

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE, MONROE HOUSE

HABS No. MD-1110-G

(Little Theater)

(Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building No. 6)

Tome School for Boys Historic District

Tome Road

Port Deposit vicinity

Cecil County

Maryland

HABS
MD
8-PODEP.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of Interior

1849 C Street, NW

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JACOB TOME INSTITUTE, MONROE HALL

(~~Officers' Club~~; Little Theater; Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Building No. 6)

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HABS
MD
8-PODEPV,
19-

Location: Jacob Tome School for Boys Historic District
Sigsbee Road at Skinner Road
Port Deposit vicinity
Cecil County
Maryland

Significance: This finely scaled Georgian Revival building was one of the original Tome School buildings, used as a dining hall and then a gymnasium during Tome School occupancy, later as an officers' club by the Navy. All three historic portions of the building were designed by prominent architects.

Description: This one-and-one-half-story building was one of the first Tome School buildings and was altered and expanded several times by the school and by the Navy. The original portion, designed by Boring and Tilton as a dining hall, comprised the present front structure and a smaller one-story rear wing, which was the kitchen. The building is in Port Deposit granite laid in coursed ashlar with rock-face Port Deposit granite quoins at the corners and a flat-arch window lintels and rounded-arch lintels. An engraving published in the 1901 Tome School Prospectus shows what could be interpreted as limestone ashlar quoins. The foundation is in rock-face Port Deposit granite laid in random ashlar, with a prominent water table of the same material. The building has a seven-bay front and three-bay sides. The principal architectural feature is a colonnaded recessed entrance porch on the long front of the building, not under the end-gable roof. The six columns are plain, with molded bases and scamozzi capitals, with simple entablature and modillion cornice of sheet metal, set back several inches from the wall. The balance of the facade has a similar but bolstered convex sheet-metal frieze and modillion cornice, which returns at the corners to the depth of the quoins. Within the entry porch are three sets of double sash doors with tall transoms and smaller arch-head doors to the sides of the recess. To the front of the porch is a platform in concrete and steps covering in width the three center bays down to grade, simplified a bit from the original design in not using the intended stone cheeks and pedestal lamp. Flanking the porch are a single six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash in each side, with a rock-face flat arch and keystone. Above is a plain, projecting rock-face panel. The intended basement windows were not installed on the front. The end-gable roof has a matching modillion cornice. The roof is covered in slate and now by protective plastic sheeting. Windows and doors are now boarded over. There are three dormers on the front; the center one a double six-over-six-light double-hung sash with console and a curved pediment topped by a flame. The flanking single six-over-six-light dormers have gable heads, pilasters, and slate

cheeks. There are two stone interior chimneys at the ridge. The ends have three single windows on the first floor, and three smaller ones on the second; the center one is an arch top. There is a modern, Navy-period wood staircase to the second floor, in poor condition. On the south side is a large, modern, freestanding air-conditioning unit. The front right window has a modern exhaust duct built in. The side has one small basement window. The kitchen has been encapsulated by later construction.

The interior is not accessible except by looking in, and an old photograph show the original large dining hall, with massive Colonial Revival fireplace and mantel at each end, as shown in the published plan, and a beamed ceiling. The second floor was used initially as a boys' dormitory. The dining hall was soon converted to a gymnasium, which it remained throughout the Tome era. Behind, a swimming pool structure was soon added, ca. 1905, by Wyatt and Nolting, architects, of Baltimore. This has stuccoed walls and a low barrel-vaulted ceiling with a large bank of windows at each end, north and south, six windows with an arched transom in a low arch, with five smaller windows. The roof is end-gabled, like the main building, but otherwise plain and understated. Behind this was the gymnasium, called the "Cage," originally with a dirt floor. It is built of cast masonry units, with four vertical, rusticated piers at the corners and beside the large, arched fan window under the open eaves of the end gable. There are no low-level windows. There are six higher windows, sixteen panes each. An old photo shows the original windows on the end, and a farther range around the front and back, all at high level, eighteen panes each, with the sash swingout from the top. There were also skylights in the gable roof. There is no ornament. An old photograph of the interior shows its purely utilitarian construction. There have been other additions: a low, one-story one on the south, extending from the original building to the Cage, built of Port Deposit granite matching the stone work of the original, hence probably dating from early in the Tome period, and a ramble of one-story additions to the rear of the Cage, and to its north, including a covered entrance way. These additions are ruinous or burned down in part, and are of the Navy period. The remaining portions are very deteriorated.

History:

This was one of the buildings on the original campus plan of architects Boring and Tilton, with landscape architect Charles Leavitt, Jr. Designed by Boring and Tilton as the dining hall and built 1900-1902, it was one of the earliest buildings erected on the campus. It was soon converted to use as the gymnasium, which use continued through the Tome period and into the Navy period. There were several additions, the first a 1905 swimming pool building by architects Wyatt and Nolting of Baltimore. In 1908 a gymnasium, the "Cage," was built; it was

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designed by Philadelphia architects, Parker and Thomas. There is an early one-story addition on the south, built of granite matching the original, probably dating to 1907-08 also, and a ramble of later, Navy-period, one-story cast-masonry-unit additions to the extreme rear, including a new entrance way; much of this has burned down. The contractor for the original Monroe Hall was E. S. Sentman; the cost was \$20,400. In the Tome period there were exterior concrete handball courts on the south side of the Cage. To the north of the complex were tennis courts. In the Navy period the complex was used as an officers' club and is so labeled on the Navy site plans. Additions to the rear were made in the Navy period, probably after World War II. The additions were of cast-cement units, one-story, and were largely demolished by a fire in the Job Corps era. The remaining portion is in very deteriorated condition. At the northwest rear a single entrance canopy survives. There were two open swimming pools at the south side, Navy period, now demolished.

Now owned by the Bainbridge Development Corporation, the building is unoccupied.

Sources: Tome School Board of Trustees Minutes
Tome School Prospectus and Catalogs, The Tome, and similar publications
National Register nomination form, Tome School Historic District
Old photographs at Tome School, Northeast, Maryland
Hogue, The Jacob Tome Institute and Its Schools

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