T-576 c. 1860-1870

Captain's Cabin

St. Michaels

private

Currently known as the Captain's Cabin, this prominent two-story, five-bay frame commercial building displays the array of favorite architectural features found throughout St. Michaels. The two-story porch, supported by iron and wooden posts stretches across the front of the building, and a second bi-level porch is attached to the rear service wing. A decorative two-story bay window distinguishes the south end of the house, and twin chimneys rise from the main block. Inside the third quarter of the nineteenth-century finishes remain essentially intact. Most unusual is a twisting south chimney stack that turns ninety degrees as it passes through the attic level to protrude through the roof as a normal brick stack.

The title research for the property indicates the house was built for James Benson, who acquired the lot no. 1 of Canton Row in 1843 (58/21). Architectural evidence indicates that Benson did not erect this building until 1860-1870. James Benson is listed in the St. Michaels business directory of the county atlas as a real estate agent and a collector of claims. After his death, the property was entererd into Chancery Court for division, and Lot #1 was described as being on Talbot Street, and "improved by a large dwelling, store and office, the former home place of James Benson, deceased."(28/220-Chancery) In 1909, the house and lot were transferred to James H. Hope,who maintained ownership until 1947 (270/461).

Survey No. T-576

Magi No. 2105765511

DOE ___yes X no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Captain's Cabin

2. Location

street & number 214 Talbot Street ___ not for publication

city, town St. Michaels ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jane Crawford

street & number 21 Goldsborough Street telephone no.:

city, town Easton state and zip code MD 21601

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-576

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Captain's Cabin

Captain's Cabin occupies a two-story, five-bay frame structure that fronts Talbot Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. Facing east, the commercial building is covered by a gabled roof oriented on a north north/south axis.

Built around 1870, the two-story, five-bay frame structure is supported by a minimal brick foundation and sheathed with a uniform layer of vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with a layer of standing seam tin. Piercing the roofline is a pair of brick chimneys which flank the center hall. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing.

The east (main) elevation is five bays across with a center entrance and flanking windows. The north bay is marked by a separate storefront with large glass display windows and a recessed double door entrance. The knee wall below the windows is paneled. The main door is glazed and topped by a two-light transom. Piercing the south wall of the first floor are two four over four sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The second floor is marked by a center door and flanking four over four sash windows. Covering the entire front is a two-story porch supported by iron posts on the first floor and turned wooden posts on the second. Decorating each post are sawn brackets and stretching between the second floor posts are sawn balusters.

The south gable end is two bays deep. The east bay is distinguished by a two-story bay window that is lighted by single-pane sash windows. Below the first floor windows the knee wall is paneled, and above the first floor windows the space is filled with decoratively incised panels. A mid-level cornice with brackets divides the first and second floors. The second floor cornice is treated with brackets as well as applied trim. Four over four sash windows fill the west bay, and paired four over four sash windows illuminate the attic. The extended eaves have short

returns at the base.

The west side of the main house is largely covered by the two-story service wing. Covering the south side of the wing is a two-story porch supported by tapering octagonal porch posts. Sawn baluster handrails stretch between the posts. The wing is lighted by six over six sash windows. A single-story shed roofed addition extends from the west gable end of the service wing, and a two-story section has been attached to the north side.

The interior has been converted to retail space, but few changes have been made involving the original woodwork. The period stair rises in the center hall and consists of a turned newel post and turned balusters which support a continuous molded handrail. The stringer carries decorative scrollwork, and the area below the stringer is paneled. The southwest room contains an iron coal stove marked with "E. Ritterhoff, Baltimore, MD." The hearth is framed by a slate mantel.

The second floor is divided into four rooms disposed around a central stair passage. The rooms are simply finished without unusual third quarter of the nineteenth-century woodwork.

The attic is divided into two rooms which flank the center passage. The rarest feature is the twisted brick chimney stack that rises through the south room. The large brick stack was built with forty-five degree twist so the stack protrudes through the roof in the same manner as the straight north stack.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-576

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

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Captain's Cabin occupies one of the best preserved commercial structures located in the center of St. Michaels. In addition the building displays the array of architectural features found throughout the town. The two-story porch, the two-story bay window, the abundant decorative trim, and the sawn baluster handrails comprise some of the most significant exterior elements. Inside the third quarter of the nineteenth-century finishes remain essentially intact. The twisting south chimney is an extremely unusual solution of nineteenth-century construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-576

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels date 10/31/85

street & number telephone

city or town St. Michaels state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

CAPTAIN'S CABIN - CRAWFORD

Year: 1980 Vol: 551 Page: 568
From: Bruce D Duncan Price: $30,000
To: Jane Crawford
Notes: Parcel 1: Begins at stone formerly set W side Talbot St, distant 91' from former boundary stone of "Canton Farm". Stone was boundary between " "brick storehouse lot" and this one. Run N with Talbot St 59'6" to a stone; then W 100' to another stone; then SW 59'6" to stone; then E with "brick store house lot" 100' to beginning. Lot #1 in Canton Row.

There is a parcel 2, being lot behind this one out to Fremont St but the house is not on that lot.

From Virginia S Shinn to Bruce D Duncan, 1977, 512/516

CHLAN

Year: 1977 Vol: 512 Page: 516
From: Virginia S Shinn Price: $5
To: Bruce D Duncan
Notes: Same as Parcel 1 in 1980, 551/568

From Eleanor R Hope, widow to Francois B Shinn and Virginia S Shinn, 1947, 270/461.

CHLAN

Year: 1947 Vol: 270 Page: 461
From: Eleanor R Hope, widow Price: $5
To: Francois B Shinn and Virginia S Shinn
Notes: Parcel 1 - lot 1 Described as "Lot #1 in "Canton Row".

From Clifton Doll Benson, trustee to James H Hope, 1909, 156/66

CHLAN

Year: 1946 Vol: 268 Page: 510
From: Lee S Gillis and Florence M Gillis Price:
To: James H Hope and Eleanor R Hope
Notes: Described as lot number 1.

CHLAN

Year: 1946 Vol: 268 Page: 509
From: James H Hope & Eleanor R Hope Price:
To: Lee S Gillis
Notes: Described as lot number 1. Title clearance.

CHLAN

Year: 1909 Vol: 156 Page: 66
From: Clifton Doll Benson, trustee Price: $3000
To: James H Hope
Notes: Same as Lot No 1 in 1980, 551/568.

From Richard C Lane, atty for Samuel A Harrison, lease to James Benson, 1855, 66/106 (1855, 66/106 is the "back lot" on Fremont Street)

CHLAN

Year: 1906 Vol: 28 Page: 220 Chanc
From: Chancery Proceedings:Mariana Benson et al vs Sardis ~~Price~~: Chapel.
~~To:~~ Suit concerns will of James Benson and the disposal of his real estate. (wills, 14/24) In the brief, Lot #1 is described as being on Talbot Street, improved by large dwelling, store and office, the former
~~Notes~~: home place of James Benson, dcd.

In his will, Benson recommends that the lot be sold and gives the following reasons why it cannot be rented: "it is of unsuitable construction for business and not favorably located for residential purposes"

Year: 1843 Vol: 58 Page: 21
From: Samuel A Harrison Price: lease
To: James Benson
Notes: Lot Number 1, "Canton Fields" or "Canton Row".

This is first deed for this property in the "Canton Fields" - "Canton Row" subdivision of Canton Farm. For earlier tracts, see the section, "First Deeds to Canton Row". The present structure is on this lot.

CHLAN

T-576
DR. DODSON'S
WATER STREET
ST MARY'S
SQUARE
TALBOT STREET
METHODIST
CEMETERY
T-576
BALTIMORE
CHESAPEAKE
AND ATLANTIC RAILWAY
BACK CREEK
MAP
OF
ST. MICHAELS
TALBOT CO. MARYLAND
SCALE
JAN. 1, 1923.
THOMAS
BEARD
10THS

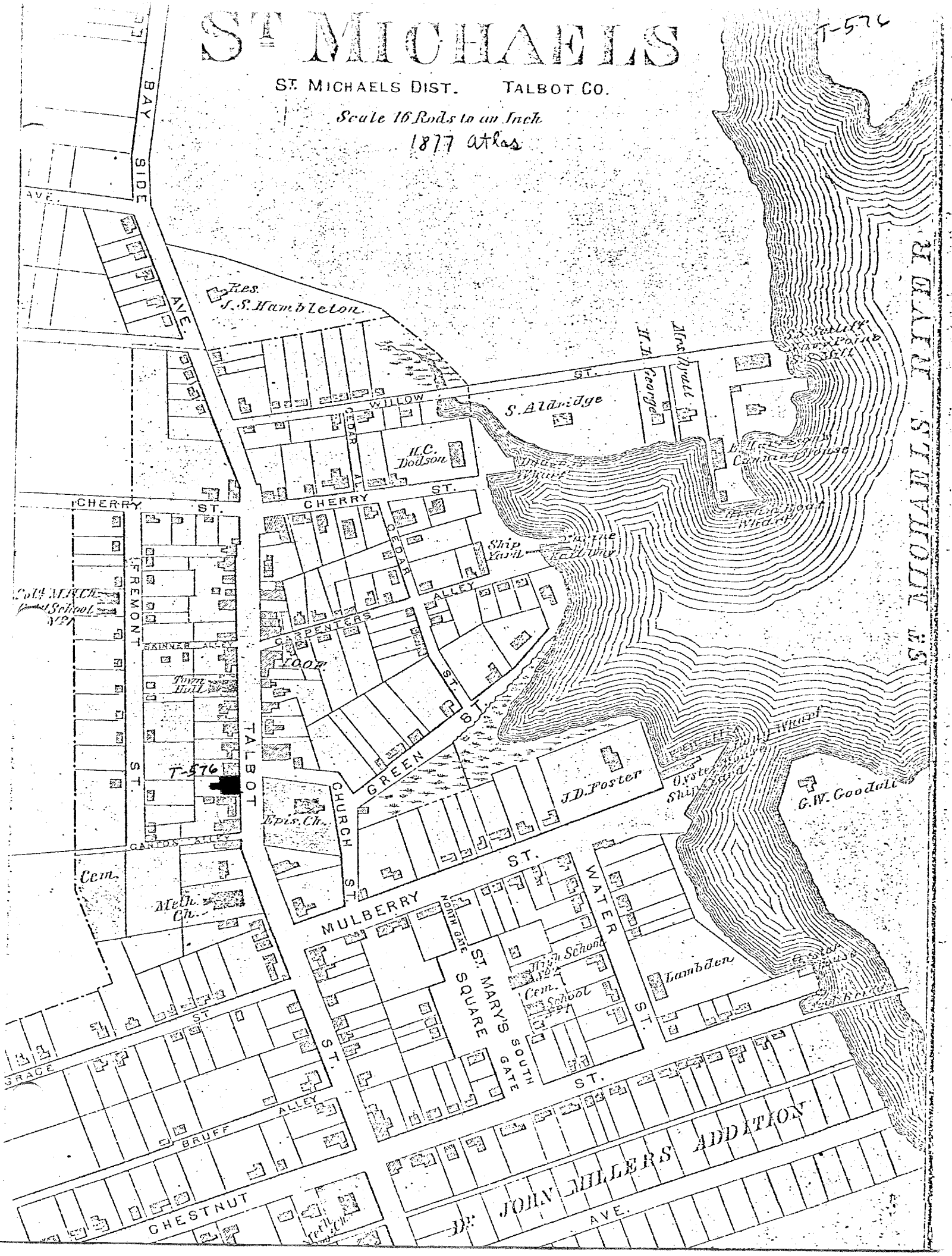
ST MICHAELS

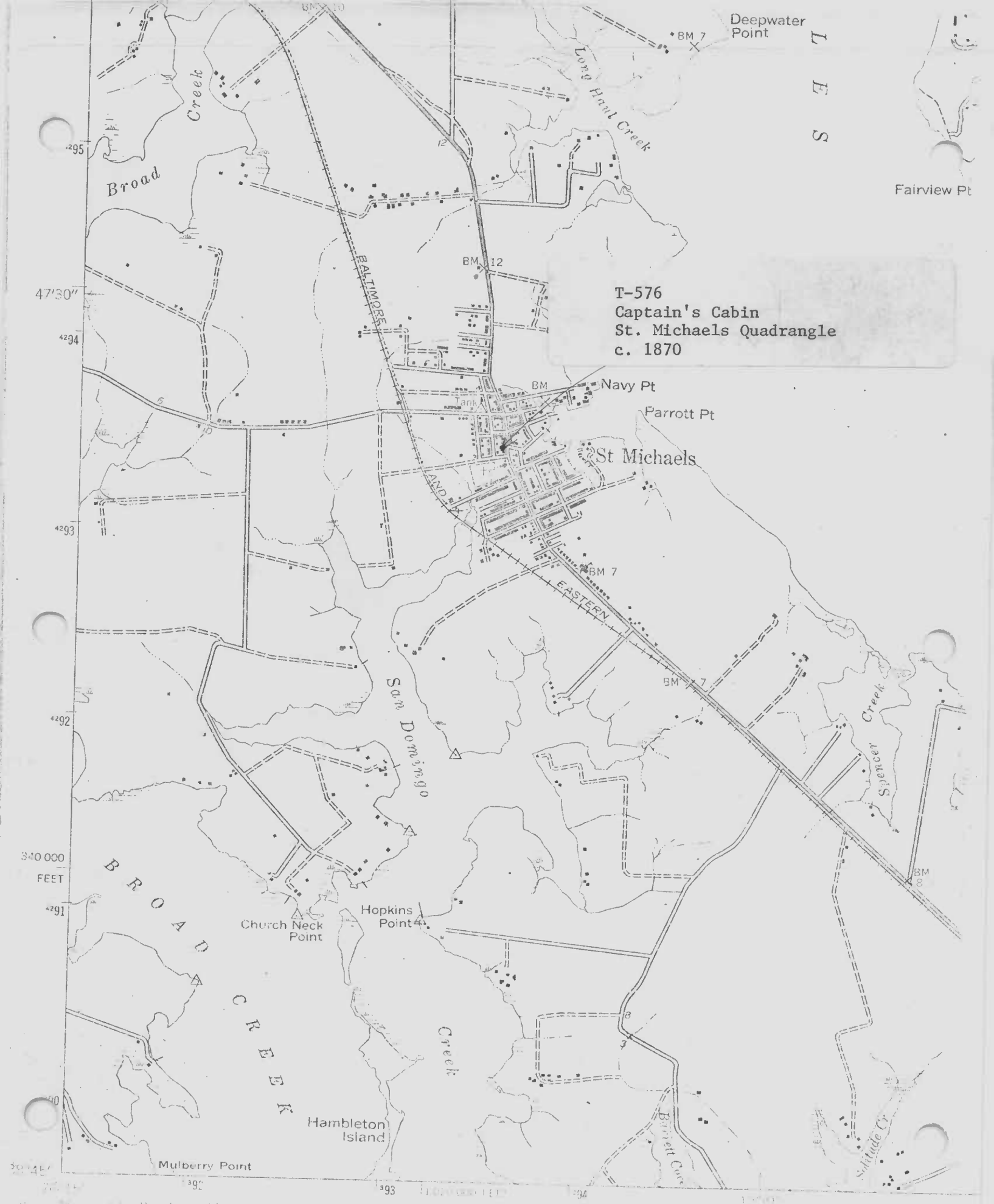
ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

1877 atlas

T-576





Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

CAPTAIN'S CABIN T-576
South Gable End
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

CAPTAIN'S CABIN T-576
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
East Elevation
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

CAPTAIN'S CABIN T-576
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
South Gable End
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust

CAPTAIN'S CABIN T-576
Chimney Stack
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust