

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 13 1986

date entered SEP 11 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Michaels

and/or common St. Michaels Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number multiple streets east and west of Talbot Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Michaels vicinity of First Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Talbot code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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

name multiple public and private owners (more than 50)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Talbot County Courthouse

city, town Easton state Maryland 21601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u>3</u>
Contributing	Noncontributing	Original and historic functions and uses: residential, commercial, religious
<u>300</u>	<u>60</u> buildings	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>302</u>	<u>60</u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The St. Michaels Historic District comprises a cohesive group of residential, commercial, and ecclesiastical buildings dating from the late 18th through early 20th centuries located within St. Michaels, a small town fronting the Miles River in western Talbot County, Maryland. Begun in 1778 as a speculative development for a Liverpool merchant firm, St. Michaels was laid out on a grid plan around a central green; this pattern was retained as the town expanded through the 19th century. The district is primarily characterized by a highly cohesive collection of houses, churches, and commercial buildings reflecting a variety of 19th-century periods and styles; a few modest dwellings survive from the late 18th century, and several bungalows reflect the early 20th century expansion of the town. The early development took place in the northern and eastern sections of the district; this area features a diverse collection of Federal-period buildings, including several relatively high-style brick houses, as well as the most extensive concentration of traditional one-room-wide, two-room-deep, 1 1/2 story dwellings surviving on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The western and southern sections of the district were developed in the mid- and late-nineteenth century; many of the frame and brick dwellings in these areas conform to traditional plans and forms and express Victorian fashion only through applied ornament, while others are more coherent statements of popular architectural styles. A large number of houses of this period are two stories high with a tee- or ell-plan and a two-story gallery filling one corner; St. Michaels is distinguished among Eastern Shore towns by the prevalence of this house form. A group of late nineteenth century storefronts define the commercial center of the town, located at the northern end of Talbot Street. The district also comprises four historic churches, including elaborate examples of High Victorian Gothic and Italianate styles as well as restrained vernacular church buildings. The district retains an unusually high degree of integrity, with notably few intrusions or unsympathetic alterations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1778-1930 **Builder/Architect** unknown builders and architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The St. Michaels Historic District is significant for its association with 18th-century town planning in Tidewater Maryland. The district comprises the original 58 lots laid out around a green square in 1778 as a speculative development for a Liverpool merchant firm. Few 18th century town plans in Maryland reserved open space for other than residential use; in the case of St. Michaels, the square was intended to accommodate a Methodist meetinghouse. As St. Michaels grew through the 19th century, the grid pattern was expanded, and the original development remained intact. The district derives additional significance from its architecture, especially the outstanding collection of Federal period brick and frame houses including relatively high-style examples as well as an exceptionally large group of 1 1/2 story, one-room-wide by two-rooms-deep houses; the latter type exemplifies a traditional middle class dwelling form whose distribution in Maryland was limited to the Eastern Shore, and of which few examples survive. Also noteworthy in the domestic architecture of St. Michaels is a group of mid-to-late 19th century houses, two stories high with a tee- or ell-plan and a two-story gallery filling one corner; this form is characteristic of St. Michaels, and does not occur as extensively in other Eastern Shore towns of the period. Several significant late 19th century commercial buildings and churches complete the largely-unbroken streetscapes of the town, and a group of bungalows reflects St. Michaels continued growth into the early 20th century. The Depression of the 1930s interrupted the development of the town, whose economy vacillated with the fortune of the surrounding agricultural enterprises and the Chesapeake Bay seafood industry. A limited amount of Post World War II development took place outside the historic district, and the town is currently enjoying a renaissance with considerable restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings. In comparison with other Eastern Shore towns of the period, St. Michaels retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 21.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 105 acres.

Quadrangle name St. Michaels, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 8	3 9 4 1 2 0	4 2 9 3 7 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	3 9 4 1 2 0	4 2 9 3 1 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	3 9 3 9 5 0	4 2 9 2 7 3 0
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D	1 8	3 9 3 5 4 0	4 2 9 2 9 0 0
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E	1 8	3 9 3 3 3 0	4 2 9 3 6 0 0
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F	1 8	3 9 3 4 8 0	4 2 9 3 9 4 0
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 22.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels - Bay Hundred date 28 March 1986

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town St. Michaels, state Maryland 21663

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. M. H.* 8-13-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date _____

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register 9-11-86

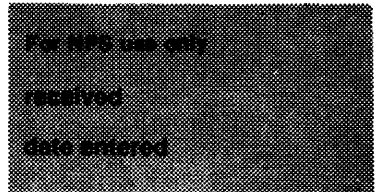
J. M. H.
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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St. Michaels Historic District

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

St. Michaels, Maryland (pop. 1301) is located in the western part of Talbot County on a peninsula surrounded by tributaries of Chesapeake Bay. Sandwiched between the Miles River and Back Creek, St. Michaels is located thirteen miles west of Easton on Maryland Route 33.

Begun in 1778 as a speculative development for a Liverpool merchant firm, St. Michaels was laid out on a grid plan with a generous green space centrally located. The original fifty-eight lots were uniformly disposed around the square and the Miles River. Nineteenth and early twentieth century development has expanded on the original plan with additional grid streets. Talbot Street (MD Route 33) runs through the center of town and comprises the principal business district. Located to the east and west of Talbot Street are tree-lined streets with frame, brick, and a few stone structures positioned on modest sized lots. A few of the more expensive dwellings were erected on larger lots, but the setbacks usually remain consistent with neighboring houses. The St. Michaels harbor has been developed into a marina, but commercial watermen continue to use the harbor and one shipyard is located at the east end of Carpenters Alley. Navy Point, the former site of the steam boat wharf, a canning factory, and a steam saw mill has been turned into the St. Michaels Maritime Museum.

St Michaels' historic buildings span a period of two centuries, but the surviving eighteenth-century structures have dwindled to only a few. Notable are the Bruff House (T-241) and the Amelia Welby House (T-254). The district is primarily characterized by a diverse collection of nineteenth-century dwellings, churches, and commercial buildings. The district retains a high level of integrity; alterations to the buildings are typically limited to artificial exterior siding. Within the past ten years numerous buildings in St. Michaels have been restored or rehabilitated. As a result there are relatively few structures in poor repair.

The earliest surviving houses in St. Michaels follow the traditional story-and-a-half form. The Bruff house, located on the north side of Thompson's Alley, is a hall-parlor plan. Fine examples of Federal period woodwork remain in the two principal rooms, and corner winder stairs provide access to the second floor. The story-and-a-half Amelia Welby house on Mulberry Street was built originally with an exposed brick gable end and frame sides, but through the years the brick end was covered with siding and the early woodwork was removed.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Most significant to St. Michaels' early history is a group of Federal period houses erected during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Outstanding in this collection is the Cannonball House (T-61), the Old Inn (T-257), and the Kemp House (T-279). The Cannonball House, already listed on the National Register, was erected around 1805 by William Merchant. This fine house, which stands on the southeast corner of Mulberry Street and St. Mary's Square, is prominent in the architectural history of Talbot County as a fully articulated Federal townhouse with a side hall-double pile plan and intricate period woodwork. The street elevations are laid in Flemish bond with extremely thin mortar joints, and the nine-over-six sash windows are topped with extremely thin mortar joints, and the nine-over-six sash windows are topped by flat splayed arches. Attached to the north end of the house is a two-story flounder service wing contemporary with the main house.

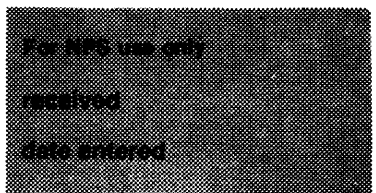
The Old Inn (also individually listed in the National Register), on the southeast corner of Talbot and Mulberry streets, was erected in 1816 by Wrightson Jones. This two-and-a-half story, four-bay brick building has an engaged two-story gallery covered by the front slope of the roof. The north end of the porch is distinguished by a partial brick curtain wall. The Old Inn displays the earliest example of a two-story porch or gallery, a feature that was widely used during the mid to late nineteenth century. Finally, the Kemp House, located on the northwest corner of Talbot and West Chestnut streets, is a well-preserved two-and-a-half story, center hall-single pile brick house dating to 1805. Like the other houses in this group the four principal interior rooms are fitted with fine examples of Federal period woodwork. In fact the mantels of the Kemp House are identical to one mantel at the Bruff house and other mantels in town. These shared design motifs point to the same craftsman, John Bruff, who is documented in the land records as a Saint Michaels joiner.

Built within the same two decades is another group of significant story-and-a-half brick and frame dwellings evidently erected for the middle class craftsman. These two-room deep, one-room wide dwellings are also fitted with expertly crafted Federal period woodwork. The Bruff-Mansfield House (T-262) on the northwest corner of Green and Locust streets has a raised panel hearth wall in the front room. Fixed in the southeast corner is a winder stair, and a delicate Federal period mantel with a plastered overmantel distinguishes the hearth. Other houses that fall within this group include the Tarr House (T-261), also on Green Street, as

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

well as the Haddaway (T-569) and Marshall (T-563) Houses on Locust Street. This two-room-deep, one-room-wide plan is unusual in the Federal period architecture of the Eastern Shore, and St. Michaels boasts the most extensive group of examples of this form in Maryland.

The second quarter of the nineteenth century did not prove as profitable as the first two decades due to a depressed county economy and an outmigration of residents. Although few buildings in St. Michaels date to this period, the Methodists gathered enough money to erect a two-story brick church on their St. Mary's Square property in 1839. The two-story three-bay gable front church is a solid, but relatively simple example of the Greek Revival style. The principal elevation was dressed with finely jointed pressed brick, and a Greek Revival style portico covers the double-door entrance. The door panels were shaped in the popular raised pyramidal design common to the Greek style.

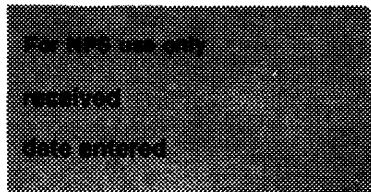
Evidently built around 1840, the brick house on the northeast corner of Talbot and West Chestnut streets known as Dr. Miller's Farmhouse (T-255), was finished with standard details from the period. Sidelights and a transom frame the side entrance and a corbelled brick cornice stretches below the eaves.

Also dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century are several modest story-and-a-half frame houses spotted throughout the town. Usually three bays wide with a center entrance, these houses follow hall-parlor and center hall single-pile floor plans. Most of these houses were later expanded with additions. The Leonard Funeral Home (T-243) at 312 Talbot Street is a "telescope" style house. The story-and-a-half, three-bay center section is reputed by family tradition to be the oldest part. Whereas the main two-story section was added during the mid-nineteenth century, and the shortest section is thought to have been moved up to the house at some point. Other houses that fall within this period include the Robert Lambdin house (T-253), also known as "The Cottage" on the southeast corner of Mulberry and Water streets, and the Rogers House (T-272) at 112 West Chestnut Street, which features flat six-panel interior doors that retain molded iron thumb latches.

After the mid-nineteenth century, St. Michaels entered an explosive period of growth. Additional portions of adjacent land were subdivided into building lots, and scores of frame houses were

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

erected along new streets. Lots were sold along Cherry and Mill streets as early as the 1840s, but substantial construction in this section did not occur until the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century. In fact, these few streets offer an interesting contrast of architectural trends common for this period. Located on the northwest corner of Cherry and Cedar Alley is the Alexander H. Seth House (T-570), built in 1859-1860 on a traditional center hall plan with a story-and-a-half service wing to the rear. A hip roof covers the main house while the service wing has an engaged porch and dormers that light the loft.

Across the street from the Galt House is the Dr. Dodson House (T-265), a two-story, three-bay brick dwelling that marks the southeast corner of Locust and Cherry streets. Built in two principal stages, the south side of the house dates to the turn of the nineteenth century, while the north end and the two-story gallery were added around 1860-1870. The mid-nineteenth-century addition partially obscured the old house, but the changes followed popular trends of the time with its bracketed eave and two-story porch with sawn balusters and decorative corner brackets.

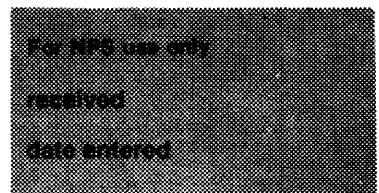
Distinguished by the only three-story gallery in St. Michaels is the Thomas Dyott House (T-268), also known as the Robert S. Dodson House. Presently owned by the St. Michaels Maritime Museum, this three-story common bond brick house with a side hall-double pile plan was originally erected with two stories; the front slope of the roof was raised around 1851 to include a third floor. Attached to the east end of the main block is a two-story service wing.

Standing at the east end of Cherry Street is yet another variation of the Victorian period house. Built around 1873 by Henry Clay Dodson, this center hall frame house is supported by a raised brick foundation, and it is covered by a decorative mansard roof with patterned shingles. The interior has survived largely intact with a Victorian period stair, millwork mantels, four-panel doors, and beaded board wainscoting.

Accompanying these traditional center hall and side hall plan houses is a larger group of tee- and ell-plan houses erected during the late nineteenth century. The Gingerbread House (T-271) on Talbot Street and 201 Cherry Street (T-280) follow the popular tee-plan with an asymmetrical principal elevation highlighted by a two-story gallery and a bay window that marks the gable front elevation. A typical feature of Victorian houses in St. Michaels

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

are sawn balusters that stretch between the porch posts; the Gingerbread house also features some of the most elaborate Victorian sawnwork along the eaves.

Notable houses continued to be constructed through the end of the nineteenth century along the popular Queen Anne style. Two of the more significant examples include the Clifton Hope House (T-560) at 400 South Talbot Street and the "Old Parsonage" (T-277), located on the southwest corner of Talbot Street and Dodson Avenue. The Clifton Hope House, built in 1888, combines an irregular floor plan, the standard two-story porch in-fill, bay windows, as well as rarely featured eyebrow windows. Dated to c. 1870, and extensively altered in 1894, the Old Parsonage is the most elaborate Victorian brick dwelling standing within the limits of the historic district. Not only was this house designed with a distinctive variety of brick decoration, but the house has one of the few two-story towers, in this case covered by a pyramidal patterned slate roof with flaring eaves. A wooden cove cornice trims the base of the roof.

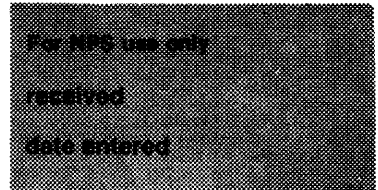
St. Michaels' most significant collection of commercial architecture dates from the second half of the nineteenth century. The Old Inn (T-257) is one of the notable antebellum exceptions. Centered within the St. Michaels business district is a large two-story, three-bay frame building known as the Town Hall Mall (T-555), a pivotal structure in the commercial streetscape. Not only is it one of the largest buildings in the town center, but it is one of the most distinguished architecturally. Its bold gable front elevation is decorated with large fluted brackets. In addition, unlike many of the neighboring storefronts, the building retains an intact first floor fabric.

Sited south of the Town Hall Mall is an important commercial building lately known as "Captain's Cabin" (T-576). This large two-story, five-bay frame structure was raised during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and it combines a commercial space marked by a bay display window and a traditional domestic space defined by a center door and standard four-over-four sash windows. The entire front is covered by two-story porch supported by iron posts on the first floor and wooden posts on the second.

St. Michaels also boasts several important examples of church architecture. Christ Episcopal Church (T-260), built in 1878, is one of the architectural centerpieces of the town. The Gothic Revival parish church was built on the same site as three former

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Episcopal churches. Following the longitudinal plan of countless parish churches in England, this granite building is decorated with High Victorian detail. The mixture of semi-coursed stone and half-timber framing on the east gable is a playful contrast. Unconventional mixtures of stone and brick frame most of the major window and door openings, and the steeply pitched patterned slate roof is highlighted by a combination of large and small dormers. The front entrance tower capped with a broach spire is a prominent St. Michaels landmark.

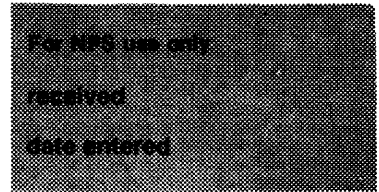
Standing on the west side of Talbot Street is St. Luke's Methodist Church (T-259), the most distinctive Italianate style building in St. Michaels. The decorative exterior brickwork, the round arched windows with arched brick hoods, and the heavily bracketed eaves are all features which classify this building as Italianate. The church occupies a prominent site in the center of town, and its elaborate details contrast with the more restrained decoration of nearby Federal and vernacular commercial buildings. The intricate brickwork and decoration of St. Luke's contrasts with the simplicity of the former Methodist Church (T-274) at St. Mary's Square. Now known as Granite Lodge, the former Methodist Church recalls the traditionally straightforward meeting houses of the eighteenth century.

The black community has contributed to the historic ecclesiastical architecture of St. Michaels with the construction of Union United Methodist Church (T-571) in 1895 on the corner of Fremont and Railroad avenues, as well as Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church (T-480) built in 1901. The simple rectangular shape and pointed arch windows and doors of the Trinity church contrasts with the tee-plan of the Union church with its entrance tower and broach spire.

During the first decades of the twentieth century, domestic buildings in St. Michaels turned in favor of the nationally popular bungalow style. Modest examples of this practical middle class house form stand along South Talbot Street and are found interspersed with nineteenth-century houses in residential sections throughout the town.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Principal buildings in the St. Michaels Historic District

T-61 Cannonball House, Corner of Mulberry and St. Mary's Square.

Listed individually on the National Register, the Cannonball House is a two-and-a-half story Federal period brick house erected around 1805 by William Merchant. The side hall, double-pile brick house is a fully articulated Federal-style dwelling. Its street elevations are carefully laid in Flemish bond with splayed jack arches over the windows. Nine-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors, and four gabled dormers, two on each roof slope, light the finished attic. Inside the principal rooms are fitted with finely crafted Federal style woodwork. Attached to the east end of the house is a two-story flounder service wing.

T-241 Bruff House, Thompsons Alley.

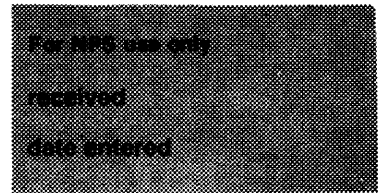
This c. 1790 one-and-a-half story hall-parlor frame house rests on a minimal block foundation, and it is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. A one-bay addition that dates to the late eighteenth century is attached to the west gable end, and a modern service wing extends to the north. Remnants of beaded weatherboards remain on the north side of the main house. The interior is fitted with finely crafted late eighteenth-century Federal period woodwork.

T-243 Leonard Funeral Home, 312 Talbot Street.

This three-part, "telescope" house was raised at three different periods. Resting on a minimal brick foundation, each section is sheathed with narrow weatherboards, and the roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Hope family traditions and architectural evidence indicate that the center section, c. 1825-1850, comprised the initial house, and the larger side hall-parlor house was added during the mid nineteenth century. The smallest section is thought to have been moved up to the house at some point.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

T-252 St. Mary's Square Museum, St. Mary's Square.

The St. Mary's Square Museum is a combination structure that was assembled during the mid 1960s. The front portion is a mid nineteenth century single-story, one-room plan house with a one-room plan addition. Supported by a modern brick foundation, the frame house has been resheathed with beaded weatherboards and covered with wooden shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a pyramidal roofed frame structure known as the "Teetotal" building. The two structures house a small collection of St. Michaels related artifacts.

T-254 Amelia Welby House, Mulberry Street

The Amelia Welby House is perhaps the oldest building still standing in St. Michaels. Unfortunately the story-and-a-half house has undergone extensive remodeling. Originally a brick-ended frame house, the brick wall is now covered with weather board siding. Three gabled dormers light the second floor, and interior end chimneys rise from each gable.

T-257 Old Inn, Corner of Mulberry and Talbot streets.

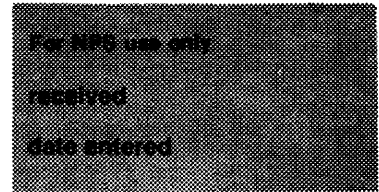
Along with the Cannonball House, the Old Inn is one of the more interesting Federal period structures in St. Michaels. Built around 1816, the two-and-a-half story, four-bay Flemish bond brick building is distinguished by the earliest two-story engaged gallery in St. Michaels. A flounder service wing extends from the south gable end of the main house. This property was listed in the National Register in 1980.

T-258 Dorris House, Corner of Talbot and Mulberry streets.

Built in 1806, this two-and-a-half story Flemish and common bond brick dwelling has a molded watertable and jack arches over each window opening. A central arched entrance has an eight-panel door, a fanlight transom, and a flush panel door jamb. Covering the entire front is a colossal columned portico that replaced the former two-story galleried porch. Lighting the attic are two gabled dormers with arched sash windows and flanking pilasters that support the intricate crown molding.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

T-259 St. Luke's Methodist Church, Talbot Street.

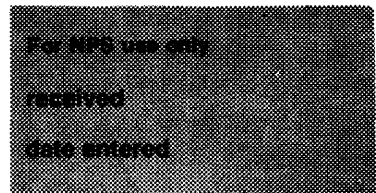
St. Luke's Methodist Church is the most distinctive Italianate style building in St. Michaels. The decorative exterior brickwork, the round arched windows with arched brick hoods and the heavily bracketed eaves are all features which comfortably classify this building as Italianate. Dated to 1871, the gable front brick church was built in several stages. After initial construction of the main block, a single-story annex was attached to the west gable in 1894. The adjacent fellowship hall was built in 1961, and finally, in 1971 an entrance vestibule was attached to the front of the church in order to add an elevator. The two-story rectangular brick church was raised with a combination of stretcher bond and common bond brick walls. The main facade was built in pressed stretcher bond brick while the side and rear elevations were executed in eight-course common bond. A steeply pitched slate roof covers the main building in addition to the various additions. A frame belfry rises from the top of the church.

T-260 Christ Episcopal Church, Talbot Street

The Christ Episcopal Church is one of the architectural centerpieces of St. Michaels. The Gothic Revival parish church was erected in 1878 on the same site as the former Episcopal church buildings. Following the longitudinal plan of countless parish churches in England, this granite building is decorated with High Victorian detail. The mixture of granite and half-timber framing with brick nogging on the east gable end is a playful contrast of semi-coursed stone and a medieval framing practice. The steeply pitched roof as well as the broach spire are uniformly covered with patterned slate. The interior is traditionally divided into three principal sections, the entrance vestibule, the nave, and the chancel or apse. The interior wall surfaces are finished with a combination of plaster and beaded board wainscoting. Oak pews with decorative Victorian ends are divided in sections to either side of a center aisle. Narrow aisles extend along the lateral walls to either side of a center aisle. Narrow aisles extend along the lateral walls surfaces. The roof frame follows a principal rafter through-purlin system with arched braces that span the distance between each pair of posts. A brick wall surrounds the church cemetery.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

T-261 Tarr House, 109 Green Street.

The Tarr House, c. 1800-1810, is one of a group of story-and-a-half houses built within a decade or two of each other. Each house follows the same basic double-pile, one-room wide plan. The Tarr house is laid with Flemish and common bond walls, and the interior retains Federal period elements. Attached to the west side of the brick house is a mid nineteenth-century frame service wing. The second floor of both sections is lighted by gabled dormers.

T-262 Bruff-Mansfield House, Northwest corner of Green & Locust St.

The Bruff-Mansfield House, like its neighbor the Tarr house, was evidently erected during the first decade of the nineteenth century. Although the story-and-a-half house has retained its original form, most of its exterior period fabric has been replaced. The most significant survival is the parlor mantel and floor to ceiling raised paneling. The oval-shaped decorative carving used in the mantel parallels the motif found on one mantel in the Kemp house (T-279).

T-265 Dr. Dodson House, Southeast corner of Cherry and Locust sts.

The Dr. Dodson house is a two-story brick structure that was built in two periods. The southern two-story, two-bay Flemish bond brick section with its single-story service wing is one of a small collection of Federal period houses in St. Michaels. In contrast to the others in this group it survives with a large portion of its original fabric. Surviving Federal period interior fabric includes the closed stringer stair, six-panel doors on each floor, and a flush paneled cupboard in the present dining room. The mid nineteenth-century addition partially obscured the old house but followed popular trends at the time with its bracketed eave and two-story porch with sawn balusters and decorative corner brackets.

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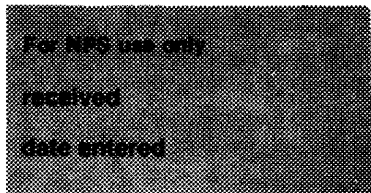
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

T- 266 The "Snuggery," Cherry Street

The "Snuggery" is an unusual St. Michaels dwelling for several reasons. The log construction of the front block makes it one of the few log structures to remain standing in town. After the house was relocated, a complete Victorian renovation transformed the earlier house into a cottage type dwelling trimmed with period sawnwork and decoration. The well-preserved exterior is complemented by an equally pristine Victorian interior with marbleized mantels and period woodwork. Standing behind the house is a pyramidal roofed dairy with a brick foundation and weather-board siding. A board and batten door pierces the west side, and small louvered openings mark the other sides. A decorative fascia trims the base of the roof, while a bird house is fixed to the peak of the structure. The interior is plastered.

T-270 Henry Clay Dodson House, End of Cherry Street.

The H. C. Dodson House contrasts significantly with the rest of the domestic architecture in St. Michaels with its elaborate mansard roof covered with decorative patterned slate. Arched dormers, a modillioned cornice, and well preserved Colonial Revival porches add interesting period details to this raised center hall frame house that was built around 1873. The interior has survived largely intact as well with a Victorian period stair with a walnut handrail.

T-271 Gingerbread House, 103 Talbot Street

The Gingerbread House is an important structure for several reasons. First, it is one of the few nineteenth-century structures in St. Michaels with a confirmed date of construction (1879), and secondly, the house retains a well preserved Victorian exterior with its elaborate decorative trim, two-story porch, and arched sash windows with corresponding shutters. The irregular tee- and ell-plan house type was popularly built during the mid to late nineteenth century.

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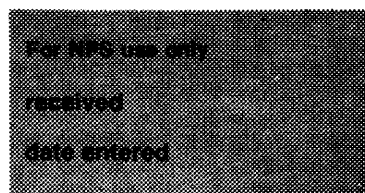
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

T-274 Granite Lodge, 403 St. Mary's Square

Granite Lodge, built in 1839 as a Methodist church, is the most dominant building on St. Mary's Square. The Greek Revival style building is a solid, but relatively plain example of the classical design. The front entrance stoop with its Tuscan columns and decorative pediment along with the gable front orientation of the building are the clearest reference to the style. The west (main) facade is laid with finely jointed stretcher bond pressed brick, while the side and rear elevations were raised in common bond. The medium sloped roof has extended eaves, and it is covered with a layer of seamed tin.

T-277 Old Parsonage, SW corner of Talbot Street & Dodson Avenue

Dated to c. 1870 with extensive alterations around 1880 to 1894, the Old Parsonage is the most elaborate Victorian brick dwelling standing within the town limits of St. Michaels. Not only was this house built with a distinctive variety of brick decoration, but in addition, the two-story tower is an equally rare architectural feature for town dwellings. The tee-plan house retains period porches as well as a wooden cove cornice that trims the perimeter of the structure. Lately the house has been converted to a bed and breakfast which involved the thorough renovation, and unfortunate removal of some of the important interior features. Nevertheless, the exterior has been well restored and is a pivotal historic structure located in the north end of St. Michaels.

T-279 Colonel Kemp House, NW corner of Talbot and West Chestnut St.

Built around 1805, this two-and-a-half story Flemish and common bond brick house is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof that is pierced by gabled dormers. The five-bay center hall house is extended to the rear by a two-story common bond brick service wing. The Kemp House is a crucial building that links three other structures which share the same mantel design and period workmanship. The Bruff House (T-241) and the Bruff-Mansfield House (T-262) have identically carved mantels. The sameness in molding profiles and design suggest a shared joiner, John Bruff, who is documented as one of St. Michaels' turn of the

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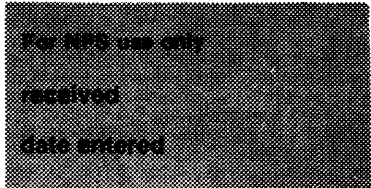
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

nineteenth century craftsmen. Lastly, the Kemp House occupies a pivotal and prominent location of the corner of Talbot and Chestnut streets in the heart of St. Michaels.

T-437 St. Michaels Mill, Chew Avenue

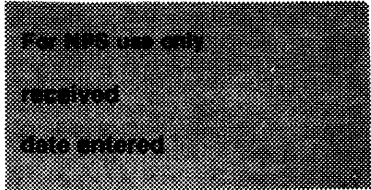
St. Michaels Mill stands on Chew Avenue near the town waterfront. Built during the 1890s, the main block is a two-story, seven-course common bond brick structure with segmental arched windows and a brick cornice. A frame shed addition is attached to the east side. The mill was listed on the National Register in 1982.

T-55 Town Hall Mall, West side of Talbot Street

The Town Hall Mall, erected around 1875, is a two-story, five-bay frame structure flanked by shed additions to each side. The commercial block is supported by a minimal brick foundation, it is sheathed with weatherboards and covered by a medium pitched gable front roof of seamed tin. The principal facade is distinguished on the first floor by an intact storefront of large display windows on a brick knee wall. The second floor is marked by three four-over-four sash windows, and the pediment is distinguished by large fluted brackets. The first floor interior has been partitioned into a series of small shops that open from a wide center passage. The most significant first floor feature is the pressed tin ceiling. An enclosed stair with a separate exterior entrance is located along the north wall. Although enclosed, the stair has a square newel post, and on the second floor, a turned oak balustrade. The undivided second floor space has a large stage in the west end.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

T-560 Clifton Hope House, 400 South Talbot Street

The Clifton Hope House, erected in 1888, is a two-story tee-plan frame house oriented with the leg of the tee facing the street. The east (main) elevation is dominated by a two-story bay window which is marked by a paired single-pane sash window in front and narrow single-pane sash windows to each side. The attic is lighted by a large gabled dormer and eyebrow windows on the north and south slope of the roof. Built into the southeast corner of the tee is a two-story decorative porch with turned posts and sawn brackets. Extending to the rear is a two-story service wing covered with a gable roof. The interior has remained largely intact with late nineteenth century woodwork.

T-569 Haddaway House, Locust Street

Constructed during the first decade of the nineteenth century, the single-story, three-bay frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and it is sheathed by asbestos siding over beaded weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. This double-pile frame house is divided on the first floor by a beaded board partition, but the Federal mantels have been stripped. The enclosed stair remains intact, and the winder stair rises behind a six-panel door. A slender newel post and a molded handrail survive, but the rectangular balusters have been removed. The second floor is divided by beaded board partitions that separate two bedrooms from the hall. The bedroom doors are hung on HL hinges. Knee wall board doors open onto the crawl spaces.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Unusual to the Eastern Shore and Maryland in general, the town of St. Michaels began as the result of a consciously planned development scheme by James Braddock, a factor of a Liverpool merchant firm in 1778. Originally laid out with fifty-eight lots disposed around an open square, St. Michaels expanded through the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into an important Eastern Shore Boat building, watermen's and agrarian-based community for Talbot County.

James Braddock, developer of St. Michaels, recorded his power of attorney to serve as factor or agent for Gildart and Gawith,¹ Liverpool merchants, at Talbot Court House on January 24, 1775. The document was dated January 24, 1774 at Liverpool and was witnessed at the Court House by Captain Richard Jones, master, and Robert Roberts, ship's carpenter, of the Gildart ship, Johnson.² The Johnson had entered the port of Oxford on January 13, 1775.

The Gildart family had been trading in the West Indies and the American colonies from the early 1700s, dealing in general merchandise and the transportation of slaves, convicts, and indentured servants. Business dealings were carried on with such distinguished families as the Washingtons of Virginia and the Carrolls of Maryland.³ At the time James Braddock was sent to Maryland, James Gildart was in serious financial trouble, apparently from unwise speculation, possibly related to the growing unrest in the North American colonies.⁴

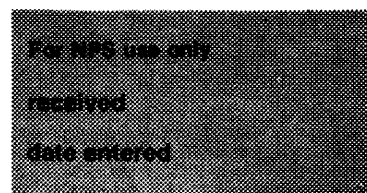
In June of 1775 James Braddock began purchasing land in the vicinity of St. Michaels church, and by early 1778 he had acquired parts of tracts known as Chance, Elliot's Lot, Davenport, Bentley Hay, Janes Progress, and The Beach. At the⁵ time of his last purchase in 1779, he held more than 200 acres.

Of the land acquired by James Braddock, a parcel of thirty-five acres of Janes Progress and The Beach is most significant with respect to the original plan of St. Michaels. This was part of two tracts totaling 127 acres which Braddock obtained at an auction of the real estate of Philip Weatheral in 1778.⁶

The thirty-five acres of Janes Progress and The Beach comprise essentially the land Braddock laid out for the town, extending from the waterfront of Church Creek (St. Michaels harbor) westward to the "Church Land" and the main road (now Talbot Street), including the inlet known as Church Cove.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Some idea of the development of St. Michaels by 1783 may be gained from the Tax List of 1783, which records seven individuals owning "lots in St. Michaels" with a total of two brick, three frame, and four log dwellings. The "small brick house" of William Harrison in the tax list is probably the extant building on Lot 13 on Mulberry Street, later known as the "Amelia Welby House." The brick-ended frame structure is now fully sheathed with weatherboards. It is highly likely this was the residence of Philip Weatheral.

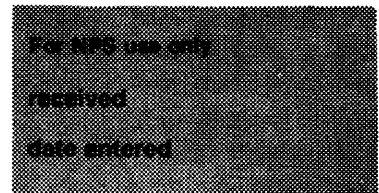
The 1783 Tax Assessment is of some help in establishing the town's commercial development. John Bruff (wheelwright) had a "log shop," John Dorgan (blacksmith) was assessed for a "smith's shop," and Thomas Groves (mariner) was listed with an "old shop." John Dorgan and John Bruff owned properties nearly opposite each other on the main road and it is probable that their shops were located there. However, Dorgan purchased part of Lot 58 at the foot of Chestnut Street in 1782 and he could have maintained a blacksmith's shop there to serve the boat building activity. These craft-related activities supplied the needs of the boat builders as well as the local town and county residents.

With further regard to boat building, the four-acre lot 14 is referred to as "The Shipyard" in its original deed of 1784. "The Shipyard" is also designated on the 1806 plat of the town. Evidence that vessels were built along the waterfront prior to the planning of the town may be found in Philip Weatheral's inventory of 1774 which lists, "2 Schooners on the stocks 90 tons each to be nearly one-third built together with all the Trunnels and timber marked in the yard, L 160 as well as "1 ships long boat, 18 feet keel."⁸ Likewise, James Braddock's 1782 inventory contains the following items, "the frame of a large boat and timber in the yard."⁹ This vessel could have been under construction at "The Shipyard" which had not been sold by Braddock at the time of his death.

Under the terms of Braddock's will all of his real estate became the property of John Thompson. Although Braddock never mentioned his English ties in his deeds, he must have used all or part of Gildart and Gawith's funds in his transactions.¹⁰ Thompson was probably aware of the situation for in the nineteen months between the death of James Braddock and the arrival of Captain James Wignal, agent of Gildart and Gawith, Thompson sold only one original lot and resold another lot, which he, Thompson, had purchased from Braddock.¹¹

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War, ratified by the British on September 3, 1783, contained provisions for the recovery of debts owed to British nationals.¹² On July 10, 1783, Gildart and Gawith gave a comprehensive power of attorney to Captain James Wignal and dispatched him on a voyage to the Chesapeake, apparently for the purpose of salvaging as much as possible of the company's investments in what was now recognized as the State of Maryland by the British government.

The St. Michaels development was probably a financial disaster for Gildart and Gawith, but there can be no doubt that the new town, though small, was firmly established by the end of the Revolution. This is in marked contrast to neighboring Oxford which suffered a rapid decline from 1775 onward. Oxford's economy, based on an already-failing tobacco trade, was decimated by the War and superseded forever by rapidly expanding Baltimore. St. Michaels had the advantage of a new venture offering small plots on a sheltered harbor to men of moderate means with craft-related skills. Surrounded by a rich agrarian community of large and small plantations, St. Michaels also prospered as a center for the boat building industry and the heir to rich oyster beds in Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

By the late eighteenth century, St. Michaels had developed into a modest bay town with at least thirty dwellings and as many support buildings.¹³ The 1798 tax assessment lists two brick dwellings, seven log houses, and twenty frame houses. The typical dwelling measured 24' by 16'; a marked contrast was the brick house of Mary Thompson which stood fully 60' by 18'. House lots typically comprised a detached kitchen and other domestic outbuildings.

During the first two decades of the nineteenth century St. Michaels, like Talbot County in general, entered a most prosperous period resulting from a vibrant agrarian and trade economy. In addition, ship building and other craft related businesses contributed to the overall prosperity of the era. Reflective of these financial successes is a collection of fine Federal period houses erected during the first decade of the nineteenth century. The Cannonball House, built around 1805 for William Merchant, the Kemp House, c. 1805, and the Dorris house, erected at the same time, are three of these prominent two-story brick houses.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Shortly after the construction of these Federal period houses, the War of 1812 threatened the accumulated successes of St. Michaels residents. On the night of August 10, 1813, British gunboats fired on the town. Local traditions relate that one cannon ball entered the house of William Merchant, hence its nickname.

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the town outgrew its early boundaries, resulting in the division of adjacent land into building lots. Located along the west side of Talbot Street, "Canton Row" was divided in 1843 into leasable lots. North of Carpenter Street along current Cherry and Willow streets, Harrison family land was divided into additional building lots, beginning during the 1840s. Later, during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, Thompson's Square and Dr. John Miller's Addition were subdivided and improved on the south and west sides of the original town.

Several factors contributed to the explosive growth of St. Michaels during the second half of the nineteenth century. An extremely lucrative oyster trade was developing during this period and Talbot County's grain-based agriculture was benefiting from several decades of improved soil husbandry and agricultural reform. Improved transportation networks through rail and steamboat expediting trade with larger markets in Baltimore and Annapolis, and by 1891-1892 the population of St. Michaels exceeded 1200.¹⁴

By 1871, St. Michaels boasted an impressive cross-section of craftsmen, commercial ventures, and industry. The Maryland State Gazette, published the commercial profile of the town, which included eighteen house or ship carpenters, thirteen general stores, eleven dress or hat makers, four wheelwrights, two blacksmiths, one lumber dealer, and many other additional services.¹⁵ Twenty years later, in 1891, the town supported two weekly newspapers, The Comet and Advertiser and the Argus. The principal industries were still centered on oyster or fruit packing and ship building, and the principal manufacturing interests comprised two flour mills, one saw mill and a ship yard.¹⁶ In addition, H. C. Dodson operated a brickyard at the north end of town.

Representative of this expanded town population and productivity are large sections of mid to late nineteenth century houses built on the periphery of the old Braddock town lots. Victorian houses and other structures were obviously erected in the

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

old town as well, in fact both the Episcopal and Methodist congregations erected new churches during the 1870s. The Episcopalians erected an ambitious granite structure in 1878, while the Methodists had moved from their St. Mary's Square site to erect an Italianate style brick church on Main Street in 1871. The Union M. E. congregation waited until 1895 to erect their impressive frame church on the corner of Fremont Street and Railroad Avenue.

During the first decades of the twentieth century St. Michaels continued to grow, albeit at a reduced pace. Plentiful supplies of oysters in the Bay and immediate access to outside markets via the railroad continued to serve St. Michaels until the mid twentieth century. As a result the town limits expanded further south to include additional lots with modest early twentieth-century bungalow style dwellings of the pre-Depression years. The Depression effectively halted development in St. Michaels; following the second World War, the agrarian economy and seafood industry revived, resulting in the construction of additional Colonial-influenced houses in the southeast part of town (outside the historic district). Since about 1970, tourism and recreation have sparked a renaissance in St. Michaels, and many of the historic buildings have been sensitively rehabilitated or restored.

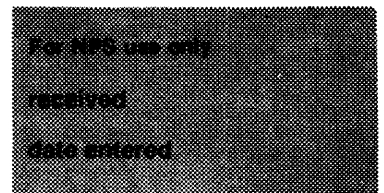
Footnotes:

1. For the eighteenth-century history of St. Michaels, see Bodenstein, William G., "St. Michaels, Maryland: An 18th-Century Speculative Development", Maryland Historical Magazine 80:3 (Fall 1985), pp. 228-239.
2. Oxford Port of Entry Book, Microfilm, Talbot County Free Library.
3. Charles R. Gildart, "The Gildart-Geldart Families, (San Rafael, Cal., Charles R. Gildart, 1962), p. 20; Bills of Lading, Carroll Papers, Maryland Historical Society.
4. Gildart, The Gildart-Geldart Families, p. 21.
5. Talbot County Land Records, Talbot County Courthouse, see Vol. 20/484, 529; 21/20, 22, 66, 1/7/1779.
6. Talbot County Land Records, 21/66, 1/7/1779.
7. 1783 Tax Assessment for Talbot County, William Harrison.

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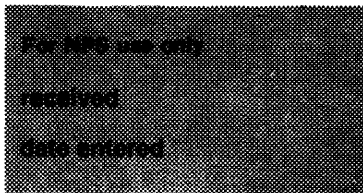
HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Footnotes (continued)

8. "Inventory of the goods, chattels, and credits of Philip Weatheral late of Talbot County, deceased appraised by us the subscribers in current money of Maryland viz. effects in Talbot County," Inventory from the Prerogative Court, Liber WF 6, 1774, pp. 144, 145, 1782.
9. Talbot County Inventories, Liber JBA, pp. 144, 145, 1782.
10. The first transaction of James Wignal (TCLR, 21:417, 1784) in which he purchased all of Braddock's remaining real estate from John Thompson states, "whereas James Braddock was in arrears with Gildart and Gawith."
11. Talbot County Land Record, 22/162, 21/369.
12. U.S. Department of State, Treaties and Conventions Concluded Between the United States of America and Other Powers, Since July 4, 1776, Rev. Ed., Washington, Government Printing Office, 1873, p. 309 and p. 316.
13. 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Talbot County.
14. Maryland Gazetteer, 1891-92, Vol. II. R. L. Polk and Company, Baltimore, Maryland.
15. Maryland State Gazette, 1871.
16. Maryland Gazetteer, 1891-92.

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Maryland Gazetteer, 1891-92, Vol. II, R. L. Polk and Company, Baltimore, MD.

Maryland State Gazette, 1871.

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Reps, John W., Town Planning in Frontier America (Princeton: Princeton University Press.

1783 Tax Assessment, Talbot County, Microfilm in Talbot County Free Library.

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Microfilm in Talbot County Free Library.

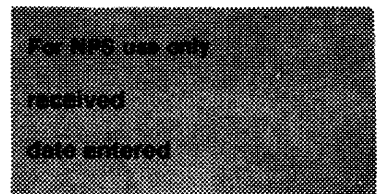
Talbot Estate Inventories, Talbot County Courthouse.

Talbot County Land Records, Talbot County Courthouse.

U.S. Department of State, Treaties and Conventions Concluded Between the United States of America and Other Powers, Since July 4, 1776, Rev. Ed. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1873.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Boundary Justification: The boundaries of the St. Michaels Historic District were selected to encompass the maximum number of historic resources which retain integrity of form, materials, feeling, and association and to exclude properties which do not relate to the themes or period of the district's significance. Southwest and east of the district are areas of post-World War II development; west of the district is an area of non-contributing open and wooded space; the area to the north and northwest includes several houses whose period and styles are similar but which have lost integrity through incompatible alterations and deterioration.

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries are depicted on the attached map, drawn to the scale 1" = 200' and labeled "St. Michaels Historic District, Talbot County, Maryland: National Register Boundary."