

T-691
Oliver Sparks House
St. Michaels
Private

c. 1880

St. Michaels tradition relates that the house in which Oliver Sparks initially resided on this Mulberry Street lot was burned during the Civil War. As a supporter of the southern cause, Oliver P. Sparks came under attack by Northern sympathizers who supposedly burned his house as a result. In the research on the adjacent property this lot is referred to as "the burnt house lot." In 1882, the Mulberry Street house and lot were transferred to Edwin P. Sparks. The property remained in Sparks family hands until 1931.

The Oliver Sparks house is a distinctive two-story frame dwelling that marks the north side of Mulberry Street across from the Cannonball House. The asymmetrically designed frame structure, now used as two-family dwelling, is enhanced by a characteristic two-story turned post porch that retains its sawn board balustrade. The ell-shaped main house, with its relatively intact exterior, contributes to the late nineteenth century architectural character of the street.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic OLIVER SPARKS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 107-109 Mulberry Street not for publication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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input 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 & 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 392

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 4

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-691

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 Oliver Sparks house stands at 107-109 Mulberry Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay frame dwelling, currently used as a two-family house, faces south with the main gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Initially built around 1880, the two-story, five-bay duplex features an asymmetrical facade with separate entrances. Supported by a low brick foundation, the house is sheathed with German siding, and it is covered by a medium sloped asphalt shingle roof.

The south (main) elevation is comprised of five uneven bays with an entrance in the first and fourth bays from the west corner. The other openings are filled with six-over-six sash windows. Covering the eastern three bays of the duplex is a two-story hip and gable roofed porch supported by turned posts and decorated with sawn corner brackets. Stretching between the second floor posts are original sawn board balusters. A small gable roofed porch shelters the western entrance. The second floor is lighted by two-over-two sash windows, and a partially glazed door opens onto the second floor porch. Another distinguishing feature is the fishscale sheathing of the pedimented front of the gable roof. Rising from the main block are three narrow brick stove chimneys.

The east and west sides are marked by a combination of six-over-six and two-over-two sash windows.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-691

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 Oliver Sparks house is a distinctive two-story frame dwelling that marks the north side of Mulberry Street in the center of St. Michaels. The asymmetrically designed frame structure is enhanced by a characteristic two-story turned post porch that retains its sawn board balustrade. The ell-shaped main house, with its relatively intact exterior, contributes to the late nineteenth architectural character of the street. It is the only house in this row that retains a two-story porch.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Tradition has related that the house in which Oliver Sparks initially resided on this Mulberry Street lot was burned during the Civil War. As a supporter of the southern cause, Oliver P. Sparks came under attack by Northern sympathizers who supposedly burned his house as a result. In the research on the adjacent property this lot is referred to as "the burned house lot." In 1882 the Mulberry Street house and lot were transferred to Edwin P. Sparks, (95/191) The property remained in Sparks family hands until 1931. (226/38)

OLIVER SPARKS HOUSE

T-691

YEAR: 1964 VOL: 392 PAGE: 4 PRICE: \$2,500
FROM: Ethel D. Marshall
TO: Thomas Walter Harper and Irma L. Harper
NOTES: Two parcels, making one lot. Begin on the N side Mulberry Street at Benjamin H Blades; run N 150' to a cove or marsh; W 30'; S 150' to Mulberry Street; 30' to the beginning. Parcel 2 begins on N side Mulberry Street at SW corner of Edwin P. Sparks (Parcel 1, above) run with Sparks line N to the cove or marsh; then to a lot formerly Thomas E. Burns; S with Burns to Mulberry Street; with Mulberry Street to the beginning.
Conveyed to J. Norman Marshall and Ethel D. Marshall by Wm. Reddie 1953, 308/358
Also conveyed to Ethel D. Marshall by Lillian Sparks Thompson and Wm. Dean Thompson 1960, 366/379.

YEAR: 1960 VOL: 366 PAGE: 379 PRICE:
FROM: Lillian Sparks Thompson and W. Dean Thompson, Oakland Cty, Mich.
TO: Ethel D. Marshall
NOTES: Deed relates that Edwin P. Sparks and Kate H. Sparks acquired two adjoining lots from Phyllis S. Harrison (1923, 196/173). In 1931 (226/38), Edwin P. Sparks and wife conveyed the easternmost lot to J. Norman Marshall (30'x150'). On Ed Sparks death the remaining lot went to his wife Kate, and on her death to her only child Lillian Sparks Thompson. By this deed, Lillian Sparks Thompson conveys second lot to Ethel D. Marshall, wife of J. Norman Marshall, dcd. This is referred-to as "parcel 2".

YEAR: 1953 VOL: 308 PAGE: 358 PRICE:
FROM: William Reddie
TO: J. Norman Marshall and Ethel D. Marshall
NOTES: Part of a title clearance. Concerns three parcels, of which parcel 2 is PARCEL 1 of this chain.
1953, 308/351 J. Norman Marshall to William Reddie. Of four parcels, parcel 3 is the lot of concern here and referred-to as PARCEL 1.
Conveyed to J. Norman Marshall by Edwin P. Sparks and wife 1931, 226/38.

YEAR: 1931 VOL: 226 PAGE: 38 PRICE:
FROM: Edwin P. Sparks and wife
TO: J. Norman Marshall
NOTES: This is lot referred-to as parcel 1. It is 30'x150'.
There is no mention of the adjacent lot (parcel 2), although this may have been intended at the time !
Conveyed to Edwin P. Sparks and Kate H. Sparks by Phyllis S. Harrison 1923, 196/173. Also conveyed to Edwin P. Sparks by his parents, Oliver P. Sparks Mary G. Sparks 1882, 95/191.
1931, 226/39 is a mortgage to Citizens' Bank for \$2,500.

YEAR: 1923 VOL: 196 PAGE: 173 PRICE:

FROM: Phyllis S. Harrison

TO: Edwin P. Sparke and Kate H. Sparks

NOTES: Title clearance.

Consists of the two lots and 16 additional lots on Chesapeake Avenue.

1923, 196/170 Edwin P. Sparks to Phyllis S. Harrison. Title Clearance.

The two lots: Parcel 1 on East Conveyed to Edwin P. Sparks and Kate H. Sparks by Oliver P. Sparks and Mary G. Sparks 1882, 95/191.

Parcel 2 conveyed to Edwin P. Sparks by Samuel A. Harper, trustee 1891, 116/95

YEAR: 1891 VOL: 116 PAGE: 95 PRICE:

FROM: Samuel A. Harper, trustee

TO: Edwin P. Sparks

NOTES: Made by authority of Orphan's Court decree 16 Sept. 1890 in the case Harper and Sparks, administrators vs Sparks and others.

A lot 30' by 150 (to cove) between Edwin P. Sparks and Thomas E. Burns.

YEAR: 1882 VOL: 95 PAGE: 191 PRICE: \$200

FROM: Oliver P. Sparks and Mary G. Sparks

TO: Edwin P. Sparks

NOTES: Same description as the easternmost parcel through 1964. This marks the division of the original 60-foot lot.

"Part of the lot" conveyed to Oliver P. Sparks by James T. Dodson, Sarah H. Fairbank, Aquilla V. Sparks and Walter P. Sparks 1850, 62/456, 67/320 and 68/407,

The original 60' lot is shown as vacant on the 1877 Atlas map of St. Michaels. The lot is referred to as "the burnt house lot" on deeds for the adjacent lot around that date. According to tradition, O. P. Sparks was pro-South in the Civil War and his house was burned by Northern sympathizers in retaliation.

YEAR: 1859 VOL: 687 PAGE: 407 PRICE: \$104.16

FROM: Walter P. Sparks and Aquilla V. Sparks (Missouri)

TO: Oliver P. Sparks

NOTES: Begins SE corner of Robert F. Benson's lot; run 60' with Mulberry Street to SW corner of Benjamin Blades; with Blades 120' more or less to Church Cove; with cove 60' to NE corner of Robert F. Benson; with Benson to beginning.

Lot number 8 on the town plat.

YEAR: 1850 VOL: 62 PAGE: 456 PRICE: \$208.33
FROM: Sarah H. Fairbank, James Dodson and Matsey A. Dodson (Suffolk County, NY)
TO: O. P. Sparks
NOTES: Same description as 1859, 68/407.

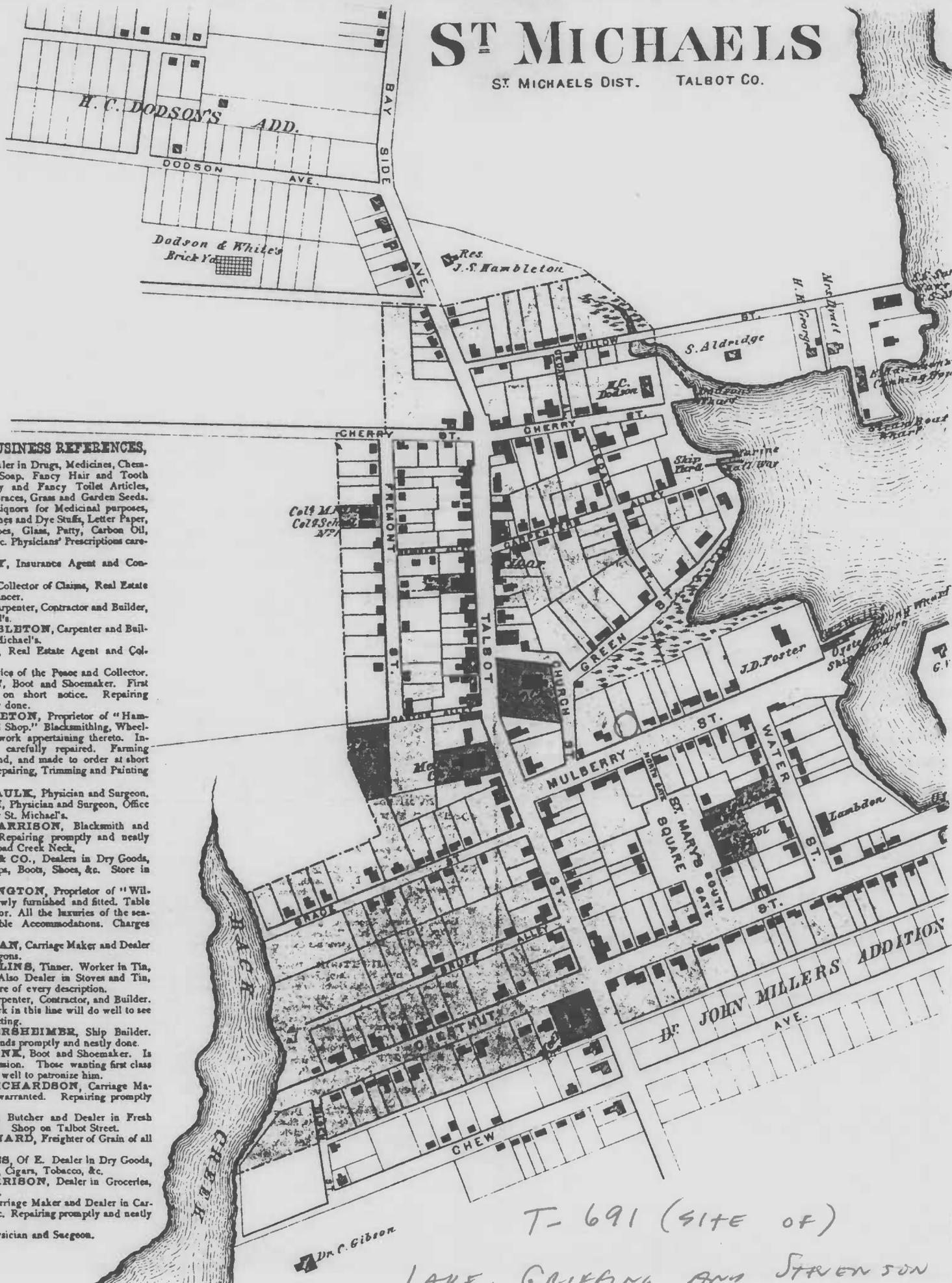
YEAR: 1798 VOL: 29 PAGE: 133 PRICE:
FROM: John Hambleton
TO: James Dodson
NOTES: Mortgage on lot number 8 for p800.

On the 1798 through 1826 Tax Lists lot #8 belongs to James Dodson and is credited with a frame dwelling house, kitchen, shop, and meat house.

YEAR: 1778 VOL: 21 PAGE: 146 PRICE: p40 cm
FROM: James Braddock
TO: John Hambleton
NOTES: Lot number 8.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



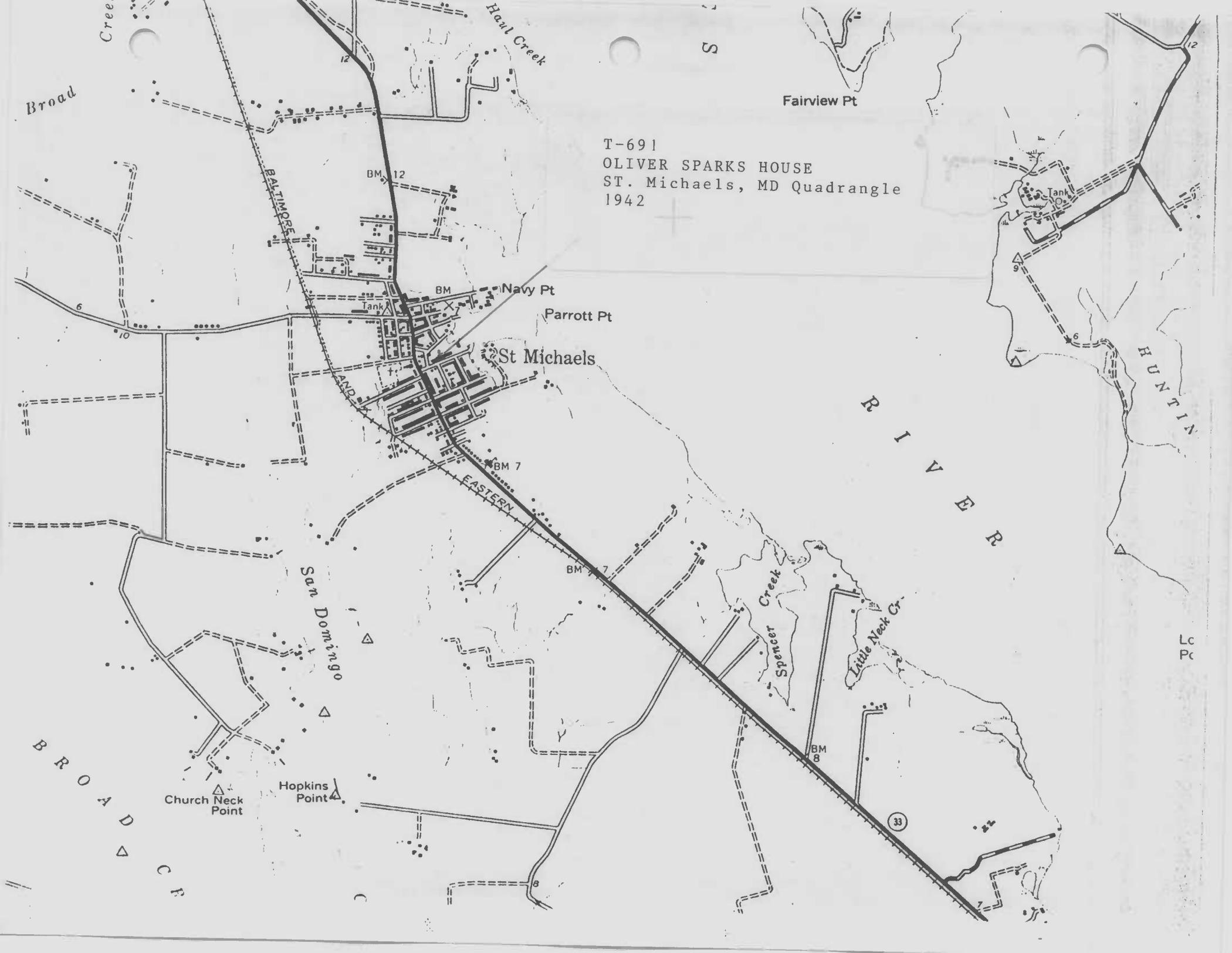
ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

- DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Spectacles, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Medicines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Envelopes, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Stoves, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.
- HADDAWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.
- W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate and Conveyancer.
- B. DYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- ED H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.
- B. F. DODSON**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Claims.
- SPARRS**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
- SMITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.
- S. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hampton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Industrial 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.
- J. 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**, Tinsmith. 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 BERGERSHEIMER**, 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**, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.
- THOMAS BLADES**, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
- EMIL 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.

Dr. Gibson

T-691 (SITE OF)

1877 LAKE, GRICKING, AND STANWENSON ATLAS



T-691
OLIVER SPARKS HOUSE
ST. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942

Broad

Cree

Haul Creek

Fairview Pt

BALTIMORE

BM 12

BM

Navy Pt

Parrott Pt

St Michaels

EASTERN

BM 7

BM 7

San Domingo

Spencer Creek

Little Neck Cr.

HUNTING

RIVER

Church Neck Point

Hopkins Point

BROAD

R

Lc
Pc

33

8

12

Tank

9

6

7



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OLIVER SPARKS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Southeast elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust