



Dining Room

© Steve Buchanan Photography

A Home and Retreat From the Vicissitudes of Life

When Hester Ann Chase passed away, she left the house to her three nieces. By 1885, both Frances and Matilda had died, leaving their sister, Hester Ann Chase Ridout, as the sole heir. Ridout, perhaps influenced by her aunt's charity in providing a home for her and her sisters as orphans, wanted to leave a positive and lasting legacy for women. In her will, written in 1886, she established the house as Chase Home, to be a "retreat from the vicissitudes of life," and set up a board of trustees to maintain the home. Her gift and the devoted efforts of the trustees have provided a caring and comfortable home of, by, and for women for over 125 years.

The ongoing mission of the Chase Home is to carry on the legacy of Hester Chase Ridout in providing a safe haven for women while maintaining the architecture and artifacts of the beautiful 18th century mansion in which they live.

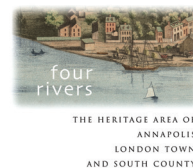


The Chase-Lloyd House

22 Maryland Avenue • Annapolis, MD 21401

www.chaselloydhouse.org

Open March–December
Monday–Saturday, 2–4 pm
Admission



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THE CHASE-LLOYD HOUSE



A House and Home of Maryland History

22 Maryland Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

≡ A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK ≡

The Chase-Lloyd House, also known as the Chase Home, is a National Historic Landmark, rich in American history. The story of the house begins in 1769 with the determination of Samuel Chase, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of the first Supreme Court justices, to build a fine mansion in Annapolis. It moves through the political, social, economic, and cultural currents of colonial and early American history into the waves of 19th century struggle and progressivism, in particular that of the emerging women's rights movement. The story continues in the 20th and 21st centuries with the lives of the residents of Chase Home. They are the beneficiaries of the generous humanitarian spirit of the last private owner of the house and a relative of Samuel Chase, Hester Chase Ridout, who donated the home in 1888 as a retreat for women from the vicissitudes of life. The home stands today as a beautiful testament to the dreams of both Chases and the achievements of American and architectural history.

Samuel Chase and Early Construction

Samuel Chase was born in 1741 in Somerset County on the eastern shore of Maryland and was raised in Baltimore by his father, an Anglican minister. Chase began his political career in Annapolis as a lawyer and a representative in the colonial Maryland legislature. An active leader in the Sons of Liberty, he was elected to represent Maryland in the Continental Congress. Demonstrating his commitment to the revolutionary cause of fellow colonials, Chase signed the Declaration of Independence, but later refused to sign the Constitution. In 1796, George Washington appointed him an associate justice in the United States Supreme Court.

In 1769, when Chase was only 28 years old, the ambitious lawyer began the construction of a house in Annapolis for his growing family. From its unusually tall three-story height, it is evident that Chase wanted his Georgian-style mansion to rival those of his far wealthier neighbors. Sadly, with only the foundation and outer shell of the house completed, he encountered financial difficulties. In 1771, Chase sold the unfinished house to a wealthy plantation owner from the Eastern Shore, Edward Lloyd IV.



Collection of the Maryland State Archives
Portrait Of Samuel Chase
by John Beale Bordley



Front Parlor

© Roger Miller

Edward Lloyd IV and House Completion

Like Chase, Lloyd needed a home in Annapolis close to the political life of the colonial capital. As a fifth generation Maryland planter from Talbot County, Lloyd had just been elected as a delegate to the Maryland General Assembly. The townhouse provided an elegant setting for him and his family in which to live and entertain while the assembly was in session. Lloyd hired William Buckland, a master builder working in Virginia, to complete the exterior and interior of the structure. His choice was fortuitous as the resulting work is one of the finest examples of classical architecture in colonial America. Buckland had trained in London, where he was introduced to the neo-Palladian style in vogue there in the later 18th century. He and his crew of carpenters, masons, and plasterers applied the balanced and symmetrical features of that style to Lloyd's house, producing a masterpiece of Anglo-Palladianism. Buckland's other major works include the Hammond-Harwood House, across Maryland Avenue from the Chase-Lloyd House, and Gunston Hall, the home of Virginia patriot George Mason.

Several of Edward Lloyd's children were born in the house, including his only son, Edward, who became a governor and senator of Maryland, and his youngest daughter, Mary "Polly" Tayloe Lloyd. In 1802, she married Francis Scott Key, later the author of the Star-Spangled Banner, now the national anthem. Local legend places the wedding ceremony at the foot of the magnificent central staircase in the entrance hall. Lloyd died in 1796 at the age of 52. He left the Annapolis house to his wife, Elizabeth Tayloe Lloyd, along with his Eastern Shore property which she managed until their son, Edward V, came of age.

Edward Lloyd V at the Mansion

Edward Lloyd V was only 16 when his father died, and he did not inherit the house in Annapolis and the family plantation in Talbot County until 1800, upon turning 21. The young Lloyd acquired not only the land, but also the family's slaves. Fredrick Douglass, who lived on the plantation as a child, remembers Lloyd in his autobiography as an imperious master. He describes the beating of a slave by Lloyd which impressed Douglass with a deep sense of the injustice and barbarity of slavery. In 1800, Lloyd was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. Like his father before him, that meant he needed a place to entertain. The family home in Annapolis fulfilled the purpose well, and many of the slaves from the plantation, including Sall Wilks, were sent to Annapolis to work in the house. Lloyd served in the House of Delegates until 1805, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1809, Edward Lloyd V ran for governor of Maryland against the last living signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and won by a landslide. Lloyd remained in office until 1811. A year later, he participated in the War of 1812 as Lieutenant Colonel of the 9th Regiment of the Maryland Militia. After the war, he served in both the Maryland and the U.S. Senates. Edward Lloyd sold the house in 1826 to his brother-in-law, Henry Hall Harwood.

Coming Full Circle

In 1847, Hester Ann Chase, who had lost her home nearby on King George Street to fire, bought the house from Harwood's heirs. The daughter of Jeremiah Chase, a cousin of Samuel Chase, and the wealthiest woman in Annapolis, Hester Ann was a primary investor in



Portrait of Hester
Ann Chase Ridout

Annapolis's first water and electricity companies. Although she was an unmarried woman with no children, the large house allowed her to provide a home for her three orphan nieces, Matilda, Frances, and Hester, the children of her sister, Matilda, and her husband, Thomas Chase, the son of Samuel Chase. At the time, another of Hester Chase's sisters, Frances Chase Loockerman, lived across the street in the Hammond Harwood House.