

FINAL

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SEP 1 1998

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property Habre de Venture  
historic name Habre de Venture  
other names/site number Thomas Stone House; Thomas Stone National Historic Site (THST)

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2. Location Rose Hill Road, halfway between State Routes 6 and 225  
street & number  not for publication  
city, town Port Tobacco  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Charles code 017 zip code 20677

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Work in progress

Domestic/secondary structure

Recreation and culture/museum

Recreation and culture/outdoor recreation

Agriculture/subsistence/storage

(See continuation sheet)

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Georgian

foundation brick

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

walls brick

wood/weatherboard

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Thomas Stone National Historic Site property is composed of 321.9 acres. Within its boundaries are a total of nineteen structures of different ages and types and in various states of repair. The most historic and notable is the mansion house built by Thomas Stone between 1771 and 1773. The principal, central portion — the dwelling house proper — was completely gutted by fire January 1, 1977. The adjoining hyphens and end buildings connected by them to the manor house also were damaged in varying degrees by fire, smoke and water. Exterior brick remains of the principal dwelling house at Habre de Venture are historically and architecturally by far the most important part of a building having a five-part composition, situated in an arc with the concave side (front) facing generally southward. The outlying dependencies were constructed during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Entered from the eastern property boundary the topographical aspect of Habre de Venture leads one to believe it is a relatively flat estate, especially adapted to agriculture. However, much of the property, the western half in particular, is scarred by several long, deep guts (ravines) that run in a northwesterly-southeasterly axis. The ravine nearest the dwelling house separates it and the tenant house. Through it courses a narrow stream which originates just south of the farm road leading from the old carriage house site to the in-holder house. Otherwise the central mass is almost surrounded by level pasture land. The south side (originally the front) faces an aspect of gradually sloping terrain that continues a descent rather steadily all the way to Hog Hole Run. This part of the front yard has been terraced and a raised grass covered walkway about 15 feet wide is still visible and leads toward and through a formerly terraced approach to the south facade. A small formal garden decorated with brick walls and walkways lies about 100 feet south-east of the dwelling house.

Contributing structures included in this application for addition to the National Register of Historic Places include:

- A C.1830-40 general purpose barn;
- A C.1830-40 corn crib;
- A C.1840-59 and C.1949-59 tenant house;
- A C.1840-50 and C.1940-59 horse barn;
- A C.1900-39 sheep shed for field feeding;
- A C.1860-79 and C.1925-59 cattle barn/equipment shed (oldest portion originally a tobacco barn); and
- A C.1787-1913 family burial ground.

The following non-contributing structures at Habre de Venture include:

- A 1958 octagonal, brick building 10 feet in diameter designed for use as a combina-

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Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural field  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility  
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

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- tion garden/tool house;
- A 1958 2-story brick structure near west end of the main house with three automobile bays on first floor and a five-room apartment upstairs;
  - A C.1950 formal garden located about 100 feet southeast of the main house;
  - A C.1960 stock pond;
  - A C.1940-60 masonry and frame chicken coop and poultry processing house located a few hundred feet north of the in-holder's residence;
  - A C.1950 half masonry, half frame hog house located about 100 feet southwest of the corn crib;
  - A C.1955 in-ground swimming pool located about 250 feet west of the mansion house;
  - A C.1850 sheep barn on the east side of the farm road running between the stock pond and the AT&T service building located near the far southeastern edge of the property;
  - A C.1965 masonry, one story AT&T service building located on the AT&T right-of-way;
  - A C.1959 horse barn that lies 65' east of and parallel to the old horse barn; and
  - A C.1950 field shelter/feeder shed on west side of south farm road between the stock pond and sheep barn.

The Habre de Venture house appears to be only casually symmetrical and the sequence of construction of the five parts remains somewhat conjectural. Only the hyphens appear to be near the age of the central block and whether earlier or later has yet to be determined. Prior to the extremely destructive fire the five-part complex could legitimately have been described as being one of the most picturesque, pleasingly situated Colonial houses of this part of Maryland. The construction date for Habre de Venture seems rather firmly established by inscriptions found in the brick work on the south side of the main block near the corners about 1½' above ground level. The inscription "D. Stone Aug. 1772" appears in a header near the southeast corner eleven courses below the water table. Architect James T. Wallon in a recent report to the National Park Service stated his belief that this inscription provides reliable information on the date of original construction of the main mansion house. It may be that "D. Stone" was Thomas Stone's father David or, more likely, his older half brother David of Poynton Manor, who may have overseen the masonry work or the manufacture of bricks for the Habre de Venture manor house.

The 1772 brick work in spite of the great heat of the 1977 fire remains in surprisingly good condition. Nearly all of it is original, mostly laid in Flemish bond and is properly struck with a grapevine joint. The exterior walls exposed to view up to the eaves (or kick), front and rear, are laid in Flemish bond. There seems to have been no attempt to achieve any pattern through placement of the glazed brick ends. Brick work in the end walls, beginning at eave height, becomes common bond on up to roof peak. The chimney brick work also is laid in common bond. Peculiarly in the west end wall, the common bond begins a few courses below the north eave and a few courses of English bond separates the Flemish from the common. The chimneys in both ends are laid in common bond, with a header course every fourth course below water table and an average of every sixth course above. Most exterior pointing remains in good condition, requiring no replacement.

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The central block is a 1½ story over elevated basement, brick structure, 24 x 45 feet in size, with a gambrel roof that had three dormered windows on front and back. There is an exterior chimney at either end. The north and south elevations (front and back) are each five bays wide, have center doors and one story porches extended across both facades. The front porch floor was elevated by brick piers to first floor level. The back porch floor was a bricked feature constructed directly on the ground. Both porches were sheltered by hipped roofs running the length of the north and south walls.

A center hall with stairway against the west wall extends through the house. On the east side of the hall is a room from which the panelling was removed in 1928 that measures 22' x 18½' with 10'4" high ceiling. The hallway partition on the west side is positioned so that it deprives the first floor west room of about four feet of space in its east-west dimension. The panelling from the east downstairs room was removed by the City of Baltimore for the Baltimore Museum of Art and reconstituted there as the "Habre de Venture Room."

During the early years of this century (at least) the second floor plan of the main dwelling portion consisted of three rooms in addition to the hallway. The east room probably measured about 18½' x 18½', the west room probably 14½' x 18½'. At the south end of the upstairs hallway was a very small room often used as a guest room or servant's quarters in the early years of this century. It is reported to have measured about 8' square.

The room in the west hyphen has a fireplace built well out into the room at its east end, with flue slanting back to the west wall of the main building and into the chimney at that end at ceiling level. It has a gently vaulted ceiling. The west hyphen floor is about 3½ feet below that of the central mass. For many years Miss Margaret G. Stone used this room as her kitchen. Miss Stone was mistress of Habre de Venture 1872-1913. The west hyphen had a very shallow-pitch roof and was one story until about 1929. At that time a second floor was added to accommodate modern bathroom facilities and a south-side hallway to the kitchen wing second floor. The hyphen was then given a gambrel roof and dormers somewhat in the style of the principal, center structure. This roof was covered by wood shingles.

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The east wing is joined to the main center structure by a partly enclosed, walk-through, brick hyphen C.1775. Only the roof of this hyphen connects directly with the east wing. Under this is a walk-through 6' wide. Entrance to the hyphen enclosure is through what appears to be an original wide, 6' x 5' wooden doorway that opens to a concrete ramp inside that leads down to a basement entrance partly below grade at the southeast corner of the main house. The east hyphen is 9'6" wide, 18'9" long on the north side and 16'9" long on the south side. This roof is covered by wood shingles.

The frame, gambrel-roofed east wing, C.1775, may not always have been located precisely on this site since it does not sit squarely on its brick foundation, as disclosed by archeological excavation in 1986. This wing, often called "Thomas Stone's law office," is a two-room (one up, one down) building. It has a soft, orange brick exterior chimney centered on its southeast facing end. The chimney has been removed by NPS to allow stabilization and reconstruction. Inside, a small enclosed stairway on the west wall

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The C.1830-40 kitchen wing (18' x 33') is a gable-roof structure with solid brick ends, each having a built-in center chimney. The sides are frame with overlapping horizontal wood siding. This structure is brick nogged, including the center hallway partitions. It is built at a right angle to the hyphen. The quality of design and construction indicate that at least the second story was meant for family, not servant use. The first floor fireplaces were designed, at least in part, for kitchen use. Design, materials, and construction details strongly suggest mid-Federal period origin. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

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leads to a second floor room. This structure measures 18'5" x 16'6". Both floors are of wood, for the most part not original. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

### CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

The C.1840-60 and C.1945-55 tenant house. This is a story and a half, extremely modest frame structure, having three small rooms on the first floor. The house has been enlarged about mid-20th century with two one-room additions. The south addition measures 14'6" x 14' and the west one 10'4" x 10'4". The original main part of the structure measures 14'3" x 26'. Across the east side of the old structure is a 10' x 26' screened porch, probably of mid-20th century construction. The tenant house rests nearly at grade on a 20th century concrete footing. It appears to have been moved here from a nearby site in this century. A steeply pitched (18th century style) roof is sheathed with galvanized steel sheet roofing.

The C.1830-40 general purpose barn. This is a five bay, gable roof structure with vertical wood siding. The roof ridge is oriented on an east-west axis. This barn was enlarged about the turn of the century by a forebay on its south side which still has in it a half dozen cattle stanchions. Some of the framing timbers in the old part were pit sawn and hand hewn. The forebay for many years has sheltered original wood siding and roofing on the south side. Several pine boards, measuring 15" to 18" in width, in excellent condition are still in place on the original building. There is only an earthen floor throughout. This barn now rests on a mix of solid poured concrete foundation and cinder block-concrete piers. The roof now is sheathed with galvanized steel roofing material. The original barn measures 20' x 44' and the ridge was nearly 30' above grade. The entire building appears to have been re-sided early in this century. The forebay measures 13'9" x 44'6".

The C.1830-40 corn crib. This is a frame structure constructed on combination brick-stone piers. It is covered by a gable roof now sheathed with galvanized steel roofing. It is supported underneath on an east-west axis by four original brick piers, which are in addition to the peripheral pier supports. The corn crib floor is of wood raised an average of three feet above grade. Each pier is insulated from the wood construction by a soft, thin metal shield. The roof extends a little over a foot beyond the four walls. Along three sides are covered exterior stock feeding troughs probably added within the past 40-50 years. The corn crib measures 15'7" x 26'11". The two end rooms of the corn crib are entered by two original, but altered, wooden doors from a central hall-like room. One of these doors appears to have an original, wooden lock still in place.

The C.1840-50 and C.1940-59 horse barn. This is an all-frame structure with gable roof oriented roughly on a north-south axis. The north half is by far the older and rests on a fieldstone-mortar foundation. It measures 30' x 24'. The much newer south half was constructed about 1959 and attached directly to the south end of the original barn. The older half provides six stalls and the newer half, four. The newer south half rests on a solid concrete foundation. The entire structure now is covered with galvanized metal roofing. The sides are sheathed with wooden clapboard siding, the old half retaining most of its original siding. The entire structure now measures 24' x 52'. The floor is earthen throughout.

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The C.1900-39 sheep shed for field feeding. This structure was built to automatically dispense dried corn directly to livestock. It has a typical shed roof and rests on a cast iron pipe pier foundation. The entire structure is made of wood and has a galvanized metal roof. The building measures 8' x 20' and is raised about two feet above grade.

The C.1860-79 and C.1925-59 cattle barn/equipment shed (oldest portion originally a tobacco barn). The cattle shed forebay is constructed along the entire original south side of the barn and appears to have been built early in this century. The forebay on its south side opens onto a large outdoor concrete apron. On the east end is a modern equipment shed built in 1958 to shelter about half a dozen pieces of contemporary farm implements. It is entirely open along its south side. The original tobacco barn portion of this structure measures roughly 16' x 47'. The overall structure now measures about 28' x 108'. There is earthen floor throughout and a galvanized metal roof. The building rests on a variety of brick, stone and wood materials. The gable roof ridge is oriented along an east-west axis.

The C.1787-1913 family burial ground. This cemetery contains primarily Stone family gravesites but includes a few distantly related people. The latest Stone family burial was that of Miss Margaret Graham Stone who died in 1913. The cemetery is surrounded by a C.1860 iron fence that measures 32' x 32'. This burial ground lies about 300' southeast of the Habre de Venture manor house. Immediately east of the fenced-in Stone cemetery is an unfenced wooded section of ground about the same size as the fenced area, in which black servants and employees were interred, at least in this century. Documentation for location and use of the black cemetery was based primarily on an early 1988 taped interview with Charles Jones Woodland of Ripley, Md. He has testified that his grandfather Cornelius Woodland is buried here, and that he was <sup>an</sup> employee of Margaret G. Stone. Members of the Stone family who still live in this area remember this as having been the cemetery for black people. Whether or not it ever served as a burial place for slaves remains to be determined.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

- nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from Instructions)

Politics/government  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1770-1875  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

n/a  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Thomas Stone, Michael Jenifer Stone,  
and William Briscoe Stone

Architect/Builder

n/a  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

THOMAS STONE  
 (1743 - 1787)

The primary significance of the Thomas Stone National Historic Site is that it was the home of a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Stone, the youngest Signer from Maryland, purchased the Habre de Venture (442 acres) property late in 1770 and began constructing a new house on the property the next year. It probably was completed by the end of 1773. Thomas and Margaret Stone and their three children lived at Habre de Venture until they moved to Annapolis about the middle of 1783. After Mrs. Stone's death in June 1787, Thomas returned to Habre de Venture, apparently living there until he died in October of that year.

Even while calling Habre de Venture home from 1770 to 1783 Stone spent much time away from Charles County. After leaving the Continental Congress early in 1777 Stone began nurturing growing law practices at Port Tobacco in Charles County and in Annapolis. From 1777 until the year of his death Stone served in the Upper House of the Maryland Assembly and this state government service often took him away from his Habre de Venture home. Extant records do not indicate the depth of Stone's involvement in managing the Habre de Venture property. Its condition as a producing plantation seems not to have occupied much of his attention. Indeed, it seems likely that the management of Habre de Venture was left very much in the hands of other members of the family, including Stone's wife Margaret and brothers Walter J. and Michael Jenifer Stone.

Although Stone lived at Habre de Venture a relatively short time it was his home during the most significant years of his political life. During the critical months of 1776 Stone was returned repeatedly to Philadelphia by the Assembly of Maryland to serve his state during the Second Continental Congress deliberations that led to the complete break with Great Britain. Shortly after the signing of the Declaration of Independence Stone was selected by Congress to represent Maryland as a highly respected member of a small, elite group instructed by the Congress to construct the framework for a new central political authority that would guide the affairs of state for the new nation created by the Declaration of Independence. Before the end of 1776 Stone was viewed by many in Congress as a bright, steady, and knowledgeable political scientist. Peculiarly, even today many Marylanders think of Stone only as a quiet, taciturn, introverted man who seldom expressed himself

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publicly or forcefully on any notable political matter. The respect paid Stone by his peers in Congress, from all parts of the new nation, should long ago have laid to rest such traditionally ill-founded simplistic evaluation of Thomas Stone's stature as a courageous, deliberate, decisive patriot whose very virtues have worked against his historical reputation. Already, in 1777, he was a trusted friend of Pennsylvania's John Dickinson, then considered by many in America to be the Nation's foremost student and scholar in matters of constitutional government. When the Articles of Confederation were presented to Congress for approval the first draft carried the signature of Thomas Stone. Clearly, by the beginning of 1777 Stone had seen both the wisdom of Independence and the critical need for a competent, broadly respected central government. He remained in Congress long enough to see the Articles of Confederation approved by that body.

Doubtless it was a matter of frustration and consternation for Stone to cope with Maryland's tenacious refusal to ratify the Articles of Confederation for over four years. In fact, almost single-handedly the State of Maryland stonewalled implementation of America's first competent centralized political authority. Early in 1781, at long last, Thomas Stone found himself in the right place at the right time to play a major, decisive role in reversing his native State's stand on ratification. True enough, a few of the major stumbling blocks by this time had melted. The question of dealing with the western lands had somehow resolved itself and it was this question, primarily, that had upset Maryland and a few other small states for so long. When the ratification vote came up in the Assembly in January 1781, Thomas Stone in the Maryland Senate was able to play a pivotal role in the Senate decision to support Maryland's ratification of the Articles of Confederation. Thomas Stone's old friend Thomas Johnson spearheaded the fight in the House of Delegates. The Stone-Johnson combination in Annapolis gave ratification proponents exactly what was needed to make the Articles of Confederation in effect the first constitution of the United States of America.

In March 1784 Stone was sent back to Philadelphia to represent Maryland in Congress. On May 28th, and again on June 2nd, 1784, Stone was elected by members of the Continental Congress (meeting in Congress Assembled) to sit as their chairman and to serve thereby temporarily as President of the United States in Congress Assembled. In this position of course, however briefly, Thomas Stone of Habre de Venture served as the nation's chief of state. During the Congressional sessions of 1784 Stone served on a committee that included Jacob Read, James Monroe, Hugh Williamson, and Roger Sherman, a stellar group of the most capable and distinguished leaders of the Continental Congress at this time.

In one of Stone's most historic, significant acts he informed General George Washington in a letter of January 28, 1785 that "...Mr. Jenifer, Johnson, Chase and myself are appointed commissioners to settle the jurisdiction and navigation of the bay and the rivers Potomack and Pocomoke with the Commissioners of Virginia." This was one of the basic early communications that led to the Mount Vernon Convention a couple of months later. This meeting produced the Potomac Compact, which continues to this day as an important, historic instrument of Maryland law. It proved to be the first link forged in a chain of subsequent events that led more or less directly to the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention of 1787. The fact that Stone wrote to Washington on such a critical matter in behalf of Maryland indicates beyond any doubt that he was then highly respected and trusted by the leading statesmen of his native state.

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Although Maryland oddly chose not to participate publicly as an equal political entity in the Annapolis Convention, held in the shadow of the statehouse dome, Thomas Stone apparently represented Maryland in a rather unofficial and de facto capacity at this meeting. In a forceful, well-written letter printed in The Maryland Gazette on December 28, 1786, Stone advised the public (in connection with his criticized absence from court business in Charles County) that he had been appointed a commissioner for Maryland to confer in Annapolis the first week in September [1786] with "...commissioners of Virginia, or of the other states."

Many historians feel that the Mount Vernon Conference of March 1785 led directly to the Annapolis Convention in the fall of 1786. This assembly resulted in a proposal for the general all-states convention to be held in Philadelphia the next spring. Records of the Votes and Proceedings - House of Delegates for November 1786 indicate that Stone was intimately involved in the Assembly helping shape Maryland's preparation to participate in the Philadelphia convention. The Assembly seemed to agree that the convention was to deal with revision of the federal constitution. On December 28, 1786 the Assembly of Maryland added Thomas Stone to a newly established joint committee responsible for determining the State's role in the anticipated deliberations about revision of the Articles of Confederation. As one of the authors of the Articles, Stone surely was eminently qualified to advise this group. Members of the State Senate must have assumed now that Thomas Stone would represent Maryland in Philadelphia. However, he chose not to go. In fact, he was quite inactive in the assembly for most of 1787, not at all after his wife died early in June.

The foregoing facts should indicate quite positively how much prestige and influence Thomas Stone enjoyed among his colleagues. Many of his peers in the Continental Congress and in the Assembly of Maryland have stepped easily, largely, and quite noticeably across the pages of American history during the past two centuries. The names Carroll, Paca, Chase, Dickinson, Read, Monroe and Thomas Johnson are much more generally related to the major historic events and heroic accomplishments of the 18th Century greats who engineered our early nationhood. The completion and dedication of the Thomas Stone National Historic Site at Port Tobacco, Maryland will go far to compensate for an old wrong. Stone earned a much more prominent spot in American history than the years have given him. The greatest mystery in all this is how even his native State could have neglected his contributions in such considerable degree since his death.

MICHAEL JENIFER STONE  
(1747 - 1812)

Two of Thomas Stone's younger brothers enjoyed noteworthy professional careers that were a bit overshadowed by that of their brother, the Signer. John Hoskins Stone served as governor of Maryland 1794-97. Michael Jenifer Stone, lawyer and judge, helped represent Maryland in the First Congress under the Constitution of 1787, while it sat in New York. A Federalist, he served in Congress March 4, 1789 to March 3, 1791. He did not run again for this office, perhaps because he was appointed judge of Maryland's First Judicial District in 1791. At that time high state offices often were considered more attractive and lucrative to politicians and professional men than many similar new

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Federal government positions. Michael Jenifer Stone probably lived at Habre de Venture from 1787 until he married about 1794 and began building his own home, Equality, near today's Bel Alton, Maryland.

In the First Congress two Maryland lawyers became men of note -- Judges Joshua Seney and Michael Jenifer Stone of Habre de Venture in Charles County. They left an indelible mark on American history. On May 16, 1789, Seney presented to the House an act of the Maryland legislature that offered Congress 10 square miles of territory in any part of the state to be used for the seat of the new federal government. Between this date and the summer of 1790 Judges Seney and Stone fought with great determination and enthusiasm to gain for their state the new capital site, and they did it. In a letter dated July 2, 1790 Michael Jenifer described to his merchant brother Walter (living at Habre de Venture) the incredible joy of having played a major role in gaining for Maryland the site of the new federal district. He advised Walter that it was a certainty that the seat of government "...shall be on banks of the river Potowmack! The place to be elected by the president of the United States!" This plum had not fallen easily. Both Philadelphia and Baltimore greatly desired the new capital site and fought hard for it. In the early months of the new Congress Stone also helped to determine amounts of compensation for the President, Vice President and Members of Congress. He advised Congress now that "the President ought to be at liberty to live in any style he thought proper and the House (of Representatives) ought to give him such compensation as they thought his services merited. You furnish him with a house, horses and carriages you declare that this is the house, horses, the carriages which he shall use. There is certainly some degree of indelicacy in this. If he was a private gentleman he would be at liberty to use such as he liked best -- the Constitution gives us no right to dictate to him (in such a way)."

Michael Jenifer had served in the second session of the 1780-81 Maryland General Assembly and continued to serve in the Lower House through 1783. He was chief judge of his district (southern Maryland) from January 1791 to January 1802.

The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States, Volumes I and II, indicate the remarkable quality of Michael Jenifer's political understanding and broad, insightful awareness of most major concerns of the new government. His debates about handling of amendments to the Constitution, in particular, demonstrate his broad grasp of matters soon to become critical in developing new machinery of government.

Perhaps one of Michael Jenifer Stone's greatest responsibilities was in serving, in accord with the will of Thomas Stone, as the guardian for the three orphaned Stone children - Frederick, Margaret and Mildred. From 1787 through his marriage about 1794 (very late in life) Michael Jenifer's home was Habre de Venture. There are indications that he conducted his law practice from here. Frederick Stone, only son of Thomas and Margaret, died of yellow fever at Princeton, New Jersey in 1793. By 1794 the Stone daughters had married and left the state, leaving Michael Jenifer at last free to separate himself from Habre de Venture responsibilities. For years, however, he kept an eye on Habre de Venture for his nieces living in northern Virginia. Between 1795 and about 1820 Habre de Venture was leased, with rental payments going to younger Stone daughter Mildred Stone Daniel of Stafford County, Virginia.

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WILLIAM BRISCOE STONE  
(1797 - 1872)

Michael Jenifer's second son, William Briscoe Stone, born 1797, also became a Port Tobacco lawyer and judge. About 1820 he began overseeing the Habre de Venture property on behalf of his cousin Mildred. By 1825 he was living at Habre de Venture. His first child, Margaret Graham Stone, was born there in 1825. In July 1831 William B. Stone purchased a large portion of the Habre de Venture property, including Thomas Stone's mansion house, and he lived there until his death in 1872. William Briscoe Stone, like his father, became a chief judge in Maryland's first judicial district. From 1844 through 1846 the Honorable William Briscoe Stone sat on the bench of Maryland's Court of Appeals in Annapolis. He was the "master" of Habre de Venture for about 50 years, much longer than anyone else. He planned and supervised the improvements of the 1820's and early 1830's, which took place when the property was still owned by Mildred Stone Daniel. These improvements probably included the "new kitchen," still extant, the general purpose barn, adjacent corn crib and old horse barn. If so, these structures and improvements must be dated about 1828. At this time W.B. Stone re-did a leaky Habre de Venture roof (including porches) with cypress shingles.

Had Thomas Stone's only son not died in his youth he doubtless would have become master of Habre de Venture. As things turned out, the Michael Jenifer Stone and William Briscoe Stone periods of supervision and ownership continued a Stone-Habre de Venture relationship that lasted over a century. During these generations and periods of stewardship the property was managed continuously by aristocratic, well educated landed gentry of southern Maryland whose lives typified what was considered the very best that southern Maryland had to offer. The Stone line in Maryland from 1648 right up to the 20th Century produced people of accomplishment and substance. However, the most noticeable after Governor William Stone were the three remarkable sons of David and Elizabeth (Jenifer) Stone of Poynton Manor... Thomas, Michael Jenifer, and John Hoskins.

9. Major Bibliographical References

CH-5

- Andrews, Matthew Page. History of Maryland: Province and State. Hatboro, Pennsylvania: Tradition Press, 1965, 395. (Reprint)
- Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1961. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961.
- Charles County, Maryland Clerk of the Court Test Book, 1817-1818. (Actually goes through 1850.) Contains signature of William Briscoe Stone, attorney at law, 7th Nov. 1820, which admitted W.B. Stone to practice as an attorney at law before the Charles County Bar.
- Crowl, Philip A. Maryland During and After the Revolution--A Political and Economic Study. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1943, 165, 166.
- Gales, Sr., Joseph, compiled by. The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States (With an Appendix), Vols. I & II. Washington: Published by Gales and Seaton, 1834.
- Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert County, Charles County and St. Mary's County. Annapolis, Revised Edition, August 1980, p. 58.
- Maryland Period Rooms. The Baltimore Museum of Art, 1987, pp. 12-15.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark, 1971
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MD 470
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 321.9

UTM References

A 18 32217000 426711600  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 18 32311400 42655000  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 32210000 42654000  
 Quadrangle: Port Tobacco, Maryland  
 Quadrangle scale: 1: 24,000

D 18 32115400 426700600

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Thomas Stone National Historic Site contains 321.9 acres. The site includes the Habre de Venture plantation house, several 19th Century dependencies, several 20th Century structures and the graves of Thomas Stone and his wife Margaret. The boundary starts at the northeast corner on the west edge of Rose Hill Road at latitude 38° 32' 22" N—Longitude 77° 02' 21" W, then proceeds southeasterly for about 5880' along the road to the southeast

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary determination is co-terminus with the boundaries of the property which the NPS purchased.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John M. Wearmouth, Contractor/Historian  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date August 29, 1988  
 street & number Box 296 telephone (301) 934-8827  
 city or town Port Tobacco state Maryland zip code 20677

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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- Papenfuse, Edward C. Et Al. A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789, Volume II; I-Z. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985.
- Public Law 95-625, The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1987 (92 Stat. 3510).
- Reports of Cases Argued and Adjudged in the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and in the High Court of Chancery of Maryland. Annotated by William T. Brantly, Volume XXVII. Baltimore: M. Curlander, Law Bookseller, Publisher and Importer, 1885. This volume includes the name of the Hon. William B. Stone as a Judge of Maryland's Court of Appeals, 1844-1846 and Chief Judge of the State's First Judicial District (St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's Counties) at this time.
- Sams, Conway W. and Riley, Elihu S. The Bench and Bar of Maryland, A History 1634-1901, Vol. I. Chicago, Ill.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1901.
- Snell, Charles W. National Register of Historic Places. Inventory--Nomination Form 10-300, "Habre-de-Venture (Thomas Stone House)." Washington, D.C., May 27, 1971.
- Stone Family of Maryland Collection, The. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Stone Family Papers, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.
- Stone, Michael Jenifer and William Briscoe Stone Papers. William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
- Wallon, Jr., James Thomas, A.I.A. Habre de Venture near Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland, Historic Structure Report to National Park Service, July 31, 1987 (Revised December 18, 1987).
- Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Helps Shape the Nation. La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Board of Education, November 1986.
- Wearmouth, John M. Final Draft, Thomas Stone National Historic Site--Historic Resource Study: Biographical Sketch, Property History and Land Use History--Habre de Venture, Port Tobacco, Md., May 11, 1988. Contract #CX 4000-7-0029.

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National Park Service

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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corner on the west side of the road. Then westerly on course S 77-04-43-W for 1258 feet, then N 67-57-16-W for about 440 feet, then S 02-18-27-W for about 592 feet, then west again N 87-41-33-W for about 607 feet, then northwest about 322 feet then continuing northwestward for about 3600 feet to a point across Hog Hole Run (west side), then in a northeasterly direction for about 2030 feet to the northwest corner at latitude  $30^{\circ} 32' 10''$  N—longitude  $77^{\circ} 02' 41''$  W, then eastward returning to the northeast corner at the Rose Hill Road starting point.

For precise boundary courses and distances see current plat for Habre de Venture property in Charles County Land Record Office — File #2304, scale: 1" = 300' Habre de Venture, Vischer, First District. This plat shows the metes and bounds of Habre de Venture as now owned by National Park Service.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 PHOTOGRAPH INVENTORY (Below photos keyed to  
Historical Base Map #4 submitted to NPS May 1988)

THOMAS STONE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, Charles County, Maryland

- #1 Looking down main entrance road in southerly direction. Brick entrance gate posts constructed by John M. Sasser in 1955. Photo taken 1987.
- #2 Panorama across north pasture showing left to right east end of mansion house, C. 1958 horse barn with older barn showing just to right behind it, hog house, C. 1830 "English" barn and C. 1850 tobacco barn with cow shed and machine shed attachments. Photo taken in 1987. (1, 6, 7, 11, 9, 10)
- #3 View along north side of driveway. Shows new horse barn, old "English" barn, part of 1850 tobacco barn and shed, in-holder (Lenko) house and chicken/poultry processing building. Photo taken in 1987. (6, 9, 10, 27, 12)
- #4 North side of mansion house, west hyphen, and "kitchen wing." Shows on main house recent stabilizing temporary roof, wall and chimney caps, temporary roof on hyphen. Windows in brick end of kitchen wing were removed about 1986 because they were not original. Photo taken 1985. (1)
- #5 West end of kitchen wing and south (front) facade, east hyphen, and office wing. Photo taken in 1985. (1A, 1, 1B)
- #6 West and south sides of mansion house complex showing new temporary protective roof construction added about 1984. This photo taken in 1987 during basement stabilization work which required sand and bricks visible in photo. (1)
- #7 Southeast corner of the law office/farm manager building. Photo shows work undertaken to construct new foundations placed on poured concrete footings. Photo taken in 1987. (1B)
- #8 South side of Habre de Venture showing all five elements of the Habre de Venture complex. Photo taken in 1987. (1)
- #9 West end of garage/apartment structure and 1958 brick garden house in right foreground. Photo taken in 1987. (3, 2)
- #10 Garage/apartment structure with 1958 garden house and south facade of mansion house in background. Photo taken in 1987. (3, 2, 1)
- #11 East side of C. 1958 horse barn with in-holder house to right of it. Photo taken in 1987. (6, 27)
- #12 East side of original C. 1830-40 portion of older horse barn. Photo taken 1987. (7)
- #13 North end and west side of old horse barn with portion of C. 1958 addition showing on right. Photo taken in 1987. (7)
- #14 Northeast corner of original part of older horse barn. Photo taken in 1987. (7)
- #15 South and east sides of C. 1830 corn crib and barn. Photo taken in 1987. (8, 9)
- #16 South side of C. 1830 corn crib with part of machine shed showing at end of old C. 1850 tobacco barn. Photo taken in 1987. (8, 10)
- #17 Looking southward from C. 1830 "English" barn toward horse barns (older on right) with center portion of mansion house showing. Photo taken in 1987. (9, 6, 7, 1)
- #18 West ends of C. 1830 corn crib and "English" barn. Road in foreground leads to in-holder house. Photo taken in 1987. (8, 9)
- #19 C. 1945 hog house. Photo taken in 1987. (11)
- #20 C. 1940 livestock dried corn feeding shed (stands between hog house and tenant house). Photo taken in 1987. (14)
- #21 Interior view of framing construction details in original portion of 1850 tobacco barn, looking northeastward. Photo taken in 1987. (10)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2 PHOTOGRAPH INVENTORY

THOMAS STONE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

- #22 West end of C. 1850 tobacco barn showing attached cow shed on right. Photo taken in 1987. (10)
- #23 C. 1850 tobacco barn with 1958 machine shed attached to its east end. Photo taken in 1987. (10)
- #24 West end and south side of sheep shed in pasture southeast of mansion house - on road between stock pond and AT&T service building. Photo taken in 1987. (15)
- #25 South and east sides of tenant house. Photo taken in 1987. (13)
- #26 North end of tenant house. Photo taken in 1987. (13)
- #27 Looking in southwesterly direction along AT&T right of way at extreme southeastern corner of Habre de Venture property. AT&T service building in foreground. Photo taken in 1987. (17)
- #28 Looking in a northerly direction through Stone family cemetery. Mansion house between tree and large stone about three hundred feet away. Thomas Stone table-top memorial at left inside fence with recently placed DAR bronze plaque on marker at foot of Stone's grave. Large stone monument toward center of cemetery is that of William Briscoe Stone. Photo taken in 1984. (4A)
- #29 Looking southwestward across Stone family cemetery lot, Margaret Stone memorial in foreground and Thomas Stone in background near fence. Photo taken in 1984. (4A)
- #30 Copies of photos of the Thomas Stone painting that hangs in Maryland State House by Bordley and Aubrey Bodine photo which shows north facade of the 5-part Habre de Venture at its most pleasing appearance, probably about 1955.

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Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Habre-de-Venture (Thomas Stone House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Habre-de-Venture

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rose Hill Road, which joins Md. 225 and Md. 6

CITY OR TOWN:  
Port Tobacco

STATE: Maryland      CODE:      COUNTY: Charles      CODE:     

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Peter Vischer

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Habre-de-Venture

CITY OR TOWN: Port Tobacco      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 20677

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Charles County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: La Plata      STATE: Maryland      CODE:     

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey (5 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE:     

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:      COUNTY:      ENTRY NUMBER:      DATE:      FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>(Check One)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered    <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered           </td> <td>(Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Moved    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site           </td> </tr> </table>	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built by Thomas Stone in 1771, Habre-de-Venture is a Georgian-brick and frame, five-part composition, with its wings and hyphens extending to the rear (south) on either side to form an semicircle. The main or central block is a 1 1/2 story over elevated basement brick structure, 24 by 45 feet in size, with a gambrel and dormered roof. The walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond, with glazed headers, and there is an exterior end chimney at either end. The north (front) and south elevations are each five bays wide, have center doors, and one-story porches extends across there facades. A center hall, with the stair set against the west (right) wall extends through the house. On the right is a dining room and on the east, the large living room. In 1928 the original and elaborate hand-carved panelling of the living room was removed by the Baltimore Museum of Art, which replaced it with a fairly exact replica of the original panelling. The dining room has the fireplace wall built well out into the room with the flue curving back to the wall and up to the ceiling. Dining room walls are plastered.

The west (or right) kitchen wing is a low two-story gable-roofed structure with brick ends and frame sides built at right-angles to the main axis. The second story, containing two bedrooms, was added over the kitchen about 1820. This west wing is joined to the center house by a hyphen. Originally gable roofed, one-story in height and containing the breakfast room, this passage has had its height increased to 1 1/2 stories by the addition of a gambrel roof with dormers to provide bathrooms on the second floor for the main house. The east (or left) wing is a low gambrel-roofed one-and-a-half story frame structure with one-room on each floor. This wing served as Thomas Stone's law office. The east wing is connected to the main house by means of a one-story brick wing with gable roof.

Except for the removal of the full-length wall panelling in the living room of the main house and the addition of a half story to the west wing, Habre-de-Venture is little altered. The house has been carefully restored and is in excellent condition. Used as a private residence, Habre-de-Venture is not open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

CH-5

(Number all entries)

2. Boundaries for the Historic Site Habre-de-Venture

Approximately 360 acres roughly in the shape of a semicircle, including the Habre-de-Venture plantation house, its dependencies, and the grave of Thomas Stone, starting at the northeast corner on the west edge of Rose Hill Road at latitude 38° 32' 22" N. - longitude 77° 02' 21" W., then proceeding southeasterly for about 7000 feet along the west shoulder of Rose Hill Road to the southeast corner at lat. 38° 31' 22" N. - long. 77° 01' 45" W., then going westerly about 3100 feet to the top of the west bank Hoghole Run at the southwest corner at lat. 38° 31' 23" N. - long. 77° 02' 23" W.; then continuing to the northwest along the thop of the west bank of Hoghole Run for about 5600 feet to the northwest corner at lat. 38° 32' 10" N. - long. 77° 02' 41" W.; then returning to the northeast about 2000 to the beginning, the northeast corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in black in on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Port Tobacco Quadrangle, Maryland, Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic, 1966, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.

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) 1771-1787

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1771, Habre-de-Venture was the principal home from 1771 to 1787 of Thomas Stone, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Maryland, lawyer, planter, and politician. Stone is buried in the family grave yard adjacent to the little-altered plantation house.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Thomas Stone, 1743-1787.

Thomas Stone was born on "Poynton Manor," Charles County, Maryland in 1743. He went to Annapolis, Maryland, where he studied law in the office of Thomas Johnson. Stone was admitted to the Maryland bar in 1764 and went to Frederick, Maryland to practice. In 1768 he married Margaret Brown, the 15 year old daughter of Dr. Gustavou Brown, who brought Stone a dowery of \$ 1,000. In 1771 he bought land near Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland, and built a country house which he called "Habre-de-Venture."

Stone took his seat in the Continental Congress on May 13, 1775, and, except for a part of the year 1777, when he declined re-election, he served until October 1778. He voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1783 and took his seat in March 1784, but declined re-election and resumed his law practice in Maryland. Stone also served as a state senator for Charles County from 1776 to 1787. He was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, but declined to serve on account of the illness of his wife, who died in June of that year. Stone died on October 5, 1787, at Alexandria, Virginia, while waiting for a ship to take him to England. He was buried in the family graveyard at "Habre-de-Venture."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 18, 84. Article by Mary Elizabeth Fittro.

Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J.E. Fields, "The Signers Lives Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May, 1951, 7.

Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1940), 491.

Henry C. Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Homes of Maryland (Easton, Md., 1934), 77.

Katherine Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers (New York, 1930), 42-46.

**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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 32' 23"	77° 02' 49"		38° 31' 51"	77° 02' 22"	
NE	38° 32' 23"	77° 01' 44"				
SE	38° 31' 18"	77° 01' 44"				
SW	38° 31' 18"	77° 02' 49"				

Location of plantation house

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 360 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE 5/27/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE D. C. CDDE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Habre-de-Venture Survey Number: CH-5

Project: Demolition of Hog Shed Agency: National Park Service

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name Jo Ellen Freese Date April 1996

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Hog Shed is a one story, four bay by three bay, gable end structure, 33'x 23', with exposed rafter ends covered in seamed terne-coated roofing. Lower walls are composed of concrete masonry unit knee walls. Upper walls are of german siding with four sets of paired four-light casement windows on the long sides, enframed by simple flush-board surrounds. The exact date of construction of the Hog Shed is not known, but appears to be from the mid-twentieth century (c. 1930-1950). It does not have any outstanding architectural or historical significance, but is typical construction of mid-twentieth century farm improvements. It has no relevance to the significance of Thomas Stone or the Stone Family era of occupation up to the turn of the nineteenth century. The building does not date from the period of significance for the National Register listed Habre-de-Venture property.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Stephen M. Clark, National Park Service, NEFA

Jo Ellen Freese Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services July 8, 1996 Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Peter E. Kuster Reviewer, NR program 7/9/96 Date

*2/11/97*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Agricultural Outbuilding, Hog Shed

Known Design Source: None

# DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

CH-5

**PARK NAME, STATE:** THOMAS STONE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, MARYLAND

**STRUCTURE NAME(S):** HOG BARN, HOG SHED

**PROPERTY/DISTRICT NAME:** THOMAS STONE, HABRE-DE-VENTURE

**LOCATION** Street Address:  
Municipality:

Town/City: PORT TOBACCO  
County: CHARLES

**DATE BUILT:** Ca 1930-1950

**IDLCS:**

**PARK #:**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

National

State & Regional

Local

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA:** A  B  C  D

The exact date of construction of the Hog Shed is not known, but appears to be from the mid-twentieth century. It does not have any outstanding architectural or historical significance, but is typical construction of mid-twentieth century farm improvements. It has no relevance to the significance of Thomas Stone or the Stone Family era of occupation up to the turn of the nineteenth century.

Continuation Sheet? N

**DESCRIPTION**

Hog Shed is a one story, four bay by three bay, gable end structure, 33'x23', with exposed rafter ends covered in seamed terne-coated roofing. Lower walls are composed of concrete masonry unit knee wall. Upper walls are of german siding with four sets of paired four-light casement windows on the long sides, enframed by simple flush-board surrounds. Short sides of building have same window compositions with center vertical board doors and rectangular louver vents in gable ends. Interior is very utilitarian with a slab-on-grade flooring. This slab is also evident on the east elevation which probably comprised an exterior hog pen.

Continuation Sheet? N

National Park Service, NEFA

State Historic Preservation Office  
Comments

Individually Eligible

Contributes to:  
Property   
District   
Potential District

Not Eligible & Does Not  
Contribute to Property/District

Insufficiently Documented,  
Treat as Eligible

Concur

Do Not  
Concur

Signature

*David W. Keppell*  
Field Director, NEFA  
6/13/96

Signature

*[Signature]*  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
7/12/96



THST

NEG #  
LCS-THST-003

Hog Shed

May 1992

CH-5



THST

NEG #  
LCS-THST-003

Hog Shed

May 1992

CH-5

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Habre-de-Venture Survey Number: CH-5

Project: Demolition of 20th Century Horse Barn Agency: National Park Service

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name Jo Ellen Freese Date April 1996

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The 20th Century Horse Barn is a one story, five bay by one bay, shallow pitch gable end structure, 52'x 24', with paired rectangular louvered vents in a gable ends and roof floss with exterior walls. Exterior walls are covered in 10" spaced lap siding with the roof covered in corrugated metal. The exact date of construction of the 20th Century Horse Barn is not known, but appears to be from the mid-twentieth century (c.1940-1949). It does not have any outstanding architectural or historical significance, but is typical construction of mid-twentieth century farm improvements. It has no relevance to the significance of Thomas Stone or the Stone Family era of occupation up to the turn of the nineteenth century. The building does not date from the period of significance for the National Register listed property.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Stephen M. Clark, National Park Service, NEFA

Jo Ellen Freese July 8, 1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Peter G. Canty 7/9/96  
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Agricultural Outbuilding, Horse Barn

Known Design Source: None

# DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

CH-5

**PARK NAME, STATE:** THOMAS STONE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, MARYLAND

**STRUCTURE NAME(S):** 20th CENTURY HORSE BARN

**PROPERTY/DISTRICT NAME:** THOMAS STONE, HABRE-DE-VENTURE

**LOCATION** Street Address:  
Municipality:

Town/City: PORT TOBACCO  
County: CHARLES

**DATE BUILT:** Ca 1940-1949

**IDLCS:**

**PARK #:**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

National

State & Regional

Local

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA:** A  B  C  D

The exact date of construction of the 20th Century Horse Barn is not known, but appears to be from the mid-twentieth century. It does not have any outstanding architectural or historical significance, but is typical construction of mid-twentieth century farm improvements. It has no relevance to the significance of Thomas Stone or the Stone Family era of occupation up to the turn of the nineteenth century.

Continuation Sheet? N

**DESCRIPTION**

20th Century Horse Barn is a one story, five bay by one bay, shallow pitch gable end structure, 52'x24', with paired rectangular louvered vents in gable ends and roof flush with exterior walls. Exterior walls are covered in 10" spaced lap siding with the roof covered in corrugated metal. South elevation possesses single vertical board door with strap hinges and pronounced inverted "Triangle" in center, surrounded by plain, flush board surround. West elevation has four dutch doors with operable louvers in top and bottom section with pronounced inverted "Triangle" again, with southwest entry of vertical hung sliding door. East elevation has extended cantilever with duplicated entryways of west elevation. These entries exit to at-grade slab covered in artificial grass carpet. Southeast section of east elevation is flush with roof and possesses a single six-light window and single entry under the cantilever. Interior construction is post and frame, thought to be set in concrete pier foundation.

Continuation Sheet? N

National Park Service, NEFA

State Historic Preservation Office  
Comments

Individually Eligible

Contributes to:

Property

District

Potential District

Concur

Not Eligible & Does Not  
Contribute to Property/District

Do Not  
Concur

Insufficiently Documented,  
Treat as Eligible

Signature

Signature

*Kevin W. Reynolds*

*[Signature]*

1 Director, NEFA

State Historic Preservation Officer

6/13/96

7/18/96



THST

NEG #  
LCS-THST-001

20th Century Horse Barn  
View from SW  
May 1992

CH-5



THST

NEG #  
LCS-THST-001

20th Century Horse Barn  
View from NE  
May 1992

CH-5

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Habre-de-Venture Survey Number: CH-5  
Project: Demolition of Horse Barn Addition Agency: NPS  
Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name Jo Ellen Freese Date April 1996  
Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended   
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None  
Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Horse Barn Addition is a one story, two bay by one bay, gable end structure, 22'x24', with a single vertical board & strap hinge hay loft door in the south gable end. Exterior walls are covered in 6" lap siding and the roof is covered in seamed terne-coated roofing. The exact date of construction of the addition is not known, but appears to be from the mid-twentieth century (c.1940-1949). It does not have any outstanding architectural or historical significance, but is typical construction of mid-twentieth century farm improvements when the farm was geared to raising thoroughbred horses. It has no relevance to the significance of Thomas Stone or the Stone Family era of occupation up to the turn of the nineteenth century. The builders were sympathetic to the original design of the nineteenth century portion and to the later 20th Century Horse Barn. The north portion is considered significant while the south addition is considered non-significant.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: compliance files

Prepared by: Stephen M. Clark, National Park Service, NEFA

Jo Ellen Freese July 8, 1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Peter G. Kurtz 7/9/96  
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Agricultural Outbuilding (horse barn)

Known Design Source: none

# DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

CH-5

**PARK NAME, STATE:** THOMAS STONE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, MARYLAND

**STRUCTURE NAME(S):** HORSE BARN ADDITION

**PROPERTY/DISTRICT NAME:** THOMAS STONE, HABRE-DE-VENTURE

**LOCATION** Street Address:  
Municipality:

Town/City: PORT TOBACCO  
County: CHARLES

**DATE BUILT:** Ca 1940-1949

**IDLCS:**

**PARK #:**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

National

State & Regional

Local

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA:** A  B  C  D

The exact date of construction of the Horse Barn Addition is not known, but appears to be from the mid-twentieth century. It does not have any outstanding architectural or historical significance, but is typical construction of mid-twentieth century farm improvements when the farm was geared to raising thoroughbred horses. It has no relevance to the significance of Thomas Stone or the Stone Family era of occupation up to the turn of the nineteenth century. The builders were sympathetic to the original design of the nineteenth century portion and to the later 20th Century Horse Barn. The north portion is considered significant while the south addition is considered non-significant.

Continuation Sheet? N

**DESCRIPTION**

Horse Barn Addition is a one story, two bay by one bay, gable end structure, 22'x24', with a single vertical board & strap hinge y loft door in the south gable end. Exterior walls are covered in 6" spaced lap siding with the roof covered in seamed terne-coated roofing. South elevation possesses single vertical board door with strap hinges and pronounced inverted "Triangle" in center, surrounded by plain, flush board surround. East elevation has two dutch doors with operable louvers in top section and bottom section with pronounced inverted "Triangle" again, with southeast entry of vertical hung sliding door. West elevation has extended cantilever for horses with duplicated entryways of south elevation. Interior construction is post and frame, sitting on concrete pier foundations.

Continuation Sheet? N

National Park Service, NEFA

State Historic Preservation Office  
Comments

Individually Eligible

Contributes to:  
Property   
District   
Potential District

Not Eligible & Does Not  
Contribute to Property/District

Insufficiently Documented,  
Treat as Eligible

Concur

Do Not  
Concur

Signature

Signature

*David W. Reynolds*  
for Field Director, NEFA  
6/11/96

*[Signature]*  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
7/18/96





NEG #  
LCS-THST-003

Horse Barn  
South and West Elevations  
May 1992

CH-5





NEG #  
LCS-THST-001

Horse Barn  
View from *Southeast*  
May 1992

CH-5

CH-5  
Habre de Venture  
(Thomas Stone National Historic Site)  
Rose Hill Road  
Port Tobacco  
Federal

c. 1773

The Thomas Stone National Historic Site, or Habre de Venture, is an irregular five-part Maryland manor house composed of three different early building methods and arranged in the arc of a circle. The central section is a Flemish bond brick 1 1/2-story house with a gambrel roof and corbeled exterior chimneys. The first floor is five bays wide, with a central entrance, and the gambrel roof had three 6/6 sash gable-roofed dormers ranged across it. The first floor windows held 12/12 sash flanking a central door with a large 15-light transom. The north or front facade had a hip-roofed porch supported by six chamfered square posts. A south porch was screened in, and had been added recently. The main section of the house was raised on a brick base. All roofs of the house were wood shingle. The hyphen to the northwest was a small gambrel-roofed structure of three bays with two dormers. Built of Flemish bond brick with glazed headers, this hyphen connects a small two-story frame wing set perpendicularly to the hyphen. This wing has brick end walls with interior chimneys. The center door has a transom, and above this is a 4/4 sash window. The other windows hold 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. To the southwest is a small, completely frame 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed structure with no dormers and a single 6/6 sash window in each gable end, which served as Thomas Stone's law office. It has an end chimney and framing is visible on the interior. This wing is connected by a low brick breezeway. The principal, central portion--

the dwelling house proper--was completely gutted by fire January 1, 1977. The adjoining hyphens and end buildings connected by them to the manor house also were damaged in varying degrees by fire, smoke, and water. Fortunately, the living room paneling had been removed previously to the Baltimore Museum of Art. However, the fire destroyed other remaining early paneling and woodwork. The outlying dependencies were constructed during the 19th and 20th centuries. One of the outbuildings was destroyed during the La Plata tornado of 2002.

Habre de Venture had an unusual floor plan. The architectural quality of the house is attested to by the fact that the living room paneling is in the exhibit of room interiors in the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland. Thomas Stone, (1743-1787), a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, built Habre de Venture after 1771 and lived there for the remainder of his life. A native of Nanjemoy Hundred, Charles County, he had moved to Annapolis to study law under Maryland's first elected governor (1777-1779), Thomas Johnson (1732-1804). In 1764 Stone was admitted to the Maryland Bar after which he moved to Frederick, as did Thomas Johnson, John Hanson, and Francis Scott Key. Stone chose a Charles County bride, Margaret Brown, daughter of Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown (1747-1804), a physician to George Washington. Stone abandoned Frederick after the death of his father, Daniel Stone, returning to his native Charles County, and purchased the Habre de Venture property late in 1770 and began constructing a new house on the property the next year. It probably was completed by the end of 1773. Thomas and Margaret Stone and their three children lived at Habre de Venture until they moved to Annapolis

about the middle of 1783. After Mrs. Stone's death in June 1787, Thomas returned to Habre de Venture, apparently living there until he died in October of that year. Although Stone lived at Habre de Venture a relatively short time, it was his home during the most significant years of his political life. From 1777 until the year of his death Stone served in the Upper House of the Maryland Assembly and this state Government service often took him away from his Habre de Venture home. During the critical months of 1776 Stone was returned repeatedly to Philadelphia by the Assembly of Maryland to serve his state during the Second Continental Congress deliberations that lead to the complete break with Great Britain. Shortly after signing the Declaration of Independence Stone was selected by Congress to represent Maryland as a highly respected member of a small, elite group instructed by the Congress to construct the framework for a new central political authority that would guide the affairs of state for the new nation.

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Habre de Venture**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Rose Hill Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Port Tobacco**

STATE: **Maryland** CDDE: **Charles** COUNTY: **Charles** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
**Mrs. Peter Vischer**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Rose Hill Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Port Tobacco** STATE: **Maryland** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CDDE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **376**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**MHT - HABS Inventory (M. Bourne)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **March 14, 1968** Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Maryland Historical Trust**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1704**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CDDE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

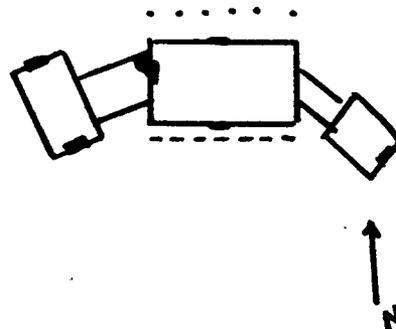
STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>
	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>
			Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Habre de Venture is an irregular five part Maryland manor house composed of three different early building methods and arranged in the arc of a circle. The central section is an all brick, 1½ story house with an English gambrel roof; there are five bays (three dormers) including front and rear doorways and an overhanging porch (porte cochere) on the north, or entrance, side supported by six plain square columns and there is a raised, screened porch (recent) on the south side. This main section is raised on a brick base. The porch roofs and all roofs are wood shingle. The hyphen to the north west is a smaller gambrel roof brick structure of three bays with two dormers (brick is Flemish bond with glazed headers). This hyphen connects a small two story frame wing set perpendicularly to the hyphen; this wing has brick end walls with internal chimneys. To the southwest is a small, completely frame 1½ story gambrel roof structure (with no dormers) that served as Thomas Stone's law office. It has an end chimney and framing is visible on the interior; this **wing** is connected by a low brick breezeway. The living room panelling is now in the Baltimore Museum of Art, but other early panelling and woodwork remains. The present owner(s) restored the house and also built a polygonal brick garden tool house, as well as a gambrel roofed garage. Habre de Venture is a working farm ~~which breeds and races thoroughbred horses.~~ *where thoroughbred horses are bred and*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c1770

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

"The plan of Habre-de-Venture is unique among the old houses of Maryland" (Forman, Early Manor...p 77) and the house illustrates the three principal types of Southern Maryland architecture. Its excellence as an example is attested to by the fact that the living room panelling is now in the Baltimore Museum of Art. Built by Thomas Stone, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a member of Congress.(1775-1784) and at one time presiding officer of that body. The Maryland Consitution is believed to have been drafted in the law office (Mrs. Vischer).

Although restored, Habre de Venture retains much of its early character. As the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and as an architectural rarity, Habre de Venture is both a textbook of Southern Maryland architecture and an important monument in the state's history.

*nation's*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*No. 1*

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Katherine Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers 1930 p 31  
 Henry C. Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland 1934 p 77

Mrs. Peter Vischer, Port Tobacco, Md.

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 ONE ACRE							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COOE	COUNTY	COOE
STATE:	COOE	COUNTY:	COOE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	COOE
STATE:	COOE	COUNTY:	COOE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**William Morgan**

ORGANIZATION: **University of Delaware** DATE: **June 4, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Department of Art History**

CITY OR TOWN: **Newark** STATE: **Delaware** COOE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

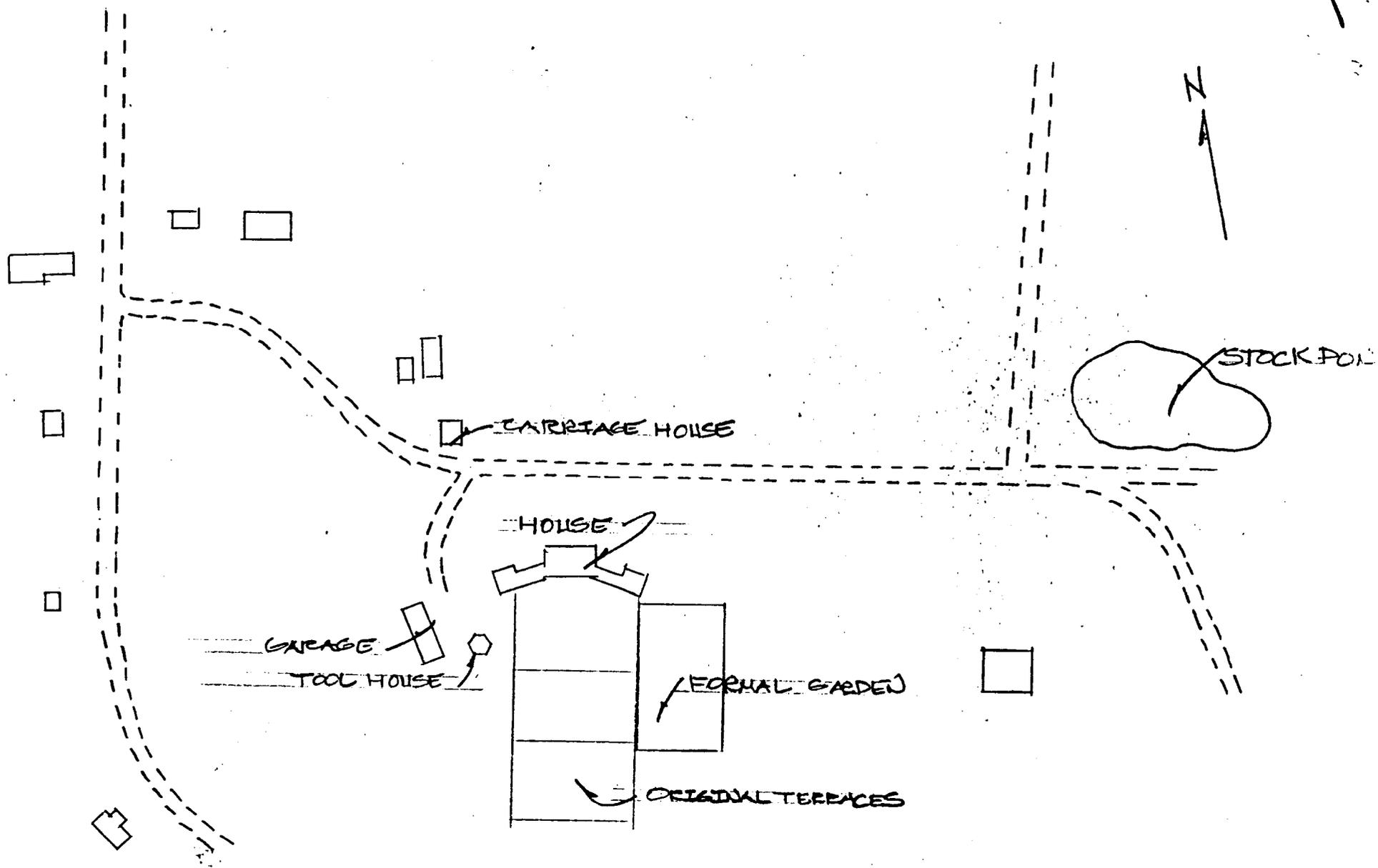
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



A west hyphen is of brick, laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. This west hyphen has a gambrel roof with two dormers; and a center door and two windows on each facade.

The west wing is a two-story "A" roof building with brick-ends, set at a right angle to the west hyphen. It is three bays long and two bays deep. The center door has a transom and above this is a 4 over 4 window sash. The other window sash are 6 over 6 and all have louvered shutters.

The east hyphen contains a covered entrance to the basement and a passage to the east (office) wing. The east (office) wing is two bays long and has an exterior chimney which is free-standing above the second floor level. There are no dormers in this roof and only one 6 over 6 sash window in each gable.



THOMAS STONE N.H.S.  
 LA PLATA, MARYLAND  
 SCALE: 1" = ± 200'

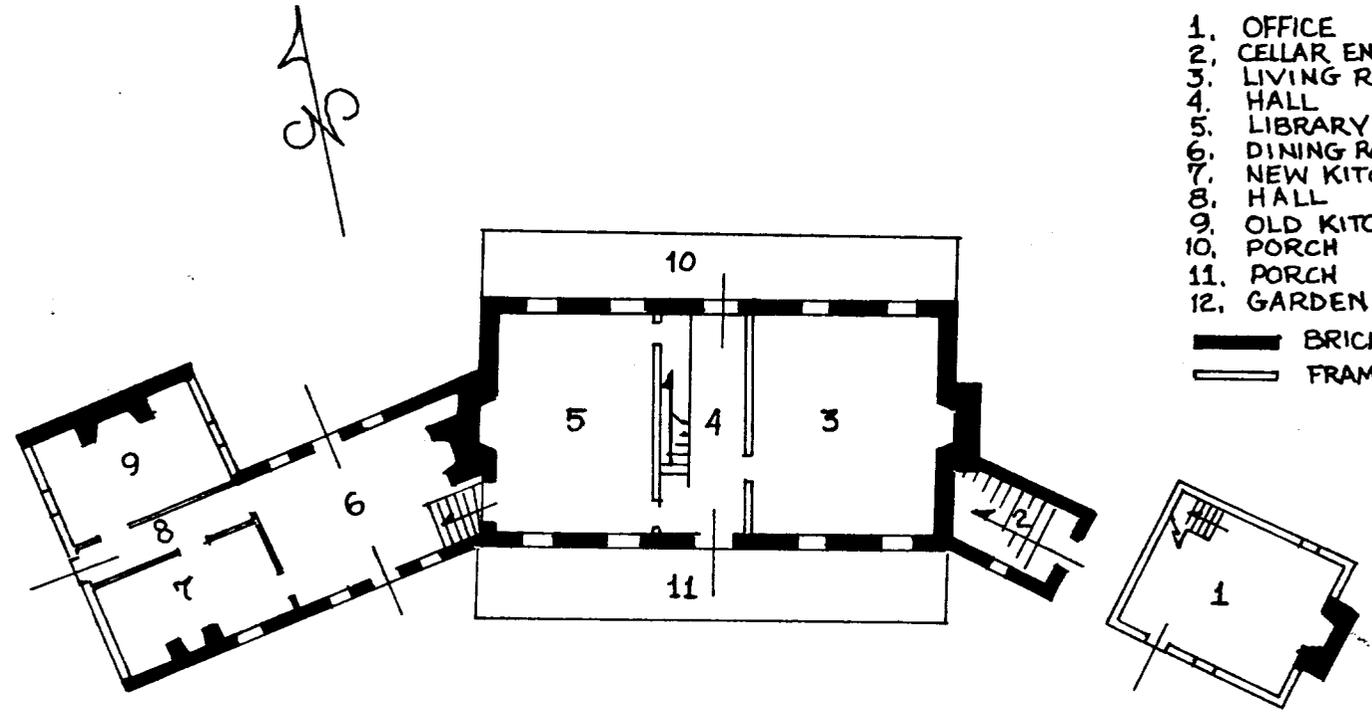
CH-5

R ENGLE

◦ KEY ◦

- 1. OFFICE
- 2. CELLAR ENTR.
- 3. LIVING ROOM
- 4. HALL
- 5. LIBRARY
- 6. DINING ROOM
- 7. NEW KITCHEN
- 8. HALL
- 9. OLD KITCHEN
- 10. PORCH
- 11. PORCH
- 12. GARDEN

█ BRICK  
 ▬ FRAME



◦ HABRE DE VENTURE ◦

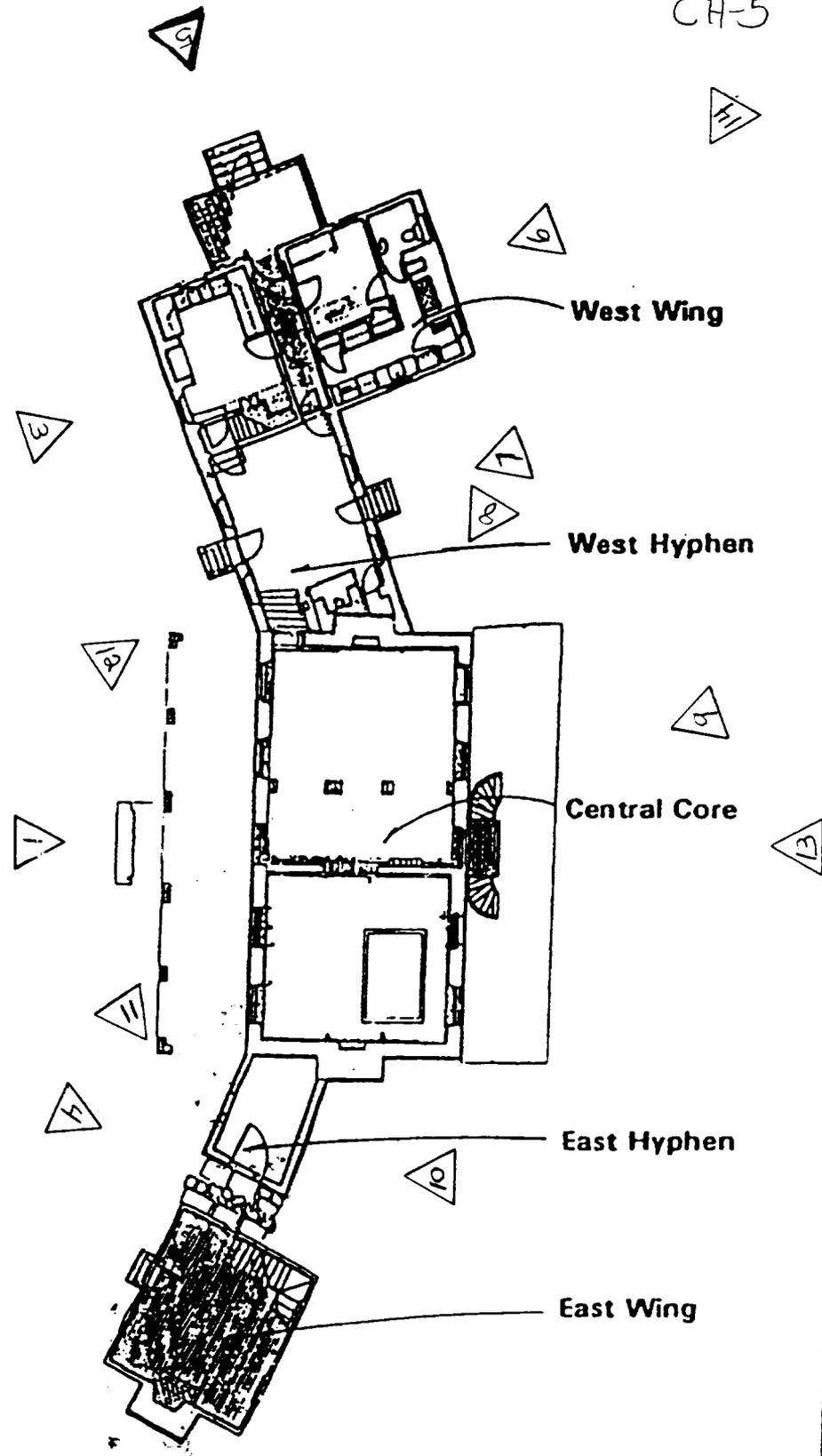
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

J. R. RIVOIRE 12/71

CONDITION	Integrity	Describe the Present and Original (if known) Physical Appearance
Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	12
Good <input type="checkbox"/>	(Check One) Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>		
Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>		

CH-5

EAST FLOOR PLAN



<p>MABRE DE VENTURE 11, rue de la Harpe, 75001 Paris</p>		<p>Scale: 1:500</p>	<p>Date: 1985</p>
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from the HABS Drawings, 1985  
Thomas Stone NHTS



38%



See original in vertical file

Habre de Venture, CH-5

25% 050



See original in vertical file

Habre de Venture, CH-5

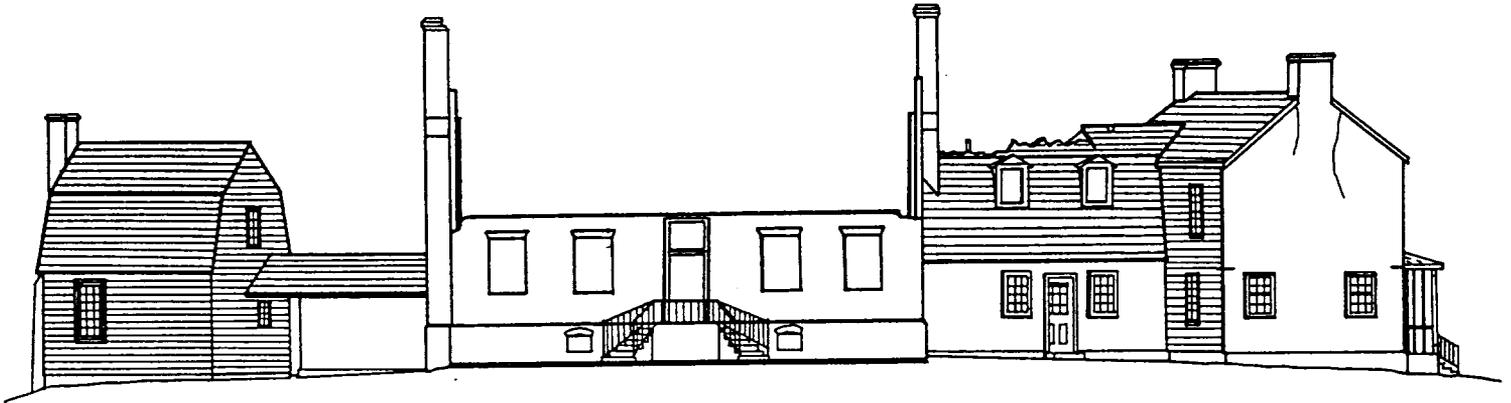


See original photos in vertical file; both pre- and post-  
1977 fire. 24 Large and 5 small black and white.

Habre de Venture, CH-5

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## House Restoration



Front view of Thomas Stone House after 1977 fire.

### HISTORY

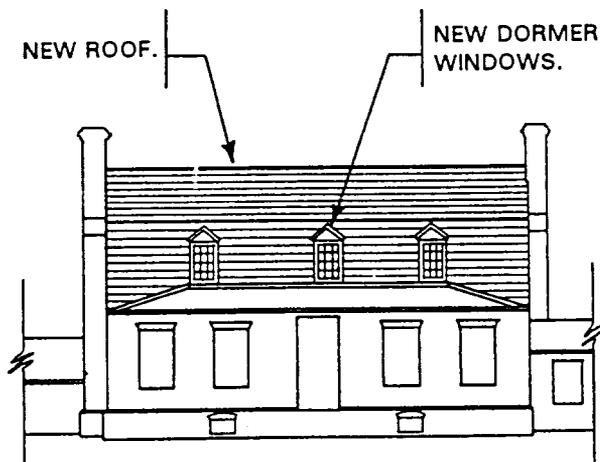
The Thomas Stone House serves as a reminder of the importance of Thomas Stone's political contributions. It was while Thomas Stone was living at his Haberdeventure estate that he began his political career. Thomas Stone is most noted for his role as a signer of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Thomas Stone purchased the property known as Haberdeventure in 1770. Construction of the main house probably began in 1771 and was

most likely completed around 1772. The present-day wings of the house were added at later time periods.

In 1977, a chimney fire gutted the center block of the house, leaving only its brick walls. Recognizing the need to protect Haberdeventure, Congress authorized the creation of Thomas Stone National Historic Site in 1978. The National Park Service is currently in the process of restoring the Thomas Stone House to its mid 19th century appearance.

### PHASE I



CENTER BLOCK - NORTH SIDE

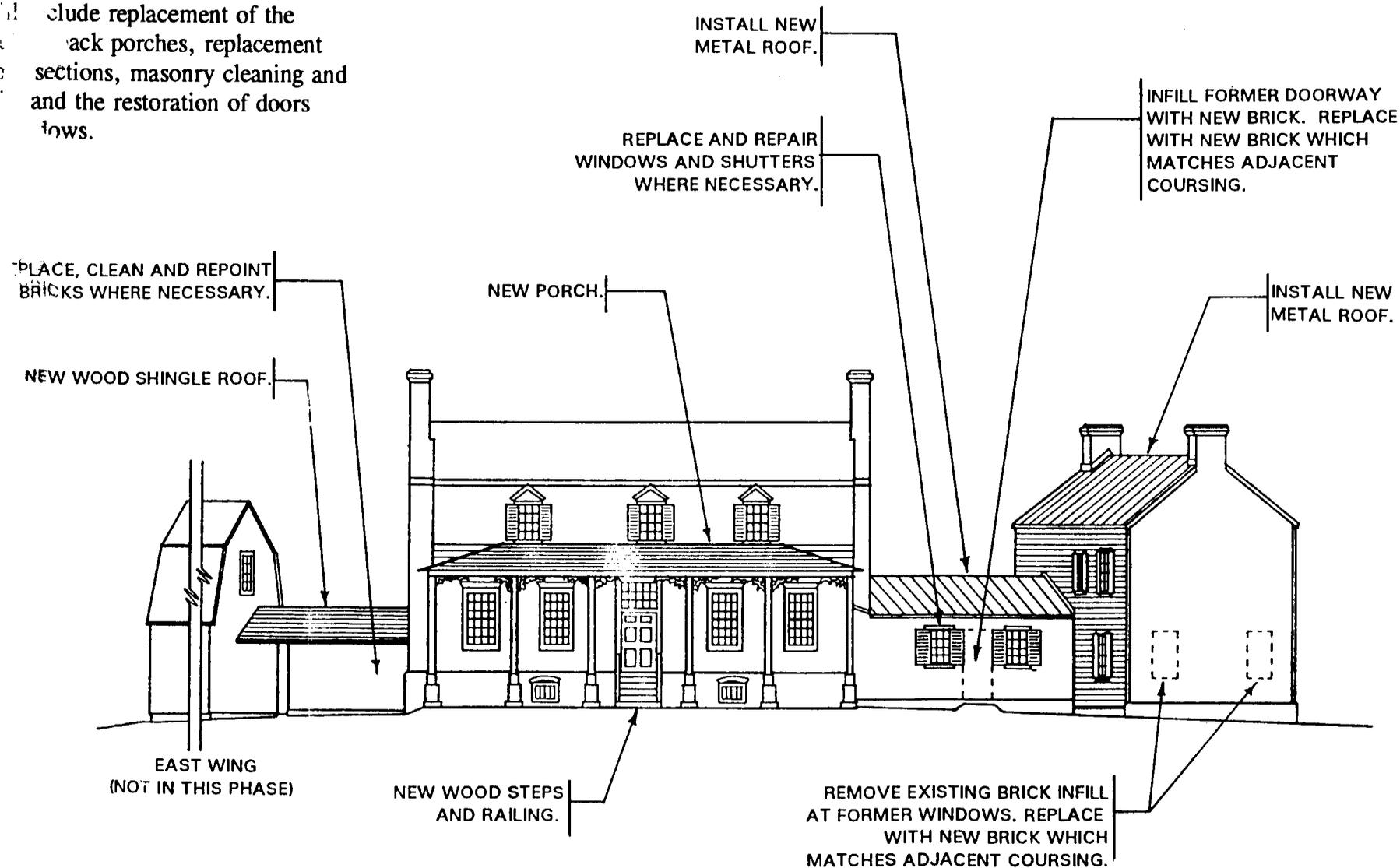
Restoration work on the Thomas Stone House will be completed in different phases over a period of several years.

Phase I construction began in 1991. Its main objective was to reconstruct the gambrel roof and dormer windows of the structure's center block. Completion of the first phase occurred early in 1992.

## SE II

II restoration is expected to begin in 1993. It will focus on the remaining exterior of the house with the exception of the east wing. Work performed during Phase II will include replacement of the back porches, replacement of window sections, masonry cleaning and the restoration of doors and shutters.

### PHASE II CONSTRUCTION FRONT OF HOUSE -- NORTH VIEW



## FUTURE RESTORATION

Once exterior restoration is completed, the structure's interior will be reconstructed and turned into a visitor information center and museum.

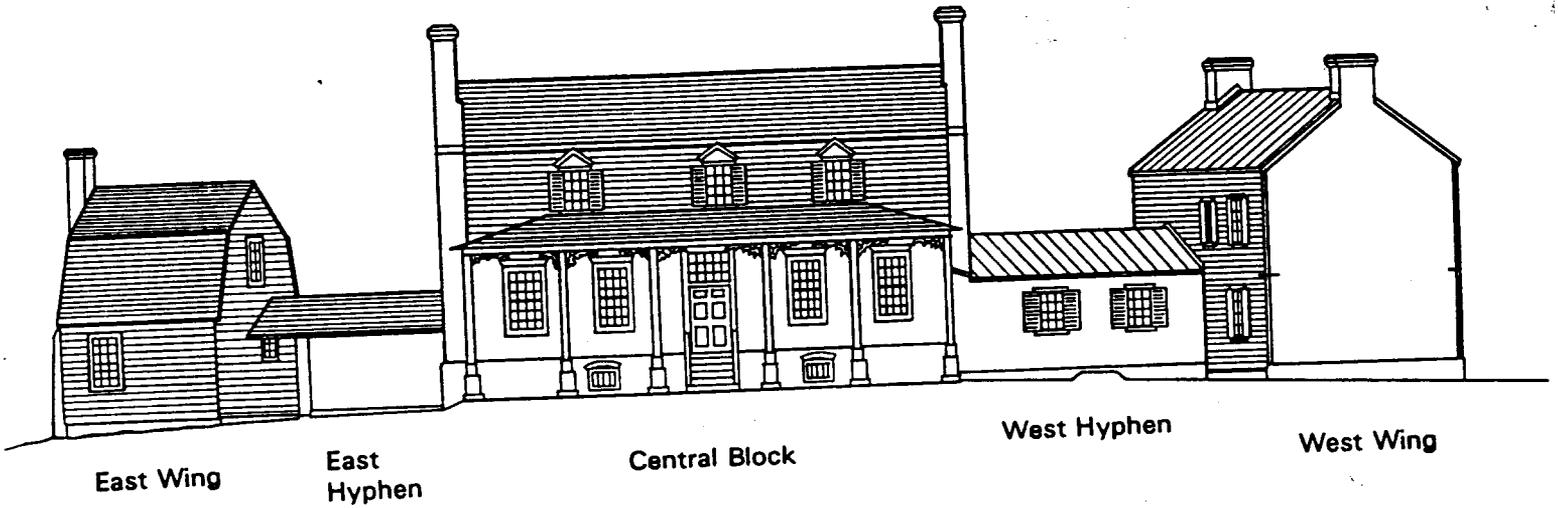
The first floor parlor will be reconstructed and furnished to resemble the eighteenth century lifestyle of Thomas Stone. Parlor reconstruction will be accomplished by replicating the original paneling purchased by the Baltimore Museum of Art in 1928.

The complete restoration of the Thomas Stone House will provide a visible link to America's past and will enable visitors to gain a better understanding of the life and career of Haberdventure's most famous owner, Thomas Stone.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

The Thomas Stone House is in the process of being restored. Uneven terrain and continuing construction make the site potentially hazardous in the area near the house. Observe all caution signs and barriers. Avoid construction zones.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES



Front of House -- North View

East Wing

A wood frame structure 1 1/2-stories high with a gambrel-roof and an external brick chimney. Much of the structure's internal

framing dates to the late 18th century. According to tradition, Thomas Stone may have used this wing as his law office.

East Hyphen

A one-story brick structure with a gable-roof. The east hyphen serves as an entryway to the basement of the central block. It is constructed at a wide obtuse

angle from the central block. The present east hyphen was probably constructed during the early to mid 19th century.

Central Block

Constructed during the early 1770's, it was the first section of the house to be completed. It is a 1 1/2-story brick structure with a gambrel-roof, dormer windows, an elevated basement, two external end chimneys, and two front and back piazzas (porches). A center hallway separated the parlor room from the dining room on the first floor. Two bedrooms were located on the second floor.

A 1977 chimney fire gutted the interior of the structure, leaving only its brick walls. Ironically, the parlor's distinctive wood paneling was saved from destruction when it was acquired by the Baltimore Museum of Art in 1928 to be used in a Colonial room exhibit. The house's parlor will be reconstructed by copying the original paneling.

West Hyphen

The one-story brick west hyphen was constructed during the late 18th century shortly after the central block was completed. Like the east hyphen, it is constructed at a wide obtuse angle from the central block.

A second story addition was built around 1928. This addition was removed after the 1977 fire and the former low-arched gable-roof was replaced.

West Wing

A two-story gable-roof structure, probably built during the 1840's. Interesting features include braced-frame sides and brick-end walls. Two internal chimneys on each end of the structure provided heat for a kitchen/laundry area on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second

An original 18th century brick foundation lies underneath the present structure. This former wing was most likely used as a kitchen and may have been destroyed by fire during the early 19th century.



1. South elevation of Main Block - shows missing front porch,  
and ~~doors~~ and windows

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Habre de Venture



2. South elevation of main Block, east and west Hyphens,  
and east and west wings.

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Habitat de Venture



3. South elevation of west Hyphen and west wing.

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Habre de Venture



4. South elevation of east Hyphen and east wing.

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Habre de Venture



5. West elevation of west wing.

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Habra de Venture



6. north elevation of west wing.

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Habre de Venture



7. north elevation of west Hyphen

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Habre de Venture



8. partial view of north elevation of west Hyphen and west elevation of main Block.

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Habre de Venture



9. North elevation of main Block

Habre de Venture

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10. North elevation of east Hyphen

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Habit de Venture



11. South elevation of east Hyphen.

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Habre de Venture



12. South elevation of west Hyphen

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HABRE DE VENTURE



13. North elevation of main Block, Hyphens, and wings

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Habra de Ventura



14. North elevations of main Block, west Hyphen, and west wing as well as west elevations of main Block and west wing.

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Habitat de Venture



C# 5

Stabre de Vulture

Charley G

NPS photo 1983



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Habre de Ventura

Charles Co

NPS photo 1983



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Habon de Ventura  
Charles County

NPS photo 1983



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Habitat de Ventura

Charles Co

NPS photo

1983



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WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

Habone de Venture

Charles Co.

NPS photo 1983



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Habone de Ventura

Charles Co

NPS photo 1983