

T-610
Mary J. Morris House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1881

Architectural features suggest that the original portion of this two-story frame houses dates to the early 1880s, and the ell-shaped section that faces the street was attached shortly afterwards. The chain-of-title points to Mary J. Morris as the owner from 1881 to 1905, the estimated period of construction. Mary Morris acquired two adjacent parcels of land in two deeds executed in 1881, and the Talbot Street frontage was purchased from Sarah Orem, Frank S. Orem, and James Seth. After 1905, the property was held by Mary's son, James T. Morris and not sold out of family hands until 1961. On the 1877 St. Michaels town map a structure is indicated on the site. The research suggests the site was improved at that time by an older building, probably Nicholas Orem's storehouse which is referred to in an 1856 deed.

During the last twenty years the house has been fully converted to a commercial use with the high demand of shop space in the central business district. A documentary photograph of the house taken around 1910 indicates the building was used as a residence in addition to a barber shop. Filling the inside corner of the ell was a two-story turned post porch.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MARY J. MORRIS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 310 South Talbot Street not for publication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	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 James Fristoe

street & number 310 South 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 412

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 642

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-610

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 Mary J. Morris house, known recently as Valerie's Saltbox shop, is a two-story ell-shaped house that stands at 310 South Talbot Street in the central business district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The structure faces east with the main gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in stages, the southern section dates to around 1881, while the northern ell was attached at a slightly later date. The entire structure rests on a minimal brick foundation and is sheathed with aluminum siding. The various gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the rear is a two-story service wing.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a reworked first floor storefront. The main entrance, now located in the northernmost bay of the ell addition, is marked by a neo-colonial style entrance with a six-panel door framed by a fluted surround. A large multi-pane display window pierces the adjacent wall surface. The second and third floors of the projecting ell are pierced by replacement single-pane sash windows. Filling the recessed corner of the ell-shaped structure and covering the original entrance to the house is a single-story shed roofed storefront fitted with large multi-pane display windows. The second floor is lighted by three two-over-two sash windows.

The south gable end is defined by two-over-two sash windows on each floor and round arched two-over-two attic sash flank the interior end brick stack. The eaves to the gable end are extended and finished with short returns at the base. There is a gabled elevation on the north side as well that is lighted by round arched two-over-two sash windows to each side of an interior end brick stove stack.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story, two-bay service wing that is extended farther by a single-story shed roofed section. Two-over-two sash windows light each floor.

Although some changes have been made in converting this house to a store, some original woodwork survives undisturbed. The centrally located stair retains a square oak newel post and oak balusters which support a molded handrail. Late nineteenth-century Victorian mantels also survive on the first floor. The second floor was not seen.

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/
<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 Mary J. Morris house has been converted to commercial use since it is located within the central business district of St. Michaels. The two-story ell-shaped structure has been significantly altered on the first floor with the addition of large multi-pane display windows, a neo-colonial style entrance and a shed roofed eave. Replacement sash windows fill the second and third floors of the projecting ell. Inside a few late Victorian features including the centrally located stair, mantels, and doors remain in place.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Architectural features suggest that the original portion of this two-story frame house dates to the 1880s, and the ell shaped section was attached shortly afterwards. The chain-of-title points to Mary J. Morris as the owner from 1881 to 1905, the estimated period of construction for the entire building. Mary Morris acquired two adjacent parcels in two deeds executed in 1881, and the Talbot Street frontage was purchased from Sarah Orem, Frank S. Orem and James Seth.(92/346) After 1905 the property was held by Mary's son, James T. Morris, and not sold out of family hands until 1961.(371/58) On the 1877 St. Michaels town map a structure is indicated on the site. The research suggests the building was the storehouse of Nicholas Orem, who purchased the lot in 1856.(67/303)

MARY J. MORRIS HOUSE

T-610

YEAR: 1966 VOL: 412 PAGE: 642

FROM: Marshall L. Dickson and Grace O. Dickson PRICE:

TO: John H. Porter and Barbara B Porter

NOTES On west side of Talbot Street facing Mulberry Street. Begins at the NE corner of late Theron Q. Bruff, run N with Talbot Street 54 feet to the lot of W. F. and M. O. Burns; west with Burns 120 feet to Denny Williams; south with Williams 57 feet to Bruff; with Bruff east 120 feet to the beginning.

Composed of and including 1905, 145/198 Mary J. Morris to James T. Morris.

Conveyed to Marshall L. Dickson and Grace O. Dickson by George Albert Seymour and Helen Elizabeth Seymour 1963, 383/104.

YEAR: 1963 VOL: 383 PAGE: 104

FROM: Helen Elizabeth Seymour and George Albert Seymour PRICE:

TO: Marshall L. Dickson and Grace O. Dickson

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Helen Elizabeth Seymour and George Albert Seymour by Helen E. Radcliffe and J. Harrison Radcliffe 1961, 371/58.

YEAR: 1961 VOL: 371 PAGE: 58

FROM: Helen E. Radcliffe and J. Harrison Radcliffe PRICE:

TO: Helen Elizabeth Seymour and George Albert Seymour

NOTES Same description.

Helen E. Radcliffe inherited the property from James T. Morris. James T. Morris bought the lot from his mother, Mary J. Morris in 1905 (145/198).

YEAR: 1905 VOL: 145 PAGE: 198

FROM: Mary J. Morris PRICE: \$1765

TO: James T. Morris (her son)

NOTES Same description.

The deed states that the property includes all on: 1881, 92/346; 1882, 92/345; 1891, 114/325. Except that on 1891, 115/344.

Conveyed to Mary J. Morris by Sarah Orem, et al 1881, 92/346; by A. Emmaline Bruff and T. Quigley Bruff 1881, 92/345 and 1891, 114/325.

YEAR: 1881 VOL: 92 PAGE: 346

FROM: Sarah Orem, Frank S. Orem and James Seth* PRICE: \$414

TO: Mary J. Morris

NOTES Begins at the SE corner of a lot of Teresa Sears; run with Talbot Street S 27'8" to heirs of Thomas Bruff, dcd.; then west with Bruff 35 feet; then north 22'8"; then east 42 feet; then north 32 feet to Sears; then east with Sears 17'; then south 27 feet; then east 60 feet to the beginning

Composed of two tracts, one conveyed to Nicholas Orem by Thomas Bruff, Sr., (1853, 65/212). The other to Nicholas Orem by Teresa Sears 1856, 67/303.

YEAR: 1881 VOL: 92 PAGE: 345

FROM: A. Emmeline Bruff and T Quigley Bruff PRICE: \$130

TO: Mary J. Morris

NOTES Begins at SW corner of a lot about to be conveyed to Mary J. Morris by Sarah W. Orem, et al. Run west 83 feet to Denny Williams; with Williams 58 feet north to Susan Tarr (belonging to Teresa Sears); then east 45 feet with Sears to the line of the lot about to be conveyed to Mary J. Morris by Orem; then south 22'8" to the beginning.

Part of a tract which the late Thomas Bruff died seized and possessed. Theron Q. Bruff is the heir-at-law. Emmeline and T. Quigley reserve an alley 3' wide between this property and that of Emmeline and T. Quigley extending from Talbot Street to the back line at the west and bounding the property here conveyed on the south.

YEAR: 1853 VOL: 65 PAGE: 212

FROM: Thomas Bruff, Sr. PRICE: \$125

TO: Nicholas Orem

NOTES Begins at a "boundary stone on Talbot Street". Run with Talbot Street 22'8"; then west 35 feet to a lot of Thomas Bruff, Sr.; then north 22'8"; then 35 feet to the beginning.

Thomas Bruff, Sr. (1772-1857) was the oldest of six children of John Bruff, the joiner-wheelwright. He inherited the land along Talbot and Grace Streets purchased by John.

This lot probably contained Nicholas Orem's storehouse mentioned in deed 1856, 67/303 which follows.

YEAR: VOL: PAGE:

FROM: James Braddock and John Thompson PRICE:

TO: John Bruff

NOTES Between 1781 and 1790, John Bruff wheelwright and joiner, bought three parcels from James Braddock and John Thompson totaling 145 feet on the "main road or Market Street". These have not been definitely located, but the distance on Talbot Street can adequately cover lots from Grace Street to the Sears property. The Town Survey of 1804 notes that the property lines in this area cannot be shown because of problems with the configuration of the lots. The name "Bruff" can be made out in pencil on the original plat of the town in this section. The following deeds are the purchases made by John Bruff on the Main Road:

1781, 21/223 James Braddock to John Bruff p180 sp 60' x 60'

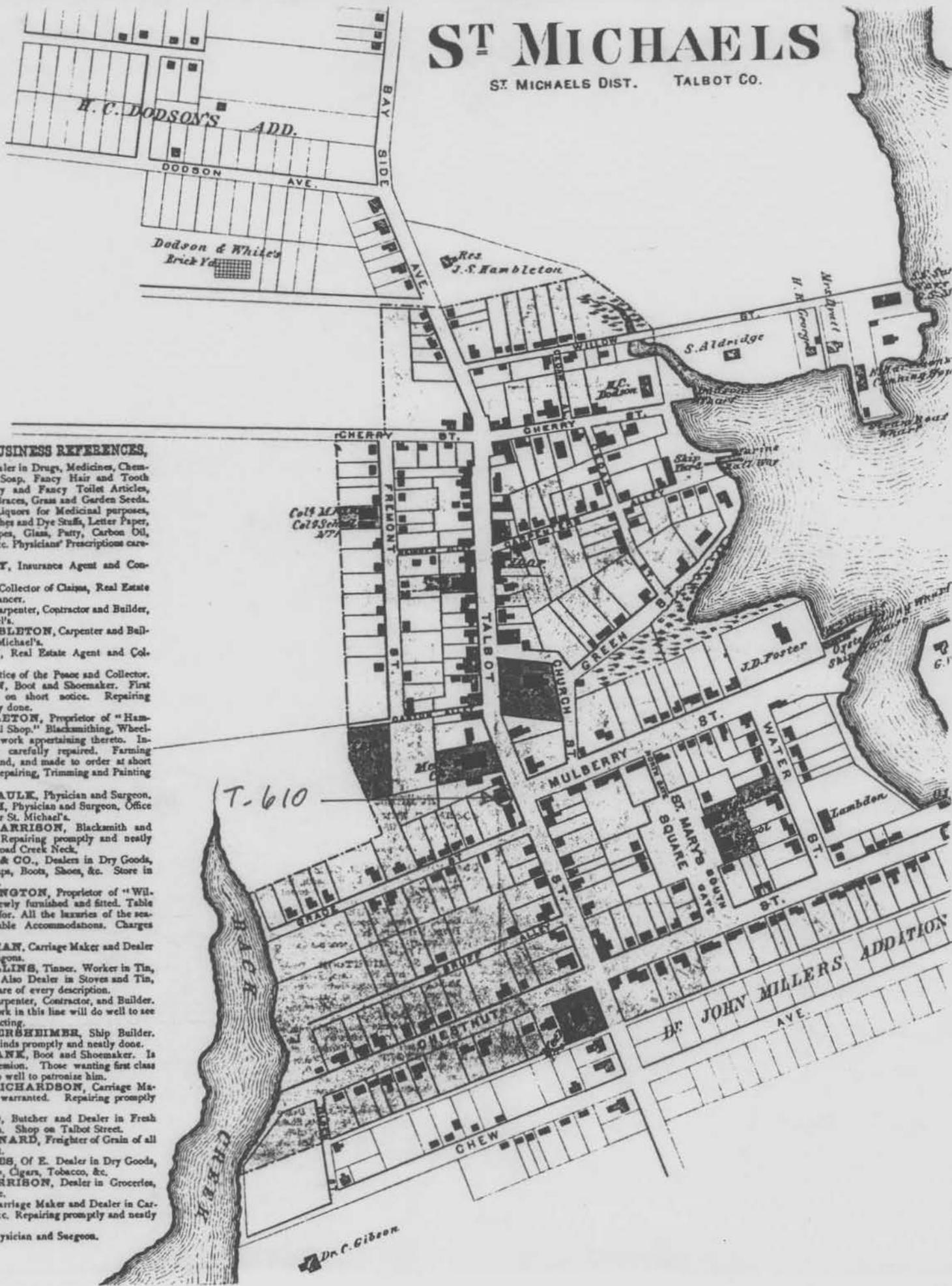
1790, 24/52 John Thompson to John Bruff p15 cm 50' x 60' (on road)
and another 60' x 25' (on road)

The deeds give the original tracts as "Chance" and/or "Jane's Progress".

Note: John Bruff also bought a lot 297' x 280' about 90 feet back from the main road behind the road frontage lots. (From John Thompson, 1791, 24/276)

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, spec. Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, ats, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Pipes, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- HADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
- W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate and Conveyancer.
- S. DYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- B. HARRISON**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Taxes.
- SPALDING**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
- SMITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hampton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Insecticide 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 in 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**, Tinsmith. 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 HERGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
- IVYER FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.
- RIBSON & 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 any point.
- OMAS BLADES**, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
- EMIL HARRISON**, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.
- S. KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- A. DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.

T-610

Broad

Creek

Haul Creek

E
S

Fairview Pt

T-610
MARY J. MORRIS HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle, 1942

BALTIMORE

BM 12

BM

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

BM 7

EASTERN

BM 7

San Domingo

Spencer Creek

Little Neck Cr

R
I
V
E
R

H
U
N
T
I
N

Lc
Pc

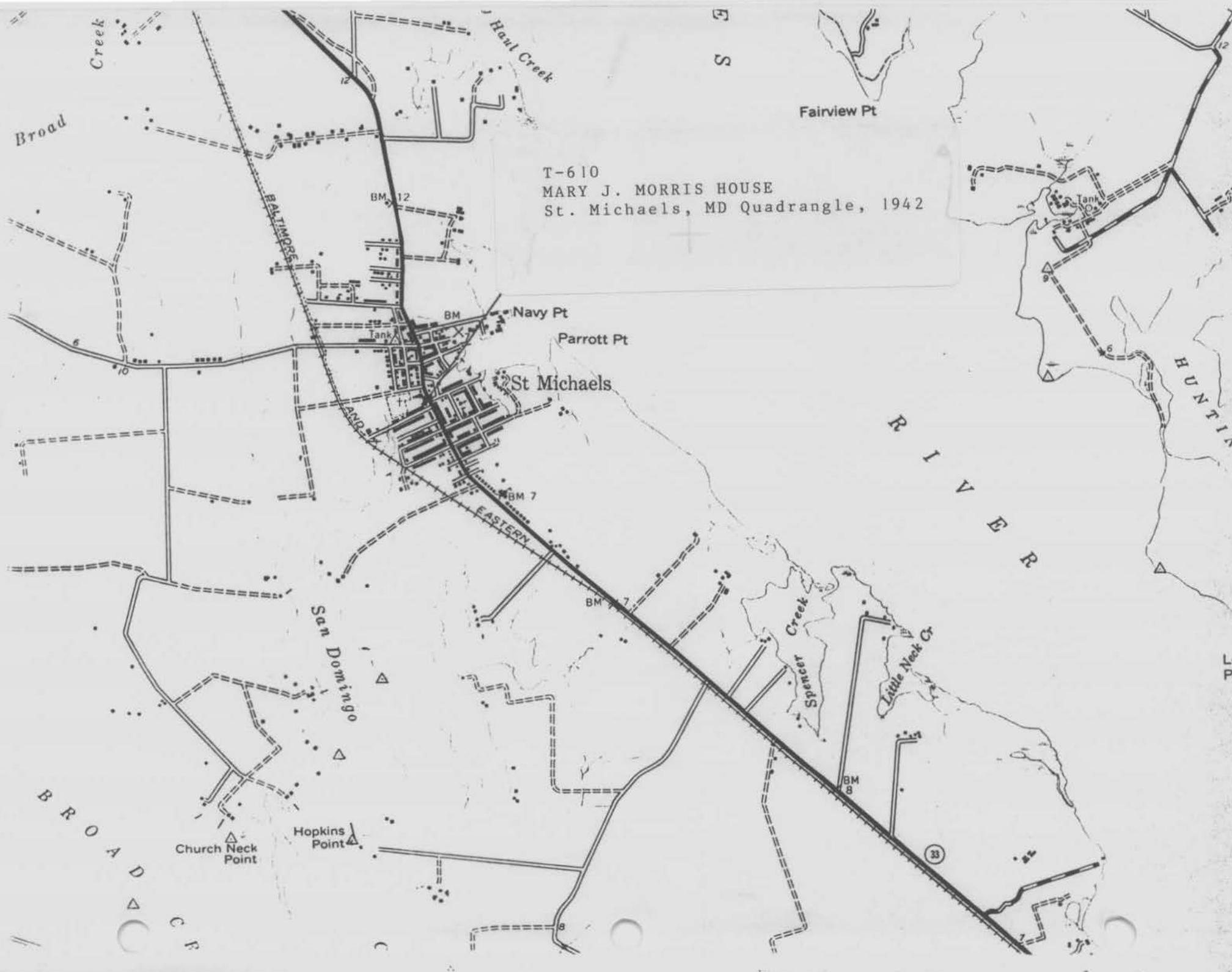
B
R
O
A
D
C
R
E
E
K

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

BM 8

33





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MARY J. MORRIS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

East elevation

3/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-610

MARY J. MORRIS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Documentary photograph, c. 1910

Southeast elevation

Courtesy of Historic St. Michaels-
Bay Hundred, Inc.