

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Habre-de-Venture (Thomas Stone House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Habre-de-Venture

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rose Hill Road, which joins Md. 225 and Md. 6

CITY OR TOWN:
Port Tobacco

STATE Maryland	CODE	COUNTY: Charles	CODE
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Peter Vischer

STREET AND NUMBER:
Habre-de-Venture

CITY OR TOWN: Port Tobacco	STATE: Maryland	CODE
20677		

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Charles County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: La Plata	STATE: Maryland	CODE
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (5 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built by Thomas Stone in 1771, Habre-de-Venture is a Georgian-brick and frame, five-part composition, with its wings and hyphens extending to the rear (south) on either side to form an semicircle. The main or central block is a 1 1/2 story over elevated basement brick structure, 24 by 45 feet in size, with a gambrel and dormered roof. The walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond, with glazed headers, and there is an exterior end chimney at either end. The north (front) and south elevations are each five bays wide, have center doors, and one-story porches extends across there facades. A center hall, with the stair set against the west (right) wall extends through the house. On the right is a dining room and on the east, the large living room. In 1928 the original and elaborate hand-carved panelling of the living room was removed by the Baltimore Museum of Art, which replaced it with a fairly exact replica of the original panelling. The dining room has the fireplace wall built well out into the room with the flue curving back to the wall and up to the ceiling. Dining room walls are plastered.

The west (or right) kitchen wing is a low two-story gable-roofed structure with brick ends and frame sides built at right-angles to the main axis. The second story, containing two bedrooms, was added over the kitchen about 1820. This west wing is joined to the center house by a hyphen. Originally gable roofed, one-story in height and containing the breakfast room, this passage has had its height increased to 1 1/2 stories by the addition of a gambrel roof with dormers to provide bathrooms on the second floor for the main house. The east (or left) wing is a low gambrel-roofed one-and-a-half story frame structure with one-room on each floor. This wing served as Thomas Stone's law office. The east wing is connected to the main house by means of a one-story brick wing with gable roof.

Except for the removal of the full-length wall panelling in the living room of the main house and the addition of a half story to the west wing, Habre-de-Venture is little altered. The house has been carefully restored and is in excellent condition. Used as a private residence, Habre-de-Venture is not open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

115

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1771-1787

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1771, Habre-de-Venture was the principal home from 1771 to 1787 of Thomas Stone, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Maryland, lawyer, planter, and politician. Stone is buried in the family grave yard adjacent to the little-altered plantation house.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Thomas Stone, 1743-1787.

Thomas Stone was born on "Poynton Manor," Charles County, Maryland in 1743. He went to Annapolis, Maryland, where he studied law in the office of Thomas Johnson. Stone was admitted to the Maryland bar in 1764 and went to Frederick, Maryland to practice. In 1768 he married Margaret Brown, the 15 year old daughter of Dr. Gustavou Brown, who brought Stone a dowery of £ 1,000. In 1771 he bought land near Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland, and built a country house which he called "Habre-de-Venture."

Stone took his seat in the Continental Congress on May 13, 1775, and, except for a part of the year 1777, when he declined re-election, he served until October 1778. He voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1783 and took his seat in March 1784, but declined re-election and resumed his law practice in Maryland. Stone also served as a state senator for Charles County from 1776 to 1787. He was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, but declined to serve on account of the illness of his wife, who died in June of that year. Stone died on October 5, 1787, at Alexandria, Virginia, while waiting for a ship to take him to England. He was buried in the family graveyard at "Habre-de-Venture."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 18, 84. Article by Mary Elizabeth Fittro.
 Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J.E. Fields, "The Signers Lives Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May, 1951, 7.
 Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1940), 491.
 Henry C. Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Homes of Maryland (Easton, Md., 1934), 77.
 Katherine Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers (New York, 1930), 42-46.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 32' 23"	77° 02' 49"		38° 31' 51"	77° 02' 22"	
NE	38° 32' 23"	77° 01' 44"				
SE	38° 31' 18"	77° 01' 44"				
SW	38° 31' 18"	77° 02' 49"				

Location of plantation house

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **360 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **5/27/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE **D. C.** CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Charles	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

2. Boundaries for the Historic Site Habre-de-Venture

Approximately 360 acres roughly in the shape of a semicircle, including the Habre-de-Venture plantation house, its dependencies, and the grave of Thomas Stone, starting at the northeast corner on the west edge of Rose Hill Road at latitude 38° 32' 22" N. - longitude 77° 02' 21" W., then proceeding southeasterly for about 7000 feet along the west shoulder of Rose Hill Road to the southeast corner at lat. 38° 31' 22" N. - long. 77° 01' 45" W., then going westerly about 3100 feet to the top of the west bank Hoghole Run at the southwest corner at lat. 38° 31' 23" N. - long. 77° 02' 23" W.; then continuing to the northwest along the top of the west bank of Hoghole Run for about 5600 feet to the northwest corner at lat. 38° 32' 10" N. - long. 77° 02' 41" W.; then returning to the northeast about 2000 to the beginning, the northeast corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in black in on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Port Tobacco Quadrangle, Maryland, Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic, 1966, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.