CAMDEN FIRST

Walt Whitman the "Good Qray Poet" Whose Name and Fame are Sponsors for Camden's New Community Hotel



1—Where he lived and died. 2—His living room as he left it.

3—The memorial tablet. 4-

4—Walt Whitman's tomb.

ALT WHITMAN was born May 31st, 1819 at West Hills, Long Island. He came to Camden May 18th, 1873. His first home was at No. 322 Stevens Street. In September of that year he moved to 431 Stevens Street. In 1884 Walt Whitman took up his abode at 330 Mickle Street. So the records show, although the number of the home is now known as 328 Mickle St. Here he lived for 8 years and died March 26th, 1892. He was thus in his 73rd year. •Thousands of people in Camden knew the "Good Gray Poet." They recall that his last illness was of prolonged duration and that some of his friends took it on them-

duration and that some of his friends took it on themselves to raise a fund, which was presented to him. In his later years it had been his dream that he might be laid to rest in a tomb of his own design. The story goes that he spent \$4,000 of his testimonial fund on the tomb, the site and design being selected by himself and the tomb built under such directions as his infirmities permitted him to exercise. There he sleeps in beautiful Harleigh Cemetery on Haddon Avenue.

Entering the cemetery through the Haddon Avenue gate and bearing slightly to the left, one has no difficulty in finding the burial place of the "Good Gray Poet."

His last resting place has a romantic situation in a beautiful little ravine that he must have doted over on his frequent visits to the spot. A year or two ago the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camden took possession through purchase of the home in which Walt Whitman spent his latter days and where he died. It is now a shrine and is visited by thousands of Whitman's admirers annually from all over the world.

His personality may soon fade, but many of his poems and writings will live forever.