

T-683  
Oliver M. Caulk House  
St. Michaels  
private

c. 1870

The Oliver M. Caulk house stands at the end of East Chestnut Street and is the last house in a continuous row of nineteenth-century dwellings that line the south side of the street. The two-story, five-bay center hall house has been vacant for many years and just recently, it has been reworked to modern living standards. The basic nineteenth-century character of the exterior has been maintained. A Tuscan columned front porch was the most significant alteration to the East Chestnut Street elevation. With its five-bay facade the Oliver M. Caulk house contrasts with its closest neighbors and adds interest and diversity to the street.

It is not certain when this house was erected since the property was mired in a complicated ejectment suit in Talbot County circuit court during the 1880s, and earlier transfers to specific lots on the south side of East Chestnut Street are missing. John D. Caulk is thought to have owned this lot during the early 1850s but no deed confirming his purchase of the lot has been found. He died in 1855. After the circuit court settled the controversy, the heirs of John D. Caulk sold the lot to Oliver M. Caulk in 1887 for \$300, a transfer price that would suggest improvements were included on the property. Oliver M. Caulk retained title to the house and lot until his death, and the property was then sold by his trustees to Howard K. Wright, who maintained ownership until 1962.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-683

Magi No. 2106832504

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic OLIVER M. CAULK HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 218 East Chestnut Street  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	<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

street &amp; 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 506

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio 164

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-683

<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 Oliver M. Caulk house is located at 218 East Chestnut Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay frame house faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1875, this two-story, center hall frame house is supported by a new brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of German siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the south is a recent two-story addition.

The north (main) facade is a symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The heavily molded four-panel front door is framed by three-light sidelights and a three-light transom. Sheltering the entire front of the house is a single-story Tuscan columned porch of recent construction. Lighting the second floor are five two-over-two sash windows. The cornice is boxed.

The east gable end is dominated by an modern exterior brick chimney with two-over-two sash windows to each side. Small four-pane windows light the attic. The eaves are extended slightly with short returns at the base of the roof.

The west wall is a plain weatherboard surface.

The south (rear) facade is largely covered by the modern two-story addition.

Inside the house has been extensively remodeled, but the center hall does retain a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail. New scroll decoration has been added to the stringer. French doors have been introduced to open into the east room. Much of the remaining woodwork is new.

The second floor was not seen.

# 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: <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 type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The Oliver M. Caulk house stands at the end of East Chestnut Street and is the last house in a continuous row of nineteenth-century dwellings that line the south side of the street. The two-story, five-bay center hall house has been vacant for many years and just recently it has been reworked to modern living standards. The basic nineteenth century character of the exterior has been maintained. A Tuscan columned front porch was the most significant addition to the East Chestnut Street elevation. With its five-bay elevation the Oliver M. Caulk house contrasts with its closest neighbors and adds interest and diversity to the street.

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OLIVER M. CAULK

JOHN D. CAULK HOUSE - 218 CHESTNUT STREET

T-683

YEAR: 1976 VOL: 506 PAGE: 164

FROM: Estate of Carleton F. Jewell PRICE:

TO: Millicent Jenness and Theodore C. Jewell

NOTES Begins at a stake at edge of water of St. Michaels Harbor; run with Chestnut Street 175 feet to James A. Dyott (now Martin M. Hubbard); then S with Dyott 128 feet to Dr. John Miller; E with Miller 174 feet to stone by water; with water to the beginning.

To Carleton F. Jewell by Bertha W. and Marion Ollie Caulk 1962, 377/177

YEAR: 1962 VOL: 377 PAGE: 177

FROM: Bertha W. Caulk and Marion Ollie Caulk PRICE:

TO: Carleton F. Jewell

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Bertha W. Caulk and Marion Ollie Caulk by Howard K. Wright 1962, 376/99

YEAR: 1962 VOL: 376 PAGE: 99

FROM: Howard K. Wright PRICE: L & A

TO: Bertha W. Caulk and Marion Ollie Caulk

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Howard K. Wright by Nehemiah E. Clark and W. D. J. Morris, trustees 1922, 191/492.

YEAR: 1922 VOL: 191 PAGE: 492

FROM: Nehemiah E. Clark and W. D. J. Morris, Trustees PRICE: \$1355

TO: Howard K. Wright

NOTES By a Circuit Court decree of 1921, the trustees were appointed to sell the real estate of Oliver M. Caulk, dcd. Howard K. Wright was high bidder. Same description.

Conveyed to the late Oliver M. Caulk by the heirs of John D. Caulk 1887, 106/153.

YEAR: 1887 VOL: 106 PAGE: 153

FROM: John T. Caulk and others\* PRICE: \$300

TO: Oliver M. Caulk

NOTES \* The "others" were 12 heirs of John D. Caulk. John D. Caulk died in 1855.

Same description.

No deed to John D. Caulk for this property was found. He is mentioned as the adjacent lot owner in 1854, 65/431. Caulk probably bought this lot from Harrington & Benson in 1848 or later.

In 1848, (61/451) Nathan Harrington and James Benson bought 50 acres from the heirs of John Dorgan, Jr., then living in Baltimore. The first course of the deed runs along the BACK of the lots facing Chestnut Street -- and no other deed for these lots from Dorgan to Harrington and Benson has been found. Thus, when they began selling them between 1848 and 1853, they were selling property they did not own.

In 1882, John Dorgan's heirs filed an "ejectment suit" against the then current owners and heirs to the lots sold by Harrington and Benson. Oliver Caulk and other Caulk heirs are listed in this suit.

The "ejectment suit" was probably never tried. No record of it has been found and there is no break in the titles of the lots in question.

The following deeds apply to the property before 1848:

1829, 48/296 John Dorgan Sr. to John Dorgan, Jr.

1813, 36/288 Elizabeth Sherwood to John Dorgan

1812, 36/291 Chancery Court decision to John Dorgan (from Elizabeth Sherwood)

1785, 23/115 William Harrison to Thomas Sherwood

1786, 23/116 James Wignal to William Harrison

1784, 21/413 John Thompson to James Wignal

1782, James Braddock to John Thomson (Will)

1778, 21/66 Thomas Kemp and Robert Richardson to James Braddock (estate of Philip Wetheral.

The lot is part of "The Beach" patented to John Hollingsworth in 1665.

EASTON LEDGER MAY 18, 1882

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Ejectment Suits.

Twenty-four ejectment suits were placed on the docket of the Circuit Court on Saturday, by Charles H. Gibson, Esq., attorney for the heirs of John Dorgan, Sr.

The property in dispute is situated on the south side of East Chestnut street, St. Michaels, and the tenants in possession are Denny Williams, Charlotte L. Jump, Charles W. Willey, John H. Wales, James Dyott, James A. Dyott, Oliver Caulk, Charles Caulk and George Caulk. The property consists of six lots and improvements, and is worth probably \$5,000. The present occupants claim them by right of paper titles, and adverse possession. The cases present some interesting features, and nice points of law. They will be tried in November. Fayette Gibson, Esq., appears for the defendands in twenty-one of the cases, and Ex-Gov. Thomas in three.

John Dorgan died intestate about 1830 seized and possessed, it is alleged, of the property, which has never been conveyed away by his heirs. He left four children,—a son and three daughters. The son died and left three heirs, Theo. Dorgan, who is now in the stove business in Baltimore, and two others who also live in Baltimore. One of the daughters married Mark Sewell, and left heirs. Another married the father of O. P. Sparks, Esq., and another married Jno. D. Caulk, and left a number of heirs. If the ejectment suits are sustained, the property will go to these heirs.

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Mr. Rob.

# ST MICHAELS

ST MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



## ST MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

- DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Sashes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Cakes, Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Envelopes, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Candles, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- HADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
- J. W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.
- J. S. DYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- W. H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- J. B. BROWN**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Taxes.
- J. SPALDING**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
- J. SMITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- J. S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Indicate 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 SETTE**, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.
- LIAM B. HARRISON**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.
- J. NEAVITT & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.
- J. N. 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.
- WILLIAM J. KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.
- GEORGE W. COLLINS**, Tinsmith. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.
- J. BLADES**, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.
- W. H. HERRGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
- W. FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.
- J. RICHARDSON & 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.
- T. C. R. LEONARD**, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.
- J. MAS BLADES**, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
- J. EMI**, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.
- J. KILMON**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- J. DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.

T-683



T-683  
OLIVER M. CAULK HOUSE  
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle  
1942



T-683

OLIVER M. CAULK HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Northeast elevation

6/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust