T-273 c. 1857
J. Harrison Kemp House
St. Michaels
private

The J. Harrison Kemp house stands out as one of the largest and most architecturally distinctive dwellings sited along East Chestnut Street. The two-story, side hall-double pile main block is substantially larger that most nearby houses, and the towered addition doubled the space of the mid nineteenth-century dwelling. The three-story octagonal tower with "snowflake" sawn medallions is a rare architectural feature for St. Michaels. Although modified during the late nineteenth century, the interiors have remained largely intact within the main block.

Construction of the two-story frame house is attributed to John W. and Eleanora Blades around 1857. Eleanora Blades purchased Lots 69, 70, and 71 from Hugh A. Cooper in 1856 for $333.33. Thirteen years later, the Blades couple sold the house to John T. Ford, formerly of Somerset County. In addition to Ford's maritime related activities, he was involved in real estate and is recognized as one of the early pioneers in the commercial fruit canning business in Talbot County. It is thought Ford enlarged the Blades house with the tower addition before he sold the property to John Thomas Harrison in 1870 for $3500. Until recently, the property has been occupied by the Harrison and inter-related Kemp family.

Survey No. T-273

Magi No. 2102735504

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common J. Harrison Kemp House

2. Location

street & number 108 - 110 East Chestnut St. (See T-629) ___ not for publication

city, town St. Michaels ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_x_ building(s)	_x_ private	_x_ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_x_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_x_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_x_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name J. Harrison Kemp

street & number 100 East Chestnut St. telephone no.:

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot Co. Clerk of Court liber 236

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 433

city, town Easton state MD.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ___ federal _x_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD. 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-273

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The J. Harrison Kemp house stands at 108 East Chestnut Street near the intersection of the south gate of St. Mary's Square in St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The large two-story frame house faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected around 1857, the two-story main house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and sheathed with plain weatherboards. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the east gable end is a two-story wing distinguished by a three-story octagonal tower. A small frame outbuilding stands east of the house.

The north (front) elevation of the main block is covered on the first floor by a hip roofed porch supported by turned posts with sawn brackets. The entrance bay is fixed in the east bay, and a six-panel front door is framed by three-light sidelights and a five-light transom. A three-part window fills the adjacent bay. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-six sash windows that are flanked by louvered shutters. The cornice is boxed and trimmed with bed molding.

The west gable end of the main block is marked by an asymmetrical fenestration with a single six-over-six sash window on each floor. The six-over-six sash window that lights the attic is centered between the pair of brick chimneys that protrude through the gable end. The gable end is flush and finished with a simple bargeboard.

The east gable end, on the other hand, is largely covered by a two-story, two-bay service wing. Construction evidence inside the house indicates the original gable end wing was originally a single story structure that was raised to a full two stories when the tower addition was attached. Along with the tower a single story hip roofed bay was added to the north facade of the old service wing. Paneled knee walls, a bracketed cornice, and single pane sash windows mark the bay along with a side door that is sheltered by a shed roofed hood. The second floor is lighted by a pair of single-pane sash windows, and a brick chimney protrudes through the roof. Distinguishing the northeast corner of the house is a three-story octagonal tower lighted on the two principal floors by single pane sash windows. The first floor knee wall is marked by decorative panels, and the third floor space is decorated with sawn snowflake-shaped medallions. The eight-sided tower roof has a bracketed cornice.

Extending from the back of the tower section is a two-story service wing finished in a conventional manner without unusual details. Likewise, the south side of the house is detailed in much the same manner as the other sides with less attention to decorative features.

The interior has been modified to provide service for at least three apartments. The main block is conventionally divided into a side hall/double pile plan. A heavily turned newel post and rectangular balusters support a circular profile handrail that ramps before each landing. The stringer is undecorated. Six-panel

Description of The J. Harrison Kemp House Continued

doors with ogee inset moldings are framed by plain surrounds with undecorated corner blocks. The doors provide access to the two large rooms west of the hall. The front room is fitted with plain mid nineteenth-century mantel of plain pilasters, an undecorated frieze and a thick mantel shelf. A center partition dividing the two rooms is fitted with a pair of six-panel doors framed by plain surrounds with plain corner blocks. The back room mantel is identical to the front mantel, but the hearth retains a cast iron stove insert.

The second floor is divided into three rooms with four-panel doors providing access between spaces. The front (north) room features a plain mid nineteenth century mantel, while the back room was heated by a stove. In addition to the small room at the head of the stair, an enclosed closet stair provides access to the attic. Directly adjacent to the attic stair is a four-panel door that opens into the second floor of the service wing. The attic is partially finished with lath and plaster, but access into the attic of the eastern section indicates the former height of the service wing roof.

The first floor interior of the center section was partially reworked when the tower addition was attached. A large arched opening was cut in the east wall of the stair hall, and a reeded trim to frame the opening was applied. The hearth wall is dinstinguished by a turn of the century Colonial Revival mirrored mantel with semi-detached Corinthian columns under the molded shelf. The frieze is decorated with an applied tendril motif. The overmantel features a beveled mirror flanked by short Corinthian columns and topped by a classical entablature. Fixed to the right of the hearth wall is an enclosed winder stair with a paneled door to the stairway, and a beaded board door opens into the closet beneath the steps. The bay window along the front wall is trimmed with a reeded surround molding.

The tower room, located in the easternmost section of the house,is trimmed with late nineteenth-century woodwork that follows in the same manner as decribed for the middle section. Reeded surround moldings frame the window and door openings, and a standard Victorian mantel is fitted on the west wall of the tower room. Fixed in the rear section is another stair which rises in a more or less straight flight to the second floor of the towered addition.

The only surviving outbuilding is a single-story frame structure that stands next to the east porch. A diagonal lattice partition joins the outbuilding to the house. The squarish frame structure is sheathed with vertical boards and covered by a wood shingle roof. The door is located in the west gable front, while small boarded windows pierce the other sides.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-273

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The J. Harrison Kemp house stands out as one of the largest and most architecturally distinctive dwelling sited along East Chestnut Street . The two-story side hall/double pile main block is substantially larger than most houses, and the towered addition doubled the space of the dwelling. The three-story tower with "snowflake" sawn medallions is a rare architectural feature for St. Michaels. Although modified during the late nineteenth century, the interiors have remained largely intact within the main block.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Construction of the two-story side hall/double pile frame dwelling is attributed to John W. and Eleanora Blades around 1857. Eleanora Blades purchased Lots 69, 70, 71 from Hugh A. Cooper, et al. in 1856 for $333.33. (67/400) Thirteen years later, the Blades sold the house to John T. Ford, formerly of Somerset County. In addition to Ford's maritime related activites, he was involved in real estate and is recognized as one of the early pioneers in the commercial fruit canning business in Talbot County. It is thought that Ford enlarged the Blades house with the tower addition before he sold the property to John Thomas Harrison for $3500 in 1870. (77/26) The property has remained in Harrison or the inter-related Kemp family until the present day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-273

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels **date** 2/25/87

street & number **telephone**

city or town St. Michaels **state** MD 21663

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

T-273
~~T-589~~

J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE

YEAR: 1936 VOL: 236 PAGE: 433
FROM : Cordelia E Kemp PRICE:
TO : J Harrison Kemp
NOTES: Begins W corner lot 68 on South side of Chestnut Street; run with street 160 feet to lot 72; with 72, 120 feet to the town boundary; with the boundary 160 feet to lot 68; with 68 to the beginning. Except parts conveyed by the late John T Harrison and Mary King Harrison to Sarah T and Mary H Baggs 1875, 81/496.
Conveyed to Cordelia E Kemp by her mother, Mary King Harrison 1922, 194/368.

YEAR: 1922 VOL: 194 PAGE: 368
FROM : Mary King Harrison PRICE: $1
TO : Cordelia E Kemp (her daughter)
NOTES: Same description. But adds: the lot is distinguished on the town plat as numbers 69, 70, 71.
Conveyed to Mary King Harrison by John Thomas Harrison (her husband) 1901, 135/266.

YEAR: 1901 VOL: 135 PAGE: 266
FROM : John T Harrison PRICE: $1
TO : Mary King Harrison
NOTES: Same description. One half that lot purchased by John Thomas Harrison from John T Ford, 1870, 77/26.

YEAR: 1870 VOL: 77 PAGE: 26
FROM : John T Ford and Hester R Fórd PRICE: $3500
TO : John Thomas Harrison
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed by John W Blades to John T Ford 1869, 76/43.

YEAR: 1869 VOL: 76 PAGE: 43
FROM : John W Blades and Eleanora PRICE: $1600
TO : John T Ford
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Ellen Noore Blades by Hugh A Cooper and Harriet A Cooper, Ann D Auld, Moses C Legg and Ann M Legg 1856, 67/400.

YEAR: 1856 VOL: 67 PAGE: 400
FROM : Hugh A Cooper & Harriet; Ann Auld;Moses Legg & Ann PRICE: $333.33
TO : Eleanora Blades
NOTES: Same description.
Conveyed to Hugh A Cooper by James M Hopkins 1847, 60//272.

YEAR: 1847 VOL: 60 PAGE: 272
FROM : James M Hopkins, Boon Cty, Mississippi PRICE: $80
TO : Hugh A Cooper, Baltimore, Md.
NOTES: Part of "Janes Progress". Lots 69, 70, 71 in Braddock's Square, St. Michaels.
Conveyed to Frances Auld Yothers by John Dorgin 1814, 37/111. The deed is to Frances Auld and her daughters, Mary Hopkins, Sarah Lambdin, and Ann Dawson Auld. Frances died intestate in 1821 and the property passed to her heirs. James Madison Hopkins was one of Frances Auld grandsons and here conveys his undivided fourth part to other Auld heirs.

YEAR: 1814 VOL: 37 PAGE: 111
FROM : John Dorgin PRICE: $150
TO : Frances Auld Yothers, Mary Hopkins, Sarah Lambdin and Ann Dawson Auld
NOTES: Lots 69, 70, and 71. Dorgan had agreed to sell the lots to Hugh Auld, who died in 1812 before he received title. This deed confirms the sale. Conveyed to John Dorgin by Elizabeth Sherwood, 1813, 36/288.

YEAR: 1813 VOL: 36 PAGE: 288
FROM : Elizabeth Sherwood PRICE: $487.90 2/3
TO : John Dorgin
NOTES: By a Chancery Court decision in 1812, John Dorgin acquired parts of Bentley Hay, Janes Progress, and The Beach which had been purchased by Thomas Sherwood from John Thompson and William Harrison (1791, 24/299 and 1785, 23/115. The land on which T589 is located is described: "All the land which formerly belonged to James Braddock lying to the southward of a line drawn from the East end of Chestnut Street on a cove of St. Michaels River straight with the street across the main road to Broad Creek." It is part of Janes Progress.

Lots #69, 70 71 East Chestnut Street

The land on the south side of East Chestnut Street in the town of St. Michaels is part of an ancient tract of land called "Jane's Progress." Owned by James Braddock, a mariner and representative at St. Micahels for the British firm of merchants, Gildart and Gawaith, it was his legacy to John Thompson when he died in 1782.

Thompson owned a great deal of land in the town of St. Michaels and since his primary interest lay in his holdings on the west side of town across Market Street (now Talbot), he sold the land on the south side of Chestnut Street to Hugh Sherwood.

John Dorgan, a blacksmith , was the next owner of this property, part of "Jane's Progress" and in 1808 he sold lots #69, 70 and 71 to Hugh Auld. Hugh Auld died in 1812 without ever having received a deed from John Dorgan and it was two years later in 1814, that Frances Auld, widow of Hugh, obtained title to her land. She died in 1821, intestate, and lots #69, 70, and 71 became the property of her legal heirs. For some twenty-five years the Auld family "possessed" this bit of land in St. Michaels.

On March 15, 1847, James Madison Hopkins of Boone County, Mississippi, for the consideration of eighty ($80) dollars paid, conveyed to Hugh A. Cooper of Baltimore, Md. an undivided fourth part of "those lots or a part of a tract called "Jane's Progress" distinguished on the Plat of St. Michaels by #69, 70, 71 on Chestnut Street, Braddock Square, containing one-half acre." John D. Leland, Judge of The Circuit Court of Boone County was a witness to the acknowledgment signed by James Madison Hopkins, who was one of Frances Auld's grandsons. There is a little uncertainty here regarding the exact amount of Hopkins' share as in one place in the deed it is referred to as <u>one-third</u>.

On 23 December 1856, lots #69, 70 and 71 on the south side of East Chestnut Street were sold out of the Auld family by three of the grandchildren and their spouses. Hugh A. Cooper and Harriet A. his wife and Ann D. Auld, all of Baltimore City; and Moses Legg and Ann M. Legg his wife of Queen Anne county, for the consideration of three hundred thirty-three dollars thirty-three cents ($333.33) sold their part of "Jane's Progress" to Eleanore Blades of St. Michaels.

Eleanore was born Eleanore Hambleton, a daughter of James C. and Elizabeth (Rathell) Hambleton of Peaneck. She married John W. Blades, a St. Michaels sailor, 11 June 1845. John W. Blades was a hard-working man and built a new house on the property for his family. Six of their eight children were born in this house.

On 7 December 1869 he and Eleanore sold the house and lots on East Chestnut Street, lots #69, 70, and 71 to Capt. John T. Ford for sixteen hundred dollars ($1600.) One year before in 1860 the property was valued at fifteen hundred dollars ($1500.)

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Capt. John T. Ford was a mariner who came to St. Michaels from Somerset County, Md. before 1850. Here he became a prominent businessman; a real estate dealer; and for a while the agent for the local steamboat line. He was one of the pioneers in the commercial fruit canning business in Talbot county. Twice married, his first wife was Martha, daughter of Thomas Dyott of St. Michaels and after her death he married a widow, Hester Wrightson Welby.

10 November 1870 - John T. Ford and Hester his wife to John T. Harrison of St. Michaels. For a consideration of thirty-five hundred dollars ($3500) they conveyed lots #69, 70 and 71, containing one-half acre of land. This drastic increase in the selling price indicates added improvements to the lots and gives credence to the supposition that it was Capt. Ford who built the cannery on the lot adjoining the dwelling house. In 1875 John T. Harrison sold the lot with the canning house on it to T. E. Bell who erected another dwelling there.

John T. and Mary (King) Harrison's daughter Cordelia, married Charles A. Kemp. J. Harrison Kemp, son of Charles A. and Cordelia Kemp is now the owner of his grandfather's property.

108-110 E. Chestnut St., Saint Michaels

NOT TRUE

This 2-numbered house was probably built as one dwelling, although it appears to have been built in at least two stages of growth.

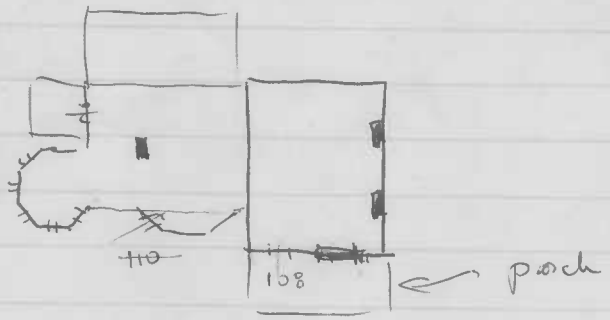
The west half of the building (108) is like a small town house - 3 bays wide and 2 rooms deep with double chimneys within the west gable. The entrance is located on the side nearest ~~the~~ ~~110 to Chestnut~~ the wing, and instead of there being 2 windows on the 1st story, there is a single double-unit window, apparently a late after-thought. A one-story porch is also on the facade.

The wing (110) is interesting because of its irregularity, having a bay window, one side of which is the entrance, and a three-story octagonal on its east corner. These are added to an otherwise simple rectangular 3 bay long frame wing. ~~The~~ each side, the tower has a window on 1st + 2nd stories which on the third story is a protruding snow-flake design of jig-saw work. It has a peaked roof with ball finial.

MBB 8/12/81

T-~~274~~
273

108 + 110 E. Chestnut St., St. Michaels



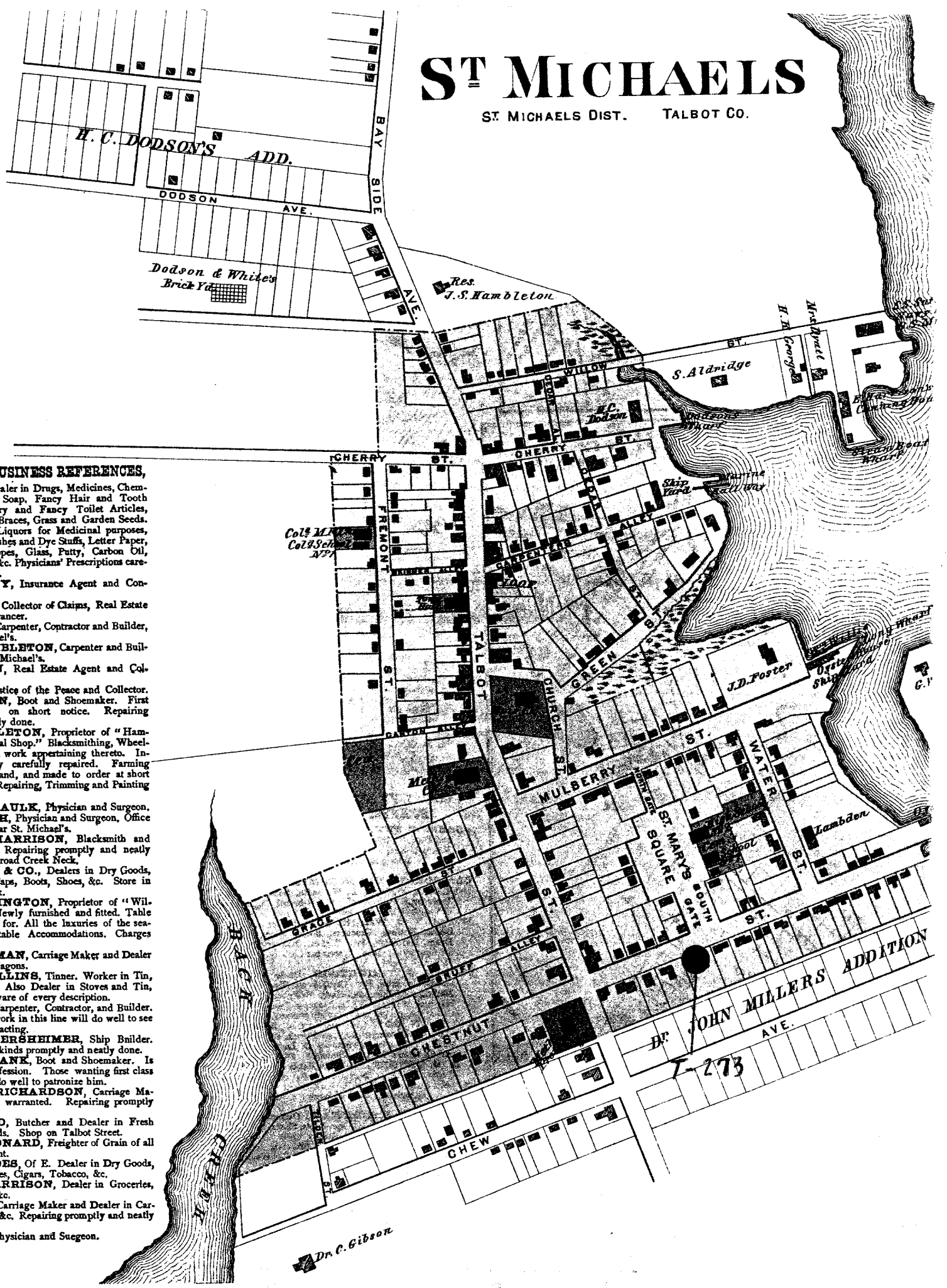
2-story townhouse

wing - 2-story - bay

3-story octagonal tower - 3rd story has snow-flake-like cut-out decoration on each exposed side ~~of the 8 sides~~

2/~~70~~ 71

110 East Chestnut street is next door. It is T-629, Meara House, or the Charles F. Blades House. JLK 5/23/93
T-273 is only 108 East Chestnut.



ICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chem-
s, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth
ushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles,
usses, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds.
e Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes,
nts, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper,
s, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil,
mps, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions care-
y Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Con-
vancer.

W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate
ent and Conveyancer.

S DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder,
op at St. Michael's.

RED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Buil-
. Sh . Michael's.

S B N, Real Estate Agent and Col-
tor of C.

SPARKS, Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First
ass work done on short notice. Repairing
omptly and neatly done.

N S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Ham-
ton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheel-
ighting, and all work appertaining thereto. In-
cate Machinery carefully repaired. Farming
nplements on hand, and made to order at short
otice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting
Specially.

WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.

JAMES SETH, Physician and Surgeon, Office
nd Residence near St. Michael's.

LIAM S. HARRISON, Blacksmith and
Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly
one. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

. NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods,
Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in
Broad Creek Neck.

N T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Wil-
ams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table
arefully catered for. All the luxuries of the sea-
son. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges
moderate.

NIEL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer
in all kinds of Wagons.

ORGE W. COLLINS, Tinner. Worker in Tin,
Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin,
and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

H. BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder.
Persons having work in this line will do well to see
him before contracting.

SEPH HERGERSHEIMER, Ship Bnilder.
Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

IVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is
skilful in his profession. Those wanting first class
work done will do well to patronize him.

RRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Ma-
kers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly
and neatly done.

J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh
Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

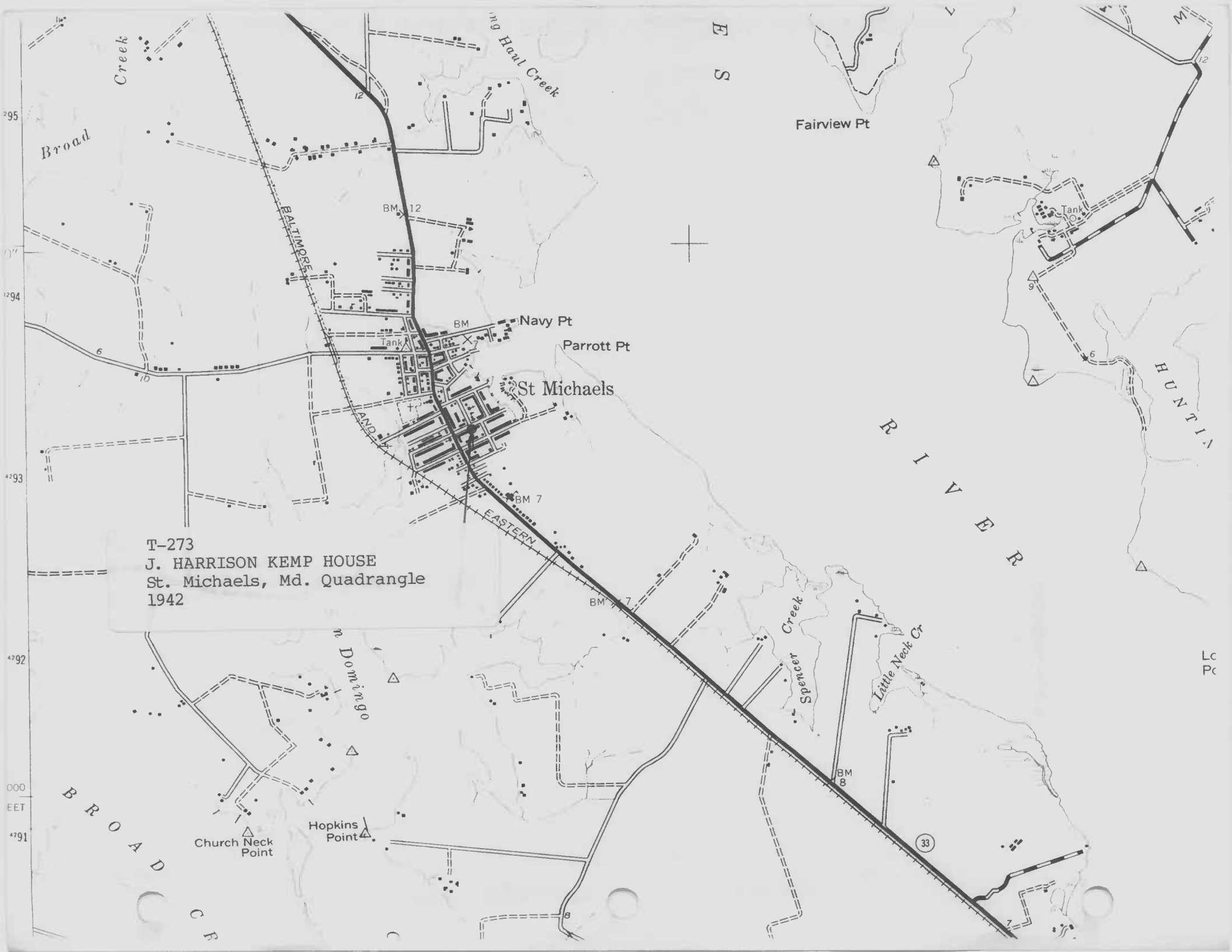
PT. C. R. LEONARD, Freighter of Grain of all
kinds to any point.

OMA ADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods,
Notio eries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

EMI HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries,
Confectioneries &c.

S. KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Car-
riages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly
done.

A. DODSON Physician and Suegeon.


T-273
J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE
St. Michaels, Md. Quadrangle
1942
Broad Creek
Haul Creek
Fairview Pt
Navy Pt
Parrott Pt
St Michaels
BALTIMORE AND EASTERN
BM 12
BM 7
BM 8
Tank
RIVER
HUNTIN
Spencer Creek
Little Neck Cr
Domingo
BROAD CR
Church Neck Point
Hopkins Point
33

J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE T-273
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
Northwest elevation
1/87, photographer, Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE T-273
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
East elevation w/ outbuilding
1/87, photographer, Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE T-273
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
Early twentieth-century mantel
1/87, photographer, Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE T-273
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
Parlor door
1/87, photographer, Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE T-273
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
Stair
1/87, photographer, Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

J. HARRISON KEMP HOUSE T-273
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md.
South room mantel
1/87, photographer, Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

.16 X 1.85 75% 273

T - 273