

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE, DIRECTOR'S RESIDENCE
(Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building ~~No.~~ A)
Tome School for Boys Historic District
Tome Road
Port Deposit vicinity
Cecil County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1110-B

HABS
MD
8-PODEPN,
1B-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE, DIRECTOR'S RESIDENCE
(Tome House; Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building A)

HABS
MD
8-PODEFV,
IB-

HABS No. MD-1110-B

Location: Tome School for Boys Historic District
Tome Road at Ariza Road
Port Deposit vic.
Cecil County
Maryland

Significance: As the residence of the directors of the Tome School for Boys, the house was at the social and management core of school life. Architecturally, it is a fine, formal example of a Georgian Revival mansion designed by the nationally prominent architects Boring and Tilton. Early in the Navy period, 1943, it served as the residence of the Commandant of the Bainbridge Naval Training Station.

Description: Sited at the edge of a bluff overlooking Port Deposit and the Susquehanna River, the house is two-and-a-half-stories in height, with a five-bay front plus a three-bay porch on the east (left) side and a lower two-and-a-half-story, three-bay wing on the west (right) side. The principal architectural features are large, two-story Tuscan porticos with a horizontal entablature with a scroll modillion and dental cornice on the front and back of the house. The walls are of Port Deposit granite, laid in a random ashlar, accented by some small stones projecting with a rock-faced finish, with Indiana limestone ashlar quoins at the corners and for sills and lintels. Within the portico is a double door with an elliptical transom projecting from the wall and, over it, a railing for a second-story balcony. Rectangular windows within the portico flank the doors. To each side are large, double, sash windows with solid elliptical panels over the windows. On each side on the upper floors are double windows with flat lintels. The pattern of the windows is repeated on the rear. The west wing has smaller single windows. They are now boarded up.

The east porch is unusually large, three bays wide and four bays deep, with simple Tuscan columns, a flat roof with a dentil cornice, and flagstone floor with ashlar stone edging. The deck-on-hip roof is in slate but now under protective plastic. There is a frame, three-window dormer under a broad gable in the center of the portico, with pilasters and with cheeks and face of slate, and a smaller gabled dormer repeated on the rear. On both, the center window is arched. Large gable dormers flank it, also with pilasters and slate cheeks repeated on the rear and two on each end. The west wing has three pedimented dormers partly within the wall and partly above it, on front and back sides. Two uncovered windows are six-over-six-light, double-hung wood sash, which was probably the most common window type for the building.

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE, DIRECTOR'S RESIDENCE
(Tome House; Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building A)
HABS No. MD-1110-B, page 2

The interior is not available for inspection, but from a window where the covering has been removed, it appears to have fine molded trim and baseboards, plaster walls, narrow board flooring, pocket doors between the major rooms, and pilastered Federal-style fireplace mantels. Adjoining is a modern, two-car, frame, gable-roofed garage with overhead doors. The Navy building number, "19", is painted on them.

The house and garage are in a deteriorated condition, especially the exterior woodwork.

History: The house is part of the original campus plan of 1900 by Boring and Tilton with landscape architect Edward W. Leavitt, Jr. It was one of the early buildings put under construction, and it is remarkable that such an effort was made to build a mansion for the director. Probably it was related to the school's desire--and need--to attract and keep a prominent director. It was built in 1900-02, with Boring and Tilton serving as architects and Herman Probst as contractor. There is at least one reference to housing students here as well, part of the school's intention for younger boarders. Unlike most major Tome buildings, there is no indication that it was ever named for an American president.

By the early 1920s it was called the Tome House in honor of the school's founder. During the Navy period, it served initially as the commanding officer's residence and later as officers' quarters. At one point it was a barracks for WAVE officers. No significant alterations to the house have been observed.

Sources: Minutes, Tome School Board of Trustees
Tome School Prospective and Catalogs, The Tome, and related publications
National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Tome School Historic District
Old Photographs at New Tome School, Northwest, Maryland

Prepared by: James C. Massey, Massey Maxwell Associates, under contract to HABS-HAER, National Park Service, Washington Office