

# HAMPTON

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### Towson, Maryland

**Hampton is one of the largest and most ornate mansions built during the post-Revolutionary War period, from 1783-1790. Reflecting the late Georgian style of architecture, it represents an important phase in the history of American building.**

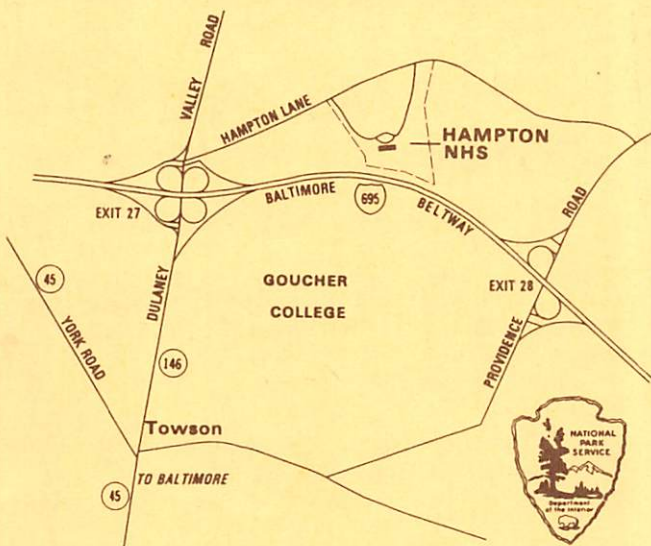
For 158 years Hampton was the home of the Ridgely family, long prominent in Maryland. The original land tract was purchased in 1745. When iron ore deposits were found nearby, the Ridgelys expanded their land holdings and established the Northampton Ironworks which supplied military stores, including cannon and shot, to patriot forces during the Revolution. Hampton Mansion, built by Charles Ridgely (1733-1790), was the result of profits made from the operations of the ironworks. Charles Carnan Ridgely (1760-1829), the second master of Hampton, was a Representative, Maryland General Assembly 1790-1795, Senator in the Assembly 1796-1800, and Governor of Maryland, 1815-1818. Succeeding generations of the Ridgely family continued to inhabit Hampton in a style commensurate with their social status.

Known for their "beauty and renown," the formal gardens and grounds of Hampton contributed to the grandeur of the estate. Notable trees on the grounds include: red cedars, cedar of lebanon, catalpas, magnolias and other native and exotic specimen trees.

Today, furnishings of the Mansion reflect the entire Ridgely residency. The spacious grounds contain many outbuildings including greenhouses, an ice house, stables, and the restored orangerie. A recent land acquisition added significant buildings to the park which include: the overseer's house, slave quarters, dairy, and barns.

# ABOUT YOUR VISIT

The grounds are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except January 1 and December 25. The Mansion is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The last tour begins at 4:30 p.m. Advanced notices for groups of ten or more are requested, and special tours may be arranged in advance. Admission is free. A tearoom, serving luncheon, is located in the Mansion.



## HOW TO GET TO HAMPTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The park is accessible from the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) via exits 27 and 28 north. Public transportation from Baltimore serves the Towson area within a mile of the park. In Towson, take Dulaney Valley Road (Md. 146) north across the Beltway and immediately turn right on Hampton Lane, which leads to the park. This is a dangerous intersection; be careful not to enter the Beltway ramps located adjacent to Hampton Lane.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

Do not allow your visit to be spoiled by an accident. Be especially careful on the earthen ramps leading to the gardens; they are steep and may be soft, wet, or uneven. The gravel and cobblestone walks are slippery when wet. The overseer's house, slave quarters, and farm buildings, located north of Hampton Lane, are closed to the public due to hazardous conditions.

**Hampton NHS** is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Address communications to: Site Manager, Hampton National Historic Site, 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21204.