

Thomas Stone

National Historic Site



THOMAS STONE

Thomas Stone was born in 1743, near Port Tobacco, Maryland. As a boy he was given a classical education at a school to which he rode ten miles each way. Later he studied law under Thomas Johnson of Annapolis, the first elected governor of Maryland, and a deep friendship ensued between the two. At 21 Stone began an active and successful law practice, first in Frederick Town, later in Annapolis, and also at his home in Charles County. In 1768 Thomas married Margaret Brown, the 15-year-old sister of Dr. Gustavus Brown, a friend of George Washington. She brought with her a dowry of 1,000 pounds sterling, part of which was used to purchase their home, Habre-de-Venture.

Stone was elected to the Continental Congress where he served from 1775 to 1778, except for a brief interlude in 1777. He was known as a strong conservative who hated the thought of war and counseled against such drastic action. Nevertheless, when the Congress appeared unanimous in its resolution for independence, Stone voted for it and signed the Declaration. He was 33 and the youngest member of the Maryland delegation.

Stone also served three terms in the State Senate, beginning in 1776. He was selected as a representative for the Constitutional Convention in 1787, but declined due to his law practice and his wife's ill health. Upon her death in June 1787, Stone himself became ill. He made plans for a trip to England, but on October 5, 1787 he died at the age of 44.

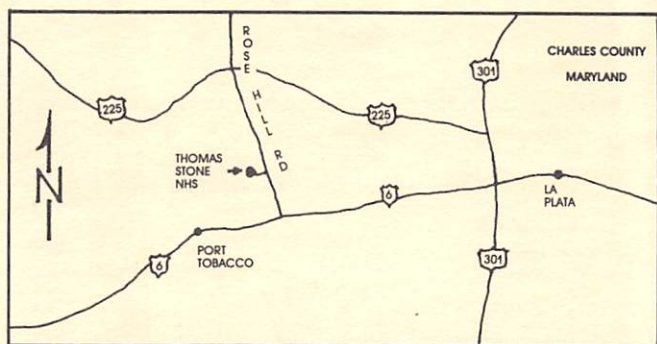
HABRE-DE-VENTURE



In 1771, Thomas Stone built this plantation house near the thriving riverport of Port Tobacco, Maryland. He lived in it during his most politically active years and, on his death in 1787, he was buried next to his wife in the adjacent family graveyard.

The home is considered to be one of the best examples of colonial Maryland architecture. It embodies three types found in Southern Maryland homes: a Georgian brick house in the center, flanked on the east by a frame structure that was used by Stone as a law office, and on the west by a frame building with brick ends that was used as a kitchen.

In 1977 the center section of the home was destroyed by fire. The home became a National Historic Site in 1980.



ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Stone National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service. A Superintendent whose address is George Washington Birthplace NM, RR1, Box 717, Washington's Birthplace, VA 22575 is in immediate charge.