

Capsule Summary  
SM-649  
Louis and Louise Abell House  
St. Inigoes  
Private

c. 1915

Few examples of the Craftsman-style in St. Mary's County surpasses the Louis and Louise Abell House. Constructed in 1915 by the Abell family, the exterior of the house reveals the adherence to modern building conventions, while the interior reflects the family's reluctance to deviate from traditional house plans. This dichotomy points to how St. Mary's County residents chose to keep their interior spaces much more familiar and comfortable -- a theme that has been continually repeated since the eighteenth century.

The house, itself, is a one-and-a-half story, frame dwelling with a center passage, double-pile plan. The most prominent architectural component is seen on the primary elevation where a series of bold columns support a covered porch. These columns exhibit entasis and are constructed of concrete forms with interior wood supports. The most interesting interior detail is a rear service stair that allows domestic service to move about the house without being seen by visitors. This detail is a particularly late example of a service stair for they are largely abandoned by the early twentieth century.

Originally part of the tract called Cross Manor, the tract that surrounds the house has also been called "Part of St. Inigoes" and "Dunbarton." Sarah L. and Emerald E. Abell first purchased the property in 1921 from J. Clarence and Christine B. Raley. Some years prior to the land purchase, however, the Abell's had already built the dwelling. Current owner Louise Abell recalls that the house was built around 1915.

SM-649, Louis and Louise Abell House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Rural  
Historic Function and Use: Residence  
Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Louis and Louise Abell House

**2. Location**

street & number 15031 Pt. Lookout Rd, W side of Route 5  not for publication

city, town St. Inigoes  vicinity of congressional district 1

state Md county St. Mary's TM-67, G-10, P-13

**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 Louise B. Abell

street & number 15031 Pt. Lookout Rd. telephone no.: 301-872-5225

city, town St. Inigoes state and zip code Md 20684-9999

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 14

street & number folio 421

city, town Leonardtown state Md

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-649

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Approached via a circular drive that extends westward from Maryland Route 5, the Louis and Louise Abell House is located near St. Inigoes, Maryland. Situated on a flat 94 +/- acre tract, the dwelling's well defined, one acre house lot is surrounded by cultivated fields of corn. Lined by formally planted oak, maple, and evergreen trees, the single lane drive lies directly on axis with the front door of the house. The lane branches out to create a circle just in front of the dwelling. In the middle of the circle is a large crepe myrtle while a series of rhododendrons line the front porch. A drive extends westward on the south side of the house to an early twentieth century agricultural courtyard consisting of an equipment shed, two tobacco barns, and a corn house.

Constructed c. 1915-1917, the Louis and Louise Abell House is a one-and-a-half story, center-passage, double-pile plan dwelling with a gable roof. Resting on a brick foundation, the frame walls are sheathed on three elevations with clapboard siding fastened with cut and wire nails. The fourth/primary elevation has been covered with vinyl siding. The cornice of the house is enclosed by beaded matchstick and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Two corbelled interior chimney flues pierce the roof.

Similar in plan, roof form, and architectural details to other early-twentieth century catalog or prefabricated houses, the Louis and Louise Abell House's most distinctive characteristic is a series of four large concrete columns with wood lined interiors. Situated on the east elevation, these columns support a broad overhanging porch whose ceiling is lined with matchstick. The fenestration on the first floor consists of a centrally located one-pane-over-three-panel door replete with panelled and glazed sidelights. A set of two, one-over-one, double-hung, sash windows lie on either side of the door (all windows are one-over-one unless further noted). Each side of the windows feature a non-functional louvered shutter. A long shed dormer projects from the roof to provide light to the half-story bedrooms. The dormer is pierced by three sets of double windows.

The south gable end exhibits a three sided projection from the first floor living room. Each side features a window. To the west of the projection is a bulkhead entry into the basement that is below a paired set of windows. The half-story has two windows and a louvered vent lies near the peak to provide ventilation for the attic.

The west elevation is dominated by a porch addition. This enclosed porch is lit by a centrally located door flanked on either side by a set of three windows. The main block of the house is pierced by a paired set of windows and two doors. The centrally located door is no longer used because of the installation of a bathroom at the end of the central passage. A new, five panel door into the kitchen was subsequently installed.

The north gable end features a small set of swinging casement windows and a one-over-one window. The second floor is pierced by two windows and a louvered vent lies just above them for appropriate ventilation.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-649

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**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.

Few examples of the Craftsman-style in St. Mary's County surpasses the Louis and Louise Abell House. Constructed in 1915 by the Abell family, the exterior of the house reveals the adherence to modern building conventions, while the interior reflects the family's reluctance to deviate from traditional house plans. This dichotomy points to how St. Mary's County residents chose to keep their interior spaces much more familiar and comfortable -- a theme that has been continually repeated since the eighteenth century.

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SM-649, Louis and Louise Abell House  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

The interior consists of a central passage, double-pile plan. The central passage, which disseminates traffic into every space of the house, features a double run, closed string stair with turned balusters and square newels at each turn. Interestingly, a rear service stair meets the primary stair at the first return. It remains segregated, however, by a door. This arrangement allows service to move between the kitchen and dining room without having to use the main stairway. The parlor and a bedroom represent the southeast and northeast rooms while the southwest and northwest rooms are the dining room and kitchen respectively. The dining room contains a modest mantle with a plain frieze and a shelf supported by two scrolled brackets. The dining room also features two, classically inspired corner cupboards. The second floor consists of four bedrooms which radiate from the central passage.

SM-649, Louis and Louisa Abell House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber CBG 14, Folio 421

Grantee: Louis C. and Louisa B. Abell

Grantor: Daisy S. Abell

Date: July 6, 1943

Notes: "Dunbarton" or more recently known as "Part of Cross Manor" is listed as containing 32 acres. Charles A. Heard is listed as completing a survey for the property on March 5, 1928.

Reference: Liber CBG 14, Folio 420

Grantee: Daisy S. Abell

Grantor: William T. Abell, Louis C. Abell, and Ruth A. Birch

Date: July 6, 1943

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 90 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 19, Folio 391

Grantee: Sarah L. and Emerald E. Abell

Grantor: J. Clarence and Christine B. Raley

Date: January 19, 1921

Notes: Called "Part of St. Inigoes" and "Dunbarton", the property contains 90 acres.

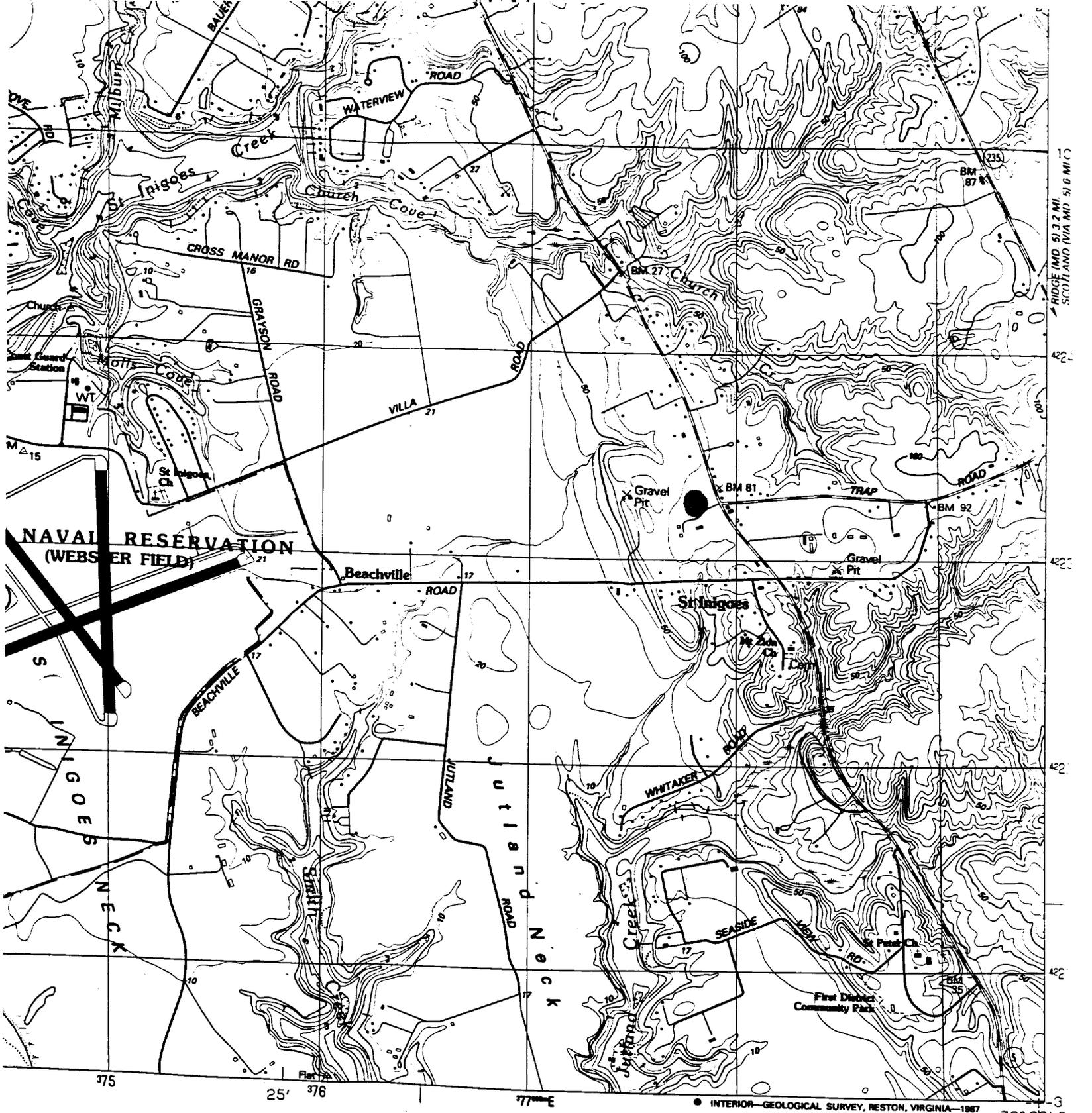
Reference: Liber EBA 5, Folio 453

Grantee: J. Clarence and Christine B. Raley

Grantor: Mary Robson Dunbar and W. Wallace Dunbar

Date: April 16, 1906

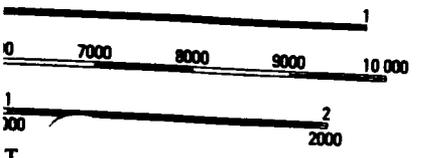
Notes: The deed notes that 21 acres of the tract was formerly owned by William Birch and Robert Crane and prior to that a Dr. A. Sappington (See Liber JJG 5, Folio 125-127). Another 39 acre portion of the property was formerly owned by Robert F. Taylor and S. Corinne Taylor (See Liber JJG 5, Folio 469).



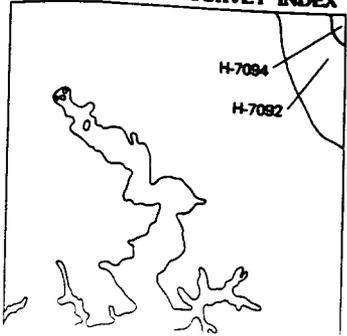
RIDGE (MD 5) 3.2 MI  
 SCOTLAND (VA MD 5) 6 MI

**NAVAL RESERVATION  
(WEBSTER FIELD)**

**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX**



T  
 1929  
 H SUPPLEMENTARY  
 LOW WATER  
 IS VARIABLE



- Prima hard
  - Seco hard
  - hard
- SM-649, Louis and Louisa Abell House  
 St. Inigoes  
 St. Mary's County  
 St. Mary's City Quad

D.

38076-B4-TB-024

1987

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1987



SM-644

Louis & Louise Scott

St. Mary's County

Kirk Pincetta

Aug/98

MD CHPO

E + Solutions

1 of 2



SM-649

Louis + Louise Abell House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Purcell

Aug/98

Edin 240

W + N. Hampden

2 of 2