

300 HIGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND
DIXON HOTEL

PLC 118/577

This brick structure, now covered with concrete blocks, is one of the largest buildings in Cambridge. It was built in 1895, by W. Lee Dixon and was a very fashionable hotel at the time. The style is Second Empire. Before 1892 the lot where this building stands included several offices and stores that were destroyed on July 30, 1892, when a fire ravaged both sides of the 300 block of High Street. In 1893, Dixon leased the land, purchased the lot in 1902, but in 1914 was forced to sell the hotel because of a mortgage default. The building continued to be known as the Dixon Hotel into the 1920's. The hotel has had a number of owners in the twentieth century.

Old photographs show a large two-story wooden porch that graced the front of the building. In the 1890's Cambridge was a resort area that catered to vacationers from other parts of the state and nation. This hotel provided excellent accommodations at the time, including a large dining room on the first floor. But with changing times the building's fortunes have also declined. The rear wing of the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1954, and because of decay in the bricks the concrete slabs were installed in the early 1960's. The interior has been remodeled extensively to accommodate apartments. Many local residents regard the building as an eyesore and a nuisance, but the hotel serves as a reminder of Cambridge's past glory. Any well conceived plan to refurbish it would add to the character of this section of High Street, which contains many late nineteenth century buildings that are relatively unaltered:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.
Court Records.
Land Records

Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland
Assessment Records.

Interview, Dale D. Shuffler, manager, Cambridge Hotel

(Continued)

CAMBRIDGE HOTEL - PAGE 2-

Cambridge Democrat and News, August 6, 1892.

Cambridge Record: Christmas Number, Historical and Industrial..., 1908, p.22.

Research by:

Terrance Walbert

1976

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Hotel Dixon

and/or common Cambridge Hotel (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 300 High Street _____ not for publication

city, town Cambridge _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1

state Maryland code 24 county Dorchester code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Banner Corporation, Herman Stevens

street & number 302 High Street

city, town Cambridge _____ vicinity of _____ state Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse

street & number 302 High Street

city, town Cambridge _____ state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis _____ state Maryland

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Cambridge Hotel, which stands at the intersection of High and Church Streets, is a 1901-1902 stuccoed brick three-story-plus, dormered, slate covered, rectangular shaped commercial structure which rests on a high foundation, is divided generally into six bays along the principal facade or High Street elevation and two wide bays along the side. An ell containing the dining room, kitchen and service areas which projected from the back and a two story colonnaded frame porch that stretched the length of the High Street facade no longer exist. The principal elevation is divided into three sections with the outer portions, one bay wide each, projecting slightly from the plane of the facade. The majority of the windows have double hung wooden sashes with one-over-one lights. Large fixed one-light windows stretch along the first floor of the High Street facade. On the interior, the decorative detailing is generally Queen Anne in stylistic influence with the concentration of decoration on the lobby and staircase. The exterior stucco was applied in the mid 20th century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Cambridge Hotel is a rectangularly shaped stuccoed structure that was constructed in 1901-1902. The building originally had a brick surface with narrow mortar joints, a frame ell that stretched to the southwest from the rear, and a two story colonnaded frame porch along the High Street or front facade. The wing and porch no longer exist. The stucco was applied about the 1950s. Fragments of the original brick work are visible along High Street. A new wing is to be constructed.

The building has three stories plus a mansard and rests on a high foundation. The terrain slopes gently downward from High Street. The mansard is pierced with gable-roofed dormers corresponding in placement to the bays of the third story. The first floor of the High Street facade has three entrances divided by large display windows. The roof is covered with slate with decorated patterns alternating with the dormers on the front.

The interior consists of a lobby and offices on the first floor and bedrooms on the upper levels. The decorative detailing throughout the building is simple except for the lobby which has a pressed metal ceiling, a Queen Anne influenced mantel with columns, a turned balustrade staircase, and tiled floor. The original dining room, kitchen and service areas were in the wing.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901-1902 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

This structure is particularly significant in terms of the relationship between the date of its construction and the social and commercial development of the surrounding area. During the period of its construction, 1901-02, the general area was reaching the peak of its industrial/commercial development with the appearance of many enterprises such as canneries, oyster shell fertilizer plants, seafood, weelwright and blacksmith shops, general stores, and development of a railroad system. Contributing to social development was the greatly increased revenue resulting from this industrial boom. References indicate that this hotel was needed to accommodate the resulting increase in activity which could not be handled by the one other hotel then operating in Cambridge. The hotel was erected by contractor Col. W. Lee Dixon on the east side of High Street (the first street in Cambridge), connecting the prestigious residential area with the commercial district. To the south were located many small businesses and to the north, the court house with Spring Valley Park, Christ Church, and the turn of the century houses of Cambridge's elite. The prestige afforded this hotel is evidenced by local media references to it as the "Palace Hostelry of the Peninsula . . .by long odds the finest hotel to be found i- any city on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Virginia and Delaware". This status attracted political figures, authors and national personalities. Maryland Governor (1916-20) Emerson C. Harrington maintained an office in the hotel as did Maryland Secretary of State (1916-1919) Thomas Whitely Simmons. Annie Oakley and her husband took their meals at the hotel while their Cambridge home was being constructed and the main character of author John Barth's novel, The Floating Opera, resided in this hotel.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Cambridge Hotel, originally known as the Hotel Dixon, was built in 1901-1902 for Colonel W. Lee Dixon (1863-1946), a contractor and entrepreneur who is described in contenporary literature as "a most valuable citizen to this community (Cambridge)."¹ Little is known about Dixon other than that he was responsible for the construction of several business structures in the town.

During the period of its construction, 1901-02, Dorchester County area was reaching the peak of its industrial/commercial development with the appearance of many enter-prises such as canneries, oyster shell fertilizer plants, seafood, wheelwright and blacksmith shops, general stores, and the development of a railroad system.^{2, 3, 4}

¹Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey: Dorchester County (D-345).

²Philip Williamson and John H. Moore, Lecture and Panel Discussion, "Industrial and Commercial Development of Cambridge", A STUDY OF CAMBRIDGE, ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE, November 16, 1978.

³Maurice Rimpo, "Three Centuries in Two Hours, Seminar Surveys Cambridge's Past", THE BANNER, November 17, 1978.

⁴DEMOCRAT AND NEWS, May 4, 1901, p. 1.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet Cambridge Hotel Item number 8 Page 2

Contributing to social development was the greatly increased revenue resulting from this industrial boom. "Cambridge has long felt the need of a modern hotel. In recent years there has been an urgent demand for first-class hotel accommodations" an article in the daily paper stated.⁵

To the south were located many small businesses and to the north, the court house with its popular Spring Valley Park, historical Christ Church, and the turn-of-the-century homes of Cambridge's elite. The prestige afforded this hotel is evidenced by local media references to it as the "Palace Hostelry of the Peninsula . . . by long odds the finest hotel to be found in any city on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Virginia and Delaware."⁶ This status attracted political figures, authors and national personalities. Maryland's Governor (1916-1920) Emerson C. Harrington maintained an office in the hotel as did Maryland's Secretary of State (1916-1919) Thomas Whitely Simmons.⁷

Annie Oakley and her husband, Colonel, took their meals at the hotel while their Cambridge home was being constructed,^{8, 9} and the main character of author John Barth's novel, THE FLOATING OPERA,¹⁰ resided in this hotel.

⁵Colonel Dixon was born 1863; died 1946, Nellie Marshall, TOMBSTONE RECORDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, Dorchester County Historical Society, 1965, p. 120.

⁶CAMBRIDGE RECORD, Historical and Industrial Edition, December 1908, p. 22. Cambridge, Maryland.

⁷William D. Gould, Esq. interview with, March 24, 1981.

⁸Pat Bryan, "Little Miss Sure Shot", COMBING THE SHORES, July 1978, pp.18-19.

⁹Walter Harper, "Annie Oakley: She Packed up Her Guns and Moved to Cambridge, SHOREWOMAN, p. 15.

¹⁰John Barth, THE FLOATING OPERA, passim, 1956, revised 1967.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See footnotes under Section 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cambridge

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. Fred Tidwell and Mary G. Rodgers

organization Dorchester County Historical Society date March 5, 1981

street & number P. O. Box 361 telephone 228-7953

city or town Cambridge state Maryland 21613

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

For HCRRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

Director of the Department of the Interior

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Cambridge Hotel: formerly the Dixon Hotel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frederick P. McBriety

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

207 Glenburn Abenue

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21613

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: 118

Folio #: 577

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

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cambridge Hotel, built in the late nineteenth century and originally called the Dixon Hotel, is a large three and one half story building with a mansard roof and a two story wing that has been added on to the rear. The original brick exterior has been covered with concrete. Old photographs show that a two story porch once spanned the front of this now somewhat stark building. There are six bays on the front of the building. An awning covers the walkway in front of the building at the street level.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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"/> 400-1499	<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

Formerly called the Dixon, this was once a stylish hotel. Unfortunately, however, the original appearance of the building has been altered by renovation. The starkness of the exterior could be alleviated by painting the concrete.

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

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12/4/75

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 32

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

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



300 HIGH ST., CAMBRIDGE, MD. - WEST FACADE - C.L. MOORE, 1970

(D-345

48%





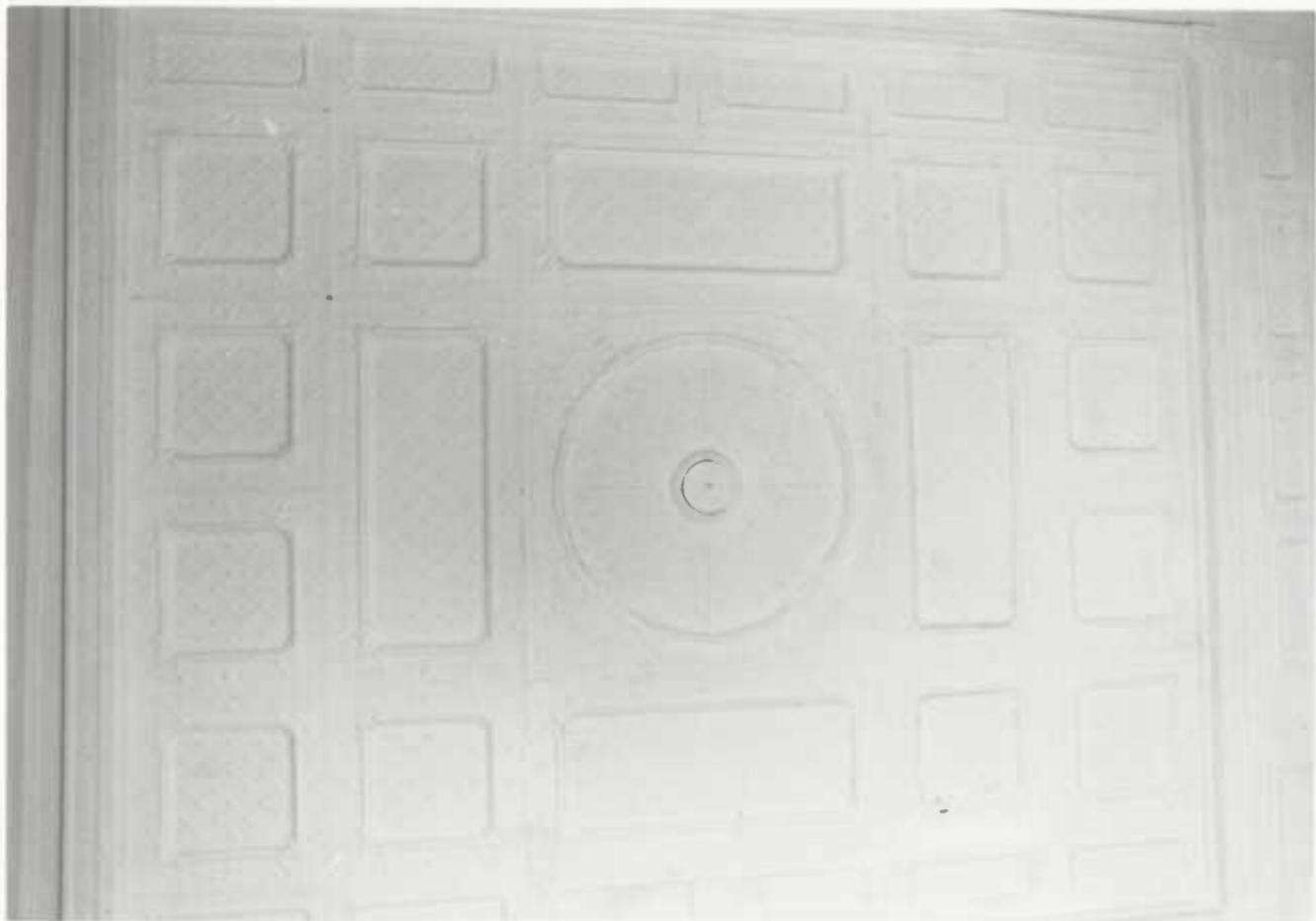
b-345



D-345



P-345



D-345