

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE, JACKSON HALL  
(Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building No. 3)  
Tome School for Boys Historic District  
Tome Road  
Port Deposit vicinity  
Cecil County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1110-C

HABS  
MD  
8-PODEP.V,  
IC-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
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Location: Jacob Tome School for Boys Historic District  
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Significance: Jackson House, the second dormitory built on the Tome School campus, was erected 1902-03 from Boring and Tilton's and Leavitt's master plan. Although architecturally similar to Boring and Tilton's Georgian work, it was designed by the Philadelphia firm of Newman and Harris. In the Navy period it was used for officers' quarters and later for NAPS students.

Description: This is a large, three-story dormitory, 135' x 34', with an eleven bay front and three-bay depth. It is built in Port Deposit granite laid in a random ashlar pattern, with Indiana ashlar limestone at the corners and on pilasters in the three center bays, slightly projecting for emphasis. This center section is richly embellished with a pediment of pilasters and decorative ornament. There is a similar three-bay projecting section and pediment on the rear. There is a gabled roof, no dormers but a modillion cornice. The original roof may have been slate. The roof is topped by one exterior chimney on the ridge. The windows are six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash with limestone flat arches. They originally had shutters, now gone. The windows are boarded up. Some were destroyed in a recent fire and are left open. The sides had three windows to each floor. There is a limestone water table and third-floor string course. Modern steel fire escapes, added by the Navy, are now badly deteriorated. The basement story is fully exposed in the rear by the sloping ground and in the front by wells on each side of the broad platform from the front entrance to the street, extending the width of the center projection. There is a granite railing with limestone coping. The platform was rebuilt in the Job Corps era. The entrance is a single door with a limestone surround and a broken segmental pediment above the architrave. Above it, the second-floor window has a limestone surround, flat-arch lintel, and triangular pediment. All three third-floor windows have molded surrounds. To the side of the door is a narrow window, with a tall narrow window above it on each side.

The four narrow windows have flat limestone arches. Most ornament, window lintels, water table and stringcourses, and pilasters are limestone.

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The fancy work--pilaster capitals, third-floor window frames, elaborate swags between the narrow windows, and pediment bulls-eye window with wreaths--is in terra cotta, closely matching the limestone. The pediment tympanum is random ashlar granite, like the walls. The modillion and dentil cornice is in wood.

A serious fire in 1987 burned the roof and most of the cornice, and there is a temporary corrugated-metal roof and end gable in place. The immediate grounds and interior are not accessible. The original building had 53 private rooms for boys, 11' x 41', with two closets. There were three suites for masters, plus rooms for the housekeepers and nurse. There was a photo darkroom and storerooms. The boys shared five bathrooms, finished in glazed brick and terrazzo floors. The entrance hall, two stories high, served as an informal lounge, with fireplace and wainscoting. The contractor was Joseph Seeds of Philadelphia. The final cost was \$80,934.

History:

Jackson House was one of the buildings provided for in the 1900 Boring and Tilton master plan with landscape architect, Charles W. Leavitt, Jr. It was built in 1902-03 from designs by the Philadelphia firm of Newman and Harris. Like most major Tome buildings except Memorial Hall, this one was named for an American president--in this case, Andrew Jackson--a gesture intended to inspire and motivate the students. Although Newman and Harris had earlier designed a series of Tome master's cottages, this was the first major building following the dismissal of Boring and Tilton in a dispute, the cause of which is not revealed in the Board of Trustees minutes. However, it followed the departure of Tome Institute's director James Cameron Mackenzie and the arrival of Headmaster Abram Weingardner Harris. Both Harris were from Philadelphia, but there is no record of any connection between them. However, both were graduates of Friends Schools, and both had worked at the University of Maine prior to Tome. Certainly they knew each other. After the Navy acquired Tome School for use as the Bainbridge Training Center in 1942, Jackson House was used as officers' quarters. Following the Navy's departure, while the Bainbridge property was leased to the Job Corps, the house was badly damaged by fire in 1989. Now unoccupied, Jackson House is presently owned by the Bainbridge Development Corporation.

Sources:

Tome Institute Board of Trustees Minutes  
Hogue, The Tome Institute and Its Schools  
National Register of Historic Places nomination form: The Tome School  
Historic District

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Tome School Prospectus, Catalogs, and similar publications  
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