

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE, TOME INN
(Jacob Tome Institute, Van Buren Hall
Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building No. 2)
Tome School for Boys Historic District
Tome Road
Port Deposit vicinity
Cecil County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1110-F

HABS
MD
8-PODEP.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
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Location: Jacob Tome School for Boys Historic District
Skinner Road at Tome Road
Port Deposit vicinity
Cecil County
Maryland

Significance: The first building completed at the new hill campus of the Tome School for Boys, the Tome Inn served as a hotel with dining facilities for guests and visitors and was consequently designed in a manner less formal and more befitting a country inn. It was also used as a dormitory and dining hall for the school.

Description: Architecturally, the Tome Inn is unlike the other buildings for the original Boring and Tilton campus design. It is of frame construction on a stone base, shingled, and relatively informal in appearance, as befitting its partial function as a country inn. The building is three stories high, with a two-story rear (south) addition. The ground level is in Port Deposit granite laid in random ashlar pattern. The upper stories are frame with shingled walls and asphalt shingles on the hipped roofs. The original roof may have been shingled. The building is dumbbell-shaped, with larger projecting wings and a narrower central portion. On the right, or west, side a slightly smaller, three-story, hip-roofed wing is connected at the first and second stories. On the east and west are one-story porches with Tuscan columns and a large porte-cochere on the front center. Both balustrades are missing. The third-floor front is a continuous recessed balcony. There is a broad band between the first- and second- and the second- and third-floor levels, and a very deep projecting modillion and dentil cornice, rather Italianate in appearance. The left front has a basement well, extending around the east end, the left side continues the well to provide basement-level service access. An iron railing extends around the cutaway.

The flat-roofed porte-cochere is supported by stone corner piers with wood Tuscan columns. The balustrade is missing.

The windows and doors have been boarded over. The first-floor center entrance was a double door. First-floor windows have original iron grates, with a decorative central motif matching those on Memorial Hall. These windows are generally six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash. Balcony railings are mostly missing; surviving parts show turned balusters. There is a modern, Navy-period steel stair at the southwest corner.

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Five years after the completion of the Inn the rear addition for enlarged dining facilities was planned. It was to be placed across the rear of the inn (east-west) and would have a large principal story and an exposed basement story. Thus it covered the facade shown in the 1900 rendering published in Tome literature, which shows the original porch facade, like the north front except for a porch with balustrade that extended across the south side, with two semicircular projecting sections. Glazed double front doors opened from the inn to the porch, which provided a view over the Susquehanna River.

The new addition removed the porch but did not disturb the second and third floors. The new section, also in Port Deposit granite in random-laid ashlar, with ashlar limestone quoins and lintels and sills, was designed by Wyatt and Nolting, architects, of Baltimore, in a formal style, reminiscent of their Tome School swimming pool building, which had just been completed. The addition was completed in 1906.

The new wing had a low, gabled roof, and six sash in a large opening with an arched transom and skylights, all now covered over at the west. The kitchen facilities were in a plain, two-story section at the east. Part of the arched windows on the east matching those on the west is covered by the farther two-story kitchen wing, raising questions about whether it was a later addition to the new dining room.

The building is now in a very deteriorated condition. The interior is not accessible.

History

Constructed 1900-1901 to a design by Boring and Tilton, with an addition in 1906 by Wyatt and Nolting, Tome Inn was part of the original Boring and Tilton design for the school, with landscape architect Charles W. Leavitt, Jr. Originally to be called the Chesapeake Inn, it was renamed Van Buren Hall in 1903, when Tome School's main buildings were formally christened with the names of American presidents. It later was called Tome Inn. The inn opened in 1901, the first building to be completed on the campus, and it was soon used as the school dining hall, with Monroe Hall, which was originally intended to be the dining hall, going into service as the gymnasium. Periodically, some students were also housed at the inn, and at one point at least, most rooms were assigned to students and faculty. The expanded food service severely overloaded the capacity of the inn, hence the 1905-06 addition on the south rear by architects Wyatt and Nolting. The end wall design of the dining room and kitchen is very similar in concept to the end walls of the Monroe Swimming Pool building of the same year. The contractors were Herman Probst of New York for the inn and Henry Smith for the

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addition. The original portion of the inn cost \$38,658. Unexplained is the fact that the inn apparently went under construction before the competition for the school design, in which Boring and Tilton were chosen as the architects, was completed. The contract for construction was awarded on May 5, 1900, but the competition drawings were not opened until May 14. Since Boring and Tilton were paid \$1,000 for services on the inn, they must have been appointed prior to the competition.

Now vacant and not in use, the inn is owned by the Bainbridge Development Corporation.

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 Tome School, Northwest, Maryland

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