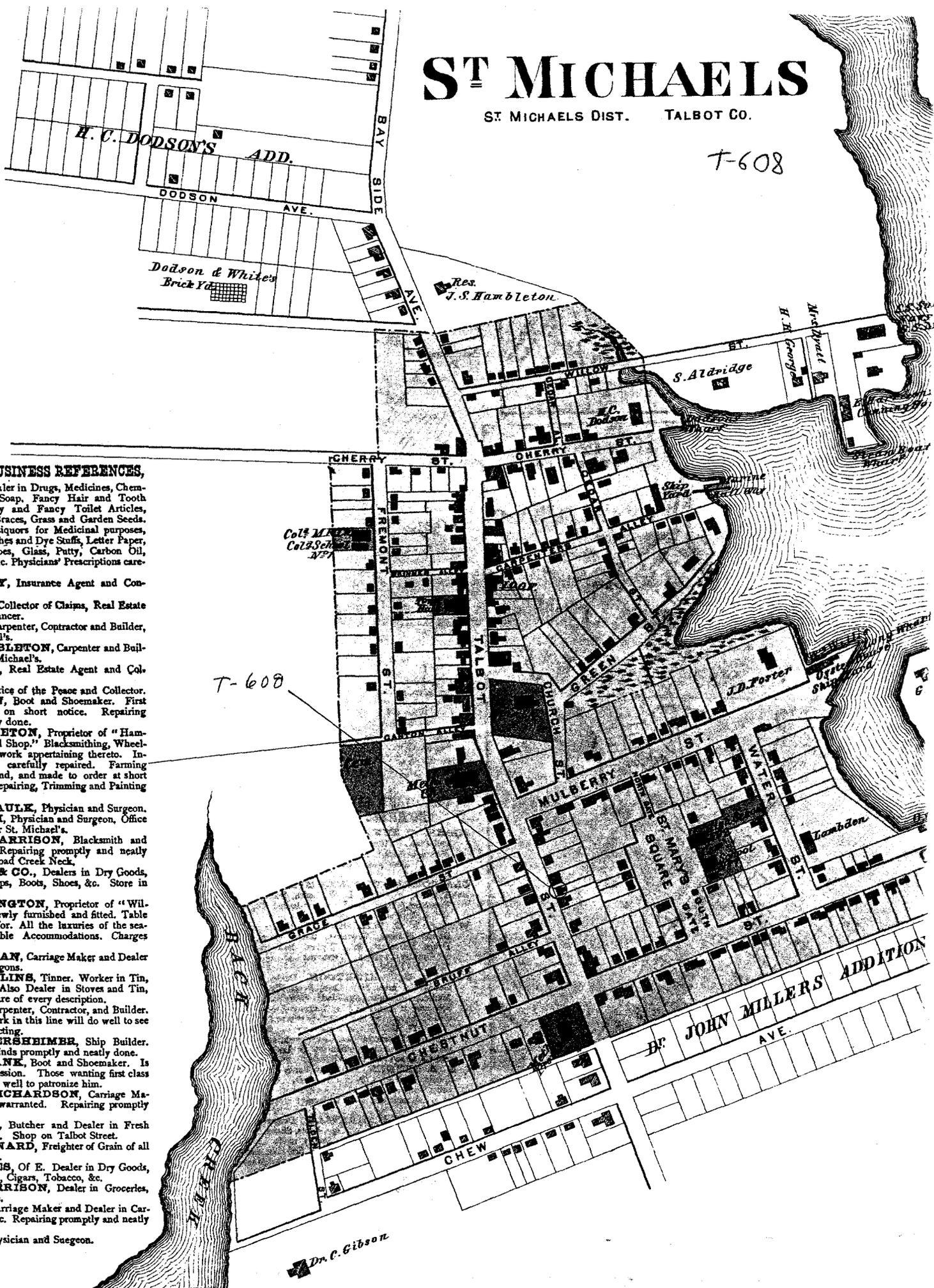
BEING the same property conveyed to the within named Grantors, Thomas Walter Harper and Irma S. Harper, his wife, deed dated June 7, 1965, from Ethel D. Marshall widow, and recorded among the Land Records of Talbot County in Liber JTB 403, folio 42.

TAX \$ 112.50 - REC # 155038 NOV 4 1973 STATE COURTHOUSE

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

T-608



MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,
DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chem-
icals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth
brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles,
Roses, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds.
Sells Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes,
Essences, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper,
Inks, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil,
Stoves, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions care-
fully Compounded.
HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Con-
vancer.
N 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 Build-
er. Shop at St. Michael's.
ES H. HARRISON, Real Estate Agent and Col-
lector of Taxes.
W. S. SPARKS, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
W. SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First
class work done on short notice. Repairing
promptly and neatly done.
N S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Ham-
bleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheel-
righting, and all work appertaining thereto. In-
dicate 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 SEETH, 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.
W. T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Wil-
liams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table
carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the sea-
son. 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 BERGERSHEIMER, Ship Builder.
Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
IVY FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is
skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class
work done will do well to patronize him.
HARRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Mak-
ers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly
and neatly done.
J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh
Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.
W. T. C. R. LEONARD, Freighter of Grain of all
kinds to any point.
W. H. BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods,
Notions, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
W. H. HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries,
Confectioneries &c.
S. KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Car-
riages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly
done.
A. DODSON Physician and Surgeon.

T-608

Dr. P. Gibson



E
S

Fairview Pt

Broad
Creek

3rd Haul Creek

BALTIMORE
AND

BM 12

BM

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

T-608
WILLIAM N. KIRBY HOUSE
St. Michaels Quadrangle, 1942

EASTERN

BM

San Domingo

Spencer
Creek

Little Neck Cr.

BM 8

33

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

BROAD
CREEK

HUNTING
TRAIL

LC
Pt

95

0"

94

93

92

000
EET

91



T-608

Book Nook

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southwest elevation

12/87 Paul Touart photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust