

Thomas Rutland House (Peggy Stewart House)
207 Hanover Street
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-278

HABS
MD,
2-ANNA,
15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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MD,
2-ANNA, 15-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Maryland	COUNTY Anne Arundel	TOWN OR VICINITY Annapolis
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Thomas Rutland House		HABS NO. MD-278
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Peggy Stewart House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 207 Hanover Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) c. 1764	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The home of Anthony Stewart, an Annapolis merchant, who was forced by patriots to burn his brigantine the "Peggy Stewart" because he had paid the tea tax on his cargo. The home of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, president (cont'd p.2).		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Georgian		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick; all header bond on front facade and English bond on the ends. The foundations are of rubble with galleting in the joints, brick quoning and brick top courses.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular with modern ell; 30' x 50', two and one-half stories over raised basement.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Hipped roof with balustraded deck, interior end chimneys, gabled dormers, end central projecting pavilions with oculus in pediments, front central entrance with transom and pedimented porch, brick string course on front facade.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1894 Gabled roof replaced by hipped roof; chimneys rebuilt to conform to altered roof; balustrade added.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Private residence		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE See data p.2, under heading <u>HISTORICAL INFORMATION</u>		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Hall of Records, Hayman Collection of Annapolis Photographs Hall of Records, Forbes Collection of Annapolis Photographs (Cont'd p. 2)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS, Historian	DATE 3/6/84	

SIGNIFICANCE

of the first Maryland Senate, signer of the Constitution. The home of Thomas Stone, one of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence, Constitutional Congress delegate and State Senator.

Historical Information

1. Original and subsequent owners:

The Peggy Stewart House was built by Thomas Rutland sometime between 1761, when he acquired Lot I on Stoddert's 1718 survey, and 1764, when he leased lot and house thereon to William Thomas. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer bought it from Rutland in 1772, and sold it the same year to Anthony Stewart.¹ The name dates from Stewart's occupancy. On October 19, 1774, Anthony Stewart was forced by his fellow citizens to burn his brigantine "Peggy Stewart", named for his daughter, because he had paid the hated tea tax on her cargo. Mr. Stewart subsequently fled to England and, in 1779, Mrs. Stewart re-sold the house to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer.²

Jenifer was one of the most important men in the influential Province of Maryland before the Revolution and in the later events leading to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States in Philadelphia in 1787. He first served on the Provincial Council under Sir Robert Eden, last colonial governor of Maryland. When the Maryland Convention met to establish a new state government under the Council of Safety, Jenifer was chosen its presiding officer.

In 1777 he was elected president of the first Maryland Senate and in 1780, elected to represent Maryland at the Congress in Philadelphia. He was invited by George Washington to meet with the other representatives from Maryland and Virginia at Mt. Vernon to discuss commercial matters of mutual interest. This meeting was adjourned, to be continued at the Annapolis Convention. The scope of the negotiations was enlarged to include the disposition of the new lands to the west.

The Annapolis Convention in turn adjourned to Philadelphia where the idea of a union of the colonies crystalized and the first Constitution of the United States was drawn up for presentation to each state for ratification. Maryland delayed ratification, under Jenifer's leadership, until a further provision was made that new lands should be developed as Federal territories and later admitted as states. With this included, Jenifer, as one of five Maryland deputies, signed the Constitution in Philadelphia.

For many years, Jenifer was Intendant of Revenue for Maryland, collecting revenue, taxes and duties which were disbursed through the Office of Treasurer of the Western Shore. Early in his career, he recognized the genius of young Charles Willson Peale and helped financially to send him to England to study under Benjamin West.

Thomas Stone, one of Maryland's four Signers, bought the Peggy Stewart House in 1783.³ The continuing illness of his wife forced him to decline a nomination to Congress, but he served at this time in the Maryland Senate. He later went to Congress and worked on preparations for the Philadelphia Convention of 1786. He died the following year, title to his house passing to his heirs, who sold it to Thomas Harwood, Treasurer of the Western Shore, in 1801. Harwood also served as Continental Receiver General for Maryland under the Articles of Confederation and as a member of the Council of Safety. His son, General Richard Harwood, inherited the house where he lived with his wife, Sarah Callahan, grand-daughter of William Buckland, designer of the Hammond-Harwood House.⁴

Upon the death of General Harwood, his estate, including the great brick mansion, was put up for sale, and the notice which appeared in the Maryland Gazette describes the dwelling as having "twelve spacious rooms, eight with fireplaces, dry cellars, newly paved, five acres of grounds, a carriage house, smoke house, dairy, wash houses, an excellent pump, a garden planted with choice fruit and shrubbery, all in excellent repair."⁹

Robert Welch of Ben, High Sheriff of Anne Arundel County, followed by his son Charles were the next owners. It was Welch who subdivided the tracts H, I, B, all lying within the three blocks aforementioned. Mathias Freean purchased 195 Hanover Street in which he then lived in 1856.⁵ This shows evidence of construction in the early Federal period.

The new lots at 197 and 199 Hanover Street were sold to Hugh McCusker in 1864.⁶ The properties known as 201, 203, and 205 Hanover were a range of two duplex and one single dwelling with a total frontage of 113', which belonged to the estate of George Heath in 1884.⁷ On the rear cornice of the single dwelling is inscribed the date 1859. This is a rare example of the use tabby mortar, a building material composed of burned oyster shell, lime and broken oyster shell aggregate. Walls of this mixture were then finished with stucco. Charles Welch also sold lots at 211 and 213 Hanover to Professor Edward Roget, who founded the Department of Foreign Languages at the Naval Academy.⁸

The small dwelling at No. 201, residence of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin G. Weil, is likewise of tabby and was a portion of the larger lot, possibly a dependency that was converted for separate occupancy.

The Peggy Stewart House itself was next purchased by Thomas Gaither of Howard County for his daughter, Georgiana Balliere, in 1894. Gaither remodelled the original house, altering the roof design from gable to hip and rebuilding the chimneys to conform to the changed line. The "Captain's Walk" was added at this time. Like many who have made extensive restorations, he said he "erected" the house "on the former site of the Peggy Stewart House". However, since the house remained in its earliest condition except for his changes, most historians agree that his comment was more wry than exact.

Mrs. Balliere sold the house to Judge Ridgely P. Melvin of the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County and former Senator in the General Assembly. The next occupants were the Anne Arundel County Board of Education from whom it was bought in 1952, by Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierre Bernard. Mr. Bernard, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, is president of The Annapolis Banking and Trust Company. The house is of all-header bond brick with a projecting belt course. The masonry foundations are studded with decorative "garnets" all characteristic of the Annapolis style. It has been featured many times on Historic Annapolis' tours and on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage.

1. Provincial Court Deeds, Liber D.D. 5, Folio 335.
2. Anne Arundel County Deeds, Liber N.H. 1, Folio 85.
3. Anne Arundel County Deeds, Liber N.H. 11, Folio 295.
4. Anne Arundel County, Chancery Case #6058.
5. Anne Arundel County Deeds, Liber N.H.G. 5, Folio 630.
6. Anne Arundel County Deeds, Liber S.H. 3, Folio 197.
7. Equity Case #4924, Anne Arundel County, 1924.
8. Anne Arundel County Deeds, Liber S.H. 10, Folio 375
9. The Maryland Gazette, February 9, 1837.

Reference taken from "Three Blocks of Annapolis", Pages 2 to 4,
Published by Historic Annapolis, Inc. 1963.