

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thomas Stone National Historic Site (THST)
other names / site number Haberdeventure; Stone, Thomas, House; Habre-de-Venture; Habre de Venture; Habberdeventure

2. Location

street & number Rose Hill Road, between State Routes 6 and 225 ☐ not for publication
city, town Port Tobacco **[NA] vicinity**
state Maryland **code** MD **county** Charles **code** 017 **zip code** 20667
Site inventory number CH5

3. Classification**Ownership of Property**

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>005</u>	<u>005</u>	buildings
<u>003</u>	<u>001</u>	sites
<u>006</u>	<u>005</u>	structures
<u>001</u>	<u>000</u>	objects
<u>015</u>	<u>011</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 7**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets
☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official_____
Date_____
Signature of Federal agency and bureauIn my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet._____
Signature of commenting or other official_____
Date_____
Signature of Federal agency and bureau**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.

[] determined eligible for the National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.

[] removed from the National Register.

[] other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Funerary: cemetery

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural field

Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: museum

Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural field

Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/ Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

wood/weatherboard

roof wood

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Description Summary

Thomas Stone National Historic Site is situated on 328.25 acres (321.97 NPS; 6.28 private) at the junction of two of Charles County's former principal thoroughfares, the old Port Tobacco-Piscataway Road (Rose Hill Road), and the Port Tobacco-Old Mattawoman Road (Glymont Road). The property, historically called Haberdeventure, was the home of Thomas Stone, one of Maryland's signers of the Declaration of Independence. Although he only lived at Haberdeventure for slightly over a decade, these were the most important years of his political career.

The site's contributing resources include historic buildings and structures, and landscape features, such as the terraces south of the main house, the interrelated agricultural fields and forests, and the circulation system. Its most notable feature is the mansion built by Thomas Stone between 1771 and 1773. The building, a National Historic Landmark, is made up of five sections: the main house, the kitchen wing, the porch, and two hyphens. Built in an arc with the concave side (front) facing generally southward, the mansion was gutted by fire on January 1, 1977. The adjoining hyphens and end buildings were also damaged in varying degrees by fire, smoke, and water. Haberdeventure was partially reconstructed during the 1990s.

The site also includes several outlying historic structures dating from the nineteenth century. These buildings, as well as the mansion and the surrounding landscape, are strongly associated with the Stone family and reflect the nature of agricultural enterprises in late eighteenth and nineteenth century Maryland.

General Description

Topographic features, such as Hoghole Run, which provides the western boundary for the site, and Spring Branch Run, which separates the mansion from the tenant house, are representative of the ravines and swales that characterize the southwestern portion of the site. The northeastern section is relatively flat with broad open fields typical of

[X] See continuation sheet

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the formal, public space of the site, and of the agricultural activities that took place in Haberdeventure through the end of the nineteenth century. The terraces located south of the mansion are another important feature. Archeological evidence and design style appear to indicate that they date from the late eighteenth century. Aerial photography (1937) suggests the existence of a formal landscape setting with a broad approach drive which directly linked the mansion with the junction of the two main regional roads: the old Port Tobacco-Piscataway Road and the Port Tobacco-Mattawoman Road.

Archeological Resources

Archeological investigations at Thomas Stone National Historic Site have identified foundations and construction trenches from the original Thomas Stone House structure, and features dating to Stone's occupation. There are also archeological resources associated with the William Briscoe Stone occupation. Most prehistoric sites which have been identified do not meet National Register criteria for significance. Major portions of the property have not been surveyed for archeological resources.

Cultural Landscape

Spatial organization. Although some of the integrity of the individual landscape features surrounding the main house have been lost, land use and circulation patterns remain largely intact. Character-defining features, such as circulation, fields and forests, property boundaries, and surrounding land uses provide a rich context for the interpretation of general farming practices conducted at Haberdeventure through its several periods of occupation.

Designed landscape features include the formal garden terraces possibly dating from the Thomas Stone period, and the cemetery, which retains a great deal of integrity. The ornamental plantings spanning various periods are severely degraded and fragmented and the ponds and swimming pool date from the Vischer era (post-1945).

The site is organized into a hierarchy of four areas: 1) the formal/public entrance area and main house; 2) the working areas north and west of the main house; 3) the outlying fields to the east and south of the main house,

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and 4) the natural forested areas around the perimeter of the site.

Historically the formal/public entrance functioned much like it does today, with the entrance roads and farm fields surrounding the main house. The broad, flat, open field which encompasses the main house serves as the formal, public space of the property. It is fully visible from both the entrance to the site, and the main house, and all of the other functional and natural areas of the site relate directly to this central core.

Access to the working areas of the farm located west and north of the main house is physically separated from the main house by a drainage swale which becomes the head of Spring Branch Run. The working areas to the west of the house include the corn crib, the tobacco barn, the tenant house and barns, and the surrounding open fields. Evidence indicates that the fields to the south and east of the main house were cultivated at various times since the area was settled.

The natural forested areas along the perimeter spatially enclose the site. Many of these areas have been farmed during the last two centuries, but vegetation encroachment has produced some visual changes to this portion of the landscape.

Circulation. Conclusive documentary evidence linking the existing layers of access and circulation to certain periods of occupation of the site is not available. However, with the exception of the new access road built in 1992, the remaining entrances drives and lane remnants can be dated conclusively to pre-1911 based on their proximity to pre-existing outbuildings. Therefore the historical location of the access roads and lanes appears to be largely intact. With the loss of some of these outbuildings, the reason for the existence of some of the internal lanes is no longer clear.

Terraces. The terraces located to the south of the main house are a highly significant landscape feature, dating from as early as the late eighteenth century. Conclusive documentary evidence of construction is not available; however, archeological evidence and period style strongly indicate that they may date from the Thomas Stone era.

Field Patterns. The core areas of the property, and the fields surrounding the main house and outbuildings have remained fairly constant over the years. Forest stand analysis indicates that the forest cover in the areas of

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the north, east, and southern boundaries of the site have been in forest cover the longest period of time. Forest stands to the east, particularly along Hoghole Run are the youngest stands, indicating that these areas were probably cleared during the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries.

Property Boundaries. The property boundaries date from the Thomas Stone period through the nineteenth century. With minor changes they follow the boundaries set in Thomas Stone's original purchase and those from the William Briscoe Stone period. Although the property boundary markers have long since disappeared, the property retains its integrity in terms of land area.

Cemetery. This is a highly significant feature dating from the late eighteenth century. The tombstones of Thomas Stone, William Briscoe Stone, and their wives remain intact. The wrought iron fence surrounding the burial ground was the work of Stewart Iron Works from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Contributing Resources

1. **Haberdeventure (Thomas Stone House)** LCS 80059 01 (building). The inscription "D. Stone Aug. 1772" in a header near the southeast corner 1 ½" above ground level establishes the construction date for the mansion. D. Stone may have been Thomas Stone's father, David, or more likely his older half-brother, David, of Poynton Manor, who may have overseen the masonry work or the manufacture of bricks for Haberdeventure.

This five-part building complex prior to the devastating 1977 fire could have been described as one of the most picturesque Colonial houses in this section of Maryland. The sequence of the construction of the five components remains conjectural with only the hyphens appearing to be near the age of the central block.

The 1772 brick work on the mansion remains in surprisingly good condition in spite of the great heat of the 1977 fire. Nearly all of it is original, mostly laid in Flemish bond. The exterior walls are exposed to view up to the eaves. Brick work in the end walls, beginning at eave height, becomes common bond up to the roof peak. The chimney brick work also is laid in common bond. In the west end wall, the common bond begins a few courses below the north eave and a few courses of English bond separate the Flemish

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from the common. The chimneys in both ends are laid in common bond, with a header course every fourth course below the water table and an average of every sixth course above. Most existing pointing remains in good condition, requiring no replacement.

The central block is a 1 ½ story English raised-over-elevated-basement, brick structure, 24 x 45 feet in size, with a gambrel roof that has three dormered windows on the front and rear elevations. There is an exterior chimney at both ends. The north and south elevations (front and back) are each five bays wide, have center doors and one-story porches extended across both facades. The front porch floor is elevated by brick piers to first-floor level. The back porch floor was a brick structure constructed directly on the ground. Both reconstructed porches were sheltered by hipped roofs running the length of the north and south walls.

A center hall with a stairway against the west wall extends through the house. There is a room on the east side of the hall from which the paneling was removed in 1928 that measures 22' x 18 ½' with a 10'4" high ceiling. The hallway partition on the west side is positioned so that it deprives the first floor west room of about four feet of space in its east-west dimension. The paneling from the east downstairs room was removed by the City of Baltimore for the Baltimore Museum of Art and reconstructed there as the "Haberdeventure room."

By the early years of this century, the second floor plan of the main dwelling portion consisted of three rooms in addition to the hallway. The east room probably measured about 18 ½' x 18 ½', the west room probably 14 ½' x 18 ½'. At the south end of the upstairs hallway was a very small room often used as a guest room or servant's quarters during the early years of this century.

The room in the west hyphen has a fireplace in its east end with flue slanting back to the west wall of the main building and into the chimney at that end at ceiling level. It has a gently vaulted ceiling. The west hyphen floor is about 3 ½' below that of the central mass. Margaret G. Stone used this room as her kitchen while she was the mistress of Haberdeventure from 1872 to 1913. At that time a second floor was added to accommodate modern bathroom facilities and a south-side hallway to the kitchen wing second floor. The hyphen was then given a gambrel roof and dormers somewhat in the style of the principal center structure. The roof was covered by wood

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shingles.

The kitchen wing (18' x 33'), built ca. 1830-1840, is a brick-end, gable-roof structure with centered end chimneys. The sides are framed with overlapping horizontal wood siding. This structure is brick nogged, including the center hallway partitions. It is built at a right angle to the west hyphen. The quality of design and construction indicate that at least the second story was meant for family, not servant, use. The first-floor fireplaces were designed, at least in part, for kitchen use. Design, materials, and construction details strongly suggest mid-Federal period origin. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

The east wing is joined to the main center structure by a partly enclosed walk-through brick hyphen constructed around 1775. Only the roof of this hyphen connects directly with the east wing. Under this is a walk-through 6' wide. Entrance to the hyphen enclosure is through what appears to be an original, 6' x 5' wooden doorway that opens to a concrete ramp inside that leads down to a basement entrance partly below grade at the southeast corner of the main house. The east hyphen is 9'6" wide, 18'9" long on the north side and 16'9" long on the south side. The roof is also covered with wood shingles.

The frame, gambrel-roofed east wing, ca. 1775, may not always have been located on this site since it does not fit squarely on its brick foundation, as disclosed by an archeological excavation in 1986. This wing, often called "Thomas Stone's law office," which measures 18'5" x 16'6", is a two-room building (one up, one down). It has a soft orange brick-exterior chimney centered on its southeast-facing end. The chimney has been removed to allow stabilization and reconstruction. Inside, a small enclosed stairway on the west wall leads to the second-floor room. The wooden floors in both of these rooms are not original. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

2. The tobacco barn, LCS 80060 02 (building), was erected around 1830 to 1840. The original building measured 20' x 44', and the roof ridge was nearly 30' above grade. The tobacco barn is a five-bay, gable-roof structure with vertical wood siding. The roof ridge is oriented on an east-west axis. The building was apparently re-sided and enlarged early in this century and was restored in 1989-1990. A forebay, added to the south side, still has half a dozen cattle stanchions. Some of the framing timbers in the original barn were pit sawn and hand hewn. For many years the forebay covered the

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original wood siding and roofing on the south side. Several pine boards, measuring 15" to 18" in width, in excellent condition are still in place on the original building. There is only an earthen floor. The barn now rests on a mix of solid poured concrete foundation and cinder block-concrete piers. The roof is presently sheathed with galvanized steel.

3. The **corn crib**, LCS 80061 03 (structure), dating from the same period as the tobacco barn, is a frame structure constructed on combination brick-stone piers. It is covered by a gable roof also sheathed with galvanized steel. It is supported underneath on an east-west axis by four original brick piers, which are in addition to the peripheral pier supports. The wooden floor is raised an average of three feet above grade. Each pier is insulated from the wood construction by a soft, thin metal shield. The roof extends a little over a foot beyond the four walls. Along three sides are covered exterior stock feeding troughs, probably added within the past 40-50 years. The corn crib measures 15'7" x 26'11". The two ends rooms of the corn crib are entered by two original, but altered, wooden doors from a central hall-like room. One of these doors appears to have an original, wooden lock still in place.

4. The **tenant house**, LCS 80063 04 (building), was built between 1840 and 1859 and was enlarged between 1949 and 1959. This extremely modest frame structure, a story and a half, with three small rooms on the first floor was enlarged with two one-room additions. The southern one measures 13'6" x 13'3" and the west one 10'4" x 10'4". The original main part of the house measures 14'3" x 13'3". Across the east side of the old structure is a 10' x 26' screened porch, probably of mid-20th century construction. The tenant house rests nearly at grade on a 20th century concrete footing. It appears to have been moved here from a nearby site during this century. The steeply pitched (18th century style) roof is sheathed with galvanized steel.

5. The **horse barn**, LCS 80064 05 (building), dates from the same period as the tenant house. It is an all-frame (sheathed random width clapboard siding) structure with gable roof (covered with galvanized metal) oriented roughly on a north-south axis. The north half is by far the older and rests on a fieldstone-mortar foundation. It measures 30' x 24'. The floor is earthen throughout.

6. The **cattle barn/equipment shed**, LCS 80069 10 (building). Its oldest portion was originally a tobacco barn dating from 1869-79 and ca. 1925-59.

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The cattle shed forebay is constructed along the entire original south side of the barn and appears to have been built early in this century. The original tobacco barn portion of this structure measures about 28' x 108'. There is an earthen floor throughout. The structure has a galvanized metal roof. The building rests on a variety of brick, stone, and wood materials. The gable roof ridge is oriented along an east-west axis.

7. The **burial ground**, LCS 80071 12 (site), which was used between 1787 and 1913 is another important contributing resource. It is located in the field east of the main house and is bounded on the south and east by a wooded area and a branch of Hoghole Run. To the north and west, it is bounded by a grassy field. It contains primarily Stone family grave sites, but includes a few of distant relatives. The latest Stone family burial was that of Miss Margaret Graham Stone who died in 1913. The burial ground includes 13 east-facing grave markers in three rows. Several of the cut stone monuments are the work of sculptor A. Gaddes of Baltimore.

This burial ground lies about 300' southeast of the Haberdeventure manor house. Immediately east of the fence-in Stone cemetery is an unfenced wooded section of ground about the same size as the fenced area in which black servants and employees were interred, at least during the twentieth century. Documentation for the location and use of the black cemetery has been based primarily on an early 1988 taped interview with Charles Jones Woodland, of Ripley, Maryland. He has testified that his grandfather Cornelius Woodland, who was an employee of Margaret G. Stone, is buried at the Stone cemetery. Members of the Stone family who still reside in the area remember this as the cemetery for African Americans. Whether it ever served as a burial place for slaves remains to be determined.

8. The cemetery is surrounded by a wrought **iron fence** (object, not listed separately in the LCS) dating from the 1860s which measures 32' x 32'. It was the work of Stewart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio.

9. The **terraces** (sites), not yet on the LCS, located to the south of the mansion are an important contributing resource. Although there is no conclusive documentation, archeological evidence and style suggest that they may date from the Thomas Stone era. They are composed of three flat areas, broken by two falls which are connected by earthen ramps. There has been some erosion and settling over the last two centuries; however, the terraces conform well to the typical design and proportions of the period.

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Archeological evidence suggests that the upper terrace was designed as a bowling green, or a simple expanse of lawn. The middle terrace, however, was composed of formally designed planting beds, although the types and placements of the plants cannot be established. It is also not known how the lower terrace was planted. Plowing of the garden in the late 19th or early 20th century destroyed most of the evidence of the plantings, particularly in the lower terraces where tobacco was grown during the 1930s.

10-14. The four **roads** and **traces of lanes** (structures), not yet in the LCS, that provide access to Haberdeventure and those within the site are important landscape elements. The existing formal entrance drive off Rose Hill Road (labeled A in the sketch map) which makes a right turn toward the mansion, has been in use throughout the 20th century. It is not possible to establish if this was the main access road prior to 1911.

The drive south of the existing formal drive (labeled B in the sketch map) was also used concurrently during the first half of the 20th century until the construction of the stock pond near the junction of the two drives.

Another access road approaches Haberdeventure from the north (labeled C in the sketch map) starting at the old Glymont Road. This road was utilized during the early decades of the 20th century, but it is not possible to establish the period of its earliest use.

It is not clear, when and if, the other northern access road (labeled D in the sketch map) was in use. Its location and design are consistent with late eighteenth century design principles. Some physical evidence suggests that this might have been a formal entrance drive which aligned itself with the center point of the mansion and with the terrace ramps. Its location at the junction of two of the principal roads in Charles County would help to call attention to Haberdeventure and increase its status, an important factor in landscape design during the late eighteenth century.

Circulation within the site has not been altered substantially. A lane leading to a stable or corn crib next to the east hyphen and another one running to a small pond north-west of the tenant house have been lost. Others lanes can be dated to the nineteenth century based on their proximity to the existing buildings.

15. The **field patterns** and **forest stands** (site) also bear testimony to the

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history and agricultural management of the Haberdeventure estate. Farming practices during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries involved the clearing of land and the planting of crops for a period of one to three years. This was followed by a long period in which the land was left uncultivated, sometimes as much as twenty years. Documents suggest that the fields around the mansion and the tenant house were cleared during Thomas Stone's occupation as were the bottomlands along Hoghole Run. Analysis of the existing forest stands to the north and south of the property reveals that they are as much as 250 years old. The stands along the western perimeter of the property are 150 to 200 years old.

There is also indication that a certain amount of timbering was done on the properties Thomas Stone owned. The timber was harvested primarily for cordwood to make charcoal for the operation of a forge at Stone's mill in Port Tobacco.

Non-contributing resources at Thomas Stone National Historic Site, which will eventually be removed, include the following:

1. Two-story brick garage (building) is near the west end of the main house. It has three automobile bays on the first floor and a five-room apartment upstairs, ca. 1958.
2. The formal garden (site) is located about 100 feet southeast of the main house, ca. 1950.
3. The horse barn (building) is parallel and to the east of the historic horse barn, ca. 1940.
4. The hog shed, aka hog barn (building), is a half-masonry, half-frame structure located about 100 feet southwest of the corn crib, ca. 1930-1950.
5. Feeding station (structure) is a frame structure made of wooden boards and a corrugated metal roof, ca. 1900-1930.
6. Farm shed (building) is log-frame building located on west side of south farm road between the stock pond and the sheep shed ruin, construction date not known, ca. 1950.
7. A cinder block building (building) used as chicken coop and poultry processing house is located a few hundred feet north of the inholder's residence, ca. 1950s.
8. The stock pond (structure) is east of main entrance road, ca. 1960.
9. The concrete-lined swimming pool (structure) which is west of the mansion has been filled with dirt and is barely visible, ca. 1955.
10. Lemko property. In 1974 the Vischers gave Andrij and Nadiya Lemko,

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the estate's farm managers, a 6.3-acre tract running into the north-central part of the site. The following year the Lemkos received 22 additional acres on the southern edge of the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government (N)

Agriculture (L)

Archeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal (N & L)

Architecture (S & L)

Period of Significance

1770-1900

Significant Dates

1771-1787

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Stone, Thomas

Stone, William Briscoe

Architect/Builder

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas & periods of significance noted above.

Significance Summary

The Thomas Stone National Historic Site is nationally significant for politics/government because it was the home of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Haberdeventure, the historic name of the property, includes the mansion and terraces Stone had built as well as the cemetery where Stone and other members of his family were buried. The archeological resources associated with the Thomas Stone House are nationally significant under criteria B for their association with Thomas Stone; and criteria D because they contain potential information on activities and trends important to the understanding of eighteenth century life during the Thomas Stone era. The house is significant at the state and local level for architecture, and the farm structures comprise an assemblage of local significance. Haberdeventure is also significant at the local level as a fine example of a nineteenth century agricultural landscape and of the agricultural operations that were common in the Chesapeake in the century following the Declaration of Independence. Resources associated with the William Briscoe Stone occupation are significant at the local level for their potential to provide information on activities and trends important to the understanding of mid-nineteenth century life.

Resource History and Historic Context

Thomas Stone, the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland, purchased Haberdeventure in 1770 and began constructing a new house on the property during the following year. The mansion was probably completed at the end of 1773. Thomas and Margaret Stone and their three children lived at Haberdeventure until they moved to Annapolis about the middle of 1783. After Mrs. Stone's death in June 1787, Thomas returned to Haberdeventure where he apparently lived until his death in October of the same year (Stone's Annapolis townhouse, the "Peggy Stewart House," which was also the residence of Daniel St. Thomas Jenifer, another signer of the Constitution, is another National Historic Landmark property).

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Even while calling Haberdeventure home from 1770 to 1783, Stone spent much time away from Charles County. After leaving the Continental Congress early in 1777, Stone began to practice law at Port Tobacco in Charles County and in Annapolis. From 1777 until the year of his death Stone served in the Upper House of the Maryland Assembly, and this state government service took him away from his Haberdeventure home. Extant records do not indicate the depth of Stone's involvement in managing the Haberdeventure property. Its condition as a producing plantation seems not to have occupied much of his attention. The administration of Haberdeventure was left very much in the hands of other members of the family, including Stone's wife Margaret and his brother Michael Jenifer Stone, who managed all aspects of the agricultural activities until 1798.

Stone lived at Haberdeventure a relatively short time but these were the most significant years of his political life. Shortly after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Congress selected Stone to represent Maryland as a member of a small, elite group instructed by Congress to create the framework for a new central political authority that would guide the affairs of state for the new nation.

For over four years Maryland refused to ratify the Articles of Confederation, but by 1781 Stone was able to play a decisive role in reversing Maryland's stand on ratification. By this time some of the major stumbling blocks, such as the question of dealing with the western lands had been resolved.

In March 1784 Stone returned to Philadelphia to represent Maryland in the Congress of the Confederation. Stone was elected chairman and served temporarily as President of the United States in Congress Assembled. During the congressional sessions of 1784 Stone served in committees with some of the most capable and distinguished leaders of Congress.

Although Maryland did not officially participate in the Annapolis Convention, Stone apparently represented Maryland in a rather unofficial capacity at this meeting. Stone was also intimately involved in preparing to participate in the Philadelphia Convention.

After the death of Thomas Stone, Haberdeventure continued to be managed by his brother Michael Jenifer Stone, who had already been in charge of the daily operation of the estate and who continued to do so until 1798. Michael J. Stone is likely to have made additions and improvements to the mansion which in 1798 was ranked among the most valuable residential properties in Charles County.

Michael J. Stone's son William Briscoe Stone, and William's daughter, Margaret Graham Stone were the members of the family who owned and managed the property through most of the nineteenth century.

William Briscoe Stone established residency at the mansion sometime in the early 1820s. When he moved in, the house had been vacant for some time or had been occupied by

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careless tenants. Stone apparently made an agreement with his cousin Mildred Stone Daniels, one of Thomas Stone's daughters, and then owner of the property, whereby he would pay for his occupancy and use of the house and land by representing his cousin in her local business affairs and acting as Haberdeventure manager.

By 1831 William B. Stone finally purchased Haberdeventure from his cousin Mildred and started rehabilitation work on the house and then-existing outbuildings. He also initiated the construction of most of the structures that give the property its present character.

William B. Stone practiced law until the 1850s, but relocated his office from Port Tobacco to Haberdeventure by the mid 1830s. His writings and his career indicate that he was more concerned with his house and family than with achieving public recognition in law and politics. His brief and sporadic public service included attending the Whig party convention in Baltimore in 1840, a brief appointment as Chief Judge of Maryland's first Judicial District, and one term in the Maryland Legislature.

Stone's greatest interest, however, appears to have been in the area of agricultural technology. The conventional agricultural methods used in Maryland during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries wore out land productivity as a result of successive plantings of wheat and tobacco. The introduction of the plow also impacted the sustainability of farming in the area, since plowing was conducted without taking into account erosion potential. William Briscoe Stone's farming notes describe his multi-year experiments in fertilizing and crop rotation. He persisted in his efforts to enhance the productivity of his land at least until the end of the Civil War. The end of slavery created a labor shortage which he addressed through the purchase of mechanized farm equipment. He acquired a gleaner in 1862, a thrasher in 1863, and by the time of his death in 1873 his inventory included additional evidence of labor-saving farm implements.

Margaret Graham Stone, Stone's daughter, assumed the management of the property well before her parents' deaths in 1872 and 1873. Little specific information exists about the management of the property, except for consistent reliance on tenants. Although she might have been quite a capable manager, her declining health as the century progressed led to the physical deterioration of the property. By 1900 she was living only in the main part of the house and the west hyphen, which she had earlier converted into a kitchen. She died at 88 years of age having lived at Haberdeventure from her birth in 1825 until her death in 1913.

Her nephew, Michael Robertson Stone, inherited the property and moved to Haberdeventure with his family that same year (1913). Although Michael Stone was an educator by profession, he continued the agricultural activities of his ancestors. With the assistance of tenant farmers, he grew tobacco which remained the main cash crop. Michael Stone died in 1934, and couple of years after his death the property was sold outside

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the Stone family for the first time: to Charles Stevenson Smith. Smith occupied Haberdeventure for nine years and eventually sold it to Peter and Ruth Vischer in 1945.

The Vischers attempted to revive intensive farming on the site. Initially they attempted to raise cattle, but eventually they switched to horses. They made several changes to the site, adding various outbuildings and extensive ornamental gardens surrounding the mansion. After Peter Vischer's death in 1967, farming activities diminished and ceased altogether in the 1970s. On occasion the Vischers would open their home to the public during special Charles County historic tours. On July 4, 1973, the home was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark. In 1977 fire gutted the main block of the house and extensively damaged the west hyphen and wing. The park was authorized as a National Historic Site in 1978, but the property was not actually purchased until 1981.

In accordance with the General Management Plan developed by the National Park Service in 1988, a phased restoration of the exterior of the mansion was begun in December 1991. Haberdeventure was restored to its circa 1900 appearance, the earliest date for which there is documentable appearance. The restoration was based on historical photographs and extensive research of the extant structure.

The Stones were members of an important Maryland family, but great economic prosperity never accrued the owners of Haberdeventure. They did not share in the success of the planter gentry of the eighteenth-century Chesapeake. Thomas Stone's financial situation began to deteriorate in 1783. His land holdings in Charles County were substantial as they amounted to over 2,000 acres. However, as his debts increased his slaves became a disposable asset and he hired out and eventually sold a number of them.

Tobacco was supposed to have been the principal cash crop, but records indicate that relatively little was produced at Haberdeventure while Thomas Stone was the owner. Purchases of oats and corn surpassed the profits made from the sale of these crops. There were also significant purchases of sheep, chickens, turkeys, and potatoes. Other agricultural activities included the production of wool, cotton, and flax. Stone had been less interested in Haberdeventure as an income-producing investment than as its suitability as the site for his home. Its strategic location at the junction of two of the most important regional roads linking Port Tobacco to Alexandria and all points north, facilitated the shipments of agricultural products, but most of his income came from his properties in the more productive lowlands and from his Great Mill at Port Tobacco.

William B. Stone became genuinely interested in agricultural activities, particularly technological advances in agricultural implements and fertilizers which would increase productivity. His application of the principles of scientific agriculture at Haberdeventure support the inclusion of the property in the area of agricultural significance. Stone raised livestock and crops such as tobacco, corn and wheat which he sold to commission merchants in Baltimore. Although he was apparently uncomfortable

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being a slave owner, he farmed his land with the help of slaves until the time of the Civil War. He also relied on the labor of his tenants as did his daughter Margaret.

The history of Haberdeventure from 1770 to 1900 reveals some of the trends that characterized the economic development of small plantations in the Chesapeake in the century following the birth of our nation. The growth of tenancy, the continued dependence on slave labor, the diminishing return from worn-out soils, the declining role of tobacco as the principal income-producing crop, and the diversification of economic activities that became essential for the survival of agricultural enterprises are all represented in this site.

The **road and lane remnants** within the site and those providing access to Haberdeventure exhibit a great deal of integrity. They not only link the mansion and the contributing structures, but also provide evidence of the operation of the estate and its link to commercial centers, such as Port Tobacco and Alexandria. They are suggestive of the social relationships between the Stones, owners and managers of Haberdeventure, and the tenants and slaves who worked the fields and participated in the diverse agricultural activities. The road provided an essential link to the commission merchants in Baltimore and elsewhere who purchased the products grown at the site.

The **field patterns and forest stands** also bear testimony to the agricultural practices and management of the Haberdeventure estate. Although some forested areas have encroached on some of the fields, the integrity of the fields patterns remains quite high and provide much of the rural feeling of the site.

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☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)

has been requested

☒ previously listed in the National Register☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register☒ designated a National Historic Landmark☒ recorded by Historic American BuildingsSurvey # MD 470☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State historic preservation office☐ Other State agency☒ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☐ OtherSpecify repository: Chesapeake/Allegheny System
Support Office, National Park Service, Philadelphia,
PA.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 328.25 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	18	322700	4267160	B	18	323340	4265500
C	18	322000	4265400	D	18	391540	4267060

Verbal Boundary Description

The Thomas Stone National Historic Site contains 328.25 acres (321.97 NPS; 6.28 private). The site includes the Haberdeventure mansion, several 19th-century dependencies, several 20th-century structures, and the graves of Thomas Stone, his wife Margaret and other members of the family. The boundary starts at the northeast corner on the west edge of Rose Hill Road at latitude 38 32' 22" N-longitude 77 02' 21" W, then proceeds southeasterly for about 5880' along the road to the southeast corner on the west side of the road. Then westerly on course S 04-43-W for 1258 feet, then N 67-57-16-W for about 440 feet, then S 02-18-27-W for about 592 feet, then west again N 87-41-33-W for about 607 feet, then northwest about 322 feet, then continuing northwestward for about 3600 feet to a point across Hog Hole Run (west side), then in a northeasterly direction for about 2030 feet to the northwest corner at latitude 30 32' 10" N-longitude 77 02' 41" W, then eastward returning to the northeast corner at the Rose Hill Road starting point.

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Calafate Boyle, Historian

organization Nat'l Park Service, Denver Service Center date 8/97

street & number 12795 W. Alameda Pkwy, PO Box 25287 telephone (303) 969-2319

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Thomas Stone National Historic Site

Haberdeventure
Port Tobacco, Maryland

