

T-629
Charles F. Blades House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1860

From the research completed for this East Chestnut Street lot it appears Charles F. Blades had this two-story frame house erected on property he formally purchased in 1861 from Samuel H. and John W. Blades. Charles and his wife, Elizabeth, occupied the house through the balance of the nineteenth century. In 1907 Charles died, and Elizabeth continued to hold title to the house and lot until 1934. The house was sold out of the family in 1948 to Jacob E. and Laura V. Morris.

The side hall/parlor frame dwelling is a relatively plain structure that follows the two-part stepped profile shared by other houses in St. Michaels. In fact, the house at 112 East Chestnut Street next door is very similar aside from the easternmost single-bay addition that lengthened the service wing.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-629

Magi No. 2106292504

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic CHARLES F. BLADES HOUSE

and/or common MEARA HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 110 East Chestnut 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input 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 Mr. and Mrs. John Meara

street & number 110 East Chestnut 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

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

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-629

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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 Charles F. Blades house, known most recently as the Meara house, stands at 110 East Chestnut Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, side hall/parlor house faces north with the main gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date to around 1860, the two-story, two-bay main block and the slightly shorter two-story, three-bay service wing is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and the house is sheathed with vinyl weatherboard siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house are modern single-story additions that were added during the 1960s.

The north (main) elevation of the main house is a two-bay facade with a side entrance and a flanking six-over-six sash window. The eight-panel front door is topped by a four-light transom, and the entire entrance is sheltered by an early twentieth-century single-bay, gable roofed porch. Tuscan columns support the porch roof. The adjacent window is fitted with louvered shutters. Lighting the second floor are two unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters also. The cornice is boxed.

The west gable end is marked by an exterior stretcher bond brick chimney with a flared base and a single flue stack. Otherwise the gable end is a plain wall surface with a flush eave. The east end, on the other hand, is largely covered by the slightly shorter two-story, three-bay service wing that now houses the dining room and kitchen. A chimney protrudes through the roof between the first and second bays from the west. Six-over-six sash windows fitted with louvered shutters light the first and second floors. The gable end is marked by a single window opening on each floor, and the gable end is flush.

Stretching across the back of the house are modern single-story shed and gable roofed additions. The second floor is lighted by identical six-over-six sash windows.

The house has been remodeled during the past twenty years with the removal of the original woodwork in the parlor. However, the period stair with a heavily turned newel post and rectangular balusters support a oval profile handrail. A mixture of four- and six-panel doors provide movement between each room. There is a slight shift in floor levels between the rooms in the service wing, which would suggest the easternmost section was added at a later date, perhaps around 1880-1900. A patch in the flooring in the east bedroom locates the position of a back service stair.

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
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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.

Charles F. Blades apparently built this two-story frame house on property he formally purchased in 1861 from Samuel H. and John W. Blades.(69/306) He and his wife, Elizabeth, occupied the house until Charles' death in 1907, and Elizabeth continued to own the property until she died in 1934. The house was eventually sold out of the family in 1948 to Jacob E. and Laura V. Morris.(277/323) The two-story side hall/parlor frame dwelling is a relatively plain structure that follows the two-part stepped profile shared by other houses on East Chestnut Street. In fact, 112 East Chestnut Street is very similar aside from the easternmost single-bay addition that lengthened the service wing of this house.

YEAR: 1948 VOL: 277 PAGE: 323

FROM: May D. Haddaway and others * PRICE:

TO: Jacob E. Morris and Laura V. Morris

NOTES * Nicholas Haddaway and Alma Blades Vaughn

Bagins at the NE corner of J. Harrison Kemp; run with Chestnut Street 70 feet to the NW corner of Charles W. Radcliffe; with Radcliffe 125 feet to Boundary Alley; with the Alley 70 feet to J. Harrison Kemp; with Kemp 125 feet to the beginning.

Refers to plat, 1946, 2/75

Conveyed to Charles F. (or S.) Blades 1861, 69/306. Charles died intestate in 1907. Survivors were widow Elizabeth, children Charles S. Jr., Frances V. Baynard, Daniel T. Blades, May D. Haddaway and Alma Blades Vaughn. Elizabeth died intestate 1934. Heirs were Frances Baynard who died 1942; Daniel T., died 1945; the interest of the widow of Charles S. Jr. conveyed to Haddaway and Vaughn by Lucy Blades 1946, 270/85.

1948, 277/324 is a mortgage, Morris to St. Michaels Bank for \$1800.

YEAR: 1861 VOL: 69 PAGE: 306

FROM: Samuel H. Blades and John W. Blades PRICE: \$500

TO: Charles F. Blades

NOTES "That lot on which Charles F. Blades doth now reside"

Samuel H. Blades and John W. Blades probably gained ownership of the house from their mother, Ann Blades, widow of Levin.

YEAR: 1841 VOL: 55 PAGE: 510

FROM: William Townsend and John Harrington PRICE:

TO: Heirs of Levin Blades

NOTES In the division of Levin Blades' real estate, Levin's widow, Ann Blades received ownership of the "house and lot where she resides". This is assumed to be lot #68, the first lot on Chestnut Street bought by Levin Blades.

YEAR: 1817 VOL: 39 PAGE: 256

FROM: John Dorgan PRICE: \$60

TO: Levin Blades

NOTES Part of "Janes Progress". Lot 68 on the South side of Chestnut Street.

YEAR: 1813 VOL: 36 PAGE: 288

FROM: Elizabeth Sherwood PRICE: \$487.902/3

TO: John Dorgan

NOTES The deed was made in accordance with a decree of the Chancery Court, Dec. Term, 1812 (1812, 36/291), Dorgan vs the heirs of Hugh Sherwood. Apparently, a deal had been made between Thomas Sherwood, father of Hugh, and John Dorgan to sell Dorgan all of the land Thomas Sherwood had purchased from John Thompson in 1791 and from William Harrison in 1785. This amounted to all of Braddock's unsold land - parts of "Bentley Hay", "Janes Progress", "The Beach", "Chance", and "Matthew Circumvented". Both Thomas and Hugh Sherwood died and the widow Elizabeth was forced to honor the committment.

YEAR: 1785 VOL: 23 PAGE: 115

FROM: William Harrison PRICE: p275cm

TO: Thomas Sherwood

NOTES "All the following pieces and parcels of land, to wit: Part of a tract of land called "Bentley Hay"; Part of a tract of land called "Janes Progress"; and part of a tract of land called "Beach". All of the aforesaid pieces of land to extend as far as a street distinguished on the plat of St. Michaels as Chestnut Street".

YEAR: 1786 VOL: 23 PAGE: 116

FROM: James Wignal PRICE: p275sp

TO: William Harrison

NOTES Deed runs through the chain of title of part of "Bentley Hay", "Janes Progress", and "Beach". Begins with sale of Philip Wetheral's property to James Braddock; Braddock was in arrears with Gildart & Gawith; Braddock had willed his property to John Thompson; John Thompson has conveyed to Wignal as representative of Gildart & Gawith; now Wignal conveys to William Harrison.

YEAR: 1778 VOL: 21 PAGE: 66

FROM: Thomas Kemp and Robert Richardson PRICE: p1550cm

TO: James Braddock

NOTES The real estate of Philip Wetheral. Total 127 acres of which Braddock used about 20 for his original plan of the town. Braddock's plat (which has been lost) apparently included a row of lots - unnumbered - on the South side of Chestnut Street which were not sold before his death. The survey of 1804-06 fixed the boundary of the town at 120 feet South of Chestnut Street, providing for a series of lots 60 by 120 feet numbered 59 to 74. The original lot numbers were not used in the case of this lot, but it was probably part of lot number 63. It is located on the boundary between "The Beach" and "Janes Progress".

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, Umbrellas, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, etc. Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Spices, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- HADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
- W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
- S. DYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- ED H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- S. PEARSON**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.
- S. P. JONES**, 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. In-estate 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 BITE**, 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, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.
- N. T. HARRINGTON**, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table d'hôte catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.
- WEL 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.
- BLADES**, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see me before contracting.
- PH. HEGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
- FRANK FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.
- RICHARDSON & RICHARDSON**, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- HOLLAND**, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.
- C. R. LEONARD**, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.
- WAS BLADES**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
- M. HARRISON**, Dealer in Groceries, etc. &c.
- KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.

T-629



T-629
CHARLES F. BLADES HOUSE
St. Michaels Quadrangle
1942

Lo
Po



T-629

CHARLES F. BLADES HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust

Northeast elevation



T-629

CHARLES F. BLADES HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/Md Historical Trust

Northwest elevation