

S-141

Thomas W. Blake House, site
Rumbley
Private

c. 1860

The Thomas W. Blake house, destroyed by fire in the 1980s, was the most ambitious nineteenth century house to survive in the small watermen's village of Rumbley. Standing within yards of Tangier Sound, the cross-gabled dwelling had a full two-story porch. A slightly older service wing extended to the rear. During renovation of this wing, sea oats (or grass) were found between the studs, evidently placed there to help insulate the structure. The oldest crab house standing in Rumbley is located in front of this house site. In the 1877 Somerset County atlas, the house on this point of land is designated as the dwelling of Thomas W. Blake, a local merchant.