

T-723
Arianna Sears House
St. Michaels
Private

c. 1860

The Arianna Sears house, known as "Hotel Storey" around 1900, is a distinctive two-story gable front frame dwelling located on the south side of Cherry Street in norther St. Michaels. The side hall/double-pile dwelling appears to have been erected in stages, beginning around 1860 with the two-story gable front main house. Although the house is currently covered with vinyl siding, it survives with several significant features including the standing seam tin roof, period porches, and original sash windows with louvered shutters.

The research on this lot does not provided conclusive information on when this house was initially erected. An 1850 transfer between William Henry Harrison and Sarah A. Thompson refers to "all that messuage or tenement" but it is uncertain whether this clause refers to the current improvements. From the exterior architectural features, it appears the house may have been erected during the ownership of Arianna Sears, who held title to the property from 1857 to 1874. In 1874 Arianna Sears transferred the property to her daughters, Mary True Storey and Anna Catherine Storey. While the sisters held title, the house was used evidently as a hotel. The 1901 Sanborn Insurance map of St. Michaels indicates "Hotel Story" on this site. In 1907 Anna Storey sold the property to Esther Valliant.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ARIANNA SEARS HOUSE, "HOTEL STOREY"

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 104 Cherry Street not for publication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

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 379

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 374

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-723

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 Arianna Sears house stands at 104 Cherry Street in the northern residential district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story ell-shaped frame house faces north with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date to 1860 with additions attached during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this two-story ell-shaped frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of artificial weatherboard siding. The low pitched gable roofs are covered with standing seam tin. Attached to the west side of the main block is two-story wing, and a two-story service wing extends to the back. From an exterior analysis the house appears to have been built in at least two principal stages with the main gable front house comprising the original dwelling.

The north (main) elevation is two-story, gable front, three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The paneled front door is topped by a multi-pane transom, and the adjacent windows are hung with louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a chamfered post porch with simple sawn brackets and a sawn baluster handrail. The hip roof of the porch survives with a seamed tin sheathing. Defining the second floor are three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows also hung with louvered shutters. The front outside corners of the main block are fitted with broad corner pilasters that rise to the short returns of the slightly extended eave. A small louvered vent is fixed in the upper gable.

The west side is partially covered by the two-story, two-bay frame wing. A single six-over-six sash window marks the first floor under the shed roofed porch, while two six-over-six sash windows light the second floor. Each window retains its louvered shutters.

The east side of the main block is dominated by a new exterior brick chimney which rises between first and second floor six-over-six sash windows.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing.

The interior was not seen.

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
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.

The Arianna Sears house, known as Hotel Storey around 1900, is a distinctive two-story gable front frame dwelling located on the south side of Cherry Street in northern St. Michaels. The side hall/double-pile dwelling appears to have been erected around 1860 with additions attached at later times. An interior inspection would reveal approximately when the later additions were made. Although the house is currently covered with a layer of vinyl siding it survives with several significant features including the standing seam tin roof, period porches, and original sash windows with louvered shutters.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The research on this lot does not provide conclusive information on when this house was initially erected. An 1850 transfer between William Henry Harrison and Sarah A. Thompson refers to "all that messuage or tenement" but it is uncertain whether this clause refers to the current improvements. From the exterior architectural features, it appears the house may have been erected during the ownership of Arianna Sears, who held title to the Cherry Street lot from 1857 to 1874. (See 80/141) In 1874 Arianna Sears transferred the property to her daughters, Mary True Storey and Anna Catherine Storey. While the two sisters held the title, the house was evidently used as a hotel. The 1901 Sanborn Insurance map of St. Michaels indicates "Hotel Story" at this location. In 1907 Anna Storey sold the property to Esther Valliant.(148/398)

YEAR: 1962 VOL: 379 PAGE: 374 PRICE: \$15,750
FROM: Jon Beresford Emack and Edward Franklin Emack*
TO: J. Orem Gardner and Dorothy B. Gardner
NOTES: *Executors of will of Margaret E. Essig who died May 12, 1961. Will 31/490
This is leasehold deed. Bounded on W by M. V. George (formerly Thomas J. Jefferson); on E by John W. G. Porter; on S by Andrew J. Barnett (formerly Phillip Willey); with a front of 54 1/2 feet and 116' deep on W and 106' on E. Lease conveyed to Essig by Jesse 1953, 302/365.
Subject to a lease of \$6 per year to the legal representatives of William H. Harrison by virtue of an original lease from William H. Harrison to Sarah A. Thompson 1850, 62/405.

YEAR: 1953 VOL: 302 PAGE: 365 PRICE:
FROM: Laura D. Jesse
TO: Margaret E. Essig
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Jesse by Valliant 1920, 187/218 plus confirmatory deed.
Free and clear of two judgements of St. Michaels Bank against Wm. H. Jesse and Laura D. Jesse 1943, Judgements 4/129.

YEAR: 1920 VOL: 187 PAGE: 218 PRICE: \$2000
FROM: Ethel A. Valliant, et vir
TO: Laura D. Jesse
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Ethel A. Valliant by Valliant 1918, 181/175.

YEAR: 1918 VOL: 181 PAGE: 175 PRICE:
FROM: Esther Valliant and John Valliant
TO: Ethel A. Valliant
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Valliant by Storey 1907, 148/398.

YEAR: 1907 VOL: 148 PAGE: 398 PRICE: \$800
FROM: Anna C. Storey
TO: Esther Valliant
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Storey by Arianna Sears 1874, 80/142.
1907, 148/399 is a mortgage for \$425 to the St. Michaels Bank.

YEAR: 1874 VOL: 80 PAGE: 142 PRICE: *
FROM: Arianna Sears
TO: Mary True Storey and Anna Catharine Storey
NOTES: The consideration was for "natural love and affection" for her daughters.
Bounded on N by Cherry Street; on E by William H. Harrison; on S by Thomas
Willey; on the W by Thomas James Jefferson.
Conveyed to Sears by Lowe 1857, 80/141.

The Sanborn Map for 1901 shows this building as the "Hotel Story" (sic).

YEAR: 1857 VOL: 80 PAGE: 141 PRICE:
FROM: William H. Lowe
TO: Arianna Sears
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Lowe by Thompson 1851, 64/27.

YEAR: 1851 VOL: 64 PAGE: 27 PRICE:
FROM: Absalom C. C. Thompson and Sarah A. Thompson
TO: William W. Lowe
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Sarah A. Thompson by Harrison 1850, 62/405.

YEAR: 1850 VOL: 62 PAGE: 405 PRICE: lease
FROM: William H. Harrison
TO: Sarah A. Thompson
NOTES: The deed reads "all that messuage or tenement". Apparently there was a
building on the site.
This is the first deed for this lot. It uses the same description but the lot
is 116' x 58' x 106' x 54' frontage.
For the history of the lot before this deed see the attached summary.

T-721, T-723, T-724 BEFORE 1848

The lots are part of a 50-acre tract called "Stopper" patented Christopher Stauper in 1668. "Stopper" was declared escheated, resurveyed, and renamed "Joseph's Lot" by Joseph Harrison in 1741. In the resurvey, it was reduced to 31 acres because of earlier overlapping patents. "Harrison's Square" of the St. Michaels survey of 1804 consists almost entirely of "Joseph's Lot", owned by the Harrisons.

From patentee Joseph Harrison (1698-1755) the land descended to Thomas Harrison (1734-1801). He made the first sub-division of the tract when he leased a lot at the foot of Cherry Street to Robert Dodson in 1784.

On the death of Thomas Harrison the property went to his son Joseph (1756-1818). In 1802, Joseph's brother Samuel Harrison (1777-1837) bought from Joseph a block roughly 90 feet wide extending from Talbot Street to the water. It included the future site of Samuel's steam mill (T-561), an existing brick house (T-265), and the future sites of T-271, T-556, T-558, T-721, T-723, and T-724.

Samuel Harrison built his steam mill at the foot of Cherry Street in 1818. He leased a 60-foot square lot on the corner of Cherry and Talbot to Thomas Auld in 1834, and he still owned the brickhouse on the corner of Locust and Cherry Streets (built 1798-1799 by Thomas or Joseph Harrison). The remainder of the property was probably undeveloped.

Samuel Harrison died in 1837. He devised "Canton Farm" (Crooked Intention) to his nephew Alexander Bradford Harrison. The metes and bounds of "Canton" were stated to be in accordance with a resurvey made by Samuel in 1807. This survey has not been seen but it is assumed that the vacant lots on Cherry Street were included with "Canton Farm". This assumption is based on the fact that the lots were not specifically mentioned in the will, either as a bequest or among the properties which were to be sold by John Leeds Kerr.

Alexander B. Harrison died in 1841 and by his will left "Canton" to his son Samuel A. Harrison. His daughter Emily Harrison (wife of William Henry Harrison) received "houses and lots in St. Michaels not specifically mentioned elsewhere in the will". It is assumed here that the lots on Cherry Street were among those "not specifically mentioned" left to Emily Harrison. This assumption is supported by the statement in Emily's deed for T-721 which mentions that she received the property by her father's will. Although the statement regarding the will is only made once, all of the other undeveloped lots in the block purchased by Samuel Harrison were leased by Emily Harrison or by her husband, William Henry Harrison between 1848 and 1863. The mention of the will is made in the sale of the fee rights to T-721 made by Emily in 1884.

T-723

FREMONT ST.

ST.

RAILROAD AVE.

TALBOT ST.

ST.

HAMILTON & JEWETT
515/454

MAP 23-P-21

Map section showing blocks bounded by Fremont St, Railroad Ave, and Talbot St. Owners include:

- CARROLL SNEED 548/349
- JOSEPH L. WILLIAMS 282/272
- CLARA D. MALK 240/148
- ALBERTA G. PETERS, S 412/212
- RICHARD HARRISON, JR. 412/212
- ROBT. B. THOMAS 348/174
- GENEVIVE LUSCOMBE 412/212
- CHARLES E. LUSCOMBE 412/212
- THEODORE A. MICHAM 431/170
- GENEVIVE LUSCOMBE Mrs. 24/28
- MICHAEL J. FOX, ETAL 535/60
- AGNES S. THOMAS, ETAL 452/197
- ALFRED CHESTER 232/27
- WEST VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSN INC. 412/212
- WEST VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSN INC. 412/212
- ROBERT NICHOLS 512/112
- JESSE C. WEBB 545/57
- ALICE O. WEBB 545/57
- MICHAEL D. MURKIN 537/415

Map section showing blocks bounded by Talbot St, Mill St, and Cherry St. Owners include:

- JESSE A. WEBB 403/279
- ETHEL C. WHITE 353/431
- COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S 405/356
- ALLAN GREENBERG, ETAL 547/673
- ALLAN GREENBERG, ETAL 547/673
- PAIGE PIMMETT 344/300
- THEODORE A. MICHAM 536/749
- LOIS S. LEVY & JAMES B. RUTLER 400/586
- EDWARD T. NEWMAN 341/5
- ELLENBERN SAMBOY MARSHALL 447/545
- NORMAN D. MARSHALL 407/545
- EDWARD G. WYANT 603/26
- FLETCHER HANAUSS 53/455
- VICTOR H. MC SORLEY 530/53
- ST. MICHAEL'S 357/53
- COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S 341/200
- EDWARD P. QUINN 511/10
- CHARLES H. KEPNER TRUSTEE 523/509
- EDWARD G. WYANT 603/26
- HANAUSS MARSHALL 447/545
- W. P. PETERSON 432/222
- MARGARET MILLS 212/318
- NORMAN M. BRAUNMAN 122/112
- MARGARET MILLS 212/318
- W. P. PETERSON 432/222

CARPENTER ST.

CHERRY ST.

CEDAR AL. ST.

MILL ST.

LOCUST ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

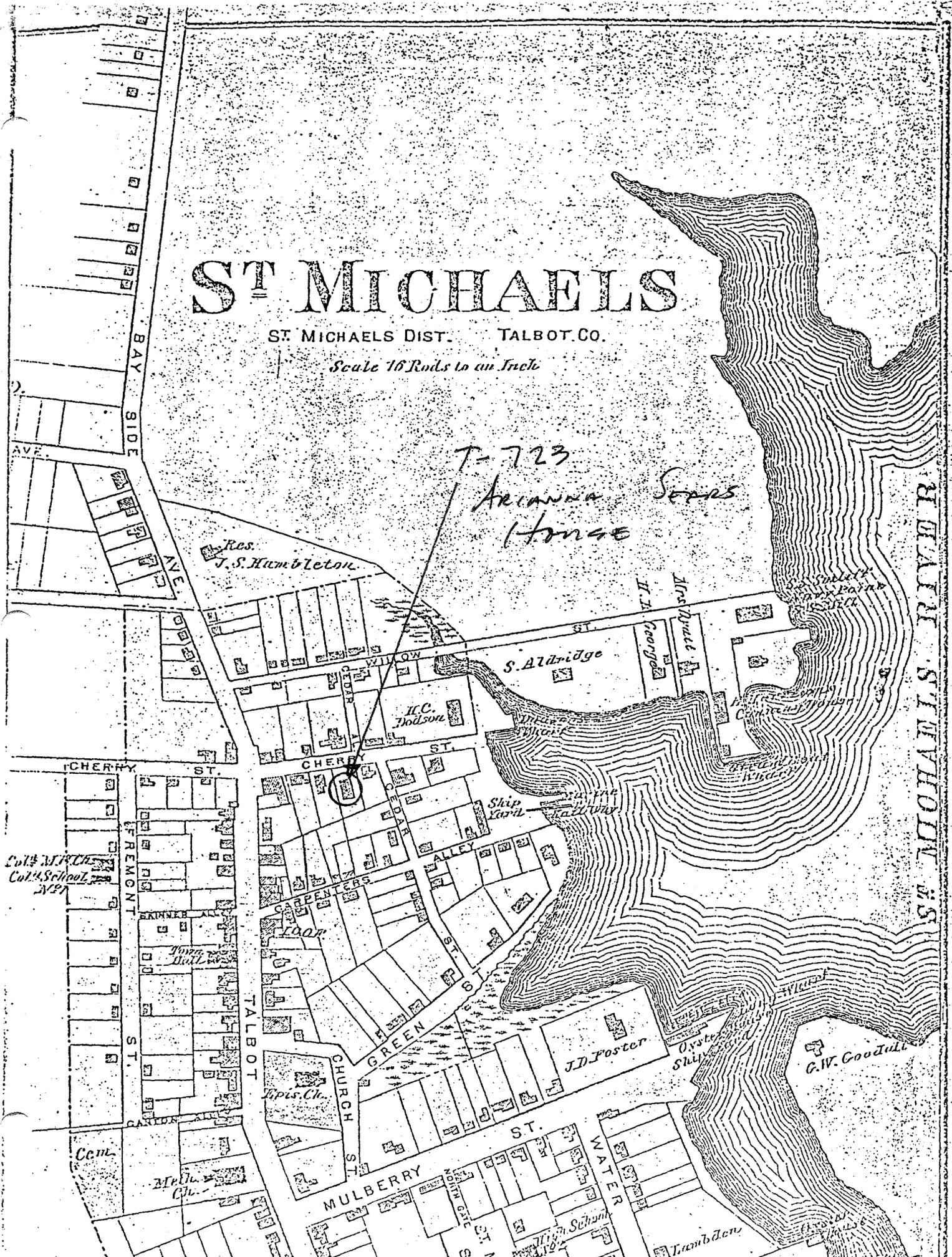
Map section showing blocks bounded by Locust St, Carpenter St, and Mill St. Owners include:

- JANET P. GOLDSTEIN 357/102
- EDWARD G. WYANT 603/26
- EDWARD P. QUINN 511/10
- CHARLES H. KEPNER TRUSTEE 523/509
- GENEVIVE W. LUSCOMBE Mrs. 24/28
- JOHN E. WARD 328/75
- MIRIAM VAHTI YARD, INC. 536/546

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch





T-723
ARIANNA SEARS HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942

Lc
Pc



T-723

ARIANNA SEARS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

North elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust