



Somerset County Historical Trust **Tribune**

Preserving the Legacy of Somerset County

Need materials for your historic home?

We know how hard it is to find historically proper materials for restoration of your property. To that goal, the Trust is now offering **historic architectural materials** — lumber, bricks, fencing, shutters, hardware and more — for sale at reasonable prices with all proceeds supporting various Trust preservation projects.



Check out our **Store Room** webpage
schtrust.org/storeroom
for our current inventory

In addition, we are partnering with Somerset Choice Antiques with additional salvage items for sale in their shop — proceeds to support the upkeep of the Teackle Mansion.

Do you have salvage materials or architectural items you are interested in donating?

You may submit your info (including photos) by email to info@schtrust.org

Architectural History of Somerset

Late 18th-early 19th century

During the Revolutionary War period the Eastern Shore was left largely undefended, with much plundering of personal property but agricultural and minor industrial economies remained stable. The tobacco fields finally disappeared completely from the Eastern Shore landscape, being replaced by wheat, corn, oats, potatoes as well as cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry. Somerset planters and merchants continued to enjoy lucrative profits from the agrarian economy of the Eastern Shore. The area was well-linked by water to growing population centers such as Richmond, Norfolk, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Poor harvests in southern Europe and a demand in the Caribbean spurred exportation of local grain and produce. Trade was further expanded by development of steamboat traffic in the 1830s and stagecoach service to Baltimore and Philadelphia in 1835.



Glebe House c1785

Most planters occupied modest sized houses of between 500 and 1,000 square feet with one, two or perhaps three rooms on the first floor. Few of these smaller houses have survived because they were usually modified, replaced or moved to become wings for newer dwellings. One surviving example of this style is the story-and-a-half Glebe House. Built in 1784 by the Somerset Parish, the home has one brick and three frame walls, four ground level rooms, and one chimney with corner fireplaces.

The most prosperous planters reworked or rebuilt their earlier family residences in the new Federal or Greek Revival styles. Federal style had many of the same

elements as Georgian but with more delicate ornamentation and sophisticated details, such as circular, elliptical or Palladian windows, semicircular fanlights over entries, recessed wall arches, oval-shaped rooms, and decorative elements such as garlands, swags and urns.

The Greek Revival style became popular around the War of 1812 when Americans shunned all things British and turned towards designs in the classic Grecian style. This style exhibited strict symmetry, with features such as heavy cornices, wide plain friezes, simple moldings, a columned or pillared entry porch and narrow windows around the front door.

Whether entirely or partially of brick, a number of these Federal and Greek Revival houses have survived in Somerset County as private residences. Some examples are Kingston Hall, Liberty Hall, Beverly, William Adams House, and Workington (which burned in 1922).



Detail from Kingston Hall façade c1780



Beverly c 1785-1796
Photo: Newhoudl own work CC BY-SA 3.0
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47346853>



Workington c1793, Westover vicinity; documentary photo c1918
courtesy of Mrs. Charles Wainwright

Late 18th-early 19th century (cont'd)

Within the towns, local craftsmen and tradespeople constructed primarily frame houses, covered with beaded, plain or flush weatherboards, and with interior or exterior brick chimneys. In Princess Anne, the county seat, prosperous planters built townhomes while stores, warehouses, tanning yards, and workshops lined both sides of the Manokin River. Eventually and likely related to human activity, the Manokin River silted in and river traffic ceased, leading to a gradual economic decline.



Beckford c1802

There were two prominent properties in Princess Anne of the Federal period constructed entirely of brick. Beckford was erected by John Dennis around 1802, exhibiting Georgian symmetry but with the more restrained and finely detailed features of the Federal style.

Adjacent to Beckford, Littleton Dennis Teackle constructed his ambitious estate dwelling he called 'Teackletonia', now known as the Teackle Mansion. This sophisticated design consisted of a central raised two-story section with a temple or gable-front and



*Teackle Mansion c1802
photo credit: Catherine C. Lavoie*

decorative center window. When completed in 1819, the house had two large rooms at the north and south ends connected with long enclosed colonnades.

The distinctive gable-end style of the Teackle Mansion was an influence for many other more modest dwellings subsequently erected in Princess Anne.



Elmwood c1820

Also popular was the 'transverse hall' layout with a wide hallway running across the full width of the front with generous doors at each end to provide air circulation.

Some examples are the Old Episcopal Parsonage (1816), Elmwood (1820) Sarah Martin Done House (1823), Littleton Long House (1830), and the William Johnston House (1834).



Transverse hall of Littleton Long House c1830

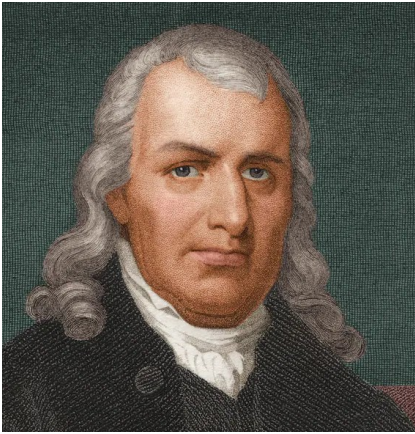
Concurrent with construction of Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival style buildings was the development of a strictly regional form known as the stepped or "telescope" house.

This relatively frequent construction type consisted of a large main house to which were connected additional sections of variable sizes. Often an external kitchen was connected to the main house and its additions by a colonnade, resulting in a "big house, little house, colonnade, and kitchen" form. Some examples of this stepped configuration were built all at one time.



Old Cullen House c1837 photo: Randy

Next issue: Mid to Late 19th century



Samuel Chase (1741-1811)

On June 4, 2022 a large crowd gathered in downtown Princess Anne for the unveiling of the Samuel Chase historical marker on the lawn of the Somerset County Circuit Court. With Judge Daniel W. Powell presiding, members of the court and Trust presented speeches on the significance of this occasion honoring the life of Justice Chase. Dr. Raymond Thompson then delivered an in-depth history of Samuel Chase which follows.

Dedicatory remarks by Dr. Ray Thompson

Today, by unveiling this memorial marker on the Courthouse Lawn here in Princess Anne, we are remembering the historical importance of Samuel Chase, a son of Somerset County and a formidable figure in the early history of America.

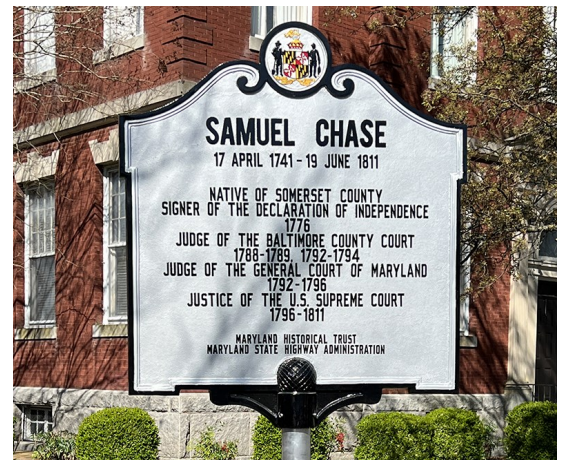
Samuel Chase represents many of the traits we see in public figures today. He had imperfections; at the same time, he demonstrated great skills and considerable courage and patriotism.

Born in rural Somerset County on April 17, 1741, Samuel Chase was the son of a wealthy Englishman turned minister who had come to Princess Anne in 1739 as the Anglican rector. He wed Matilda Walker, daughter of a prominent Somerset County planter and within two years their only son, Samuel, was born.

Samuel received a classical education from his father.

As a young man, he went to Annapolis where he studied law, though expelled from a social and debating society for “extremely irregular and indecent behavior” and named by his peers “Old Bacon Face”. By the early 1760s, Chase had entered the legal profession, forming a close friendship with fellow Eastern Shoreman William Paca, who was later to become governor of Maryland. As a young man Chase was active in forming a local chapter of Sons of Liberty and politically opposed the unpopular Stamp Act. Not satisfied with taking on the British government, Chase soon took on the hierarchy in Maryland, where he became an instigator of legislation aimed at limiting the extensive power of the Calvert family, the proprietors of Maryland. In 1766, he was pilloried in the newspapers as a “busy, reckless incendiary, a ringleader of mobs, a foul-mouthed and inflaming son of discord and faction, a common disturber of the public tranquility.” Chase responded that his attackers were men of “vanity, pride and arrogance” and that they were in positions of power only because of their obsequious behavior toward the Calvert family.

At age 23, he was elected to the Maryland General Assembly and later to the House of Delegates, a position in which he continued to serve into the 1790s. In 1775, Chase became a delegate to the



First Continental Congress and then to the Second Continental Congress as well. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776, urging complete separation from England. During the Revolutionary war, he also urged the confiscation of British property in America. During this time, he became a land speculator and built a large mansion which still



stands in Annapolis today, although he almost immediately had to sell the house to pay off debts he had incurred in his land speculation. In 1783, following the close of the American Revolution, Chase was sent to England to negotiate the return of Maryland's stock in the Bank of England. In 1787,

he was elected to the Maryland convention which ratified the Constitution, creating our present form of government, replacing the Articles of Confederation which had until that time governed the newly-independent states of America.

He served as judge of the Baltimore Court from 1788 until 1796, and also became the Chief Justice of the Maryland General Court. Chase's long and active career came to a head on January 26, 1796, when President George Washington nominated Chase to the Supreme Court. The following day he was confirmed by the Senate as an associate justice of the US Supreme Court.

In 1800, President Thomas Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans, a newly minted political faction, attempted to limit the power of their opponents, the Federalists, seeking to weaken their influence on the Federal Courts. Jefferson accused Chase of showing political bias and sought to have him removed from the Supreme Court. In 1804, Chase was impeached by the House of Representatives on charges of improper judicial behavior. The accusation claimed that political bias had led Chase to treat defendants and their lawyers in an unfair manner. Chase's lawyers, in retaliation, claimed that Jefferson's prosecutors were using politics to get their own agenda pushed forward. Chase himself argued that all his actions as a judge had been motivated by adherence to precedent and a sense of judicial duty to restrain lawyers from improper statements of law. The House passed eight articles of impeachment but the Senate acquitted the charges in March 1805. Chase remains the only Supreme Court Justice to have been impeached. He continued to serve on the Supreme Court until his death on June 19, 1811 at the age of 70.

It is apparent that political tensions even then divided America, just as they continue to do today. Historians and political analysts have seen the acquittal of Samuel Chase as an important precedent regarding the independence of the federal judiciary from the other branches of government. From the impeachment proceedings developed the concept that the judiciary is prohibited from engaging in partisan politics and it also clarified the concept of the independence of the judiciary from the other branches of government.

Outspoken, Samuel Chase was a patriot, a founding father of the United States, a signatory of the Continental Association and of the Declaration of Independence. He served as a representative in Maryland's legislature. He was a lawyer and one of the founding justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is this combination of attributes which has led to his being recognized today here in his birthplace of Somerset County, Maryland.

Preservation Maryland

and the Somerset County Historical Trust

TOUR OF SOMERSET COUNTY

On March 25, 2022 members of the Somerset County Historical Trust hosted two staff members from Preservation Maryland on a tour of local historical sites with an emphasis on preservation needs. Laura Houston, historic property redevelopment manager, and Benjamin Curran, historic trades curriculum developer, arrived mid-morning in Princess Anne and spent the day visiting and discussing several of our projects.

We began with a driving tour of Princess Anne's numerous historic buildings, and then proceeded to Mt. Zion Church to meet with church members Retta Jones and Beatrix Bounds. The group toured the church and examined the critical structural needs relating to long-term roof failure and water damage.

Our next destination was the Waddy House, where ongoing restoration efforts were particularly interesting to our guests, especially the preservation of the fully exposed interior structure. [see *Waddy House story in Issue 5*]



[left to right]: Laura Houston (PM), Retta Jones (Mt. Zion), Benjamin Curran (PM), Randy George & Diane Savage (SCHT), Beatrix Bounds (Mt. Zion)

Nearby, Mr. Curran examined our salvage operation of the bricks from the 18th century Panther's Den house which recently burned and gave a short tutorial on colonial brick manufacture.

For lunch at the Washington Inn in Princess Anne, we were joined by two additional Trust board members. The group then traveled to the Fairmount Academy for a review of the preservation work already done to the schoolhouse and museum. We were all impressed by the dedication and hard work of the Fairmount Academy Association members.

Back to Princess Anne mid-afternoon, we were able to allow Laura and Benjamin an early return to Baltimore. We were all pleased with a time well spent and agreed to continue our correspondence and collaboration.



Fairmount Academy



Cemeteries are among the most valuable of historic resources. They can reveal information about historic events, religions, lifestyles, and genealogy - but unfortunately do not necessarily remain permanent reminders of our heritage ...

CEMETERY PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

May 26, 2002—by Preservation Maryland

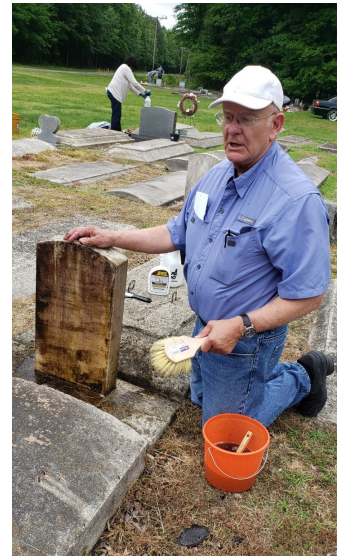
Preservation Maryland held a free hands-on workshop at the Mt. Zion Church cemetery in Venton (on the outskirts of Princess Anne). The Rural Maryland Council provided Preservation Maryland with a generous grant to host cemetery preservation workshops in all 18 rural counties in Maryland — this one covering Somerset County.

The workshop was led by Benjamin Curran, Preservation Maryland's Historic Trades Curriculum Developer, and was attended by about nineteen participants.



Cleaning is relatively simple to do, but there are some **important** things to know:

- ◆ We recommend first reviewing information on preservationmaryland.org to ensure you understand and utilize approved techniques before proceeding to clean any cemetery monuments.
- ◆ It is **IMPERATIVE** to get permission from the cemetery and/or property owner.
- ◆ **NEVER** use any metal tools when cleaning grave markers as they may damage the stone. Only use scrapers and brushes made of plastic or nylon.
- ◆ **NEVER** use any type of chlorine bleach cleaners or abrasive cleansers. Only use professionally approved and tested cleaners. The one used in this workshop is *D/2 Biological Solution*.



Go to schtrust.org/cemeterypreservation to view a recording of the workshop



Somerset County Historical Trust

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SAVE THE DATE—Annual Meeting 2022

Our 2022 Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, September 24th**. It will be held at ‘The Reward’ near Shelltown, the home of Trust members Jim & Charlotte Sharf.

Stay tuned for more info closer to the date



Help spread the word . . .

We thank all of you for your ongoing support of the Trust. You can help us grow our membership by encouraging interested neighbors and friends to become members of the Trust.

Our website schtrust.org explains the Trust’s mission and ongoing work in the areas of preservation and stewardship.