

D-345
Cambridge Hotel (Site)
Cambridge
1901-02

The Cambridge Hotel, known as well as Hotel Dixon, was one of the most architecturally dominant buildings in the center of the city until its destruction during the mid-to-late 1980s. Standing on the southwest corner of the intersection of High and Spring streets, the three-story stuccoed brick hotel was distinguished by its slave covered mansard roof, which allowed a full ceiling height in fourth floor of rooms. The large rectangular brick structure was enhanced originally by a decorative, pressed brick façade of grayish masonry as well as two-story neoclassical porch. Two-story wings extended to the rear to house a range of offices and a formal dining room. The interior of the hotel was fitted with a mixture of Victorian and Colonial Revival woodwork indicative of its early twentieth-century date of construction.

Built in 1901-02 by Colonel W. Lee Dixon, the three-story mansard roofed hotel was greatly anticipated in the city after the turn of the twentieth century. The new hotel was begun in mid 1901 as announced by the *Democrat and News*, which stated that W. L. Barnett was responsible for the brickwork and Henry Patchett the carpentry. In the same issue of the paper, an artistic rendering of the new hotel was run alongside a photographic portrait of Colonel Dixon. The newspaper stated briefly that

Col. Dixon, who is now laying the foundation for his new and up-to-date hotel, is one of Cambridge's most enterprising and progressive business men. Indeed, it is most probable that no other has erected so many and substantial business buildings....he has commenced the erection of a hotel which, when completed, will far exceed, in every way, any other hostelry on the Eastern Shore.

The new three-story mansard roofed brick hotel was raised on nearly the same footprint as its immediate predecessor, a three-story, five-bay frame structure erected after the 1892 city fire that destroyed the Fox House and Maryland Central Hotel, which stood on the north side of High Street but were not rebuilt. The use of the steeply pitched French mansard roof facilitated the stylish incorporation of a fourth floor of rooms that significantly increased the accommodations provided by the new enterprise. Known alternately as the Cambridge Hotel or Hotel Dixon during the early to mid twentieth century, the property was sold to George W. Woolford in 1914 in the wake of a default settlement on a 1902 mortgage executed between Dixon and Charles O. Willis of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Following Woolford ownership was a series of more than a half dozen transfers between 1919 and the mid twentieth century. In 1981 the property was nominated and ultimately placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its distinctive architectural character, however its overall condition and large size were not conducive to its long-term preservation. In 1985 the property was acquired by the National Bank of Cambridge in a plan to expand its drive-through and parking facilities.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-345

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Cambridge Hotel, Hotel Dixon (site)

other

2. Location

street and number 300 High Street not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name National Bank of Cambridge

street and number P.O. Box 550 telephone 410-228-5600

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 240 folio 765

city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4456 tax ID number 164327

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="text" value="0"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="text"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="text"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="text"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="text" value="0"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<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-345

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 Cambridge Hotel, also known the Hotel Dixon, stood formerly on the southwest corner of the intersection of High and Spring streets in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The three-and-a-half story brick hotel faced northwest and was extended to the rear by two-story wings. The building stood on the site until the mid 1980s when the complex was demolished in a plan to create a larger parking and service entrance for the National Bank of Cambridge. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places prior to its destruction.

Built in 1901-02, the three-and-a-half story, six-bay by two-bay brick structure, later covered with a layer of stucco, was built atop a raised foundation, and the rectangular structure was topped by a patterned slate mansard roof. Prior to the application of a stucco, the front was executed in a decorative gray pressed brick, whereas the side and rear walls were built of red brick. Formerly attached to the back of the building were two wings, a series of attached offices in a two-story section that bordered Spring street and a two-story dining room wing behind it. The office wing was demolished during the mid twentieth century. The dining room wing survived until the late twentieth century.

The northwest (main) façade was a symmetrical six-bay elevation with a series of three entrances and display windows marking the first floor. Originally there was a two-story porch neoclassical porch that stretched across the full front of the hotel. The second and third stories had a slight recess of approximately six inches across the center four bays. Single-pane sash windows filled each of the openings. The steeply pitched mansard roof was defined by six gable roofed fitted with single pane sash windows. The roof was covered with patterned slate.

The northeast end of the hotel was marked by pairs of single-pane sash windows on the first and second floors, while the third floor was lighted by three windows of the same design. The northeast slope of the mansard roof featured three gable roofed dormers.

The two-story dining room wing covered a portion of the southeast (rear) wall. The two-story wing had a jettied second story that hung over the first floor by approximately four feet on the northeast side. The wing was supported by a brick foundation, and the structure was covered by a medium pitched gable roof with boxed cornices and flush gable ends. The southeast wall of the hotel not covered by the wing was pierced by a few window openings. The mansard roof had four evenly space gable roofed dormers.

Surviving interior photographs depict a mixture of Victorian and Colonial Revival woodwork finishes. The main staircase was a typical of the late nineteenth century with its turned balusters, closed stringer, molded handrail and urn finial newel posts. Other woodwork followed the neoclassical forms of the period. Columned mantels with mirrored overmantels distinguished at least one fireplace.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-345

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" 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 1901-02

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.)

The Cambridge Hotel, known as the Hotel Dixon, was one of the most architecturally dominant buildings in the center of Cambridge until its destruction during the mid to late 1980s. Standing on the southwest corner of the intersection of High and Spring streets, the three-story stuccoed brick hotel was distinguished by its slate covered mansard roof, which allowed full ceiling height in a fourth floor of rooms. The large rectangular brick structure was enhanced originally by a decorative, pressed brick façade and a two-story neoclassical porch. Two-story wings extended to the rear to house a range of offices and a dining room. The interior was fitted with a mixture of Victorian and Colonial Revival woodwork indicative of its early twentieth-century date of construction.

Built in 1901-02 by Colonel W. Lee Dixon, the three-story brick hotel was greatly anticipated in the city at the turn of the twentieth century. The new hotel was begun in mid 1901 as announced by the *Democrat and News*, which stated that W. L. Barnett was responsible for the brickwork and Henry Patchett the carpentry.¹ In the same issue of the newspaper, an artistic illustration of the new hotel was run along with a photographic portrait of Colonel Dixon. The newspaper stated briefly that

*Col. Dixon, who is now laying the foundation for his new and up-to-date hotel, is one of Cambridge's most enterprising and progressive business men. Indeed, it is most probable that no other has erected so many and substantial business buildings....he has commenced the erection of a hotel which, when completed, will far exceed, in every way, any other hostelry on the Eastern Shore.*²

The new three-story mansard roofed brick hotel was raised on nearly the same footprint as its immediate predecessor, a three-story, five-bay frame hotel erected after the 1892 city fire that

¹ *Democrat and News*, 4 May 1901.

² *Ibid.*

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-345

Name Cambridge Hotel

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

destroyed the Fox House and Maryland Central Hotel, which stood on the north side of High Street but were not rebuilt. The use of the steeply pitched French mansard roof facilitated the stylish incorporation of a fourth floor of rooms that significantly increased the accommodations provided by the new enterprise. Known alternately as the Cambridge Hotel or Hotel Dixon during the early to mid twentieth century, the property was sold to George W. Woolford in 1914 in the wake of a default settlement on a 1902 mortgage executed by Dixon with Charles O. Willis of Vicksburg, Mississippi.³ Following Woolford ownership was a series of more than a half dozen transfers. In 1981 the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its distinctive architectural character, however its overall condition and large size were not conducive to its long-term preservation. In 1985 the property was acquired by the National Bank of Cambridge in a plan to expand its drive-through and parking facilities.⁴

³ Dorchester County Land Records, WLR 8/607, 12.14.1914; CL 13/315, 12.13.1902.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 240/766, 25 July 1985.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name Cambridge Hotel
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

CHAIN-OF- TITLE
300 High Street

PLC 240/766

Independent Newspapers, Inc.

to

7.25.1985

National Bank of Cambridge

Two tracts of land: Parcel No. 1, 302 High Street
Parcel No. 2, 300 High Street

240/492

Banner Corporation

to

7.1.1986

Independent Newspapers, Inc.

PLC 118/577

William Feldman, et ux. Cambridge Hotel, Inc.

to

4.26.1960

Frederick P. McBriety

RSM 60/504

William Feldman and Esther S. Feldman

to

6.1.1946

Cambridge Hotel, Inc.

**Maryland Historical Trust
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Name Cambridge Hotel
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

RSM 57/560

T. Blair Middleton, et al.

to

4.10.1945

William Feldman
Esther S. Feldman

RSM 56/218

Granville L. Tubman, et al., (Naomi W. Tubman, William J.
Harrington, Jean N. Harrington

to

10.20.1945

T. Blair Middleton

RSM 47/491

Benjamin Frisch, widower

to

7.30.1943

Granville L. Tubman
William J. Harrington

Undivided half interests in the Cambridge Hotel Property
Including all furnishings, china, glass ware, etc. as well as
a non-compete clause for Benjamin Frisch to engage in the
hotel business in Cambridge for 15 years....

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

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Name Cambridge Hotel
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

JFD 34/565

Minnie R. Hooper
Edward L. Hooper

to

10.22.1936

Benjamin Frisch
Edith L. Frisch of Georgetown, Delaware

Dixon Hotel and all equipment

WHM 8/461

Vernon S. Bradley

to

5.3.1920

Minnie R. Hooper

WHM 7/493

George W. Woolford, Sallie M. Woolford, George G. Insley,
Melissa F. Insley his wife, Charles E. Seward and Margaret
H. Seward his wife, Thomas B. Travers, widower, and J.
Richard Smith, unmarried

to

12.27.1919

Vernon S. Bradley

The lands herein described being the lot upon which the
Hotel Dixon stands and being the same property described
and conveyed in a deed from W. Lee Dixon to the
"Cambridge Hotel Company of Cambridge...."

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

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Name Cambridge Hotel

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

WLR 8/607

W. Laird Henry, Assignee

to

12.14.1914

George W. Woolford

Whereas at a public sale made the 13th day of October, 1914, by the said W. Laird Henry, assignee, in and by a certain mortgage from W. Lee Dixon to Charles O. Willis, bearing date the 13th day of December, 1902 and recorded among the Mortgage Records of Dorchester County, CL 13/315, which sale was made after default had occurred under said mortgage, Circuit Court case No. 3332, Chancery,

\$19,700.00

....the land herein described being the lot upon which the "Hotel Dixon" stands....

CL 31/78

W. Lee Dixon, bachelor

to

8.29.1905

Cambridge Hotel Company of Cambridge

...assumption of mortgage, \$7,000.00 now held by Charles O. Willis of Vicksburg, Mississippi...CL 13/315

CL 27/307

H. Page Dyer, Virginia O. Dyer,
City of Philadelphia

to

12.11.1902

W. Lee Dixon

\$4,000.00

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name Cambridge Hotel
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

CL 5/266

Isaac W. Jewett, and wife

to

7.24.1883

Fanny C. Dyer

....after her death the property passed to Virginia O. Dyer, the said Fanny C. Dyer having since departed this life; and being the same land which was leased to J. Benjamin Brown for ninety-nine years...from Fanny O. Dyer and Virginia O. Dyer by leasehold of J. Benjamin Brown afterwards conveyed to W. Lee Dixon, 4.20.1893, CL 17/336

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-345

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Democrat and News, 4 May 1901.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 16,440 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 16,440 square feet
Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD 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 and Preservation	date	9/21/2007
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.

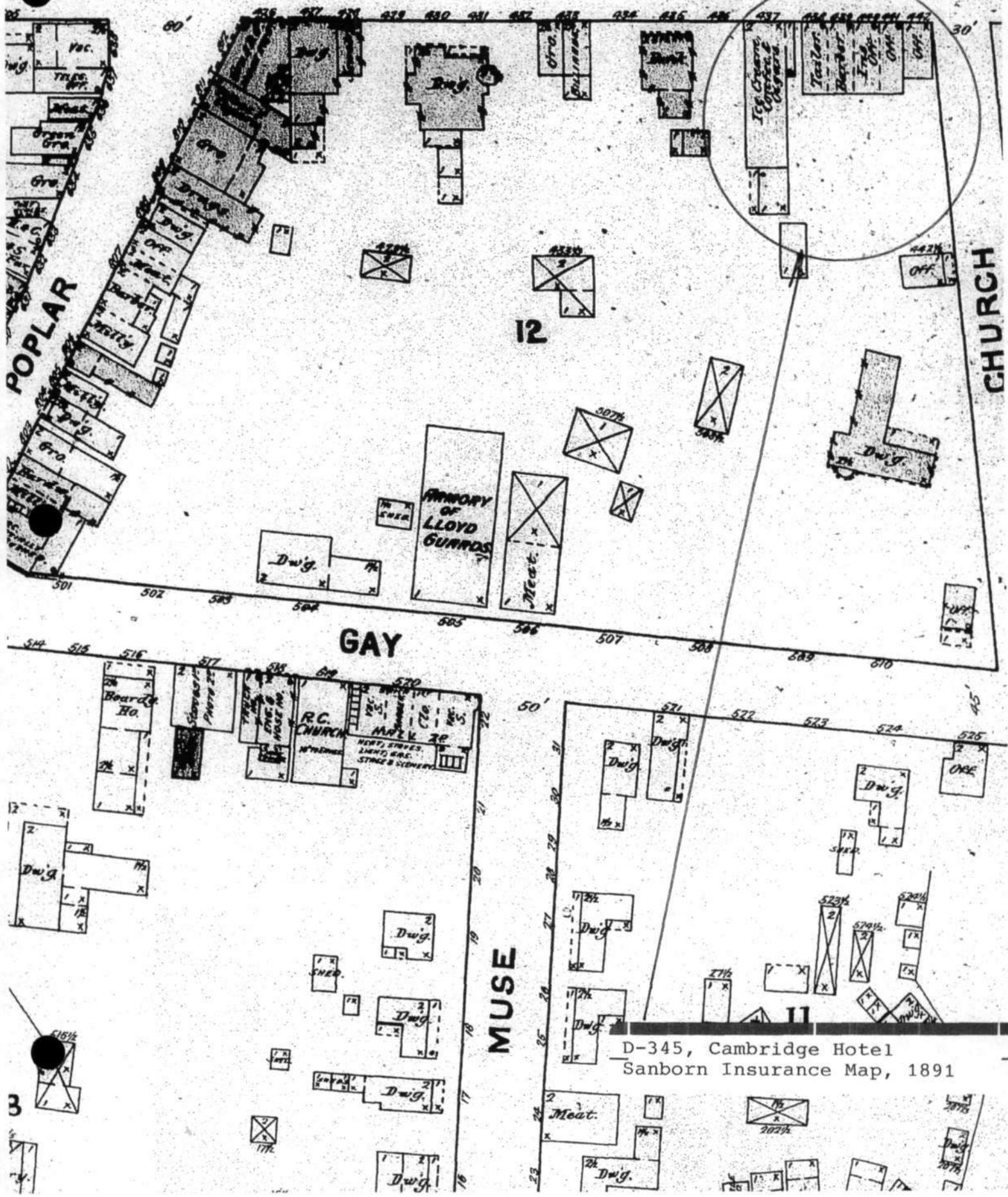
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

MAY 1891
CAMBRIDGE
M'D.

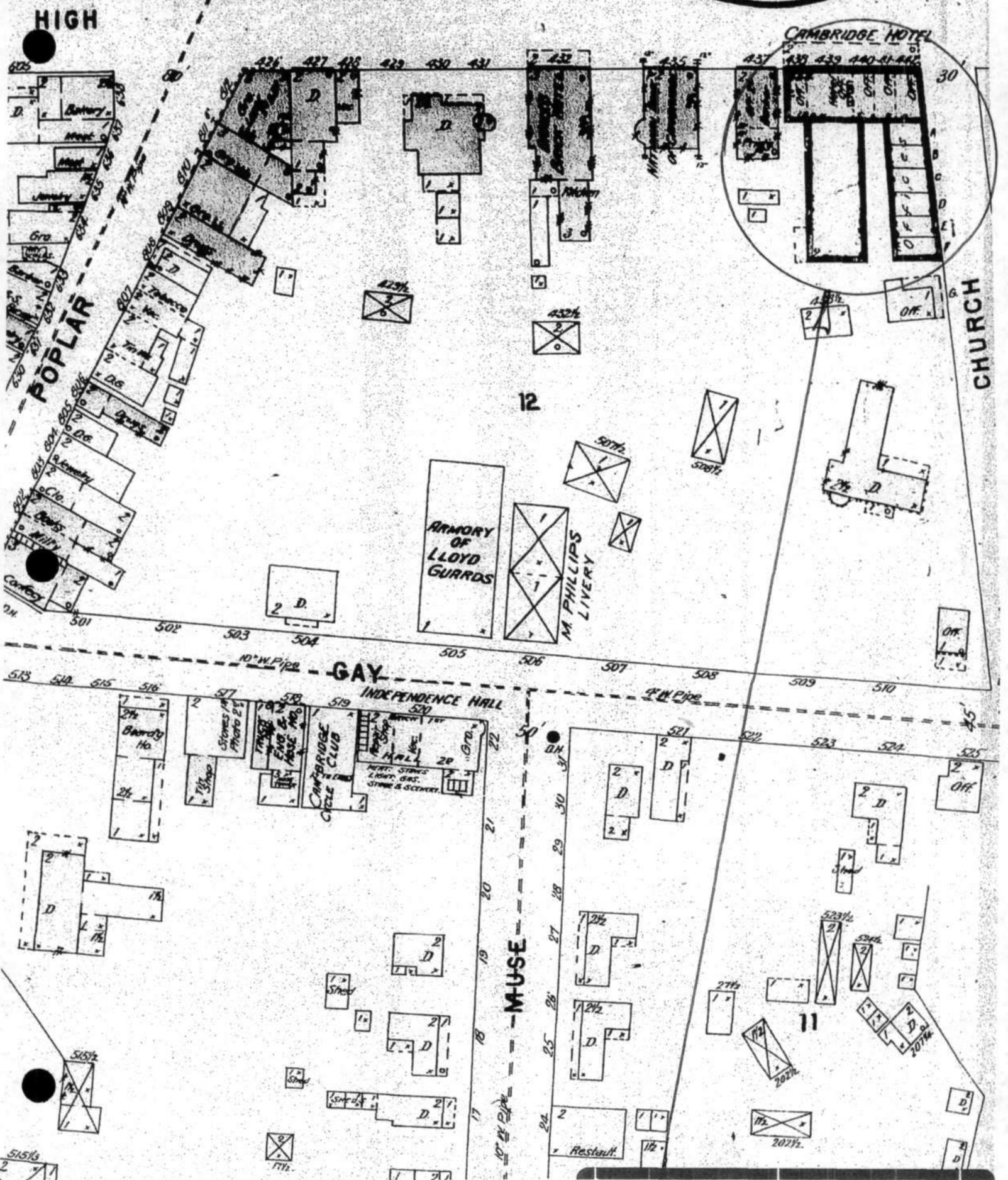
4

HIGH

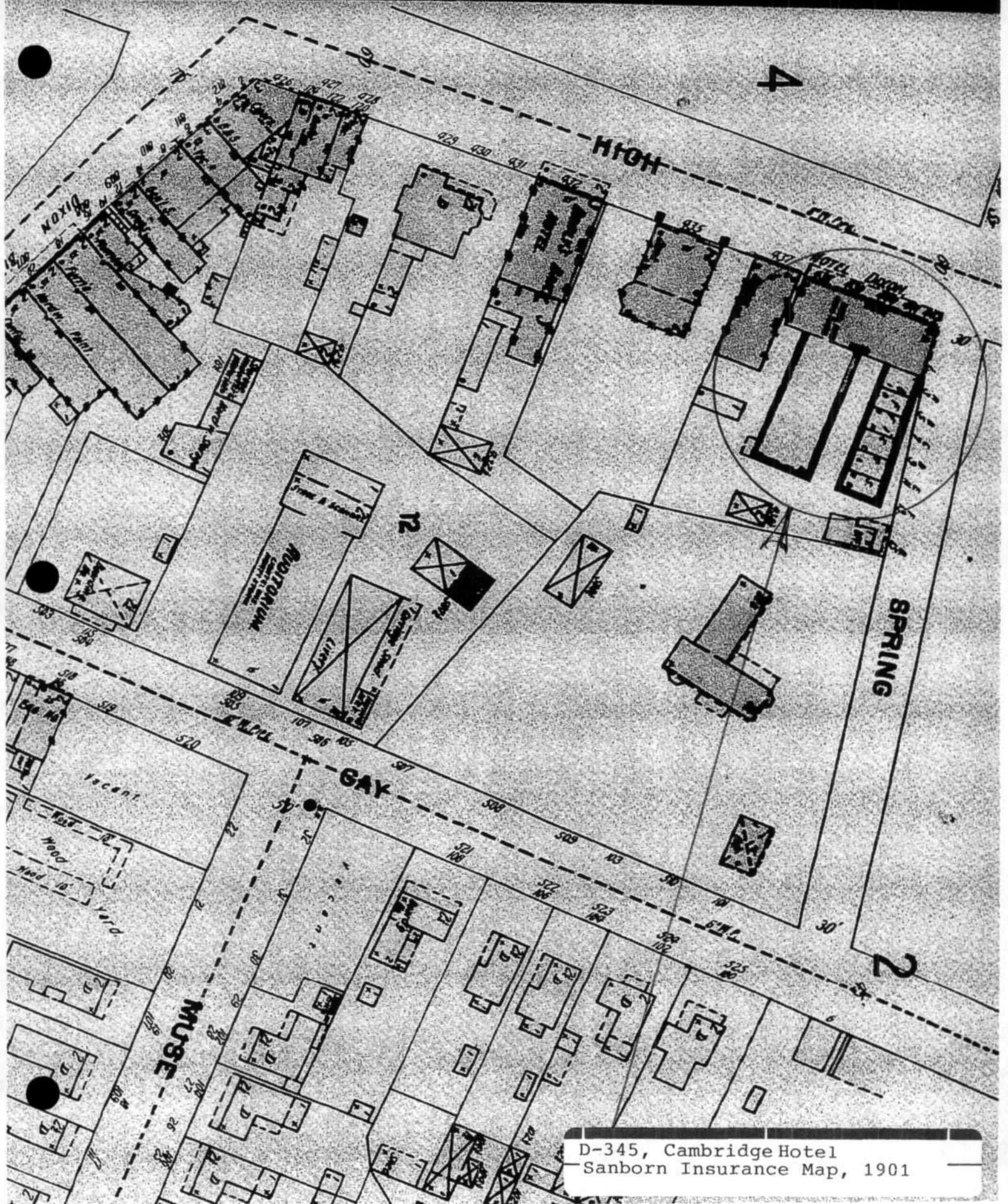


D-345, Cambridge Hotel
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891

3

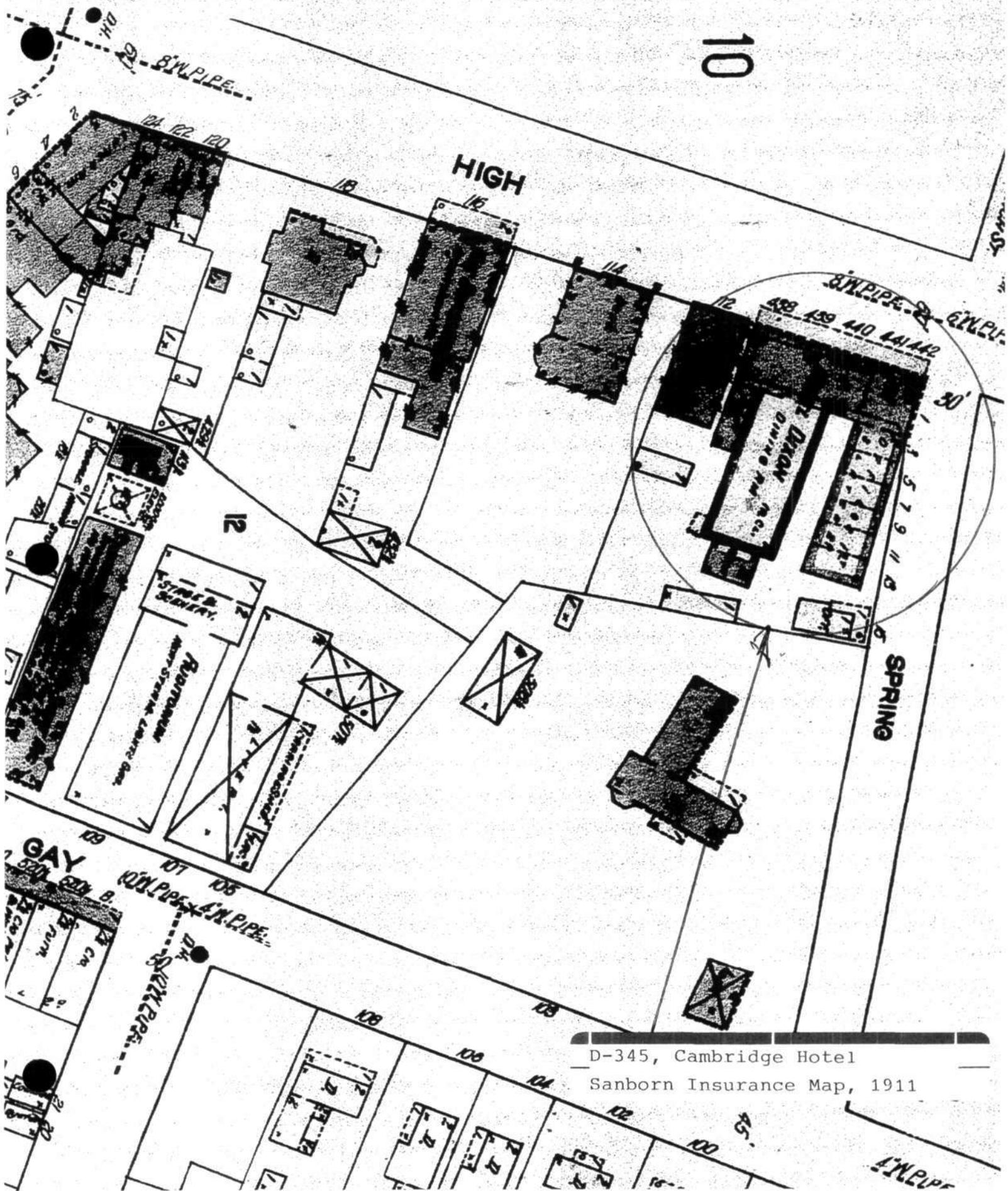


D-345, Cambridge Hotel
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1896



D-345, Cambridge Hotel
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901

10



D-345, Cambridge Hotel
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911

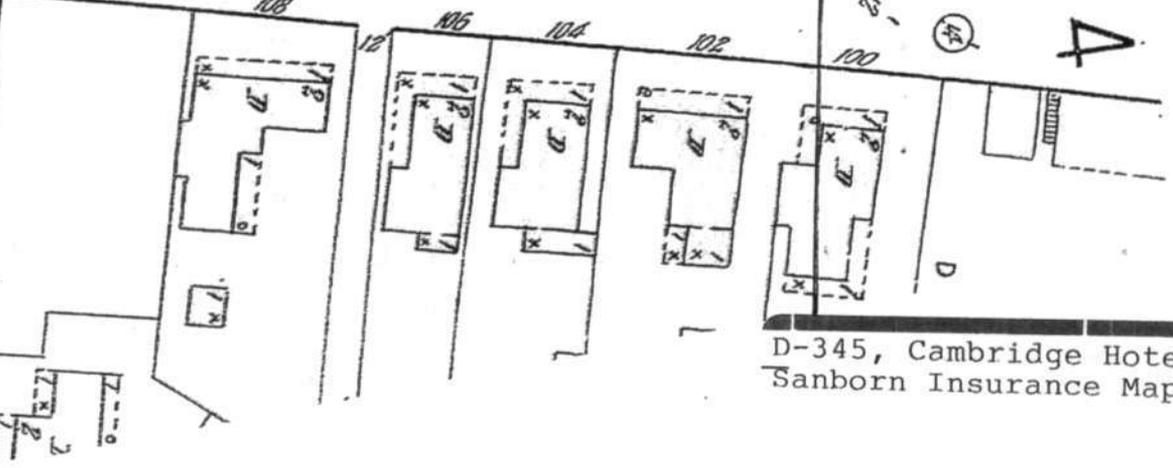
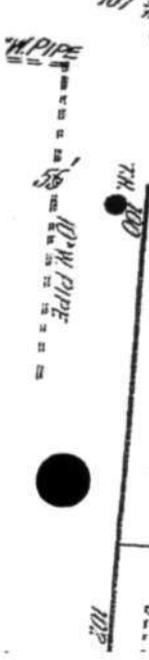
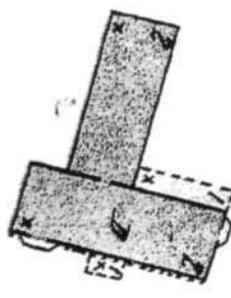
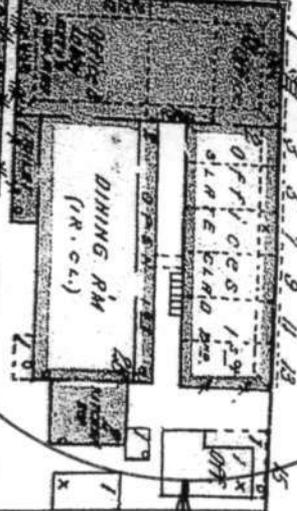
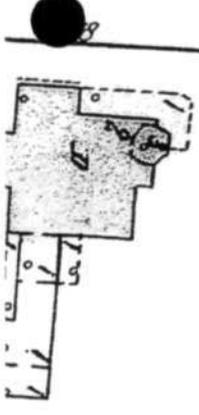
HIGH

HOTEL DIXON

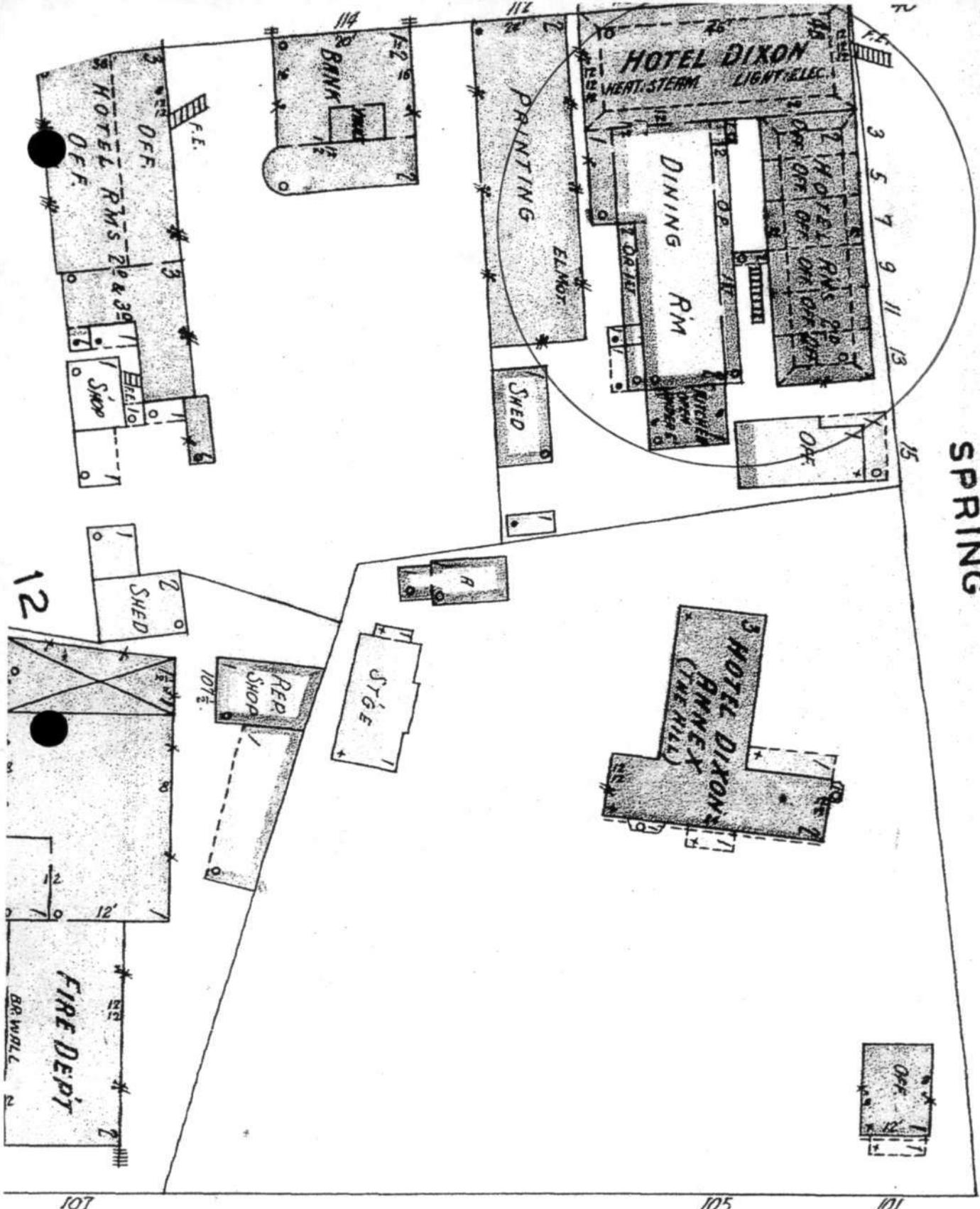
HEAT - STEAM - LIGHTS -
110 - ELEC. & REFRIG. GAS - 100

DINING RM
(R. O. C.)

SPRING



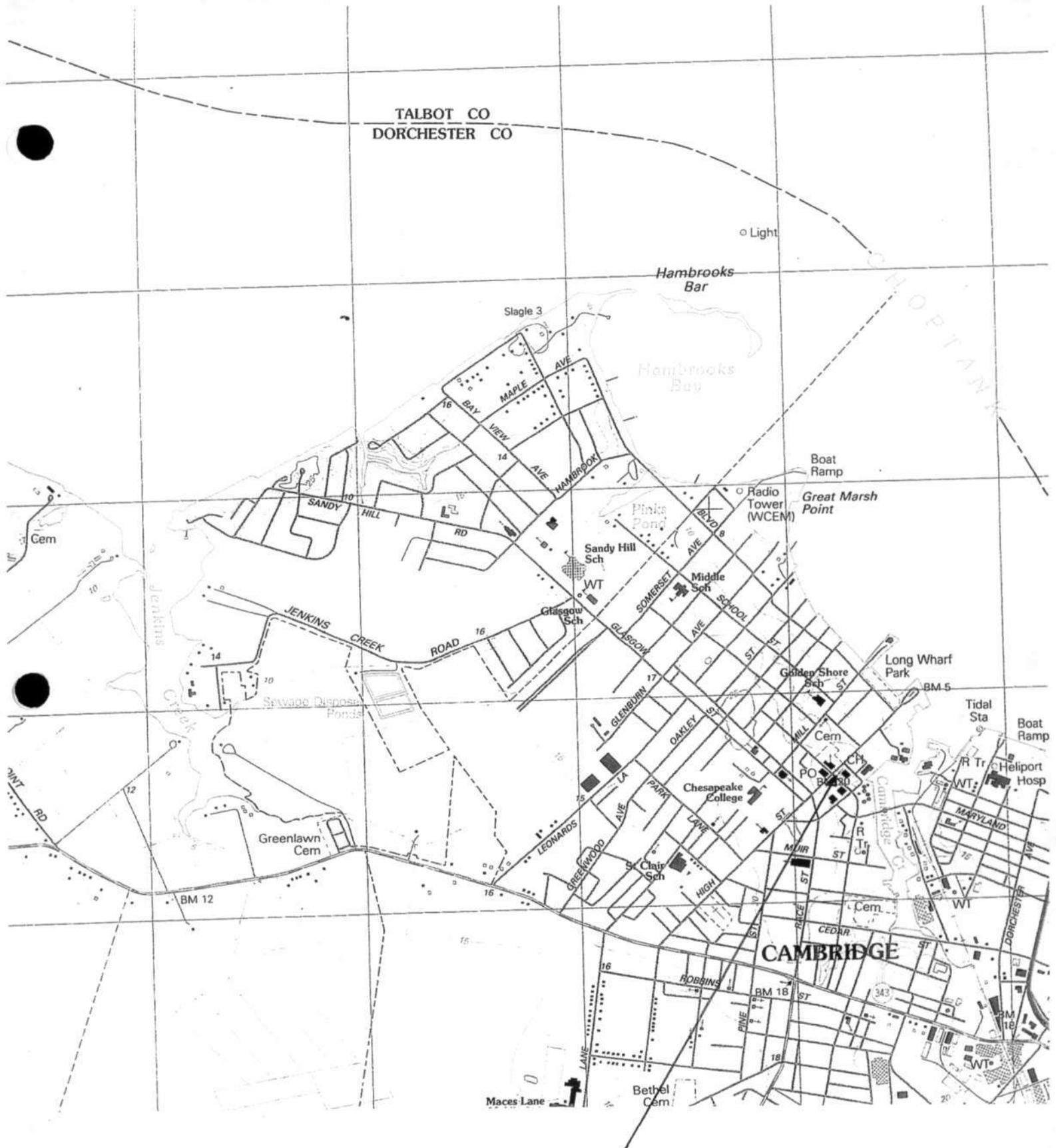
D-345, Cambridge Hotel
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1918



SPRING

D-345, Cambridge Hotel
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1930

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO



D-345, Cambridge Hotel
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle

The Hotel Cambridge is shown in this photograph. It was located at the corner of High and Spring streets and was managed by C. E. Green. It was later remodeled and renamed Hotel Dixon. From the author's collection



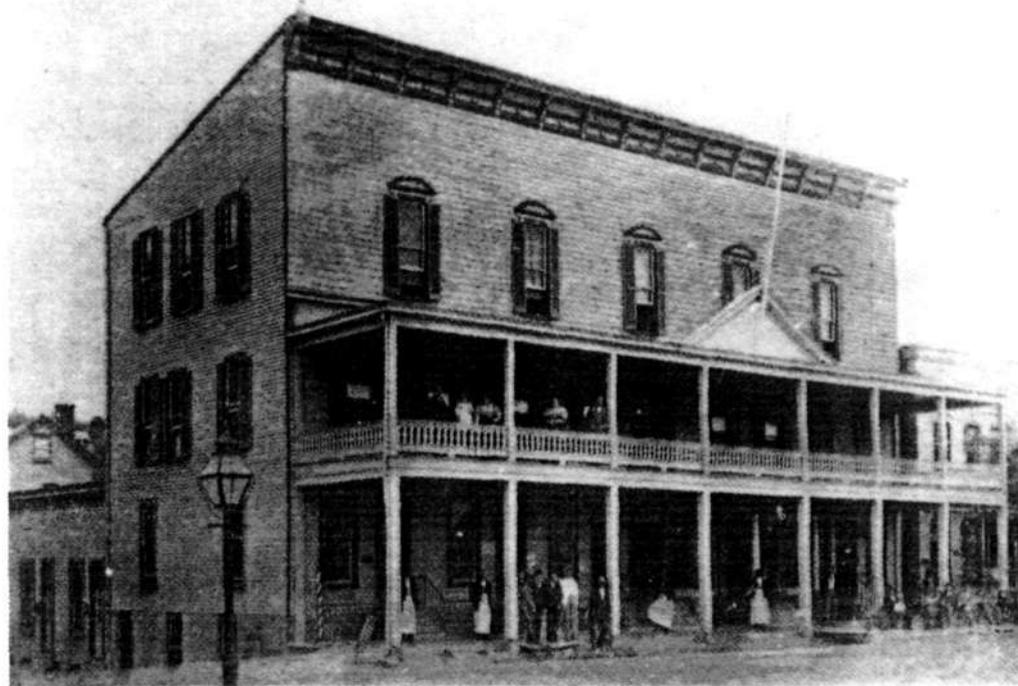
The Hotel Dixon was one of the largest and most conspicuous buildings in the city; it was five stories in height, and was built of gray ornamental, hydraulic pressed brick. The hotel had wide porticos supported by a row of colonial columns and surmounted by a handsome mansard roof. It is no wonder that the traveling man would always try to make Cambridge on Saturday so that he could rest over Sunday at the Dixon. Courtesy of the William E. Davidson collection



Small Businesses and Shops

D-345

The Hotel Cambridge is shown in this photograph. It was located at the corner of High and Spring streets and was managed by C. E. Green. It was later remodeled and renamed Hotel Dixon. From the author's collection



The Hotel Dixon was one of the largest and most conspicuous buildings in the city; it was five stories in height, and was built of gray ornamental, hydraulic pressed brick. The hotel had wide porticos supported by a row of colonial columns and surmounted by a handsome mansard roof. It is no wonder that the traveling man would always try to make Cambridge on Saturday so that he could rest over Sunday at the Dixon. Courtesy of the William E. Davidson collection



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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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 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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date _____

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, 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, wheelwright 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 in 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 contemporary 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 enterprises 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).

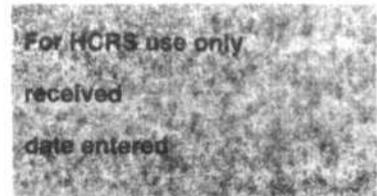
²Philip Williamson and John H. Moore, Lecture and Panel Discussion, "Industrial and Commercial Development of Cambridge", A STUDY OF CAMBRIDGE, ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE, November 16, 1978.

³Maurice Rippo, "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

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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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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 HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

	date
--	------

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

	date
--	------

Chief of Registration

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

D-345

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 checked="" 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

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

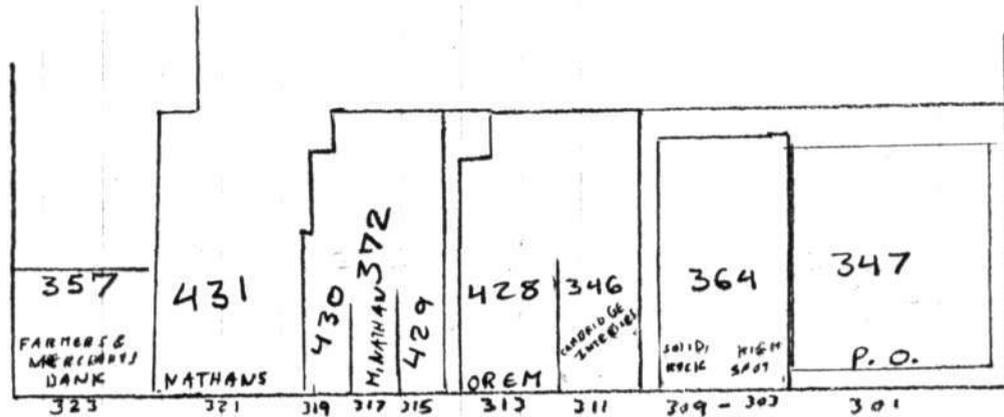
Cambridge

Maryland

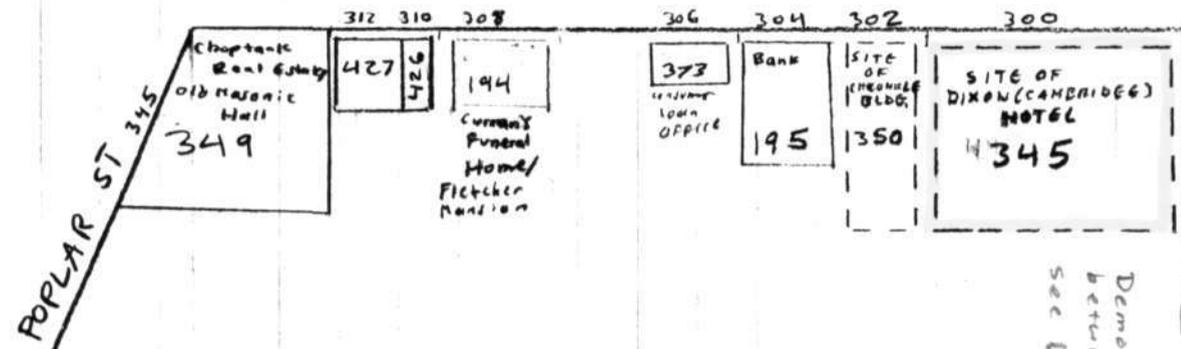
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



HIGH STREET
← (300 BLOCK)



Demolished same time
between 1976 & 1990
see D-699 photo 1

J. KOZLAY
12/21/93

D-345



D-345

OAKLEY TERRACE

WATER STREET

PUBLIC PARK

381

CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT WARDS I & III D-699

CAMBRIDGE

PORT

YACHT CLUB

CREEK

MARKET STREET

CHERRY ST

TRENTON RAILROAD AVE HAYWARD

HENRY FRANKLIN

MADRIAND STREET

BYRNE STREET

STREET

AVENUE

MILBURN

LANE

LINDEN AVENUE

643

HUGHES COURT

605

HIGH GAY ST

387

380

326

320

199

64

374

ROSS ST

ACADEMY STREET

STREET

FENWICK AVENUE

GLASSGOW STREET

SHORT ST

PER STREET

KINGS COURT

CHARLES STREET

LANE

STREET

DOBSON ST

ELM STREET

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WIS COURT

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GLENDBURN AVENUE

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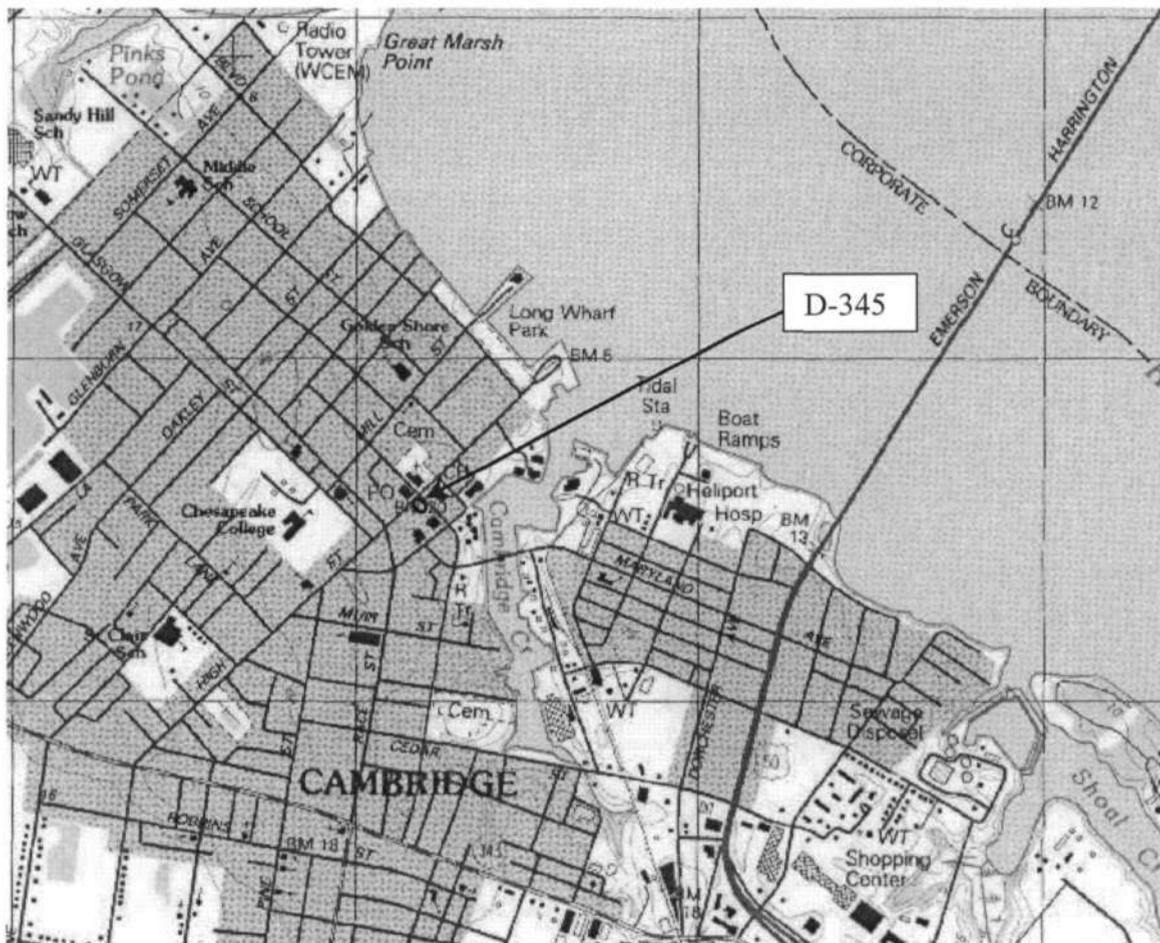
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D-345
Cambridge Hotel (Hotel Dixon, Dixon Hotel)
300 High St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





D-345



D-345



300 HIGH ST., CAMBRIDGE, MD. - WEST FACADE - C.L. MOORE, 1976

D-345

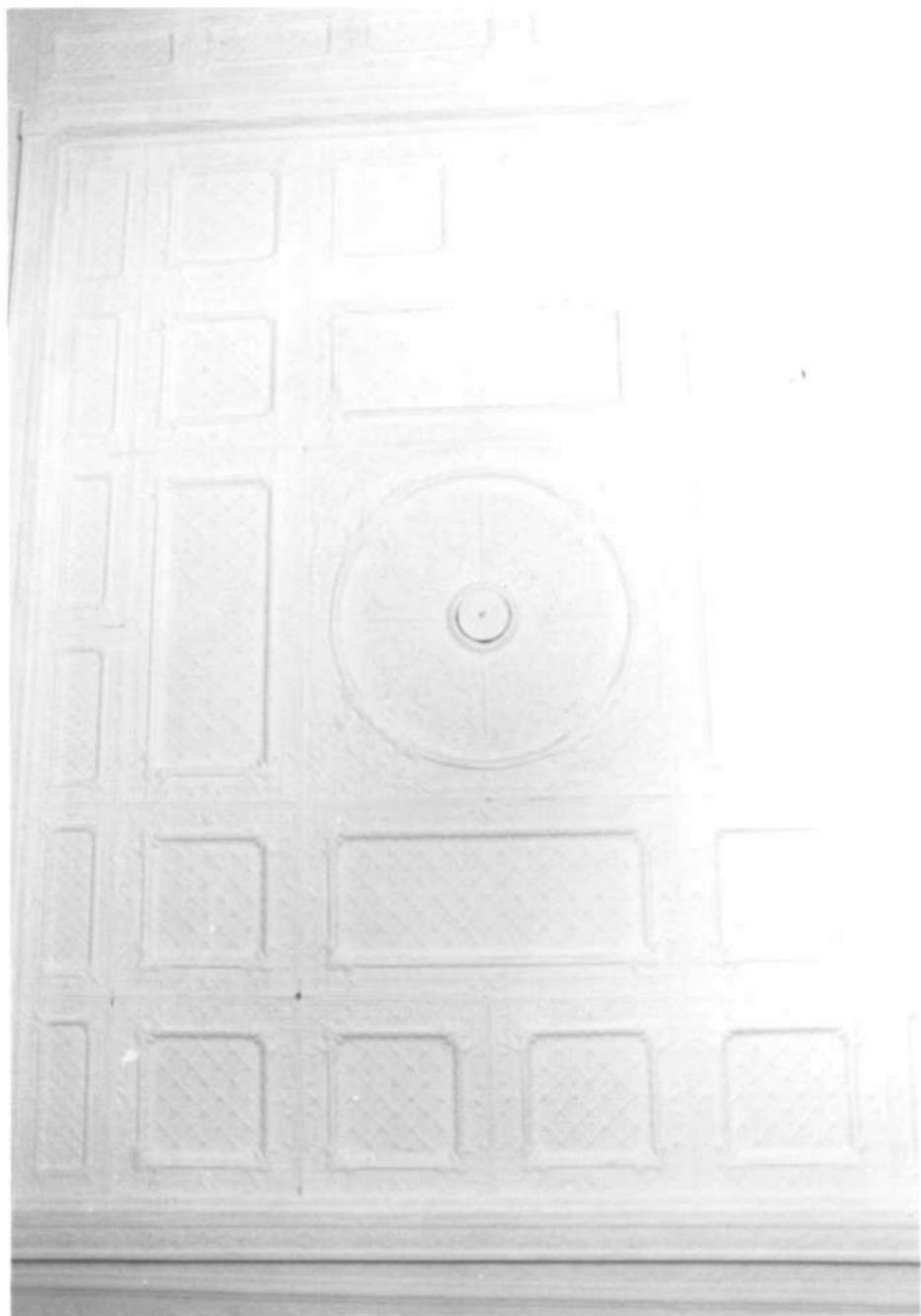
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