

T-634
John T. Harrison House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1887

John T. Harrison is credited with erecting this two-story house on Mulberry Street around 1887 after he purchased the lot for \$505 after a mortgage foreclosure. A structure is located on this site on the 1877 St. Michaels town map, but no part of the existing house appears to date before the 1880s. In 1889, the Easton Gazette recorded that, "...Mr. John T. Harrison is enlarging his house on Mulberry Street..." John and his wife, Nannie, retained ownership of the property until 1905 when they sold the house and lot to Edward H. Burrows for \$1000.

The two-story, three-bay structure repeats the common side hall/double pile house type erected throughout the nineteenth century as a conveniently sized dwelling to fit narrow town lots. Aside from a layer of artificial exterior siding, the dwelling has not changed significantly. The double-door entrance survives intact, as do the two-over-two or six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. Inside the late Victorian woodwork remains largely undisturbed except for the removal of the hall partition.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-634

Magi No. 2106342604

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN T. HARRISON HOUSE

and/or common WALES HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 206 Mulberry Street not for publication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 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 Mrs. George E. Wales

street & number 206 Mulberry 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 274

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 568

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-634

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 John T. Harrison house, known for last forty-one years as the Wales house, stands at 206 Mulberry Street in the heart of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, side hall/parlor frame house faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in stages with the earliest section dating to around 1887, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with German siding that is now obscured for the most part by vinyl siding. The various gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story wing that extends farther south with a single-story kitchen wing.

The north (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a side double-door entrance and a pair of two-over-two sash windows. The two-panel double doors are topped by a three-light transom and the entire entrance is sheltered by a single-bay gabled porch supported by Tuscan columns. The windows to the east retain louvered wooden shutters. Lighting the third floor are three two-over-two sash windows also hung with louvered shutters. The cornice is boxed.

The west gable end is partially covered on the first floor by a hip roofed screened-in porch also supported by Tuscan columns. The German siding is exposed within the porch area. Lighting the second floor and attic are single sash windows. The east gable end is defined by single six-over-six sash windows on each floor that fill the southernmost section of the wall. Protruding through the roof is an interior end brick chimney stack.

The south side of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, two-bay rear wing that is illuminated on each floor by six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. Piercing the south gable end wall is a narrow brick stack. A single-story kitchen wing extends from the south wall of the two-story section, and protruding through the roof is a narrow brick stove stack.

The interior has been altered to some degree with the removal of the hall partition on the first floor to consolidate the hall and parlor into one room. Rising against the west wall is the stair with a turned newel post, turned balusters, a molded handrail and scroll decorated steps. The woodwork in the house largely dates from the late nineteenth century with Victorian mantels and bulls-eye block surrounds framing four-panel doors.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-634

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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 John T. Harrison house repeats the common side hall/parlor house type erected throughout the nineteenth century. The two-story, three-bay structure conveniently fitted narrow town lots and allowed for additions to the rear for service rooms. This Mulberry Street example has not changed significantly aside from the exterior layer of vinyl siding. The double-door entrance survives intact, and the two-over-two or six-over-six sash retain louvered shutters. Inside the late Victorian woodwork remains largely intact except for the removal of the hall partition.

John T. Harrison is credited with erecting this two-story house on Mulberry Street around 1887 after he purchased the lot for \$505 after a mortgage foreclosure.(108/71) A structure does appear on this site on the 1877 St. Michaels town map, but no part of the existing house appears to predate the 1880s. In 1889 the Easton Gazette recorded that, "...Mr. John T. Harrison is enlarging his house on Mulberry Street..." It is not certain to what section of the house the paper notice referred. John and his wife, Nannie, retained ownership of the property until 1905 when they sold the house and lot to Edward H. Burrows for \$1000.(144/393)

206 MULBERRY STREET

T-634

YEAR: 1947 VOL: 274 PAGE: 568
FROM: Elmer C. Warner and Olie E. Warner PRICE:
TO: George E. Wales and Irene P. Wales
NOTES Begins on the South side of Mulberry Street at the NE corner of M. Howard Gillis (formerly Amelia A. Kirby) run with the street E 54 feet; then S 101 feet; then W 44 feet; then S 19 feet; then W 10 feet to Gillis; then N 120 feet to the beginning.
Parcel 2. begins at the NW corner of Miss Hattie F. Plummer (now Powell), formerly George W. Lambdin; runs W with Mulberry Street 2 feet to Powell; with Powell 55 feet; then E 2 feet; then N with Powell 55 feet to the beginning.
Conveyed to C. Gibson Ford by Emma T. Gray and Henry Davis Gray 1943, 255/515. C. Gibson Ford died leaving a will (1943, 26/55). His executor, Louis M. Denit was instructed to sell the property. Sold to Warners 1944, 258/170.

YEAR: 1944 VOL: 258 PAGE: 170
FROM: Louis M. Denit, Extr. PRICE: \$3500
TO: Olie E. Warner
NOTES Same description.

YEAR: 1943 VOL: 255 PAGE: 515
FROM: Emma T. Gray and Henry David Gray PRICE:
TO: C. Gibson Ford
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to Mollie W. Tarr and Emma T. Gray by Elizabeth Flynn 1942, 253/42. Mollie W. Tarr died intestate 1943.

YEAR: 1942 VOL: 253 PAGE: 42
FROM: Elizabeth Flynn PRICE:
TO: Mollie W. Tarr and Emma T. Gray
NOTES Title clearance.

1942, 253/41 Mollie W. Tarr to Elizabeth Flynn = Title Clearance

Conveyed to Lucy F. Tarr and Mollie W. Tarr by James Ralph Harrison 1930, 223/82
Lucy Tarr died 1934.

YEAR: 1930 VOL: 223 PAGE: 82
FROM: James Ralph Harrison (of Baltimore) PRICE:
TO: Lucy F. Tarr and Mollie W. Tarr.
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to James Ralph Harrison by James E. Harrison 1925, 204/488.

YEAR: 1925 VOL: 204 PAGE: 488
FROM: James E. Harrison and Sarah Matilda Harrison PRICE: \$1350
TO: James Ralph Harrison
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to James E. Harrison by Catherine S. Torrey 1912, 162/297.

YEAR: 1912 VOL: 162 PAGE: 297
FROM: Catherine S. Torrey (Port Washington, New York) PRICE:
TO: James E. Harrison
NOTES Conveyed to Catherine S. Torrey by Edward H. Burrows

YEAR: VOL: PAGE:
FROM: Edward H. Burrows and C. Irene Burrows PRICE:
TO: Katharine S. Torrey (Port Washington, New York)
NOTES Begins NE corner of Amelia A. Kirby (formerly Mary Grace); 54' on
Mulberry Street, etc.
Conveyed to Burrows by John T. Harrison 1905, 144/393.

YEAR: 1905 VOL: 144 PAGE: 393
FROM: John T. Harrison and Nannie Harrison PRICE: \$1000
TO: Edward H. Burrows
NOTES Begins at NE corner of Josiah Thomas (formerly Mary Grace); E on Mulberry
Street 54 feet to NW corner of George W. Lambdin; S with Lambdin and James M.
Seth 101 feet to Mrs. Joshua M. Fairbank; W with Fairbank 44 feet; then S 19'
to William J. Keithley; then W 10 feet to SE corner of Josiah Thomas; then 120'
to the beginning.
Conveyed to John T. Harrison by Charles E. Shannahan, assignee 1887, 108/71.
A second parcel conveyed to John T. Harrison by George W. Lambdin 1890, 112/485.

YEAR: 1890 VOL: 112 PAGE: 485
FROM: George W. Lambdin and Sarah Lambdin PRICE: \$30
TO: John T. Harrison
NOTES A strip two feet wide by 55 feet long off the west side of Lambdin's lot
making Lambdin 73 feet and Harison 56 feet on Mulberry Street.

EASTON "GAZETTE" 9 NOVEMBER 1889: MR. JOHN T. HARRISON IS ENLARGING HIS HOUSE
ON MULBERRY STREET

YEAR: 1887 VOL: 108 PAGE: 71

FROM: Charles E. Shannahan, assignee PRICE: \$505

TO: John T. Harrison

NOTES Sale made on foreclosure of a mortgage: Lewis Comegys and Sarah Comegys, 1879 to Thomas Blades of E (ref Chancery proceedings of Circuit Court, 82/70) Conveyed to Louis Comegys by Nicholas Orem 1864, 71/305.

Court proceedings were not found. Charles W. Willey holder of the original mortgage must have sold it to T. B. of E.

YEAR: 1877 VOL: 84 PAGE: 357 (Mortgage)

FROM: Lewis Comegys and Sarah E. Comegys PRICE: \$225

TO: Charles W. Willey

NOTES Security is the 54-foot lot between Mary Grace lot and George W. Lambdin. Cited as being conveyed to Comegys by Orem 1864, 71/305.

YEAR: 1864 VOL: 71 PAGE: 305

FROM: Nicholas Orem PRICE: \$750

TO: Louis Comegys

NOTES Begins at NW corner of Thomas W. Blades (formerly Mary Grace); 54 feet on Mulberry Street to James M. Seth;

YEAR: 1858 VOL: 68 PAGE: 252

FROM: James T. Sewell and Mary Ann Sewell PRICE: \$700

TO: Nicholas Orem

NOTES Runs from Mary Grace lot 54 feet to a lot leased by John G. Leonard from James M. Seth.

Conveyed to James M. Sewell by "James M. Seth and by Thomas W. Blades" 1855, 66/364. Blades' name is not on the deed.

In 1858 (68/83) James Parrott, owner of 60-foot lot #15, sold it to Thomas W. Blades.

In 1859 (68/298) Blades sold "part of lot 15" - 50 feet - to James Harrison.

Here, James Sewell sells Nicholas Orem 54 feet and the deed states that it was sold to him (Sewell) by "James M. Seth and Thomas W. Blades" in 1855. Since Sewell bought 45 feet from Seth (66/364) in 1855, and Blades did not acquire lot 15 until 1858 (the same year Sewell sells 54 feet to Orem) the transfer of the nine feet to Sewell must have occurred that year. No record of this transaction has been found. What became of the extra foot between Blades and Seth is one of the mysteries of St. Michaels.

YEAR: 1855 VOL: 66 PAGE: 364

FROM: James M. Seth and Louisa PRICE: \$550

TO: James T. Sewell

NOTES Begins at the NE corner of a lot lately in the possession of Mary Grace, negro, now in possession of James Parrott. Run S in line with Parrott to another Parrott lot, 101 feet; then E with a lot of Seth 45 feet to another Seth lot; then N 101 feet to with Seth to Mulberry Street; then W with the street to the beginning. At this time, the adjacent lot 15 owned by Parrott was 60 feet on Mulberry Street.

This deed "creates" the lot on which the house is built by taking 45 feet off of the 120-foot frontage of lot 50 on Mulberry Street.

The chain-of-title should be the same as for T-681 (lot 50).

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



ST. MICHAELS 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, Envelopes, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

W. W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

ES DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

LEDD H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ES DYOTT, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.

SPARRE, Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

W. S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, 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.

LIAM 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 "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.

ORGE 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 HERGERSHIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

IVYR FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful 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.

FT. C. R. LEONARD, Freightier of Grain of all kinds to any point.

ROMAN BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

W. 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.

T-634
JOHN T. HARRISON HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942





T-634

JOHN T. HARRISON HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

North elevation

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-634

JOHN T. HARRISON HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

South elevation

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-634

JOHN T. HARRISON HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Northeast elevation

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust