

T-719
Watson Meeds House
St. Michaels
Private

c. 1876

Historically identified as the Watson Meeds house, this two-story, three-bay common bond dwelling is one of a handful of brick structures erected in a row along North Talbot Street during the 1870s. A firm, comprising William Cooper and John White and known as Cooper and White, and joined in partnership with H. Clay Dodson, manufactured bricks during the post-bellum period in an obvious effort to supply the building needs of a booming St. Michaels. Their brickyard was assembled on part of the "Cabin Farm" on the north edge of town around 1872, and they sold the partnership sold the lots along North Talbot Street for proposed development. Interestingly this stretch of North Talbot Street houses is the only row of contemporary brick dwellings in St. Michaels. In 1875, R. Watson and Emily F. Meeds purchased this corner lot, and in the same year took a mortgage out from the Workingmen's Building & Loan of St. Michaels for \$500. The two-story brick house was erected shortly afterwards in time for its designation on the 1877 St. Michaels town map. In 1886 the Easton Star announced that

R. Watson Meeds has opened a grocery store in the building of Thomas Blades of E, corner of Cherry and Talbot

Evidently Watson Meeds died between the 1880s and 1903 for Emily was remarried to Ephraim B. Harris by the later year and the couple had relocated to Cumberland County, New Jersey. They sold the St. Michaels property in 1903 to Alexander C. Mortimer for \$675.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WATSON MEEDS HOUSE

and/or common WATTS HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 200 North Talbot Street not for publication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 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 Beatrice Watts

street & number 200 North 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 386

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 641

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-~~704~~ 719

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 Beatrice Watts house, historically identified as the Watson Meeds house, stands at 200 North Talbot Street in the northern commercial district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay brick house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1875, the two-story, common bond, single-pile brick dwelling is covered by a medium sloped seamed tin roof. Stretching across the front of the house is a two-story porch, while a two-story frame addition extends to the rear.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. The partially glazed front door retains a half-round molded surround and a three-light transom. Covering the full front of the house is a square columned, shed roofed screened-in porch. A square baluster handrail stretches between the second floor posts. Also on the second floor, a center door is flanked by six-over-six sash windows.

The north and south gable end have six-over-six sash windows on each floor and the eave is trimmed by a plain bargeboard. Rising through each gable end is an interior end brick stove chimney.

The west (rear) elevation is partially covered by the rear frame wing which appears to have been built in two sections. Seams in the weatherboards suggest different periods of construction. A centrally located brick stack protrudes through the pressed metal roof. Six-over-six sash windows are hung with louvered shutters.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-~~719~~ 719

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.

Historically identified as the Watson Meeds house, this two-story, three-bay common bond dwelling is one of a handful of brick structures erected in a row along North Talbot Street during the 1870s. A firm, comprising William Cooper and John White and known as Cooper and White, and joined in partnership with H. Clay Dodson, manufactured bricks during the post-bellum period in an obvious effort to supply the building needs of a booming St. Michaels. Their brickyard was assembled on part of the "Cabin Farm" on the north edge of town around 1872, and they sold the lots along North Talbot Street for proposed development. Interestingly this stretch of North Talbot Street houses is the only row of contemporary brick dwellings in St. Michaels. In 1875 R. Watson and Emily F. Meeds purchased this corner lot, (81/250) and in the same year took a mortgage out from the Workingmen's Building & Loan of St. Michaels for \$500.(81/251) The two-story brick ^{house} was erected shortly afterwards in time for its designation on the 1877 St. Michaels town map. In 1886 the Easton Star announced that

R. Watson Meeds has opened a grocery store in the building of Thomas Blades of E., corner of Cherry and Talbot

Evidently Watson Meeds died between the 1880s and 1903 for Emily was remarried to Ephraim B. Harris by the later year and had relocated to Cumberland County, New Jersey. They sold the St. Michaels property in 1903 to Alexander C. Mortimer for \$675.(141/91)

WATSON MEEDS HOUSE

T-719

YEAR: 1963 VOL: 386 PAGE: 641 PRICE: \$9000

FROM: Eliza J. Miller

TO: Beatrice B. Watts and Ernest L. Watts

NOTES: Begins SE corner of the late Alfred H. Hambleton. Run south with Talbot Street 66 feet to North Avenue; then NW with North Avenue 172 feet to the south line of the Hambleton lot; with the line, east 157 feet to the beginning. Forming a triangle.

Conveyed to Miller by Lewis 1963, 386/419.

1963, 386/643 is a mortgage for \$9000 to Miller.

YEAR: 1963 VOL: 386 PAGE: 419 PRICE:

FROM: Philip Brooks Lewis and Portia F. Lewis

TO: Eliza J. Miller

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Lewis by Carey 1937, 240/259.

YEAR: 1937 VOL: 240 PAGE: 259 PRICE: #850

FROM: W. Thomas Carey and Margaret T. Carey

TO: Philip Brooks Lewis and Portia F. Lewis

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Carey by Porter 1935, 234/259.

YEAR: 1935 VOL: 234 PAGE: 259 PRICE:

FROM: James Wesley Porter and Gertrude A. Porter

TO: W. Thomas Carey and Margaret T. Carey

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Porter by Mortimer 1918, 178/242.

YEAR: 1918 VOL: 178 PAGE: 242 PRICE: \$850

FROM: Alexander C. Mortimer

TO: James Wesley Porter and Gertrude A. Porter

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Mortimer by Sutton 1917, 178/48.

YEAR: 1917 VOL: 178 PAGE: 48 PRICE:

FROM: Heirs of Annie E. Mortimer (Sutton, atty.)

TO: Alexander C. Mortimer

NOTES: Same description. Quit claim.

Conveyed to Mortimer by Harris 1903, 141/91.

YEAR: 1903 VOL: 141 PAGE: 91 PRICE: \$675
FROM: Emily F. Harris and Ephraim B. Harris (Cumberland County, New Jersey)
TO: Alexander C. Mortimer
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to R. Watson Meeds and Emily F. Meeds (now Harris) 1875, 81/250.

YEAR: 1875 VOL: 81 PAGE: 250 PRICE: \$75
FROM: H. Clay Dodson & Martha, Wm. Cooper & Priscilla, Jo. H. White & Charlotte
TO: R. Watson Meeds and Emily F. Meeds
NOTES: Same description.
Being a lot laid off from the tract conveyed to Dodson, Cooper, and White
1873, 79/328.
1875, 81/251 is a mortgage to the Workingmen's Building & Loan of St. Michaels
for \$500.
The EASTON STAR for December, 1872 carries a note that Cooper and White had
bought part of the "Cabin Farm" and had started a brickyard. They were then
joined by H. Clay Dodson. The plan followed was to build a row of brick houses
along the main road and to sell the back lots to colored. T-277, T-278, T-589,
and T-620 are the result of this endeavour.

The Easton STAR, October 5, 1886 notes that R. Watson Meeds has opened a
a grocery store in the building of Thomas Blades of E, corner of Cherry
and Talbot (T-604). The Sanborn maps show a grocery there operated by
T B of E.

ST MICHAELS

ST MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

T-779, WATSON MEEDS
House

MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Spectacles, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds. Also Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Envelopes, 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 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. J. HARRISON, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Taxes.

SPARNS, 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. Incomplete 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, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

N. T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table and Kitchen fully 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.

JRGE 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 HERGERHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

EVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

KRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

F. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

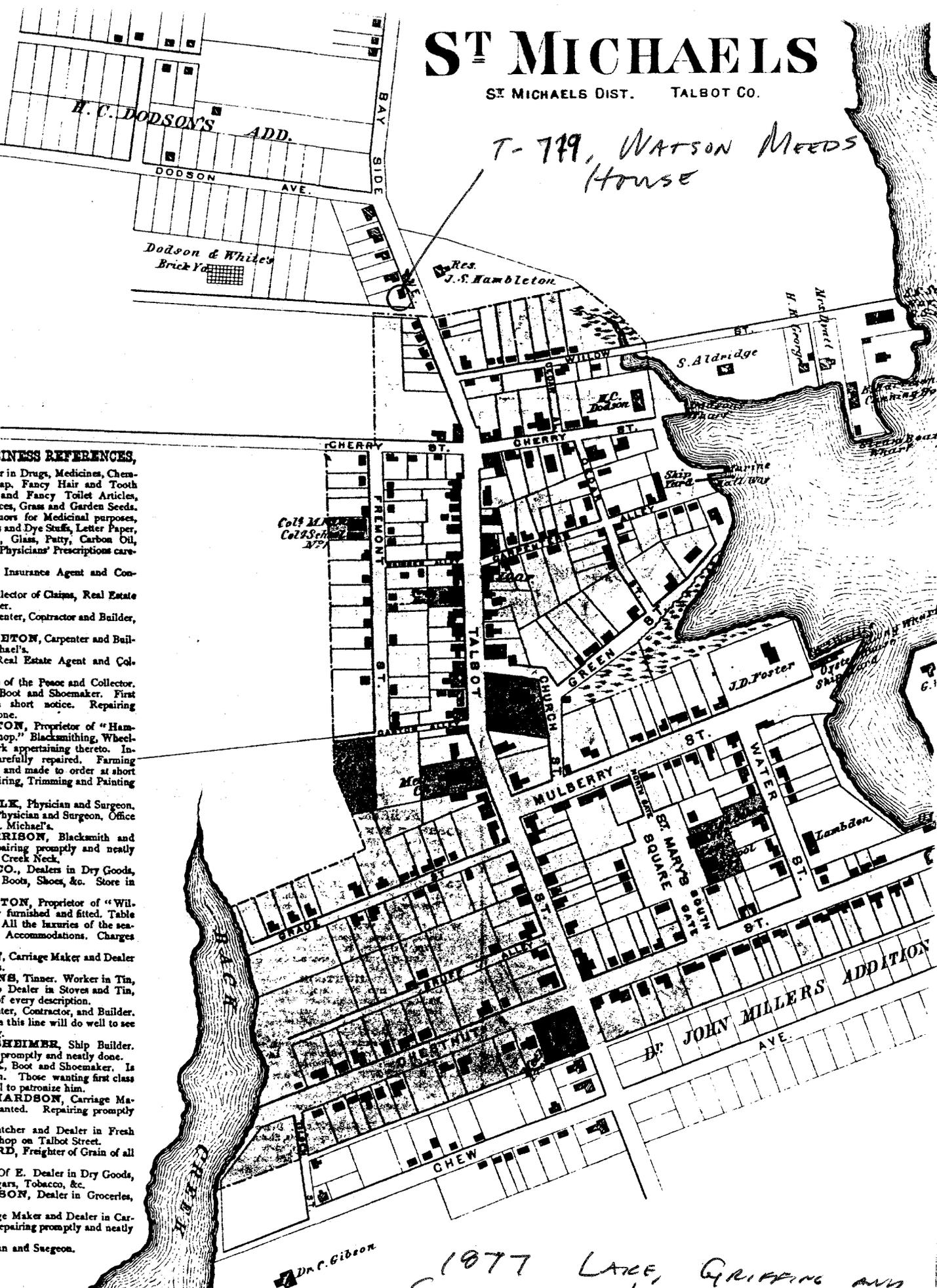
PT. C. R. LEONARD, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.

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

YEMI HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.

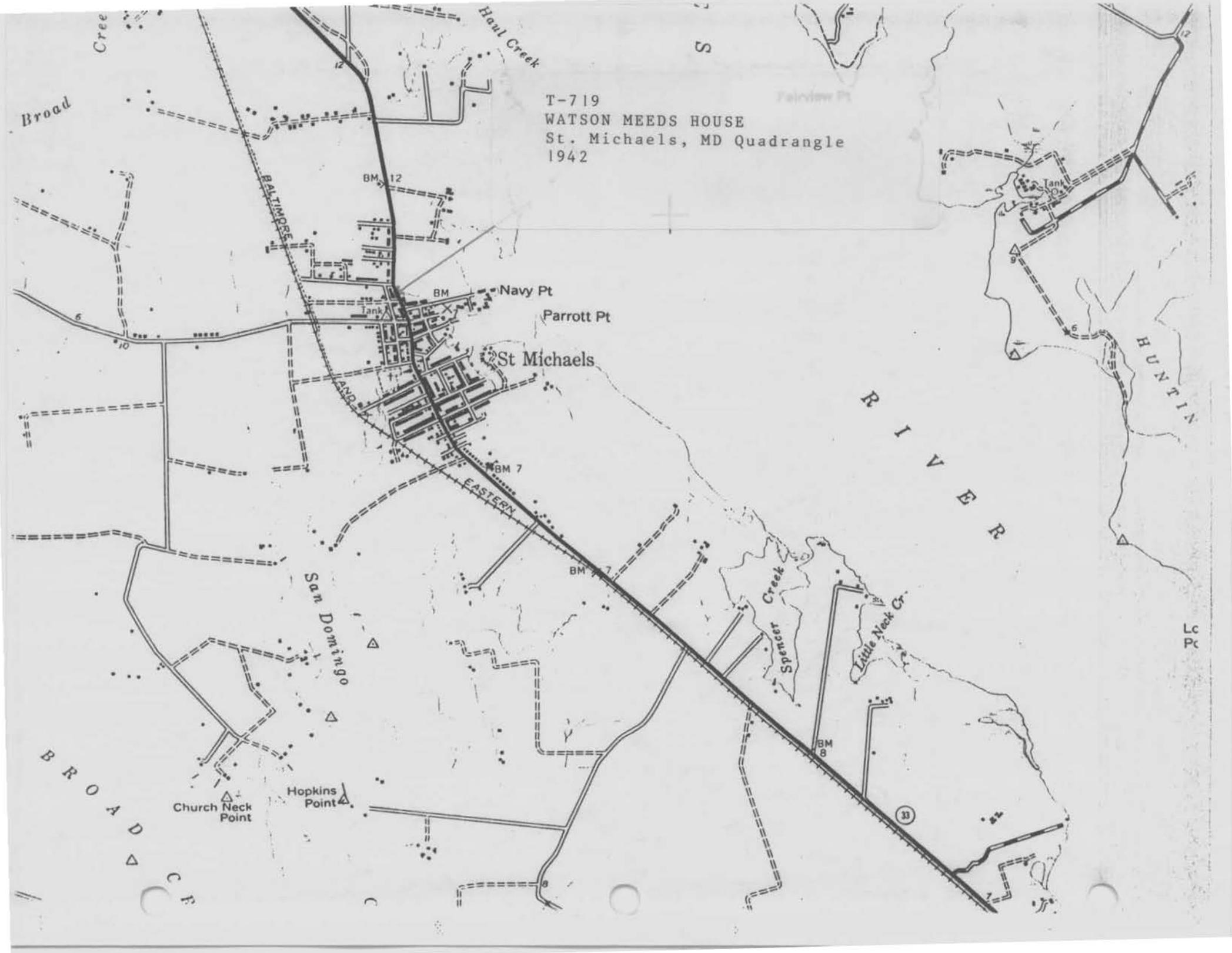
K. KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

A. DODSON Physician and Surgeon.



1877 LACE, GRIPPING AND
STEVENSON ATLAS

T-719
WATSON MEEDS HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942



Broad

Cree

Haul Creek

Fairview Pt

BM 12

BM

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

BM 7

EASTERN

BM 7

Spencer Creek

Little Neck Cr.

San Domingo

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

BROAD CREEK

RIVER

HUNTING

Lc PC

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WATSON MEEDS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Southeast elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust