

D-350
Cambridge Chronicle Building (site)
Cambridge
1892-93

Until its demolition in the mid 1980s, the old Chronicle Building was a well-preserved example of late nineteenth-century commercial design most likely the work of architect and builder J. Benjamin Brown (1849-1922), who was very active in Cambridge's construction trade during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The two-story, four-bay tannish brick High Street elevation was encrusted with neoclassical cornices at the storefront level and within the main cornice. However, the principal focus of the second story street-front façade was a doubled window spanned by a single segmental arch of molded brick accented with decorative end blocks. Prominently carved under the segmental arch was the name "Chronicle Building" and the date, 1892. The carefully designed and crafted pressed brick High Street elevation contrasted distinctly with the more conventional reddish-orange common bond brick side elevations.

Construction of the Chronicle Building dates to the months following the July 1892 fire which leveled many structures on each side of High Street. In the newspaper coverage following the fire, an article in the *Salisbury Advertiser* stated, "Next was the Cambridge Chronicle building, two stories high and rebuilt several years ago. The furniture and newspaper files were saved, but the press and fixtures were lost." Prior to the fire, the Cambridge Chronicle was printed in an office on the north side of High Street next to the Maryland Central Hotel, but soon after the fire it was decided to relocate to the south side next to the new Cambridge Hotel. The engraved date of 1892 on its front elevation documented its construction within months following the fire. The

lot on which the building was erected was conveyed formally to George W. Woolford, Emerson C. Harrington, and W. Laird Henry, the editor. As depicted soon after its completion in a period photograph, the first floor commercial front was occupied by Ransome's Barber Shop, which was formerly located on the opposite side of the street and moved into the Chronicle building once it was completed. A side entrance provided access to a staircase leading to the second floor newspaper office. The *Cambridge Chronicle* was subsumed into the *Daily Banner* during the first decade of the twentieth century. The Chronicle or Banner building stood until the mid 1980s when it was demolished along with the Hotel Dixon next door in a plan to expand the drive-through and parking facilities for the National Bank of Cambridge.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-350

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Chronicle Building
other Daily Banner Building

2. Location

street and number 302 High Street not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

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

name National Bank of Cambridge
street and number P.O. Box 550 telephone 410-228-5600
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 240 folio 765
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4456 tax ID number 164327

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	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-350

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.

The Chronicle Building formerly stood at 302 High Street on the lot that was acquired by the National Bank of Cambridge in a plan to expand its facility. On the northeast side of the bank the Chronicle Building and the old Cambridge Hotel were torn down to allow the construction of a drive-through bank entrance and parking lot. The old Chronicle building, erected in 1892, was a two-story, four-bay rectangular brick structure. It was demolished during the mid 1980s when the Cambridge National Bank decided to expand its drive-through and parking facilities on the northeast side of the bank property.

The northwest (main) elevation was divided into four bays with a side entrance marked by brick pilasters framing the front door. The smooth brick pilasters were topped by a neoclassical capitals that visually supported a mid level storefront cornice. At the southwest end of the first floor elevation was a corner pilaster finished in the same manner under the neoclassical cornice. Between the end bays were large infilled window openings of glass blocks above a brick knee wall. The second story was defined by a symmetrical fenestration of single-pane sash windows topped by segmental brick arches. The center pair of windows had an overarching segmental arch that spanned with entire width of the paired window unit. Enhancing the space between the two windows is a low brick pilaster topped by a capital. The space above the segmental arched windows and the overarching segmental arch is embellished with neoclassical foliate forms worked around a center medallion inscribed with the date, 1892, commemorating the year of construction. The wide overarching segmental arch had a molded brick row above the soldier course arch and stone impost blocks were set in the outer ends. The adjacent windows had molded brick headers as well. The window units were framed by an overall field of pressed brick laid in narrow butter joints. The top of the storefront elevation was capped by a heavily detailed and molded cornice of stacked neoclassical decorative forms.

The southwest side elevation, laid in five-course common bond with a series of two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second stories. Each window opening was spanned by a brick jack arch. A small diamond shaped vent was located in the upper wall surface to allow air to circulate within the attic. The roof sloped in a long shed profile from front to back.

Nothing is known of the interior finishes.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-350

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 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 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 1892-93

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

Until its demolition in the mid 1980s, the old Chronicle Building was a well-preserved example of late nineteenth-century commercial design most likely the work of J. Benjamin Brown (1849-1922), architect and builder, who was very active in Cambridge's construction trade during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The two-story, four-bay tannish brick High Street elevation was encrusted with neoclassical cornices at the storefront level and within the main cornice. The central focus of the second story elevation was a doubled window spanned by a single segmental arch of molded brick with decorative end blocks. Prominently carved under the segmental arch was the name "Chronicle Building" and the date, 1892. The carefully designed and crafted High Street elevation contrasted distinctly with the more conventional reddish-orange brick common bond side elevations.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Construction of the Chronicle Building dates to the months following the July 1892 fire that leveled many buildings on each side of High Street. In the report following the fire, an article in the *Salisbury Advertiser* stated "Next was the Cambridge Chronicle building, two stories high and rebuilt several years ago. The furniture and newspaper files were saved, but the press and fixtures were lost."¹ Prior to the fire the Cambridge Chronicle was printed in an office on the north side of High Street, but soon after the fire, it was decided to relocate to the south side next to the Cambridge Hotel. The engraved date of 1892 on its front documents its construction within months after the fire. The lot on which the building was erected was conveyed formally to George W. Woolford, Emerson C. Harrington, and W. Laird Henry, the editor.² As depicted soon after its construction in a period photograph, the first floor commercial front was occupied by Ransome's Barber Shop, which stood previously on the opposite side of the street and moved into the Chronicle Building once it was completed. A side entrance provided access to a staircase leading to the second floor newspaper office. The Cambridge Chronicle was

¹ *Salisbury Advertiser*, August 6, 1892.

² Dorchester County Land Record, CL 17/24, 18 November 1892, Dorchester County Courthouse.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-350

Name Cambridge Chronicle Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

subsumed into the *Daily Banner* during the early twentieth century. The building stood until the mid 1980s when it was demolished along with the Hotel Dixon next door in a plan to expand drive-through service and parking for the National Bank of Cambridge.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-350

Name Cambridge Chronicle Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

CHAIN-OF- TITLE
302 High Street (site)

PLC 240/766

Independent Newspapers, Inc.

to

7.25.1985

National Bank of Cambridge

Two Parcels: 300 High Street and 302 High Street

240/492

Banner Corporation

to

7.1.1986

Independent Newspapers

PLC 176/13

Evening Post Publishing Company

to

6.14.1972

Arnold Daane
(Arnold Daane, Inc. having since changed its name to the
Banner Corporation)

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-350

Name Cambridge Chronicle Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

172/234

Fannie Greene Daane

to

11.4.1972

Arnold Daane, Inc.

302 High Street (property passed in fee simple to Fannie Greene Daane upon the death of Arnold Daane, her husband, On or about December 12, 1964, under the Last Will and Testament of said descendant, APM 4/486)

RSM 59/247

P. Watson Webb, widower

to

8.30.1946

Arnold Danne

112 High Street, Banner Building or Chronicle Building

WHM 3/472

Harriet Willis Redmond and Charles F. Redmond, Helen Willis Naylor, Richard T. Naylor

to

6.4.1917

P. Watson Webb

Being part of property devised to Harriet Willis Redmond And Helen Willis Naylor by Last Will and Testament of Thomas A. Willis and others

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

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Name Cambridge Chronicle Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

CL 21/434

George W. Woolford and others

to

6.5.1897

Thomas A. Willis

\$5,000.00

...the property hereby being known as the "Chronicle Building," and being the same lot conveyed to the said George W. Woolford, Emerson E. Harrington, and W. Laird Henry from John G. Hurley and wife....

CL 17/24

John G. Hurley and May C. Hurley

to

11.18.1892

George W. Woolford, Emerson C. Harrington, and W. Laird Henry

\$1,500.00

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-350

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

Preston, Dickson. *Newspapers of the Eastern Shore*. Queenstown and Centreville: The Queen Anne Press and Tidewater Publishers, 1986.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1891 and 1896 issues, microfilm, Edward H. Nabb Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>16,440 square feet</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>16,440 square feet</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Cambridge, MD 1988</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The original metes and bounds of this surveyed property were consolidated with a larger acreage owned by the National Bank of Cambridge.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	9/21/2007
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

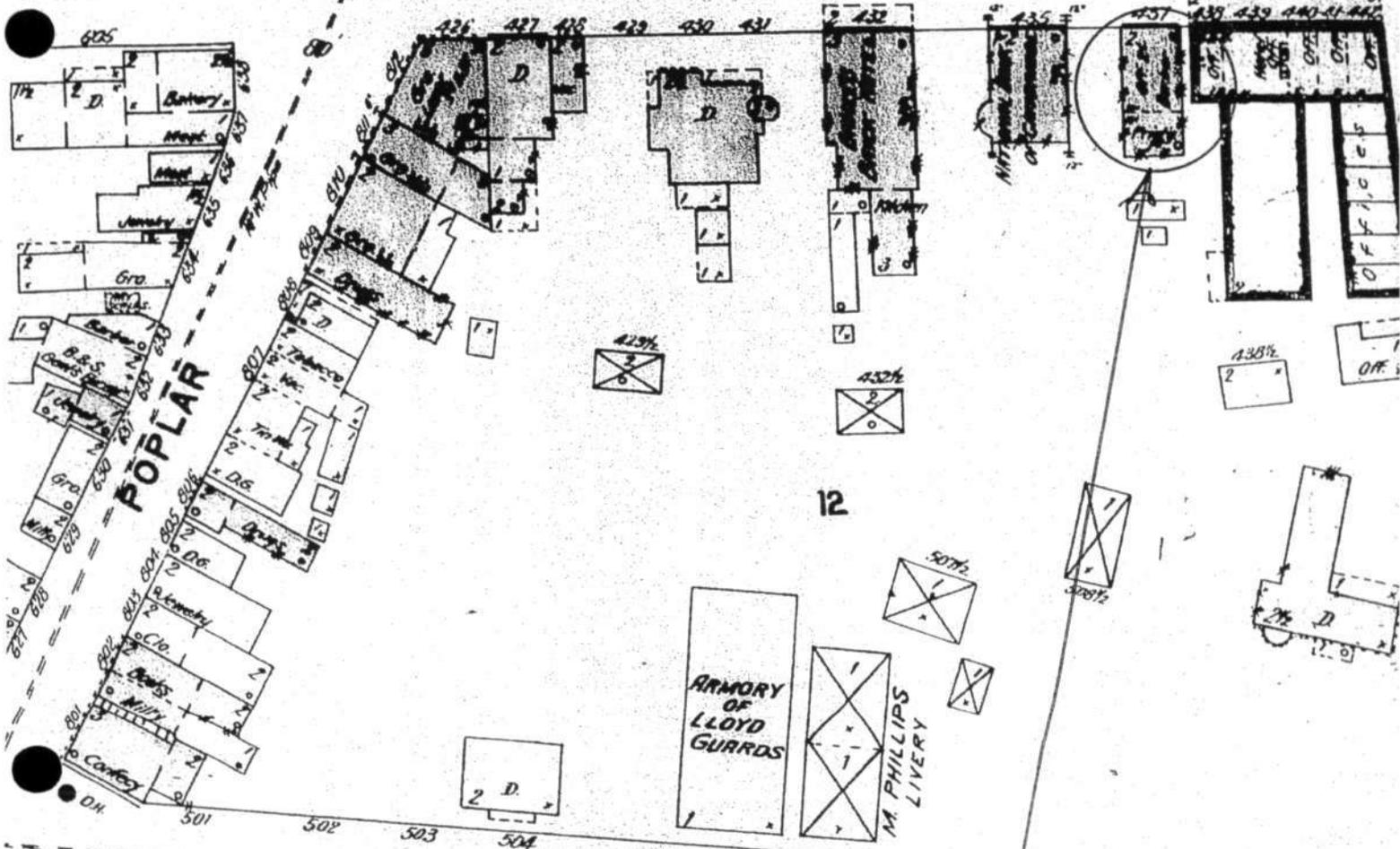
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

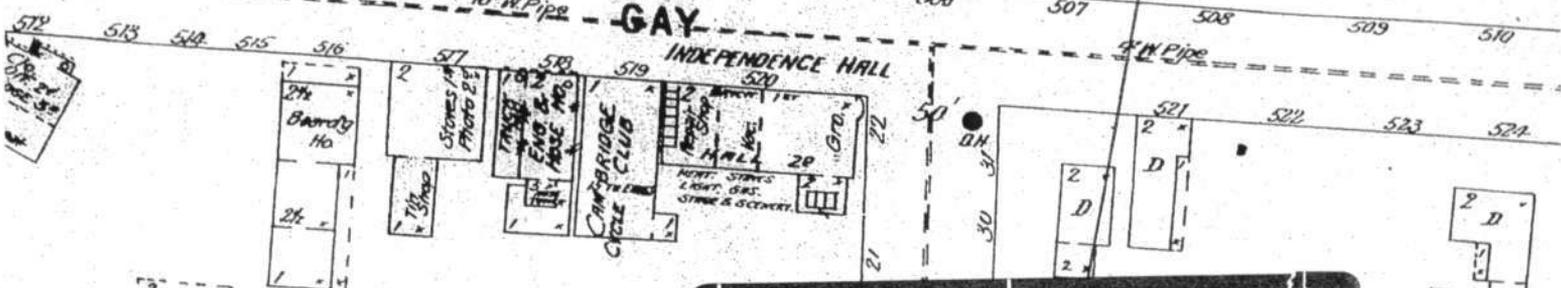
HIGH

CAMBRIDGE HOTEL



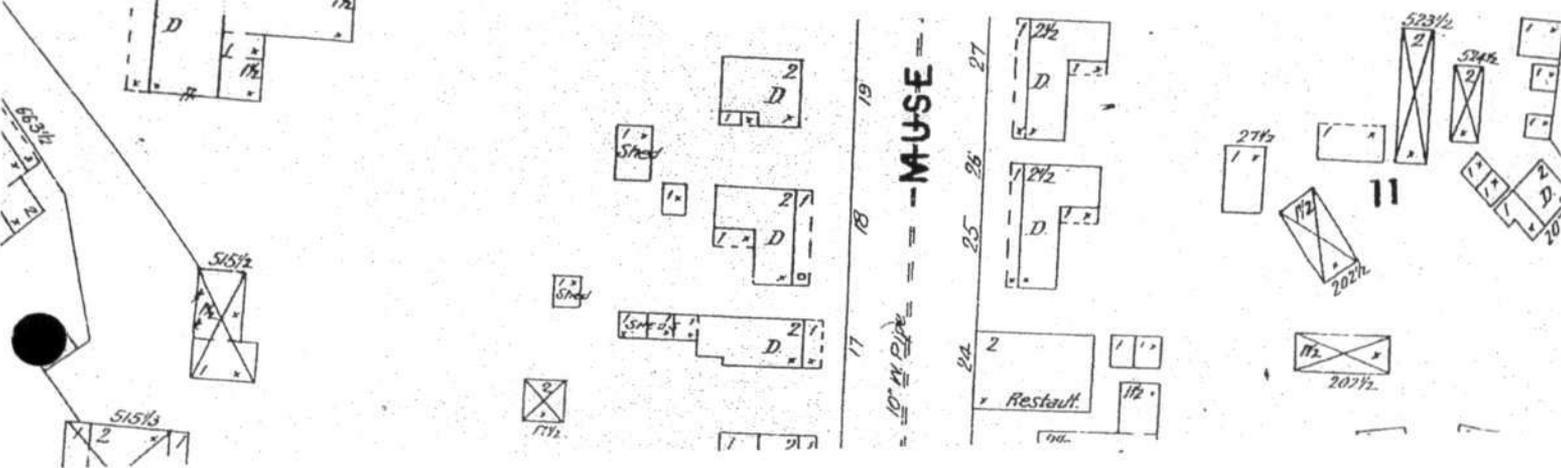
GAY

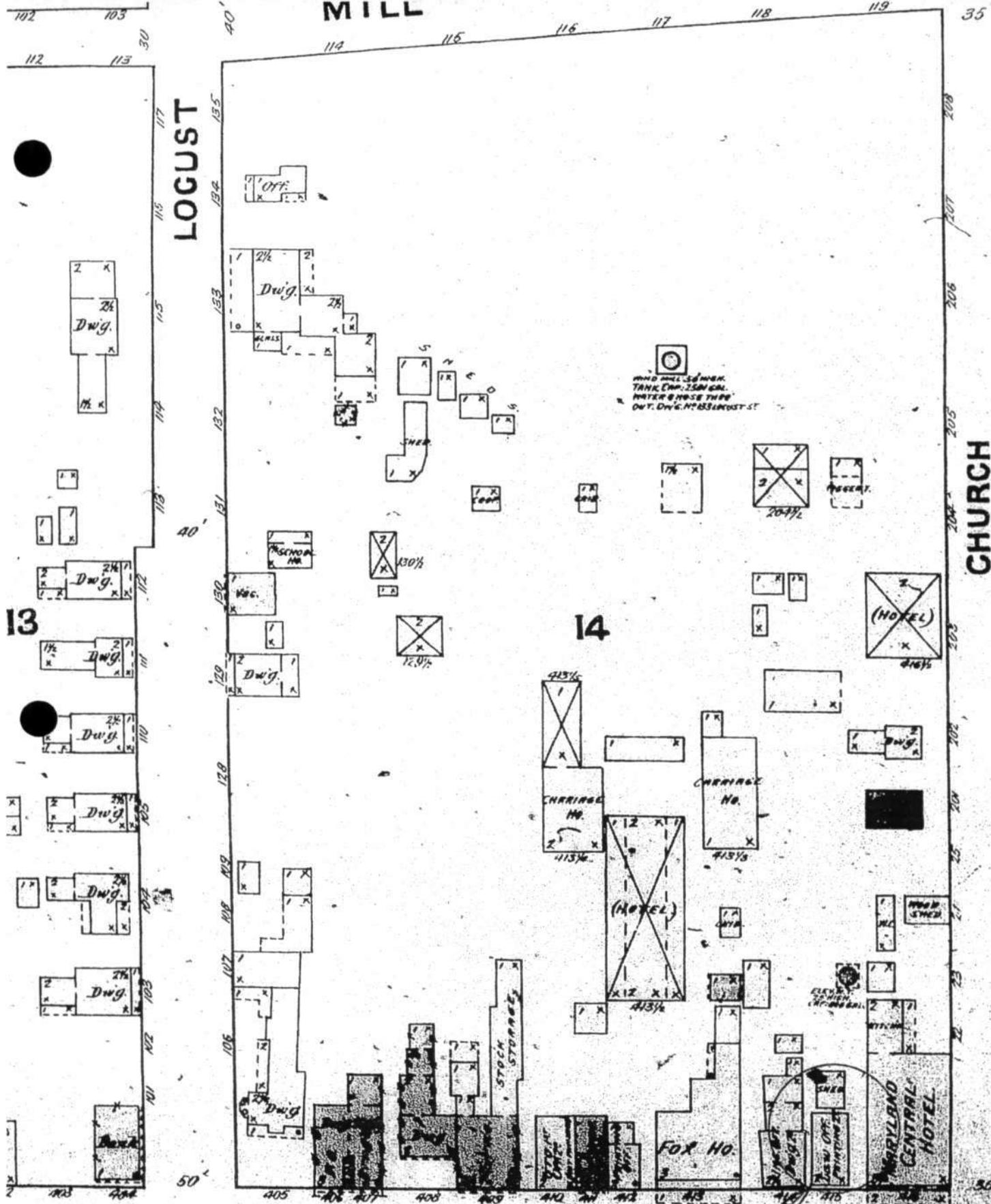
INDEPENDENCE HALL



D-350, Chronicle Building
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1896

MUSE





13

14

CHURCH

HIGH

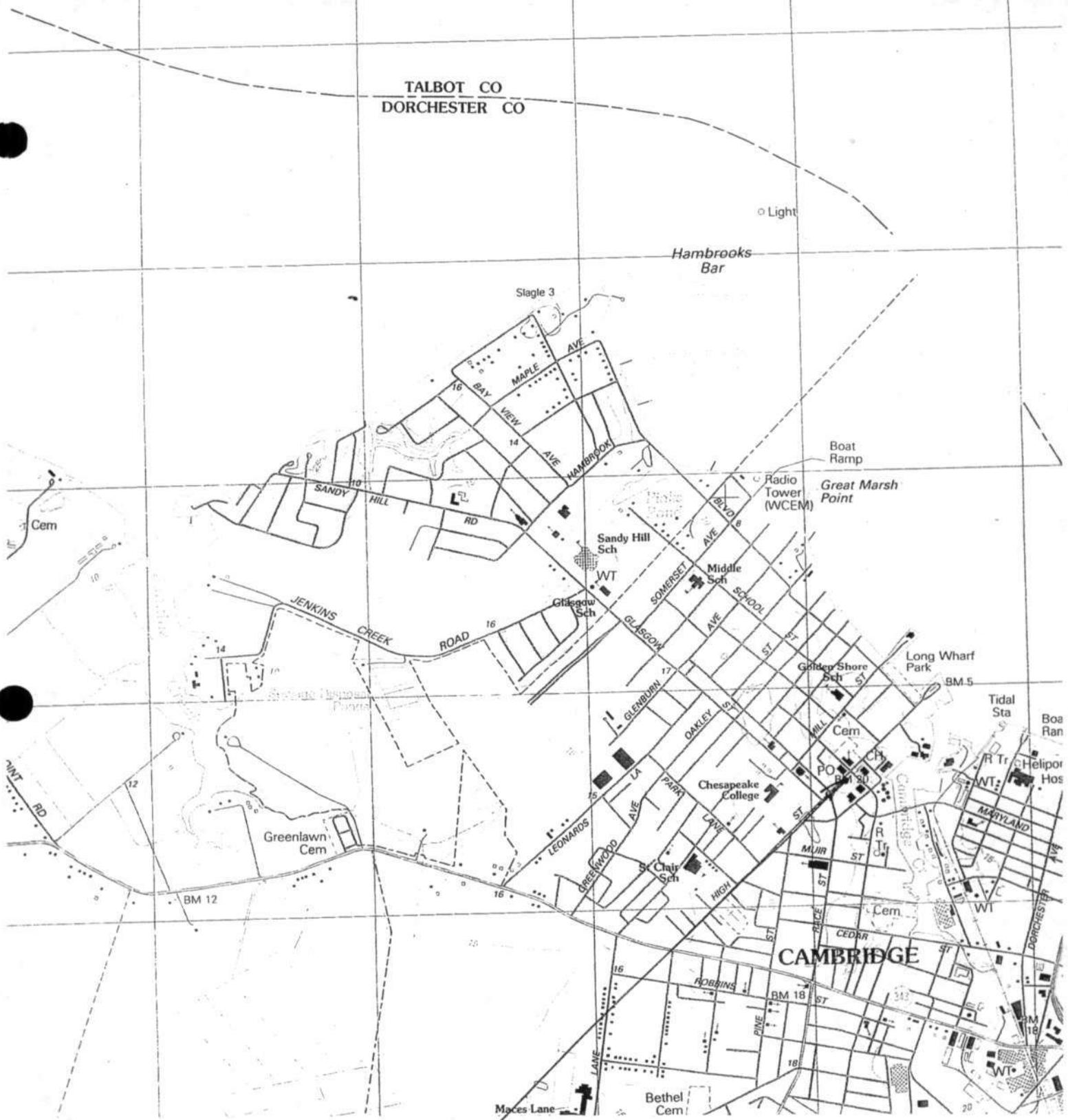
Map Division
29 JUL 1953
Library of Congress

D-350, Chronicle Building
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891

POPLAR ST

SEE SHEET NO. 2.

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO



D-350, Cambridge Chronicle Bldg.
Cambridge, MD Quadrangle, 1988

CHRONICLE BUILDING - 302 HIGH STREET

The old Chronicle Building is one of the few late 19th century buildings in Cambridge that remains practically unaltered. The molded plaster cornice is embellished by egg and dart borders, spirals, and other ornamentation. Above the second story center windows of this brick building is a tablet inscribed "Chronicle Building 1892", underneath an arch. At the corners of the first story, and flanking the door, are pilasters with ornamented capitals.

1003584611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Chronicle Building

AND/OR COMMON

The Banner Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

302 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

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**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Arnold Daane, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: 176

Folio #: 13

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland 21613

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-350

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old photographs show that this small late 19th century two story brick commercial building remains practically unaltered. The ornamental cornice is bordered by an egg and dart motif. Just below the cornice is a horizontal plaster band of spirals and another egg and dart molding. The latter motif is repeated again with dentils on the cornice between the first and second stories.

There are four bays on the front of this building. Above each second story end window is a segmental arch, and above the two center windows is an ornamented tablet, underneath an arch, inscribed "Chronicle Building 1892". The date indicates that this building was built directly after the fire of 1892, which destroyed almost all of this block of High Street.

The second story tan brick has been left natural colored, while the first story has been painted white. On the first story, at the corners of the building, and flanking the door are pilasters with molded capitals.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is one of the few surviving late 19th century commercial structures in Cambridge that remains practically unaltered. The Chronicle Building, with its variety of architectural details, contributes significantly to the late 19th century flavor of this block of High Street.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12/4/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cambridge

Maryland

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

302 HIGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

PLC 176/434

This building was constructed in 1893 to replace an earlier structure destroyed in the fire of July 30, 1892. At that time it was the office of the Cambridge Chronicle, later the Cambridge Daily Banner. The building is a good example of commercial architecture in the 1890's. The exterior has been altered very little since then. The property is one of several business structures on this block of High Street that were built after the 1892 fire and that are relatively unchanged since the 1890's. They add a great deal to the historical and architectural character of this part of High Street and downtown Cambridge.

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland

Land.Records.

Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.

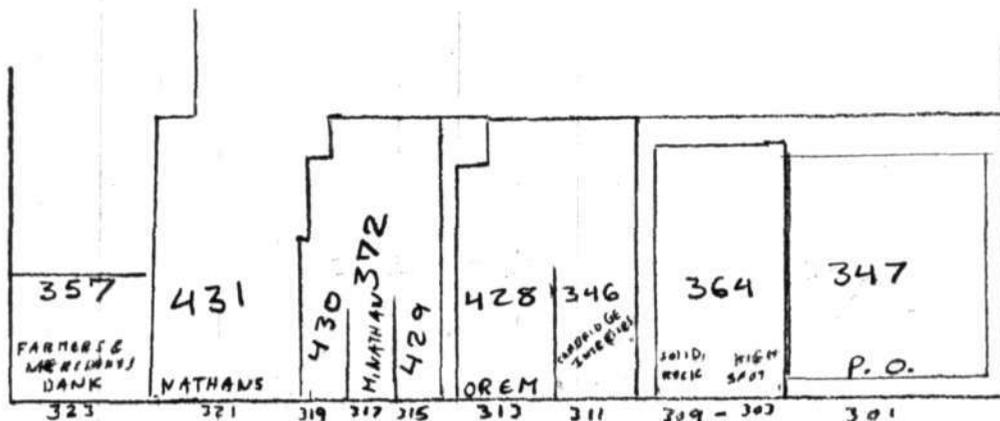
Assessment Records.

Souvenir and Programme of the Maryland Division L.A. W. Bicycle Meet,
Cambridge, Maryland, July 3rd and 4th, 1896. Baltimore: American Job
Printing Office, 1896.

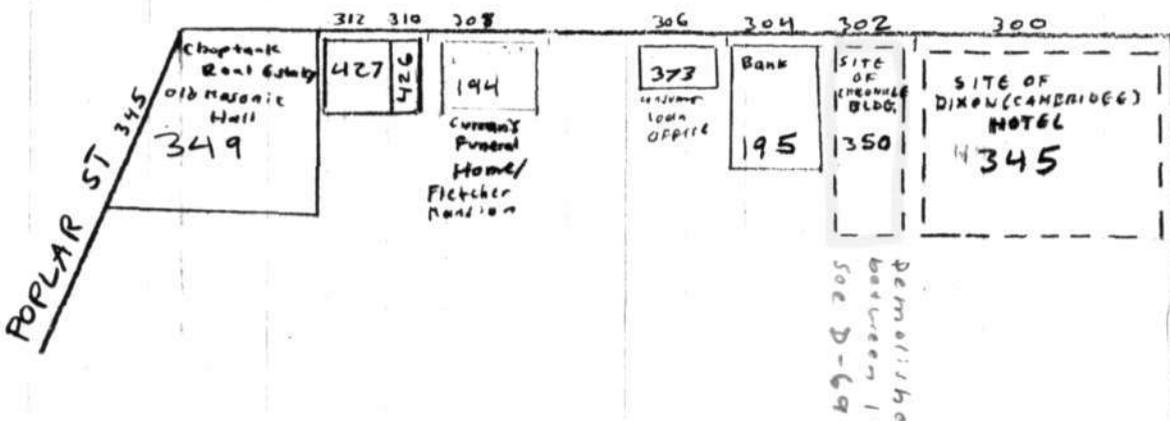
Research by:

Terrance Walbert

1976

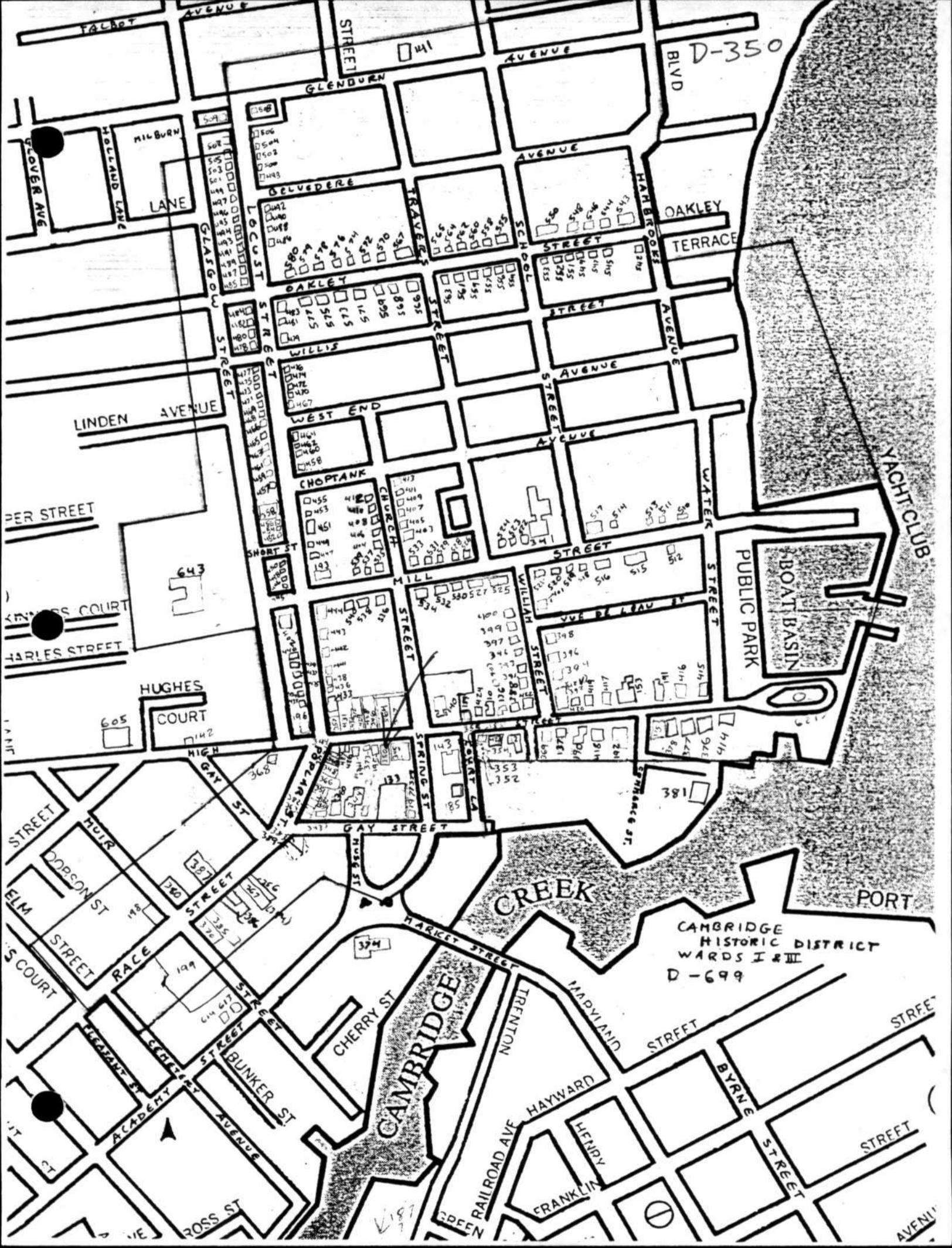


HIGH STREET
 ← (300 BLOCK)



J. KOZLAY
 12/21/93

D-350



D-350

PUBLIC PARK
BOAT BASIN

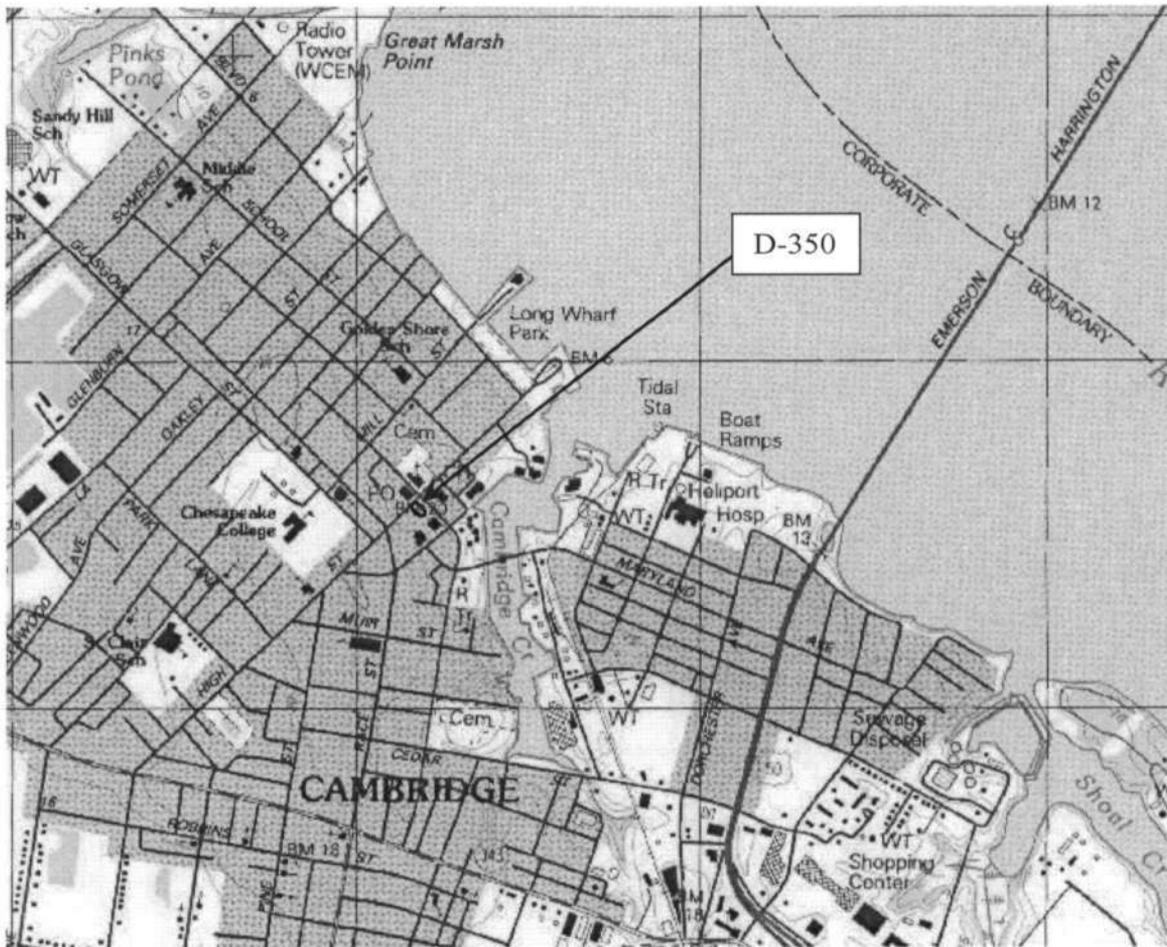
YACHT CLUB

CAMBRIDGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
WARD I & III
D-699

643

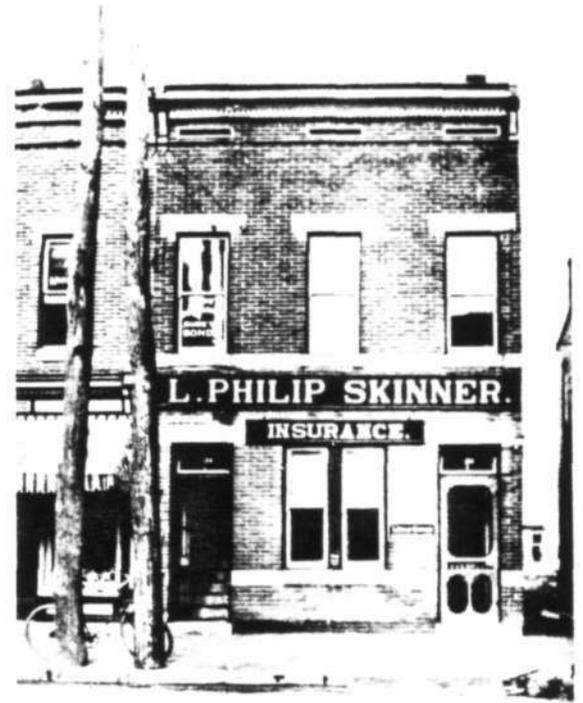
CAMBRIDGE

D-350
Chronicle Building (The Banner Office), site
302 High St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





The Orem Building, formerly the Standard Building, housed the Democrat and News printing presses until December 30, 1965. Pictured are the employees of the newspaper in 1915; reading from left to right, they are identified as Andrew Steiner, John Rozelle, Joseph Mayne, Earl W. Orem, Edwin "Babe" Mobray, and Fred Flowers. Courtesy of Reginald Orem



L. Philip Skinner's insurance office was located at 121 High Street (formerly the site of the Democrat and News Building) in the 1930s. Courtesy of Ruth P. Meekins



The Chronicle Building, erected in 1892 on High Street, is now owned and occupied by the Banner Corporation; Ransom's barbershop shared the first floor with the newspaper at one time.

D-350



DO NOT ENTER

☆☆☆

302 HIGH ST. CAMBRIDGE, MD. - WEST FACADE -
C.L. MOORE, 1976

D-350

56%