

S-18  
 Washington Hotel  
 Princess Anne  
 public

1797, 1838

Long-standing traditions in Princess Anne have held that an ordinary or a tavern has operated at this location since the earliest years of town history. The oldest deed associated with this site, known as Lot 15, is dated, October 2, 1751, when John Bell purchased both Lot 15 and Lot 16 for forty shillings. The following March, John Bell sold Lot 15 to Henry Waggaman for seventy-four pounds. It is clear that John Bell had improved the lot to some degree for the 1752 deed states, "...which the aforesaid John Bell now dwelleth and posseseth..." However, no one can say what type or of what use the buildings were to him, other than a dwelling.

Henry Waggaman did not own Lot 15 very long for in 1755 Waggaman sold the property to John Done for one-hundred and twenty pounds. Under Done family ownership, dating between 1755 and 1797, it appears a tavern was operating by 1780 under a lease to Zadock Long, who purchased Lot 15 and its improvements in June of 1797. The Federal Assessment of 1798 provides a valuable reference that details the appearance of the tavern property at the time. The assessment lists,

1 Dwelling House 50 by 25 feet, wood, one story, in good repair, 1 Cook house 20 by 16 feet, study 18 by 12 feet, 1 Bylard house 26 by 18 feet, wood, two story not finished, 1 stable 30 by 28 feet, 1 milk house 10 feet square.

This description of Lot 15 offers several important insights about the building history of the site. The single-story fifty by twenty-five foot "Dwelling House" was undoubtedly the original structure on the lot, perhaps the improvements erected by John Bell at mid century. Not uncommon for the period was the detached twenty by sixteen-foot "Cook house" and the ten-foot square milk house. Most important is the entry describing a two-story billiard house twenty-six feet long by eighteen feet deep that was still under construction at the time of the assessment. Evidently,

Zadock Long financed the construction of the northern portion of the current hotel shortly after he purchased the lot from John Done. The northern half of the hotel is appropriately finished with Federal style woodwork and assembled with wrought-iron nails. The thirty-foot by twenty-eight foot stable was a common improvement for a tavern property and the eighteen-foot by twelve-foot study must have stood independently as well.

Zadock Long continued to own the tavern until his death in 1838, when the property passed to his son, Edward H. C. Long. After Zadock's death in February, Edward proceeded to rework the tavern with the replacement of the old Bell house. In place of the story-and-a-half eighteenth-century dwelling, a two-and-a-half story addition was erected which followed the roofline established by the 1797 structure. When the 1838 addition was attached to the billiard house, the old gable end attic windows and exterior weatherboards were covered over, and they still remain exposed within the attic.

Soon after the improvements were completed, Edward Long advertised the tavern in the Somerset Herald on August 13, 1839,

The Subscriber offers for Lease...His Valuable TAVERN Establishment with its recent and extensive improvements, situated in the centre of Princess-Anne and adjacent to the Court House and Public Offices, in Somerset County. The main building and outhouses are in complete order, having been this past year rebuilt and repaired, and will be found equal, if not superior to any on the Eastern Shore.

The site of the present buildings has been occupied and known as a Tavern Establishment for more than seventy years and it is believed, that to an enterprising and efficient Innkeeper peculiar facilities are now presented to justify the investment of capital.

Edward Long

Edward and his wife, Aurelia, transferred the hotel to Henry E. L. Morris in February of 1856, but the Morris's ownership was short-lived. Although the Morris~~s~~ owned the property for slightly less than two years, they made long-lasting changes. It appears from the records that Henry and his, wife, Margaret, were the first to name the hotel after George Washington, and they were also responsible for erecting the single-story brick stable that remains behind the main building. In April of 1869, the hotel property was purchased by William P. Rider, innkeeper, who managed the establishment for most of the following twenty-eight years. Most recently, the Washington Hotel has been managed by the Murphy family, who purchased it in 1956.

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Form 10-445  
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1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Somerset TOWN Somerset VICINITY 5-18 STREET NO. Princess Anne Somerset Avenue ORIGINAL OWNER Judge John Dome ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Washington Hotel PRESENT USE Hotel WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS INVENTORY	
		2. NAME Washington Hotel DATE OR PERIOD 1744-1775 STYLE Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes	
<p>This 2 1/2 storey colonial structure with its steeply pitched g-roof was originally the private home of Judge John Dome. He leased it to Zadock Long who opened it as a tavern and it has been one ever since. The building is 6 bays long with 2 doors on the front. The first storey windows are 9/6, the second storey ones are 6/6. There are twin exterior chimneys on the right end of the building. There are 4 corners on the roof. A c. 1880 porch runs the length of the building at the first storey level. There is a 2 bay 3 storey flat roofed Italianate tower addition c. 1840 at the left of the main building.</p> <p>The interior of the Washington Hotel preserves much of its old panelling and its separate ladies' and gentlemen's staircases. It has much old furniture including some very interesting Victorian pieces.</p> <p>An old sheepskin ledger is preserved and this keeps the accounts of the early days of the hotel.</p> <p>The Washington Hotel is still in use and is well-maintained. Its Victorian additions and alterations only make it a more pleasing structure.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		Endangered Interior Exterior	
Excellent			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul W. Brinkman 1/8/07 DATE OF RECORD	

PHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PH



S-18 Washington Hotel

Photographed by  
DANIEL C. CHURCH

