

T-738
Silas Lewis House
St. Michaels
Private

c. 1885

Built about 1885 for Silas Lewis, this two-story frame dwelling follows a standard architectural form for St. Michaels post-bellum dwellings. Erected with an asymmetrical ell shape, the recessed front corner is filled with a two-story shed roofed porch. The Lewis house retains an original sawn baluster handrail between the second floor chamfered posts, while Tuscan columns replace the first floor supports. The dwelling contributes to the nineteenth century character of Talbot Street, however, the former nineteenth century buildings that flanked the Lewis house have been replaced.

Silas Lewis purchased this Talbot Street lot in 1884 from Alfred H. and Louisa Harrison for \$150. Extensive research on the property values in St. Michaels for the post-bellum period suggests this 60' by 120' lot was unimproved at the time. The 1877 St. Michaels map indicates this property was part of an annexed section of St. Michaels called "Dr. John Miller's Addition," and the lot did not contain a dwelling when the map was published. Although Silas F. Lewis died in 1915 the Talbot Street house was not sold out of the family until 1944.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic SILAS LEWIS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 505 South Talbot Street not for publication

city, town St. Michaels vicinity of First congressional district

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 421

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 648

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-738

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Silas Lewis house stands at 505 South Talbot Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, ell-shaped main house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1885, the two-story, three-bay dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and the house is uniformly sheathed with aluminum siding. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A greenhouse has been added to the south gable end of the main block, and a service wing extends to the rear.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a recessed front entrance wall sheltered by a two-story porch. The front door is glazed and it flanked by three-light sidelights and a four-light transom. A six-over-six sash window flanks the door on the south side. The porch is supported by Tuscan columns on the first floor and chamfered posts on the second. Access to the upper floor is gained by a partially glazed second floor door. An interior brick stack rises from the center of the house.

The street elevation of the projecting pavilion is marked by a single six-over-six sash window on each floor, and the upper gable end is pierced by a triangular louvered vent. The eave is extended with short returns at the base of the roof.

Attached to the south side of the main block is a single story greenhouse, while the second floor is a blind wall. Fixed in the peak of the gable end is another louvered vent. The north side, on the other hand, is pierced by six-over-six sash windows.

Attached to the back of the main block is a service wing finished in plain detail.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-738

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: 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.

Built around 1885 for Silas Lewis, this two-story frame dwelling follows a standard architectural form for St. Michaels post-bellum dwellings. Erected with an asymmetrical ell shape, the recessed front corner is filled with a two-story shed roofed porch. The Lewis house retains an original sawn baluster handrail between the second floor chamfered posts, while Tuscan columns replace the first floor supports. The dwelling contributes to the nineteenth century character of Talbot Street, however the former nineteenth century buildings that flanked the Lewis house have been replaced.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Silas Lewis purchased this Talbot Street lot in 1884 from Alfred H. and Louisa Harrison for \$150.(99/237) Extensive research on the property values in St. Michaels for the post-bellum period suggests this 60' by 120' lot was unimproved at the time. The 1877 St. Michaels map indicates this property was part of an annexed section of St. Michaels called "Dr. John Miller's Addition," however the lot did not contain a dwelling when the map was published. Although Silas F. Lewis died in 1915 the Talbot Street house was not sold out of the family until 1944.(258/360)

SILAS LEWIS HOUSE

T-738

YEAR: 1967 VOL: 421 PAGE: 648

FROM: Eleanor Cox Douglass

TO : Edward Burnie Blades and Jane Parrish Blades

NOTES: Begins at NW corner of Dwight R. Smith; runs with Talbot Street N 60' to an alley 14 feet wide; then E 120 feet with the S side of the alley to Stanley R. Jones; then SW 60 feet to Smith; then 120 feet with Smith to the beginning. Conveyed to Douglass by Shockley 1966, 410/122.

YEAR: 1966 VOL: 410 PAGE: 122

FROM: Kenneth R. Shockley and Frances E. Shockley

TO : Eleanor Cox Douglass

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Shockley by Gillis 1956, 334/332.

YEAR: 1956 VOL: 334 PAGE: 332

FROM: Lee S. Gillis & Florence

TO : Kenneth R. Shockley and Frances E. Shockley

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Gillis by Shockley 1956, 334/332 (clearance)

Conveyed to Shockley by Smith, 1944, 258/360.

YEAR: 1944 VOL: 258 PAGE: 360

FROM: Dwight R. Smith and Mary E. Smith

TO : Jesse M. W. Shockley and Kenneth S. Shockley

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Smith by Lewis 1944, 258/153.

YEAR: 1944 VOL: 258 PAGE: 153

FROM: Arthur L. Lewis and Penelope Lewis \$2,800

TO : Dwight R. Smith

NOTES: Two lots. This is lot number one. Same description.

Conveyed to Lewis by heirs of Silas F. Lewis 1921, 192/157

YEAR: 1921 VOL: 192 PAGE: 157

FROM: Mary C. Lewis and others (heirs of Silas F. Lewis)

TO : Arthur L. Lewis and Penelope Lewis \$2000

NOTES: Two lots of which this is parcel 1.

Conveyed to Silas Lewis by Harrison 1884, 99/237.

YEAR: 1884 VOL: 99 PAGE: 237
FROM: Alfred H. Harrison and Louisa Harrison
TO : Silas F. Lewis \$150
NOTES: Same description (60 x 120).
Silas Lewis died in 1915.
Conveyed to Harrison by Harrison 1881, 91/442.

YEAR: 1881 VOL: 91 PAGE: 442
FROM: Edward and Susanna Harrison \$100
TO : Alfred H. Harrison
NOTES: This deed marks the erection of the 60 by 120 foot lot.
Conveyed to Harrison by Haddaway 1878, 86/115.

YEAR: 1878 VOL: 86 PAGE: 115
FROM: George E. Haddaway, adm. of the estate of Rev. Joseph Spencer
TO : Edward Harrison
NOTES: The property sold is a lot 119 feet by 246 feet.
In 1866, it was sold to Edward Harrison for \$150 by Philemon T. Kennard who
was appointed administrator for the estate of Joseph Spencer in 1865. Kennard
died before the deed was drawn and Haddaway was appointed to complete the sale.

YEAR: 1849 VOL: 62 PAGE: 341
FROM: Nathan and Sally Ann Harrington and James and Elizabeth Ann Benson
TO : Joseph Spencer
NOTES: The price paid was \$321. The lot was 120 feet on the main road by 245
feet deep.
Part of the 50 acres bought by Harrington and Benson from the heirs of John
Dorgan (1848, 61/451) .
Dorgan had owned the property since 1813, having been awarded the tract in a
suit against Elizabeth Sherwood. It was part of "Janes Progress".

YEAR: 1848 VOL: 61 PAGE: 451
FROM: Heirs of John Dorgan
TO : Nathan Harrington and James Benson
NOTES: Part of "The Beach", "Bentley Hay", "Jane's Progress", and "Matthew
Circumvented". About 50 acres. The first course of the deed began at the
original (1804) boundary of the Town of St. Michaels at the foot of East
Chestnut Street, 120 feet from the front of the lots on the street. It ran along
the back of the Chestnut Street lots until it reached the main road, where it
turned east. It included all of the land in "Miller's Addition to St. Michaels".

YEAR: 1813 VOL: 36 PAGE: 288
FROM: Elizabeth Sherwood PRICE: \$487.902/3
TO: John Dorgan

NOTES The deed was made in accordance with a decree of the Chancery Court, Dec. Term, 1812 (1812, 36/291), Dorgan vs the heirs of Hugh Sherwood. Apparently, a deal had been made between Thomas Sherwood, father of Hugh, and John Dorgan to sell Dorgan all of the land Thomas Sherwood had purchased from John Thompson in 1791 and from William Harrison in 1785. This amounted to all of Braddock's unsold land - parts of "Bentley Hay", "Janes Progress", "The Beach", "Chance", and "Matthew Circumvented". Both Thomas and Hugh Sherwood died and the widow Elizabeth was forced to honor the committment.

YEAR: 1785 VOL: 23 PAGE: 115
FROM: William Harrison PRICE: p275cm
TO: Thomas Sherwood

NOTES "All the following pieces and parcels of land, to wit: Part of a tract of land called "Bentley Hay"; Part of a tract of land called "Janes Progress"; and part of a tract of land called "Beach". All of the aforesaid pieces of land to extend as far as a street distinguished on the plat of St. Michaels as Chestnut Street.

YEAR: 1786 VOL: 23 PAGE: 116
FROM: James Wignal PRICE: p275sp
TO: William Harrison

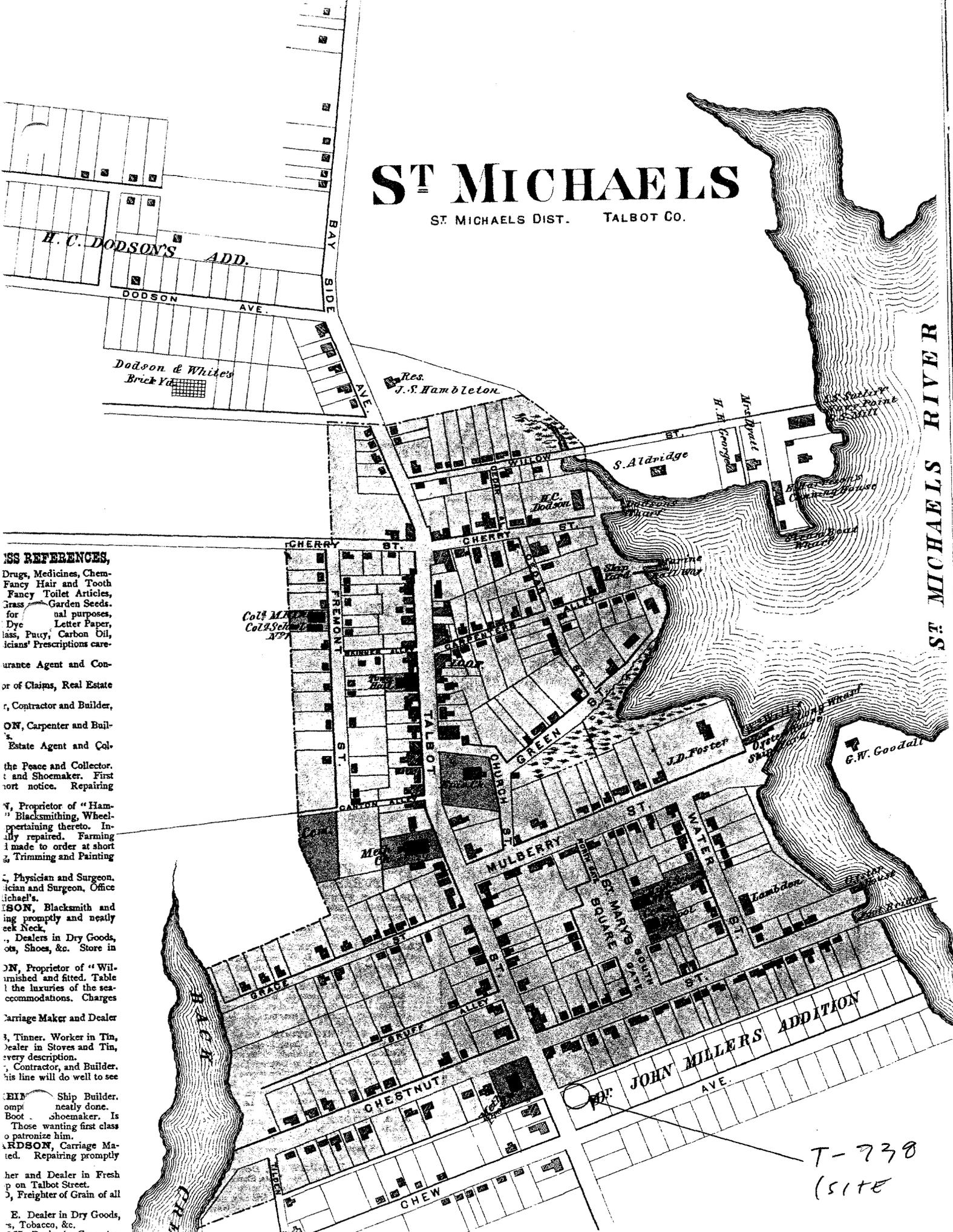
NOTES Deed runs through the chain of title of part of "Bentley Hay", "Janes Progress", and "Beach". Begins with sale of Philip Wetheral's property to James Braddock; Braddock was in arrears with Gildart & Gawith; Braddock had willed his property to John Thompson; John Thompson has conveyed to Wignal as representative of Gildart & Gawith; now Wignal conveys to William Harrison.

YEAR: 1778 VOL: 21 PAGE: 66
FROM: Thomas Kemp and Robert Richardson PRICE: p1550cm
TO: James Braddock

NOTES This was an "auction" of the real estate of Philip Wetheral. Braddock acquired 127 acres at this time, of which he used about 20 acres for his original "town of St. Michaels". Braddock's plat of St. Michaels has been lost and his plan for the town must be constructed from the deeds for land sold by him before his death in 1782. When the village was surveyed in 1806-1806 for erection into a legally constituted town, the surveyors were required to take into consideration the town plan of Braddock as indicated in his deeds. As far as it is possible to determine from the survey of 1804-1806, the land south of the back of the lots on Chestnut Street (East and West), although belonging to Braddock, was not included by him in his plan for the town. It was also not included within the town as surveyed in 1804-1806.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



BUSINESS REFERENCES,

- Drugs, Medicines, Chem-
- Fancy Hair and Tooth
- Fancy Toilet Articles,
- Grass Garden Seeds,
- for various purposes,
- Dye Letter Paper,
- Wax, Putty, Carbon Oil,
- Physicians' Prescriptions care-
- Insurance Agent and Con-
- ductor of Claims, Real Estate
- Agent, Contractor and Builder,
- Plumber, Carpenters and Build-
- ers, Estate Agent and Col-
- lector of the Peace and Collector.
- Shoemaker and Shoemaker. First
- notice. Repairing
- Proprietor of "Ham-
- mer" Blacksmithing, Wheel-
- wrighting pertaining thereto. In-
- struments repaired. Farming
- implements made to order at short
- notice. Trimming and Painting
- Physician and Surgeon.
- Physician and Surgeon. Office
- at St. Michael's.
- Blacksmith and
- working promptly and neatly
- on neck.
- Dealers in Dry Goods,
- Shirts, Shoes, &c. Store in
- Proprietor of "Wil-
- son" furnished and fitted. Table
- with the luxuries of the sea-
- accommodations. Charges
- Carriage Maker and Dealer
- Tinner. Worker in Tin,
- Dealer in Stoves and Tin,
- every description.
- Contractor, and Builder.
- This line will do well to see
- Ship Builder.
- Work neatly done.
- Boat and shoemaker. Is
- Those wanting first class
- patronize him.
- Carriage Made.
- Repairing promptly
- Merchant and Dealer in Fresh
- Produce on Talbot Street.
- Freighter of Grain of all
- Dealers in Dry Goods,
- Shirts, Tobacco, &c.
- Dealers in Groceries

T-738
(SITE)





T-738

SILAS LEWIS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southwest elevation

11/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust