

S M -287
CHARLES MEDLEY HOUSE
Beachville
Private

circa 1900-1910

This two-story, L-shaped, unpainted frame house has a principal block three bays in length and one room in depth with an A roof. Unlike most of the older houses in the black community at Gum Landing in Beachville, its plan has two rooms flanking a central passage both upstairs and downstairs, and a two-story extension in back where the kitchen was located. The chamber above the kitchen served as the sleeping quarters for the boys. This was a customary living arrangement in all the older houses in the Gum Landing community according to George Carroll, whose grandfather was one of its founders. This house is located on land inherited by Charles Medley from his father Richard in 1927, though George Carroll remembers the Medleys living in it at least twenty years earlier. Like his brother John's house nearby, Charles Medley's house is abandoned and rapidly deteriorating.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM-287
MAGI # 1902875704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE CHARLES MEDLEY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of St. Inigoes Rd. c. 100 yds. East
of Jct of St. Inigoes Rd. and Grayson Rd.

CITY, TOWN

St. Inigoes

VICINITY OF

Beachville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles Medley

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Beachville

CITY, TOWN

St. Inigoes

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20684

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's Courthouse

Liber #: JMM 6
Folio #: 49

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

SM-287

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

between the principal block and the ^{L.} . The downstairs of ^{the L} served as the kitchen, ^{and} the upstairs as the sleeping quarters for the boys, according to George S. Carroll (STMA:283).

There were no doubt numerous outbuildings located about this farm, but dense underbrush prevents an investigation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1890's	BUILDER/ CONTEXT	Black Cultural/Social History
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Medley Family		

The comparatively large size of this house, its more commodious interior plan and division of space, its more substantial construction, and its large and more numerous openings all reflect the changes in housing that landownership can bring in comparison to tenancy. In addition, all of the materials were purchased, illustrating the entry of black families into the housing market as buyers, rather than as producers as they had primarily been in earlier years.

Charles and his brother John (SMA-288) were sons of Richard Medley from whom they inherited this land. That transaction was recorded in 1927, but George S. Carroll (STMA-283) reports that this house had been built long before then as the residence of the Charles Medley family, (probably, he thought, in the 1890's). The structural evidence supports this oral testimony. According to Carroll, the Medleys built this house themselves. They also made log canoes, he said, none of which are known to have survived.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

GEORGE W. McDANIEL, HISTORIC SITES SURVEYOR

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

TELEPHONE

269-2893

STREET & NUMBER

29 Dean Street

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE CHARLES MEDLEY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of St. Inigoes Rd. c 100 yds. East of
Jct of St. Inigoes Rd. and Grayson Rd.

CITY, TOWN

St. Inigoes

VICINITY OF Beachville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's Courthouse

Liber #: JMM 6

Folio #: 49

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtwn

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This handsome two story house was the proud residence of Charles Medley and his family. Today the house is abandoned, its grounds overgrown, ^{its} interior vandalized, and the entire structure is deteriorating rapidly. Like many abandoned house of black landowning families recorded in this survey, its present condition does not reflect at all its appearance when the house was occupied.

The structure faces north toward St. Inigoes Rd., and is located just a short distance from it. The house consists of a principal two story block with a two story ^L extending from the eastern side of the rear length. The broad facade is symmetrically designed, containing a door centrally located with two windows flanking it, the windows containing 6x6 lights, with matching windows above. The balloon frame is sheathed with weatherboards, which were probably painted white originally, or whitewashed. The frame is made entirely of commercially produced materials, but the frame is reinforced by heavy, long corner braces, reminiscent of traditional timber framing and indicating the marriage of the old and new in house-building.

In plan the interior consists of a central hall with two rooms on either side, and ^{has a} similar plan upstairs. The chimney stack for a wood burning ^Nstove is original, there never having been a fireplace. That stack ascends the middle of the wall

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SM-287

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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<input 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	c. 1890's	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Black History Judge Sam Raleigh
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

where the saw gauge was set, and 2½" x ^{4½"} at the other end.
 According to Carroll, Judge ^{SAM} Raleigh, who always ^{kept} a big
 plug of tobacco in his mouth, marked the lumber by taking
 aim, zap, ^{and} ordering: "Cut where I spit". While the dimensions
 of all folk houses may not have been determined by such
 methods, this does suggest that the builders were more
 lively individuals ^{than} Glassie, Eric Sloane, ^{and} other writers
 have made them out to have been.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

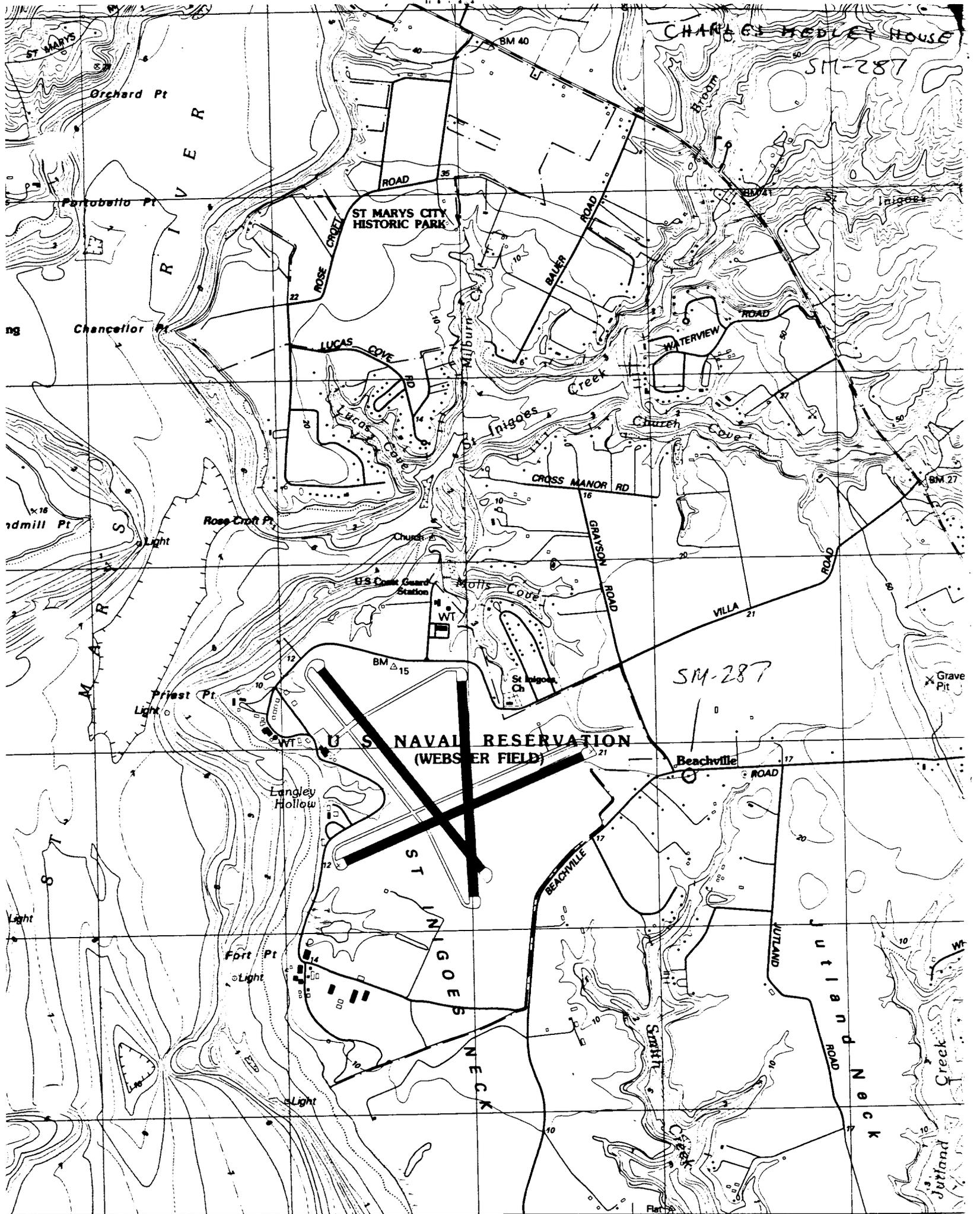
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CHARLES MEDLEY HOUSE

SM-287

ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK

U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION (WEBSTER FIELD)

SM-287



SM-287

CREDIT TO
GEORGE W. McDANIEL

Charles Medley House
STMA ~~285~~ 287
St. Inigoes, Md - Beachville
East View
GWM - 4/77



Charles Medley Lowe

STMA ~~287~~ 287

St. Inigoes, Md. — Beachville

NORTH facade

GWM — 4/77



Charles Medley House

STMA ~~287~~ 287

St. Inigoes, Md. - Beachville
South facade

GWM - 4/77