

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE HARRISON HALL
(Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building No. 4)
Tome School for Boys Historic District
Tome Road
Port Deposit vicinity
Cecil County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1110-D

HABS
MD
8-PODEP.V,
1D-

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, HARRISON HOUSE
(Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building No. 4)

HABS
MD
8-PODEP-V,
ID-

HABS No. 1110-D

Location: Tome School
Skinner Road
Port Deposit vicinity
Cecil County
Maryland

Significance: This dormitory was erected 1905 in a design by Wyatt and Nolting to Boring and Tilton's and Leavitt's master plan. It is markedly different from the other early buildings in design, with its rooftop of arched-head dormers giving it a distinctive architectural presence.

Description: This is a three-story, 135' x 34', thirteen-bay front and three bays-deep, rectangular stone structure. It is constructed of Port Deposit granite laid in random ashlar bond, with ashlar limestone quoins at the corners and marking the two slightly projecting end bays. The pilaster capitals cornice, flat window arches with keystones, and ground-floor watertable are mixed terra cotta, wood, and tin. The front entrance is marked by a well-detailed Doric frame porch three bays wide and one deep with a brick and tile floor. With the sharp slope to the rear, the basement is a full story. On the front facade the basement is exposed in wells beside the entrance porch. The front door is a double door with an elliptical arch-head transom. Some windows in the ends have modern exhaust fans and modern spotlights. One exposed sash is six lights of a six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash; probably this is the standard window. On the east and west facades are modern steel fire escapes, with doors at each level constructed in the Navy period. On the rear is a large, modern, freestanding metal stack, such as is found on other major buildings.

The interior was inaccessible. Windows and doors are boarded up. In the entry is a plaque with the name of the building, architect and contractor, and date of construction.

The roof is a deck-on-hip behind a stone coping and parapet, with a continuous line of low arch-head dormer windows that are half set in the walls and half projecting above it. There is a thin terra-cotta coping on the dormers and parapet between them and the top cornice at the deck is molded and built of sheet metal. The top of the building is a curious amalgam of materials--wood, tin, slate, stone, and terra cotta. The original

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design called for terra-cotta cornices; wood was substituted to cut costs. The roof is slate. The contractor was Henry Smith and Son of Baltimore. The plaque mentioned above cites the cost as \$53,980, but the contract award was \$56,980. Perhaps the wood substitutions mentioned above reduced the cost. The plaque cites ground breaking on November 22, 1902, but the construction contract was not awarded until February 15, 1902. Perhaps it was a ceremonial groundbreaking.

History:

Erected in 1905, this large, three-story dormitory is cast in a different mold than the several severely correct Georgian Revival buildings by Boring and Tilton, Tome School's original architects. True to Beaux-Arts principles, however, it reinterprets the past in a thoroughly new way. This design by Baltimore architects Wyatt and Nolting departs from the pure Georgian style of Newman and Harris's Jackson House dormitory for a more creative approach. Like most Tome buildings, Harrison House was named for an American president--in this case, either William Henry Harrison or Benjamin Harrison--probably to inspire and motivate students. In the Tome period Harrison House was used to house fifty-three older boys in single rooms; it was used by the Navy as officers' quarters and for Naval Academy Preparatory School students. Now unoccupied, the building 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: Tome School
Historic District
Tome School Prospectus, Catalogs, and similar publications
Old photographs at Tome School, Northeast, Maryland

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