

THE STRAUGHN MANSION OR DORCHESTER HOUSE

The Straughn house, erected in 1728 and razed in the 1920's, was located near the corner of Gay and Race Streets. It was constructed by an Englishman by the name of Harrison who brought all of its materials from England. Later owners were Congressman Scott and Dr. Joseph Muse, who added a drugstore to the house. Thomas White converted it to a hotel known as "The Dorchester House". It was subsequently possessed by David Straughn, Esquire. The Straughn house is significant as one of the very early houses in Cambridge that is known to have existed and of which photographs are available.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: The Straugh Mansion or Dorchester House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Formerly on Gay and Race Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Dorchester

3. CLASSIFICATION

Table with columns: CATEGORY (Check One), OWNERSHIP, STATUS, ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. Includes checkboxes for District, Site, Building, Structure, Object, Public, Private, Both, etc.

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
Includes checkboxes for Agricultural, Commercial, Educational, Entertainment, Government, Industrial, Military, Museum, Park, Private Residence, Religious, Scientific, Transportation, Other (Specify), and Comments.

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 ZIP: 21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: [ ] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] 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"/> Uncltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An old photograph of the Straughn Mansion in Jones History of Dorchester County shows that this was a handsome two and one half story dwelling with a gable roof, dormers, and a gable on the front. Across the front and at least one side of the house was a two story porch supported by rectangular columns, having a ballustrade with diamond pattern around the second story.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Abariginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Palitical	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	lasaphy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Inventian	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cammerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transpartatian	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History:

The Straughn house was erected in 1728 and razed in the 1920's. It was constructed by an Englishman by the name of Harrison, who brought all of its materials from England. The house passed from Harrison to Congressman Scott. Next to own the house was Dr. Joseph Muse, who later built the mansion at the corner of Muse and Academy Streets. (The Muse Mansion was eventually used as a female seminary and then as a high school until torn down in 1955. ) Dr. Muse added a drugstore to his house on Gay Street. Next to own the home was Thomas White, a local Democratic politician who converted it into a hotel known as "The Dorchester House". It was subsequently possessed by David Straughn, Esq.

Significance:

This site is significant as one of the very early houses in Cambridge that is known to have existed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Jones, Elias, The New Revised History of Dorchester County, Cambridge, Tidewater Publishers, 1966.

**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				
	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: 2/27/76

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

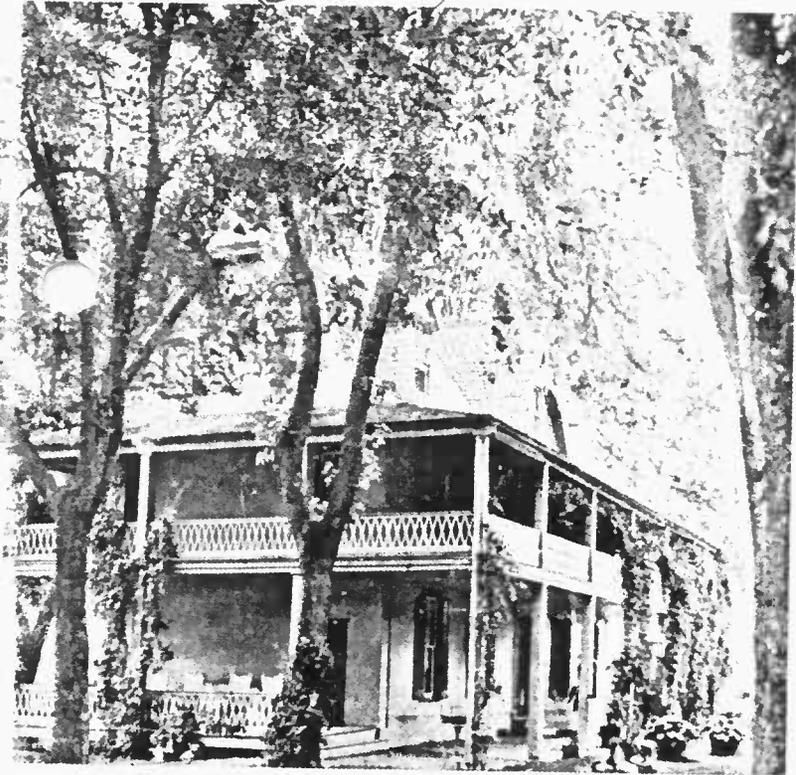


(below, left) D-389

's 1896 view shows Race Street from the intersection of Gay and Race streets.



(D-389)



Straughn mansion was erected in 1728. Located at Gay and Race streets, it became a public tavern and a great rendezvous for local Democrats. In the old days, it was not safe for a Whig to ventilate himself in these quarters, especially on a public day, when the Democratic ship was under a full head of steam. From the Cambridge Record, Historical and Industrial Edition, December 1908



The Eastern Shore Trust Company was founded in 1901, and its Cambridge banking house was located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Race and Gay streets. George W. Woolford, Jonathan J. Mills, and D. H. LeCompte were the principal officers of the company. From the Cambridge Record, Historical and Industrial Edition, December 1908