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Contact: Sara Robins
610-220-3929
robins200@comcast.net

If you've ever walked the streets of St. Michaels and wondered what it would be like to peek into some of the unique and historic homes that dot the town, now is your chance. This year's Christmas in St. Michaels Tour of Homes December 9-10, 2017 features a mix of waterfront estates and waterman's cottages in and around town. In a weekend packed with parties, parades and special events, the Tour of Homes is the highlight, drawing visitors from far and wide for a close up look at the past and the present.

Eight homes in all are featured on this year's tour - six in St. Michaels and two in nearby Bozeman. This year's tour features several renovated old homes with modern interiors, new homes built to look old and one house that played a role in the battle that gave St. Michael's its nickname - the Town that Fooled the British. Transportation is provided to all out of town locations. Tickets are \$25.00 for both days.

One of the most unique homes on the tour this year is the Cannonball House, built in the early 1800s when Thomas Jefferson was president and now listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. During a British assault on St. Michaels in 183, the town hung lanterns high in the tree tops mimicking lit windows. The ruse caused the British to overshoot most of the houses except one - the Cannonball House. The home earned its name when a cannonball tore through its house and rolled down the stairs, narrowly missing the homeowner's wife and new baby. Burn marks are still visible between the second and third floor. The battle also gave St. Michaels its nickname - The Town that Fooled the British.

Other homes include two waterfront estates; a replica of an 1870s home that incorporates a 200-year old waterman's cottage known locally as the Marshall House; the Aaron Dyott house with its asymmetrical three-bay elevation; a former boarding house that now boasts a small vineyard and a Little Free Library plus several other noteworthy and interesting homes. All of the in-town homes are within walking distance of each other. For more information, please visit <https://christmasinstmichaels.org/product/tour-of-homes/>

Tickets for the Christmas in St. Michael's Tour of Homes may be purchased online at <http://www.christmasinstmichaels.org/events> for \$25.00 or in person at The Christmas Shop.

Chesapeake Trading Company, Chesapeake Bay Outfitters and Charisma in St. Michaels until noon December 8th. After that time, ticket prices can be purchased in person for \$30.00 at the Granite Lodge on St. Mary's Square, St. Michaels.

All proceeds from the Christmas in St. Michaels Tour of Homes and other events go to fund local charities. Over the past three decades, Christmas in St. Michaels has donated more than \$1 million to local non-profit organizations providing much-needed services to area residents. For more information about this and other events, please visit: christmasinstmichaels.org.



The Cannonball House was the only home in St. Michaels to suffer damage during the War of 1813 when the British shelled the town. Evidence of the shelling is still visible in an upstairs hallway.