

D-802
Theodore Johnson House and Tenement
Cambridge
c. 1880
Private

The Theodore Johnson house is a two-story, four-bay frame structure originally erected as a duplex and then converted to a single-family dwelling during the early twentieth century. Both the 1896 and 1901 Sanborn Insurance maps indicate the outlines of the duplex dwelling along with a three-unit tenement in the backyard. In order to unify the duplex as a single family dwelling, a center cross gable was added to the roof and a hip roofed porch was stretched across the full front. Dating to the mid twentieth century, a picture window was introduced on the south end of the first floor, and the southern of the two doors was blocked up.

African-American Theodore Johnson is credited with financing construction of the house during his ownership of the property, identified in the land records as the "Bone Yard." Johnson's ownership stretched from his lease purchase in 1874 to his death around 1890. In August 1874 he leased the property from Sarah B. LeCompte for \$12 per year. He left all of his real and personal property to his wife Emily, who later married Daniel Kane. In June 1925, Emily Kane bequeathed the property to Mary Coulbourne, in whose hands the houses and lot remained until 1965 when the property was acquired by Philip L. and Gertrude Jones.

7. Description

Inventory No. D-802

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 Theodore Johnson house, located at 518 High Street, is a two-story, four-bay, single-pile frame house that stands on the east side of the avenue south of the intersection with Park Lane. Built around 1890, the two-story gable roofed frame dwelling faces northwest with the roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is clad with asphalt siding, and the medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Stretching across the High Street façade is an early twentieth century hip roofed porch. Also improving the property is a two-story, six-bay frame tenement dwelling that stands to the rear of the lot with an address of 512-516 High Street. The single-pile multi-unit structure faces west with its roof oriented on a north/south axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Standing at 518 High Street, the Theodore Johnson house is a two-story, four-bay, single-pile frame dwelling that started out as a duplex, with two separate center doors. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is clad with asphalt siding over plain weatherboards, and the medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dating around 1890, the former duplex is joined on the lot with a two-story, six-bay, three-unit tenement. Also dating to the late nineteenth century, the tenement is clad with vinyl siding, and it is covered with a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Stretching across the full front of the tenement is a single-story hip roofed porch, and the second floor is defined by two-over-two sash windows.

The northwest (main) façade is an asymmetrical four-bay elevation with an off-center, partially glazed door in the second bay from the northeast corner. To the north of the entrance is a two-over-two sash window flanked by synthetic shutters attached to the house. The two-over-two sash window frames retain shutter hardware. The second entrance to the original southern half of the duplex has been covered over, and a picture window has been inserted in the wall surface. The entire first floor is sheltered by a hip roof porch supported on Tuscan columns. The second floor is lighted by four evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. Fixed in the center of the roof is a cross gable sheathed with vinyl siding. The gable ends are plain wall surfaces with small two-over-two sash windows piercing the gable ends. Extended eaves finish the edge of the roof.

The interior was not seen at the initial field visit.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-802

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 checked="" 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 Theodore Johnson house is a two-story, four-bay frame structure originally erected as a duplex and then converted to a single-family dwelling during the early twentieth century. Both the 1896 and 1901 Sanborn Insurance maps indicate the outlines of the duplex dwelling along with a three-unit tenement in the backyard. In order to unify the duplex as a single family dwelling a center cross gable was added to the roof and a hip roofed porch was stretched across the full front. During the mid twentieth century a picture window was introduced on the first floor and the southern of the two doors was blocked up.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

African-American Theodore Johnson is credited with the financing construction of the house during his ownership of the property, known as the "Bone Yard," which stretched from his lease purchase in 1874 to his death around 1890.¹ In August 1874 he leased the property from Sarah B. LeCompte for \$12 per year. He left all his real and personal property to his wife Emily, who later married Daniel Kane. In June 1925, Emily Kane willed the property to Mary Coulbourne, in whose hands the houses and lot remained until 1965 when it was acquired by Philip L. and Gertrude Jones.²

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 2/660, 22 August 1874; Dorchester County Will Book, JWF 1/375, 2 December 1890.
² Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 145/312, 30 December 1965, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-802

Name Theodore Johnson House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Theodore Johnson House
518 High Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 302, Parcel 2485

PLC 145/312

Mary Coulbourne

to

12.30.1965

Philip L. Jones and Gertrude Jones

"all that piece or parcel of land known as the Boneyard"

RPS 2/120

Last Will and Testament of Emily Kane

to

6.1.1925

Mary Coulbourne

WLR 4/275

Nannie C. LeCompte, widow

to

2.3.1912

Emily Kane, widow of Daniel Kane, nee Emily Johnson

1901
1896

Sanborn Insurance Map
Sanborn Insurance Map

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-802

Name Theodore Johnson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

D-802
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Dating to the mid twentieth century, a picture window was introduced on the south end of the first floor, and the southern of the two doors was blocked up.

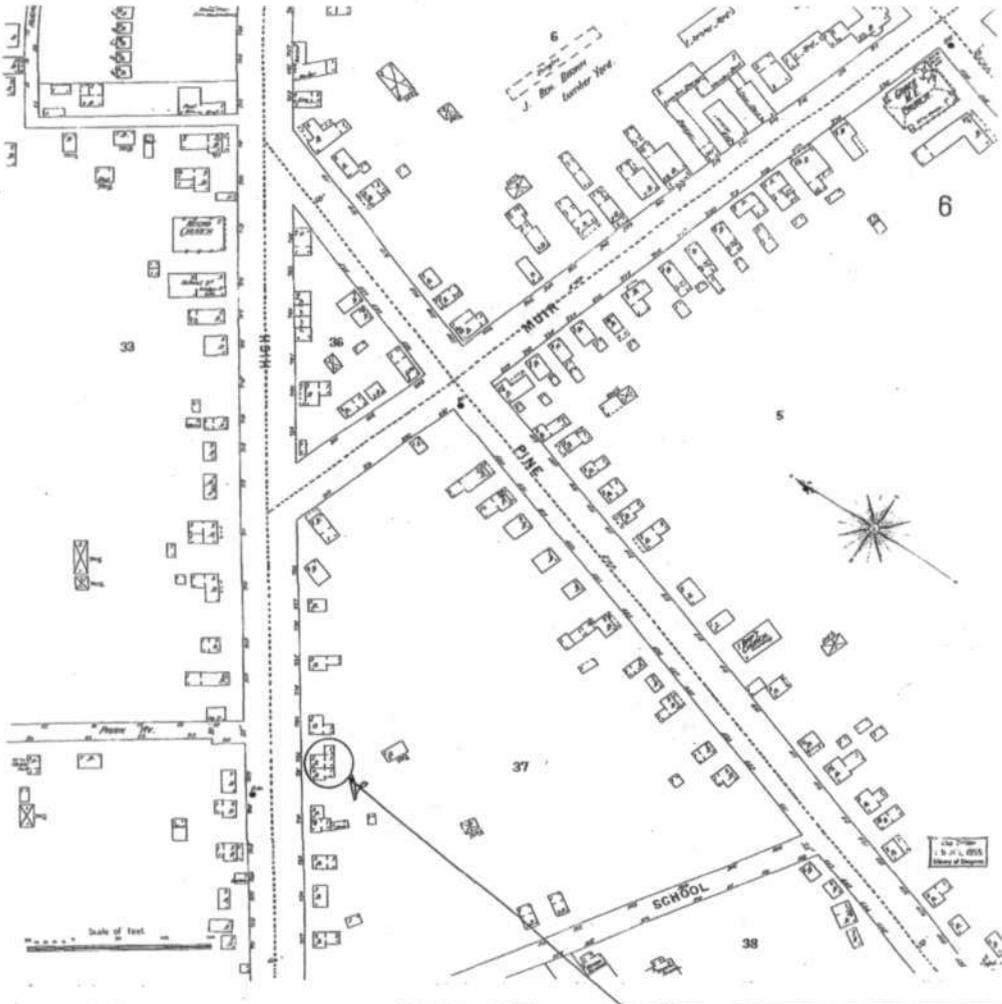
African-American Theodore Johnson is credited with financing construction of the house during his ownership of the property, identified in the land records as the "Bone Yard." Johnson's ownership stretched from his lease purchase in 1874 to his death around 1890. In August 1874 he leased the property from Sarah B. LeCompte for \$12 per year. He left all of his real and personal property to his wife Emily, who later married Daniel Kane. In June 1925, Emily Kane bequeathed the property to Mary Coulbourne, in whose hands the houses and lot remained until 1965 when the property was acquired by Philip L. and Gertrude Jones.

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Name Theodore Johnson House
Continuation Sheet

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D-802, Theodore Johnson House &
Tenement
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1896

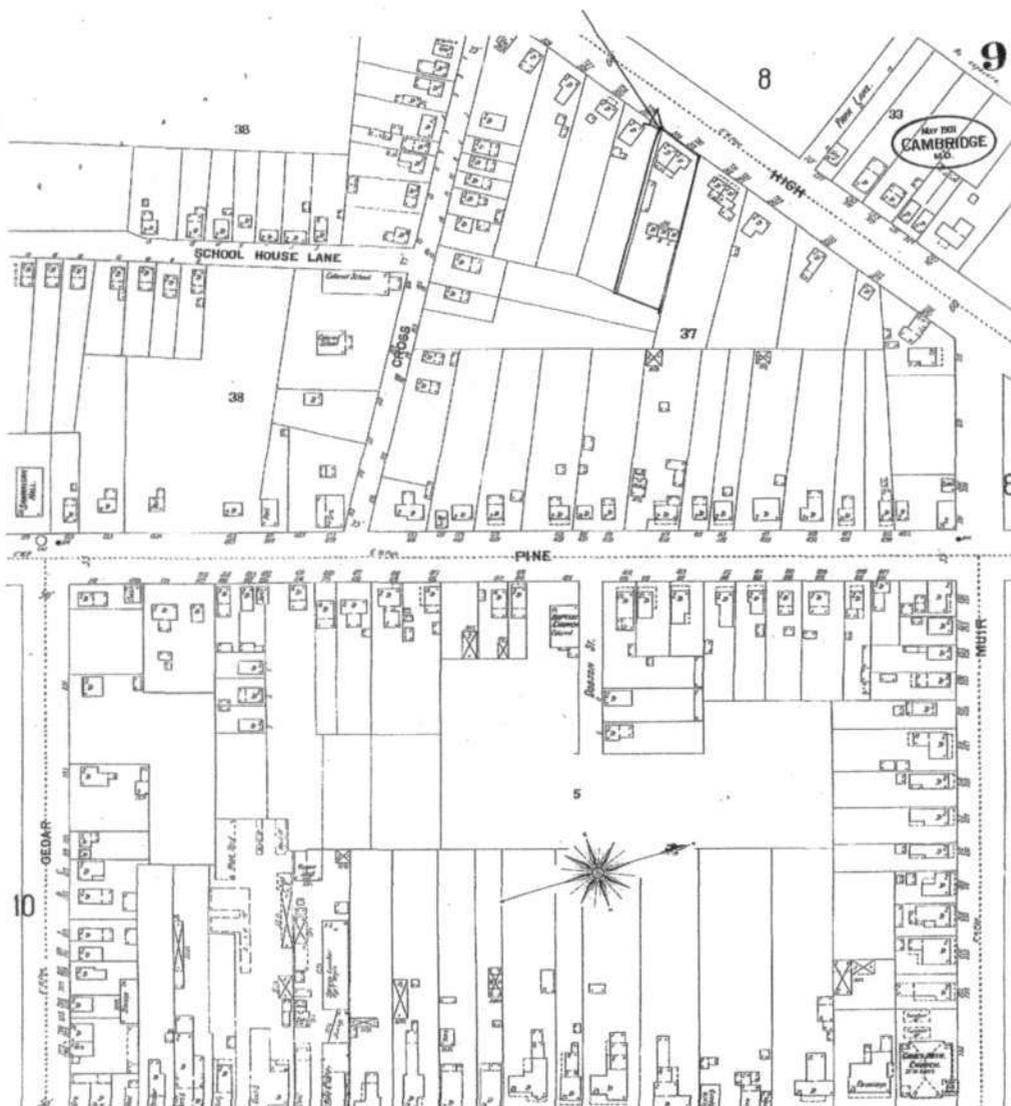
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Theodore Johnson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4

D-802, Theodore Johnson House &
Tenement
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901

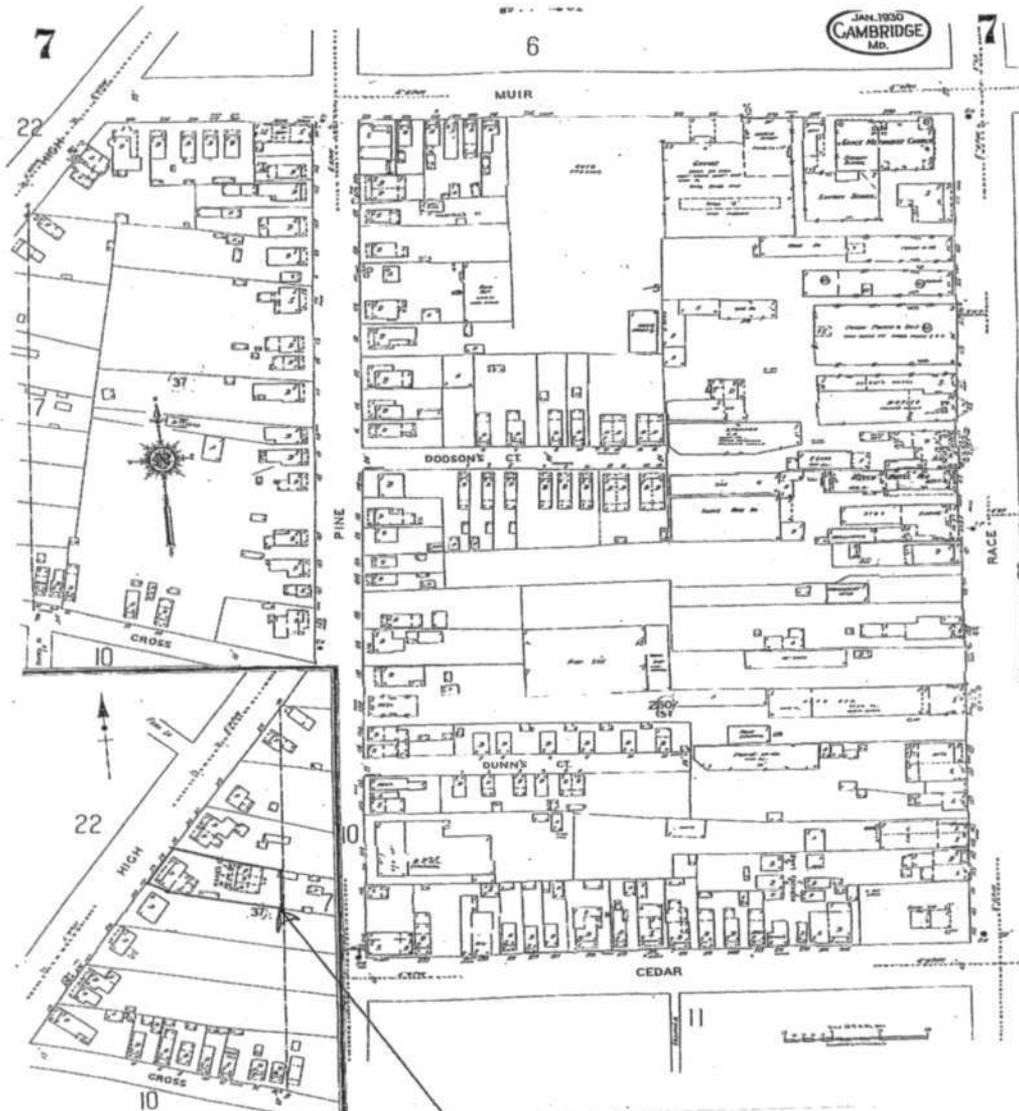


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D-802, Theodore Johnson House &
Tenement
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1945 (1930)

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

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Name Theodore Johnson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Will Book
JWF 1/375

Last Will and Testament of Theodore Johnson

to

12.2.1890

Emily Johnson (Later intermarried with Daniel Kane)

“all property”

Lease
FJH 2/660

Sarah B. LeCompte

to

8.22.1874

Theodore Johnson (wife Emily)

\$12/year

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Dorchester County Will Books, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 11,150 square feet
Acreage of historical setting Exact Acreage Unknown
Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland 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

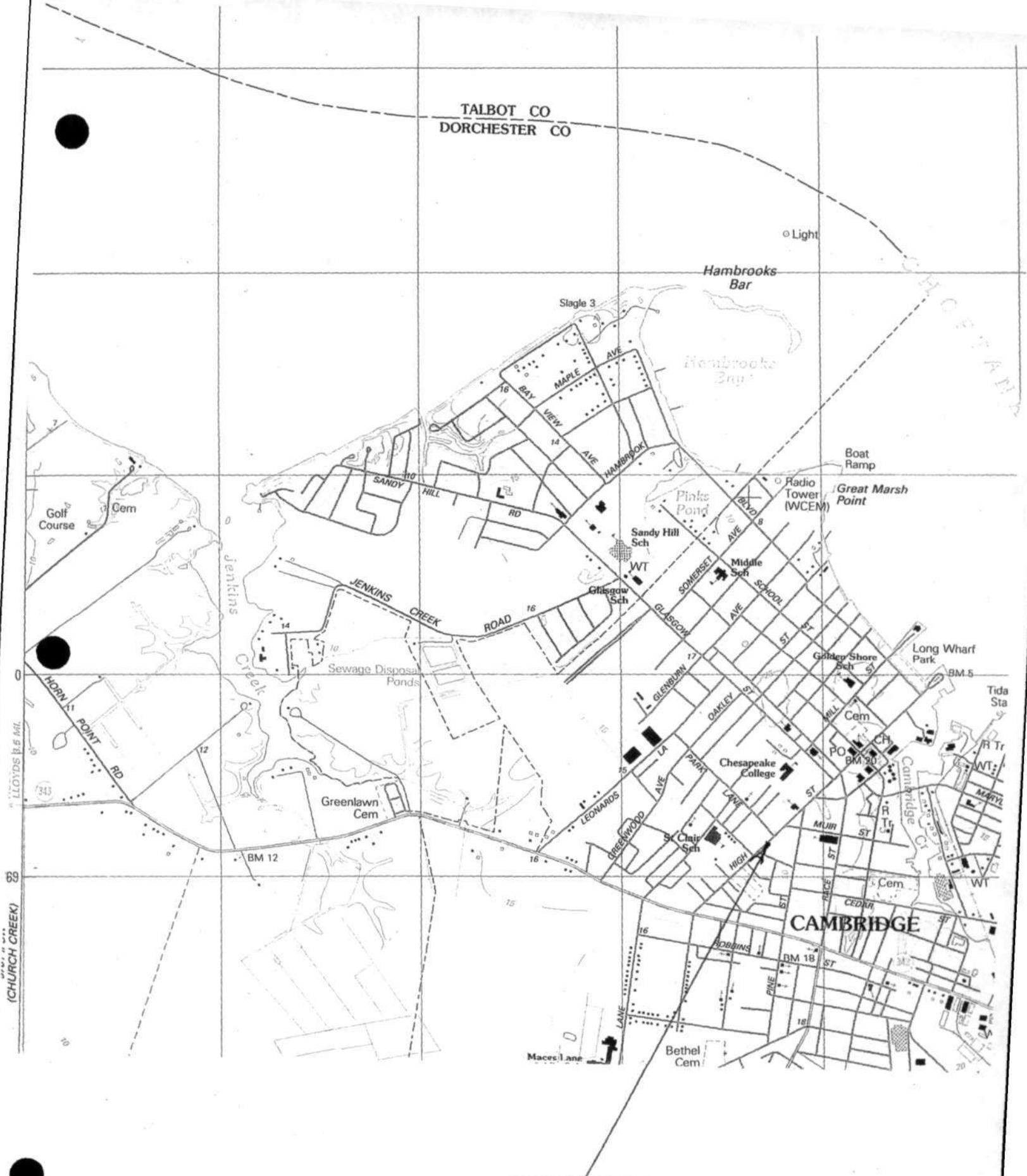
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1.15.2011
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO



D-802, Theodore Johnson House &
Tenement
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle



D-802

THEODORE JOHNSON HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DISTRICTED C. MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

1.2011, PAUL B. TOUALL, PITTSV.

NEE, / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST