

A Walk Through History - part 2

By Ron Browning; photos by Ellie Mencer

The second period that loosely divides the timeline of our historic district is during the construction (1836) and opening (1839) of the Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal and the completion of the Wilmington & Baltimore railroad brought great prosperity to the ferry boat town/terminus of Havre de Grace. This prosperous era (1830-1850) embraced Gothic, Federal, early Victorian and other styles.

The **Lock House** (1840) at Charles Montgomery Way off Conestogo Street, now the *Susquehanna Museum*, is a typical brick structure of the period. This building housed the lock tender and his family and served as the canal's offices.



At 229 North Union Avenue, the Dr. Thomas C. **Hopkins House** (1839) is an elaborate Greek Revival example of the owner's prosperity. This brick house has two massive chimneys rising from a hipped roof and an impressive carriage house in the rear yard. Today this beautiful home is a Bed & Breakfast, *La Clé D'or*.

The Abraham Jarrett **Thomas House** (1834), 501 St. John Street at the railroad bridge, once served as the Lafayette hotel (1856-1940s) and is now the Joseph L. Davis Post 47 of the American Legion. Again, its dormers, large chimneys and hipped front porch are most prominent.

A triad of homes in the 200 block of South Union Avenue are reflective of the brick structures of the "Canal Period" in Havre de Grace. The **Sappington House** (1838), #212, its twin – the **Hoke House**, #213, and the **Hall House** (c. 1835), #227, are good examples.



The **Concord Point Lighthouse** at Concord and Lafayette Streets is one of eight lighthouses in the northern bay area, built by Havre de Grace native, John Donahoo (1786-1858). It is one of the most photographed and painted structures in town. The light keeper's house (c. 1827) at 720 Concord Street, built by Donahoo, has been restored in an ongoing project since 1990.

At 701 North Adams Street, Henry Barnes built a 2-1/2 story brick home in Federal style facing Ontario Street. When Barnes's wife Elizabeth sold the property to **John Hopper** in 1864, he relocated the façade to the west, facing North Adams Street, where he added an Italian Villa style addition in 1965.

The **Hannah Boyce House** (c. 1830-1840), 368 and 366 Congress Avenue, is a small, unpretentious duplex at the southern end of the downtown business district. The original structure is composed of fieldstone overlaid with stucco, but the second house (possibly an addition) is partially made of fieldstone with a brick façade. Perhaps two owners promoting separate individuality chose the different porch styles – one hipped and supported by three columns, the other flat and supported by two columns, suggestive of the Classic Revival style. The brick home is a three-bay structure, while the stucco is two-bay.



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