

T-279

1807

Colonel Kemp House

St. Michaels

private

The Colonel Kemp house is one of a small collection of large Federal period brick structures in St. Michaels. The Cannonball house (T-61), the Old Inn (T-257), and the Maryland National Bank (T-2589), are three other contemporary brick structures of equal prominence that were finished with superior craftsmanship. The Kemp house is a crucial building that links other buildings with almost the same mantel designs and workmanship. The Bruff house (T-241), and the Bruff-Mansfield house (T-262) have identically carved mantels. The sameness in molding profiles suggests a shared joiner, John Bruff, who is documented as a St. Michaels craftsman working during the turn of the nineteenth century. Each of the principal rooms in the Kemp house retains a finely crafted Federal mantel, and the period stair remains intact as well.

Construction of this prominent Flemish and common bond brick house is credited to Joseph Kemp, who purchased Lot 18 of Thompson's Square in 1807 (32/95). It is presumed from the construction features that Kemp financed the construction of the house soon afterwards. Joseph Kemp occupied his brick dwelling until his death around 1828. At the Sheriff's sale of the property Alice Kemp, wife of William Kemp purchased the town property. After her death, the house passed to their five children, who controlled interest in the house until the early twentieth century.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-279

Magi No. 2102795326

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Colonel Kemp House

and/or common Kemp House Inn

2. Location

street & number Corner of Talbot and Chestnut Streets 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 checked="" 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 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 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 Sue K. Reed

street & number Talbot Street telephone no.:

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

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-279

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

Kemp House Inn description

The Kemp House Inn is located on the northwest corner of Talbot and Chestnut Streets in St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1807, the two-and-a-half story Flemish and common bond brick house is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof finished with a boxed cornice and flush gable ends. Attached to the back of the house is a shorter two-story common bond service wing.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six over six sash windows. The eight-panel door, four-light sidelights, and a six-light transom are framed by simple classical pilasters and entablature. The six over six windows are topped by flared jack arches and flanked by louvered shutters. A three-bay Tuscan columned porch is covered by a seamed tin hip roof. Lighting the second floor are five evenly spaced six over six sash windows. The box cornice carries a bed molding. Three gabled dormers with six over six sash windows are framed by slightly flared surrounds.

The north and south gable ends are dissimilar with differing placements of six over six sash windows that flank interior end chimney stacks. The attic is consistently lighted on both ends with four over four sash windows.

The west (rear) facade is partially covered by a two-story two-bay service common bond brick service wing laid with five to six courses of stretchers. Six over six sash windows light both floors and are topped by jack arches. The upper rear gable of the kitchen is framed and covered with weatherboards. Two gabled dormers mark the rear roof slope of the main block.

The interior of the main house retains most of its Federal period woodwork,

most notably finely crafted mantels and a period staircase. The center hall is fitted with early nineteenth-century chair rail and beaded baseboards. The stair rises against the north wall of the passage and consists of a slender, square newel post with a simply molded cap. Four rectangular balusters rise from each tread to support a molded handrail. The steps are decorated with an S-scrolled design, and the triangular space below the stringer is plastered. The stair rises three flights to the second and third floors.

The north and south rooms are fitted with similar Federal period mantels heavily encrusted with gougework and complex moldings. The south room mantel has a cavetto molded backband hearth surround and three fluted frieze blocks that support an enriched cornice. Two bands of gougework stretch across at the bottom and top of the frieze blocks. The lower band is characterized by an alternating pattern of four vertical gouges and three horizontal gouges. The top row has a slightly more complex pattern of shorter vertical gouges interrupted with a drill point. For every group of eight vertical line and dots there is one stylized floral design. Fixed above the frieze is a series of decorative saw-tooth, roof and gouge or drilled molding rows that embellish the expanding cornice below the mantel shelf. An additional board has been added to the top of the mantel to expand the display area. The room is also fitted with early nineteenth-century chair rail and baseboard.

The second floor rooms are finished in a similar manner with smaller Federal period mantels. The south bedroom mantel follows along a similar fashion as the previously described mantel with a cavetto molded hearth surround and two fluted frieze blocks. Similar gougework bands stretch across the bottom and top of the frieze. The cornice and mantel shelf are less complex. The cornice is marked by one line of gougework that appears as a line of up-side-down exclamation marks. The mantel shelf is supported by a cyma curve molding. Like the other rooms the walls are finished with chair rail and baseboard moldings.

The north bedroom has identically finished walls, but a slightly different period mantel. The major difference with this mantel is the top frieze molding band that follows a carved row of opposing half arcs that intersect at each end. This decorative row is repeated in the contemporary Bruff-Mansfield house on Green Street (T-262).

The open stringer stair rises to the third floor which is finished in a standard manner without any unusual features.

The rear service wing has been modernized to contain services to operate a bed and breakfast, such as a reception desk, laundry, kitchen, etc. Standing behind the house is a modern frame garage covered with a gable roof.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-279

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 1807 **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.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Kemp House Inn is one of a small collection of large Federal period brick structures in St. Michaels. The Cannonball house (T-61), the Old Inn (T-257) and the Maryland National Bank (T-258) are three other contemporary brick structures of equal prominence that were finished with superior craftsmanship. The Kemp House Inn is also a crucial building that links three other buildings with almost the exact same mantel design and workmanship. The Bruff house (T-241) and the Bruff-Mansfield house (T-262) have identically carved mantels. The sameness in molding profiles suggests a shared joiner, John Bruff, who is documented as one of St. Michaels' turn of the nineteenth century craftsmen. Lastly, the Kemp House Inn occupies a pivotal and prominent location on the corner of Talbot and Chestnut streets in the heart of St. Michaels.

KEMP HOUSE

Year: 1983 Vol: 576 Page: 491
From: Allen Smith Price: \$268,780
To : Susan King Reed

Notes: See attached deed. In two parcels, of which the Kemp House is on Parcel Two. The deed mentions "Lot 18" which is the designation assigned by the Survey of 1806. The lot was originally "Lot 2" in the "Addition to St. Michaels" of John Thompson in 1791.
Conveyed to Allen Smith by Maurice E. Newnam, III. 1980, 550/617.

Year: 1980 Vol: 550 Page: 617
From: Maurice E. Newnam III. Price: \$95,000
To : Allen Smith

Notes: Same as first item. Only Parcel 2 is being traced.
Conveyed to Maurice E Newnam III. by Maurice Everest Newnam, Jr. and Maurice E. Newnam III. (co-partners), 1970, 441/345.

Year: 1970 Vol: 441 Page: 345
From: Maurice Everest Newnam, Jr. & Maurice E. Newnam III. Price: \$5
To : Maurice E. Newnam III.

Notes: Conveyed to Maurice Everest Newnam, Jr. and Maurice E Newman III. as co-partners by Norman D. Marshall, 1962, 380/349.

Year: 1962 Vol: 380 Page: 349
From: Norman D. Marshall and Gertrude B. Marshall (wife) Price: \$5
To : Maurice Everest Newnam and Maurice E. Newnam III, co-partners
Notes: Conveyed to J. Norman Marshall and Norman D. Marshall by Margaret A. E. Harrison 1949, 283/56.

Year: 1949 Vol: 283 Page: 56
From: Margaret Ann Etta Harrison Price: \$5
To : J. Norman Marshall and Norman D Marshall
Notes: Conveyed to Robert S. Harrison and Margaret A. E. Harrison by D. Herman Shockley and Etta N. Shockley, 1933, 230/212.
Margaret A. E. Harrison inherited the property on the death of her husband.

Year: 1933 Vol: 230 Page: 212
From: D. Herman Shockley and Etta N. Shockley Price: \$1
To : Robert S. Harrison and Margaret Ann Etta Harrison
Notes: Subject to a mortgage of \$4,500.
Conveyed to D. Herman Shockley and Etta N. Shockley by S. Denny Willson and wife, 1930, 221/412.

Year: 1930 Vol: 221 Page: 412
From: S. Denny Willson and Anna K. Willson (wife) Price: \$5
To : D. Herman Shockley and Etta N. Shockley (wife)
Notes: Conveyed to S. Denny Willson and Anna K. Willson by Faris C. Pitt,
1920, 187/374.

Year: 1920 Vol: 187 Page: 374
From: Faris C. Pitt Price: \$5
To : S. Denny Willson and Anna K. Willson
Notes: Conveyed to Faris C. Pitt by Emma B. Falkenstein and Fred. R. Falken-
stein, 1910, 157/162.

Year: 1910 Vol: 157 Page: 162
From: Emma B. Falkenstein and Fred. R. Falkenstein Price: \$5
To : Faris C. Pitt
Notes: Conveyed to Emma B. Falkenstein by Joseph Spencer Willis, 1909, 154/267.

Year: 1909 Vol: 154 Page: 267
From: Joseph Spencer Willis Price: \$5
To : Emma B. Falkenstein
Notes: Title clearance. Conveyed by Fred R. Falkenstein & wife to Joseph Spencer
Willis, 154/268.

Year: 1909 Vol: 154 Page: 268
From: Fred R. Falkenstein and Emma B. Falkenstein (wife) Price: \$45
To : Joseph Spencer Willis
Notes: Title clearance.
Conveyed to Fred R. Falkenstein and wife by Fred L. Pitts and wife,
1907, 150/69.

Year: 1907 Vol: 150 Page: 69
From: Fred L. Pitts and Ella D. Pitts (wife) Price: \$1550
To : Fred R. Falkenstein
Notes: Conveyed to Fred L. Pitts by Edwin P. Sparks and wife, 1906, 148/318.

Year: 1906 Vol: 148 Page: 318
From: Edwin F. Sparks and Kate H. Sparks (wife) Price: \$900
To : Fred L. Pitts
Notes: Conveyed to Edwin F. Sparks by W. D. J. Morris, 1906, 148/234.

Year: 1906 Vol: 148 Page: 234

From: William D. J. Morris, trustee for Robert Kemp Price: \$701

To : Edwin P. Sparks

Notes: Alice Kemp, widow of William Kemp, had purchased the property in 1838. She died in 1858 or 1859 leaving five children. Of the five, three conveyed their interest to a fourth, Mary G Sparks. The whereabouts of the fifth, Robert, was unknown. Mary died in 1903 leaving four heirs, of whom Edwin P Sparks (under taker) was senior. Edwin P Sparks and the other heirs sued the missing Robert Kemp to force the sale of the property. W. D. J. Morris was the court-appointed trustee to make the sale...which was made to Edwin P. Sparks for \$701. Each heir received \$79.45!!

Year: 1838 Vol: 53 Page: 401

From: Alexander B. Harrison & wife Price: \$500

To : Alice Kemp

Notes: Purchased by A. B. Harrison at a Sheriff's sale in 1828 of the property of Joseph Kemp, dcd.

Alice Kemp had a mortgage for \$297 with Joseph Robson.

The court proceedings ordering the sale of the property after Joseph Kemp's death were not found. Alice Kemp, who bought the property, had been married to a William Kemp who died in 1838 -- apparently before Alice bought the house.

Year: 1807 Vol: 32 Page: 95

From: John Merchant, mariner Price: \$85

To : Joseph Kemp, Ship's Carpenter

Notes: Lot number 18 in Thompson's Square.

Year: 1803 Vol: 30 Page: 323

From: Robert Hay Price: \$400

To : John Merchant

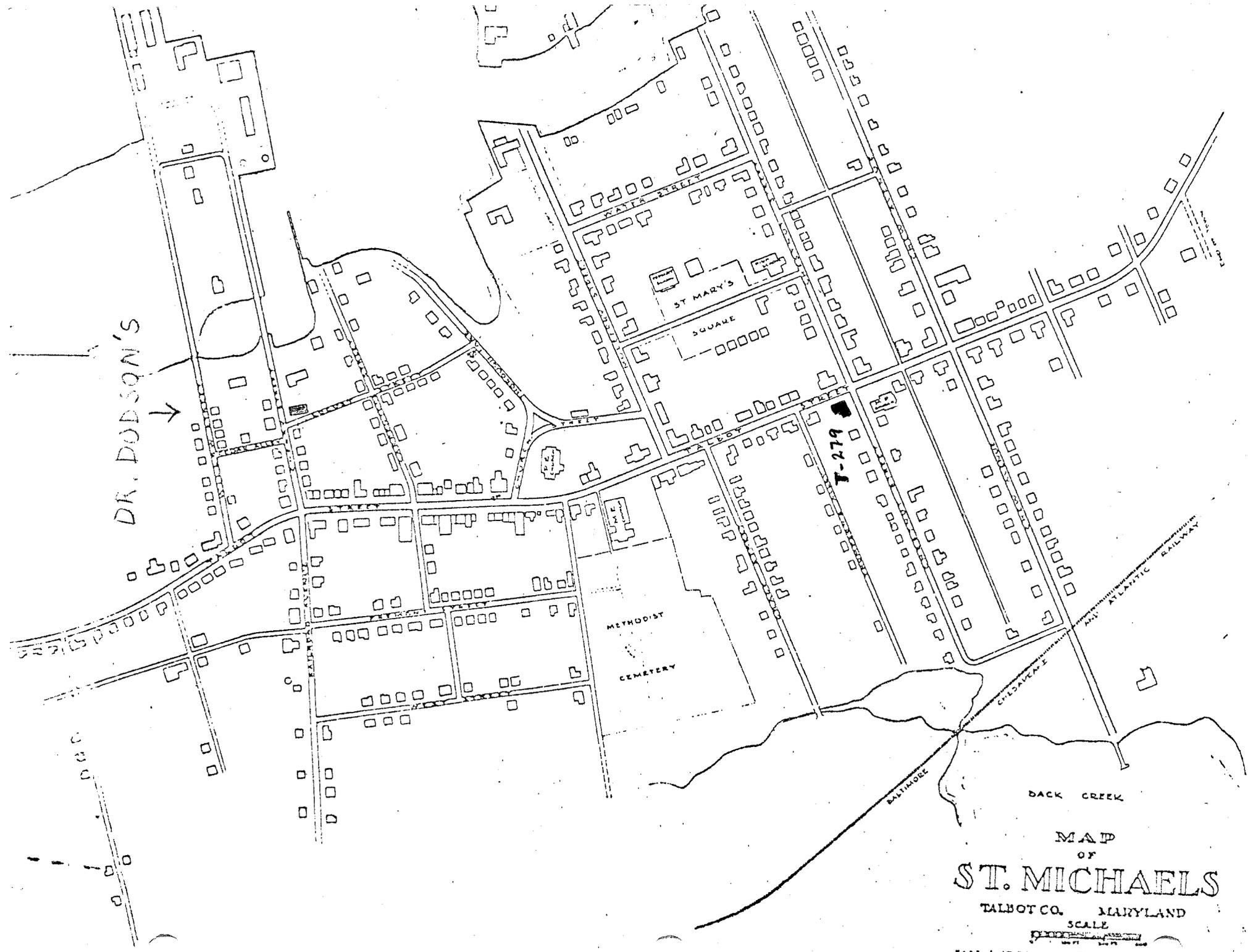
Notes: "That part of "Janes Progress" on plat of the Addition to St. Michaels ...by lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6." Begins at the intersection of Thompson's Alley and the Main Road or Market Street run with Market St. S 23.45 E 120' to Chestnut Street; with Chestnut S 66.15 W 360' to "back of the lots"; then N 23.45 W 120' to Thompson's Alley; with Alley to the beginning. Two acres more or less.

This was one year before the 1804-1806 official survey of the town. With the survey, the lot numbers were changed as follows: lots 1 - 6 incl. became 17 - 22; lots 7 - 12 incl. became 38 - 43. The "Addition to St. Michaels" became "Thompson's Square".

Year: 1791 Vol: 24 Page: 364
From: John Thomppson Price: p18 3s 9d
To : Robert Hay

Notes: Same description as previous deed. Robert Hay was also the owner of the "Amelia Welby House". The John Thompson who made the sale was the son of the John Thompson who inherited the land from James Braddock. The chain goes back from Braddock to Wetheral and Hewes to the original patentees, Jane and John Hatton.

NOTE: Who am I to argue with James Braddock and John Thompson? If they say JANES PROGRESS it probably was...but the lots on the West side of Talbot Street (or Main Road or Market Street) must have been on the line between Janes Progress and CHANCE and some lots are called "Chance or Janes Progress". It looks as though the 18th Century people tried to locate their roads on boundaries between tracts when possible and I think the original boundary between Janes Progress and Chance was the road -- which goes back to the 17th Century. It is interesting to note that the Main Road = Talbot Street is exactly between Back Creek and Church Creek.



DR. DODSON'S
↓

METHODIST
CEMETERY

ST MARY'S
SQUARE

T-279

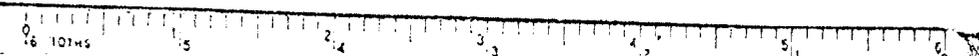
BACK CREEK

MAP
OF
ST. MICHAELS

TALBOT CO. MARYLAND

SCALE

JAN. 1, 1923. THOMAS F. I. [unclear]

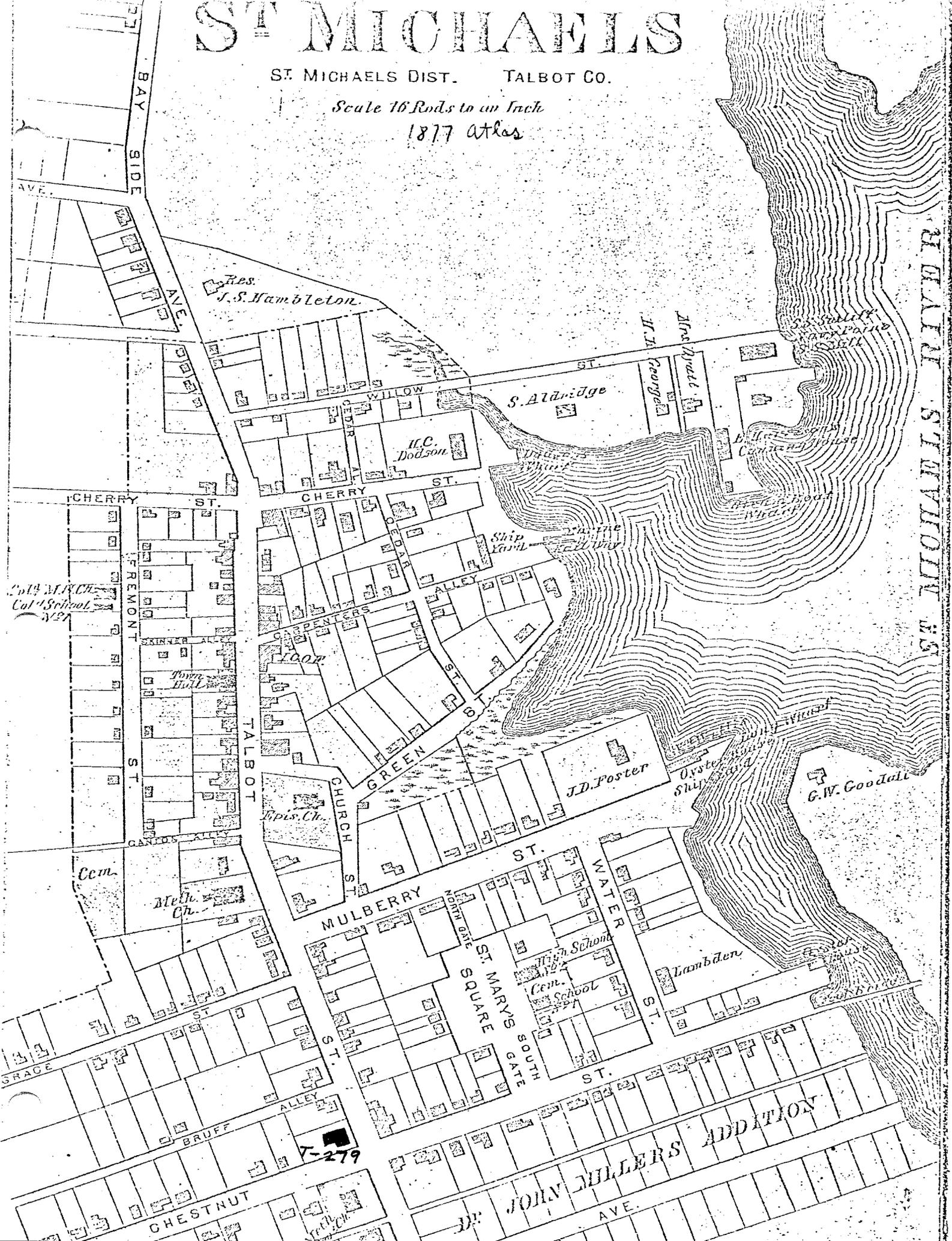


ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

1877 Atlas



Examined and returned to Willard C. Parker, II, Esq. 129 N. Washington St. Easton, Md. 21601 6 17 83

T-279

Time: 10:10 A.M.
JUL 19-83 * 26612 ***2,243.60
JUL 19-83 A 26612 ***1,343.50
JUL 19-83 A 26611 ***887.70
JUL 19-83 A 26610 *****12.00

THIS DEED, made this 18th day of July, 1983, by ALLEN SMITH,

WITNESSETH that in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Dollars (\$268,780.00), which sum includes the principal amount of any mortgage or deed of trust which may have been given or assumed by the Grantee, and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said ALLEN SMITH does hereby grant and convey unto SUSAN KING REED, her personal representatives and assigns, in fee simple, the following described property:

PARCEL NO. ONE: ALL that lot or parcel of ground situate, lying and being at the Southwest corner of Talbot and Thompson Streets, in the Town of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland, fronting sixty-six feet (66'), more or less, on the West side of Talbot Street, and extending back Westwardly with an equal width a distance of one hundred and twenty-six feet (126'), more or less, adjoining the property now or formerly belonging to Robert S. Harrison on the South and bordering on said Thompson Street on the North.

PARCEL NO. TWO: ALL that lot of ground situate in the Town of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland described as follows: BEGINNING for the same at the Northwest corner of Talbot and Chestnut Streets and running thence Northwardly with Talbot Street sixty-two (62') feet to the lot now or formerly belonging to Annie L. Harrison; thence with said Harrison lot Westwardly one hundred eighteen (118') feet to the lot now or formerly belonging to James Seth; thence Southwardly with said Seth lot sixty-two feet (62') feet to Chestnut Street and thence with said Chestnut Street Eastwardly one hundred eighteen (118') feet to the place of beginning and being known as Lot No. 18 on a Plat of the Town of St. Michaels.

BEING the same property conveyed unto Allen Smith by deed from Maurice E. Newnam, III, dated November 21, 1980, and recorded among the Land Records of Talbot County, Maryland in Liber J.T.B. No. 550, page 617.

TOGETHER with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, made or being; and all and every the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages, to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lot of ground and premises above described and mentioned, and hereby intended to be conveyed; together with the rights, privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereto belonging or appertaining, unto and to the proper use and benefit of the said SUSAN KING REED, her personal representatives and assigns, in fee simple.

AND the said ALLEN SMITH hereby covenants that he has not done or suffered to be done any act, matter or thing whatsoever to encumber the property hereby conveyed; that he will warrant specially the property hereby granted; and that he will execute such further assurances of the same as may be requisite.

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KEMP HOUSE INN

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St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Southeast Elevation

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



412

KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Front Door

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Second Floor Mantel

6/85, Paul Touart, PHotographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Second Floor Bedroom Mantel

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

First Floor Mantel

6/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpaher

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

First Floor Mantel Detail

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust

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KEMP HOUSE INN

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St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Second Floor Bedroom Mantel

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Second Floor Bedroom

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Second Floor Bedroom Mantel

6/85, Paul Touart, PHotographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

First Floor Mantel

6/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpaher

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

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St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

First Floor Newel Post

6/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpaher

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

First Floor - Staircase

6/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpahe

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Stair Landing

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



KEMP HOUSE INN

T-279

St. Michaels, Galbot County, Maryland

Second Floor Stair

6/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



AMINTON
Corner of
and
Fifth Street

12 x 1.80

50% 279

T-279