

T-619

John W. Miles House  
St. Michaels  
private

c. 1920

The John W. Miles house, currently used as the Swan Cove Flower Shop, stands at 207 North Talbot Street in the northern commercial district of St. Michaels. It is not certain who was responsible for the construction of the house for a number of owners held title to this lot during the first quarter of the twentieth century. It is difficult to determine from the transfer prices between sales who may erected the house. John W. Miles purchased the property in 1920 from John H. Blake, and it is unclear whether the house was standing at the time or not. John M. Miles held title to the property until possession was officially transferred to Edith L. Miles in 1960.

The story-and-a-half dwelling survives as one of the few early twentieth-century structures on North Talbot Street. The frame dwelling follows a modest early twentieth-century design with hip roofed dormers piercing the pyramidal roof on three sides. Stretching across the full front of the house is a Tuscan columned porch.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN W. MILES HOUSE

and/or common SWAN COVE FLOWER SHOP

## 2. Location

street & number 207 North Talbot Street  not for publication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	
<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 H. Townsend Wright

street & number telephone no.:

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

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 364

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 390

city, town Easton state MD 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-619

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 John W. Miles house, currently used as the Swan Cove Flower Shop, stands on the east side of North Talbot Street in the northern commercial district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame house faces west.

Built around 1920, the story-and-a-half frame house is supported by a concrete block foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of plain weatherboard siding. The pyramidal roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Recently additional rooms have been attached to the back of the building for extra commercial spaces.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical, three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking multi-pane display windows. The front wall surface is largely new since the entire house was recently reworked to accommodate shop space. The Tuscan columned porch stretches across the entire front of the building. Marking the west roof slope is a hip roof dormer pierced by a pair of three-over-one sash windows. Rising through the center of the roof is a narrow brick stove stack.

The north and south sides are similar with additional multi-pane display windows. Hip roof dormers mark the north and south roof slopes, and each dormer is lighted by a single three-over-one sash window.

The east side of the original house is covered with a modern addition that maintained the principal roof lines established by the front block.

The interior has been gutted of any original features on the first floor aside from a few five-panel doors and the centrally located enclosed stair.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-619

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The John W. Miles house survives as one of the few early twentieth-century structures standing along North Talbot Street. The story-and-a-half structure follows a modest early twentieth-century design with hip roofed dormers piercing the pyramidal roof on three sides. Stretching across the full front of the house is a Tuscan columned porch. Recently, the building has been reworked to accommodate retail spaces. Although the interior was stripped of most period features, the exterior maintains many of its early twentieth-century design features. The frame house provides an interesting contrast in the immediate vicinity that is dominated by two-story houses or stores.

**HISTORY AND SUPPORT**

It is not certain who was responsible for the construction of this house for a number of owners held title to this lot during the first quarter of the twentieth century. It is difficult to determine from the transfer prices between sales who may have erected the house. John W. Miles purchased the property in 1920 from John H. Blake and it is unclear whether the house stood at that time or not.(186/236) John W. Miles held title to the property until possession was officially transferred to Edith L. Miles in 1960.(364/390)



SWAN COVE FLOWERS

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YEAR: 1960 VOL: 364 PAGE: 390

FROM: Lee S. Gillis and Florence Marie PRICE:

TO: Edith L. Miles

NOTES Title clearance in transfer of title from heirs of John W. Miles to Edith L. Miles. Begins at the SW corner of John S. Hambleton; runs SE 32'3"; then N 77 30' E 120 feet to John F. Miller, formerly W. D. J. Morris; with Miller N 12 30' to Hambleton; then West 120 feet to the beginning.  
Conveyed to Gillis by Edith L. Miles, Florence M. Kelly and others 1960, 364/387

YEAR: 1960 VOL: 364 PAGE: 387

FROM: Heirs of John W. Miles PRICE:

TO: Lee Gillis

NOTES After advertising four parcels belonging to John W. Miles, dcd. (1960, 364/378) - this is parcel four - the land is conveyed to Lee Gillis to be re-conveyed to Edith L. Miles.  
Conveyed to John W. Miles by John H. Blake 1920, 186/236.

YEAR: 1920 VOL: 186 PAGE: 236

FROM: John H. Blake and wife PRICE:

TO: John W. Miles

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Blake by Horsey 1917, 177/321.

YEAR: 1917 VOL: 177 PAGE: 321

FROM: Custus Horsey PRICE: \$300

TO: John H. Blake

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Horsey by Morris 1909, 154/67.

YEAR: 1909 VOL: 154 PAGE: 67

FROM: Laura A. Morris and W. D. J. Morris PRICE: \$250

TO: Custus Horsey

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Morris by Sterling 1906, 146/250.

YEAR: 1906 VOL: 146 PAGE: 250

FROM: George T. Sterling and Mary L. PRICE: \$135

TO: Laura A. Morris

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Sterling by Keithley 1902, 138/147.

YEAR: 1902 VOL: 138 PAGE: 347  
FROM: Deborah A. Keithley PRICE: \$200  
TO: George T. Sterling  
NOTES Same description.  
Partt of the land conveyed to Deborah Keithley by Charles E. Willey and Mary M. Dyott 110/308.

YEAR: VOL: 110 PAGE: 308  
FROM: Charles E. Willey and Mary M. Dyott PRICE:  
TO: Deborah A. Keithley  
NOTES This deed is missing from the land record book. Charles Willey and Mary Dyott were the heirs of Thomas H. Willey.

YEAR: 1872 VOL: 78 PAGE: 178  
FROM: Jeremiah Harrison PRICE: \$40  
TO: Thomas H. Willey  
NOTES Begin at southernmost corner of John S. Hambleton; run SE 60' to Mary Lowe then N 77 30' E 120 feet; then N 12 30' W 60 feet to John S. Hambleton; then to beginning. Fee simple. Subject to a lease 1842, Jeremiah Harrison to James Mitchell.

YEAR: 1872 VOL: 78 PAGE: 178  
FROM: James Mitchell PRICE: \$250  
TO: Thomas H. Willey  
NOTES Land leased by Mitchell from Jeremiah Harison in 1842, 56/563.

YEAR: 1842 VOL: 56 PAGE: 563  
FROM: Jeremiah Harrison PRICE: lease  
TO: James Mitchell (free negro)  
NOTES Lot is 60 feet on main road by 120 feet deep. Begins at Samuel Hambleton's line.  
This is part of "Joseph's Lot" inherited by Jeremiah from his mother, Mary Harrison.

# ST MICHAELS

ST MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

1877

T-619



## ST MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

- 1. **DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Combs and Fancy Toilet Articles, Sewing Machines, Grass and Garden Seeds, Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- 2. **ADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conceptor.
- 3. **W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
- 4. **DYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, at St. Michael's.
- 5. **D.H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- 6. **BENSON**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.
- 7. **MARKS**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
- 8. **MITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First work done on short notice. Repairing neatly and nestly done.
- 9. **HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheeling, and all work appertaining thereto. Ironing and Machinery carefully repaired. Farming implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting skillfully.
- 10. **WILLIAM CAULK**, Physician and Surgeon.
- 11. **WES BETH**, Physician and Surgeon, Office residence near St. Michael's.
- 12. **WAM S. HARRISON**, Blacksmith and Iron Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.
- 13. **HAVITT & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.
- 14. **HARRINGTON**, Proprietor of "Willow House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table neatly catered for. All the luxuries of the sea. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.
- 15. **J. KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.
- 16. **W. COLLINS**, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin Sheet Iron ware of every description.
- 17. **ADAMS**, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Any work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.
- 18. **BERGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
- 19. **FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is expert in his profession. Those wanting first class work will do well to patronize him.
- 20. **WATSON & RICHARDSON**, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- 21. **WILLIAMS**, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meat of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.
- 22. **R. LEONARD**, Freighter of Grain of all kinds at any point.



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JOHN W. MILES HOUSE  
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle, 1942

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

Fairview Pt

Broad  
Creek

HUNTING  
RIVER

San Domingo

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

Spencer Creek

Little Neck Cr

BROAD  
CREEK

E  
S

295

294

293

292

291

000  
FEET

291

BM 12

BM

BM 7

BM 7

BM 8

33

LC  
PC



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JOHN W. MILES HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southwest elevation

1/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust