

THE
OLD
STONE
HOUSE

1765

WELCOME TO



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

Significance

The Old Stone House, part of the Landmark District of Georgetown, is believed to be the only surviving pre-Revolutionary building in the District of Columbia. Because of its architectural merit and its unique position among the historic buildings in the National Capital, Congress approved the acquisition of the house on September 25, 1950. The Old Stone House, a tangible reminder of the historic past, has stood as a silent witness to our country's transition from a colonial possession to an independent republic.

History

During the colonial period of American history, the Old Stone House was occupied separately by two middle class families, the Laymans and the Chews. From 1764, when Christopher Layman apparently began construction, until the north wing was added in the 1770's by Cassandra Chew, the small building on Bridge Street overlooked the rise of a commercial town.

The impetus for the sudden growth of Georgetown occurred in 1747 when the Maryland General

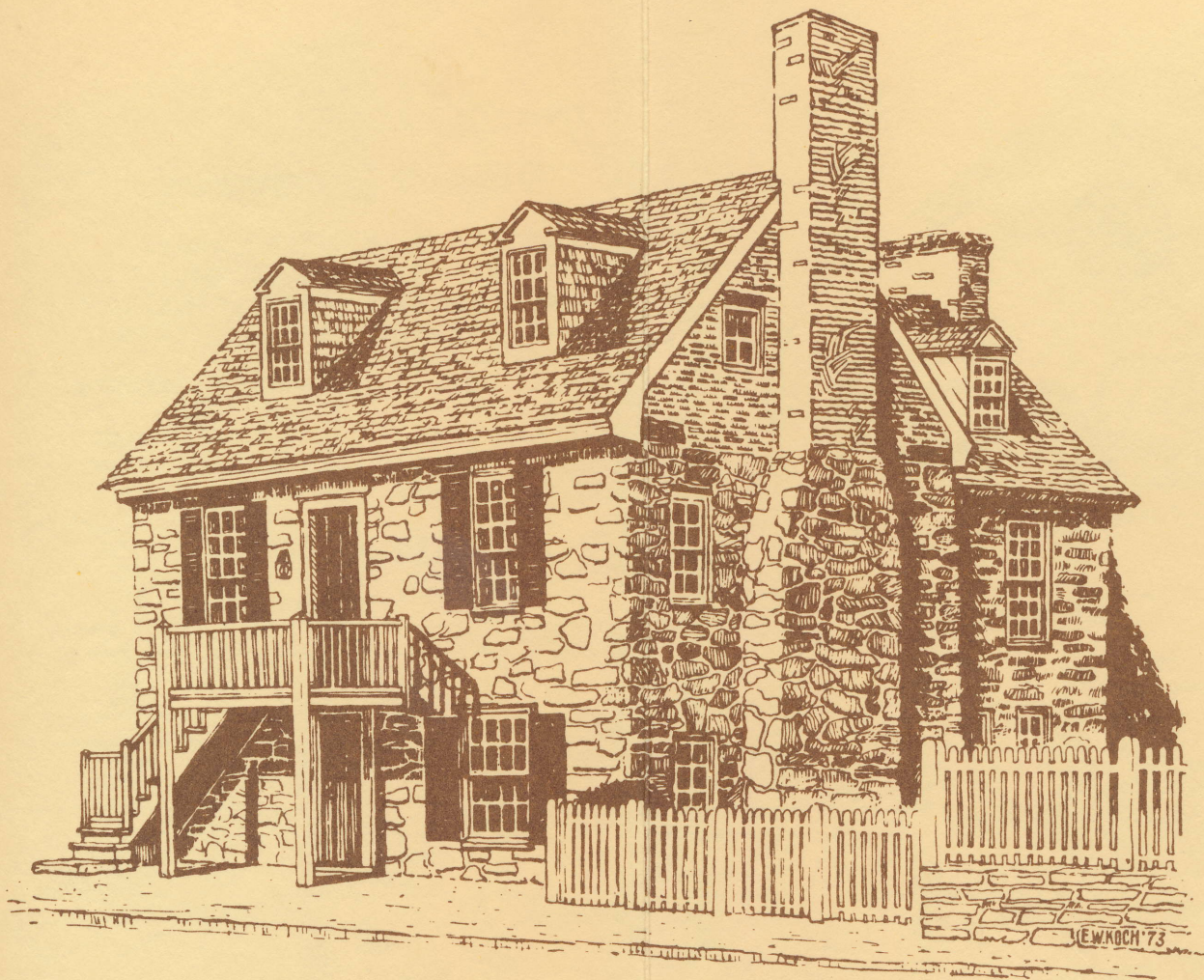
Assembly designated a local warehouse as an official place of tobacco inspection. Intended to insure the high quality of exported tobacco, the inspection center served as a collection point for hogsheads.

With the tobacco trade as the focus of activities, Georgetown grew in size during the later eighteenth century and became one of the most significant tobacco markets along the Atlantic seaboard. Its prominence in the tobacco trade was largely owing to its proximity as a tidal port to the interior plantations of Maryland.

Named in honor of George II, the reigning king of England, "Georgetown" was originally to consist of 60 acres of land to be divided into 80 lots. The Old Stone House, constructed on parcel No. 3 of the original tract, was often used as both a residence and a place of business, reflecting the commercial nature of the community.

The first owner of the house, Christopher Layman, probably emigrated from Pennsylvania in the early 1760's. A cabinetmaker by trade, Layman designed the ground floor to serve as a place of business. He apparently was not a renowned craftsman, but rather a representative of the group of enterprising men who were attracted to the port of Georgetown during its early years of settlement.

Following the death of Christopher Layman in 1765, the house was acquired by Cassandra Chew. Mrs. Chew raised her two daughters in Georgetown and she soon became known as a prosperous businesswoman and a leading socialite. Despite the construction of the northern wing to the house in the 1770's, Cassandra apparently desired a more spacious residence and eventually moved to the western end of town. The Old Stone House still



remained in the Chew family until the early 1800's when the eldest daughter, Mary, by then a widow, resided there with her two sons and four daughters.

Furnishings

Five of the rooms are furnished with household items representative of a middle class dwelling during the late eighteenth century. The kitchen and the cabinet shop on the ground floor were once the central focus of daily activities. The

dining room with its fine panelling, a bedroom, and the parlor appear only to be waiting for the return of their occupants.

Grounds

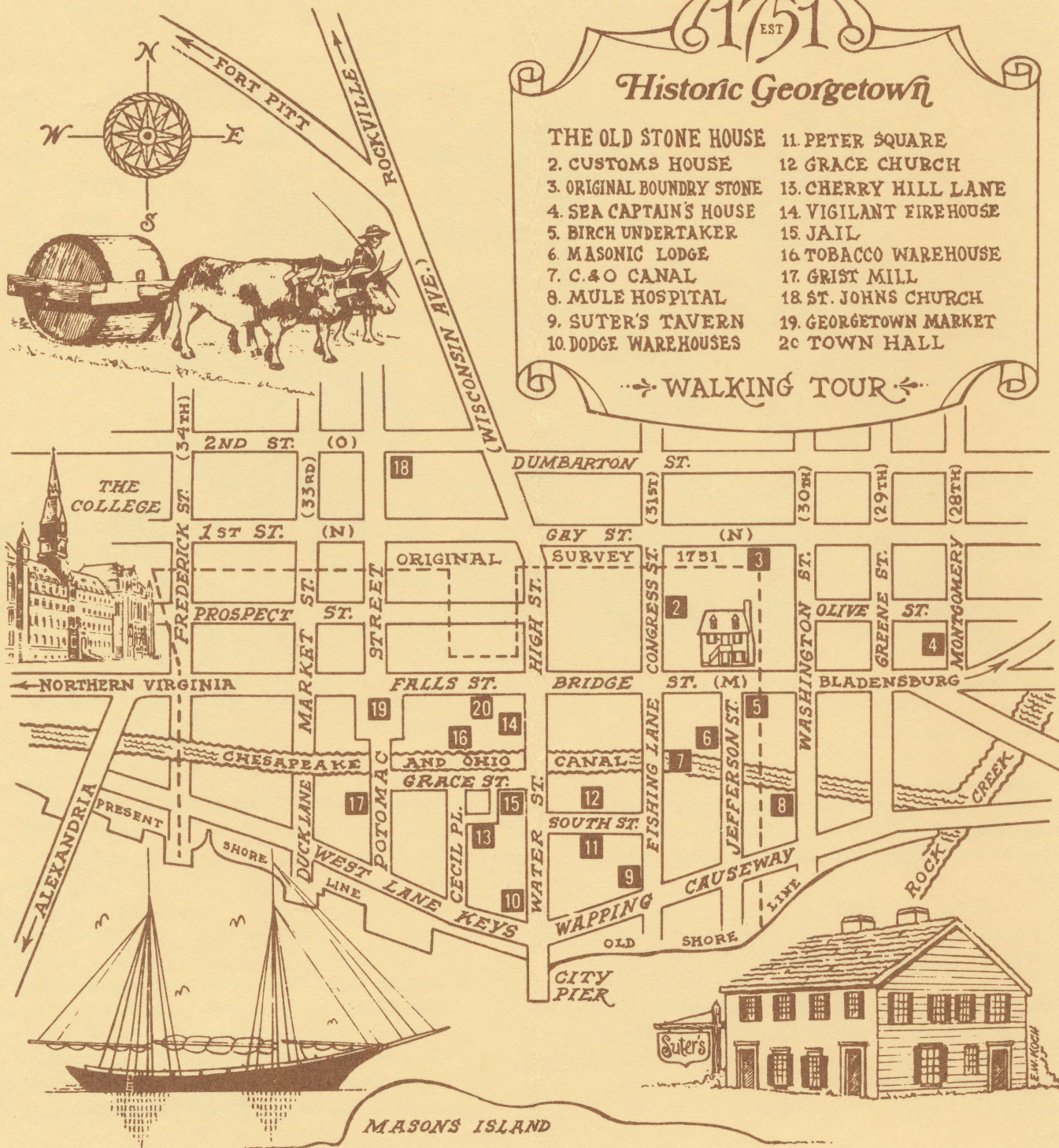
The grounds of the house, once containing a kitchen garden and livestock, is now a pleasure garden with fruit trees and massed beds of seasonal blooms—a peaceful haven in the midst of urban activities. The tour through the house and into the garden is a trip back in time to our own past.

1751^{EST}

Historic Georgetown

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|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. THE OLD STONE HOUSE | 11. PETER SQUARE |
| 2. CUSTOMS HOUSE | 12. GRACE CHURCH |
| 3. ORIGINAL BOUNDARY STONE | 13. CHERRY HILL LANE |
| 4. SEA CAPTAIN'S HOUSE | 14. VIGILANT FIREHOUSE |
| 5. BIRCH UNDERTAKER | 15. JAIL |
| 6. MASONIC LODGE | 16. TOBACCO WAREHOUSE |
| 7. C. & O. CANAL | 17. GRIST MILL |
| 8. MULE HOSPITAL | 18. ST. JOHN'S CHURCH |
| 9. SUTER'S TAVERN | 19. GEORGETOWN MARKET |
| 10. DODGE WAREHOUSES | 20. TOWN HALL |

WALKING TOUR



E.W. MOGH

Programs

Group and school tours are welcome by appointment. For reservations, phone (202) 426-6851.

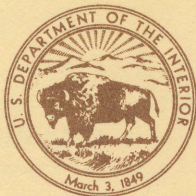
Administration

THE OLD STONE HOUSE administered by the National Park Service is located at 3051 M St., N.W. 20007 (Georgetown).

It is open to the public 9:30-5:00 Wednesday to Sunday, closed Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's day.

Admission is free.

Inquiries may be addressed to
Superintendent
Rock Creek Park
5000 Glover Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015-1098



UNITED STATES
Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region

