This large brick commercial block is a prominent fixture on Race Street, and it is noteworthy for its intact pressed metal cornices that define the stretcher bond brick front. The neoclassically styled cornices are highly decorative original elements, and the round date plaque embossed with 1911 in raised numerals is a particularly distinctive feature perched atop the parapet front wall. Also unusual to the structure are the tall, two-story high, oriel window units that stretch from the first floor storefront cornice to the third floor, and each oriel bay is flanked to each side by stacked one-over-one sash window units framed by projecting pilasters. The projecting brick pilasters are accented with limestone capitals, and the windows feature stone sills and lintels.

This dominant amber colored brick commercial block was financed by architect/builder J. Benjamin Brown (1849-1922) following a fire in 1910 that swept this portion of Race Street, destroyed a mixture neighborhood including a Methodist church, a block of dwellings and several businesses. In a plan to redevelop some of the burned lots, Ben Brown financed construction of this large commercial building and enhanced it with its distinctive Race Street façade. When the October 1911 issue of the Sanborn Map was published, the outline of the building included the wording, “Being Built, and To Be Mens’ Furnishings.”

The year following Ben Brown’s death in 1922, his wife and executrix, Laura M. Brown, transferred ownership of the commercial property, occupied at the time by
Stevens-Smith & Company. The property was sold to William H. North for $23,500.

During the mid to late twentieth century, the building housed the Richardson Style Shop.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property
   (indicate preferred name)
   historic Stevens-Smith & Company Building
   other Richardson Style Shop

2. Location
   street and number 427-433 Race Street
   city, town Cambridge
   county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property
   (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)
   name Cambridge Main Street Partners, LLC
   street and number 519 11th Street, SE
   city, town Washington
   telephone state DC zip code 20003-2831

4. Location of Legal Description
   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court
   liber MLB 745 folio 429
   city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4513 tax ID number 07-137281

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:

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   Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the inventory
Commonly known as the Richardson Style Shop, or the Stevens-Smith & Company building or more simply, the 1911 building due to the bold date plaque incorporated in the building cornice, this three-story, six-bay by nine-bay commercial block is located at 427-433 Race Street in the center of Cambridge's business district. Facing east, the large rectangular building is has a pressed brick stretcher bond front and six-course common bond side elevations. A long shed roof tapers down from a three story elevation in front to a two-story height at the back of the building. The structure is under an extensive renovation (February 2010).

The three-story, six-bay by nine-bay commercial block called the “1911 Building” is located on the west side of Race Street a few hundred feet north of the intersection of Race and Muir streets in the midst of Cambridge’s central business district. The building faces east.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical façade with an altered first floor storefront that is currently obscured by a construction barrier. Above a storefront cornice, the wall surface is defined by to large segmental arched openings that contain remnants of oriel windows that were formerly topped by individual curved iron balustrades that fronted tripartite windows now defined by plywood covers. The tall segmental arched openings are framed by an inset brick border that is formed by a long jack arch of brickwork. The tall oriel window sections are flanked on each side by narrow one-over-one sash windows stacked above one another for each floor. The window units are flanked by slender brick pilasters highlighted with limestone capitals, sills, and lintels. Stretching across the wall surface above the oriel window units is a pressed metal modillion block cornice which turns the outside corners and is returned into the side walls. The brick wall surface extends above the pressed metal cornice as a parapet, and it is defined across its face by a five-sectioned frieze with projecting brickwork defining the center panel as well as small panels at each end. The center tablet is enriched with a rectangular inset panel, whereas to each side are series of six recessed arched header niches set into the wall the thickness of a single brick. The top of the parapet is capped by another pressed metal cornice that follows the shape of the five-sectioned frieze, and rising above the center tablet is an elaborate round date plaque visually supported on each side by scrolled bracket embossed with intricate pressed metal decoration. Centered in each bracket is a wheel motif that is framed by neoclassical foliate forms. Centered in the round date plaque is the year 1911 in embossed numerals.

The north side elevation is a long nine-bay wall defined by an asymmetrical fenestration. Blocked up windows on the first floor, formerly fitted with single-pane window units, are topped by double rowlock arches. Each opening has infilled brickwork atop a stone sill. The second story is defined by a uneven fenestration of single pane sash windows also featuring double rowlock segmental arches and stone.
sills. The third floor is lighted by a small series of single-pane sash that pierce the tallest portion of the wall. The edge of the roof is finished flush.

The south side elevation is similarly finished with rows of single-pane window units that formerly lighted the first floor and single pane sash windows on the second and third floors. The west (rear) wall is marked by an asymmetrical fenestration with a combination of door and window openings as well as a metal fire escape. Many of the window and door openings have double rowlock arches, whereas a few openings are spanned by flat jack arches.

While the interior was not open for inspection, the interior was reworked extensively.
SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

This large brick commercial block is a prominent architectural fixture on Race Street, and it is noteworthy for its intact pressed metal cornices that define the stretcher bond pressed brick front. The neoclassically styled cornices are highly decorative original elements, and the round date plaque embossed with 1911 in raised numerals is particularly distinctive and noteworthy. Also unusual to the structure are the tall, two-story high oriel window units that stretch from the first floor storefront cornice to the third floor, and each oriel bay is flanked on each side by stacked one-over-one window units framed by projecting pilasters trimmed with limestone capitals, window sills, and lintels.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

This dominant three-story amber-colored brick commercial block was financed by architect/builder J. Benjamin Brown (1849-1922) following a fire in 1910 that destroyed a block of dwellings, a Methodist church, and several commercial buildings. In a plan to redevelop some of the burned lots, Ben Brown financed construction of this large brick commercial building and enhanced it with a distinctive Race Street elevation, crowned by the decorative parapet pressed metal date plaque. When the October 1911 issue of the Sanborn Map was published, the outline of the building included the wording, "Being Built, and To Be Men's Furnishings."¹

The year following Ben Brown’s death in 1922, his wife and executrix, Laura M. Brown, transferred ownership of the commercial property, occupied at the time by Stevens-Smith & Company. The property sold to William H. North for $23,500.² During the mid-to-late twentieth century, the building was the location of the Richardson Style Shop.

¹ Sanborn Insurance Map, October 1911, Library of Congress.
² Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 12/438, 16 January 1923, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Stevens-Smith & Company, Richardson Style Shop
427-433 Race Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland
Map 301, Parcel 4513

CHAIN-OF-TITLE

MLB 745/429
Christ Rock Terrace, Inc.
to
7.5.2006
Cambridge Main Street Partnership, LLC

PLC 253/249
Richardson Style Shop
to
11.1.1988
Christ Rock Terrace

PLC 156/636
J. Dorsey Johnson and Amanda I. Johnson
to
7.31.1968
Richardson Style Shop
427-433 Race Street
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name: Stevens-Smith & Company
Continuation Sheet

Number 8  Page 2

PLC 130/198  Margaret Dean Adkins, widow
            to
11.2.1962  J. Dorsey Johnson and James C. Johnson, tenants in common
          Known as 19A, 21 & 23 Race Street

RSM 64/88  R. Elmer Dean and Margaret A. Dean
          to
7.22.1947  V. Calvin Trice, Trustee

RSM 44/64  Edith Lee Spear, Trustee
          to
11.29.1941  William H. North

JFD 12/438  Laura M. Brown, Executrix of J. Benjamin Brown
          to
1.16.1923  William H. North
          $23,500 property occupied by Stevens-Smith & Company as tenant (building erected by J. Benjamin Brown following fire in 1910)
This large brick commercial block is a prominent fixture on Race Street, and it is noteworthy for its intact pressed metal cornices that define the stretcher bond brick front. The neoclassically styled cornices are highly decorative original elements, and the round date plaque embossed with 1911 in raised numerals is a particularly distinctive feature perched atop the parapet front wall. Also unusual to the structure are the tall, two-story high, oriel window units that stretch from the first floor storefront cornice to the third floor, and each oriel bay is flanked to each side by stacked one-over-one sash window units framed by projecting pilasters. The projecting brick pilasters are accented with limestone capitals, and the windows feature stone sills and lintels.

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Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Name Stevens-Smith & Company
Continuation Sheet

Number _8_ Page 5
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name          Stevens-Smith & Company
Continuation Sheet

Number 8  Page 7

D-387, Stevens-Smith & Co. Bldg.
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1918
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name: Stevens-Smith & Company Building

Continuation Sheet

Number: 9  Page: 1

D-387, Stevens-Smith & Co. Building, east elevation, Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland, 2.2010, Paul Baker Touart, photographer, Negative/MD Historical Trust
Name: Stevens-Smith & Company Building

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2

D-387, Stevens-Smith & Company Building, northeast elevation, Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland, 2.2010, Paul Baker Touart, photographer, Negative/MD Historical Trust
D-387, Stevens-Smith & Company Building, northwest elevation, Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland, 2.2010, Paul Baker Touart, photographer, Negative/MD Historical Trust
Name: Stevens-Smith & Company

Continuation Sheet

Number 8  Page 8
9. Major Bibliographical References

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

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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

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<th>Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian</th>
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<td>City or town</td>
<td>Westover</td>
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<td>State</td>
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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-387
Stevens, Smith & Co. Bros.,
East elevation
2.2010, Paul B. Towne
Pitton
No. 19 Mo. 1st. Truss
1 of 3
D-307
Stevens-Smith & Co. Building
Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Northeast Elevation

1st and 1st Stories

2 of 3
D-387
Stevens-Smout & Co. Building
Cambridge, Dorchester, Mass.
Northwest elevation
2.2010, Paul B. Touma Jr., Pittox
Negative/MD. Historica Tess

3 of 3
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC
1911 Building

AND/OR COMMON
Richardson's Style Shop; LeCompte's Shoe Store

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER
433-431-429-427 Race Street

CITY, TOWN
Cambridge

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1

COUNTY
Dorchester

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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<td>_BEING CONSIDERED</td>
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**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME
The Richardson Style Shop, Inc

Telephone #:

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
206 High Street

CITY, TOWN
Cambridge

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF

Liber #: 156
Folio #: 636

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
This is a three story brick commercial structure. Above the center of the building is a circular crest inscribed with the date of construction, 1911. Just below a small plain cornice is a series of small recessed arches and a recessed rectangle below the crest. Below this is a projecting cornice with modillions. On the front of the building are two large two story bay windows under double segmental arches. On either side of these bay windows are tall narrow rectangular windows flanked by a pilaster on each side. The first story pilasters adjoin those above on the second story. Between the first and second story is a fairly plain cornice. The two storefronts on the first story, practically identical in style, have been modernized by large glass windows.


Significance:

This building is significant as an example of an early 20th century structure. The ornamentation of this structure contrasts with the starkness of other buildings on Race Street, built or renovated later in the 20th century. The 1911 date on this building indicates that it was built directly after the fire of 1910 which destroyed much of Race Street. It is unfortunate that only a few of the older style buildings still remain on Race Street, and that several of these have been extensively renovated; such as the old Masonic Building (423-427 Race Street). The upper facade of this building has been completely covered by a metal overlay.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
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
D-387
1911 Building
427-433 Race St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.
433 - 431 - 429 - 427
Race St.
0.387
CLM 1976