This single-story stuccoed brick office building was built in 1849-50 for Colonel James W. Wallace (1818-1887) on the corner of the town lot his father, Robert Wallace, purchased the property in 1845. After graduating from Dickinson College in 1840, James Wallace was admitted to the Maryland bar, having studied under the prominent local attorney Henry Page. In the summer of 1850 he announced in the Cambridge Democrat and Dorchester Advertiser,

James Wallace, Attorney at Law, hereby informs his friends and the public that he has removed his office from the old station opposite Mr. Jno. Bradshaw's Hotel to his new building on Gay street, adjoining his residence, and equi-distant between Mr. Joseph Bradshaw and the Court House, where he can be always found during office hours to wit: between 9 o'clock A.M. and 4 P.M. by those who may desire his professional services.

Colonel James Wallace served in the Maryland State legislature during the 1850s, and when the Civil War broke out, he helped organize a local regiment that would aid in the defense of the Eastern Shore. By September 1861, a company of seventy-five men had been formed in Cambridge and sworn into Colonel Wallace's Home Brigade. One of the local encampments near Cambridge was named Camp Wallace.

Robert Wallace died in 1859, and to his son James, he left, "the store house and lot on High Street," and "Also the Houses and lots I bought of Mrs. Elizabeth Lockerman." According to the deed transfer back in 1845, executed to Robert Wallace, the Lockerman property consisted of two lots on Gay Street. James Wallace occupied this property during his lifetime as he is located at this site on the Cambridge town map.
printed in the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas. James Wallace had the property resurveyed under the name "Tusculum" during his residency.

Following the Civil War, James Wallace entered into agricultural and industrial pursuits, and with his son James, started a packing company, James Wallace & Son, in 1870. The canning company was located at an advantageous spot at the foot of Gay Street on the Inner Harbor. A few years before his death in 1887, Colonel Wallace wrote a short summary of the historical and commercial history of Cambridge, and he delivered it in a public address on July 4, 1884.

In his will, James Wallace left all his real estate and personal property to his wife, Annie E. Wallace. In 1894 Annie Wallace transferred the house and office, at the corner of Gay and Spring (or Church) streets to her son James. During the twentieth century, the Wallace house was owned by Minnie R. Hooper during the 1920s and 1930s until it was offered at public sale on October 3, 1939. During the late 1930s, the office was occupied by W. Laird Henry. At the auction, the town commissioners of Cambridge were the highest bidder at $7,500. Following public purchase of the property, the house site became the new location of the Dorchester County Public Library, while the old Wallace office was left standing at the corner of Church and Gay streets.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. **Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)
   - historic: James W. Wallace Office
   - other:

2. **Location**
   - street and number: 301 Gay Street
   - city, town: Cambridge
   - county: Dorchester

3. **Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)
   - name: The Dorchester Public Library
   - street and number: 303 Gay Street
   - city, town: Cambridge
   - telephone:
   - state: MD
   - zip code: 21613

4. **Location of Legal Description**
   - courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Dorchester County Clerk of Court
   - liber: PLC 168
   - folio: 255
   - city, town: Cambridge
   - tax map: 301
   - tax parcel: 4414
   - tax ID number: 7-174470

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**

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Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- deteriorated
x 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 Colonel James W. Wallace office stands at 301 Gay Street, on the southwest corner of the intersection of Church and Gay Streets adjacent to the Dorchester County Public Library, the former site of the Colonel James W. Wallace house in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built during the late second quarter of the nineteenth century, the single-story, hip roofed brick office building faces southeast with the hip roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Built in 1849-50, the single-story, two-room plan brick building, known as the Colonel James W. Wallace Office, stands at 301 Gay Street at the southwest corner of the intersection of Church and Gay streets in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story brick structure is coated with stucco, as it was intended from the time of its initial construction. A patch of stucco has flaked off the building to the left of the entrance revealing unstruck mortar joints. The hip roofed office building is covered with a steeply pitched hip roof covered with fiberglass shingles. Attached to the front of the building and sheltering a center entrance is a hip roofed portico supported on stuccoed brick columns following a Doric order and supported on large square blocks. Flat wood pilasters define the wall surface under the portico header. The edge of the portico roof is finished with a boxed cornice enriched with a Victorian style saw-tooth edge bed molding. The portico sheltered a side-lighted front entrance fitted with a Greek Revival two-panel door framed with a wide transom and sidelights. The transom and sidelights have a lattice style muntin design. Trimming the outer edge of the entrance is a pair of Doric pilasters that rise to a classical entablature.

The southwest side elevation is a two-bay wall surface with a pair of six-over-six sash windows evenly spaced across the façade. The window openings have thick wooden sills and lintels typical of mid nineteenth century construction. The window trim retain shutter pintels, however the shutters no longer remain on the building. Stretching across the top of the wall surface is a wide band executed in stucco that serves as a definition of the wall as part of the entablature associated with the front portico.

The northeast side elevation features a pair of interior side chimney stacks that pierce the roofline, and each stack is covered with stucco. On the outer wall surface the façade is pierced by six-over-six sash windows finished in the same fashion as the windows on the opposite wall.

The northwest (rear) wall is pierced by a single, partially glazed door opening. To the right of the door opening is a small two-pane window of modern date.

The interior has been modified over the years, but it does retain some mid nineteenth century woodwork including neoclassical mantels around the fireplaces in each room.
8. Significance

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Specific dates

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Evaluation for:

- National Register
- Maryland Register
- x 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

This single-story stuccoed brick office building was built in 1849-50 for Colonel James W. Wallace (1818-1887) on the corner of the town lot he after his father, Robert Wallace, purchased the property in 1845. After graduating from Dickinson College in 1840, James Wallace was admitted to the Maryland bar, having studied on prominent local attorney Henry Page. A short item in the Cambridge Democrat and Dorchester Advertiser during the summer of 1850 announced:

"James Wallace, Attorney at Law, Hereby informs his friends and the public that he has removed his office from the old station opposite Mr. Jno. Bradshaw's Hotel, to his new building on Gay street, adjoining his residence, and equi-distant between the Mr. Joseph Bradshaw and the Court House, where he can be always found during office hours to wit: between 9 o'clock A.M. and 4 P.M., by those who may desire his professional services."

Colonel James W. Wallace served in the Maryland State legislature during the 1850s, and when the Civil War broke out, he helped organize a local regiment that would aid in the defense of the Eastern Shore. By September 1861, a company of seventy-five men had been formed in Cambridge and sworn into Colonel Wallace’s Home Brigade. One of the local encampments near Cambridge was named “Camp Wallace.”

Robert Wallace died in 1859, and to his son, James, he left, “the store house and lot on High Street” and “Also the Houses and lots I bought of Mrs. Elizabeth Lockerman.” According to deed of transfer, executed to Robert Wallace in 1845, the Lockerman property consisted of “two lots on Gay Street.”

---

1 Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 2/495, 2 October 1845, Dorchester County Courthouse.
3 Cambridge Democrat and Dorchester Advertiser, 7 August 1850, Dorchester County Historical Society Microfilm Collection.
5 Dorchester County Will Book, LLL 1/98, Written 1 December 1858, proved 3 June 1859, Dorchester County Courthouse.
James Wallace occupied this property during his lifetime as he is located at this site on the Cambridge town map printed in the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas. James Wallace had the property resurveyed under the name “Tusculum.”

Following the Civil War, James Wallace entered into agricultural and industrial pursuits, and with his son James, started a packing company, James Wallace & Son, in 1870. The canning company was located at an advantageous spot at the foot of Gay Street on the inner harbor. A few years before his death in 1887, Colonel Wallace wrote a short summary of the historical and commercial history of Cambridge, and delivered it in a public address on July 4, 1884. In his will, James Wallace left all his real estate and personal property to his wife, Annie E. Wallace. In 1894, Annie Wallace transferred the house and office at Spring and Gay Street to her son James. During the twentieth century, the Wallace house was owned by Minnie R. Hooper during the 1920s and early 1930s until it was offered at public sale on October 3, 1939. During the late 1930s, the office was occupied by attorney W. Laird Henry. At the auction, the town commissioners of Cambridge were the highest bidder at $7,500. Following public purchase of the property the house site became the new location of the Dorchester County Public Library while the old Wallace office building was left standing at the corner of Spring and Gay streets.

---

10 Dorchester County Will Book, JWF 1/81, Written 7 February 1887, Proved 28 February 1887, Dorchester County Courthouse.
11 Dorchester County Land Record, CL 19/116, 6 March 1894, Dorchester County Courthouse.
12 Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 41/537, 31 August 1940, Dorchester County Courthouse.
James W. Wallace Office
301 Gay Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

CHAIN-OF-TITLE

Map 301, Parcel 4414

PLC 168/255 Town Commissioners of Cambridge to Dorchester County Public Library

RSM 41/537 Emerson C. Harrington, Trustee to

8.31.1940 The Commissioners of Cambridge Public Sale, 10.3.1939, $7,500 "Wallace Property" office occupied by W. Laird Henry

WHM 10/368 Edward S. Phillips to

Annie Wallace
To, son
3.6.1894
James Wallace, Jr.
$7,000
(Robert Wallace devised by will to James Wallace, Sr., afterwards James Wallace had property resurveyed and patented under the name Tusculum)

Last Will and Testament of James W. Wallace
To, wife, Annie E. Wallace
all real estate and personal property
Written
2.7.1887
Proved
2.28.1887

Last Will and Testament of Robert Wallace
I give and devise unto my son James Wallace and his heirs the small farm I bought of William Dean and wife, and also the store house and Lot on High Street in the town of Cambridge, Also the Houses and Lots I bought of Mrs. Elizabeth Lockerman
Written
12.1.1858
Proved
6.3.1859
Elizabeth Lockerman

to

Robert Wallace

$2,650 ...
9. Major Bibliographical References

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse
Dorchester County Will Books, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property: .10 acre
Acreage of historical setting: 1 +/- acre
Quadrangle name: Cambridge, MD
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: Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation
date: 2/15/2010
street & number: Cedar Hill, 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
D-197
Colonel James W. Wallace Office
Cambridge, Dorchester Co., MD.
Southeast Elevation
2.2010, Paul D. Touart, P.T.B.T.
Negative/MD. (Historical Trust)

1of1
THE WALLACE OFFICE

Located at the corner of Gay and Church Streets is a small, attractive Greek Revival structure, one of the few buildings in Cambridge to reflect this style of architecture which was popular in the mid-19th century. This rectangular one story building has stuccoed exterior walls, a hip roof, and a hip roofed portico supported by Doric columns. Now the headquarters of the Dorchester Educators, this was originally the office of Colonel James Wallace, who lived in the 18th century house which once stood to the rear of this office, known as The Hill or Wallace Mansion. This is one of the earliest surviving commercial structures in Cambridge.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC
The Old Wallace Office
AND/OR COMMON
The Dorchester Educators Building

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Gay Street
CITY, TOWN
Cambridge
STATE
Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE
- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Dorchester County Public Library
Telephone #:

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Dorchester County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
206 High Street
CITY, TOWN
Cambridge
STATE
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Liber #: 168
Folio #: 255

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
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DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small and attractive building, now used as an office by the Dorchester Educators, is one of the few structures in Cambridge that reflects the influence of the Greek Revival style. It is a one story structure with stuccoed walls and a hip roof that rises to a peak. There are two chimneys on the north side. The front door, which has two long rectangular panels, is flanked by sidelights with diamond shaped panes and has a large rectangular transom light above, also with diamond shaped panes. Pilasters frame the door. In front of the door is a portico, supported by two Doric Columns, with a hip roof.
This small building is significant as one of the few examples of Greek Revival influence in Cambridge, and also as one of the earliest surviving commercial buildings in this town. It was the office of Col. James Wallace, who lived in the house known as The Hill or The Wallace Mansion which once stood to the rear of this office where the parking lot of the Dorchester County Public Library is today.
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
This building is one of several professional offices dating from the nineteenth century that are still standing in Cambridge in the Courthouse area. Unlike the others on Court Lane or High Street, this office is currently vacant. It was originally part of the mansion property known as "The Hill." In 1971 the house was torn down, but the office was allowed to remain on the corner of Gay and Spring Streets. This office was built before 1852 and has served as the law office of Colonel James Wallace and others in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Since 1940, the property has been in the possession of the city of Cambridge.

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.
Land Records.
Will Records.
Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.
Assessment Records.

Research by:
Terrance P. Walbert
1976
**Wallace Office**

**DATE OR PERIOD**

**STYLE**

**ARCHITECT**

**BUILDER**

**ORIGINAL OWNER**

**PRESENT OWNER**

**ORIGINAL USE**

**PRESENT USE**

**WALL CONSTRUCTION**

**NO. OF STORIES**

**VICINITY**

**2. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION**

On the west corner of Gay and Church Streets stands a small Greek Revival Office structure now used as an office by the Dorchester Educators. It is a rectangular hip roof masonry structure with small hip roof doric portico. The walls are stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar masonry, and the entrance has a two panel door with transom and side lights having diamond panes. The cornice has a simple course of machine-made 19th Century scollops and a deep facia which is part of the wall. On the N. E. side of the building there are two chimneys.

**5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE**

Endangered

Interior

Exterior

**6. LOCATION MAP**

(Plan Optional)

**7. PHOTOGRAPH**

**8. PUBLISHED SOURCES** (Author, Title, Pages, etc.)

INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

**9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER**

Michael O. Bourne, Field Surveyor
Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis, Md. 21401

DATE OF RECORD
D-197
Wallace Office (Dorchester Educators Building)
Gay St. and Spring St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.