Capsule Summary

Survey No.: T-1125

Name: Rolles Range Road (north side, west end)

Construction Date: late-nineteenth century

Town/Vicinity: St. Michaels

County: Talbot

Access: Private

Summary Description:

This building is an abandoned and extremely deteriorated structure, located on the north side of Rolles Range Road near its western terminus. The house is an example of domestic architecture common to the area. The main block of the house is two-stories in height, with a cross gabled roof. A two-story wing extends perpendicularly from the rear of the house. Portions of the house have collapsed due to neglect, and all the windows and doors have been removed. The building is clad with asbestos siding; however, earlier German siding is visible in some areas. A shed roofed outbuilding, with board and batten walls, is located behind the house.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-1125

Magi No.

DOE __yes X no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Rolles Range Road (north side, at the west end) ___not for publication

city, town St. Michaels X__vicinity of congressional district First

state MD county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	___occupied	___agriculture	___museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___educational	___private residence
___site	**Public Acqusition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in process	X yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	___industrial	___transportation
	X not applicable	___no	___military	X other: Abandoned

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

name Anthony Wright

street & number 283 W. Browning Road telephone no.:

city, town Bellmawr state and zip code NJ 08031

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 552

street & number Washington Street folio 475

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-1125

Condition		Check one	Check one
___excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	_X_original site
___good	_X_ruins	_X_altered	___moved date of move _____
___fair	___unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 2

This building is an abandoned and extremely deteriorated structure, located on the north side of Rolles Range Road, near its western terminus. It is two stories in height with a cross gable roof exhibiting Carpenter Gothic influences. The facade is three bays wide with a central entrance. The ghosting of a gable fronted entry porch is located between the first and second floors. The overall form of the building is typical of the area, consisting of a two-story main block with a two-story rear kitchen wing extending perpendicularly from the rear of the house. The rear wing is two bays deep and has a collapsed roof. All the windows and doors have been removed. Interior end chimneys penetrate the roof line at the ridge. The building is clad with asbestos siding, but the original German siding is visible in some areas.

A shed roofed outbuilding is located behind the house. It has board and batten exterior walls and is in extremely deteriorated condition.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-1125

Period	Areas of Significance--Check and justify below			
___prehistoric	___archeology-prehistory	___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
___1700-1799	___art	___engineering	___music	___theater
X_1800-1899	___commerce	___exploration/settlement	___philosophy	___transporation
___1900-	___communications	___industry	___politics/government	___other (specify)
		___invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect** unknown

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 houses along Rolles Range Road have been reported to have belonged to freed slaves from Rolles Range (located at the western end of the road). See continuation sheets for more information.

This building is an example of local domestic architecture common to the area. Constructed in the late-nineteenth century, it is associated with the Industrial/Urban Dominance chronological period (1870-1930). The building is in extremely poor condition and can probably be classified as a ruin. Although the exterior shell is basically intact, all remnants of exterior detailing, doors, windows and porches have since been removed or have collapsed. This building is not significant architecturally, nor is it significant for its association with an historic figure or event. It has lost its historic character and retains little integrity and therefore is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B or C.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ____ **Eligibility not recommended** __X__

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Comments: Loss of integrity

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date** 4/20/99

Reviewer, NR program **Date** 8/14/00

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Survey No. T-1125

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nomiated property 1.0 acre

Quadrangle name St. Michaels, MD **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM Refernces do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Talbot County tax map 23, grid 13, parcel 37.
The boundary encompasses the parcel currently owned by Anthony Wright.

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 Rob Yallop, Architectural Historian

organization New South Associates **date** July 28, 1998

street & number 6150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave. **telephone** 770-498-4155

city or town Stone Mountain **state** GA 30083

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
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
(301-514-7600)

8. Significance (Cont.)

Rolles Range Road

According to Mr. William Cole, a current resident of Rolles Range Road, the property along the road was given to the former slaves of the Rolle family after emancipation.[1] The north side of the street was settled by Brookses (his ancestors) and the south side by Millers, both of African-American decent. Unfortunately, no documentary evidence gathered to this point supports Mr. Cole's claim, although Brookses and Millers have been identified as early inhabitants of Rolles Range Road. Further investigation did identify the road as primarily an African-American community; however, whites have lived, and continue to live, on the road.

In *Lift Every Voice*, a compilation of black oral history from the Eastern Shore, Rosella B. Camper wrote of her grandfather's life as a slave at Rolles Range.[2] Horace Brooks was born a free man, but was abducted from his yard in St. Michaels and forced to work at Rolles Range as a slave. Even though his parents knew where he was, they were afraid to go after him. Years later, after emancipation, Mr. Rolle continued to keep Horace as a slave, not telling him he was legally free. Many years later, Mr. Brooks returned to Rolles Range with his granddaughter and showed her the shackles where he had been chained as a boy. This account hardly presents Mr. Rolle as a benevolent master who would have given his freed slaves land on which to build their homes. It does, however, support Mr. Cole's claim that Brookses were former Rolles Range slaves, though their appearance along Rolles Range Road is not evident until after 1900.

Maps

The earliest map of Talbot County which clearly identifies property boundaries, structures, and vegetation is the 1847 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The cleared fields and buildings on Rolles Range farm, as well as the wooded lots surrounding the property, are evident on this map. A "U"-shaped drive with two entrances along Bay Side Avenue (currently MD Route 33) converge at the western edge of the woods at the road which leads up to the main house.

The 1858 Dilworth map of Talbot County, Maryland outlines property boundaries and illustrates dwellings, but also identifies landowners. Rolles Range is identified as the property of the "Heirs of W.F. Rolle." The parcel shape appears identical to the boundaries illustrated on the 1847 map. "Woodland" (literally wooded land) is located southwest of Rolles Range. The wooded parcel northeast of Rolles Range belongs to "J.N. Hambleton."

The northern fork of the "U" shaped entry drive appears to border the southern edge of J.N. Hambleton's property and the northern edge of the Woodland before meeting the Rolle parcel at

[1] Rob Yallop, personal communication with William Cole. July 28, 1998. Rolles Range Road, St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland.

[2] Rosella B. Camper. The Life of Horace Brooks. In Lift Every Voice. Friends of the Talbot County Free Library, Chesapeake College Press, Wye Mills, Maryland. 1999: 6.

its northeast corner. It is this portion of the drive that later became known as Rolles Range Road. Therefore, it is uncertain if this land belonged to the Rolle family, or was merely used as an access road.

The 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson map of Talbot County, Maryland illustrates nine houses along Rolles Range Road (not including Rolles Range farm) and attributes landowners; however, no parcel boundaries are shown. The southern fork of the "U" shaped entry drive is no longer illustrated. Landowners identified on the north side of Rolles Range Road (east to west) are: A. Barkman, T. Auld, J. Pinkney, J.L. Johnson, and H. Young. Residents along the south side (east to west) are: Wm. Green (Ice House), P. Mansfield, P. Roberts, and R. Miller.

By 1923 the number of houses along the road had doubled. Today the houses along Rolles Range Road number only eight. Two of these dwellings are modern houses, and two (T-1120 and T-1125) are severely deteriorated and no longer occupied.

Enumeration and Tax Information

The landowner names identified on the 1877 map were used to extract biographical information from U.S. Census data from 1850 through 1920 (Table 1). The *1798 Federal Direct Tax* list, *1832 Census of Freed Negroes*, and *1850 Slave Inhabitant's* schedule for Talbot County were also consulted, as well as other sources.

The 1870 and 1880 U.S. Census were originally consulted due to their proximity to the year the 1877 map was surveyed. In the 1880 Census, five of the nine landowners (six including Rolle) are listed on the same page. It is assumed that the list reflects the sequence of households as the enumerator walked Rolles Range Road gathering information. Since Rolles Range Road lies outside the city limits, households in the area are not listed by street name, as is sometimes the case. In 1870, the names were not grouped like in 1880, but most of the people can be identified as residents within the St. Michaels district. Therefore, it is probable that the Rolles Range Road community was established during the 1870s.

The *1850 Slave Inhabitant's* schedule does not individually list the names of slaves, as hoped. It lists individually, by number, the age, sex, and race of slaves by owner. William F. Rolle owned nineteen slaves in 1850. His neighbor to the northeast, John N. Hambleton, owned only two slaves. Several Rolles and Hambletons appear in census data from 1850 through at least 1880.

The property owner T. Auld stands out on the list of Rolles Range inhabitants. Identified as Thomas Auld in the 1870 and 1880 Census, this man is probably a relative of Captain Thomas Auld. Captain Auld lived northwest of Rolles Range Road and was, for a period of time, the owner of Frederick (Bailey) Douglass. In 1826, Douglass was sent to live with Thomas's brother Hugh in Baltimore where he aided in the care of Hugh's infant son, Thomas. A Thomas Auld and (Captain) Thomas Auld were counted among the St. Michaels residents in both 1850 and 1860, although their exact places of residence are unknown. The Thomas Auld enumerated

from 1850 through 1880 would have been too old to be the son of Hugh Auld. No Thomas Aulds were listed among the 1900, 1910, and 1920 U.S. Census data.

Also listed in the census is James Auld. Although James is not a Rolles Range Road landowner, within his household in the 1870 and 1880 census are his sister Harriett Barkman (identified as a landowner across MD 33 from Rolles Range Road) and her son Andrew Barkman. A. Barkman owned the lot directly east of T. Auld. James Auld can be found in the 1860 census, but his sister and nephew were not yet part of his household and do not appear independently. Andrew Barkman does not appear as a head of household in the 1900 census, although his sister Mary Bartman (sic) does. Andrew and his wife appear in both the 1910 and 1920 census data, within St. Michaels, although the exact location of their domicile is unknown.

Both the Barkman and the Auld families are listed as white; however, several black residents (servants/laborers?) were within their households in 1870 and 1880.

J. Pinkney lived just west of T. Auld on Rolles Range Road in 1877. Mr. Joseph Pinkney is among the five listings in the 1880 census that appear to have been in order along Rolles Range Road. A black farm laborer, Mr. Pinkney and his wife, Henrietta (Henny), along with several children, are listed in census data from 1850 through 1880. Joseph (32) and Henny (29) in 1850, should not be confused with a second Joseph (50) and Henney (41) Pinkney also listed in the 1850 enumeration. The latter Joseph and Henny (sic) appear in Talbot County in the *1832 Census of Freed Negroes* (Ireland 1999, unpublished). No Pinkneys are listed within St. Michaels census data after 1880.

At the west end of Rolles Range Road was J.L. Johnson. Two J. Johnsons are listed in St. Michaels in the 1870 census. Joseph is listed as head of his household. John is enumerated within the household of James Auld, previously mentioned. Middle initials are not given for either man. Without further information and the commonality of the surname Johnson, no further information was obtained.

A short extension of the Rolles Range Road turned north past J.L. Johnson's house. H. Young is labeled as his neighbor to the north. Horace Young and his wife Henrietta, both black, are listed along Rolles Range Road from 1870 through 1920. Prior to 1870 no Horace Young was found within Talbot County.

The first house identified on the south side of the east end of Rolles Range Road belonged to William Green and is also labeled "Ice House." William Green, his wife Mary, and their family resided in Talbot County from 1850 through 1870. In 1880, William's son Charles is among those names listed in order, as probable Rolles Range Road residents. After 1880 no Greens are found among those assumed to be on Rolles Range Road. William is listed as a sailor in 1850, and after as a farmer. In 1880, Charles appears as a farmer. The Green family is listed as black on all census data.

P. Mansfield is found only in the 1860 census. Philemon Mansfield is a white, twenty-year old tailor enumerated within the household of his father, Charles H. Mansfield. The exact location of their domicile within St. Michaels is unknown.

Peter Roberts is enumerated in 1880 between Joseph Pinkney and Robert Miller, two other black families on Rolles Range Road. Peter, a farm laborer, is listed in 1870 as owning 100 unimproved acres of land (uncertain if the same Peter). After 1880, the Roberts family does not appear among those names as possibly living on Rolles Range Road.

Robert Miller, whose home was located on the west end of the south side of Rolles Range Road, is not listed within Talbot County census data from 1850 and 1860, and may not have been a free person at this point. In 1870, he and one son are listed as mulatto, although in later census information both are listed as black. Robert, a farm laborer, is listed along with his Rolles Range neighbors on the 1880 census. In 1900, Robert Millers name does not appear; however, in 1910 he and his wife appear again, probably on Rolles Range Road. His son Morris and his family are also enumerated in 1900, possibly along Rolles Range Road.

A severely dilapidated structure is still located at the extreme west end of Rolles Range Road and may be the structure previously belonging to Mr. Robert Miller. Due to the low integrity of the building, it was not surveyed as part of the original survey of Rolles Range Road. Collapsed and covered in vegetation, the house appears to be a two-story, three bay frame structure similar to two others located on the street (T-1122 and T-1223). No Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form was completed for the house.

Due to the imprecise scale on the 1877 map, the exact locations of other houses compared to later maps is uncertain. However, conjectures have been made, and corresponding houses identified on the 1877 to 1923 maps with the 1986 USGS topographic map of St. Michaels, Maryland. A collapsed structure on the north side of Rolles Range Road, not surveyed, may have been the house belonging to A. Barkman. T-1122 and T-1123 may be the former homes of T. Auld and J. Pinkney, respectively. P. Roberts house may be the structure identified as T-1124. The house surveyed as T-1121 was originally identified as a folk Victorian structure. The house has since been classified as an American four-square, a much later house type; therefore the present structure may be a later replacement of the original house.

National Register Eligibility

Background and census research was conducted to determine the evolution of Rolles Range Road as an African-American community and its potential as a historic district. Although documentation has been found identifying many black families living along the road, there have also been, historically and currently, white and mixed race families living there as well. No deed research was conducted to determine the original landowner(s) and subsequent subdivision and sale (or gift?) of the parcels.

Integrity

Rolles Range Road appears to lack much of the integrity necessary to support any level of significance that would deem it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Each aspect of integrity is further addressed.

Location

Each of the four houses (T-1121, T-1122, T-1123, and T-1124) appears to be in its location of original construction. One structure, T-1121, is a later style and may have replaced an earlier form. The development of a predominately African-American community on the outskirts of town and among the farms where many were enslaved is interesting and may have an underlying basis in the origin of the property (gift or cheap), nearness to family still residing on nearby plantations, or proximity to paying jobs on the farms.

Design

The design or rhythm of the street has been disrupted by the number of empty lots and deteriorated buildings along the road. A once compact and viable street, the existing houses embody few characteristics of this rural streetscape.

Setting

The agricultural economy of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is barely visible along Rolles Range Road. One small agricultural field is located at the eastern end of the street, and larger farms, like Rolles Range, are no longer worked by the owners but rented out to tenant farmers. The smaller lots along Rolles Range Road have been conjoined during the years as older buildings have been removed. None of the historic houses along the road appeared to have a vegetable garden, once used for feeding the family and earning extra money.

Materials

All of the historic houses along Rolles Range Road appear to rest on stone pier foundations, like most of the historic homes in St. Michaels. This was necessary in the wet soils along the Eastern Shore. Several houses have been covered in vinyl siding, and all are roofed with asphalt shingles. Each house has had varying amount of its exterior material replaced during "improvements" over the years.

Workmanship

Three of the four extant historic houses along Rolles Range Road are simple two-story, I-houses (one - five bay, two - three bay) construction. This style of house is quite common to the area regardless of race. No anomalies in construction or craftsmanship were apparent.

Feeling
The discontiguous pattern of the houses and the fact that they represent a small portion of houses once found along the road diminishes the sense of an African-American "community."

Association
These four houses and their decomposing neighbors, hardly evoke a sense of community for which this area would be considered significant. One is struck with the lack of community when driving down this patchy desolate road. The extant houses together do not visually elicit the sense of an African-American community which once had as many as eighteen houses and numerous inhabitants.

Recommendation of Eligibility
The history of the Rolles Range Road has proved interesting and culturally rich; however, the lack of integrity, especially setting and association, of the extant historic houses has provided no support for an African-American or multi-racial district worthy of National Register nomination. Based on the small number of houses which can be attributed to the historic community, their altered state, and the proximity of the houses, the existing houses are mere shadow of the rich history of Rolles Range Road. Although a community predominantly made up of African-American inhabitants was located on Rolles Range Road, the role of white and mixed race families as part of that group should not be overlooked in future documentation. For these reasons, it is recommended that the houses along Rolles Range Road are not eligible for listing, either individually or as a historic district, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Table 1. Residents of Rolles Range Road as shown on the 1877 Lake Griffing and Stevenson map of Talbot County, Maryland, and identified in U.S. Census data for St. Michaels (Residents did not necessarily reside on Rolles Range Road for every year they are listed).

	1850	**1860**	**1870**	**1880**	**1900**	**1910**	**1920**
North Side							
A. Barkman			X w/ James Auld	X w/ James Auld	X (Mary)	X	X
T. Auld	X	X	X	X			
J. Pinkney	X	X	X	X			
H. Young			X	X	X	X	X
J.L. Johnson			X?				
South Side							
Wm. Green	X	X	X	X Charles			
P. Mansfield		X w/ Charles					
P. Roberts		X	X?				
R. Miller			X	X	?	X	

T-125

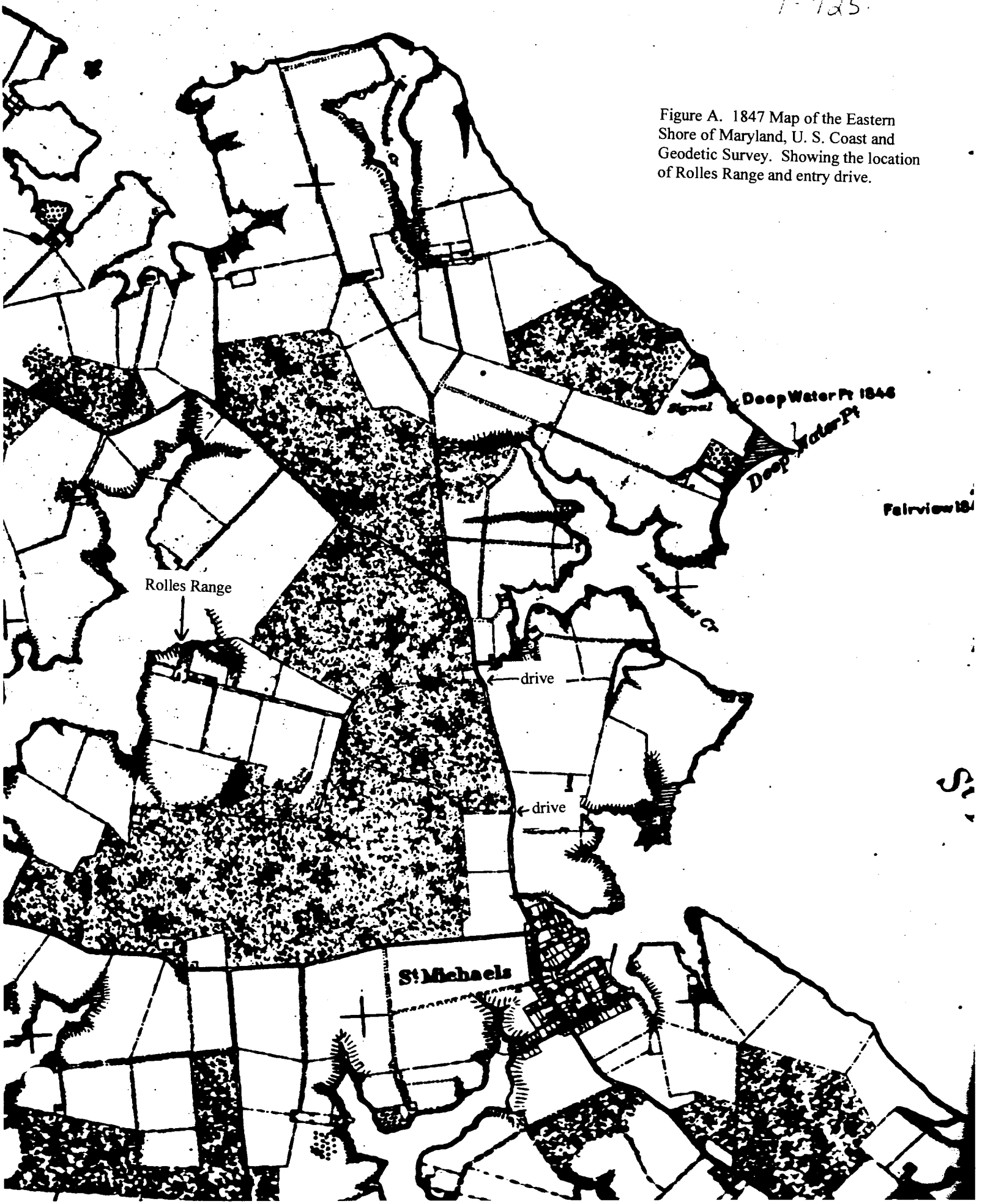


Figure A. 1847 Map of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Showing the location of Rolles Range and entry drive.

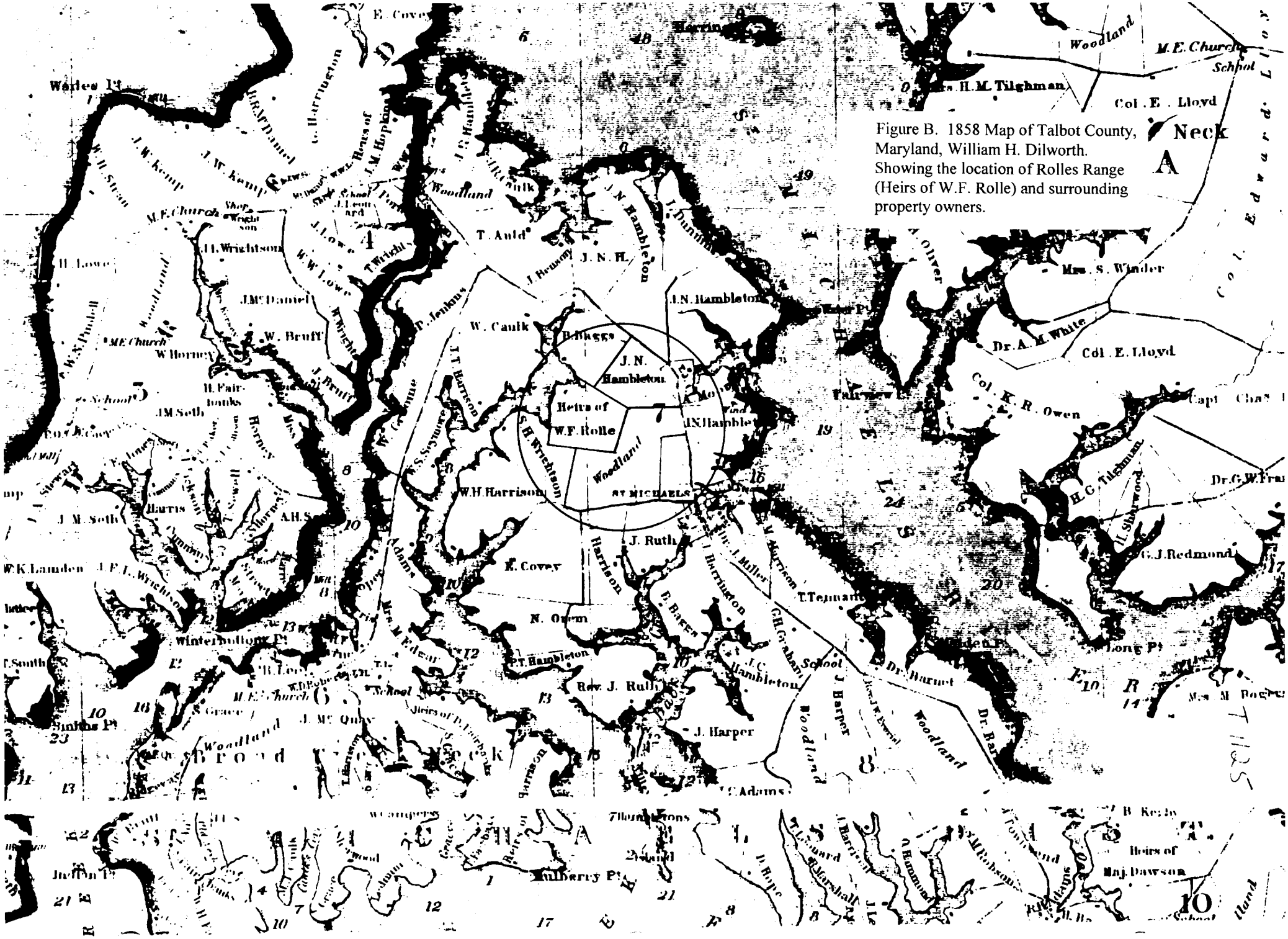


Figure B. 1858 Map of Talbot County, Maryland, William H. Dilworth. Showing the location of Rolles Range (Heirs of W.F. Rolle) and surrounding property owners.

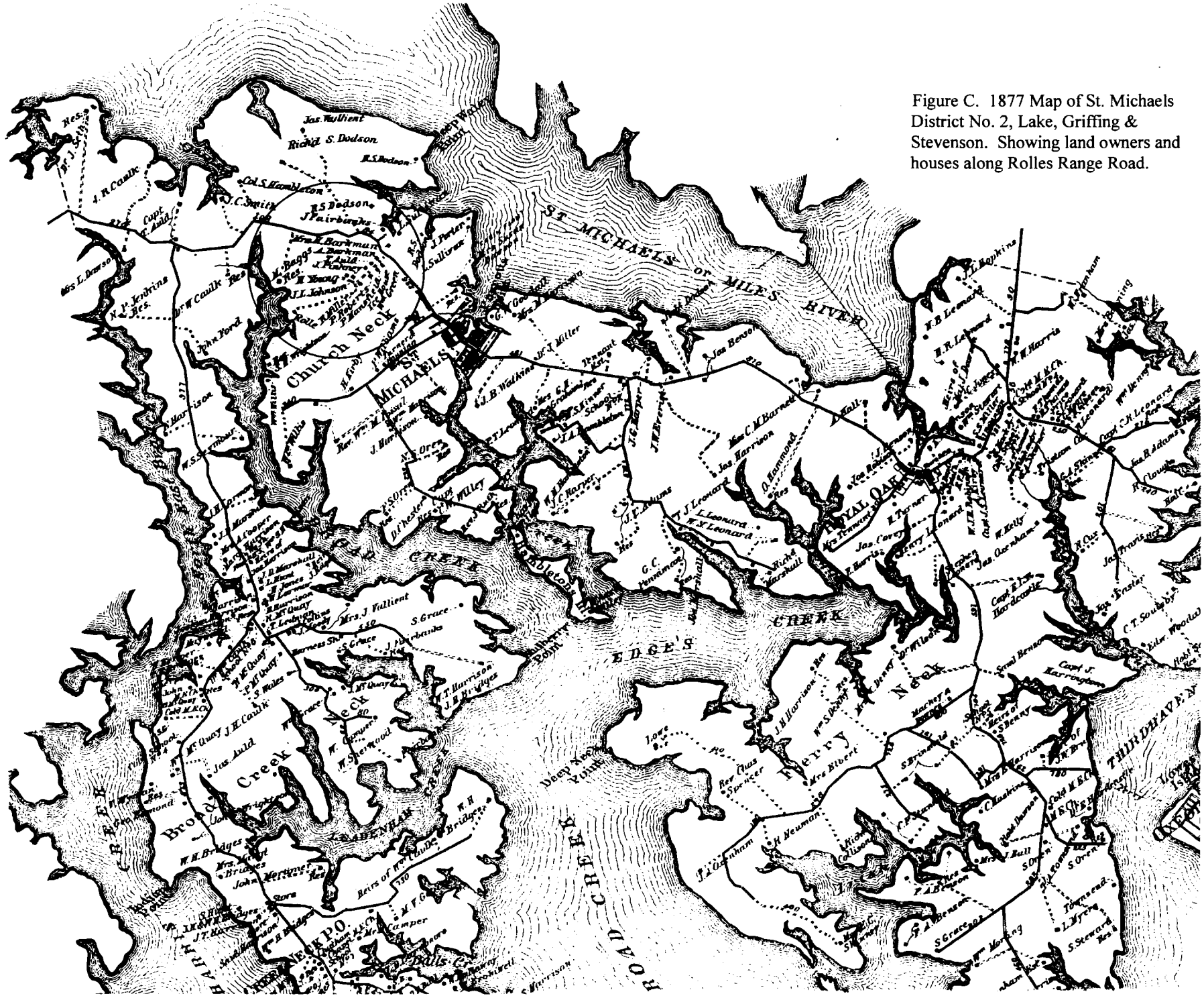


Figure C. 1877 Map of St. Michaels District No. 2, Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. Showing land owners and houses along Rolles Range Road.

T 1435

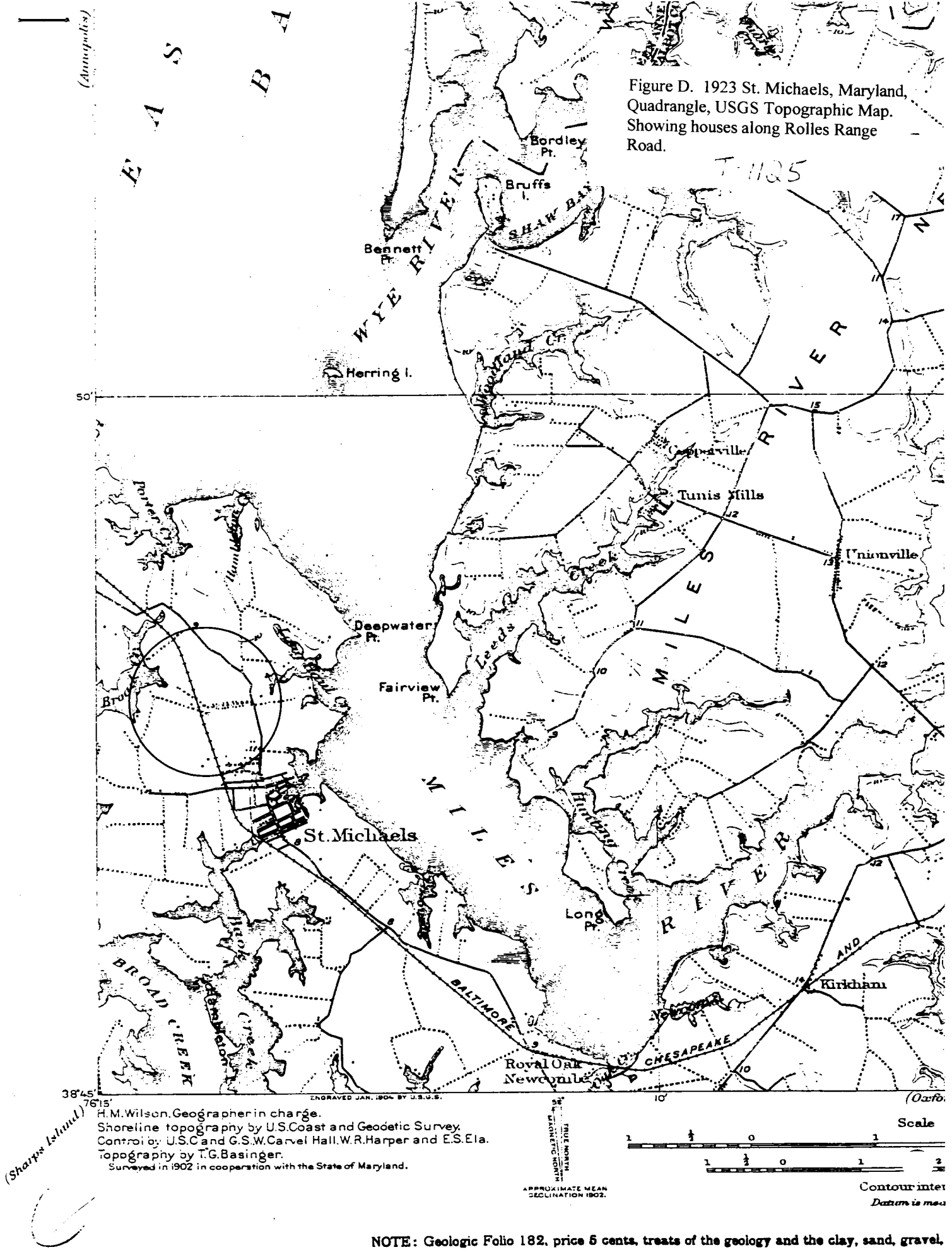


Figure D. 1923 St. Michaels, Maryland, Quadrangle, USGS Topographic Map. Showing houses along Rolles Range Road.

T-1125

NOTE: Geologic Folio 182, price 5 cents, treats of the geology and the clay, sand, gravel,

T 1125

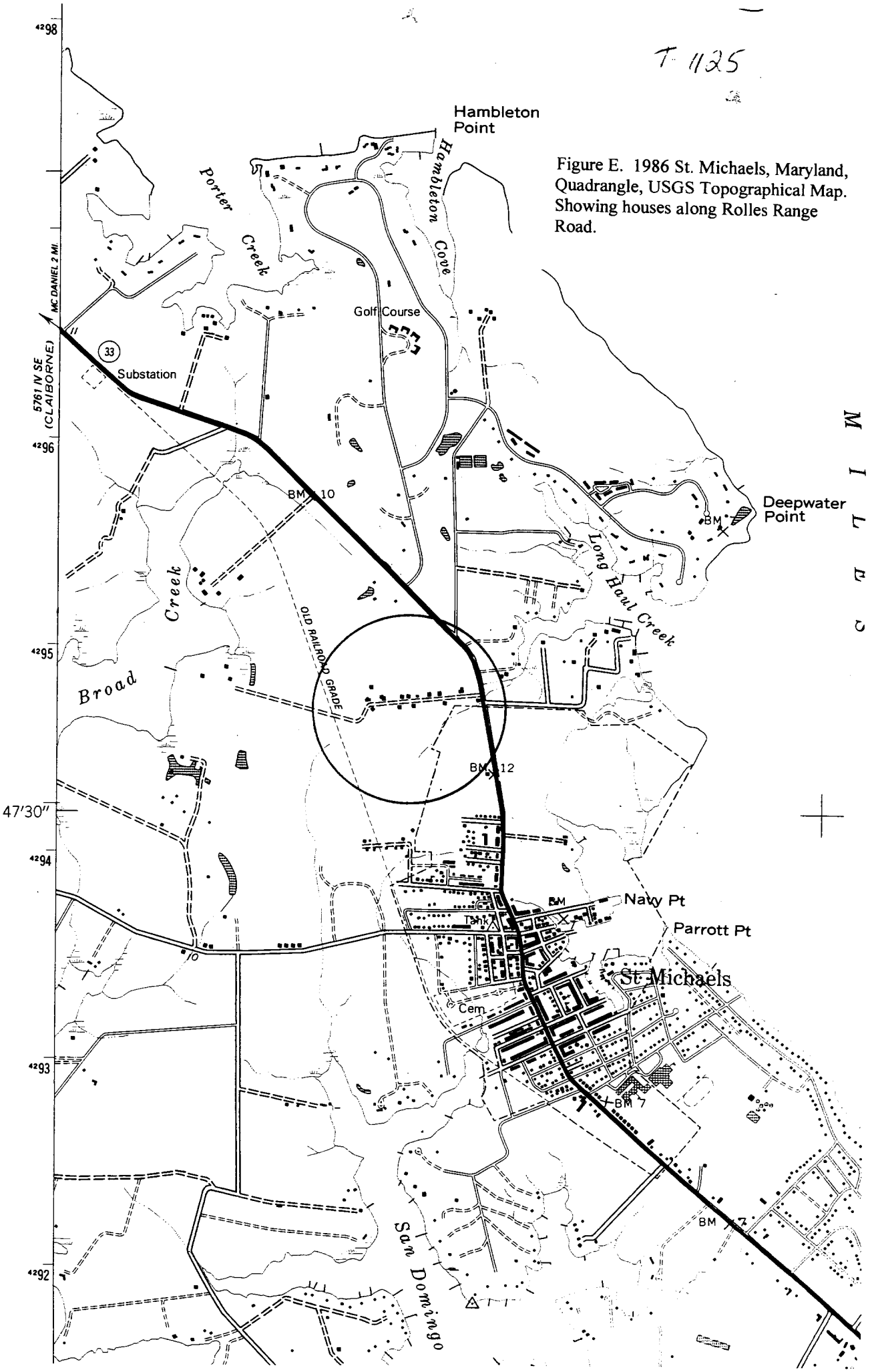


Figure E. 1986 St. Michaels, Maryland, Quadrangle, USGS Topographical Map. Showing houses along Rolles Range Road.

T-1125

Figure F. Deteriorated house at the west end of Rolles Range Road, south side. Possibly the house of R. Miller. Rachel Mancini, JMA, March 17, 1999.

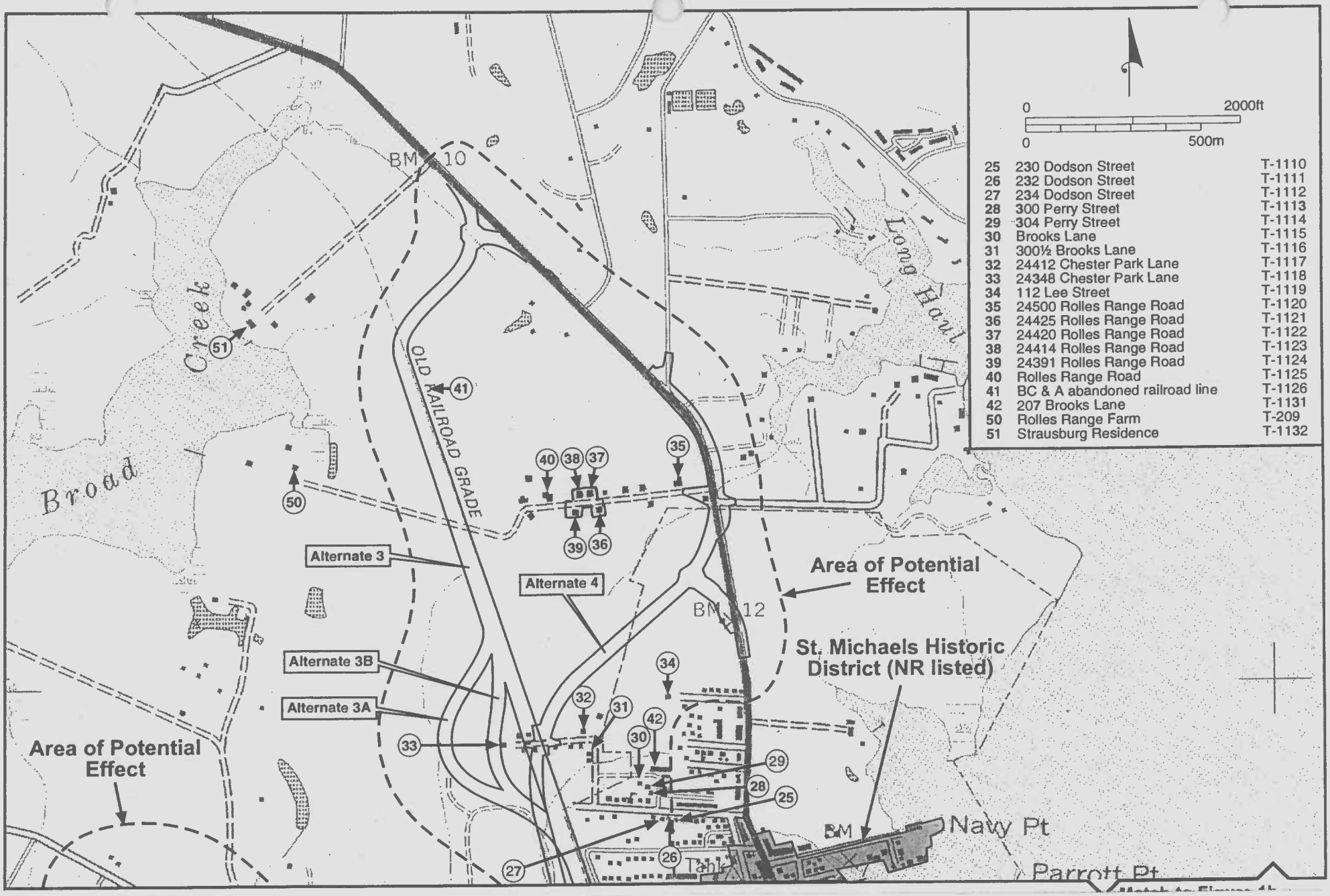


Figure G. 1986 St. Michaels, Maryland, Quadrangle, USGS Topographical Map. Showing proposed boundaries of Rolles Range Road African-American Historic District.

Proposed district includes:
T-1121 = 36
T-1122 = 37
T-1123 = 38
T-1124 = 39

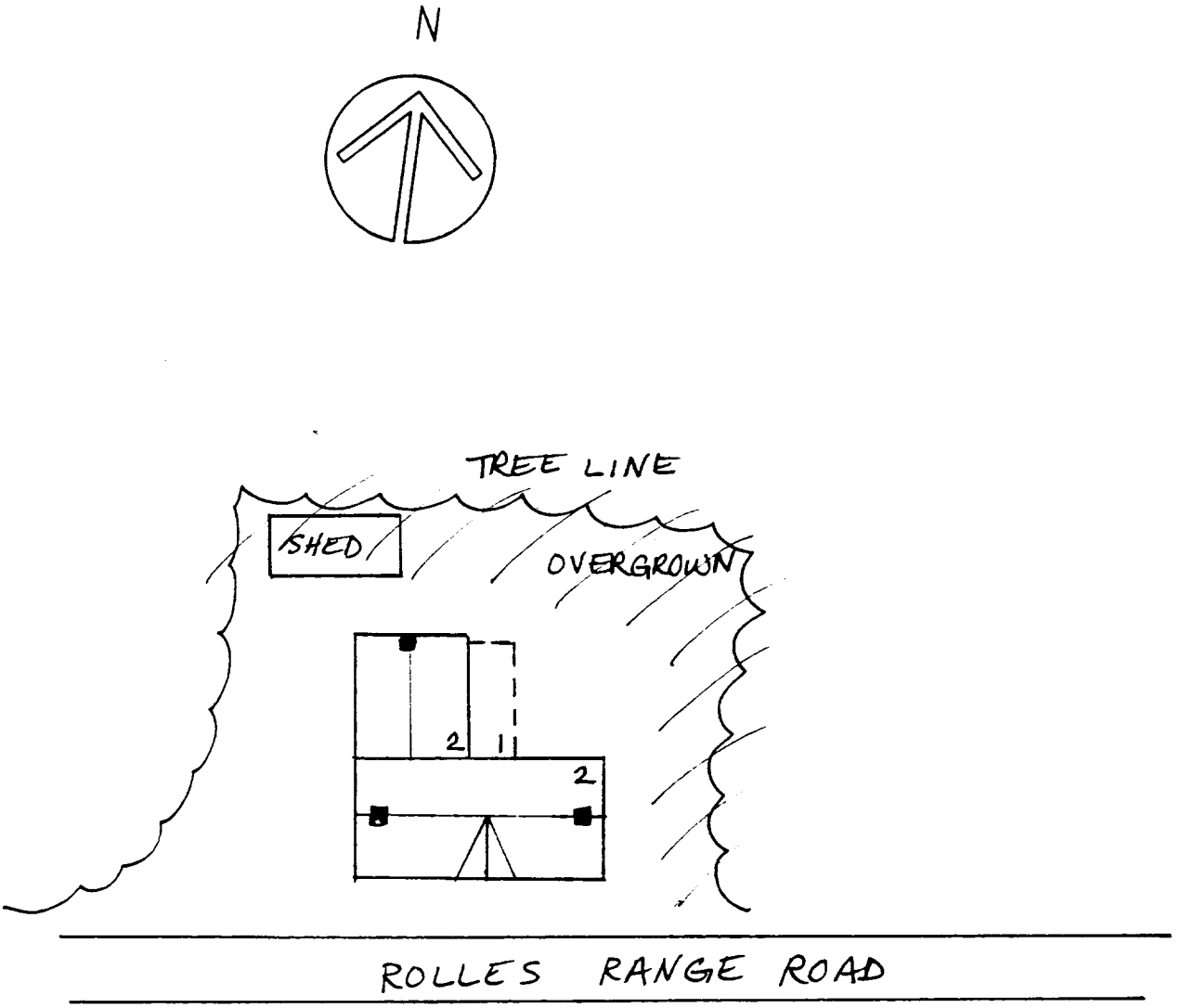
T-1125

T-1125

Rolles Range Rd., St. Michaels, MD

SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE

drawn by: Rachel Mancini
John Milner Associates, Inc.
August, 1998



MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance Period A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

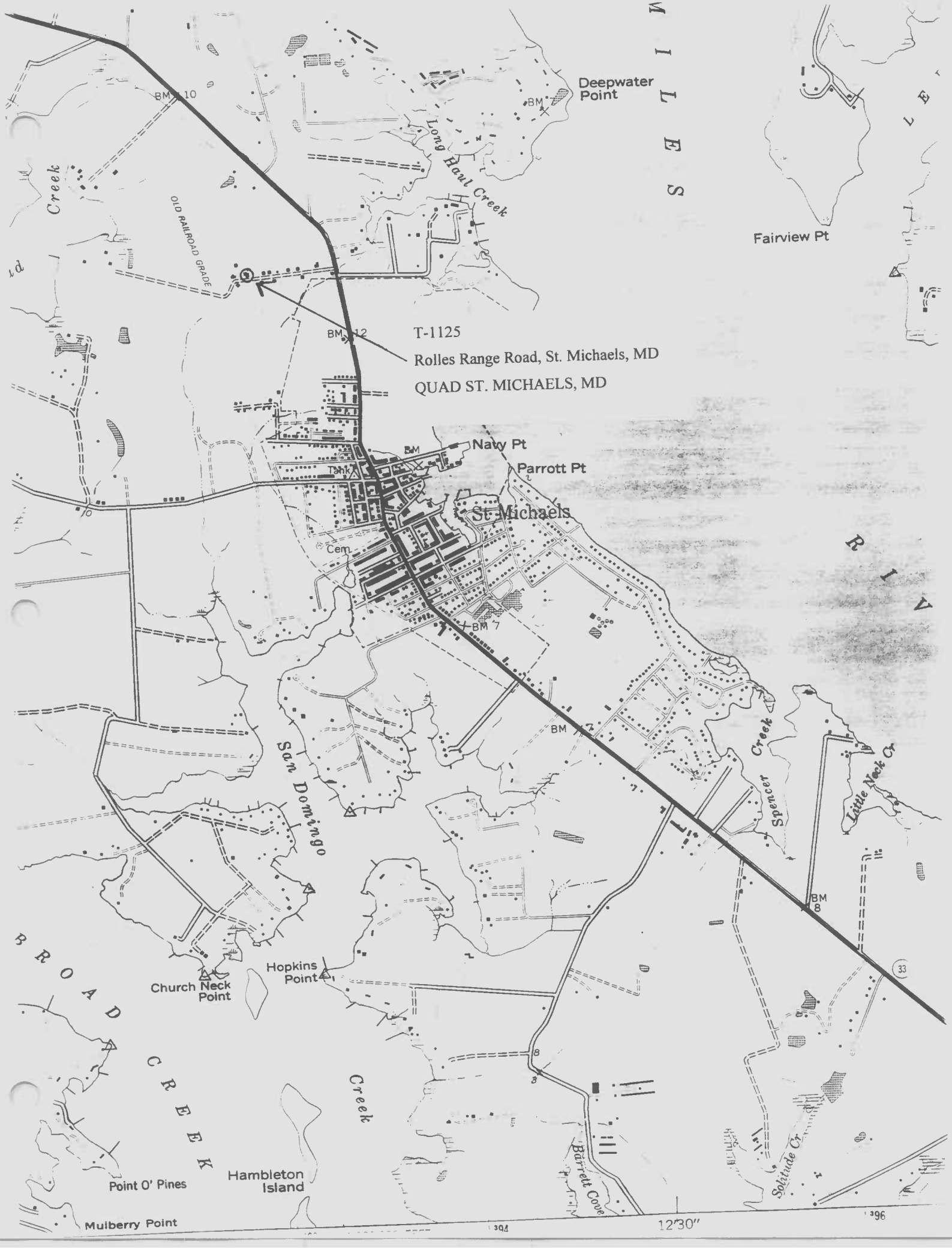
Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: none


T-1125
Rolles Range Road, St. Michaels, MD
QUAD ST. MICHAELS, MD
Deepwater Point
Long Haul Creek
OLD RAILROAD GRADE
Fairview Pt
Navy Pt
Parrott Pt
St. Michaels
Cem
Tank
BM 10
BM 12
BM 7
BM 8
San Domingo Creek
Spencer Creek
Little Neck Cr
Hopkins Point
Church Neck Point
BROAD CREEK
Point O' Pines
Hambleton Island
Barrett Cove
Solitude Cr
Mulberry Point
12'30"
33

T-1125

Rolles Range Rd

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Rachel Mancini

July 29, 1998

neg's → MD SHPO

Main house, South elevation - front

1 of 6

PROTEC8/98(No.19)018
787.06** N N N N 17 2(040)

2/9

T-1125

Rolles Range Rd.
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD
Rachel Mancini
July 29, 1998
negs → MD SHPO
Main house, (East elevation),
looking NW

2 of 6

PROTECS/98<No.20 >019
782 06** N N N N 08 2(040)

2/8

T-1125
Rolles Range Rd
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD
Rachel Mancini
July 29, 1998
neg's → MD SHPO
Main house, West elevation

3 of 6

PRUTEC8/98(No-18)017
732 R6** N N N N 18 2(840)

2/10

T-1125
Rolles Range Rd
St. Michaels, Talbot Co, MD
Rachel Mancini
July 29, 1998
neg's → MD SHPO

Main house, North elevation

4 of 6

T-1125

Rolles Range Rd.

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Rachel Mancini

July 29, 1998

neg's → MD SHPO

Outbuilding, looking NW

5 of 6

PROTEC8/98(No.15)014
782 06** N N N 1 14 2(040)

2/13

PROTEC8/98(No.16)015
782 06** N N N-1 23 2(040)

T-1125
Rolles Range Rd.
St. Michaels, Talbot Co, MD
Rachel Mancini
July 29, 1998
neg's → MD SHPO
Outbuilding, looking SE

6 of 6

2/12