

T-631
William M. Poisal House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1871

The William M. Poisal house is clearly one of the most distinctive two-story dwellings to stand on West Chestnut Street. The Victorian serpentine-shaped fascia and bargeboards are especially unusual, and the paneled chimneys are atypical of St. Michaels. Attached to the southeast side is a two-story service wing. Curiously, the first floor of the wing has nine-over-six sash windows, a type of window normally limited to buildings dating to the first half of the nineteenth-century. The interior retains many of its period features including a partitioned center hall with the winder stair fixed in the southwest corner.

Reverend William M. Poisal, a Methodist minister, is recorded in The Eastern Star of September 1871, as ready to, "...commence erection of a house for himself in St. Michaels on Saino Domingo Street. Blades and Dyott do the work..." Although the newspaper misprinted the location, William Poisal purchased this West Chestnut Street lot in 1872 for \$100, a sum that would not have included the value of a new two-story frame dwelling. William, and his wife, Laura, held onto the property until 1896, when the couple sold the house and lot for \$1100 to W. D. J. Morris.

Survey No. T-631

Magi No. 2106312504

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WILLIAM M. POISAL HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 106 West Chestnut Street ___ not for publication

city, town St. Michaels ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. John C. Graves

street & number 106 West 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 391

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 244

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-631

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 William M. Poisal house stands at 106 West Chestnut Street in St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1871, the two-story, center hall frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of German siding. Attached to the east gable end is a shorter two-story service wing which turns southward under a gable roof perpendicular to the front section. The second floor of the rear wing is a modern addition.

The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The heavily molded four-panel front door is framed by three-light sidelights and a four-light transom. To each side the six-over-six sash windows are framed by wooden louvered shutters. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows that retain louvered shutters as well. The extended eave is decorated with a sawn serpentine-shaped fascia.

The west gable end is a plain weatherboard wall with an extended and decorated eave. An interior brick chimney with paneled sides protrudes through the gable end. The east end, on the other hand, is partially covered by the shorter two-story wing. An identical brick stack with paneled sides rises through the east gable end of the main block. One of the odd features of the two-story wing are the nine-over-six sash windows that light the first floor. The second floor is illuminated by six-over-six sash windows. All of the windows are flanked by louvered shutters.

The interior of the main block has not been significantly changed. Peculiar to this house is the partitioned hall with the winder stair separated from a small entrance hall. Four-panel doors framed by plain surrounds open into the adjacent rooms. The parlor has been remodeled, but a late nineteenth-century mantel with plain pilasters, a plain frieze and a curved mantel shelf is fixed against the projecting chimney breast. The dining room retains a Victorian mantel as well with applied period decoration. On the second floor, unusual six-panel doors open into the various bedrooms.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-631

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 1871 **Builder/Architect** Builders, Blades and Dyott

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 William M. Poisal house is clearly one of the most distinctive two-story dwellings to stand on West Chestnut Street. The Victorian serpentine-shaped fascia and bargeboards are especially unusual, and the paneled chimneys are atypical of St. Michaels. Attached to the southeast side is a two-story service wing. Curiously, the first floor of the wing has nine-over-six sash windows, a window type normally limited to house erected during the first half of the nineteenth century. The interior ~~has~~ retains many of its period features including a partitioned center hall with the winder stair fixed in the southwest corner.

Reverend William M. Poisal is recorded in The Eastern Star of September, 1871 as ready to, "...commence erection of a house for himself in St. Michaels on Sainito Domingo Street. Blades and Dyott do the work..." William Poisal is recorded officially in Talbot County land records as purchasing the lot the year after for \$100.(78/30) William Poisal and his wife, Laura, held onto the property until 1896, when the couple sold the property for \$1100 to W.D.J. Morris.(125/318) The exterior of the house is well maintained and adds to the period character of West Chestnut Street.

YEAR: 1963 VOL: 391 PAGE: 244

FROM: John Claence North, Extr. Est. Helen E. Radcliffe PRICE:

TO: North Emory Goldsborough and Sarah C. Goldsborough

NOTES Parcel 1. begins at a stone 90 feet from the NE corner of Thomas Bruff's lot; run East with Chestnut Street 59 feet to the Protestant Episcopal Rectory lot; then back 120 feet to an alley (formerly John Harrington's property); then West 59 feet to the former Alfred H. Harrison; with Harrison 120 feet to the beginning.

Parcel 2. Begins at the NE corner of the former W. D. J. Morris lot and adjoining the land of the Vestry of St. Michaels Parish; run East with Chestnut Street 2 feet; then 120 feet back.

Conveyed to Helen E. Radcliffe by Nellie M. Mitchell 1945, 263/338.

YEAR: 1945 VOL: 263 PAGE: 338

FROM: Nellie M. Mitchell and Lazarus E. Mitchell, et al PRICE: \$2000

TO: Helen M. Radcliffe

NOTES Same description. Mitchell et al were heirs of W. D. J. Morris to which the property was devised by Morris in his will of 1940, 26/122.

Conveyed to W. D. J. Morris by Wm. M. Poisal and Laura V. Poisal 1896, 125/318.

The 2-foot lot was conveyed to Morris by the Vestry of St. Michaels Parish 1927, 209/486.

YEAR: 1927 VOL: 209 PAGE: 486

FROM: Vestry of St. Michaels Parish PRICE: \$25

TO: W. D. J. Morris

NOTES A strip of land 2 feet by 120 feet adjoining Morris' property on the East.

Conveyed to Vestry of St. Michaels Parish by Daniel and Lydia Hope 1857, 67/563.

YEAR: 1896 VOL: 125 PAGE: 318

FROM: William M. Poisal and Laura V. Poisal PRICE: \$1100

TO: W. D. J. Morris

NOTES Same description. The adjacent Alfred E. Harrison lot formerly belonged to Edward Covey.

Conveyed to William M. Poisal by Edward Covey 1892, 78/30.

YEAR: 1872 VOL: 78 PAGE: 30
FROM: Edward Covey and Julia A. Covey PRICE: \$100
TO: William M. Poisal
NOTES Same description.

Part of a tract conveyed to John Dunning by John Harrington 1853, 65/263.
Bequeathed by John Dunning to his wife, Louisa .(Will 1857, 10/298; prob.1858)
Louisa Dunning willed the property to her nephews John C. Harper and Samuel A.
Harper 1858, 10/329; prob. 1859.
Conveyed by John C. Harper to James Benson 1866, 72/374.
Conveyed by James Benson to Edward Covey 1872, 78/172.

This is the first subdivision of the property into the present lot 59'x 120'

YEAR: 1872 VOL: 78 PAGE: 172
FROM: James Benson and Marianna Benson PRICE: \$3000
TO: Edward Covey
NOTES Begins at the N or NE corner of Thomas Bruff of John on Chestnut Street;
run with street East 150 feet; then South 120 feet to Dr. Gibson's land; with
Gibson West 150 feet to Bruff; North 120 feet to the beginning.
Conveyed to James Benson by John C. Harper 1866, 72/374.

YEAR: 1866 VOL: 72 PAGE: 374
FROM: John C. Harper and Rowena Harper PRICE: \$1800
TO: James Benson
NOTES Same description as preceding transaction.
Devised to John C. Harper by Louisa Dunning by will 1858, 10/328; prob. 1859.
Devised to Louisa Dunning by her husband, John Dunning by will 1857, 10/298;
prob. 1858.
Conveyed to John Dunning by John Harrington 1853, 5/263.

John Dunning's will leaves his wife, Louisa the dwelling house and lot on
Chestnut Street where he resides.

YEAR: 1853 VOL: 65 PAGE: 264
FROM: John Harrington and Henrietta M. Harrington PRICE: \$894
TO: John Dunning
NOTES Begins at the N or NE corner of Thomas Bruff of John; run East with
Chestnut Street 392 feet to the heirs of Spry Denny; with Denny S 60 feet;
then E still with Denny 120 feet to the County Road; then S with the road
60 feet; then from the road W 5....feet to Thomas Bruff of John; then 120
feet to the beginning.

YEAR: 1853 VOL: 65 PAGE: 260

FROM: Mary K. Harrington and children PRICE: \$3000

TO: John Harrington

NOTES : Tracts included in the deed are "Hattons Garden", "Point Lookout", "Chance", "Janes Progress", and "Parsley Neck". A detailed survey is in the deed. There are 133 acres, "including the home farm of the late Nathan Harrington, deceased".

YEAR: 1815 VOL: 37 PAGE: 303

FROM: John Dorgan PRICE: \$1400

TO: Nathan Harrington

NOTES Part of Chance, Janes Progress and Parsley Neck. Dorgan sold Harrington the "land which lies to the Southwestard of the main road leading from St. Michaels to Easton" with a total of 51 acres 24 perches.

The deed states that the land was conveyed to John Dorgan by Elizabeth Sherwood 31 December 1813.

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: 1791 VOL: 24 PAGE: 299

FROM: John Thompson PRICE: p84cm

TO: Thomas Sherwood

NOTES "All the land which formerly belonged to James Braddock lying to the South ward of a line drawn from the East end of Chestnut Street on a cove of St. Michaels River straight with said street across the main road to Broad Creek". (No further description).

YEAR: 1784 VOL: 21 PAGE: 413
FROM: James Wignal PRICE: p500sp
TO: John Thompson

NOTES "All that part of two tracts of land near St. Michaels Church called "Chance" and "Janes Progress" which was purchased by James Braddock from George Gleave formerly in possession of James Hewes on the South side of the main road" The deed also included lot number 7 (which Thompson already owned) and lot 14 - "known by the name of The Shipyard".

YEAR: 1784 VOL: 21 PAGE: 417
FROM: John Thompson PRICE: p600sp
TO: James Wignal

NOTES The deed is to ALL of James Braddock's unsold real estate. Braddock had left all of his real estate to Thompson by his will of 1782. The property had apparently been bought with funds provided by the firm of Gildart & Gawith of Liverpool, England of which Wignal was the legal representative.

YEAR: 1775* VOL: 20 PAGE: 484
FROM: George Gleave PRICE: p40s10d11
TO: James Braddock

NOTES * the land was bought in two installments. The second deed is 1776,20/529. The property consisted of 43 1/4 acres (less 3 1/4 acres sold to Rachel Hewes). Gleave was a Tory who left the country at the beginning of the Revolution. He is also mentioned in Braddock's Power of Attorney as owing money to Gildart & Gawith.

Since the land included James Hewes dwelling plantation - the only one mentioned in Braddock's property acquisitions - it is possible that Braddock used it as his residence.

YEAR: 1775* VOL: 20 PAGE: 484
FROM: George Gleave PRICE: p40s10d11
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Since the land included James Hewes dwelling plantation - the only one mentioned in Braddock's property acquisitions - it is possible that Braddock used it as his residence. The site would have been that of the present "Environmental Concern".

YEAR: 1775 VOL: 20 PAGE: 473

FROM: James Hewes, Blacksmith PRICE:

TO: George Gleave, Merchant

NOTES The plantation where James now lives. Part of "Chance" and "Janes Progress 43 1/4 acres.

James Hewes probably inherited the land from his father (or brother) John Hewes. John Hewes' father (also named John) was given all his father David Hewes property ("moveable and immoveable - quick or dead") by deed 1737, 14/313.

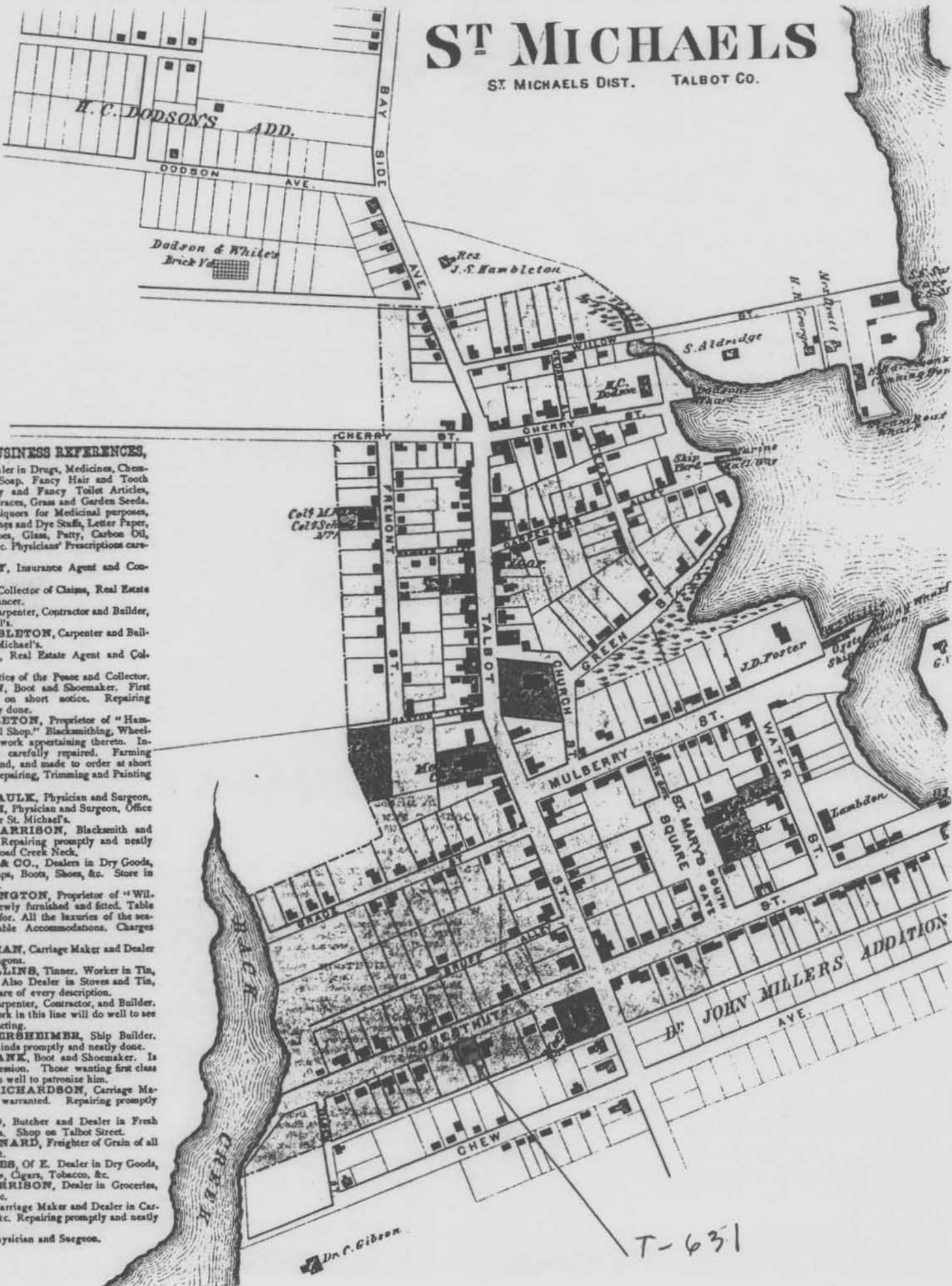
One hundred six Chestnut Street is probably located on "Chance" - a resurvey made for Edward Elliott in 1732 or on "Taylor and Jane's Discovery" patented by George Taylor in 1695.

James Hewes could have acquired the land in 1739, 14/451 George Taylor to John Hewes. Part of "Chance" and "Taylor and Jane's Discovery".

It could also have been 1742, 15/299 George Taylor to John Hewes. For a "valuable consideration" John Hewes got 100 acres of "Chance" and "Taylor and Jane's Discovery"....."to be laid out"! (Considering the area of land available, there must have been considerable overlap between "Taylor and Jane's Discovery", "Chance" and "Jane's Progress". Since it was all "in the family" - Taylor-Hewes-Hatton-Elliott it probably made little difference.

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, Trusses, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Fine Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Candles, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
IS DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
ED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
IS 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 "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. In-icate 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.
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. Tables 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.
JORGE 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 HERGERSHEIMER, 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.
BRISON & 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.
THOMAS BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
THOMAS HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.
S. KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
A. DODSON Physician and Surgeon.

Dr. C. Gibson

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WILLIAM M. POISAL HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942

Lc
Pc



T-631

WILLIAM M. POISAL HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

North elevation

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust