

D-194
William M. Fletcher Mansion
1887-88
Cambridge

Singularly outstanding in Cambridge's collection of late nineteenth-century dwellings, the William M. Fletcher Mansion is located in the heart of the city's High Street commercial district. Built in 1887-88 in the best craftsman traditions for the period, the brick residence was designed on an asymmetrical tee-shaped plan with a wide variety of brickwork and carpentry finishes that distinguish the exterior. The sides of the house viewable from the street are laid in closely set stretcher bond of pressed brick, and marble was used as a cap to the watertable and for each window sill. Serving as a beltcourse between floor levels is a narrow Greek key band executed in terra cotta. Single or paired one-over-one sash window openings are spanned by uniquely crafted jack arches that feature molded terra cotta blocks at the ends, while the paired window units have infill rows of the Greek key terra cotta blocks inbetween the jack arches. Stretching around the perimeter of the extended eaves is an intricate cornice with large carved blocks and rows of decorative moldings. Particularly distinctive to the tee-shaped house is a three-story octagonal tower that rises against the northeast gable end. Executed as well in narrow jointed pressed brick with single-pane sash windows lighting the principal floors, the tower has third story round arched windows. The concave curved tower roof is marked by four gable roofed dormers and topped by a distinctive metal spire. Few alterations have been made to the exterior of the house aside from a Colonial Revival enclosed front porch that is distinguished by reused double front doors with complex applications of carved woodwork. An original porch from the 1880s survives

on the southwest corner and is enhanced by turned posts and balusters as well as a turned spindle rail under the porch roof header.

William M. Fletcher (1828-1913) assumed a prominent role in Cambridge during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century as an exacting watchmaker and jeweler as well as a land speculator and developer. He seized on the opportunities evident during the post Civil War years by acquiring one-hundred acres on the east side of Cambridge Creek in 1872, laying out lots and erecting speculative houses. In 1866 he had purchased the lot on which he later built his brick mansion, a property known at the time as the "old Tavern lot," which was situated next to his house and shop at the time.

Fletcher's successes as a jeweler, watchmaker, and particularly, as a land speculator and developer, enabled him and his third wife, Sarah Andrews, to finance this expensive brick dwelling. Started in 1887, the construction of the residence inspired periodic comment in local newspapers. The *Democrat and News* stated in April 1888 that carpenter J. E. Chillcut was installing the decorative turned post front porches. Several months later, the newspaper reported that the interior woodwork, executed in sycamore, would have a beautiful natural finish.

Even though the buildings on both sides of High Street were destroyed in the July 31, 1892 fire, the Fletcher Mansion, although scorched, survived the conflagration due to its masonry walls and slate roof. The house was much admired in its time and was described in a short biography on Fletcher published in 1898, which stated:

His own family residence is a beautiful one, of modern architecture, and was completed in 1888. By many it is esteemed the finest brick dwelling in Cambridge, and its interior decorations and furnishings are of the most elegant style and bespeak the refined taste of the owner.

Family ownership of the property was maintained past William M. Fletcher's death in 1913. In 1926 trustees Calvin Harrington and Mary V. Fletcher sold the property to Minnie G. M. Dick for \$12,100. Seven years later, the Fletcher Mansion was acquired by Granville S. LeCompte, in whose family the house and lot remained until 1974.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-194

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic William M. Fletcher Mansion
 other Curran-Bromwell Funeral Home

2. Location

street and number 308 High Street not for publication
 city, town Cambridge vicinity
 county Dorchester

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

name Raymond J. Curran, Sr.
 street and number 308 High Street telephone 410-228-2616
 city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613-1827

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 186 folio 426
 city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4453 tax ID number 128916

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input 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-194

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.

The William M. Fletcher Mansion stands at 308 High Street and is the current location of the Curran-Bromwell Funeral Home in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built in 1887-88, the two-and-a-half story asymmetrically planned Victorian brick residence is supported on a partially excavated brick foundation, and the various gable roofs as well as an octagonal tower are sheathed with patterned slate. The viewable sections of the house from the street are laid in closely set pressed brick with thin butter joints. The back sides of the house away from view are laid in six course common bond of regular wall brick. The Victorian brick house extends to the southeast (rear) with plain two-story frame additions built in two sections.

The northwest (main) elevation is an asymmetrical ell-shaped façade with a single-story enclosed front porch in the Colonial Revival style filling the inside corner of the ell. The elaborately executed front doors with glazed upper panels and intricately carved panels and applied decoration were repositioned from their original location on the main entrance to this forward position in the enclosed porch. The forward projecting gable of the tee-shaped main block is defined by paired windows fixed above a marble top to the projecting watertable. The paired window units are spanned by a decorative butter jointed brick jack arches featuring molded terra cotta inset blocks at each end. The space between the two jack arches is filled with a quirky infill of Greek key terra cotta blocks that were left over from the execution of the beltcourse between floors. The window units have marble sills. The second story of the gable roofed pavilion is marked by the same paired window unit with the same decorative butter jointed jack arches the terra cotta decorative blocks. Piercing the upper gable end is a round arched attic window. The gable end is trimmed with an extended eave with carved brackets and decoratively treated rake board under the brackets. Defining the second story of the front wall above the flat roofed porch are three window units, one extra wide colored glass window on the right featuring a decorative muntin pattern with a circle design dominating the upper sash. The other two openings have one-over-one sash windows with decorated jack arches repeating the same features as found on the front gable. The bracketed eave stretches across the top of the wall surface, and the pattern slate roof is marked by two segmental arch roofed dormers fitted with one-over-one sash windows. Rising through the center of the tee-shaped house is an internal brick chimney stack finished with a corbelled cap.

The northeast end elevation is dominated by the sides of semi-octagonal tower that rises three stories and assumes its full eight-sided shape above the roof line. Narrow one-over-one sash windows light the first and second stories, and round arched windows define the third floor. The edge of the tower roof is bracketed, and roof slopes in a concave curved on each side to a metal finial at the top. Four sides of the octagonal roof are marked by gable roofed dormers fitted with pointed arch sash windows. The opposite side of the house facing southwest is an asymmetrical elevation defined by the projecting top leg of the tee plan marked by paired window units on the first and second stories, and a round arched single-pane sash window pierces the gable end. The extended eave is trimmed in the same heavily ornamented manner as the front of the house. To the north (left) of the projecting bay there is a single-story hip roofed porch supported on turned posts and featuring

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Continuation Sheet

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a turned baluster handrail and turned spindle decoration below the porch header. A four-panel side door opens from the porch into the house. The northwest side of the house is defined by off-center single-pane sash windows topped by decorative jack arches that repeat the same pattern as the other front windows. A segmental arched roof dormer with single-pane sash windows is centered on the patterned slate roof, and the dormer roof edge retains a wooden cresting. On the opposite side of the projecting gable roofed pavilion is a single bay of six-course common bond brickwork pierced by single-pane sash windows topped by regular brick jack arches. Filling the inside corner is a shed roofed cellar entrance with double leaf paneled doors and a shed roof that slopes inward toward the house.

The rear wall of the Victorian house is covered by a two-story frame wing built in two sections during the mid to late twentieth century.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-194

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 Carpenter J. E. Chillcut

Construction dates 1887-88

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.)

Singularly outstanding in Cambridge's collection of late nineteenth-century Victorian dwellings, the William M. Fletcher Mansion is located in the heart of the city's commercial district on High Street. Built in 1887-88 with the best craftsman traditions for the period, the brick residence was designed on an asymmetrical tee-shaped plan with a variety of brickwork and carpentry finishes that distinguish the exterior. The sides of the house viewable from the street are laid in closely set stretcher bond of pressed brick, and marble was used as a cap to the watertable and for each window sill. Serving as a beltcourse between floors is a narrow Greek key band executed in terra cotta. Single or paired one-over-one sash window openings are spanned by unique jack arches that feature molded terra cotta blocks. The paired window units also have infill rows of the Greek key terra cotta blocks between the individual arches. Stretching around the perimeter of the extended eaves is a heavily ornamented cornice with large carved blocks and rows of decorative moldings. Particularly distinctive to the tee-shaped house is a three-story octagonal tower that rises against the northeast gable end. Executed as well in narrow jointed pressed brick with single pane sash windows lighting each floor, the tower's third story is marked by round arched windows. The concave curved octagonal tower roof is punctuated with four gable roofed dormers and topped by metal spire. Few alterations have been made to the exterior aside from a Colonial Revival enclosed front porch that reused highly decorative Victorian double doors. An original porch from the 1880s survives on the southwest corner and is distinguished by turned posts and balusters as well as spindle rail under the roof header.

William M. Fletcher (1828-1913) assumed a prominent role in Cambridge during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century as an exacting watchmaker and jeweler as well as a land speculator and developer.¹ He seized on the opportunities evident during the post Civil War years by acquiring one-hundred acres on the east side of Cambridge Creek in 1872, laying out lots and erecting speculative houses. In 1866 he had purchased the lot on which he later built his

¹ *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, New York and Chicago, Chapman Publishing Company, 1898, pp. 808-09.

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brick mansion, a property known as the time as the "old Tavern lot,"² which was located next to his house and shop at the time.

Fletcher's successes as a jeweler, watchmaker, and particularly, his venture in developing East Cambridge, enabled him and his third wife Sarah Andrews, to finance this expensive brick dwelling. Started in 1887, the construction of the residence inspired periodic comment in the local newspaper, the *Democrat and News*. In April 1888, carpenter J. E. Chillcut was installing the decorative turned post front porches.³ Several months later, the newspaper reported that the interior woodwork, executed in sycamore, would have a beautiful natural finish.⁴

Even though both sides of High Street were destroyed in the July 31, 1892 fire, the Fletcher Mansion, although scorched, survived the conflagration largely due to its masonry walls and slate roof. The house was much admired in its time and described in a short biography on Fletcher written in 1898:

*His own family residence is a beautiful one, of modern architecture, and was completed in 1888. By many it is esteemed the finest brick dwelling in Cambridge, and its interior decorations and furnishings are of the most elegant style and bespeak the refined taste of the owner.*⁵

Family ownership of the property was maintained past William M. Fletcher's death in 1913. In 1926, trustees Calvin Harrington and Mary V. Fletcher sold the property to Minnie G. M. Dick for \$12,100.⁶ Seven years later, the Fletcher mansion was acquired by Granville S. LeCompte,⁷ in whose family the house and lot remained until 1974.⁸

² Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 6/387, 4.24.1866.

³ *Democrat and News*, April 21, 1888.

⁴ *Democrat and News*, July 21, 1888.

⁵ *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, pp. 808-09.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, FD 18/218, April 24, 1926

⁷ Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 29/447, January 30, 1933.

⁸ Dorchester County Land Record, 186/426, September 6, 1974.

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CHAIN-OF-TITLE
308 High Street

186/426

Winnie Belle LeCompte, Granville Robert LeCompte
trading as LeCompte Funeral Services

to

9.6.1974

Raymond J. Curran

Parcel One: 308 High Street

"All that lot of land improved by a brick dwelling and outbuildings known as 118 High Street (old assignment number) which was formerly the home property of the late William M. Fletcher fronting 90 feet more or less on High Street and having a depth of 165 feet

JFD 29/447

Minnie G. M. Dick
Frank M Dick, City of New York, NY

to

1.20.1933

Granville S. LeCompte

FD 18/218

Calvin Harrington
Mary V. Fletcher, trustees

to

4.24.1926

Minnie G. M. Dick

Pursuant to a power of sale contained in the Last Will and

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Testament of William M. Fletcher

\$12,100.00

FJH 6/387

Caleb Shepherd, Executor of Last Will and Testament of
Ann M. Stewart

to

4.24.1866

William M. Fletcher

Commonly known as the "Old Tavern Property," beginning at a
post on High St. in said town, standing between the property on
which the said Fletcher now resides and the old Tavern Property

\$2,000.00

Will
Recorded in FJH 6/388

Last Will and Testament of Ann M. Stewart

8.11.1856

I give and bequeath as follows---I give and devise unto my
Executors the following slaves: viz. negro man Elisha to serve
until the first day of January 1867, Negro boy Robert to serve
until the first day of January 1870, Negro woman Lizzie to
serve until the first day of January 1873, and her issue
hereafter born if any, the males to serve until they are forty
four years of age and the females to serve until they are thirty
nine years of age, negro boy Joe to serve until the first day of
January 1883, negro child Mary Lizzie to serve until the first
day of January 1894, and her issue if any, the males to serve
until they are forty four years and the females to serve until
they are thirty nine years, negro child Eugene to serve until
the first day of January 1900. At the expiration of the time
of servitude above mentioned for the above mentioned
slaves, then they are to be free and until the aforesaid time of
freedom, to be hired out by my Executor at his discretion, in

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Continuation Sheet

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trust nevertheless and for the following purposes, their Negroes to go to the use and benefit of my grand daughter Alice Jones. I give and devise to my executor my house and lot called and known as the old Tavern, now occupied by John Fidler and others in the Town of Cambridge, and my house and lot where Rebecca Miller now lives, in the town of Cambridge, in trust nevertheless, and for the following purposes, that the said property shall be rented out by my Executor and the proceeds go the use of my grand daughter Alice J. Jones until she arrives at the age of twenty one years....

Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, New York & Chicago, Chapman Publishing Co. 1898. pp. 807-08.

Article on William M. Fletcher

...notes, largely responsible for building East Cambridge, 700 population, purchased in 1872, one hundred acres to sell lots and erect houses....

"His own family residence is a beautiful one, of modern architecture, and was completed in 1888. By many it is esteemed the finest brick dwelling in Cambridge, and its interior decorations and furnishings are of the most elegant style and bespeak the refined taste of the owner."

William M. Fletcher, born March 8, 1828, son of John H. Fletcher and his first wife, Elizabeth Bradley, who was born near Gales Town; Children, William M., Major S., and Kilby B.; married 2nd, Miss Bramble, children, Jeremiah and Mary J., residents of Caroline County in Preston; married 3rd Sarah Andrews, only son John Fletcher, register of wills at present.

Democrat and News, April 21, 1888.

Carpenter Chillcut us building the porches to Mr. Fletcher's new house.

Democrat and News, July 21, 1888

Mr. William M. Fletcher is finishing his new home in Sycamore wood. It makes a beautiful finish.

Population Schedule for the Tenth Census of the United States Census (1880)., Dorchester County,

**Maryland Historical Trust
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Name William M. Fletcher Mansion
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transcribed by Debra S. Moxey, March 1994.

J. E. Chillcut, 33, carpenter, widowed, East New Market

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Democrat and News*, various issues, Microfilm at the Dorchester County Library, Cambridge.
Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, New York and Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1898, pp. 807-08.
Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Dorchester County Population Schedule, transcribed by Debra S. Moxey, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 17,956 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 17,956 square feet
Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland 1988 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	9/15/2007
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

Dem. & News
3.17.1888

D-194

Mortgagee's Sale OF Real Estate.

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a deed of mortgage from Thomas O. Gault to Mrs. Harriet F. Christian, dated the 5th day of September, 1885, and recorded among the Land Records of Dorchester county, in Liber C. L. No. 7, folios 514, 515 and 516, one of the Land Record books of said county, and to me assigned, default having been made in complying with the terms of said mortgage, the undersigned, assignee of the said Mrs. Harriet F. Christian, will offer at Public Sale, to the highest bidder, at the Court House door, in Cambridge, on

TUESDAY, the 24th day of APRIL,
A. D. 1888,

between the hours of 1 and 3 o'clock P. M.,

LIST:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PART OF A
TRACT OF LAND CALLED
"THAMES STREET,"

or by whatsoever name or names the same may be known, whereon Samuel Dyer now resides, situated in East New Market district, of Dorchester county, adjoining the lands of John Webster, Major S. Fletcher and others, and containing

129 1/2 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR
LESS,

being the same lands conveyed to said Mrs. Harriet F. Christian by Major S. Fletcher and others, commissioners to divide and value the real estate of the late James H. Hicks; deceased, by deed dated the 25th day of August, 1884, and recorded in Liber C. L. No. 6, folios 631 and 632, one of the Land Record books of Dorchester county, and by her conveyed to the said Thomas O. Gault by deed dated the 5th day of September, 1885, and recorded among the Land Records of said county, in Liber C. L. No. 7, folios 514, 515 and 516. This tract has timber enough for farm purposes.

CAMBRIDGE Business Directory.

MERCHANT TAILOR.

GEOURGE A. SMITH,
Merchant Tailor and Clothier. Can make you a stylish suit in the shortest time and in the best manner, or sell you one ready-made for less money than his competitors. High St.

CLOTHIERS.

S. LEHMAN,
Clothing, Boots and Shoes in large varieties, sold as low as the lowest and quality guaranteed in every case. Cor. Poplar and Gay Sts.

KATZ BROS., Champion Clothiers,
Cambridge, Md.
Leader of low prices and styles. They carry the largest stock of Men's, Boys' and Children's Clothing, Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats, Boots and Shoes, &c. Be sure and give them a call, as they will save you time and money.

I. GARNER,
The Original Baltimore Clothing House. Keeps Ready-made Clothing of latest styles and lowest prices. Also a fine line of Jewelry, Watches, Trunks, Valises, Gents' Furnishing Goods, &c. Boots and Shoes a specialty; best quality and lowest prices. Race street.

JEWELERS.

WILLIAM M. FLETCHER,
Watch-maker and Jeweler. Watches & Clocks repaired at short notice. Workmanship guaranteed. High street.

J. A. TSCHANTRE,
Watch-maker and Jeweler. Watches and Clocks repaired at short notice and guaranteed to give satisfaction. Poplar street.

DRUGGISTS.

GRAHAM'S PHARMACY,
High Street, Cambridge, Md.
Dealer in Drugs, Medicines and Chemicals, Fancy and Toilet Articles, Sponges, Brushes, Perfumery, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully compounded at all hours, and orders answered with care and dispatch. My stock of medicines is complete, warranted genuine, and of the best quality.

T. C. RATON & SON
Headquarters for Groceries, Wood, Coal, Hay and all kinds of mill feed and field seed. Poplar street.

DR. L. E. JOHNSON,
dealer in Lumber, Wood, Building Material of every description, and General Merchandise. Race street.

THOS. DRENNING,
dealer in Groceries and Provisions, Confectionery, Canned Goods, Cigars, Tobacco and Notions. Wood Yard connected with store. S. W. corner Muir and Academy streets.

BUTCHERS.
Drenning & Richardson having bought the beef stand of Rawleigh & Bro., on Race St., announce that they keep at all times a full supply of FRESH BEEF, PORK, SAUSAGE, DRESSED POULLERY and Vegetables in season. Prices low and kind attention to customers. Drenning & Richardson.

REAL ESTATE & BUSINESS AGENCY.
Sixty Homes and other property for sale in the Garden of America, the "Eastern Shore of Maryland." N. B. IRELAND & CO.
Apply to F. H. DEAN,
Cambridge, Md.

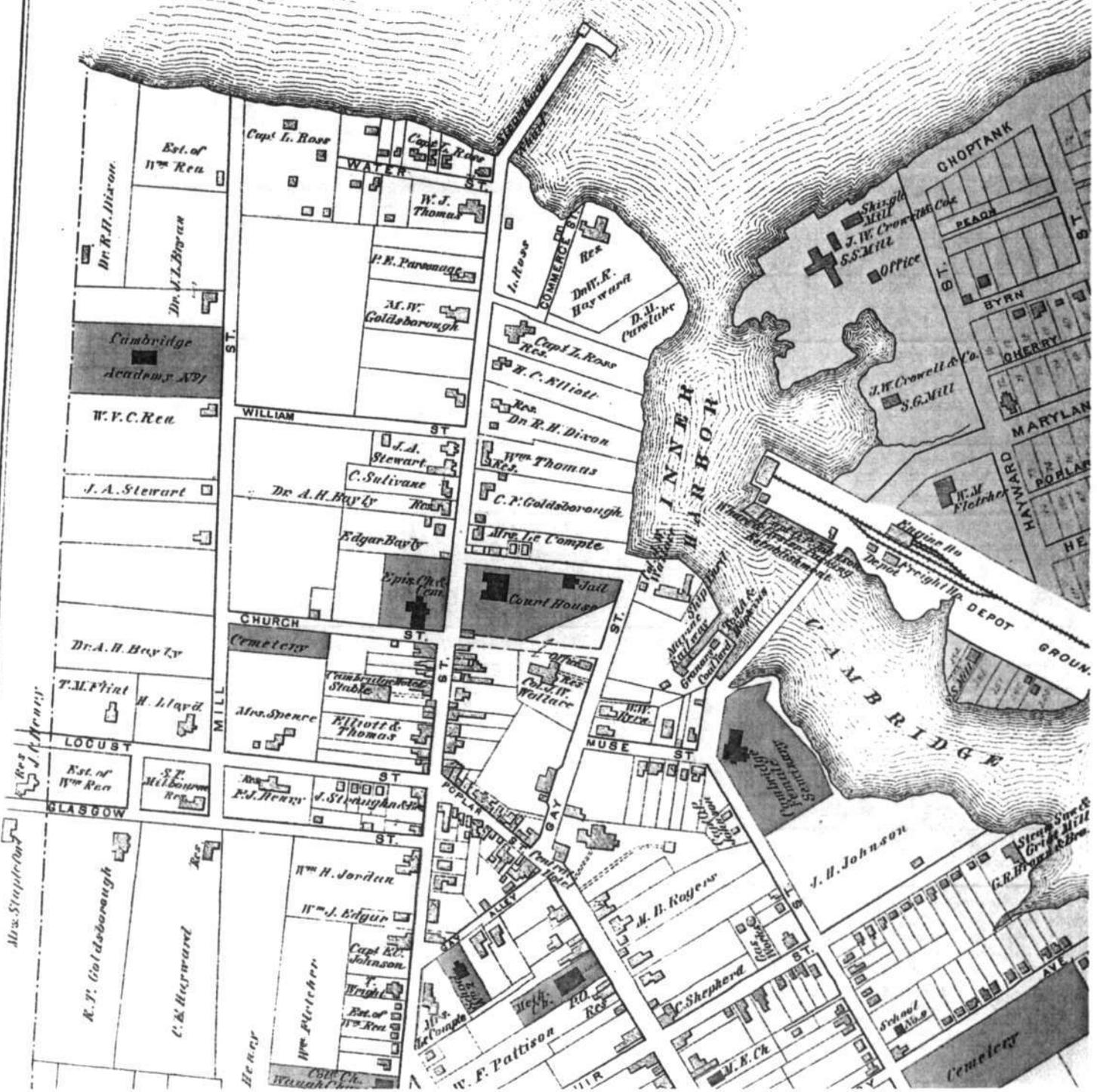
WANTED TO BUY—
A SCHOONER
that will carry about 100 tons.
Apply at
NEWS OFFICE,
Cambridge, Md.
jan28-tf

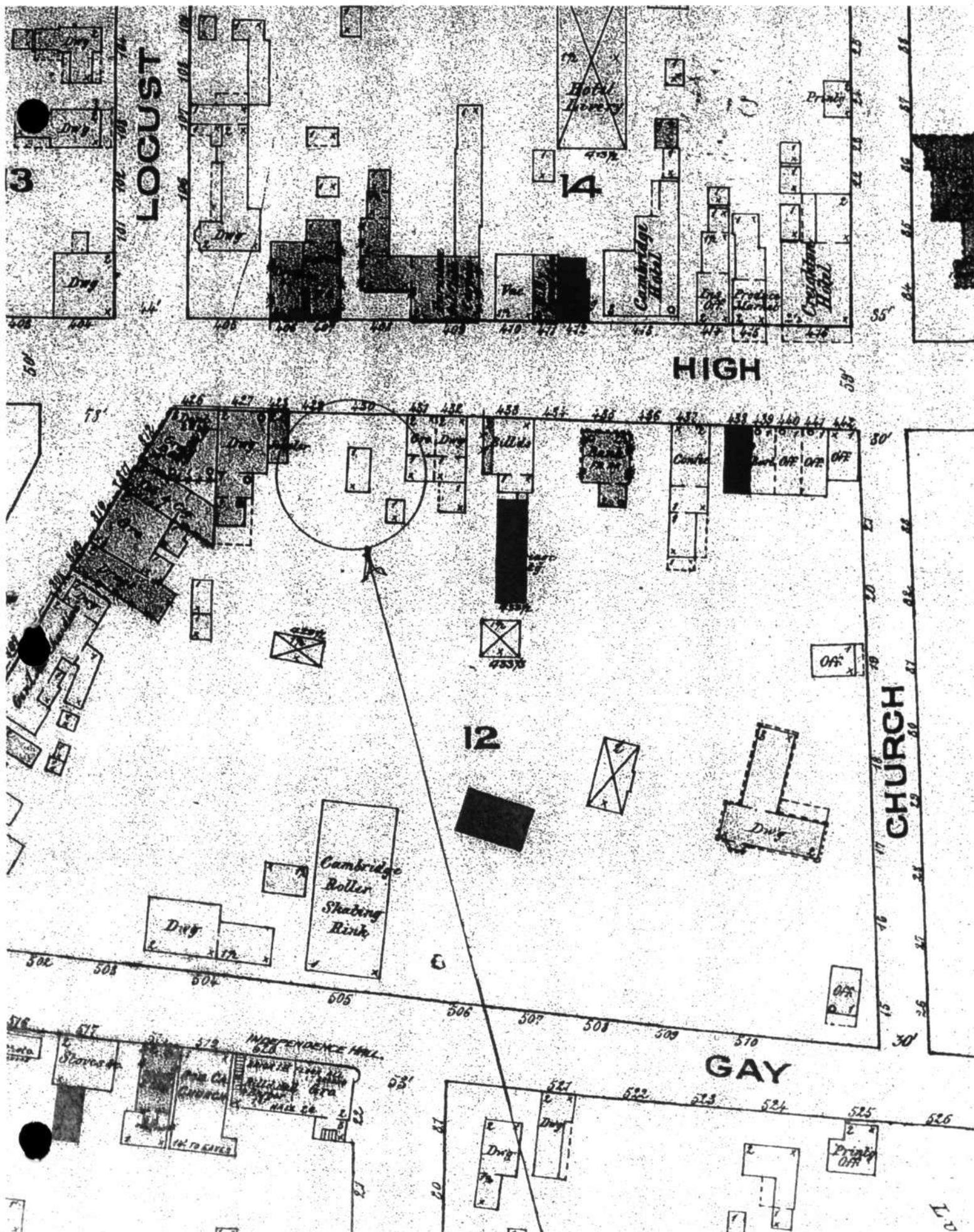
FOR SALE—
One BAY ST. LAWRENCE BROOD MARE, 8 years old last spring. Gentle to all kinds of harness and good traveller.
Apply to
JOS. VICKERS,
Aireys P. O., Dor. Co., Md.
mar3-3t

FOR SALE.
If you want a first-class Carriage or Buggy, call on J. E. Norman, who has just received a number from the celebrated Watertown Spring Wagon Co., of New York, and is offering them at exceedingly low prices for cash. Norman has also a second-hand Carriage, or Buggy, cheap; also, a fine Mare, perfectly gentle for lady or child to drive—also a good driver. Norman has bought and will receive by first boat a large lot of Gillling and Cotton Twine—Nos. 6 to 42—Retire Home &c.

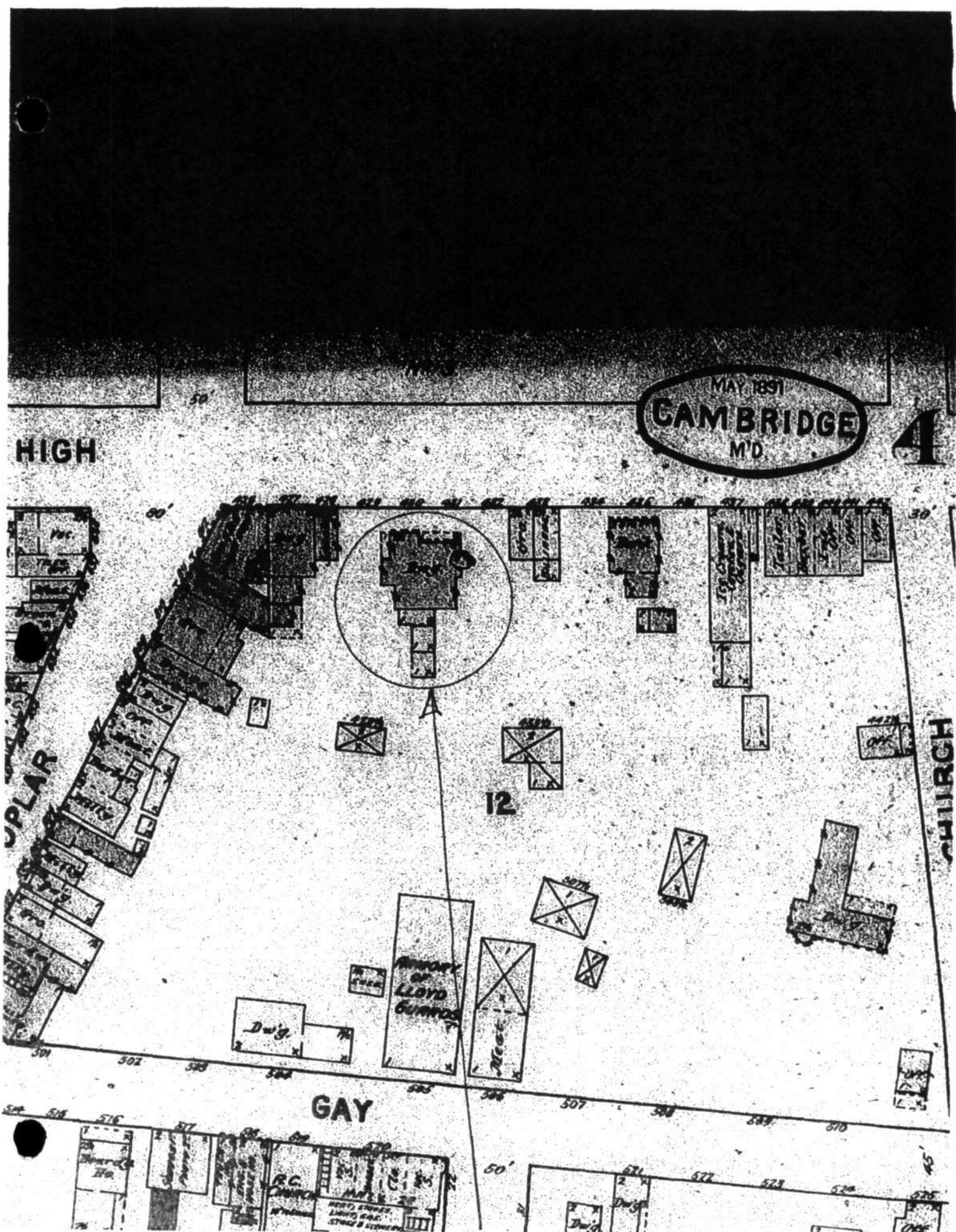
D-194, William M. Fletcher Mansion
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
 1877

C H O P T A N K R I V E R



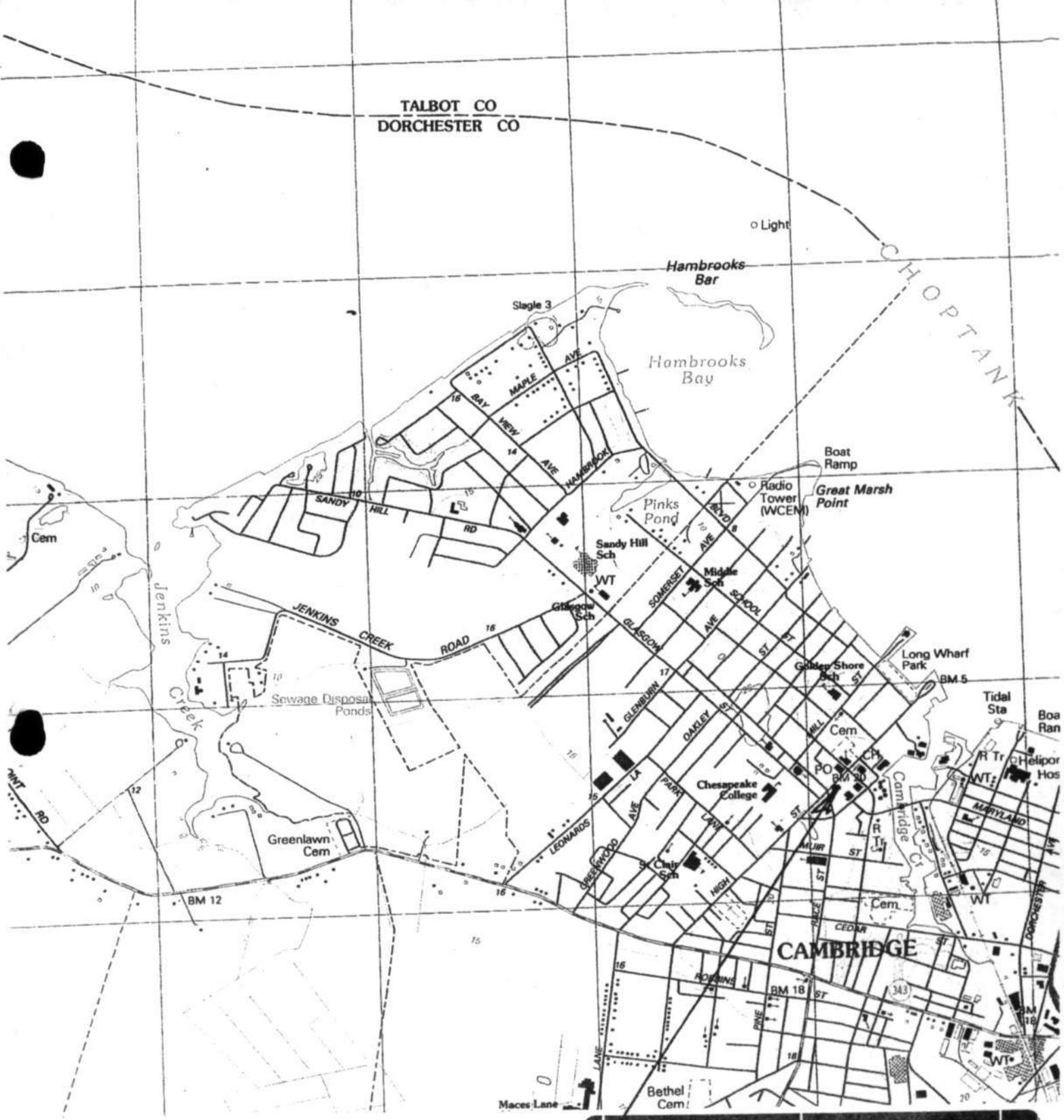


D-194, William M. Fletcher Mansion
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1885



D-194, William M. Fletcher Mansion
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO



D-194, William M. Fletcher Mans
Cambridge, MD Quadrangle, 1988



D-194

William M. Fletcher Mansions
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MASS.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

9/07, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG./M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 5



D-194

William M. Fletcher Mansion
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

9/07, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEELY MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-194

WM M. FLETCHER MANSION
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO.
MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

9/07, PAUL TOWANT, PITOTO.

NEZ/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

3/5



D-194

Wm M. FLETCHER MANSION
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co.,
MD.

TOWER - NORTHWEST ELEV.

9/07, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTO.

NEE / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

4/5



D-194

WM M. FLETCHER MANSION

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHWEST - ELEVATION - WINDOW DET.

9/07, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEH. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-194
~~D-425~~
~~D-426~~

308-~~310~~ HIGH STREET

Built of brick and richly ornamented with a variety of architectural details, this is one of the finest Queen Anne style houses in Cambridge although it is now used as a funeral home. It is basically unaltered and in good condition. The front portion is L-shaped with a gabled wing on the front. On the northwest corner is an elaborate three story polygonal tower, with round arched windows, small dormers with pointed arched windows, and a finial at the peak. The heavy cornices of the tower and roof are ornamented by a series of carved brackets. The flat arches above each window have ornamented terracotta blocks at the corners and between the first and second story is a terracotta beltcourse with a meander pattern.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

194
D-425

1004254611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Curran's Funeral Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

308-~~310~~ 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Raymond J. Curran

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

308 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21613

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: 186

Folio #: 426

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-194

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although now used as a funeral home, this apparently was built as a house. An excellent example of Queen Anne style architecture of the late nineteenth century, this large rambling assymetrical building is constructed of brick and consists of two and one half stories. On the L shaped front are three bays under a gabled roof plus a wing that projects toward the street. In the gable of this wing is a window with a round arch above, and below is a tall rectangular double window on each story. One of the windows on the front facade has a circle pattern formed by the wood muntins. Each of the windows has interior shutters and flat arches above with ornamental terracotta blocks at the corners. On the northwest corner of the building is a three story polygonal tower with round arched windows in the third story. At the peak of the tower is a finial, and on four sides of the tower roof are small dormers. The heavy cornices of the tower and roof are ornamented by a series of carved brackets, with a repeated ornamentive motif between them, and dentils below. There are two dormers on the front, each with a round arched window and wood tracery ornamentation above. Variety is added to the slate roof by rows of imbricated shingles, some of a lighter contrasting gray. Between the first and second story is a terracotta beltcourse with a meander pattern. Across part of the front is a one story three bay frame wing in which the front entrance is located. Each half of the double door has a tall narrow round arched window. The wing has a flat roof with a ballustrade around it. On the south side of the house is a small two bay gabled wing, and to the rear is a two story frame addition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

D-194

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

Richly ornamented with a variety of details, this is one of the finest examples of Queen Anne style architecture in Cambridge. It is basically unaltered except for a wing added to the rear. This block of High Street still retains its late nineteenth century flavor, to which this building makes a significant contribution.

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

12/5/75

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box32

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

D-194
~~D-193~~

308 HIGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

PLC 188/426

This mansion, built in the Queen Anne style, was erected in 1888 by William M. Fletcher (1828-1913). Fletcher was a jeweler and watchmaker in Cambridge and was responsible for the development of East Cambridge into a residential section in the late nineteenth century. In 1872, he purchased one hundred acres between Cambridge Creek and Dorchester Avenue. Three years later he began selling building lots. By the 1890's, Fletcher had sold sixty acres, giving East Cambridge a population of seven hundred. Its growth was part of a general expansion of the city in the late nineteenth century because of the oyster packing and vegetable canning industries.

This house just missed destruction in the fire of 1892, as the flames stopped at the adjacent property. Fletcher's heirs sold the house in 1926. Granville S. LeCompte bought the property in 1933 and began operating a funeral home. The present owners purchased the business from the LeComptes in 1974, and have continued its operation. The house itself has been expanded over the years, but the basic integrity of the exterior and interior remains. The original doors are still in the front entrance and much of the woodwork remains in the house. This house is one of many late nineteenth century structures in the 300 block of High Street that remain relatively unaltered and that contribute to the architectural character of the street.

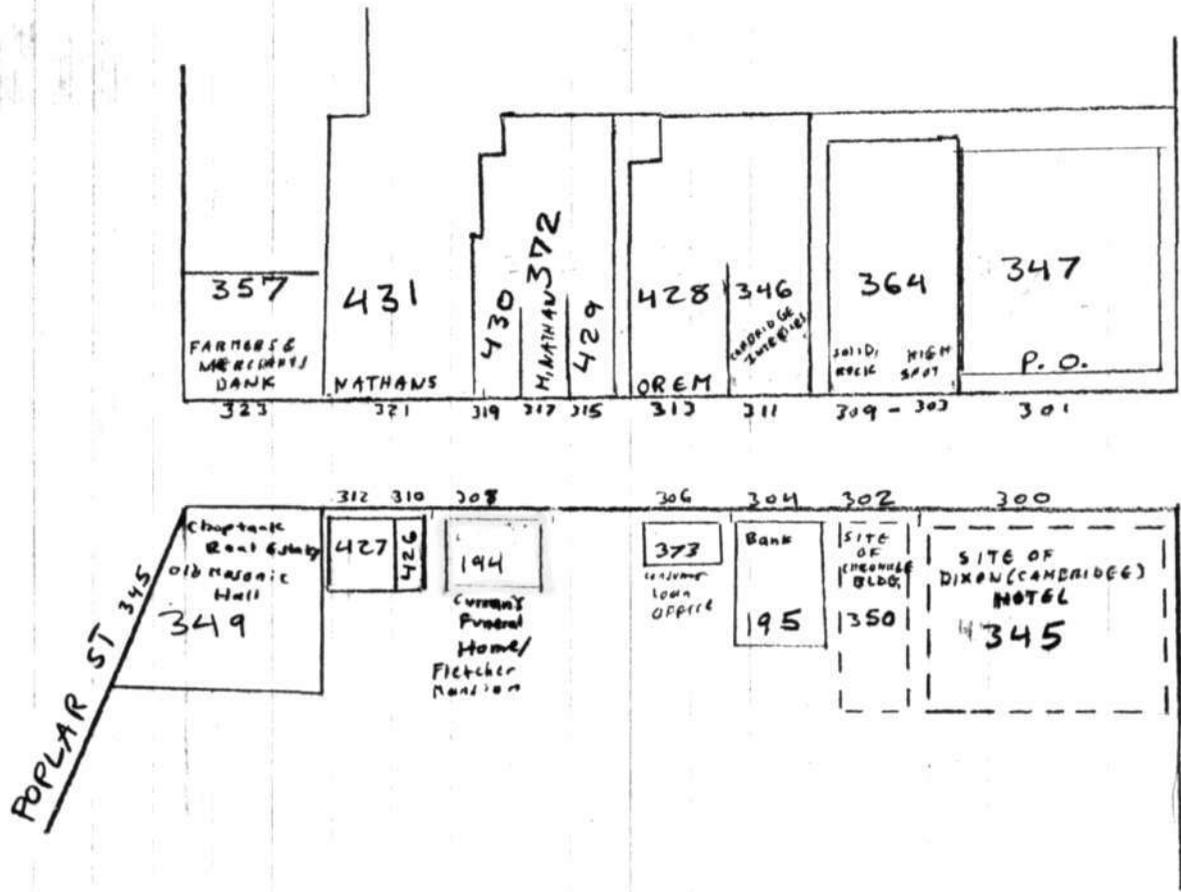
Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland
Court Records.
Land Records.
Will Records.
Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.
Assessment records.
Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland,
New York and Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1898, pp. 807-808.

Research by;

Terrance Walbert

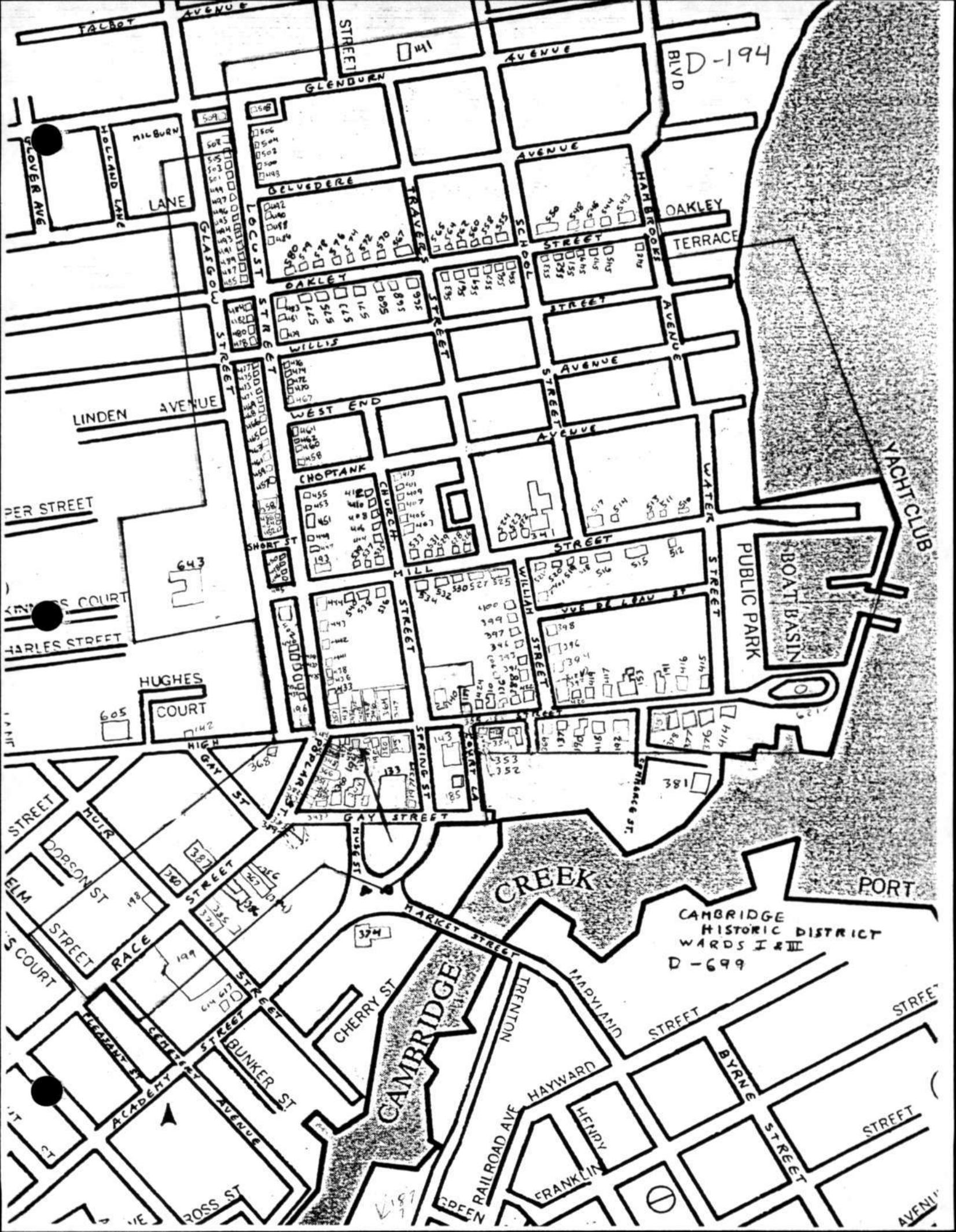
1976



HIGH STREET
← (300 BLOCK)

J. KOZLAY
12/21/93

D-194



FALCON AVENUE

COVER AVENUE

MILBURN LANE

LANE

LINDEN AVENUE

PER STREET

COURT

HUGHES COURT

HIGH STREET

STREET

ELM STREET

COURT

STREET

STREET

AVENUE

AVENUE

LOCUST STREET

GLASGOW STREET

LOCUST STREET

SHORT ST

STREET

HIGH STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

AVENUE

STREET

STREET

GLENBURN AVENUE

TRAVERS STREET

STREET

CHURCH STREET

GLENBURN AVENUE

TRAVERS STREET

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STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

AVENUE

BLVD

D-194

D-699

CAMBRIDGE

CREEK

PORT

CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT WARDS I & III

PUBLIC PARK

BOAT BASIN

YACHT CLUB

DELVEDERE

OAKLEY

WILLIS

WEST END

CHOPTANK

CHURCH

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

TRAVERS

STREET

SCHOOL

STREET

HARBOR

STREET

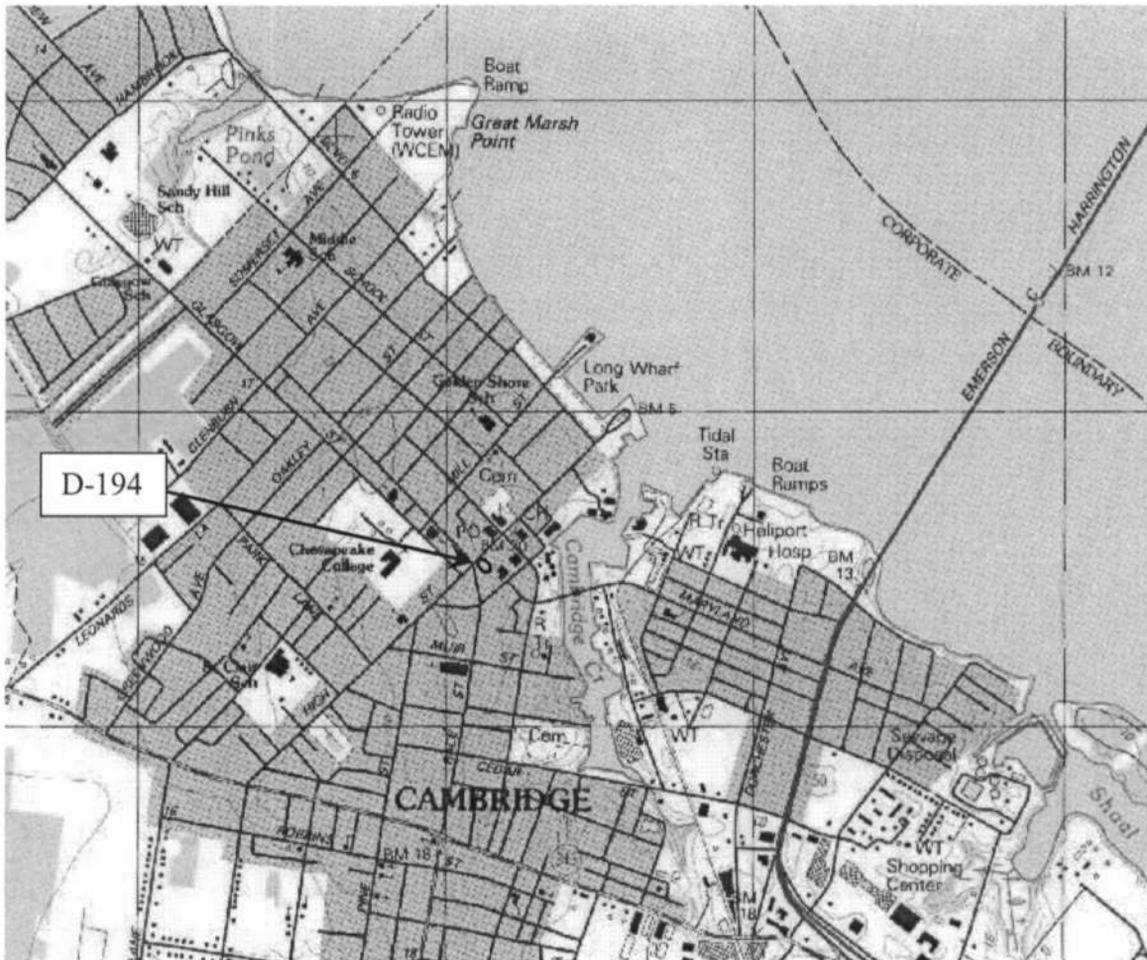
OAKLEY

TERRACE

AVENUE

STREET

D-194
Fletcher Mansion (Curran Funeral Home)
308 High St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





308-~~510~~ HIGH ST, CAMBRIDGE, MD. - WEST FACADE - C.L. MOORE, 1976

D-144

63%