

T-346  
William C. Knight House  
Easton  
Private

Early 19th Century

Located at the head of navigation on the Tred Avon River, Easton Point was marked by many vernacular structures connected with its mercantile activities well into the twentieth century. With the coming of heavy industry most of these dwellings and small businesses were displaced by oil and concrete companies. The William C. Knight House, however, stands as a reminder of Easton Point's early years. Tradition assigns 1779 as the date of construction, but all available evidence points to the early 19th century. The house is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay frame and brick structure raised on a brick foundation. Except for part of the east gable end, the structure is covered with aluminum siding. The front facade has a central entrance, and its first story is shaded by a lean-to porch. A single dormer projects from the slope of the gable roof above, and a chimney rises within the east gable end. The interior has undergone some alteration, but two handsome Federal-style mantels, some door and window trim, and a stair in the northwest corner of the north room remain. To the northeast stood Tilghman's Fortune (T-247) before it was relocated by the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2103465304

T-346

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

William C. Knight House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Port Street, Easton Point

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William C. Knight

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Port Street, Easton Point

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

Maryland 21601

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 406

Folio #: 007

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of the remaining buildings at Easton Point, at the head of navigation on the Tred Avon River is presently owned by Mr. & Mrs. William C. Knight.

The house is a small one and one-half story frame structure three bays wide and two bays deep built upon a brick basement. Its facade looking south onto Port Street (Md. Rt. 334) has a lean-to porch extending from below the cornice. There is a central door flanked by two windows with 9/6 sash. On the 'A' roof is a single dormer window with 6/6 sash. The east gable end has one window which used to be a door. Most of the wall of the first story is brick laid in Common bond. A single large chimney stack pierces the roof. Two windows on both storys light the west gable. On the north facade was formerly one window on both storys, but a door to a new porch replaces the window. A portion of the porch is a bath. The walls are covered with aluminum siding, but most of the sash are original. The brick basement is in poor condition and lacks windows.

The interior of the basement is divided into south and north rooms, the north room having a fireplace which undoubtedly was the kitchen. On the first story is the same room arrangement with fireplace centered on the east wall of both rooms, which both have handsome Federal period mantels. Sheet paneling has been applied to the walls of the south room and only the door and window trim remain. Chair rail remains in the north room, which also possesses a stair in its northwest corner. Originally the stair had a balustrade up to a door and paneled walls. The wall, however, has been removed to open the entire stair, retaining the original balustrade and closet door beneath the stair.

The house is a small early 19th century vernacular structure which resembles several dwellings in St. Michaels of the same period. It was reputedly built in 1779, but all visible evidence indicated the first quarter of the 19th century.

**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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

---

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	-------------------

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is significant as a survival of a vernacular structure which originally was connected with the port of Easton. Most of the dwellings and businesses have been displaced by oil and concrete companies. The small brick house which formerly stood to the north-east of this building was moved onto Rt. 50 several years ago by the Chamber of Commerce and is called Tilghman's Fortune.

**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

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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



12 x 1.70

50%

346

William C. Knight House, Easton Pt

T-346



S. facade

MICHAEL BOURNE:

8/76