

D-801
Lemuel Kiah House
Cambridge
c. 1880
Private

Ownership of this Cedar Street parcel is traceable to a transfer in May 1875 when Lemuel Kiah (b. 1847) purchased a quarter-acre lot from Eliza Wingate for \$150. The stylistic features of the frame house point to a construction date around 1880-90. Popularly built across the Eastern Shore during the last quarter of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th, the two-and-a-half story cross-gabled dwelling was built with varying center hall or side hall plans with varying degrees of exterior and interior embellishments. The Cedar Street elevation is enhanced with a turned post porch, eave brackets and a decorative sawn ornament fixed in the peak of the gable.

Lemuel Kiah, identified as a butcher in the Twelfth census of the United States (1900), is grouped with his 42-year old wife Alace (Alice) and four sons, William J., Charles H., MacKenny, and William E. Kiah. William J., aged 18, and MacKenny, aged 13, were listed in the census as "teamsters." Lemuel Kiah transferred ownership of the house and lot to his wife Alace in 1922. In her will, written in September 1922, but not proved until eighteen years later in February 1940, she left the house "wherein we have for many years resided," to Lemuel, and then to a step-daughter, Emma Chester. Emma Chester, who married a George Elzey, died on or about September 9, 1942, so the Cedar Street house and lot passed into George Elzey's tenure in 1943.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-801

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Lemuel Kiah House

other "46 Cedar Street"

2. Location

street and number 523 Cedar Street not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Clarence and Viola Wilson c/o Gloria Bailey

street and number 411 Pine 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 RSM 85 folio 459

city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4562 tax ID number 170734

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	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input checked="" 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-801

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 Lemuel Kiah house stands at 523 Cedar Street a block east of the intersection of Pine and Cedar Streets in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay side hall/parlor house, built around 1880-90, is supported on a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with asbestos shingles over plain weatherboards. The main block is covered with a steeply pitched cross gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the main block is a two-story, two-bay rear wing, which is extended on its east side by a two-story, one-bay by one-bay shed roofed addition. The house is currently boarded up and vacant.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Lemuel Kiah house, located at 523 Cedar Street, is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, side hall/parlor plan frame house erected around 1880-90. Supported on a low brick foundation, the single-pile main block is sheathed with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house is extended to the rear by a two-story, two-bay by one room service wing, which was enlarged with a two-story, two-bay shed roofed extension. The house faces southwest with the cross gable roof oriented on northwest/southeast axis.

The southwest main façade is an asymmetrical façade with a side entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows now boarded over. The first floor is sheltered by a hip roofed porch supported by turned posts and enhanced with decorative sawn corner brackets. Enriching the cornice is a dentiled bed molding. Stretching between the posts is a turned baluster handrail. The second floor is defined by an asymmetrical series of three six-over-six sash windows. The base of the cross gabled roof is enriched by a bracketed eave with a pierced sawn decoration fixed in the peak of the cross gable. The wall surface of the cross gable features a pointed arch window that has been modified into a vent.

The southeast gable end is largely defined by a plain wall surface covered in part by a layer of vinyl siding as an attempt to cover over the asbestos shingles. The vinyl siding project was evidently halted. Piercing the upper gable end is a deteriorated six-over-six sash window. The gable end is finished with an extended eave with returns at the base of the roof. Piercing the northwest gable end is an interior end brick stove flue chimney with boarded over windows on each side.

The northeast (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, two-bay service wing, which features an interior end brick stack as well. The southeast side of the rear wing is covered by a two-story, two-bay, shed roofed addition, which is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. On the north side is a single-story shed roofed extension.

The interior was not open for inspection at the time of the initial survey.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-801

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 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 Lemuel Kiah house stands out in the Pine Street Neighborhood Historic District of Cambridge as one of the more elaborate Victorian dwellings built by an African-American couple during the late nineteenth century. Designed in the popular cross-gabled bracketed style of the post Civil War period, the house survives with a decorative turned post porch that shelters the front entrance. Evidently to economize during the construction of the house around 1880-90, the decorative bracketed eave of the main block was limited to the Cedar Street façade, which is also embellished with a decorative sawn ornament in the peak of the cross gable.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Ownership of this Cedar Street parcel is traceable to a transfer in May 1875 when Lemuel Kiah (b. 1847) purchased a quarter-acre lot from Eliza Wingate for \$150.¹ The stylistic features of the frame house point to a construction date around 1880-90. Popularly built across the Eastern Shore during the last quarter of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th, the two-and-a-half story cross gabled dwelling was built with varying center hall or side hall plans and different levels of exterior embellishments.

Lemuel Kiah, identified as a butcher in the twelfth census of the United States (1900), is grouped with his 42-year old wife Alace (Alice), and four sons, William J., Charles H., MacKenny, and William E. Kiah. William J., aged 18, and MacKenny, aged 13, were listed as “teamsters.”² Lemuel Kiah transferred ownership of the house and lot to his wife Alace in 1922.³ In her will, written in September 1922 but not proved until eighteen years later in February 1940, she leaves the house “wherein we have

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 10/142, 28 May 1875, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

² Twelfth Census of the United States, Population Schedule for Dorchester County, Ancestry.com website.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 12/83, 5 September 1922, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D- 801

Name Lemuel Kiah House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

for many years resided," to Lemuel, and then to a step-daughter, Emma Chester."⁴ Emma Chester, who had married a George Elzey, died on or about September 9, 1942, so the Cedar Street house and lot passed into George and Elsie Elzey's tenure in 1943.⁵

⁴ Dorchester County Will Book, RPS 4/524, Filed 28 September 1922, Proved 7 February 1940, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 48/398, 4 December 1943, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D- 801

Name Lemuel Kiah House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Lemuel Kiah House
523 Cedar Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

CHAIN-OF-TITLE

Map 301, Parcel 4562

RSM 85/459

Sudia Green, widow

to

10.30.1953

Clarence Wilson and Viola Wilson

(225 Cedar Street)

Elsie W. Elzey

to

Sudia Green

RSM 48/398

Charles E. Edmundson, trustee

to

12.4.1943

George Elzey and Elsie W. Elzey

Lot No. 2, 44' front and 80' deep

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

Inventory No. D- 801

Name Lemuel Kiah House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

RSM 47/107

Sherwood Chester and Jefferson Chester

to

5.3.1943

George Elzey

Lot No. 1 and Lot No. 2 (undivided third interests)

RPS 4/524

Last Will and Testament of Alice Kiah

to

Filed
9.28.1922
Proved
2.7.1940

Emma Chester
(Who intermarried with George Elzey), and died on or about
9.9.1942

....to Lemuel Kiah, house and lot on Cedar Street wherein we have
for many years resided....46 Cedar Street....then to stepdaughter
Emma Chester

JFD 12/83

Lemuel Kiah

to

9.5.1922

Alice Kiah

46 Cedar Street

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

Inventory No. D- 801

Name Lemuel Kiah House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

FJH 10/142

Eliza Wingate

to

5.28.1875

Lemuel Kiah

\$150 parcel of land on Cedar Street ¼ acre

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-801

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse
Sanborn Insurance maps, various issues, National Archives.
Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Dorchester County Population Schedule, Ancestry.com.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 6,864 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 1/4 acre
Quadrangle name Sharptown, MD-DEL 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	1.15.11
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

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-801

Name Lemuel Kiah House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1



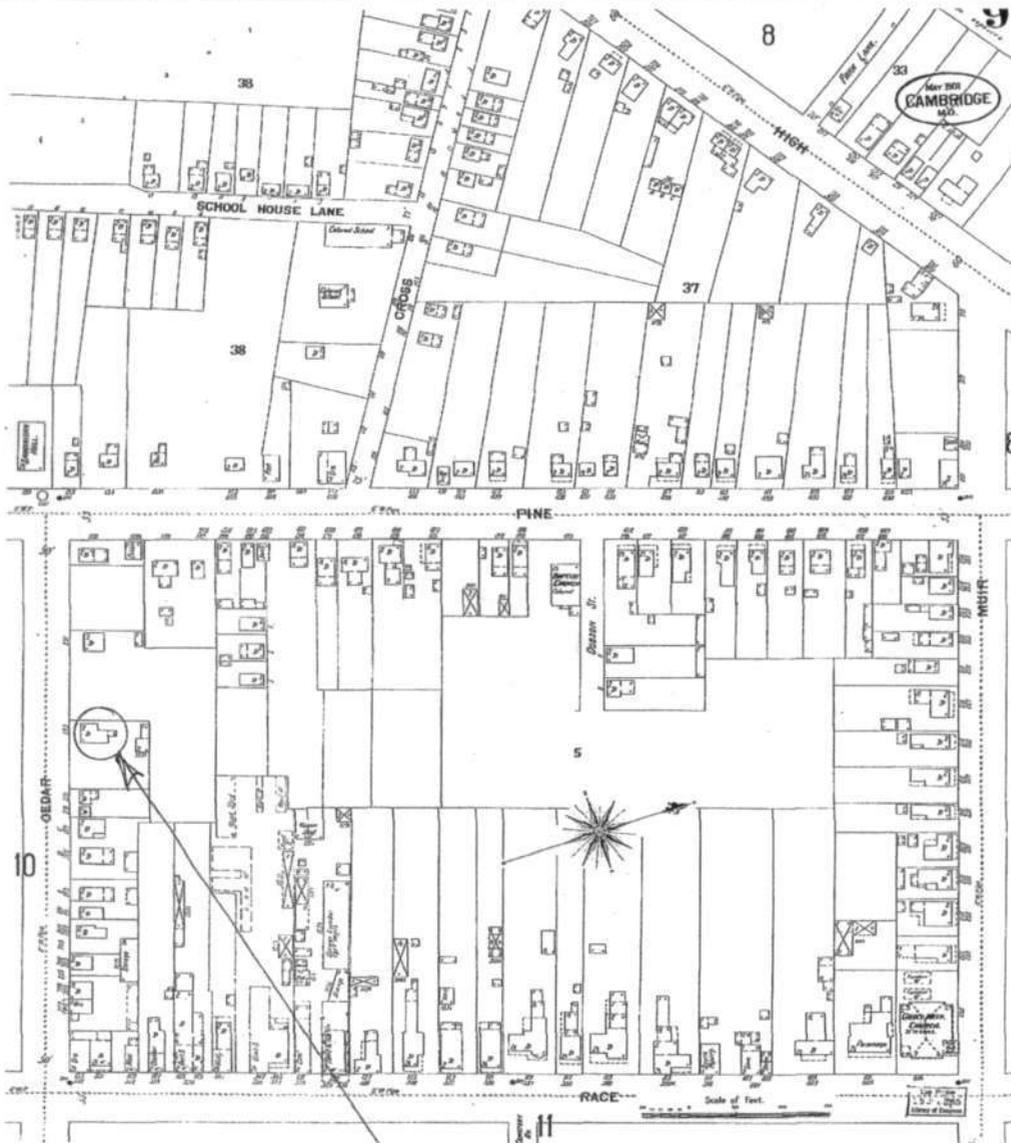
D-801, Lemuel Kiah House
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-801

Name Lemuel Kiah House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



D-801, Lemuel Kiah House
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-801

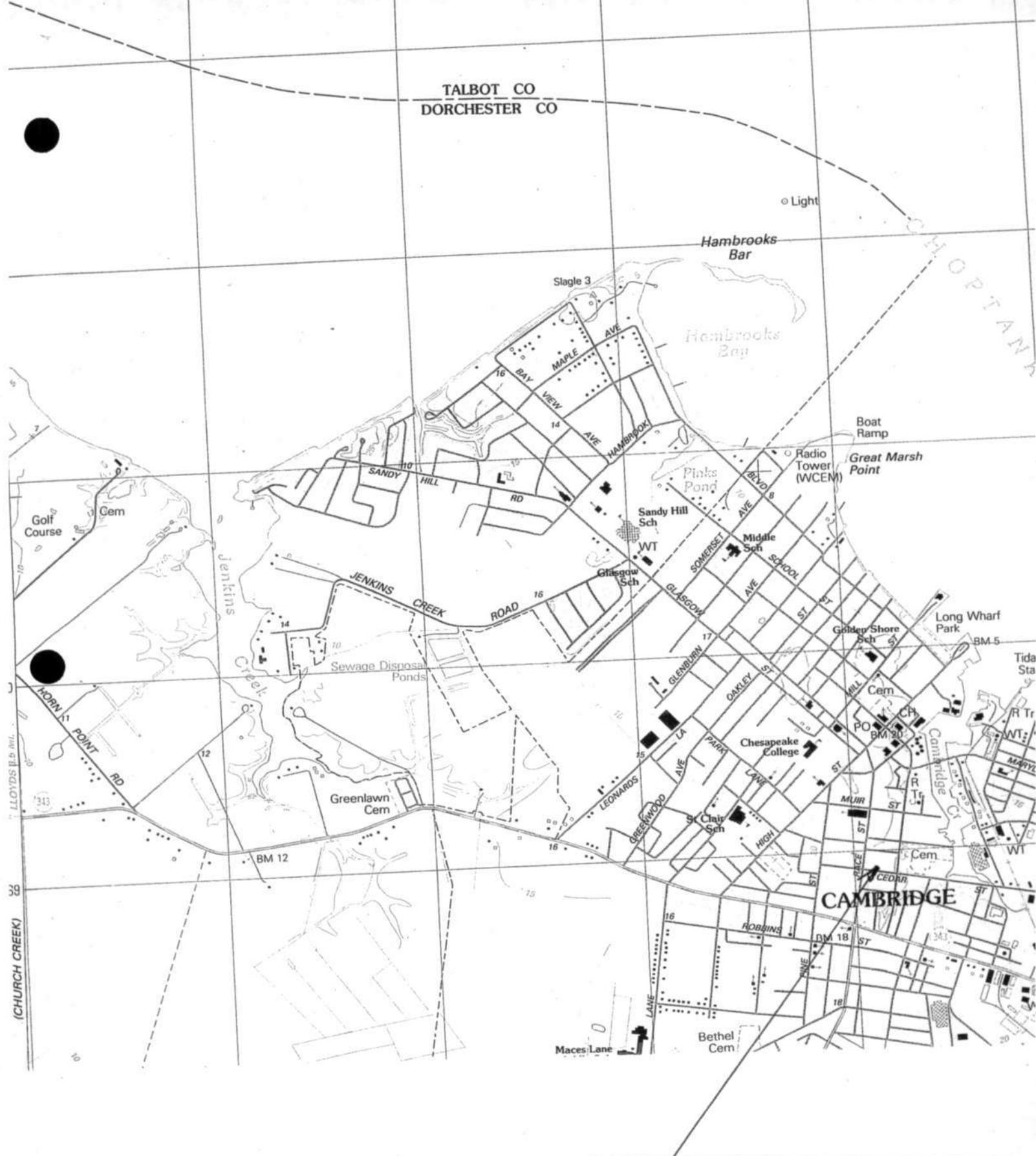
Name Lemuel Kiah House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3



D-801, Lemuel Kiah House, southeast elevation, Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland,
1.2011, Paul Baker Touart, photographer, Negative/Maryland Historical Trust

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO



D-801, Lemuel Kiah House
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle



D. 801

LEWNER K. ART HOUSE

CAMBRIDGE, PURCHESIAN G. RD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

1. 2011, PAUL BAKER TONART,
PHOTO.

1 of 1