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)

MHT CE-129

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Cecil
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Rodgers Tavern
AND/OR HISTORIC: Stevenson's Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Perryville
STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24 | COUNTY: Cecil | CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☒ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities
STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Hampton National Historic Site
CITY OR TOWN: Towson 4 | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Cecil County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Elkton | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust
STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

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

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(If known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rodgers Tavern is located in Perryville, Maryland, on the north side of West Main Street (Maryland Route 7) which parallels and is south of U. S. Route 40.

Rodgers Tavern is a mid-eighteenth-century, two-story stone structure. The south facade is laid in regular stone blocks whereas the other three sides are irregular. Its basement is at ground level on south side only. The main floor is accessible by a set of steps located on the east side of a porch extending across the south facade. The 1970 appearance dates from its restoration about 1960. The facade of the building has five openings on each story, the center one being an entrance door to the basement and first story, and the third blocked up. The main door is a pair of separate doors, which date from the 1880's when the Pennsylvania Railroad made this a double house. Windows on the first and second stories have six over six sash and wide frames. The east and west gables have two windows at each level. The cornice of the low-pitched "A" roof continues on all sides, making pent eaves on the gables. Two, four over four sash windows flank the chimney which is built of brick above the ridge of the roof. Off the west half of the north facade an earlier one-story wing may be traced. When the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities acquired the property in 1956, a two-story wing had been built across the entire north facade. It has since been demolished.

The interior of the house was originally divided into a "great room" and parlor in the south half, and two small rooms with a stair hall between in the north half. All rooms have corner fireplaces. In the 1880's the house was divided into two halves, east and west, the original stair was replaced by two steep enclosed stairs and the "great room" made equal in size to the southeast parlor.

The southeast parlor is an original room, retaining its raised panel chimney-breast, bold cornice, three-piece chair rail and original windows and door trim. Apparently, it was the most elaborate of all the rooms. In the parlor fireplace an iron fireback bears the date "1771".

Other rooms retain some original window and door trim and chair rail.

On the second story, only, the northwest room and the southeast room have corner fireplaces, the latter retaining its original trim (without mantel shelf). These rooms were plainer than those of the first story. Tradition says that General Washington used the northeast bedroom; Lafayette used the southwest room. Most of the attic is sheathed with wide boards, covered with many coats of whitewash.

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)* mid-eighteenth century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☒ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry		
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Science	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art		☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Commerce	☐ Literature		
☒ Communications	☒ Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☒ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rodgers Tavern is of national importance due to the frequent visits of George Washington between the years 1775-1798.

Colonel John Rodgers II (1728-1791), the owner during most of Washington's visits, was the progenitor of the Rodgers family which distinguished itself in the formation and growth of the United States Navy. Also the visits of distinguished persons, namely Martha Washington, Lafayette, Rochambeau and others, make the hostelry of prime importance, and one of the remaining hostelries used by eighteenth and nineteenth century travelers.

Prior to John Rodgers' purchase of the tavern in 1780, it was operated by William Stevenson. George Washington's diary of May 7, 1775 mentions having "dined at Rogers and lodged at Stevenson's". John Rodgers already had established a tavern in Havre de Grace and a ferry across the Susquehanna River between Havre de Grace and the spot where Stevenson operated his tavern. George Washington's next stop was a year after John Rodgers had bought "Mr. Stevenson's Tavern". Rodgers at that time was operating two taverns and the ferry between. After Rodgers' death in 1791 his widow operated the taverns. Between 1775 and 1798, George Washington mentions having stopped at the Susquehanna River over thirty times, to dine or lodge.

Commodore John Rodgers (1772-1839), Colonel Rodgers oldest son, distinguished himself in the War of 1812. His son, George Washington Rodgers, became a Commodore in the Navy.

In 1956, the Pennsylvania Railroad deeded the tavern to the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities. Since that time, the Friends of Rodgers Tavern and the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities have raised enough funds to restore the exterior of the building and guaranty its preservation. Their objective is to completely restore the building and to open it to the public as a Museum, with one room dedicated to Washington memorabilia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, P. O. Box 1704, Annapolis, Maryland 21404.

Cornelia Meigs, Rodgers Tavern and Its Historian, typescript, files of the Maryland Historical Trust, 1963.

John Fitzpatrick, Diaries of George Washington, 4 vols., Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1925.

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"	39	33	75	76	04	43
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust
DATE: Aug. 21, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 [X] State [X] Local [X]

Name Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Rodgers Tavern

#9. REFERENCES continued

Charles Oscar Paullin, Life of Commodore John Rodgers, Cleveland, Ohio: Arthur Clark and Co., n.d.

George Johnston, History of Cecil County, Elkton, Maryland: n.p., 1881.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Maryland	
COUNTY: Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CE-129 AHT

1. NAME

COMMON: Rodgers Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC: Stevenson's Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Perryville

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Cecil	015

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Bourne for the Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF PHOTO: January 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Ave.,Annapolis, Md. 21404

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

South and East facades

MHT CE-129

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Rodgers Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC: Stevenson's Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Perryville

STATE:	COOE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Cecil	015

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map, Havre de Grace, Maryland, Quadrangle

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUOED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundories where required.
2. North orrow.
3. Lotitude ond longitude reference.

HAVRE DE GRACE QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)
scale: 1: 24 000
1953
Frenchtown
Aikin
Quarry
Gasoline
Perryville High Sch
Garrett Island
Radio Tower
Reservoir
Mt Erin Cem
Perryville
Bridge
Toll
CECIL CO
HARFORD CO
RIVER
RODGERS TAVERN
Substation
LAT. 39° 34' 15"
LONG. 76° 04' 43"
Perry Point
U S VETERANS HOSPITAL
Water
PENNSYLVANIA
POST
CHAPEL RD
LEVEL ROAD
HIGHWAY
ERIE ST
Gasoline
BM
R R Sta
P O
High Sch
City Hall
BOURBON ST
UNION AVE
MARKET ST
REVOLUTION ST
Memorial Hospital
HAVRE DE GRACE
Concord Pt Lighthouse
GILES ST
Bay Side Park
SENECA AVE
GENERAL BALTIMORE
PULASKI
2 LANE
Osborne
N
BEL AIR 13 MI.
EARLTON 1.5 MI.
5763 II SW (ABERDEEN)
2.5 MI. TO MD. 462
32'30"

CE-129

Easement 0801234226

Form 10-445
(5-62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Cecil
TOWN VICINITY
STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER Soc. for Pres. of Md. Antiquities
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION stone
NO. OF STORIES 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY CE-129

2. NAME Rogers Tavern

DATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

The two story stone Rogers Tavern was an important stopping place on the east bank of the Susquehanna River, for travelers who had to wait for the ferry service which made the river crossing. The tavern was purchased by John Rogers in 1780. It had been operated by William Stephenson, possibly as early as 1745. Rogers' son was Commodore John Rodgers (1771-1838) who won renown in the War of 1812 as a naval hero and was Secretary of the Navy in 1823.

The tavern was host to George Washington who lodged here May 6, 1775. Washington records other stops on April 15, 1795 and April 30, 1795. Again in September 8, 1795 traveling from Mt. Vernon to Philadelphia, Washington's diary records that he "dined at Mrs. Rogers' Susesquehanna ..." John Rodgers had died in 1791 and the place was carred on by his widow.

Now owned by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities and is being restored by the "Friend of Rogers Tavern."

The taproom was located in the basement where great stone arches in the corners support the fireplaces and chimneys above. A colonnade across the front of the basement supports a white pilliared porch across the front of the building. There is a center door, flanked by two bays of windows.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH Color: 3172-73

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Meigs, Cornelia
"History of Rogers Tavern"
Published by "Friends of Rogers Tavern"
Perryville, Md. May 12, 1963

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

location Easement

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Cecil County
TOWN Perryville VICINITY Perryville
STREET NO. [redacted]

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE Tavern
PRESENT OWNER Society for Preservation of Maryland Antiquities
PRESENT USE vacant
WALL CONSTRUCTION stone
NO. OF STORIES 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
~~CE-129~~ INVENTORY CE-129

2. NAME Rodger's Tavern

DATE OR PERIOD mid 18th Century
STYLE Colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

Rodger's Tavern is a mid-eighteenth-century stone building which hosted many well known travelers, among them ~~being~~ George Washington. It is two stories high and the basement forms another ~~another~~ story on the south facade. The double central doors of the first floor are reached ~~by~~ from a one-story porch. It is five bays long on the south and three bays long on the north. It is two bays deep and the chimneys are within the gables, servicing corner fireplaces. The south facade has a stepped water table; and a plain wood cornice encircles the house, forming pent eaves on the gables. There are two four-pane casement windows in the attic of each gable.

The Tavern is presently being restored by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities.

More source?

See History of Rodgers Tavern - files

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior fair Exterior fair

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH Color 3172

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD April 17, 1968

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

CE-129

RODGERS TAVERN

PERRYVILLE, MD

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1770

CE-129

Remember the D
(Washington did not!)

Rodgers Tavern
Perryville

#33 NOV 3 0 1984

Photograph by
George Hipkins
Port Deposit, Md. 21904

CE-129

Rodgers tavern
Perryville

#32 NOV 3 0 1984

Photograph by
Port Dep

CE-129

ALEXANDER SITE
ELKTON MD.

4