

THE POINT

The Point, the earliest known house in Cambridge, built between 1706 and 1710 was located just off of High Street at the intersection of the Choptank River and Cambridge Creek, until torn down in the 20 century. The oldest part of the house was built by John Kirk, Lord Baltimore's agent for Dorchester County, who owned a large amount of land in Cambridge. Additions to one and one-half story frame house were made by Robert Goldsborough around 1770, by James Steele around 1796, and by a Dr. William R. Hayward in the late 19th century.

1003816104

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Point					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: formerly located at the intersection of Cambridge Creek and the Choptank River					
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge					
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester			
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:			
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. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:			

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input 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)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Photographs show that this was a one and a half story frame house with a gable roof. Additions to the house, which was built around 1706-1710, were made in 1770, 1796, and the late 19th century.

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 type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1706-1710, 1770, 1796, late 19th c.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History

The Point, formerly at the intersection of the Choptank River and the Cambridge Creek, was the oldest remaining dwelling of the original houses in Cambridge until torn down around the 1940's. The larger part of the house was built between 1706 and 1710 by John Kirk, Lord Baltimore's agent for Dorchester County, who owned a considerable amount of land in Cambridge. Two additional rooms were built by Robert Goldsborough about 1770, and the addition of two large rooms and a large square hall was made by James Steele when he acquired the property in 1796. Almost a century later, Dr. William R. Hayward further improved the property by the addition of a library. The Point was inherited from Col. John Kirk by his only daughter who married Rev. Thomas Howell, the first rector of historic Old Trinity at Church Creek. The Point was long owned by the descendants of Charles Goldsborough, James Steele purchasing it from William Goldsborough. One of his sons, Henry Maynadier Steele, married the daughter of Francis Scott Key, and to him his father bequeathed The Point. Removing to Anne Arundel County, Mr. Steele, in 1822, sold the place to William W. Eccleston, Register of Wills for Dorchester County. It then passed to his widow, who left it to her daughter Mrs. Eliza Hayward, wife of Dr. William R. Hayward, commissioner of the land office from 1870 to 1884. It was next owned by the Hayward's daughter and son-in-law Col. and Mrs. Clement Sullivane. Later it was owned by Governor Emerson C. Harrington.

This site is significant as the earliest known house in Cambridge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Swepson, Earle, The Chesapeake Bay Country,
Thomsen-Ellis Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1929

Sullivan, Col. Clement, article reprinted in the
Daily Banner, April 7, 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: 12/3/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3, Box 32

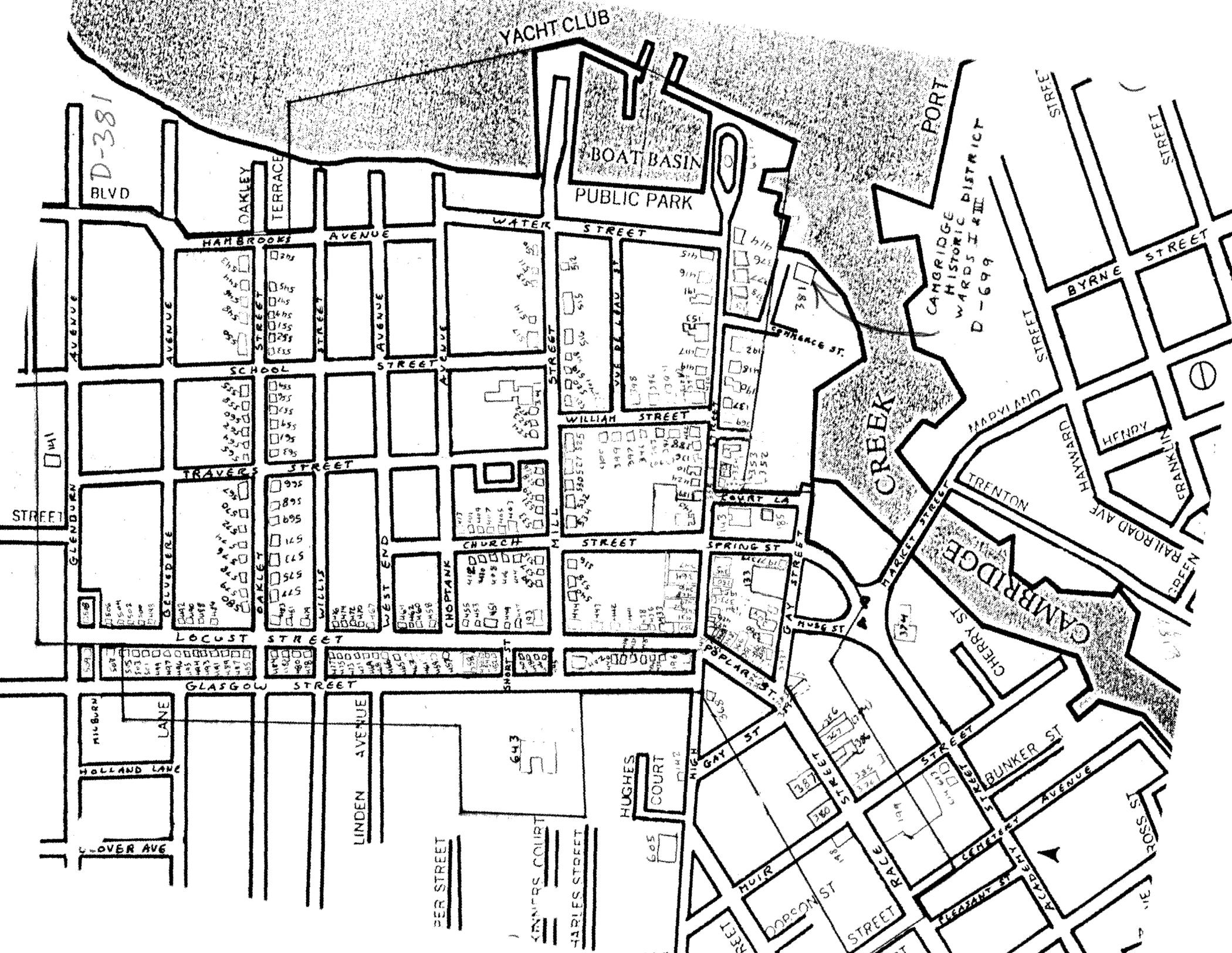
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature



YACHT CLUB

BOAT BASIN
PUBLIC PARK

CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WARDS I & III
D-699

CREEK

CAMBRIDGE

D-381
BLVD

OAKLEY TERRACE

HAMBROOK AVENUE

WATER STREET

SCHOOL STREET

AVENUE

WILLIAM STREET

TRIVERS STREET

CHURCH STREET

LOCUST STREET

GLASGOW STREET

STREET

GLENBURN

DELVERERE

WELLS

WEST END

CHOPANK

SHORT ST

MILBURN

LANE

HOLLAND LANE

COVER AVE

LINDEN AVENUE

PER STREET

KNIVERS COURT

HARLES STREET

HUGHES COURT

605

NET

DOPSON ST

STREET

RACE STREET

TREASANT ST

ACACREY ST

BUNKER ST

AVENUE

ROSS ST

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

BYRNE STREET

HENRY

FRANKLIN

RAILROAD AVE

GREEN

MADYLAND

TRENTON

CHERRY ST

STREET

Built in 1709 by John Kirk, the Point is believed to have been the first house in Cambridge. About 1770, two additional rooms were built by Robert Goldsborough, a member of the Continental Congress. In 1796 two more rooms were added by James Steele, then the owner of the property; all additions were made in the architectural style of the oldest part of the dwelling. William Chatfield of Cincinatti purchased the interior paneling and moved it to Ohio; the house itself was demolished in the late 1930s.



50% D. 381



30X1-44

The Point, Cambridge

D-381

only photo: Earle, Swenson, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore 1916

copy by Chuck Engstrom 12/75