

T-694

c. 1873 and earlier

Roberts-Harrison House  
St. Michaels  
Private

A newspaper notice in the Easton Star pinpoints major construction on this site to the fall of 1873, shortly after Susan A. Harrison acquired this Mulberry Street property. She purchased the lot from Mary E. Roberts for \$600, a sum that would indicate the property was improved at the time. It is likely that part of the Roberts house was incorporated in the rebuilt Harrison dwelling. The newspaper article related on October 7, 1873 that

Alex. Hambleton has completed a house for P. T. Hambleton, corner of Talbot and Cherry streets, probably the largest house in town. He will then start on Miss S. A. Harrison's on Mulberry.

The property remained under the ownership of Susan A. Harrison until her death around 1907 when the house and lot were sold to Walter M. Sewell.

The Roberts-Harrison house represents another example of the two-story, two-part stepped frame dwellings erected in St. Michaels during the mid nineteenth century. The main block follows a side hall/parlor plan while a dining room wing extends to the west on a slightly shorter elevation.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ROBERTS-HARRISON HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 205 Mulberry Street  not for publication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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 293

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 55

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-694

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 Roberts-Harrison house stands at 205 Mulberry Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, two-part frame dwelling faces south with the main gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1873, the two-story, two-part stepped frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and the house is sheathed with asbestos shingles. A layer of asphalt shingles covers the medium pitched gable roof.

The south (main) elevation of the side hall/parlor house includes a side entrance and flanking four-over-four sash windows that still retain their louvered shutters. A gabled hood shelters the front entrance which survives with a heavily molded four-panel front door, three-light sidelights, and a five-light transom. The second floor is illuminated by three unevenly spaced four-over-four sash windows.

Attached to the west gable end is a slightly shorter two-story, two-bay wing with four-over-four sash windows hung with louvered shutters on each floor. The roof to each section is trimmed with a boxed cornice and slightly extended eaves. Rising through the east gable end is an interior end brick stack, and a centrally located brick stove stack protrudes through the west wing. Extending to the north from the west wing is a single story kitchen.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-694

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 Roberts-Harrison house is another two-story, two-part frame dwelling with a stepped profile similar to dozens of other examples in St. Michaels. The main block, a side hall/parlor plan structure extends to the west with a slightly shorter two-story, two-bay dining room wing. To the north is a single story kitchen. Although this house is not distinctive for any specific exterior feature, it does retain period doors and sash windows and contributes to the nineteenth century character of Mulberry Street.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A newspaper notice in the Easton Star pinpoints major construction on this site to the fall of 1873, shortly after Susan A. Harrison acquired this Mulberry Street property. She purchased the lot from Mary E. Roberts for \$600, which suggests that improvements were located on the property.(79/177) It is likely that part of the Roberts house was incorporated in the rebuilt dwelling. The newspaper article related on October 7, 1873 that

Alex. Hambleton has completed a house for P. T. Hambleton, corner of Talbot and Cherry streets, probably the largest house in town. He will then start on Miss S. A. Harrison's on Mulberry.

The property remained under the ownership of Susan A. Harrison until her death around 1907 when the house and lot were sold to Walter M. Sewell.(155/289)



YEAR: 1951 VOL: 293 PAGE: 55 PRICE:

FROM: Emma M. Sewell, widow

TO: Llewes P. Sewell and Mary Anne Sewell

NOTES: On the north side of Mulberry Street adjoining on the east T. H. Kirby (now Warner) and on the west Joseph Hunt. Fronting 60 feet on Mulberry Street, extending back from said street to Church Cove.

Conveyed to Walter M. Sewell by Lucy E. Spraker 1909, 155/289.

Devised to Emma M. Sewell by Walter M. Sewell 1924, 20/485.

1951, 293/56 is a mortgage to the County Trust Co. for \$1750.

YEAR: 1909 VOL: 155 PAGE: 289 PRICE: \$1600

FROM: Lucy E. Spraker, Wm. J. Spraker, and Sarah L. Fairbank

TO: Walter M. Sewell

NOTES: Under the will of Susan A. Harrison the property was devised to Lucy Spraker (1903 - prob.1907) with a charge of \$25 to be paid annually to Sarah L. Fairbank.

Conveyed to Susan A. Harrison by Mary E. Roberts 1873, 79/177.

YEAR: 1873 VOL: 79 PAGE: 177 PRICE: \$600

FROM: Mary E. Roberts

TO: Susan A. Harrison

NOTES: Begins at a stone on the NW corner of lot #10 on Mulberry Street belonging to Maria Harrison; runs 60 feet with the street to lot #12 belonging to George E. Haddaway; then to Church Cove; with the cove to #10 and with #10 160 feet to the beginning. Lot #11 in Braddock's Square.

Conveyed by Joseph Hunt to Terence Dooris 1823, 43/360. Devised to Sarah Lee for life and to her 4 children by will of Anna Maria Hopkins. Eventually went to Mary E. Roberts, one of the 4 children.

Easton Star, 1873, October 7. Alex Hambleton has about completed a house for P. T. Hambleton, corner of Talbot and Cherry streets, probably the largest house in town. He will then start on MISS S. A. HARRISON'S ON MULBERRY.

YEAR: 1821 VOL: 43 PAGE: 360 PRICE: \$45

FROM: Joseph Hunt

TO: Terence Dooris

NOTES: "Part of "Jane's Progress". Lot number 11.

A record of the history of this lot between this date and 1873 has not been found.

YEAR: 1821 VOL: 43 PAGE: 359 PRICE: \$135

FROM: Richard Harrington, Trustee of the estate of Impey Dawson

TO: Joseph Hunt

NOTES: Jane's Progress. Lot number 11. There is a separate statement in the deed: "together with the buildings and improvements thereon".

Joseph Hunt is not on the 1826 Tax List.

Impey Dawson is not on the 1817 or 1813 Tax Lists.

YEAR: 1801 VOL: 29 PAGE: 45 PRICE: p150

FROM: Robert Hay

TO: Impey Dawson

NOTES: Jane's Progress Lot number 11. 60 x 120. "one acre"!

Impey Dawson died 1817-1818. His property was offered for sale in the Easton Gazette, July, 1818 by Richard Harrington, Trustee. Impey ran the shipyard on the site of Longfellow's Restaurant.

On the Tax List for 1803, Impey Dawson is credited with 4 lots and 4 framed dwelling houses. One of the 4 lots is listed as having several out-buildings and is obviously Impey's home place. The other three houses are each valued at \$25 and were probably used by the workers in the shipyard.

YEAR: 1793 VOL: 25 PAGE: 215 PRICE: p90 cm

FROM: Levin Mansfield

TO: Robert Hay

NOTES: Lot number 11.

YEAR: VOL: PAGE: PRICE:

FROM: Joseph Boushell

TO: Levin Mansfield

NOTES:

No record of this deed (if one exists) was found in the Land Records.

One deed, Boushell to Mansfield concerns Lot 42!

YEAR: 1786 VOL: 23 PAGE: 125 PRICE: p12 s10 specie

FROM: Lambert Robinson

TO: Joseph Boushell

NOTES: Lot #11.

YEAR: 1784 VOL: 22 PAGE: 79 PRICE: p17 sp

FROM: James Wignal

TO: Lambert Robinson

NOTES: Lot number 11. Sale also included lots 29 and 30.

Wignal was engaged in selling the lots which he, Wignal, had bought from John Thompson (1784, 21/413) in an attempt to recover for Gildart & Gawith of Liverpool. This is the first sale of this lot to an individual.

Lots 29 and 30 are over on St. Mary's Square and it looks as though Lambert Robinson was doing a little speculating!

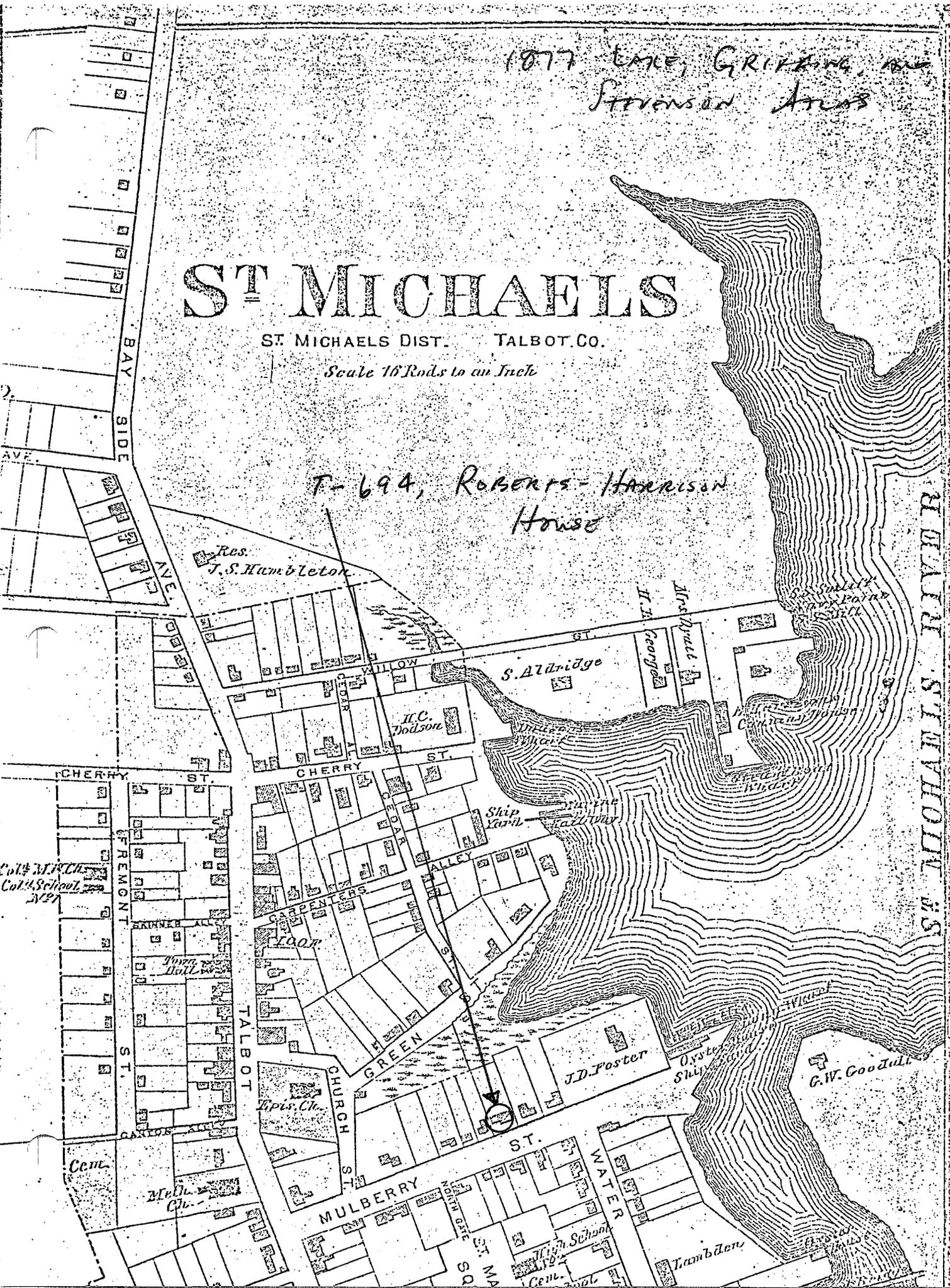
1877 EMBE, GRIBBING, NEW  
Stevens and Areas

# ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

T-694, Roberts-Harrison  
House



ST MICHAELS RIVER



T-694  
ROBERTS-HARRISON HOUSE  
ST. Michaels, MD Quadrangle  
1942

LC  
PC



T-694

ROBERTS-HARRISON HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Southwest elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust