

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ben Harrison House

## 2. Location

street & number Route 33 and Wharf Road  not for publicationcity, town Tilghman  vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state MD 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 Hazel Geraldine Harrison

street &amp; number Route 33 and Wharf Road telephone no.: 886-2174

city, town Tilghman state and zip code MD 21671

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 335

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio 310

city, town Easton state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No. T-838

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ben Harrison house is located on the southeast corner of Wharf Road and Route 33 in the village of Tilghman on Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Maryland. This house, which is one of the Island's six remaining "W" facade houses, is really an ell with a central, two-story, projecting bay. The house faces northwest with the north gable end of the ell facing Wharf Road, and the west gable end facing Route 33.

The two-and-a-half story, frame house is sheathed in asbestos shingles, and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The house is supported by a low, brick pier foundation.

The northwest (main) facade of the house has a central, three-sided, projecting bay crowned by a cross gable with a pointed-arch window inset. The four panel entrance door is at the center of this bay. The door has sidelights, a two light transom, and a one-over-one sash window on either side. The central bay is flanked by a pair of two-over-two sash windows. The first floor of this facade is enclosed by a screen porch with turned posts and a green awning. The second floor of the porch is enclosed by a miniature wrought iron railing. The arrangement of the second floor is identical to that of the first except that the central door of the projecting bay has been replaced by a smaller glass door.

The north elevation has cornice returns and a pair of two-over-two sash windows on both the first and second floors. A brick chimney rises above the north gable end.

The west elevation has five bays and a sharply peaked cross gable with a pointed-arch window inset over the central bay. There are five two-over-two sash windows on the second floor. The first floor is almost completely covered by an enclosed, flat-roofed, 1966 addition with sliding doors and modern windows.

The south elevation has four bays of two-over-two sash windows on the first and second floors. Above the eastern two bays of this elevation is a gable end roof with cornice returns, and an interior brick chimney stack.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-838

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.

Benjamin T. Harrison built this house in the late 1800s. He was a local magistrate, and one resident of the Island remembered when court was held at this house in the evenings in the 1920s. Roy Harrison bought this house from his father in 1952.

The Ben Harrison house is one of six remaining "W" houses on Tilghman Island. A second house of this type sat directly across Wharf road from the Ben Harrison house until a fire in the mid-1980s destroyed it. The Harrison house is a distinctive local house type, yet it differs slightly from the five other houses of this "W" configuration on the Island. Both the Harrison house and "the Gables", also on Wharf Road, have a triangular central cross gable rather than one which breaks back towards the eaves of the projecting wings. These two houses seem heavier and somehow larger than the others of this type.

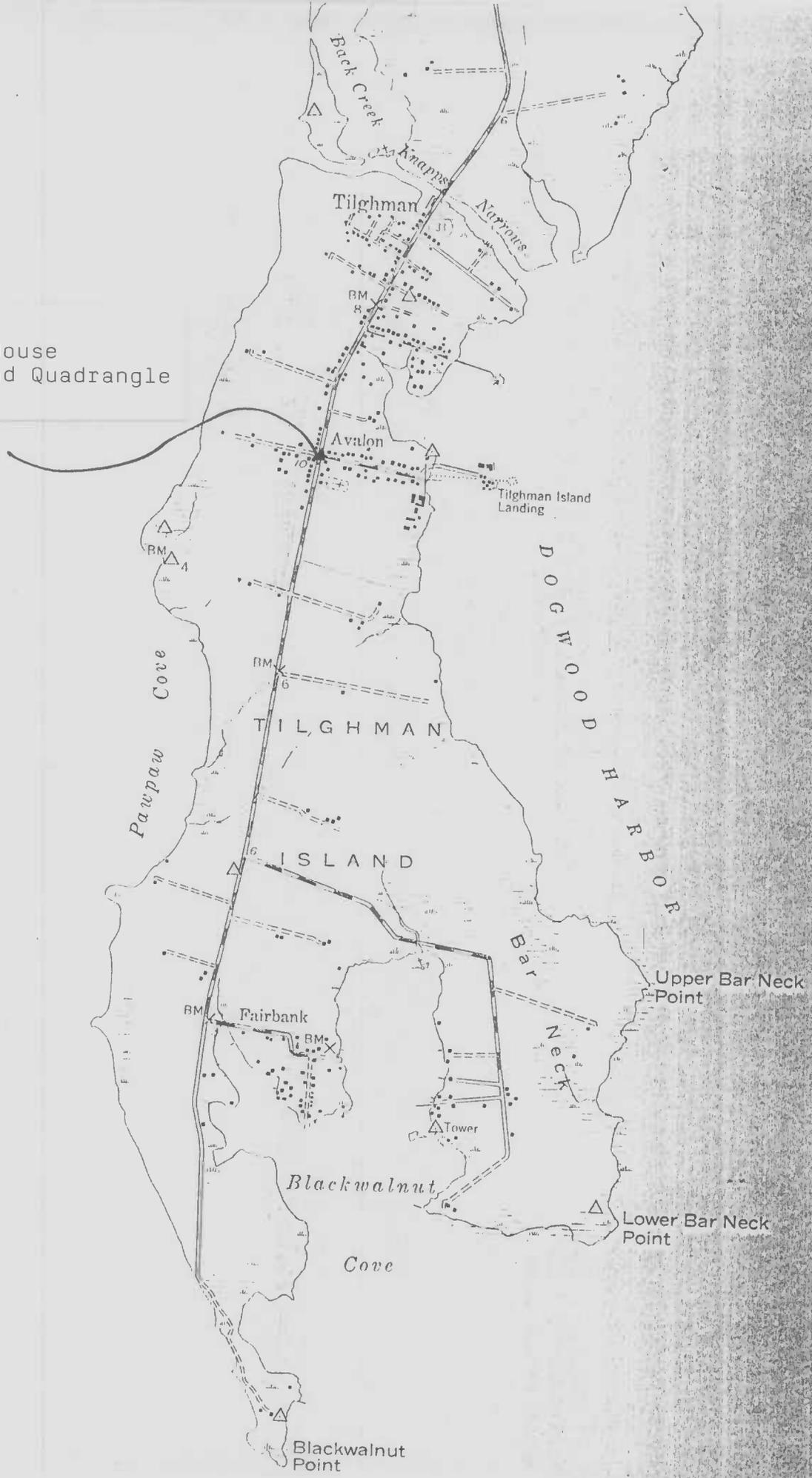


Ben Harrison house description continued.

The west elevation has cornice returns and one two-over-two sash window on the first floor over one two-over-two sash window on the second floor.

The interior was not seen.

T-838  
Ben Harrison House  
Tilghman Island Quadrangle









T-038

BEN HARRISON HOUSE

TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MD

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

E. HUGHES, PHOTO

8/90



T-838