

T-605
Calico Gallery
St. Michaels
private

c. 1871-1880

The history of this site is closely linked to the March of 1870 St. Michaels fire when six buildings that stood on the west side of Talbot Street were destroyed. The fire is reported to have started in a second floor office of a building that occupied this site. The office was used for assembling the Comet, a nineteenth-century paper printed in St. Michaels. The contemporary paper accounts of the disaster describe the progress of the fire and the point when the printing press fell through the floor. During the years following the fire, the "burnt district," as it was called, was rebuilt. Throughout this period the title to the property was held by Margaret Denny, who bought the lot in 1856, and eventually bequeathed ownership to Mary D. Tenant. In 1881, the property, referred to as the "Margaret Denny" or "Hope" lot, was auctioned and sold for \$475 to Daniel Hope. At the time the property included the lot directly north which was separated in 1897.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-605

Magi No. 2106052511

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common CALICO GALLERY

2. Location

street & number Talbot Street not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county First

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 checked="" 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 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 Lynda C. Kelly

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 561

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 483

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-605

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 Calico Gallery stands on the west side of Talbot Street in the center business district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay structure faces east.

Probably built between 1870-1880, the Calico Gallery building is supported by a minimal brick foundation and sheathed with a layer of vinyl siding. The rectangular structure is covered by a long shed roof that slopes westward from the street elevation.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center double-door entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The current, rebuilt first floor storefront projects approximately a foot from the original wall surface. The storefront is flanked by the original paneled corner pilasters, and a cornice stretches across at mid-level. The second floor is lighted by a set of three single-pane sash windows. The top of the building is finished with cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings.

The sides of the building are generally obscured by adjacent structures, and the west end is detailed in a rudimentary fashion without notable features.

The interior has been extensively reworked with the addition of an open, centralized stair. According to one of the owners, a pressed metal ceiling survives under the new acoustical tiles.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-605

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.

The Calico Gallery building is a two-story, three-bay frame commercial building erected after the 1870 fire which decimated the central business district. The origin of the fire is recorded to have begun on the second floor of a structure on this site that was used as the Comet newspaper office. Although new exterior and interior finishes have obscured the original features of this building, its essential nineteenth-century form has remained intact and contributes to the row of relatively continuous nineteenth-century buildings that line the east side of Talbot Street.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The history of this site is closely linked to the March of 1870 St. Michaels fire when six buildings that stood on the west side of Talbot Street were destroyed. The fire is reported to have started in a second floor office of a building that stood at this location. The office was used for assembling the Comet, a nineteenth-century paper printed in St. Michaels. During the years following the fire the "burnt district," as it was called, was rebuilt. During this period the title to the property was held by Margaret Denny, who bought the lot in 1856 (67/125), and eventually bequeathed it to Mary D. Tenant. In 1881, the property, referred to as the "Margaret Denny" or "Hope" lot, was auctioned and sold for \$475 to Daniel Hope (94/91). At this time the property included the lot directly north.

CALICO GALLERY

T-605

YEAR: 1981 VOL: 561 PAGE: 483

FROM: Autie F. Kelley PRICE:

TO: Lynda C. Kelly

NOTES Begins at James Benson or F. B. Shinn; west 220' to Fremont Street; north on Fremont 23'4"; east 172'3" to a point 1 foot north of a storeroom; then south 1 foot to Oliver T. Fairbank; then east 47'9" with Fairbank to Talbot Street; then 22'4" to the beginning.

Conveyed to Autie Kelley by Robert C. Thompson 1977, 518/448.

YEAR: 1977 VOL: 518 PAGE: 448

FROM: Robert C. and Doris M. Thompson PRICE:

TO: Autie F. and Lybda C. Kelley.

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Robert C. Thompson by Faith S. Clark 1974, 483/605

YEAR: 1974 VOL: 483 PAGE: 605

FROM: Faith S. Clark by Edward G. Clark, atty-in-fact PRICE:

TO: Robert Robert C. and Doris M. Thompson

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Faith S. Clark by Lee S. Gillis 1965, 401/613.

YEAR: 1965 VOL: 401 PAGE: 613

FROM: Lee S. Gillis and Florence M. and others* PRICE: \$6,900

TO: Faith S. Clark

NOTES The "others" are: Lillian G. Mowbray and Fred M. Mowbray, Marion H. Gillis, Jr. and Marguerite J. Gillis of Dorchester County.

Same description.

Conveyed to M. Howard Gillis by J. W. D. Jump, assignee 1936, 237/583.

At the death of M. Howard Gillis the property went to his widow, Mary B.

Gillis and her children, Marion H. and Lee S. Gillis and Lillian G. Mowbray.

Mary B. Gillis conveyed her interest to her children by 1964, 393/373.

YEAR: 1936 VOL: 237 PAGE: 583

FROM: John W. D. Jump, assignee PRICE: \$4,500

TO: M. Howard Gillis

NOTES By public sale on default of mortgage Solomon Caplan and Maggie Caplan to St. Michaels Bank 1930, 222/38. Begins at the NW corner of James Benson (now Dr. James H. Hope) otherwise same description. 22'4" on Talbot Street. Conveyed to Solomon Caplan by Ellen D. Hope and Joseph D. Hope 1897, 127/424 1930, 222/38 is a mortgage from Solomon Caplan to the St. Michaels Bank for \$5000.

YEAR: 1897 VOL: 127 PAGE: 424

FROM: Ellen M. Hope and Joseph D. Hope PRICE: \$600

TO: Solomon Caplan

NOTES Begins at the NE corner of heirs of James Benson. Same description follows. Part of the land devised by Margaret Denny to Ellen M. Hope for life and remainder to Mary D. Tenant. Remainder conveyed to Daniel Hope by Charles E. Shannahan, trustee 1881, 94/91. Devised by will xxxx, 15/192 to Joseph (misnamed James) D. Hope and Mary Hope. On the death of Mary, the property descended to Joseph D. Hope.

At this point the lot (and house) was divided; (the other half being T-566)

YEAR: 1881 VOL: 94 PAGE: 91

FROM: Charles E. Shannahan, trustee PRICE: \$475

TO: Daniel Hope

NOTES By decree of Circuit Court passed 23 May 1878, Sophia B. Tenant, guardian of Mary D. Tenant, complainant vs Mary D. Tenant, defendant land was to be sold at auction. Known as the "Margaret Denny" or "Hope" lot it went for \$475. Description given as fronting on Talbot Street 89 1/4 feet (less 18 feet front by 37 feet back sold by the late Margaret Denny), extending back 220 feet. Devised to Mary D. Tenant by will of Margaret Denny, xxxx, xx/287.

The second floor of a building on this site was the point of origin of the disastrous fire which destroyed this and five others to the South on 28 March 1870. Although the newspapers for 1870-1871 contained accounts of the rebuilding of the "burnt district" as it was called, there is no specific mention of this one.

YEAR: 1856 VOL: 67 PAGE: 215

FROM: Samuel A. Harrison and Martha PRICE: \$262.60

TO: Margaret Denny

NOTES Begins at James Benson's lot (lot no. 1 of the "Canton Row" or "Canton Field") 59'6" from the corner of Canton Row on Talbot Street (Benson's lot is regarded here as being the "corner" of Canton Row and the first lots from Canton Lane - including the brick warehouse lot - are not included); 89'3" on Talbot Street by 224' deep. Sale is in fee simple. Same lot leased to Hugh Wrightson 1843, 58/58.

YEAR: 1843 VOL: 58 PAGE: 58

FROM: Samuel A. Harrison PRICE: lease

TO: Hugh Wrightson

NOTES Described as lot number 2 adjoining the storehouse of James Benson.
Is 88.5 feet on Talbot Street.

This is the first deed for this property as a subdivision of "Canton Farm" "Canton Farm" was the name given by Samuel Harrison to "Crooked Intention" and other tracts acquired by Harrison in 1802 at the division of Thomas Harrison's real estate (he died in 1801). According to the plat and survey, the land of which this lot is a part begins at the extreme southwestern corner of "Joseph's Lot" a patent based on a resurvey of "Stopper" made for Joseph Harrison in 1741. "Stopper" was surveyed for Christopher Stanper in 1668, and according to Joseph Harrison became escheated land. If the name can be taken literally, "Canton Field" was just that in 1843. The 100 feet just South of Lot number 1. was the site of a brick ware house built by Samuel Harrison (burned in 1870) before 1824 and a small lot leased to Jeremiah Harrison in 1836.



T-605
Calico Gallery
St. Michaels Quadrangle, 1942

BM 12

BM

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

BM 7

BM 7

BM 8

33

Lo
Po

T-605



T-605

212 Talbot St.

SITE T-566

210 Talbot St

1986

1987

T-605

T-566



1985



T-605

CALICO GALLERY

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

East elevation

11/87, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust