Survey No. T-491

Magi No. 2104915604

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Oliver Harrison House

2. Location

street & number Chicken Point Road ___ not for publication

city, town Tilghman ___ vicinity of congressional district first

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

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

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

name Chris Kennedy

street & number 9601 Montgomery Drive telephone no.:

city, town Bethesda state and zip code Maryland 20814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber

street & number Washington Street folio

city, town Easton state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-491

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

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

The Oliver Harrison House is located on the northeast shore of Tilghman's Island, several hundred yards southeast of the eastern end of Chicken Point Road. The house faces south across a broad inlet of Harris Creek just south of the east approach to Knapp Narrows.

The house is of frame construction resting on low brick piers. It is two stories high, three bays wide and one room deep with a pitched gable roof. A flush brick stove chimney is centered on the east gable wall; an exterior brick chimney centered on the west gable wall appears to originally have served a fireplace on the first floor and perhaps a wood stove on the second floor.

The principal facade faces south across a small cove known as Dogwood Cove. The entrance door is in the center bay of the first floor flanked by 1/1 windows to either side. Three 1/1 windows are ranged across the second story. The original plain weatherboard siding has been covered with asbestos shingles; the roof is wood shingle. The eaves oversail and are sheathed in, leaving scrolled rafter ends exposed under the eaves. A one story gable roofed entrance porch with tapered square posts and a modestly vaulted ceiling is centered on this facade.

The exterior brick chimney on the west gable wall is flanked by a pair of small 2/2 windows in the upper gable. The siding has also been covered on this wall. The eaves oversail and are boxed in.

The rear or north facade is similar to the front facade but the center bay is offset slightly to the west to accommodate the interior stair. The door on this facade is not protected by a porch.

On the east gable wall, there is a double door to the left of the flush brick chimney and a double casement window to the right, but these are the result of a modern alteration. Previously, there was a single door to the right and the paired casement window was to the left. A pair of original 2/2 windows flank the chimney in the upper gable. The siding and eaves match the west gable. A one story hip roof screen porch stretches across this end of the house.

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The interior consists of a center passage plan with a single room on either side of the central stair passage. The stair rises in a straight run against the east wall of the passage. It is an open-string stair with a turned newel, turned balusters and a plain rail. The carriage piece is beaded and decorated with scrolled stair brackets.

The center passage plan is repeated on the second floor with the addition of a small unheated chamber at the south end of the passage. A large closet has been added in the southwest corner of the west chamber. The interior chimney on the east gable wall of the east chamber is flanked on the left by an original closet and on the right by an enclosed, steep ladder-stair to the attic.

The attic is floored but otherwise unfinished. The circular sawn common rafters are joined at the ridge with a mitre joint nailed with machine made nails. A seam in the floor and roof at the west end of the attic indicates the location of the original interior stove chimney on that end of the house.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-491

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	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify) Maritime
		___ 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.

The Oliver Harrison House is a two story frame house with a center passage plan constructed circa 1890 by a member of a family widely known in the Tilghman area for building boats.

Oliver Harrison purchased a small parcel of slightly more than two acres in May 1890 from his brother, Joseph L. Harrison, for $241. A six-month mortgage for $300 executed July 18, 1890 was presumably used to finance construction of the house. A second mortgage executed in 1900 for the sum of $500 notes that the property should be insured against fire to the value of $375. In 1902 Harrison sold off 3/4 of an acre for $75 and in 1904 he sold the remaining property to Elmer Sinclair for $600 following foreclosure proceedings.

Three years later, in November 1907, Sinclair sold the house and lot to Robert J. Ridgaway. According to local tradition Ridgaway moved his family to the house from Poplar Island by skipjack.

The most renowned of the Harrison family boat builders was Oliver's nephew, John B. Harrison, whose boats included the "Flying Cloud" and the "Jay Dee", two log canoes that are still sailing. He also built the workboat "Lydia" for Robert Ridgaway, who is also known to have built at least one boat while he owned the Harrison House. This was a large buy boat built in 1918 that later became a derelict and is still used as a local navigational aid.

Following Ridgaway's death in 1928, the property passed to Kenny Harrison, of no relation to Oliver or John B. Harrison.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Covington, Antoinette H. Tilghman's Island Capers. Tilghman, 1981.

Research notes prepared by Chris Kennedy.

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 Orlando Ridout V/Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Maryland Historical Trust **date**

street & number 21 State Circle **telephone** 269-2438

city or town Annapolis **state** Maryland

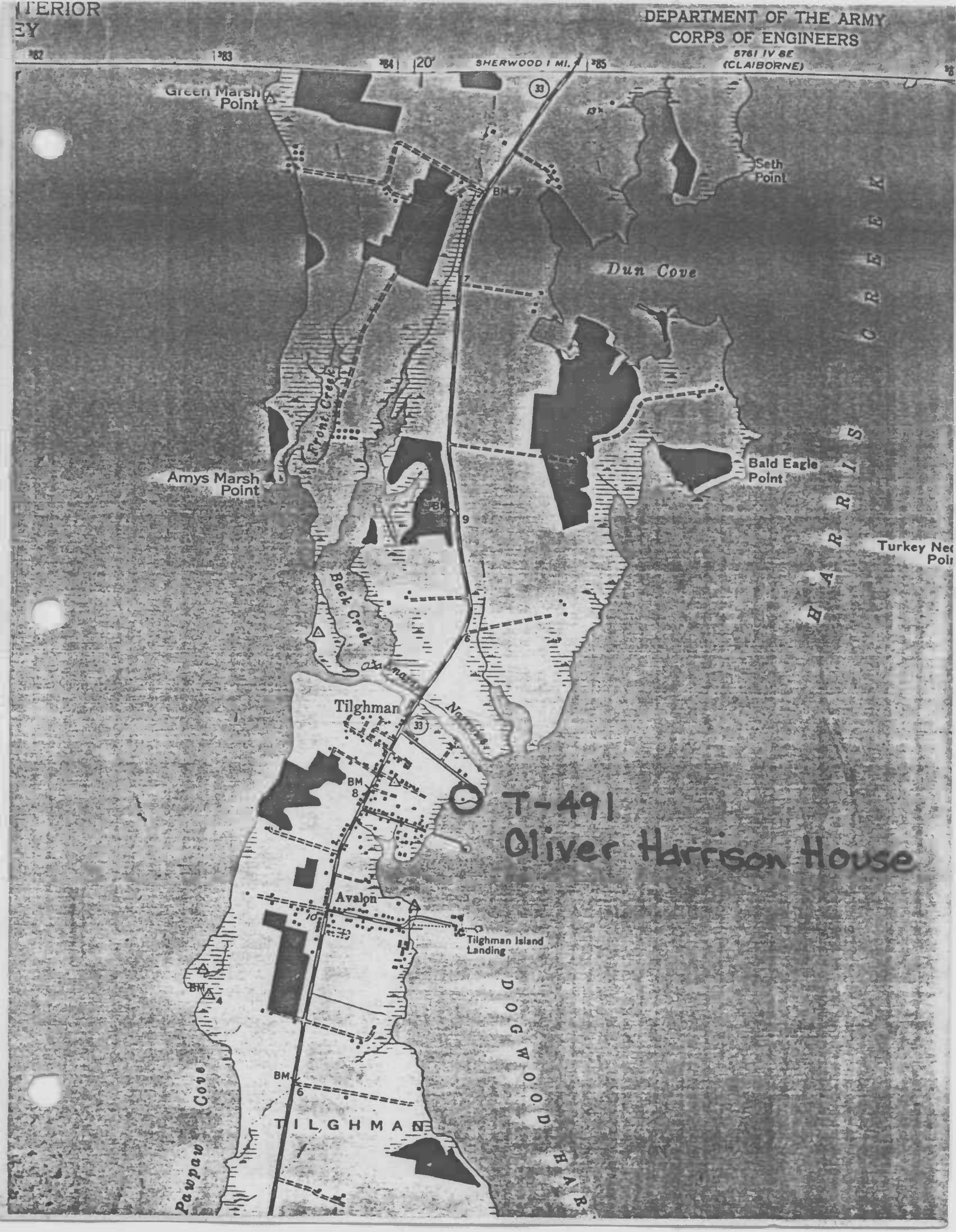
Field Notebook MD-6; Recorded October 6, 1982.

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


TERIOR
EY
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
5761 IV SE
(CLAIBORNE)
SHERWOOD 1 MI.
20'
Green Marsh Point
Seth Point
Dun Cove
Bald Eagle Point
Amys Marsh Point
Turkey Nec Poi
Back Creek
Tilghman
Avalon
Tilghman Island Landing
T-491
Oliver Harrison House
DOGWOOD HAR
TILGHMAN
Pawpaw Cove
HARRISON CREEK

T-491 Oliver Harrison House
Tilghman, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V, Oct. 6,'82
South (front) elevation

South

T-491 Oliver Harrison House
Tilghman, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V, Oct. 6,'82
North (rear) elevation

North