

D-137
Robertson-Leonard House
Cambridge
c. 1795, c. 1895
Private

The Robertson-Leonard house is a prominent example of a hybrid eighteenth- and nineteenth-century frame dwelling that contributes to the historic development of High Street. Estimated to date to the late eighteenth century during the ownership of Dr. William and Henrietta Murray Robertson, the side hall/double pile plan dwelling was extensively reworked during the late nineteenth century under the ownership of James C. Leonard or his brother Ivy L. Leonard. The old Robertson house was formerly joined to the house next door at 120 High, and the large structure was divided into two dwellings around 1895. Both houses reflect the strong influence of the designs of Charles L. Eastlake (1833-1906), an English interior designer who promoted a distinctive architectural aesthetic that focused on the application of turned and/or carved woodwork for the interiors and exteriors of Victorian houses. The Robertson-Leonard house is distinctive for its decorative front porch with quarter round carved brackets and an unusual porch railing design with half round carved disks the mirror the pairs of porch brackets under the eave. The main roof of the eighteenth century house was modified during the late nineteenth century with the restyling of the structure with the application of a jerkinhead, clipped gable end.

On September 27, 1794, Henrietta Murray married William M. Robertson, and the couple apparently financed construction of a two-story side hall/double-pile frame dwelling on property she had inherited from her family. The sizable frame dwelling remained in Robertson family hands until 1853 when Vans Murray Robertson, serving as

a trustee for the estate, transferred the house and lot to Lewis Ross for \$2125. The substantial purchase price indicates the property was well improved. Lewis Ross, who owned property totaling 5000 acres during the 1870s, sold the old Robertson house and lot that stretched to Cambridge Creek, to William Thomas in 1873 for \$2625. William Thomas held title to the property until his death, and a circuit court settlement in 1893 permitted the sale of the house and lot to James C. Leonard in April 1894 for \$7,820. Between 1894 and 1896 the large rambling house was subdivided into two dwellings and additions and modifications were made to each structure. The eighteenth-century house remained on its site, and it ultimately became the residence of Ivy L. Leonard, and his brother James, occupied the house next door. (See D-369) Ivy L. Leonard and his brother were successful seafood packers, and they soon developed the inner harbor shoreline that came with the property. In a business profile of the I. L. Leonard Packing Company in 1901, it was stated:

The firm is composed of Messrs. Ivy L. Leonard, Jas. C. Leonard, and James C. Johnson. The manager, Ivy L. Leonard, is a native of Dorchester county, and when the splendid opportunities in a business way began to attract the young men from the county, he removed with his family to Cambridge, and rapidly became very successful. He is identified with all the leading enterprises which are constantly being established. Mr. Johnson is the assistant cashier of the National Bank, of Cambridge, which position he has filled for the last ten years. He has the respect and confidence of the entire business community. They are among the largest manufacturers of all kinds of canned goods on the Eastern Shore, the quality of their goods is the best, and the reputation is well established throughout the country, bringing the tip-top prices of the market. Their factory is splendidly equipped and up-to-date in every respect. Employment is given during the packing season to 150 hands and their pay rolls each week aggregate large sums, which is distributed among people of all classes and trades. They have been in business a number of years and their credit and business standing is the very best and unquestioned.

Following the deaths of Ivy L. Leonard and his wife Mollie, the property ultimately passed into the hands of sisters, Maria Louise and Leila Grace Leonard in 1948, and the Leonard sisters retained ownership and occupancy until their deaths. Maria Louise Leonard died on December 30, 1964, and her older sister Leila Grace Leonard died on July 15, 1973. Leonard family ownership of the property continued until 1986 when the property was sold to Lawrence and Irene McCormick.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-137

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Robertson-Leonard House
other

2. Location

street and number 118 High Street not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

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

name Lawrence and Irene M. McCormick
street and number 118 High Street telephone
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 241 folio 857
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 51 tax ID number 129289

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
							<input type="checkbox"/> Total
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. D-137

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Robertson-Leonard house stands at 118 High Street in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half side hall/double pile frame house is supported on a raised brick foundation and the exterior is sheathed with German siding. The medium pitched jerkinhead gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a stepped service wing. The side hall/double pile main block dates to the late eighteenth century, however its exterior was completely renewed around 1895 in Victorian manner with an Eastlake style front porch. The house faces northwest.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Robertson-Leonard house is a two-and-a-half story side hall/double pile frame dwelling that stands at 118 High Street in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The house was built in two distinct periods, beginning during the late eighteenth century and then reworked around 1895. Supported on a raised brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar, the exterior is clad with German siding, and the medium pitched jerkinhead gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the southeast (rear) is a two-story, two-part service wing built during the late nineteenth century after the house was subdivided with the adjacent structure at 120 High moved ten to fifteen feet to the southeast.

The northwest (main) elevation is a three-bay façade with a double door side entrance framed by an unusual multi-pane, colored glass transom and sidelights. Louvered shutters flank the sidelights. The double doors to the entrance have etched glass decorative upper panels and solid Victorian panels below the lock rail. There is a multi-pane colored glass transom that stretches the full width of the opening. The adjacent bays are marked by single-pane sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Sheltering the entire first floor front is an Eastlake style porch with a nearly flat roof. The square porch columns have chamfered corners and fluted sides and quarter round carved brackets flank each post. The lower third of each post has decorative carving, and between each post is a series of half-round carved ornaments fixed to the upper rail by a vertical post. The cornice is also enriched with a series of widely spaced, quarter round carved brackets. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced single-pane sash windows, and each opening is flanked by louvered shutters. Defining the gable end is the jerkinhead clipped gable, which is finished with an extended eave and carved bargeboard. Lighting the attic are two pointed arch windows flanked by louvered shutters.

The northeast side elevation is a three-bay façade with sash windows lighting the first and second floors, each window opening is flanked by louvered shutters. Rising through the side of the house are two interior brick chimney stacks finished with corbelled caps. Fixed between the two chimneys is a large jerkinhead gable roofed dormer

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Maryland Inventory of
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Name Thomas-Leonard House
Continuation Sheet

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The southwest side is relatively plain with single window openings in the north bay on each floor. A large jerkinhead gable dormer defines the roof.

The southeast (rear) elevation is largely covered by the two-story, two-part, stepped profile service wing that dates to the late nineteenth century. Each section is served by an interior brick stove stack finished with a corbelled cap. The southwest side of the stepped service wing is sheltered on the first floor by a partially enclosed, flat roofed porch. Each section is covered by a medium pitched roof finished with extended eaves and short returns at the base of the roof.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-137

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Robertson-Leonard house is a prominent example of a hybrid eighteenth and nineteenth century frame dwelling that contributes to the historic development of High Street. Estimated to date to the late eighteenth century during the ownership of Dr. William and Henrietta Murray Robertson, the side hall/double pile plan dwelling was extensively reworked during the late nineteenth century under the ownership of James C. Leonard or his brother Ivy L. Leonard. The old Robertson house was formerly joined to the house next door at 120 High, and the large structure was divided in two around 1895, and two dwellings were created from one. Both houses reflect the strong influence of Charles L. Eastlake (1833-1906), an English interior designer who promoted a distinctive architectural aesthetic that focused on the application of carved and/or turned woodwork to Victorian houses. The Robertson-Leonard house is distinctive for its decorative front porch with quarter round carved brackets and unusual porch railing design with half round carved disks that mirror the pairs of quarter round brackets at the top of each porch post. The main roof was altered during the late nineteenth century with the turning of the gable and the application of a jerkinhead, clipped gable end.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

On September 27, 1794, Henrietta Murray married William M. Robertson, and the couple apparently financed construction of a two-story, side hall/parlor plan frame dwelling on property she had inherited from her family. The sizable frame dwelling remained in Robertson family tenure until 1853 when Vans Murray Robertson, serving as a trustee for the rest of the family, transferred the house and lot to Lewis Ross for \$2125.¹ The substantial purchase price indicates the property was well improved. Lewis Ross, who owned property in Dorchester County totaling 5000 acres during the 1870s, sold the old Robertson house and lot stretching to Cambridge Creek to William Thomas in 1873 for \$2625.² William Thomas held title to the property until his death, and a circuit court settlement in 1893

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 2/384-85, 20 September 1853, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Md.

² Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 8/97, 30 January 1873, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Md.

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Name Robertson-Leonard House

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permitted the sale of the house and lot to James C. Leonard in April 1894 for \$7,820.³ Between 1894 and 1896, the large rambling house was subdivided into two with additions and modifications made to each structure.⁴ The eighteenth century section remained on its site, and it ultimately became the residence of Ivy L. Leonard whereas his brother James occupied the house next door. (See D-369) Ivy L. Leonard and his brother were prominent seafood packers, and they soon developed the inner harbor shoreline that came with the house. In a business profile of the I. L. Leonard Packing Company in 1901 it was stated:

The firm is composed of Messrs. Ivy L. Leonard, Jas. C. Leonard, ad James C. Johnson. The manager, Ivy L. Leonard, is a native of Dorchester county, and when the splendid opportunities in a business way began to attract the young men from the county, he removed with his family to Cambridge, and rapidly became very successful. He is identified with all the leading enterprises which are constantly being established. Mr. Johnson is the assistant cashier of the National Bank, of Cambridge, which position he has filled for the last ten years. He has the respect and confidence of the entire business community. They are among the largest manufacturers of all kinds of canned goods on the Eastern Shore, the quality of their goods is the best, and the reputation is well established throughout the country, bringing the tip-top prices of the market. Their factory is splendidly equipped and up-to-date in every respect. Employment is given during the packing season to 150 hands and their pay rolls each week aggregate large sums, which is distributed among people of all classes and trades. They have been in business a number of years and their credit and business standing is the very best and unquestioned.⁵

The property passed into the hands of sisters Maria Louise and Leila Grace Leonard in 1948, and the Leonard sisters retained ownership until their deaths. Maria Louise Leonard died on December 30, 1964, and her older sister Leila Grace died on July 15, 1973.⁶ Leonard family ownership lasted until 1986 when the property sold to Lawrence and Irene McCormick.⁷

³ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 18/208, 7 April 1894, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Md.

⁴ Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1891, 1896, Library of Congress.

⁵ The Eastern Shore, Maryland: A Business Review and Sketch Book; Resources, Industries and Commercial Advantages of a Remarkable Section, 1901. p. xix.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 185/279, 15 June 1974, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁷ Dorchester County Land Record, 241/857, 1 October 1986, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

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Name Robertson-Leonard House

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Robertson-Leonard House
118 High Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 301, Parcel 51

241/857

Joan L. Huntington, Elsie L. Evans, J. Henry Leonard
Mary V. W. France and Alan Leonard Webb

to

10.1.1986

Lawrence O. McCormick and Irene McAllister McCormick

\$127,000

PLC 185/279

J. Henry Leonard, Personal Representative of Estate of Leila Grace
Leonard

to

6.15.1974

Clara L. Webb, dec'd, Joan L. Huntington, Elsie L. Evans, and
J. Henry Leonard

RSM 68/77

V. Calvin Trice, Trustee

to

11.10.1948

M. Louise Leonard and L Grace Leonard

(22 High Street)

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CL 33/200

James C. Leonard and Katie F. Leonard

to

6.26.1907

Ivy L. Leonard

CL 18/208

Alonzo L. Miles, Trustee

to

4.7.1894

James C. Leonard

\$7,820 Decree of Circuit Court, 4.3.1893, Thomas A. Willis and others complainants and Maria J. Thomas, executrix of William Thomas, deceased, and others, defendants

FJH 8/97

Lewis Ross

to

1.30.1873

William Thomas

\$2625.00 All that lot or parcel of land situated on the South East side of High Street in the town of Cambridge bounded towards the North East by the Lot and premises of Dr. Robert H. Dixon, towards the South East by Cambridge Creek towards the South West by the Lot and premises of Charles F. Goldsborough and towards the North West by High Street...

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Continuation Sheet

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FJH 2/384-85

Vans Murray Robertson, Trustee

to

9.20.1853

Lewis Ross

\$2125.00

ER 14/438-444

Littleton M. Robertson

to

3.25.1835

Vans Murray Robertson

Estate of William M. Robertson, subject to dower of Henrietta
M. Robertson

9.27.1794

William M. Robertson married Henrietta Murray

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-137

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Sanborn Insurance Map, various issues, Library of Congress.

The Eastern Shore, Maryland: A Business Review and Sketch Book: Resources, Industries, and Commercial Advantages of a Remarkable Section, Baltimore, Maryland: R. H. Woodward Co., Publishers, 1901.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 11,578 square feet

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	12.30.2011
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

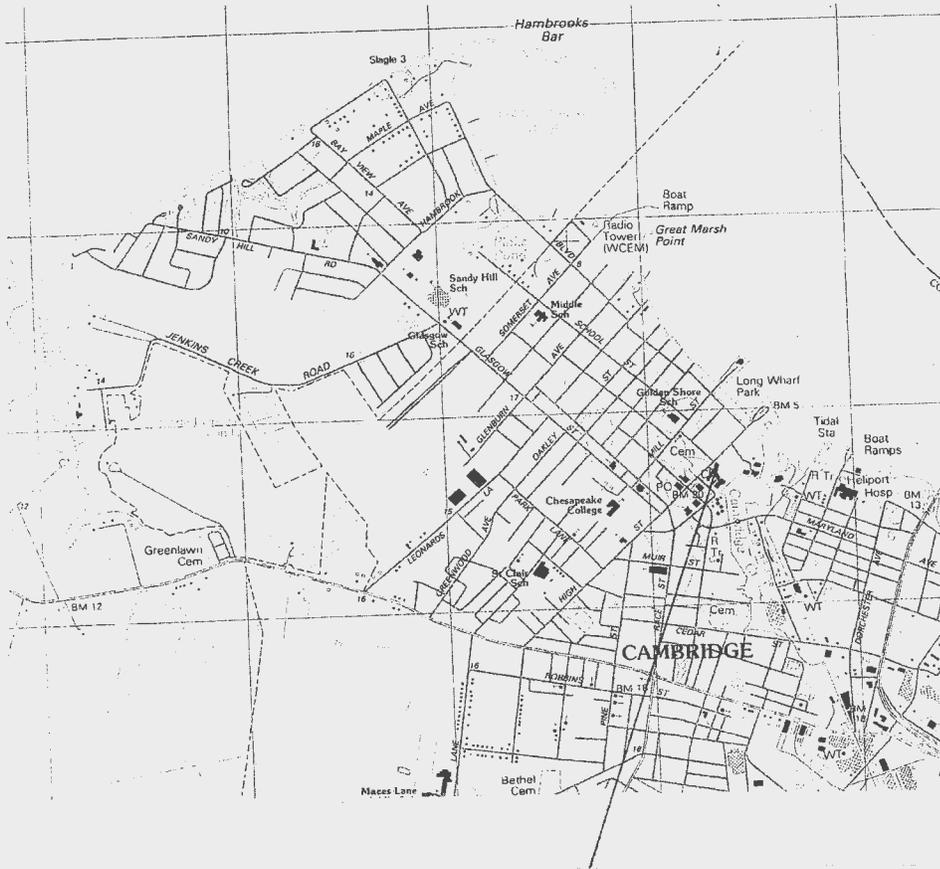
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Robertson-Leonard House
Continuation Sheet

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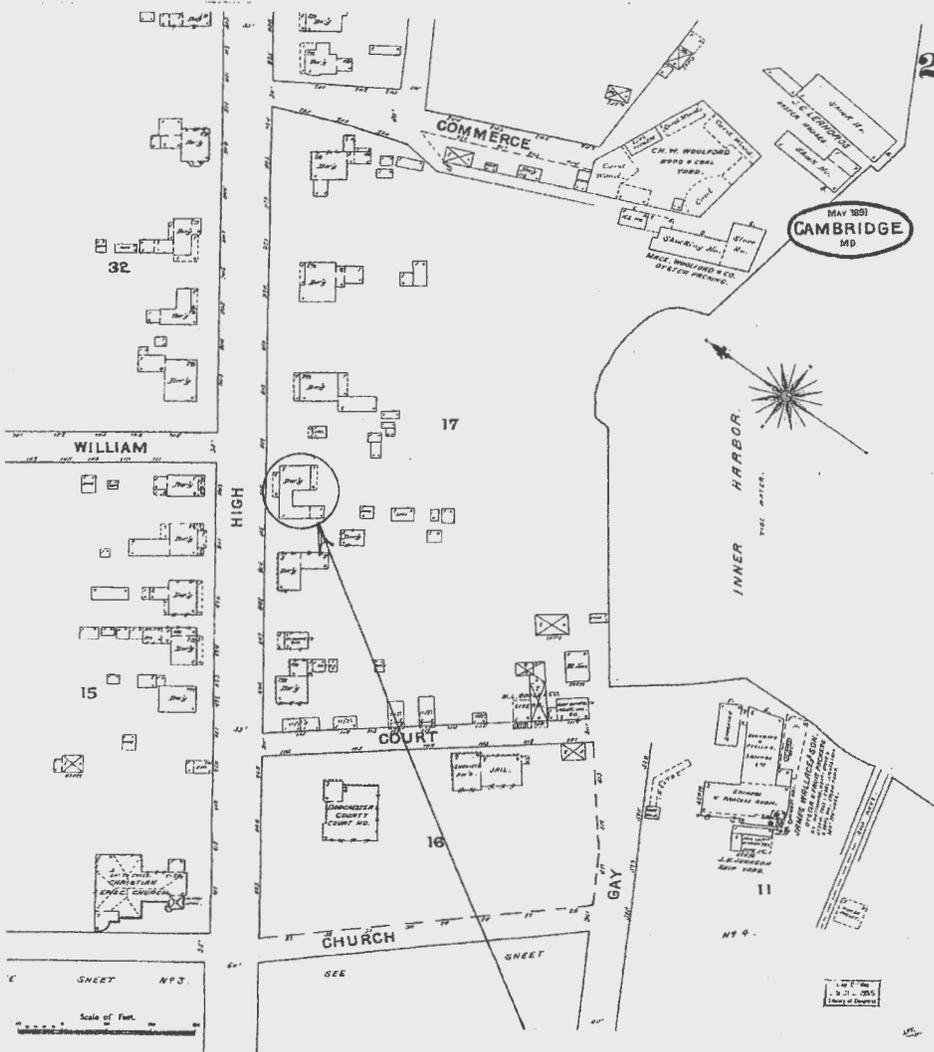
- D-137, Robertson-Leonard House -
Cambridge, MD Quadrangle

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Robertson-Leonard House
Continuation Sheet

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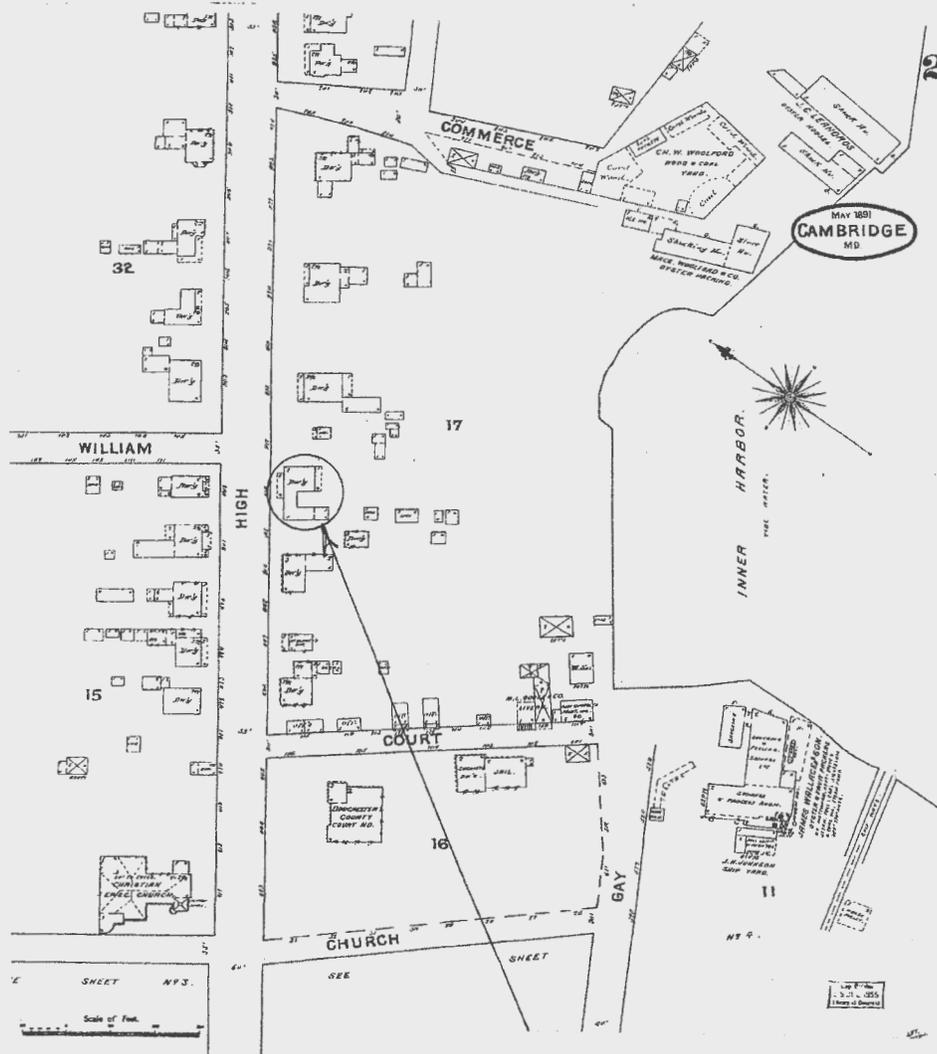
- D-137, Robertson-Leonard House -
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Robertson-Leonard House
Continuation Sheet

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- D-137, Robertson-Leonard House -
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891



SPEED
LIMIT
25

D-137

ROBERTSON - LEONARD HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MD.
North elevation
12.30. 2011, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTO.
NEH / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 of 3

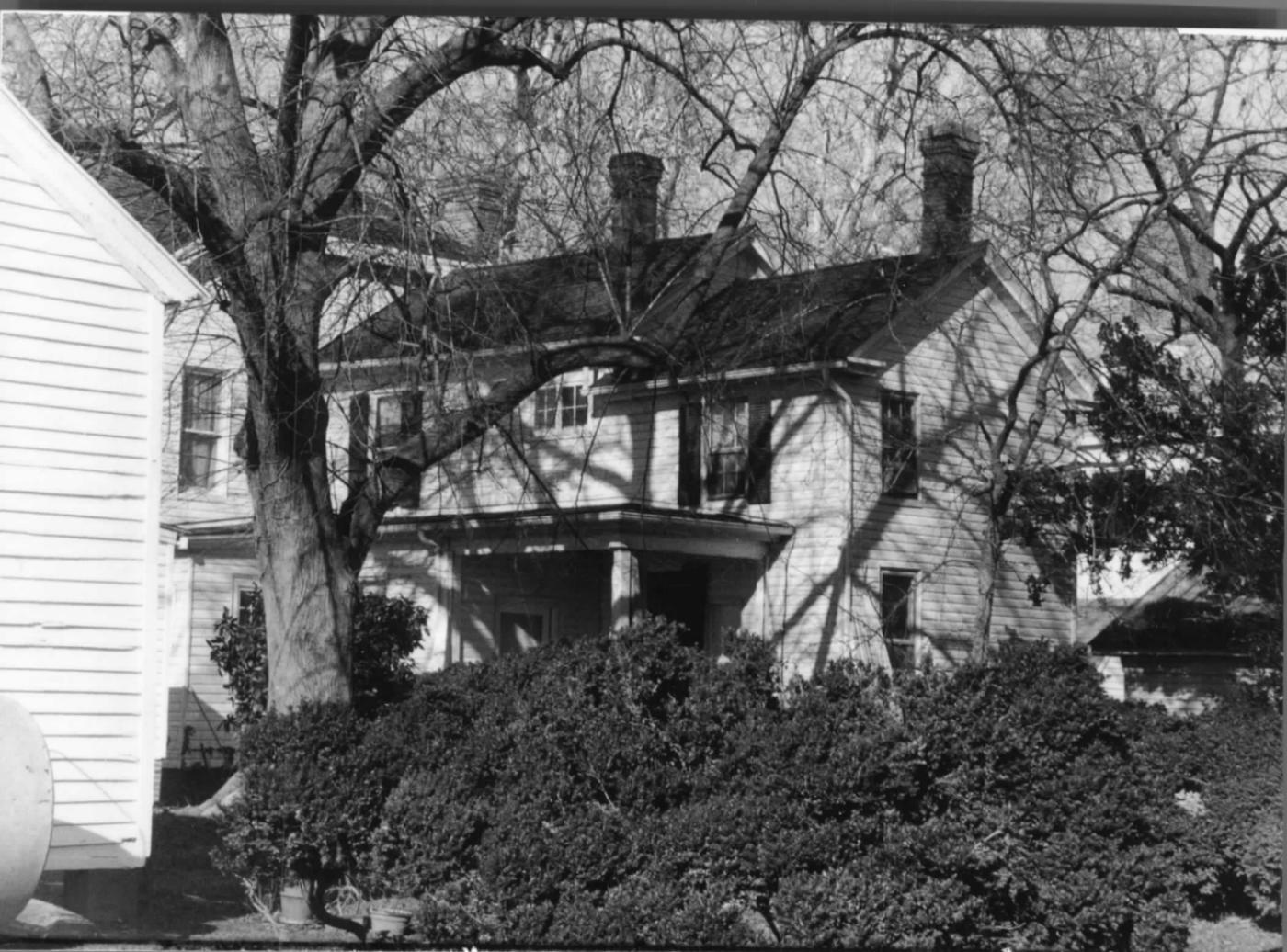


D-137

ROBERTSON-LEONARD HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER C., MD.

NORTH ELEVATION
12, 2011, PAUL B. TOWART, PITUIT.
NET/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



D-137

ROBERTSON-LEWANS HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MD.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
12. 2011, PAUL B. TOWNS, PHOTO,
WETA / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 OF 3

1001375204

D-1307

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: 118 High Street

AND/OR HISTORIC: Leonard House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 118 High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Dorchester

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Clara L. Webb, et. al.

STREET AND NUMBER: 118 High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland 21613

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 206 High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland 21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Liber 185/Folio 279

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This house and the one next door, 120 High Street, were originally one large house of about 20 rooms, that was constructed in 1790. The original appearance of the exterior is not known, however. In 1906, the house was split in half, and what is now 118 High Street was moved a distance of about 15 feet. This half is fortunate to retain the original interior paneling and woodwork.</p> <p>The two houses are similar from the outside, both being two and one-half story structures with German siding. 118, however, has a jerkin head roof while 120 has a gable roof with center gable. The jerkin head roof is embellished by barge boards with circle motif ornamentation. It is estimated that the front porch with hand carved railing was added in 1859. Only 118 retains the original porch, however. This porch is supported by rectangular columns and semicircular corner brackets with tracery. The ballustrade is the unusual feature of the porch, richly ornamented with semicircles and triangular brackets with tracery work. This half also retains the original door. It is a double door. One of the glass panes is original and is hand carved frosted glass. The colored lights on the sides of the door are actually doors which were built for ventilation.</p> <p>On the interior, pine half-paneling runs the entire hall and upstairs to the second floor. The two downstairs rooms on the north side of the hall have full paneling. A wing has been added to the rear of the house. There were once terraced gardens in back of this house extending all the way down to the creek.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1790, c. 1859, 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History:

The lot on which this house stands, originally running from High Street back to Cambridge Creek, was purchased in 1739 by Dr. William Murray and conveyed to his daughter, Margaret, wife of Edward Trippe. The property eventually passed to Henrietta Murray, wife of Dr. William Robertson, who had the house built in 1790.

This house and the one next door, 120 High Street, were originally one large house of about 20 rooms. After the death of Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, the property descended to their children. The property remained in the same family a total of 114 years, from 1739 until 1853, when it was sold to Lewis Ross. The next owner was William Thomas and at his death in 1892, the property was purchased by Capt. James C. Leonard, who operated the property as a hotel, known as "The Leonard House". This became a well known stopping place for travelers by steamboat and sailing vessels. In 1906, Capt. Leonard decided to give up the hotel. He had this half, 118 High Street, moved a distance of about 15 feet. He and his families continued to live in this half until their death, at which time this half was purchased by his brother, Capt. I. L. Leonard

Significance:

Although altered in the 19th and 20th centuries the Leonard houses are among the oldest on High Street, dating to 1790. This is the least altered of the pair and is fortunate to retain the original interior woodwork, the original door, and the handsome porch that was added around 1859. These two houses contribute to the historic character of High Street and are of architectural interest.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Col. Clement Sullivane, article reprinted in the Daily Banner, April 23, 1925.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Catherine L. Moore,

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: 11/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature

118 HIGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

PLC 185/279

My research confirms what Cathe Moore has said, except for one point. The date 1906 is usually given for the split of the large house into the two houses that stand at 118 and 120 High Street. My evidence points to an earlier date, sometime between 1894 and 1896. In 1894 James C. Leonard bought the lot 118-120 High Street from the estate of William Thomas. At this time there was one large house on the lot. By the spring or summer of 1896, when the tax assessments were taken, there were two substantial dwellings on the lots. The house on 118 High Street was valued at \$2,000, while the one at 120 was assessed at \$1,500. There is also a photograph of the present house at 118 High Street taken before 1901 and designated as the residence of Ivy L. Leonard. Sulivane, who was a contemporary to the events he described, wrote his articles in about 1899. He mentioned that James C. Leonard Split the building into two houses "about two years ago."¹ Sulivane also asserted that Leonard expanded each of the houses at the time that they were divided.

Ivy L. Leonard resided at the house on 118 High Street after 1896, but did not purchase the hosue from his Brother untill1907. It has been in the possession of his descendants ever since. Ivy L. Leonard, like his brother James C., was in the oyster packing business. He established a packing house in 1888 on the shore of Cambridge Creek directly behind the present house.

1. Clement Sulivane, typescript of article printed in the Daily Banner, April 23, 1925, "The Leonard Lot".

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland
Will Records.
Land Records.
Court Records.

Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.
AssessmentRecords .

Interview, Mrs. Clara Webb, 118 High Street, owner.

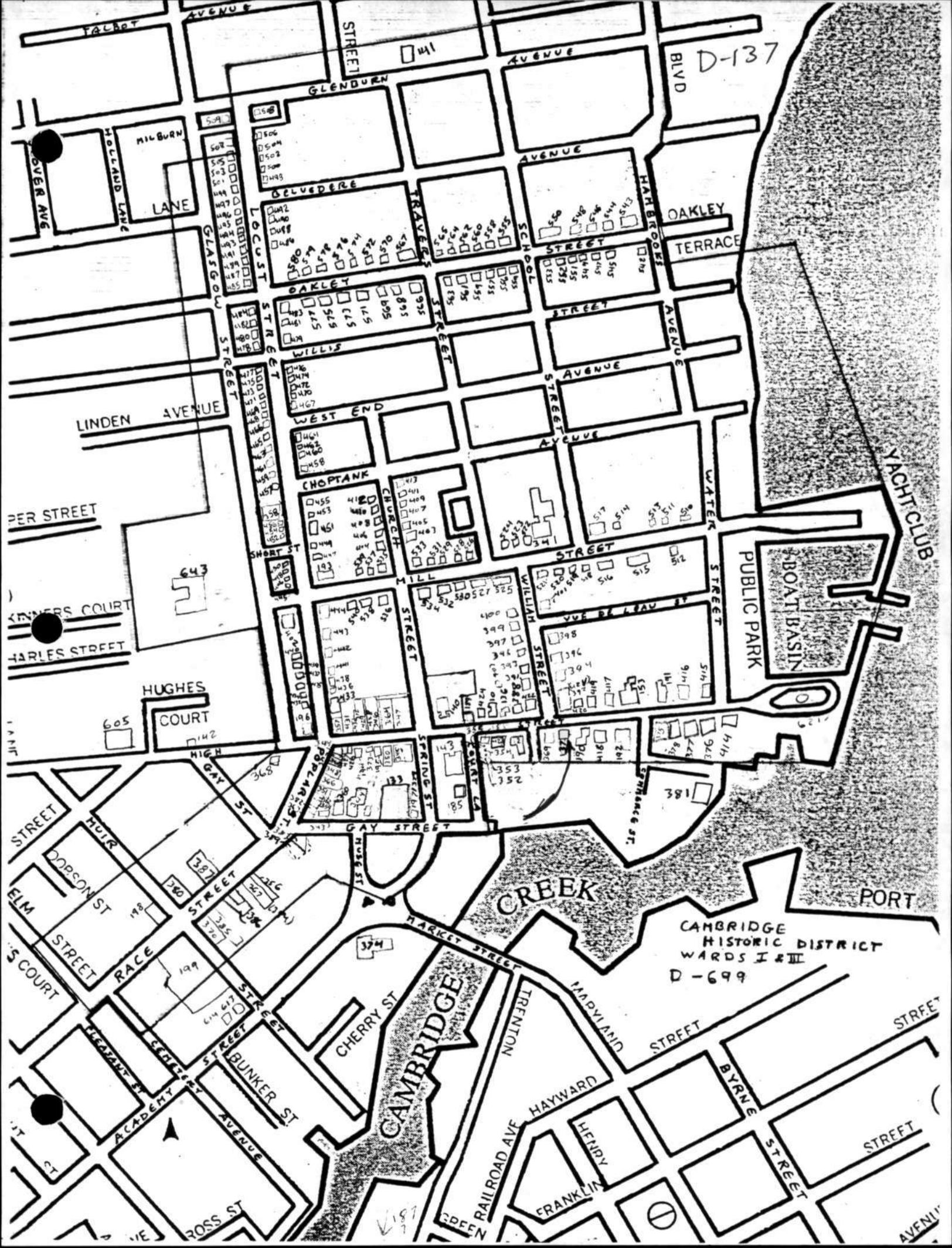
THE EASTERN SHORE, MARYLAND, Baltimroe: R.H. Woodward Co., 1901

Research by:

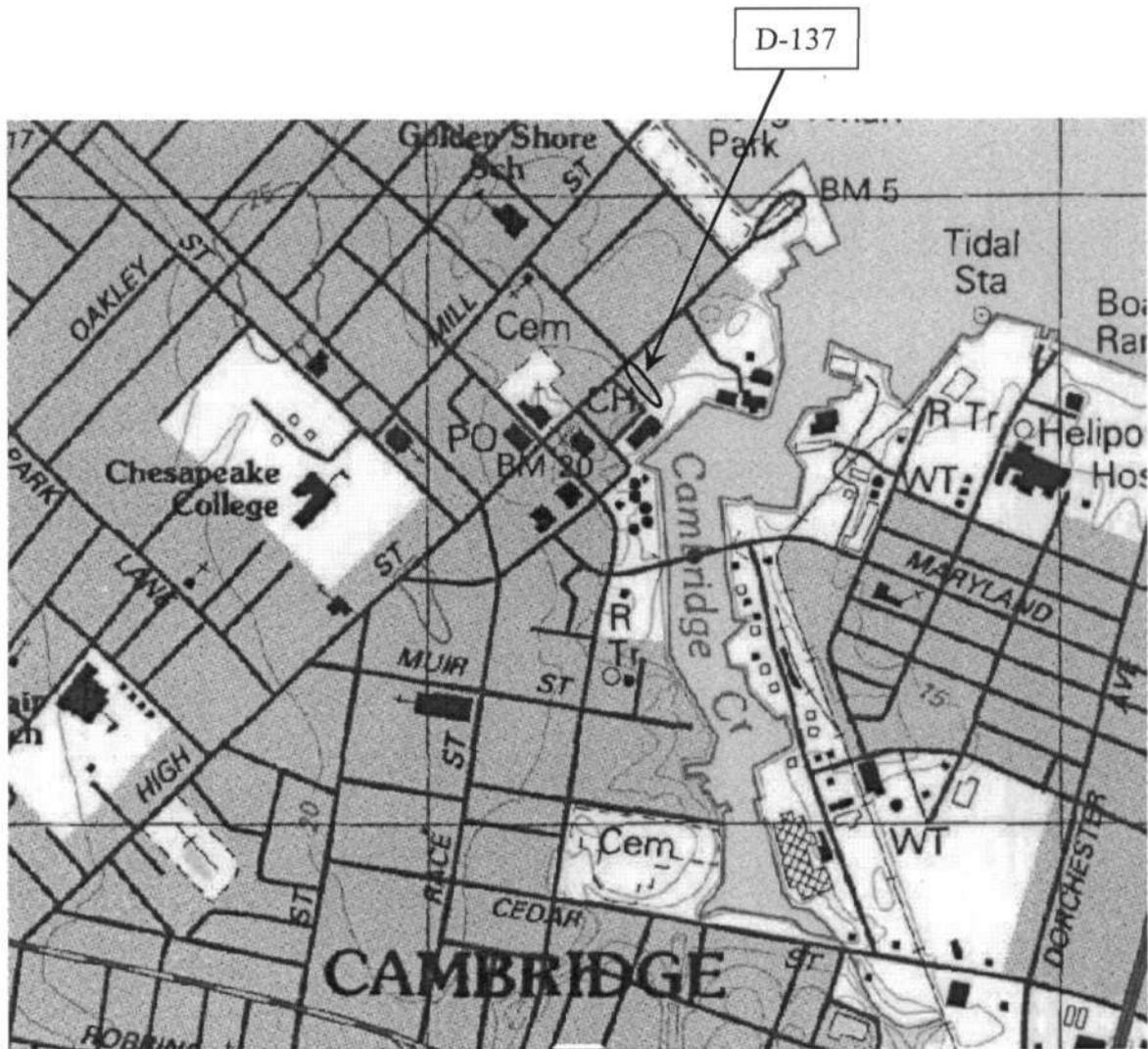
Terrance Walbert
1976

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE Maryland		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY	
COUNTY Dorchester		INVENTORY D-137	
TOWN Cambridge VICINITY		2. NAME Robertson - Leonard House	
STREET NO. 118 High St.		DATE OR PERIOD c. 1790	
ORIGINAL OWNER		STYLE	
ORIGINAL USE dwelling		ARCHITECT	
PRESENT OWNER		BUILDER	
PRESENT USE		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
WALL CONSTRUCTION			
NO. OF STORIES			
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION			
OPEN TO PUBLIC			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE			
Endangered		Interior	
		Exterior	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER mob	
		DATE OF RECORD	



D-137
Roberson-Leonard House
118 High St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.



11x1-88

D-137 75%



D-137



D-137