

PH0015440

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Prince George's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: AUG 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: George Washington House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Indian Queen Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore Avenue at Upshur Street
CITY OR TOWN: Bladensburg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Prince George's CODE: 033

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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	vacant-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	being restored	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Prince George's Jaycees, Inc.
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 14
CITY OR TOWN: Hyattsville STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

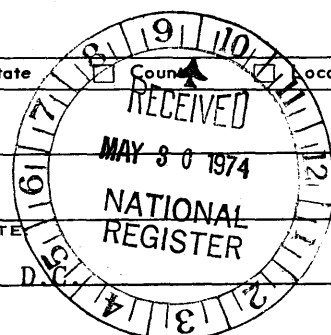
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington
CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Maryland CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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

The George Washington House is a fairly simple but, impressive in contrast to its surroundings, two and one-half story brick structure with basic mid-and late eighteenth century characteristics. The principal facade is five bays in width, with wide centrally located doors at both first and second floor levels. It appears that the fenestration is original and all openings excepting the main entrance have flat arches of stretcher brick; the first floor door is headed by an unusual serpentine shaped arch of molded stretcher brick. While there is presently a one-story porch across the facade it is apparent that it was preceded by one of two stories, with a gallery at the second floor level; it was not immediately discernable whether or not the previous porch was part of the original exterior plan, although the second floor door appears original from casual observation. On the front slope of the roof are three pedimented dormers that are later introductions but which may have replaced ones of similar detail.

At each end of the building is a single exterior chimney, each matching in detail. Both have irregular weatherings, those sloping toward the rear being somewhat longer than those sloping toward the fronts. The chimney stacks themselves are set in from the back wall of the chimney, flush to the attic gable walls, giving the impression that they were originally free-standing, although there is no discernable evidence that they were ever altered.

Toward the east side of both chimney bases is a single flat arched door. The one on the south end appears to be an alteration of a previous window, while that on the north end has been so reworked and filled in that establishing its original appearance is difficult from the exterior. Adjacent to the east side of the south chimney is a small segmental arched window of header brick and two small attic windows within the gable; aside from the bricked in door at the north end the only other opening is a single small window at the attic level.

Much of the rear (west) wall of the house is hidden by a later, two-story addition. However, two irregularly positioned windows remain exposed toward the south end at the second floor level. On the rear roof slope are two pedimented dormers, each positioned toward the ends of the house.

Of interest on the exterior of the main house is the Flemish bonding of the end walls, contrasting to the common bond of the principal facade--the difference is brickwork leading credence to the theory that a gal-leried porch was part of the original plan. All four walls were at some point in time stuccoed, but this has deteriorated to such an extent that its present appearance is somewhat mottled, nevertheless, providing a not unattractive texture to the exterior. The eave cornices are boxed and have molded trim, and appear to be of a later (nineteenth century) date. The Tavern was built on dressed stone foundation walls that rise about two feet above the ground line.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(see continuation sheet #1)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Built circa 1755-1765

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Washington House gained its reputation through an assumption that "George Washington slept here." Research in primary sources has shown that the extant structure was never a tavern during Washington's lifetime although it is possible that he stayed in the frame Indian Queen Tavern which was located next to the George Washington House. The structure under consideration received its present name before 1878 when it was being used as a hotel. (The historian of the structure, John Walton, has theorized that the patriotic fervor of the centennial suggested the name to the owners.)

The George Washington House is historically significant for a variety of reasons. It has been closely associated with a number of important personages and events and it has served the community of Bladensburg for more than two hundred years in a multitude of ways.

The structure stands today as the last surviving remnant of a social and commercial complex established by Jacob Wirt in Bladensburg during the early 1760's. This complex included a store (represented by a portion of the present-day George Washington House), a billiard hall, a tavern, a counting house, a blacksmith's shop, and a number of other supporting buildings. Between 1774 and 1783 the George Washington House and the rest of Wirt's social and commercial complex were rented and run by Peter Carnes. Carnes was responsible for the first authenticated balloon ascents—either manned or unmanned—in the United States. His early experiments in ballooning and the first unmanned ascents of his balloon took place in Bladensburg where he resided. On June 24, 1784 Carnes delighted a crowd in Baltimore by sending aloft his home-made balloon with a thirteen year old boy aboard named Edward Warren. This represented the first authenticated manned balloon ascent in the United States—coming less than a year after the first manned balloon ascent in world history.

On October 25, 1792 the George Washington House was sold along with about five sixths of Lot 6 in Bladensburg. The sale was made in accordance with an act of the Maryland Assembly in order to provide for the further education of William Wirt, the minor son of the deceased Jacob Wirt, in the field of law. This was the same William Wirt who later became one of the most prominent attorney generals of the United States.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of Maryland, Volume LXXII, pp. 28 and 355-356. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
 Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Prince George Maryland. Compiled by G. M. Hopkins, Philadelphia, 1878.
 Brown Book, IV, Nos. 14 and 15. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
 Chancery Papers Number 5130. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

(see continuation sheet #2)

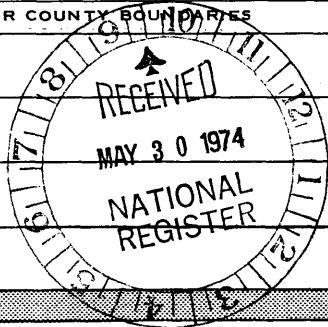
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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° 56'	76° 56'	28"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John A. Styer (see continuation sheet)

ORGANIZATION: Prince George's Jaycees, Inc. DATE: January 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 9307 Bandera Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lanham STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 28, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/7/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.5.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 7	1974

(Number all entries)

George Washington House

Number 7. Description continued.

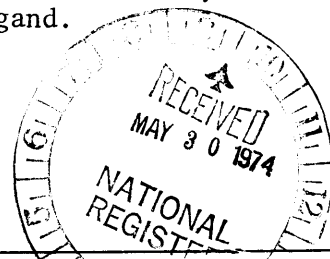
The main part of the two-story rear wing, that closest to the main house, is of an undertermined age, although its exterior appearance indicates a possible early or mid-nineteenth century date of construction. All of its exposed exterior wall surface is completely stuccoed and there is no readily apparent evidence to indicate what its construction material may be. In the early and mid-twentieth century this wing was extended by additions of rooms and porches at both the west end and south side.

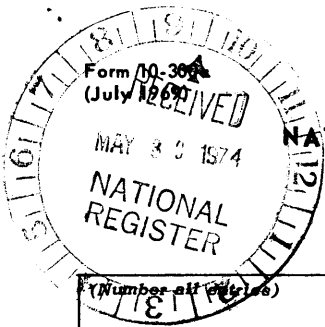
At present the George Washington House stands vacant and completely boarded up. Its structural condition appears sound although there is some deterioration of both brickwork and exterior framing.

Number 8. Significance continued.

In May of 1894 the George Washington House was again brought into close association with a national figure. On May 14, 1894, Jacob Coxey and his army of reformers descended upon the George Washington House which had been serving the town of Bladensburg and its environs as a tavern and hotel extended the courtesy of free rooms in the hotel itself, while the rank and file of Coxey's Army pitched tents in the backyard. The stay of Coxey's Army at the George Washington House was rather brief, for on May 18, 1894, torrential rains struck the Bladensburg area causing the flood waters of the Eastern Branch to overflow their banks and engulf the lower lying areas of the town. The flood resulted in the thorough drenching of Coxey's Army and led to its departure on May 20, 1894, from the friendly but wet George Washington House.

The George Washington House is also notable for its more than 200 years of service to the Town of Bladensburg as a store from circa 1763 until 1809 or later, as a private home from circa 1832 to 1854, again as a store from 1854 until 1857, as a tavern, hotel and store from 1857 to 1858 (and possible until the middle 1860's), and as a tavern and hotel from 1871 until relatively recent times. It is little wonder then that the George Washington has become a local landmark with a rich and distinctive history of its own composed of both historical facts and homespun legend.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 7 1974

George Washington House

Number 9. Major Bibliographical References continued.

- Chancery Records, Liber 61, folios 231-241. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Corporation of Bladensburg Tax Book for 1875 to 1890. Original in the possession of Mrs. Felix Cristofane, Bladensburg, Maryland.
- Federal Censuses 1790-1870 for Prince Georges County, Maryland. National Archives, Washington, D. C.
- Federal Direct Tax of 1798 for Prince Georges County, Maryland. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Laws of Maryland, November Session 1791, Chapter XLVIII. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1906-1907. Baltimore: R. L. Polk and Co., 521.
- Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, June 15, 22, and 25, 1784.
- McMurry, Donald L. Coxe's Army: A Study of the Industrial Army Movement of 1894. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington, 1968 (originally published in 1929).
- Milbank, Jeremiah Jr. The First Century of Flight in America: An Introductory Survey. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1943.
- Montgomery County Orphans Court Record Books. Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Number 11. Form Prepared By continued.

John Walton		January 1974
7606 Woodyard Road		
Clinton,	Maryland	24
J. Richard Rivoire		January 1974
Field Surveyor		
Maryland Historical Trust		
2525 Riva Road		
Annapolis,	Maryland	24