

T-725

John Keithley House
St. Michaels
Private

c. 1860

Credit for the construction of this Water Street house is awarded to John Keithley, who owned this property as early as 1848. As part of the estate of Samuel Harrison the lot was sold to Keithley by the Harrison trustee, John Bozman Kerr, who was standing in for John Leeds Kerr, deceased. At the time the lot was described as "that lot designated on the plat as number 52...being the same lot on which a windmill then stood." With steam generated power replacing wind powered mills during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, this windmill was apparently abandoned about the time Keithley purchased the property. By 1871, John Keithley had died and his estate trustee sold his house to Anna M. Murphy. The lot was described as "one house and lot formerly the property of John Keithley."

Facing Water Street, the two-story side hall/parlor dwelling is a relatively plain mid nineteenth century house with a shorter two-story gable end wing. Although the residence has been covered with artificial siding its historic form and consistent height with neighboring houses contribute to the overall period character of Water Street.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN KEITHLEY HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 403 Water Street not for publication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 417

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 639

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-725

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 Keithley house is a two-story side hall/parlor frame dwelling that stands at 403 Water Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay main block faces west with the primary gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1860, the two-story dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and the building is sheathed with a layer of vinyl siding. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending southward from the main house is a shorter two-story, two-bay wing.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The paneled front door is flanked by three-light sidelights, and it is topped by a four-light transom. The adjacent windows are fitted with replacement shutters.

The north gable end is lighted by six-over-six sash windows to either side of an interior end brick chimney. The eave is slightly extended with short returns at the base of the roof.

The south end is partially covered by the shorter two-story, two-bay wing which is sheltered on the first floor by a chamfered post porch. A side entrance is flanked by a six-over-six sash window, and small six-over-six sash windows light the second floor. The cornice is boxed. The south gable end of the wing is a plain wall surface with a slightly extended eave. A narrow brick stove chimney protrudes through the roof.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-725

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 Keithley house stands along the east side of Water Street in the heart of St. Michaels. Oriented to face the street, this third quarter of the nineteenth century house stands on a lot that borders the town harbor. This relatively plan house is typical of the mid to late nineteenth century with its side hall/parlor plan. Although the house has been covered with artificial siding its historic form and consistent height with neighboring houses contribute to the overall period character of Water Street.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Credit for the construction of this Water Street house is awarded to John Keithley, who owned this property as early as 1845.(59/94) As part of the estate of Samuel Harrison, the lot was sold by his trustee, John Bozman Kerr, standing in for John Leeds Kerr, deceased, to John Keithley. The property was described in the transfer as "that lot designated on the plat as number 52...being the same lot which a windmill then stood." With steam generated power replacing wind powered mills during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, this windmill was apparently abandoned. In 1871, John Keithley's estate trustee sold his property. It was described as "one house and lot formerly the property of John Keithley."(77/85)

JOHN KEITHLEY HOUSE

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YEAR: 1967 VOL: 417 PAGE: 639 PRICE:
FROM: Harvey I. Thompson and Wilhelmina P. Thompson
TO: Vera M. Fatjo
NOTES: Description: on Water Street adjoining Frank A. Ferris and to the water,
according to a deed Katie L. Kemp to Fidelity Baltimore National Bank and Thomas
S. Trail, Trustees.
Conveyed to Harvey I Thompson by Isabel Thompson 1964, 395/119.

YEAR: 1964 VOL: 395 PAGE: 119 PRICE:
FROM: Isabel L. Thompson, widow (Mantolokin, N. J.)
TO: Her son, Harvey I. Thompson
NOTES: Same description.
To Thompson by Trustees of Katie L. Kemp 1962, 379/632.

YEAR: 1962 VOL: 379 PAGE: 632 PRICE: \$15,000
FROM: Md. National Bankk and W. Page Dame, Trustees
TO: Isabel L. Thompson
NOTES: Deed states that Katie L. Kemp conveyed to the trustees 1959, 357/562.
One trustee changed from Thomas S. Trail to W. Page Dame.

YEAR: 1959 VOL: 357 PAGE: 562 PRICE:
FROM: Katie L. Kemp, widow of J. Caulk Kemp
TO: Thomas S. Trail and Fidelity Baltimore National Bank
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Kemp by Marshall 1930, 221/130.

YEAR: 1930 VOL: 221 PAGE: 130 PRICE: \$1875
FROM: G. Elbert Marshall, Trustee
TO: J. H. Caulk Kemp, Jr. and Katie L. Kemp
NOTES: Sale made by authority of a Circuit Court decree 1929, Susan B. Keithley
et al comp. vs Maude Keithley def.
Conveyed to Charles S. Keithley by Annie M. Murphy 1881, 92/403. On death of
Charles Keithley property went to his wife Susan B. and daughter Maude.

YEAR: 1881 VOL: 92 PAGE: 403 PRICE: \$425
FROM: Annie M. Murphy
TO: Charles S. Keithley
NOTES: Description in deed: "on Water Street extending from Water St. east to
water of St. Michaels harbor and adjoining the property of Robert Lambdin and
others".
Formerly belonging to John Keithley, dcd. Conveyed to Annie M. Murphy by Thomas
Warren, Trustee 1871, 77/85.
1881, 92/404 is a mortgage to James H. Covey for \$200.

YEAR: 1871 VOL: 77 PAGE: 85 PRICE: \$380

FROM: Thomas Warren, Trustee

TO: Anna M. Murphy

NOTES: Sale made by Orphan's Court decree of 1870, case Margaret Keithley vs Anna M. Murphy, John H. Keithley, Charles S. Keithley and Alice Keithley. Property concerned is "one house and lot formerly the property of John Keithley" 1871, 77/85 George W. Murphy and Annie M. Murphy to Cornelia R. Smith is a mortgage for \$250.

YEAR: 1845 VOL: 59 PAGE: 94 PRICE:

FROM: John Bozman Kerr, Trustee for the estate of Samuel Harrison

TO: John Keithley

NOTES: The sale was originally made by John Leeds Kerr, dcd. "That lot designated on the plat as number 52. Sold by John Leeds Kerr in 1838 "being the same lot on which a windmill then stood". Sixty feet on Water Street by 120 feet deep.

A record of the purchase of this lot by Samuel Harrison has not been found.

YEAR: 1806 VOL: 31 PAGE: 519 PRICE: \$80

FROM: Robert Rolle Richardson

TO: William Merchant

NOTES: Lot 52.

William Merchant's estate was sold by John Dorgin. No record of the sale of this lot has been found.

YEAR: 1778 VOL: 21 PAGE: 80 PRICE: p60 cm

FROM: James Braddock

TO: Robert Rolle Richardson

NOTES: Lot number 52.

The lot was part of "The Beach".

1977 Lake, Grattan, and Stevenson Areas

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

T-725

Res. J. S. Hambleton

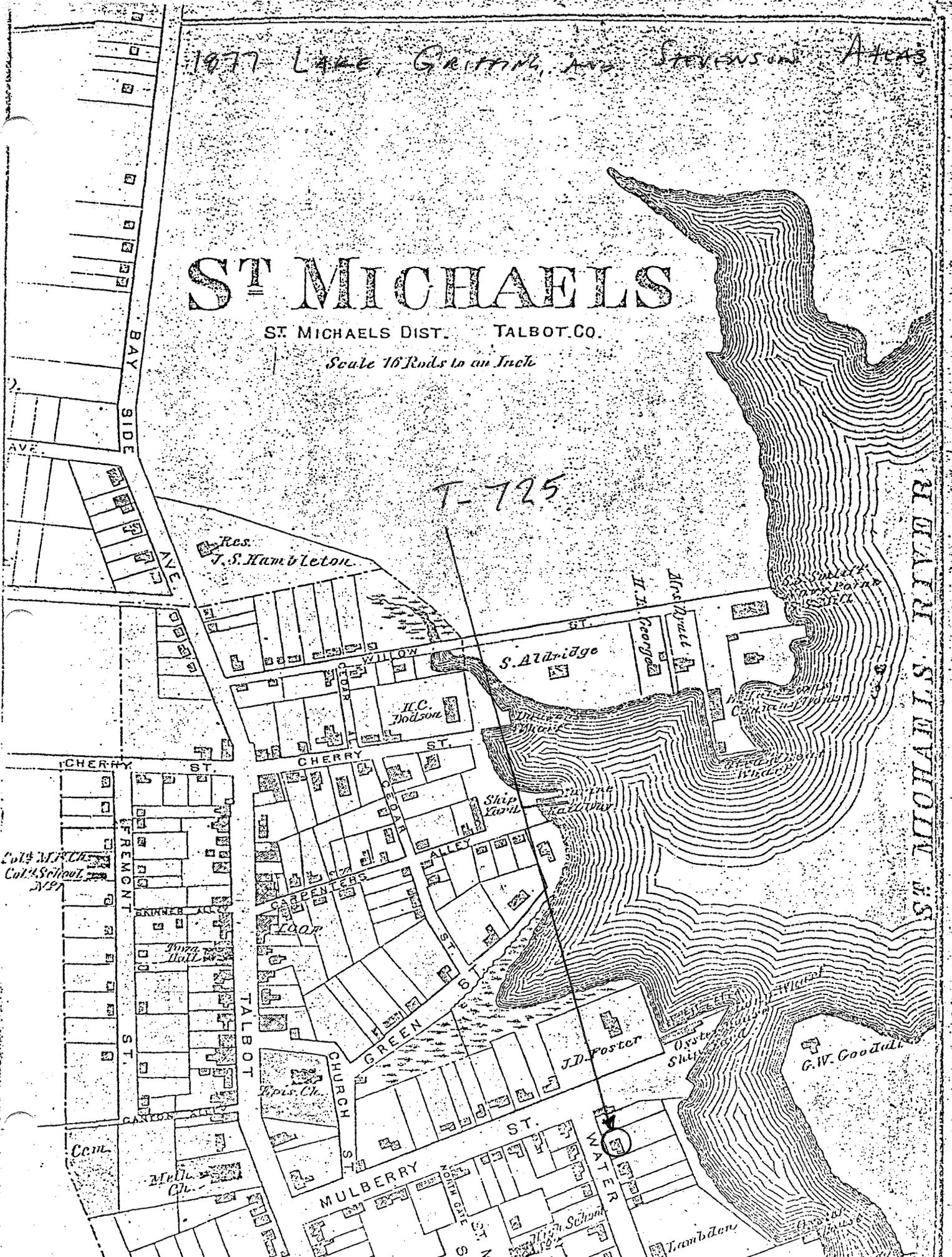
S. Arledge

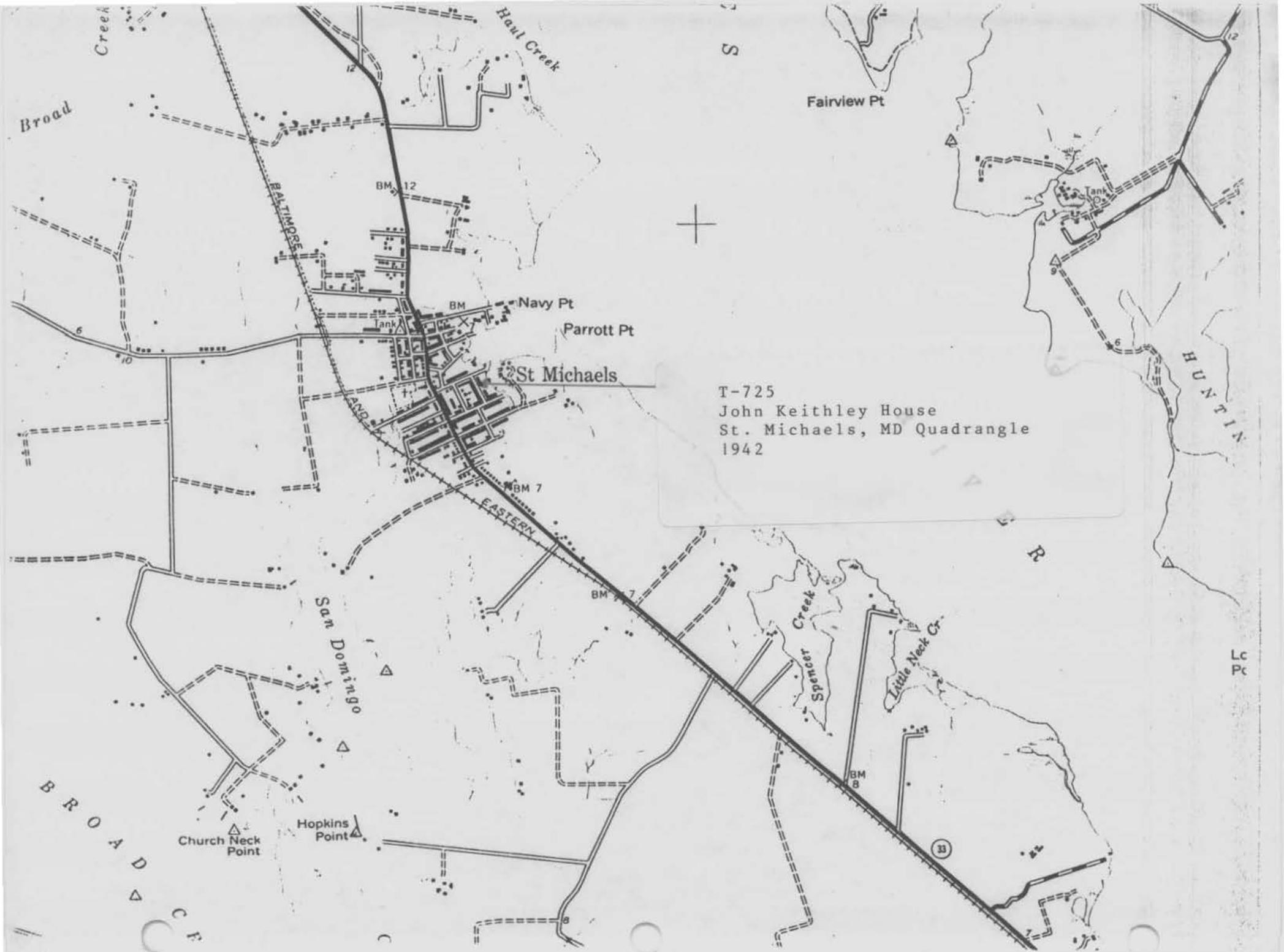
H.C. Dodson

J.D. Foster

G.W. Goodall

ST MICHAELS RIVER







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JOHN KEITHLEY HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Southwest elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



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