

CE-129

## Rodgers Tavern, (Stevenson's Tavern)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 12-18-2012***

# Easement

MHT CE-129

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

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: Rodgers Tavern	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Stevenson's Tavern	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Perryville			
STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Cecil	CODE 015

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<b>Public Acquisition:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<b>Yes:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PRESENT USE</b> (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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	

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities			
STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Hampton National Historic Site			
CITY OR TOWN: Towson 4	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	STATE: Maryland

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cecil County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Elkton	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Cecil

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	ENTRY NUMBER

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Cecil
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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".</p> <p>Other rooms retain some original window and door trim and chair rail.</p> <p>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.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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)

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

## 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

**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				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39	33	75
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	76	04	43
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:

**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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u> Orlando Ridout IV</p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer for Maryland</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: _____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

AHT CE-129

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Rodgers Tavern			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Stevenson's Tavern			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Perryville			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Cecil	CODE 015
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Bourne for the Maryland Historical Trust			
DATE OF PHOTO: January 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Ave., Annapolis, Md. 21404			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  South and East facades			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Rodgers Tavern	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Stevenson's Tavern	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
West Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Perryville			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Cecil	015
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map, Havre de Grace, Maryland, Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1953			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(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.



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



481 5763 II SW (ABERDEEN) EARLTON 1.8 MI. BEL AIR 1.9 MI. 478 8.5 MI. TO MD. 462 478 32'30" 477

173-33



# Location Easement

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u>          COUNTY <u>Cecil County</u>          TOWN <u>Perryville</u> VICINITY <u>Perryville</u>          STREET NO. <del>107</del></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE <u>Tavern</u>          PRESENT OWNER <u>Society for Preservation of Maryland Antiquities</u>          PRESENT USE <u>vacant</u>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>stone</u>          NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  <del>CE-129</del> INVENTORY <u>CE-129</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>Rodger's Tavern</u></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <u>mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century</u>          STYLE <u>Colonial</u>          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
--	--

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC No

Rodger's Tavern is a mid-eighteenth-century stone building which hosted many well known travelers, among them ~~being~~ <sup>Al</sup> George Washington. It is two-stories high and the basement forms another ~~another~~ story on the south facade. The double central doors of the first floor are reached by <sup>from</sup> a one-story porch. It is five bays long on the south and three bays long on the north. It is two bays deep and the chimneys are within the gables, servicing corner fireplaces. The south facade has a stepped water table; and a plain wood cornice encircles the house, forming pent eaves on the gables. There are two four-pane casement windows in the ~~attic~~ <sup>attic</sup> of each gable.

The Tavern is presently being restored by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities.

*When-  
source?*  
 See History of Rodgers Tavern - file

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered NO    Interior fair    Exterior fair

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH Color 3172

<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <u>Michael Bourne</u>  <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <u>April 17, 1968</u></p>
---	--

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

CE-0129  
Rodger's Tavern  
Old Post Road (currently Broad Street)  
Perryville  
Cecil County, Maryland

**For additional information, see also:**

- Maryland Historical Trust Preservation Easement Property Documentation Survey  
**FRR Mary 22, v. 1.**
- Architectural drawings and field notes (in flat files)



CE-129

RODGERS TAVERN

PERRYVILLE, M.D.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

77%



# 33 NOV 3 0 1961 Port Deposit, Md. 21904

George Hipkins  
Photography

Roberts Tavern  
Comptroller

06-11

Remember the D  
(Washington did not)

CE-129



CE-129

Remember the D  
(Washington did not!)

ROBBER'S TAVERN  
Perryville

Photograph by  
George Hopkins

#33

NOV 30 1904

Port Deposit, Md. 21904



342  
11-22-94  
E 2

CE-129

Rodgers Tavern  
Perryville

#32 NOV 3 9 1964

Photograph by  
George Hopkins  
Port Deposit, Md. 21



CE-129

CE-129

ALEXANDER SITE  
ELKTON, MD.

4