

T-613  
Nicholas Orem House  
St. Michaels  
private

c. 1875

Research for this corner property indicates that Nicholas Orem purchased this lot in 1841 from Elizabeth Jones for \$100. Architectural features evident in the structure suggest the house was probably erected during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, however there may be an older structure hidden under later finishes. At Nicholas Orem's death the property passed to his wife, Sarah, and eventually sold in 1890 to Julia T. Seth. During the twentieth century the house was owned primarily by Chester A. Lee and his wife Ada who acquired title to the property in 1910 and held it until 1968.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic NICHOLAS OREM HOUSE

and/or common CHESTER LEE HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number 408 Talbot Street  not for publication

city, town St. Michaels  vicinity of First congressional district

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Brenda L. Holmes

street & number 9912 Old Spring Road telephone no.:

city, town Kensington state and zip code MD 20795

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 508

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 724

city, town Easton state MD zip code 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. T-613

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Nicholas Orem house stands at 408 Talbot Street in the southern business district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house, now converted into shop space, faces east with the gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1875, the side hall/parlor house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and sheathed with novelty siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story wing.

The east (main) facade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. The partially glazed front door is framed by three-light sidelights and a four-light transom. The windows are flanked with wooden louvered shutters. Piercing the second floor is a similar arrangement with a side, partially glazed door in the south bay and flanking single-pane sash windows. Sheltering the entire front of the house is a two-story porch that is distinguished by Tuscan columns on the first floor and turned posts on the second. Stretching between each of the posts on both floors is a square baluster handrail. The first floor section of the porch continues around to the south side of the house.

The south gable end of the house is marked by a single pane sash window that lights each floor, while a four-over-four sash window illuminates the attic. The gable end is flush. The north gable end is finished in a similar manner.

Attached to the back of the main block is a shorter two-story, two-bay, gabled-roofed service wing that was designed with half a gable extending beyond the south wall surface of the main block. The side porch of the main house joins the east face of the wing where a partially glazed side door allows access to the rear section. The service wing is lighted by a combination of single-pane and six-over-six sash windows. As with the main house the gable ends are flush. Filling the northwest corner of the rear wall is a shed roofed addition.

The interior of the house has been remodeled to some degree in preparation for use as commercial space. The side hall is a unobstructed space since the stair rises enclosed between the front room and the back wall of the main block. Glazed French doors open from the hall into the front room which retains a Victorian style mantel. Some four-panel doors with ogee inset paneling molding survive along with period baseboards.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-613

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 Nicholas Orem house stands in a row of mid to late nineteenth-century frame dwellings between Thompson's Alley and Grace Street. The Orem house, defining the corner of Talbot Street and Thompson's Alley, retains its basic nineteenth-century appearance with a distinctive two-story porch. The side hall/parlor plan house with off-set service wing is not unusual for the late nineteenth century, but the structure contributes to period character of the street as well as defining this former residential, now turned commercial, corner.

Research for this property indicates that Nicholas Orem purchased this lot in 1841 from Elizabeth Jones for \$100. (55/539) The property passed to Nicholas Orem's wife, Sarah, after his death, and the house remained in the Orem family until 1890.



NICHOLS OREM HOUSE  
~~Mrs. Dechaene House~~

408 TALBOT STREET

T-613

YEAR: 1977 VOL: 508 PAGE: 724

FROM: Andre' J.. Dechaene and Macon L. Dechaene PRICE:

TO: Brenda L. Holmes

NOTES Begins at NW corner of Talbot Street and Thompson's Alley; run with Alley S 65.5 W 121.5' to Lot 41; then N 27.5 W 55' to Mrs. C.. R. Smith; with Smith N 65.5 E 121.5' to Talbot Street; with Talbot Street S 55' to beginning. Conveyed to Dechaene by Ada W. Lee 1968, 431/26 (parcel 2.)

YEAR: 1968 VOL: 431 PAGE: 26

FROM: Ada W. Lee, widow PRICE: \$13,500

TO: Andre' J. Dechaene and Macon L.

NOTES Price was for two parcels. Parcel 2.: Same description as above. Conveyed to Ada Lee by Chester A. Lee 1915, 171/153.

YEAR: 1915 VOL: 171 PAGE: 153

FROM: Chester A. Lee PRICE:

TO: Ada W. Lee

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Chester A. Lee by Jesse R. Jones and John M. Jones 1910, 158/41.

YEAR: 1910 VOL: 158 PAGE: 41

FROM: Jesse R. Jones and John H. Jones PRICE:

TO: Chester A. Lee

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Jesse R. Jones by Blanche W. and Edwin N. Ely 1908, 152/25.

YEAR: 1908 VOL: 152 PAGE: 25

FROM: Blanche W. Ely and Edwin N. Ely PRICE: \$1050

TO: Jesse R. Jones

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Blanche W. Ely and Edwin N. Ely by Margaret A. and George C. Benson 1901, 135/21.

YEAR: 1901 VOL: 135 PAGE: 21

FROM: Margaret A. Benson and husband PRICE: \$950

TO: Blanche W. and Edwin N. Ely

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Margaret A. Benson by Joseph B. Seth and Mary W. Seth 1899, 131/497.

YEAR: 1899 VOL: 131 PAGE: 497

FROM: Joseph B. Seth and Mary W. Seth PRICE: \$1050

TO: Margaret A. Benson

NOTES Runs from the NW corner of Thompson's Alley and Talbot Street, W with the Alley to the SE corner of Mary E. and John S. Madagan, then to the SW corner of Mrs. C. R. Smith and Helen Goodsell; E to Talbot Street; S with Talbot Street to the beginning. "One town lot".

Conveyed to Joseph B. Seth by George W. Wilson, trustee 1899, 131/417.

YEAR: 1899 VOL: 131 PAGE: 417

FROM: George W. Wilson, Special Trustee PRICE: \$1000

TO: Joseph B. Seth

NOTES By Public Sale on default of mortgage of James and Julia Seth 1893, 121/1

YEAR: 1893 VOL: 121 PAGE: 1

FROM: James Seth and Julia T. Seth PRICE: \$800

TO: Joseph B. Seth

NOTES Mortgage. Runs from the corner of Thompson Alley and Talbot Street to SE corner of heirs of W. W. Bruff, dcd. N with Bruff to Mrs. C. R. Smith and Helen Goodsell, etc.

Conveyed to James Seth by William R. Martin, trustee 1893, 119/458.

YEAR: 1893 VOL: 119 PAGE: 488

FROM: William R. Martin, trustee PRICE: \$1400

TO: James Seth

NOTES By decree of the Circuit Court, Julia Seth (by James Seth) vs James Seth Virginia Orem, Florence Orem and Annie Orem. Sold August, 1891, for \$1400.

There were three parcels: this one, one on Thompson's Alley, and the corner of Carpenter's Alley and Talbot Street ( including a 3-story brick building erected by H. C. Dodson, leasee).

Lots were conveyed to Julia T. Seth by Franklin S. Orem 1890, 114/83, "of which Nicholas Orem died seized".

YEAR: 1890 VOL: 114 PAGE: 83

FROM: Franklin S. Orem and Kate PRICE: \$500

TO: Julia T. Seth

NOTES Three pieces of land including this one. Property was owned by Nicholas Orem and left by will to his wife.

YEAR: 1841 VOL: 55 PAGE: 539

FROM: Elizabeth Jones PRICE: \$100

TO: Nicholas Orem

NOTES "Janes Progress". Purchased by Elizabeth Jones of Joseph Graham, Sheriff at the sale of the property of Wrightson Jones on 11-12-34. Lot #42 on corner of Talbot Street and Thompson's Alley.  
Graham's deed to Jones is 1835.

YEAR: 1835 VOL: PAGE:

FROM: Joseph Graham, Sheriff PRICE:

TO: Elizabeth Jones

NOTES Wrightson Jones had been a very active business-man in St. Michaels as a ship-builder and real estate speculator. When he died there was a judgement brought against him and three partners for p10,000 which necessitated selling his shipyard, the brick hotel, and other property. His wife was high bidder for the brick house (Hotel) and two unimproved lots of which this is one. No other transaction was found.

YEAR: 1819 VOL: 42 PAGE: 113

FROM: Mary, Thomas, Mary(2nd)Harrington PRICE: \$60 cm

TO: Wrightson Jones

NOTES Lot number 42, Thompson's Alley. Runs from the corner of Talbot Street up the Alley 120 feet to lot #41; 60 feet to lot #43; 120 feet to Talbot Street; then to the beginning.

The lot was sold as number 11 (and 12) -the original numbers- to John Harrington by John Thompson 1791, 24/367.

YEAR: 1791 VOL: 24 PAGE: 367

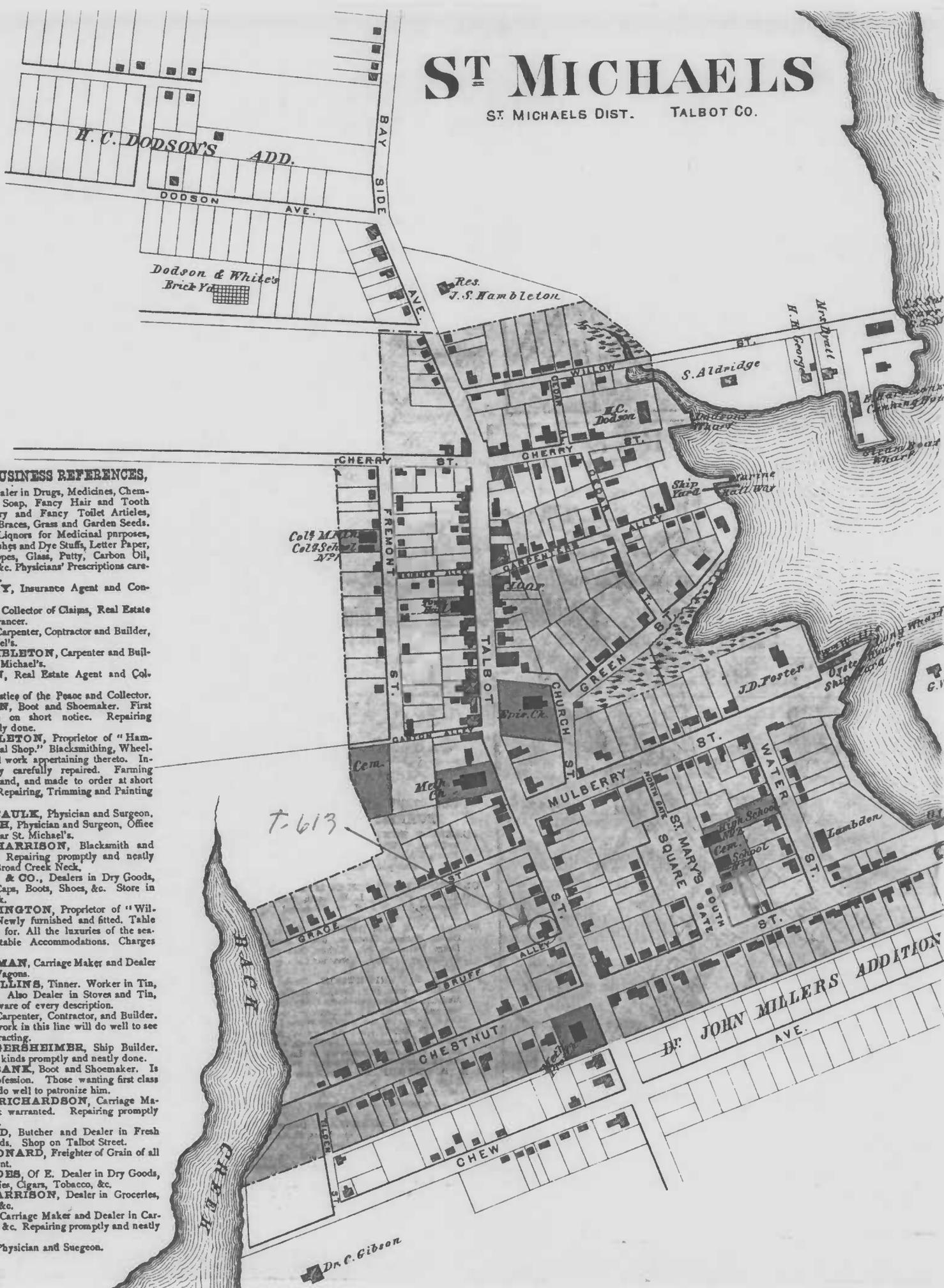
FROM: John Thompson PRICE:

TO: John Harrington

NOTES Lots 11 and 12. (renumbered in the survey of 1804 as numbers 42 and 43). The land was part of the property inherited by Thompson under the will of James Braddock in 1782. It was sold by Thompson to James Wignal in 1784 (21/417) who immediately sold it back to him (21/415). The property became known as "Thompson's Addition to St. Michaels". It lay on the line between "Chance" and "Janes Progress" -- take your pick!

# ST MICHAELS

ST MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



H. C. DODSON'S ADD.

Dodson & Whites  
Brick Yard

Res.  
J. S. Hambleton

H.C. Dodson

S. Aldridge

Col's M...  
Col's School

Ship Yard

Marine Hall Way

J.D. Foster

Lambden

T-613

BACK CREEK

DR. JOHN MILLERS ADDITION  
AVE.

Dr. C. Gibson

## MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

**DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Trusses, 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, Maps, 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.

**RED H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

**ES B...**, 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.

**Y S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheel-righting, and all work appertaining thereto. Instructive 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 BETH**, 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.

**D. 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 HERGERSHEIMBER**, 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.

**P. T. C. R. LEONARD**, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.

**THOMAS BLADES**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

**THOMAS 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.



T-613  
Nicholas Orem House  
St. Michaels Quadrangle, 1942

Broad  
Creek

Hunting  
Creek

Fairview Pt

BALTIMORE

BM 12

T-613  
Nicholas Orem House  
St. Michaels Quadrangle, 1942

BM

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

AND

BM 7

EASTERN

R  
I  
V  
E  
R

HUNTING

San Domingo

Spencer  
Creek

Little Neck Cr

B  
R  
O  
A  
D

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

BM 8

33

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Po

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EET

291

295

294

293

292

291



T-613 *NICHOLAS OREM HOUSE*  
Tobacco Pipe Shop (408 Talbot St.)  
St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD  
East elevation  
12/87 Paul Touart photographer  
Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-613 *NICHOLAS OREM HOUSE*  
Tobacco Pipe Shop (408 Talbot St)  
St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD  
Southeast elevation  
12/87 Paul Touart photographer  
Negative/MD Historical Trust