

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
- INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Roger Brooke Taney house  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER West Side South Bentz Street (#121)/123  
CITY, TOWN Frederick VICINITY OF SIXTH  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Frederick  
CODE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SIXTH

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Francis Scott Key Memorial Foundation Inc.  
c/o Thomas Summers  
STREET & NUMBER 145 Kline Boulevard  
CITY, TOWN Frederick VICINITY OF STATE Maryland 21701

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Frederick County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER North Court Street  
CITY, TOWN Frederick STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

FND-1008

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Roger Brooke Taney house is a small Federal brick townhouse laid in Flemish and common bond, two stories tall and three bays wide. It faces east on South Bentz Street in the southern part of Frederick City, Maryland.

The principal facade of the building is three bays wide, with the main entrance in the north bay. This is marked by a replaced six-panel door with modern screen door, ornate leaded transom, and a flat arch. Two wooden steps lead to the door. Simple wing walls with recessed panels flank the doorway.

Double-hung, 6/6 sash windows, covered with modern storm windows, are located in the first and second bays of the first floor. The windows display flat arches identical to that found over the doorway. Similar 6/6 windows, without the arches, are found on the second floor. The gable roof is covered with slate and is a replacement. A fine boxed cornice with a dentiled frieze graces the front facade. Centrally located within the roof in the rear of the building is a pedimented dormer, recently added. A large replaced interior brick chimney is found within the south gable.

A nine bay long, one story tall brick addition extends to the rear of the main block and houses a wine cellar, summer kitchen, and slave quarters. A slate gable roof with overhang and exposed rafters covers this wing. A small brick chimney is found in the center of the addition. The entire structure is built on a low random-coursed stone foundation.

The interior of the building was restored in the 1960's as a house museum, reflecting the life and work of Roger Brooke Taney. Corner fireplaces with original trim are located in both parlors of the first floor and in both rooms on the second floor. The most ornate mantel, found in the front parlor, is decorated with a shouldered architrave, plain side panels, a central panel with recessed ogee arch, and a delicate molded shelf. A beaded chairrail and base board are located in each room. Architrave trim surrounds the doorways.

A narrow closed string stair with turned balusters located in the north end of the rear parlor leads to the second floor. An interesting architectural detail is the use of turned balusters above the doorway to the stairs--also decorated with architrave molding--rather than a paneled partition or plastered wall.

A modern apartment on the third floor was added when the interior restoration took place for security purposes.

In the rear wing, the interior of the wine cellar and summer kitchen have also been restored and are used for exhibits. Both rooms have white-washed walls and ceilings and replaced brick floors. Arched storage niches are recessed into the brick walls in both rooms. A large wooden lintel is located over the fireplace in the summer kitchen.

The exterior of the structure was sandblasted in 1963, with financial assistance provided by the Maryland Historical Trust.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500 - 1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roger Brooke Taney House is a good example of a simple Federal town-house with original attached slave quarters, kitchen, and a wine cellar. The treatment of the main house and service building as a unified whole, rather than a house with outbuildings or dependencies, is extremely rare in the Frederick area.

The Roger Brooke Taney house is of great importance to Frederick, Maryland as the residence of the Chief Justice while he worked as a young lawyer in Frederick between the years 1801-1823. It is the only surviving structure known at this time that is connected with Taney.

Born in March, 1777, the son of Michael Taney, a tobacco farmer from Calvert County, Maryland, Roger Brooke Taney began his studies at Dickinson College in 1792 and continued to study law in Annapolis between 1796 and 1799 under Judge Jeremiah Townley Chase. Upon completion of his studies in Annapolis, Taney started looking for a promising location to practice law. His reason for choosing Frederick was explained in his journals as follows: "My inducement for selecting Frederick was that, next to Annapolis and Baltimore it was with a view to profit the best point of practice in the state...in March, 1801, I took up my residence there and made my first speech. It was a volunteer speech; Mr. Shaaff, who still practiced in Frederick having involved me to take part in one of his cases in order to give me an opportunity of appearing before the public."<sup>1</sup>

Roger Brooke Taney soon became one of the major voices in the litigation cases of Frederick. In the February court of the following year, 1802, Taney appears in six cases; in 1803 in over thirty cases.

In 1803 Taney unsuccessfully ran for the House of Delegates as a Federal candidate. In 1806 the young lawyer married Ann Key, the sister of Francis Scott Key, a lawyer friend of Taney's who also practiced in Frederick.

In September 1801, the Roger Brooke Taney House was purchased for 475 pounds by Elizabeth Lockett containing lots number two and three of Long Acre... "together with the two story brick dwelling house thereon erected... and also all that part whereon the back buildings attached to the brick dwelling house aforesaid stand."<sup>2</sup>

Whether Roger Brooke Taney lived in the house while it was owned by Elizabeth Lockett is not known. In June 1815, Lawyer Taney did buy the



## SIGNIFICANCE (con't)

Roger Brooke Taney House.

Taney sold the Bentz street property to Peter Mantz in 1823, just before his departure to Baltimore.<sup>4</sup>

In 1827, he was appointed as Attorney General of the State of Maryland and just four years later was named Attorney General of the United States despite opposition from Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster among others. Taney was a strict constitutional lawyer vehemently opposing the Bank of the United States' concept and upholding Federal power over state jurisdiction.

Finally, upon the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, Roger Brooke Taney was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1836. His most famous decision was the Dred Scott vs Sanford Case handed down in March of 1857.

In this trial which dealt with the rights of slaves and their owners, it was decided that as a slave and personal property of Sanford, Dred Scott was not a citizen and could not sue in Federal Court. Furthermore, Congress had no power to exclude slavery from territories. This decision has been termed one of the most controversial decisions ever issued by the Supreme Court.

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<sup>1</sup>Samuel Tyler, Memoir of Roger Brooke Taney, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber WR 21; Folio 472.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., Liber JS 5; Folio 350.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., Liber JS 17; Folio 311.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY (Con't)

- Grove, William J., History of Carrollton Manor, Frederick, Maryland,  
Marken & Bielfield, 1928.
- Lewis, Walker, Without Fear or Favor, Boston; ~~Mass.~~ Houghton Mifflin Co.,  
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- Steiner, Bernard C., Life of Roger Brooke Taney, Chief Justice of the  
United States Supreme Court. Baltimore; Williams & Wilkins Co., 1922.
- Swisher, Carl Brent, Roger B. Taney. New York; ~~New York,~~ The Macmillan Co.,  
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- Tyler, Samuel, Memoir of Roger Brooke Taney, LL.D. Baltimore; John Murphy  
& Co., 1872.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

TANEY HOME

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

123 S. Bentz Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE (group)	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

N. Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

FD-1008

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Taney Home Museum is a detached 2-1/2 story brick house approximately three bays square with a 1-1/2 story brick "L" shaped Dependency extending back approximately eight bays and being two bays wide. Front brickwork is in Felmish bond and all has been restored,

A wide six panel door occupies the right (North) bay with a paneled enframingent, very attractive transom decorated by curved intersecting wooden mullions, and this is approached by an old style wooden stoop with side seats. The boxwood garden on the left is fronted by an attractive brick wall with a "medeival" style beam gate of heavy timbers. Other front attractions are the colonial hexagon shaped brick pavement (probably imported as balast on colonial ships), the Taney carriage stepping stone, a wrought iron mud-scrapper and a tall flag pole.

Front windows are of 6/6 sash wtih side and rear colonial style 9/6 sash windows. The attic is lighted from the left gable by a small, four pane window and from the right by two small 6/6 sash windows. There is a newer, large peaked dormer window on the rear. All windows have flat brick jack arches and wood sills, except in the gables, which also have wooden lintels. This house has a steep sloped "A" frame roof resting on wood beam cornices boxed on the front and decorated with finely moulded reeding and ornately cut dentils. A wide enclosed chimney rises from the left gable. The house rests on a low fieldstone foundation.

The rear 1-1/2 story brick dependency wing includes a colonial kitchen with a cooking fireplace, a deep fieldstone walled wine cellar beneath it, a smokehouse, a craftsroom, and living quarters with a sleeping loft above. There are various types of rear doors, such as those having six panels and three pane overlights, two section Dutch doors, and board and batten doors. There are mostly small 6/6 sash windows, but also a section of fifteen (15) sash windows, possibly newer. Most have flat brick header arches. This building has a steep sloped, slate, "A" frame roof with a garden side overhang displaying wooden rafters. A large fieldstone chimney is attached to the rear. A boxwood lined lawn area lies on the left side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

FD-1008

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Federal front - Colonial features

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SPECIFIC DATES	1799	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roger Brooke Taney, married Francis Scott Key's sister, Anne, and later became a Supreme Court Justice, swore in several Presidents and made landmark decisions.

From my slide show text:

*"Roger Brooke Taney built his home high up on the edge of the City in 1799, using the new Federal style, but retaining some colonial features."*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

*DOUGLAS M. GREENE*

ORGANIZATION

*ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  
HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION  
CITY of FREDERICK, MD. 21701*

DATE

*MAY 1977*

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

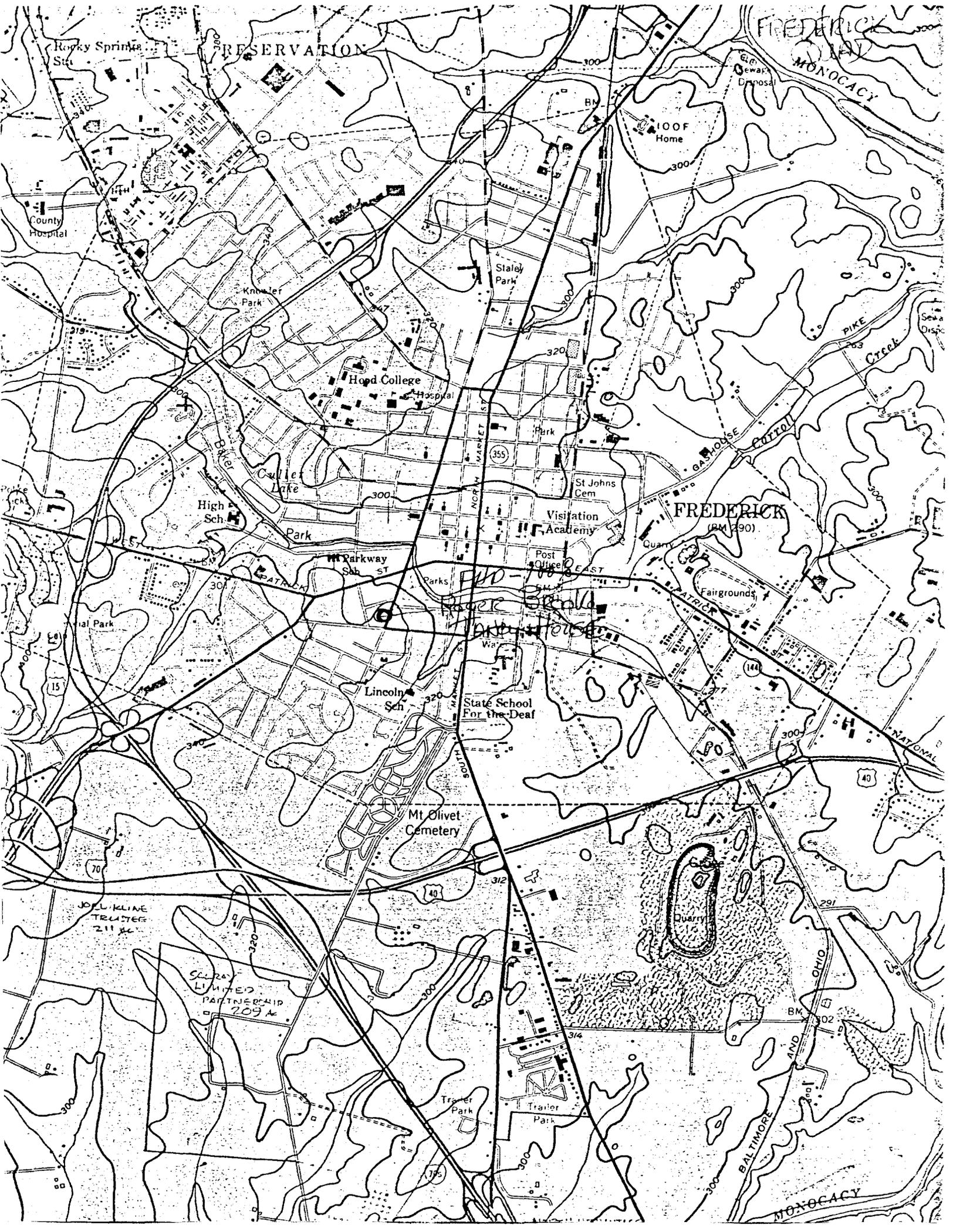
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



RESERVATION

FREDERICK  
MONOCACY

Rocky Springs  
Sta

County  
Hospital

Knowler  
Park

Staley  
Park

IOOF  
Home

Hopd College

High Sch

St Johns  
Cem

FREDERICK  
(BM 290)

Visitation  
Academy

Post  
Office

Fairgrounds

Lincoln  
Sch

State School  
For the Deaf

Mt Olivet  
Cemetery

JOL KLINE  
TRUSTEE  
211 A

SLEAY  
LIMITED  
PARTNERSHIP  
209 A

Trailer  
Park

Trailer  
Park

BALTIMORE  
AND  
OHIO

MONOCACY

FPO-1008  
Roger Smith



Taney House, (Roger Brooke)

FHD-1008

F-68

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

~~SA~~ DeLanna Ridout IV MARCH, 1968  
~~MAR 1968~~

~~THOMAS HOUSTON~~ 151



ROGER BROOKE TANEY HOUSE  
W/S SOUTH BENTZ STREET

CEW 5/78

EAST ELEVATION

FHD-1008



ROGER BROOKE TANEY HOUSE

CEW 5/78

W/S SOUTH BENTZ STREET

CORNICE DETAIL

FHD-1008



Roger Brooke Thney House  
w/s BENTZ (South) ST  
WEST ELEVATION

CEW

5/78

FHD -1008



ROGER BROOKE TANEY HOUSE

W/S SOUTH BENTZ ST

CEW 5/78

Interior Detail

FHD-1008



ROGER BRODKE TANEY HOUSE

CEW

5/78

W/S SOUTH BEWZ ST

Interior Detail

FHD -1008



ROGER BROOKE TANEY HOUSE  
W/S SOUTH BENTZ ST

CEW 5/78

INTERIOR DETAIL

FHD 1009



ROGER BRUCE TANNEY HOUSE

W/S SOUTH BENTZ STREET

SUMMER KITCHEN

CEW

5/78

FHD-1008



ROGER BROOKE TANEY HOUSE

W/S SOUTH BENTZ ST

Interior Detail

CEW 5/78

FHD-1008