

T-581
Hiss House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1878

A chain-of-title for the Hiss house strongly indicates the two-story house was built around 1878 after William J. and Deborah A. Keithley sold a 20' by 120' lot to Eleanore Blades for \$80. Between 1878 and 1914, Eleanore Blades married John D. Barnold, and the Barnolds sold the improved lot in 1914 for \$350 to Lawrence S. Fairbank. The St. Michaels town map of 1877 documents the fact that the lot was not improved at that time. The simple Victorian features of the house agree with the estimated date of construction. The property changed hands a dozen times since 1914. Most recently, Donald and Catherine Hiss purchased the house in 1983.

Standing in a line of nineteenth-century dwellings that front St. Mary's Square, the Hiss house is a modest two-story, frame dwelling. The relatively plain exterior is trimmed with a few late nineteenth-century features including the chamfered post front porch and the decorative sawnwork across the eave.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-581

Magi No. 2105815604

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hiss House

2. Location

street & number 406 St. Mary's Square not for publicationcity, 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 Donald Hiss

street & number 406 St. Mary's Square telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot Co. Clerk of Court liber 577 577

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 770 770

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-581

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 Hiss house is located at 406 St. Mary's Square in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, two-bay frame house faces east with the gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1870-1880, the two-story, two-bay frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and sheathed with wood shingles. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the main block is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing.

The east (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with a partially glazed door in the right bay and a six-over-six sash to the left. Covering the first floor is a front porch supported by chamfered posts. The second floor is lighted by evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, and the front eave is trimmed with decorative sawnwork.

Built against the south wall is a modern brick chimney erected in place of the interior end brick stove stack. Modern sash windows have been added to the first floor to each side of the brick chimney. The eaves are slightly extended.

The west side of the one-room plan main block is largely covered by the two-story two-room plan service wing. A seam in north and south sides of the wing suggests different periods of construction. A shed roof porch supported by turned porch posts and decorated with sawn brackets is attached to the east gable end. The south end of the porch is enclosed with flush boards for a pantry.

The interior of the house has been partially remodeled during the last few years. The stair rises against the north wall of the front room with a twentieth-century balustrade. A beaded board and batten door opens into the stair closet. A second stair was formerly located in the rear room for access from the kitchen. The stair was removed in lieu of a first floor bathroom.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ 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 Hiss house is a modest two-story, one-room plan frame dwelling with a two-story service wing. The relatively plain house is trimmed with a few late nineteenth-century features including the chamfered post front porch and decorative sawnwork across the front eave. The Hiss house stands in a line of nineteenth-century dwellings that mark the west side of St. Mary's Square.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A chain-of-title for the Hiss house strongly indicates the two-story house was built around 1878 after William J. and Deborah A. Keithley sold a 20' by 120' lot to Eleanore Blades for \$80. (53/33). Between 1878 and 1914, Eleanore Blades married John D. Barnold, and the Barnolds sold the improved lot in 1914 for \$350 to Lawrence S. Fairbank. The St. Michaels town map of 1877 helps also by indicating the structure had not been erected by that time. The simple Victorian features of the house agree with the estimated date of construction. The property has changed hands a dozen times since 1914. Donald and Catherine Hiss purchased the house in 1983. (577/770)

YEAR: 1983 VOL: 577 PAGE: 770

FROM : Richard L and Suzanne D Mason PRICE:

TO : Donald and Catherine G Hiss

NOTES: See deed for exact description. The lot is approximately 30 x 120 feet and is one half of the original lot number 32 of James Braddock's St Michaels.

Conveyed to the grantors by T Walter and Irma L Harper 1974, 488/720.

YEAR: 1983 VOL: 577 PAGE: 766

FROM : Richard L and Suzanne D Mason * PRICE:

TO : *AND James M and Elaine P Burress

NOTES: This is a BOUNDARY LINE AGREEMENT. It is long and involved but was necessary to bring the boundary of the lot into agreement with 1983, 577/770. The lot is actually 30 x 120 while the following deed calls for a lot only 20 feet wide.

YEAR: 1974 VOL: 488 PAGE: 720

FROM : T Walter and Irma L Harper PRICE:

TO : Richard L and Suzanne D Mason

NOTES: Begins at SE corner of lot formerly heirs of Samuel Harrison, later Jerie Seymour; run W with Seymour 120' to former Thomas M Bryan now J Fletcher Fairbank; then S with Fairbank 20'; then E 120' to St Mary's Square; then N with the Square, 20' to the beginning.

Conveyed to the grantors by William T and Ruth Wharton 1957, 343/239.

YEAR: 1957 VOL: 343 PAGE: 239

FROM : William T Wharton and Ruth Wharton PRICE:

TO : T Walter Harper and Irma L Harper

NOTES: Same 20 x 120 description.

Conveyed to grantors by Jesse M WE Shockley (widow) and Kenneth R Shockley (unmarried) 1944, 258/250.

YEAR: 1944 VOL: 258 PAGE: 250

FROM : Jesse M W Shockley, widower & Kenneth R Shockley, unmm. PRICE: \$1000

TO : William T Wharton and Ruth Wharton

NOTES: Lot is 20 x 120.

Conveyed to grantors by Frank H Jefferson and Hettie Jefferson 1939, 245/430

YEAR: 1939 VOL: 245 PAGE: 430

FROM : Frank H Jefferson and Hettie Jefferson PRICE:

TO : Jesse M W Shockley, Mabel Grace Shockley, and Kenneth R Shockley

NOTES: 20 x 120.

Conveyed to the grantors by the Workingmen's Building & Loan Assn. of Maryland 1935, 235/316.

YEAR: 1935 VOL: 235 PAGE: 316
FROM : Workingman's Building & Loan Assn of St Michaels PRICE: \$5
TO : Frank Jefferson and Hettie Jefferson
NOTES: 20 x 120.
Conveyed to grantor by G Elbert Marshall, atty. 1935, 234/32.
1935, 235/317 is a mortgage to the WB&LSM for \$500.

YEAR: 1935 VOL: 234 PAGE: 32
FROM : G Elbert Marshall, atty PRICE: \$550
TO : Workingman's Building & Loan Assn of St Michaels
NOTES: Foreclosure on a mortgage of George McQuay to the W B & L SM
1931, 227/147.

YEAR: 1931 VOL: 227 PAGE: 147
FROM : George McQuay PRICE: \$400
TO : Workingman's Building & Loan Association of St Michaels
NOTES: This was a mortgage for \$400 with the subject property as security.
Conveyed to George McQuay by John P Cosden 1930, 221/337.

YEAR: 1930 VOL: 221 PAGE: 337
FROM : John P Cosden & wife PRICE: \$5
TO : George McQuay
NOTES: 20 x 120.
Conveyed to John P Cosden and Mary E Cosden by Charles Meniel 1923, 195/484

YEAR: 1923 VOL: 195 PAGE: 484
FROM : Charles Meniel PRICE: \$400
TO : John P Cosden and Mary E Cosden
NOTES: 20 x 120
Conveyed to Charles Meniel by Lawrence S Fairbank and Elsie F Fairbank
1922, 192/32.

YEAR: 1922 VOL: 192 PAGE: 32
FROM : Lawrence S Fairbank and wife PRICE: \$424
TO : Charles Meniel
NOTES: 20 x 120
Conveyed to Lawrence S Fairbank by Eleanore Barnhold and John D Barnhold
1914, 169/324.

YEAR: 1914 VOL: 169 PAGE: 324

FROM : Eleanore Barnhold and John D Barnhold PRICE: \$350

TO : Lawrence S Fairbank

NOTES: 20 x 120

Conveyed to Eleanore Barnhold (nee Blades) by William J Keithley 1878, 85/33.

YEAR: 1878 VOL: 85 PAGE: 33

FROM : William J Keithley and Deborah A Keithley PRICE: \$80

TO : Eleanore Blades

NOTES: 20 x 120

YEAR: 1845 VOL: 59 PAGE: 137

FROM : Thomas Keithley and Margaret Keithley PRICE: \$.50

TO : Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Talbot County

NOTES: "so much of the lot bought by Thomas Keithley of Alexander B Harrison as trustee of the late John Merchant which lot is designated number 32". Begins within 3' of the southernmost corner of St Mary's Square; run with the square NW 20'; then SW 24'; then SE 20' to within 3' of lot 30; then parallel with 30 to the beginning. "Upon which lot the trustees have in course of erection a house to be used for.....a Sunday School".

YEAR: 1838 VOL: 53 PAGE: 429

FROM : Alexander B Harrison PRICE: \$25.06

TO : Thomas Keithley

NOTES: "all that lot at the southmost corner of St. Mary's Square; 60 feet on the square, run back 120 feet to lot 26.

This was a trustee's sale of the real estate of John Merchant.

No deed for the sale of this lot to John Merchant was found.

YEAR: 1780 VOL: 29 PAGE: 70

FROM : James Braddock PRICE: p40 cm

TO : William Hambleton, "Gent"

NOTES: The original sale of this lot - number 32 - by James Braddock. The date the deed was "made" is 1780; however, Hambleton (or his heirs) waited until 1801 to record it at the Courthouse! One reason a deed is finally recorded is when someone wants to sell the property. NO SALE OF THIS LOT BY HAMBLETON (or anyone else) until Keithley buys it in 1838 has been found.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

- DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Brushes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds. Fine Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Pens, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Nails, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- HADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
- W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
- EDDYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- ED H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- ES BROWN**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.
- SPARKS**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
- SMITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- W. S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheel-righting, and all work appertaining thereto. Institute Machinery carefully repaired. Farming implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.
- WILLIAM CAULK**, Physician and Surgeon.
- JAMES SETH**, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Residence near St. Michael's.
- LIAM S. HARRISON**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.
- C. NEAVITT & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.
- W. T. HARRINGTON**, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.
- NIEL J. KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.
- GEORGE W. COLLINS**, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.
- E. BLADES**, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.
- SEPH HERGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
- IVER FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.
- HARRISON & RICHARDSON**, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- J. HOLLAND**, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.
- PT. C. R. LEONARD**, Freightier of Grain of all kinds to any point.
- W. M. BLADES**, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
- W. M. HARRISON**, Dealer in Groceries, Confectioneries &c.
- S. KILMON**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- A. DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.



Broad

Creek

Big Haul Creek

Fairview Pt

BALTIMORE AND

BM 12

BM

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

BM 7

EASTERN

BM 7

Spencer Creek

Little Neck Cr

HUNTING

T-581
HISS HOUSE
St. Michaels, Md. Quadrangle
1942

San Domingo

BROAD

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

1 C

BM 8

33

Lc
Pc



DONALD HISS HOUSE

T-581

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.

East elevation

10/86, Paul Touart, photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust