Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

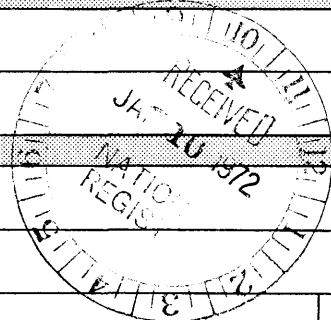## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Cecil

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

APR 2 8 1972

JAN 10 1972 RECEIVED NATIONAL REGISTER

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1. NAME

COMMON:

Rodgers Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Stevenson's Tavern

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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Perryville

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Cecil	015

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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY *(Check One)*	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☒ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:

c/o Hampton National Historic Site

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Towson 4	Maryland	24

STATE: Maryland

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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Cecil County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Elkton	Maryland	24

COUNTY: Cecil

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969   ☐ Federal   ☒ State   ☐ County   ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:

94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

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DATE

CONDITION	*(Check One)*					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)				*(Check One)*	
	☒ Altered		☒ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(If known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rodgers Tavern is located in Perryville, Maryland, on the north side of West Main Street (Maryland Route 7) which parallels and is south of U. S. Route 40.

Rodgers Tavern is a mid-eighteenth-century, two-story stone structure. The south facade is laid in regular stone blocks whereas the other three sides are irregular. Its basement is at ground level on south side only. The main floor is accessible by a set of steps located on the east side of a porch extending across the south facade. The 1970 appearance dates from its restoration about 1960. The facade of the building has five openings on each story, the center one being an entrance door to the basement and first story, and the third blocked up. The main door is a pair of separate doors, which date from the 1880's when the Pennsylvania Railroad made this a double house. Windows on the first and second stories have six over six sash and wide frames. The east and west gables have two windows at each level. The cornice of the low-pitched "A" roof continues on all sides, making pent eaves on the gables. Two, four over four sash windows flank the chimney which is built of brick above the ridge of the roof. Off the west half of the north facade an earlier one-story wing may be traced. When the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities acquired the property in 1956, a two-story wing had been built across the entire north facade. It has since been demolished.

The interior of the house was originally divided into a "great room" and parlor in the south half, and two small rooms with a stair hall between in the north half. All rooms have corner fireplaces. In the 1880's the house was divided into two halves, east and west, the original stair was replaced by two steep enclosed stairs and the "great room" made equal in size to the southeast parlor.

The southeast parlor is an original room, retaining its raised panel chimney-breast, bold cornice, three-piece chair rail and original windows and door trim. Apparently, it was the most elaborate of all the rooms. In the parlor fireplace an iron fireback bears the date "1771".

Other rooms retain some original window and door trim and chair rail.

On the second story, only, the northwest room and the southeast room have corner fireplaces, the latter retaining its original trim (without mantel shelf). These rooms were plainer than those of the first story. Tradition says that General Washington used the northeast bedroom; Lafayette used the southwest room. Most of the attic is sheathed with wide boards, covered with many coats of whitewash.
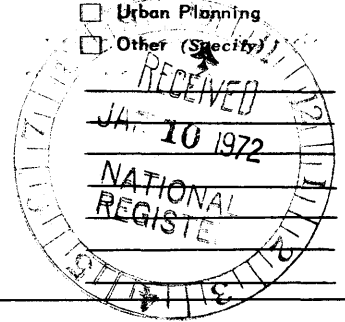
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)*   mid-eighteenth century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☒ Communications

☐ Conservation

☒ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape
   Architecture

☐ Literature

☒ Military

☐ Music

☒ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-
   losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-
   itarian

☐ Theater

☒ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rodgers Tavern is of national importance due to the frequent visits of George Washington between the years 1775-1798.

Colonel John Rodgers (1728-1791), the owner during most of Washington's visits, was the progenitor of the Rodgers family which distinguished itself in the formation and growth of the United States Navy. Also the visits of distinguished persons, namely Martha Washington, Lafayette, Rochambeau and others, make the hostelry of prime importance, and one of the remaining hostelries used by eighteenth and nineteenth century travelers.

Prior to John Rodgers' purchase of the tavern in 1780, it was operated by William Stevenson. George Washington's diary of May 7, 1775 mentions having "dined at Rogers and lodged at Stevenson's". John Rodgers already had established a tavern in Havre de Grace and a ferry across the Susquehanna River between Havre de Grace and the spot where Stevenson operated his tavern. George Washington's next stop was a year after John Rodgers had bought "Mr. Stevenson's Tavern". Rodgers at that time was operating two taverns and the ferry between. After Rodgers' death in 1791 his widow operated the taverns. Between 1775 and 1798, George Washington mentions having stopped at the Susquehanna River over thirty times, to dine or lodge.

Commodore John Rodgers (1772-1839), Colonel Rodgers oldest son, distinguished himself in the War of 1812. His son, George Washington Rodgers, became a Commodore in the Navy.

In 1956, the Pennsylvania Railroad deeded the tavern to the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities. Since that time, the Friends of Rodgers Tavern and the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities have raised enough funds to restore the exterior of the building and guaranty its preservation. Their objective is to completely restore the building and to open it to the public as a Museum, with one room dedicated to Washington memorabilia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MHT   CE-129

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, P. O. Box 1704, Annapolis, Maryland 21404.

Cornelia Meigs, Rodgers Tavern and Its Historian, typescript, files of the Maryland Historical Trust, 1963.

John Fitzpatrick, Diaries of George Washington, 4 vols., Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1925.

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OR LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

Center point: Latitude 39° 33' 75" Longitude 76° 04' 43"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Aug. 21, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis 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

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/26/72

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

APR 26 1972

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

MHT   CE-129

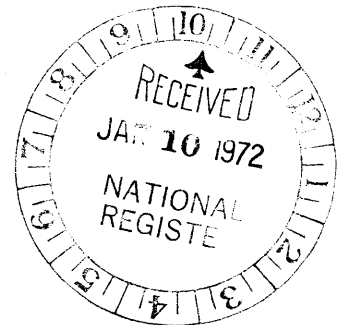| STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 26 1972	

(Number all entries)

Rodgers Tavern

#9. REFERENCES continued

Charles Oscar Paullin, Life of Commodore John Rodgers, Cleveland,
Ohio: Arthur Clark and Co., n.d.

George Johnston, History of Cecil County, Elkton, Maryland: n.p.,
1881.

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HAVRE DE GRACE QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map   (Maryland)
scale: 1: 24 000
1953

Frenchtown

Aikin

Garrett
Island

Perryville
High Sch

Perryville
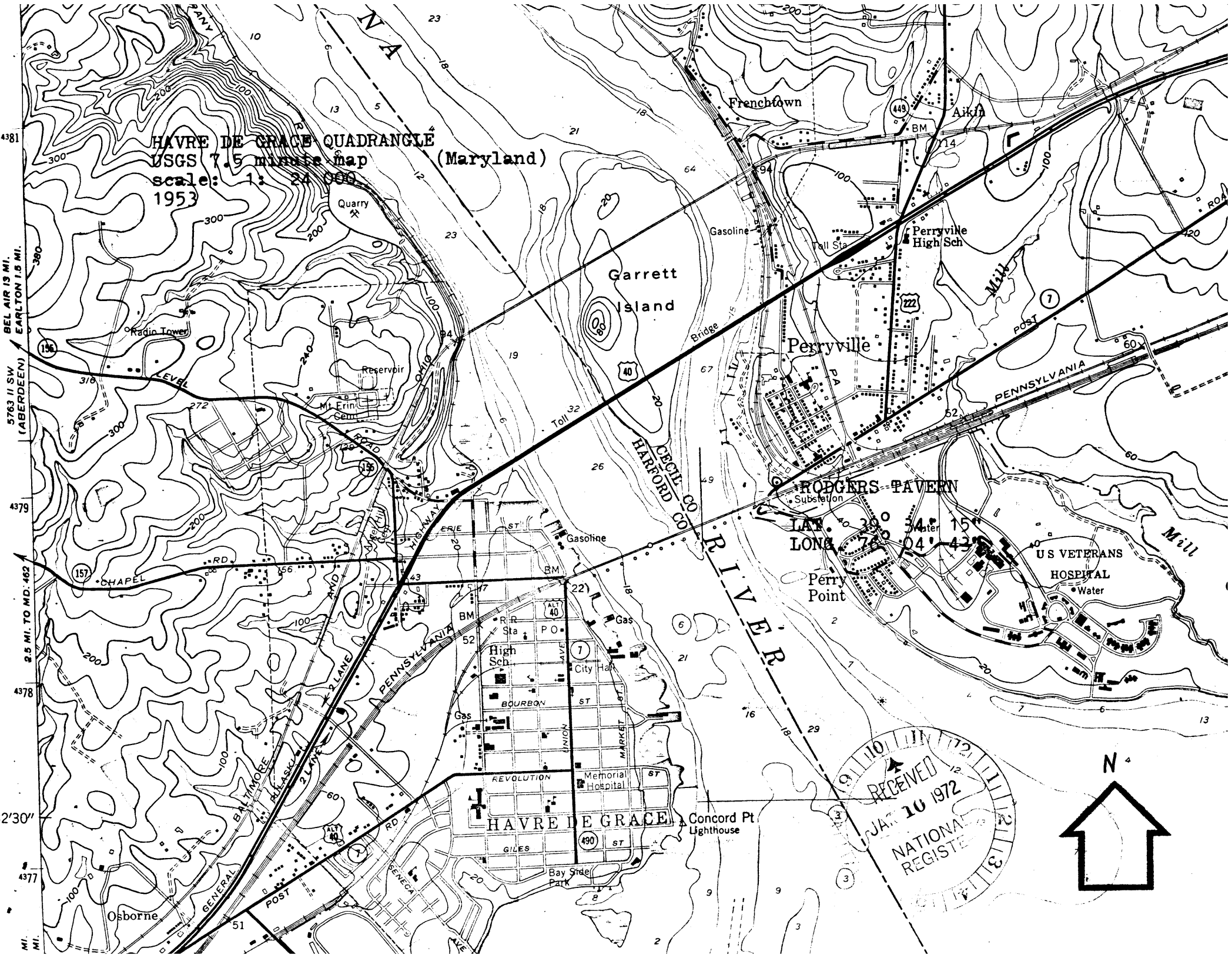
RODGERS TAVERN

Substation

LAT 39° 34' 15"
LONG 76° 04' 43"

US VETERANS
HOSPITAL

Perry
Point

Water

Quarry

Radio Tower

Reservoir

Mt Erin
Cem

CECIL CO
HARFORD CO

RIVER

Gasoline

RR
Sta   PO

High
Sch

City Hall

BOURBON   ST

Gas

Gas

Memorial
Hospital

REVOLUTION

HAVRE DE GRACE

Concord Pt
Lighthouse

GILES   ST

Bay Side
Park

Osborne

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