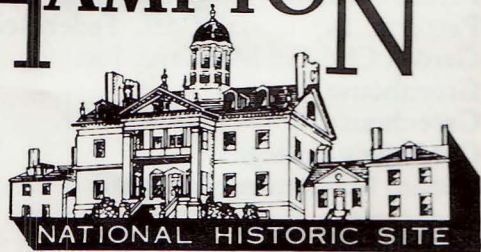
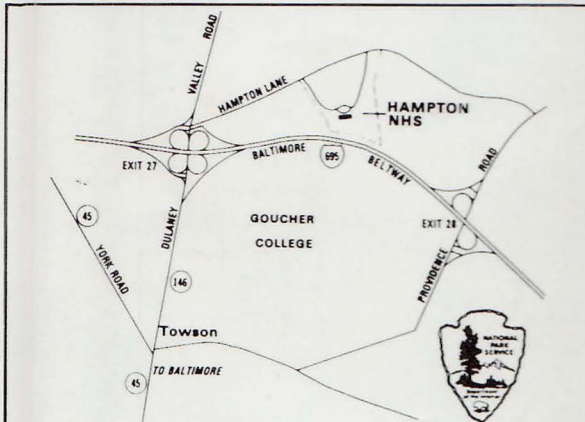


HAMPTON



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, and a gift shop are 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 Dulany 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.

Hampton NHS is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Hampton Historic Site, 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, Md. 21204. (301) 823-7054

This Garden and Grounds tour is printed by Historic Hampton, Inc. & Preservation Maryland, in cooperation with the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Gardens & Grounds



HAMPTON

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



The walking tour is designed to acquaint you with Hampton's varied landscape styles. The gardens and grounds of the Hampton estate have evolved with the Ridgely family, who occupied the Mansion for six generations. Seventy years after its construction, the noted horticulturist, Henry Winthrop Sargent, described Hampton: "The entrance hall, of great width and dignity, passes the visitor to the south front, where is a terraced garden of great antiquity, with clipped cedar hedges of most venerable appearance. The formal terraces of exquisitely kept grass, the long rows of superb lemon and orange trees, with the adjacent orangerie and the foreign air of the house, quite disturb ones ideas of republican America."

From the beginning, the Ridgelys were interested in landscape gardening. Although information concerning the early planning of the gardens is incomplete, it is known that Charles Carnan Ridgely (Governor of Maryland, 1815-1818) desired to make a showplace of Hampton. He inherited the property in 1790 from his uncle, Captain Charles Ridgely, who built the Mansion. In 1802, Charles Carnan Ridgely approved garden designs developed by William Russell Birch, the Philadelphian artist. It is also generally believed that William Booth, a well-respected American nurseryman, supervised the construction of the parterres, the geometric formal gardens, by 1801.

In 1799, Charles Carnan Ridgely had 10,590 feet of wooden irrigation pipes laid to convey water from nearby springs to the Mansion, gardens and meadows. By 1859, irrigation water was conducted from a spring by 2,000 feet of lead pipe to a reservoir at the Mansion. From there, the system radiated to hydrants placed throughout the gardens.

When John Ridgely (1790-1867) and his wife, Eliza (1803-1867) lived in the Mansion, they made many changes to the gardens. Eliza Ridgely was a frequent traveler who brought numerous exotic trees from

Europe and the Far and Middle East. She also converted one of the boxwood parterres to beds of colorful coleus, which was fashionable in early 19th century Europe. By 1880, the gardens also boasted over 20,000 bedding plants and 4,000 roses in more than 275 beds.

By the end of the 19th century, however, the Ridgely family was forced to reduce its lavish style and the parterres were revised to lessen the maintenance costs. Eventually, all but Parterre I were returned to grass.

For almost two hundred years, many visitors have enjoyed Hampton's gardens and grounds. Hampton has one of the finest collections of mature native and exotic trees in Maryland, and the trees' great size complements the impressive late Georgian architecture of the Mansion. Distinguished guests, including Theodore Roosevelt and Lafayette, have enjoyed the lovely grounds you are about to discover.



STOP 1: Begin the tour at the marble steps on the north facade of the Mansion (labeled A on the map).

From the marble steps, look across the sweeping lawn to the Lower House (the farmhouse), which predates the construction of the Mansion. Some of Hampton's finest specimen trees are located on the north lawn, where they have had space to develop. The north lawn design is adapted from the English landscape park, popularized by Britain's "Capability" Brown and Humphry Repton. Such landscape parks appear to be simple and informal but are, in fact, carefully planned and designed to look natural. The style was a drastic break from the formal geometric fashion which had reached its highest development in France in the 17th century. Hampton's parterres on the south side are in the formal geometric mode.

An elegant approach avenue of trees, was typically

as wide as the mansion itself. Hampton's avenue of trees conforms to this colonial practice. An unique feature at Hampton is the heart-shaped drive-around in front of the Mansion, probably a result of the Romantic movement of the early 19th century.

The Tulip tree (1 on the map) and the Purple European Beech (2) are especially noteworthy. These two trees were planted circa 1825.

The large mound of earth on the left is a subterranean ice house (B). Built with a brick-vaulted ceiling and rock-lined walls, it was used to store blocks of ice cut from local ponds during the winter. The stables (C and D) to the east side of the lawn were built in 1803 and 1867. They quartered the Ridgely family's fine racing thoroughbreds and trotting horses. There is an equestrian exhibit in the Upper Stable (C).



STOP 2: Now walk east along the drive. At the end of the Mansion, turn right onto the brick terrace (E) and proceed to its far end to the gate.—

This section was used as the Mansion's service area. Beyond the far end of the terrace are, from left to right, a 20th century garage (F), a smokehouse (G), a wood shed (H), a pair of privies (I) and a pumphouse (J).

The area labeled (K) is presently an herb garden. Culinary and medicinal herbs similar to those used during the 18th century, are planted within the foundation of the 19th century octagonal servant quarters, which burned over 50 years ago.

The cutting garden (L) has been planted for the production of plant materials used in flower arrangements in the Mansion.

In 1772, Captain Charles Ridgely maintained an orchard on the Hampton estate which consisted of 722 apple trees. The terraced field to the southeast

and hidden by trees, is a small portion of a 21-acre orchard (M) which John and Eliza Ridgely planted in the 1830's. This orchard, which contained primarily apple and peach varieties, flanked the east and west sides of the formal gardens and Great Terrace. Around 1900, a portion of this field contained a kitchen garden, which had once been located on the bottom terraces below the parterres.

The Ridgely family cemetery (N) is at the end of the road to the east of the orchard.



STOP 3: Walk to the south side of the Mansion and stand in front of the sandstone steps. From here, one can view the Great Terrace.

In Governor Ridgely's day, a bowling green, or a smooth level lawn was located adjacent to a fashionable home. The knarled Catalpas (3, 4, 5) and one remaining original Cedar (6) along the crest of the Terrace are nearly 200 years old, which indicate that the Great Terrace existed at the time of the Mansion's construction.

During the mid-19th century, Eliza Ridgely planted exotic evergreen and deciduous specimen trees on the open lawn. The trees were planted following the design ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), then the foremost landscape gardener in the country. Of special interest is the Cedar of Lebanon (7) which is generally believed to have been transported from the Middle East by Eliza Ridgely, in a shoe box. The tree is the state champion and one of the largest in the country. Unfortunately, its location and current size interrupt the primary axis that runs from the farm through the Mansion's Great Hall and continues down to, and divides the parterres.

The Victorian cast iron benches were installed by Eliza Ridgely to provide areas for the contemplation

of nature — a popular Victorian pastime. The porticoes were favorite spots for social gatherings. Wisteria once grew up the pilasters to the Chinese-Chippendale style railing, almost obscuring the portico's entrance. The current iron umbrellas on either side of the south portico steps are not original to Hampton's landscaping plan, but support wisteria in a manner also prevalent in the 19th century.

Immediately below the south portico steps is a brick walkway. The brick walkway and those of crushed limestone create a variety of paths throughout the south gardens.

While strolling around the serpentine walkways, take note of the numerous marble vases purchased by Eliza Ridgely. She wisely chose vases of classical design which continue to link the Mansion's architecture to that of the landscape.



STOP 4: An excellent place to view the parterres is the center of the southern part of the walkway that circles the Great Terrace.

The parterres are the crowning glory of the Hampton gardens. Their size and dramatic terracing make them unique among the gardens of early Maryland and Virginia. Hampton had pairs of parterres on each of three terraces and below them were kitchen gardens, which was an 18th century practice.

Construction of the terraces or "falls" took place during the late 1790's and probably involved moving greater volumes of earth than in any other early American garden. The presence of grassed ramps rather than steps is a statement of informality that is unlike the European practice.

By 1790, several American gardens, including those at Mount Vernon and Monticello, were designed in

the naturalistic style of the English landscape park. However, the Hampton parterre gardens, laid out by 1801, followed the much earlier formal geometric plans once favored by European and English aristocracy. The deliberate selection of this latter style by Charles Carnan Ridgely, symbolized the stability, culture and refinement of his European ancestry.

When viewed from the cupola of the Mansion, the terracing creates an optical fantasy, leveling the parterres to a continuous patterned garden. This proportioning indicates considerable sophistication and knowledge of garden design and engineering.

In 1949, the late Alden Hopkins, landscape architect of Colonial Williamsburg, prepared a restoration design for Hampton's gardens and grounds. The four parterres on the two terraces have been restored or reconstructed to their approximate appearance prior to 1830. Each parterre has boxwood perimeters in conformance with Mr. Hopkin's plan.

On the first terrace is the original Parterre I (P). This unaltered parterre is indicative of how the others were probably designed. Parterres I and II (Q) have been planted with ground covers, and interplanted with spring bulbs and other seasonal plantings.

The second terrace, Parterres III (R) and IV (S), features old-fashioned roses, known as Heritage Roses. Heritage Roses vary in personality, express variations in foliage and fragrance, and are the parents of all modern hybrid roses.

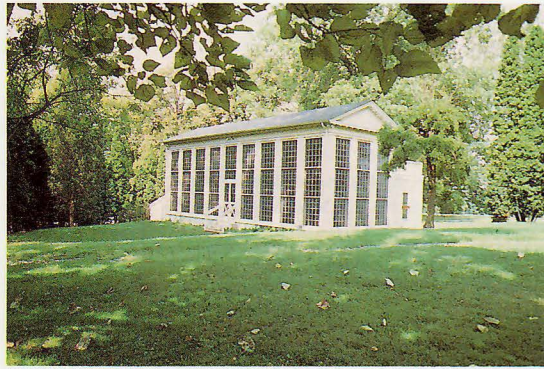
The third terrace features peonies. Peonies are among our oldest cultivated plants, originating in China. A popular 18th and 19th century bloom, they appear as the principal motif on porcelain, textiles and other decorative objects.

To provide enclosure, arborvitae hedging flanks the formal gardens on the east and west sides.

STOP 5: Toward the west, leading from the main brick walkway, lies a marble chip path, constructed in the 1850's. It by-passes the Great Terrace to the west, leading to the parterres (P, Q, R and S) and the greenhouses (T and U).

Historically, this area has been used primarily to serve the needs of the gardens. Its support structures include two restored greenhouses (T and U); cold frames; a gardener's cottage, circa 1790, 1843 and 1855 (V); and a garden maintenance building, circa 1875 (W). By 1880, there were at least four other specialized buildings, including a grapery and a fernery which no longer exist.

The Saucer Magnolia tree (8), the state champion, was an innovative hybrid when planted during the 1820's. The Pecan tree (9) is the tallest tree on the property, measuring 115 feet.



STOP 6: The last stop on the walking tour is the Orangerie (X).

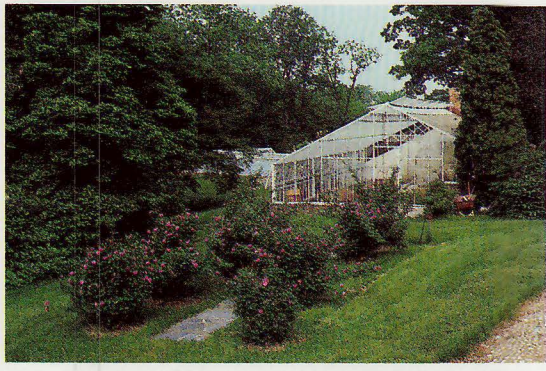
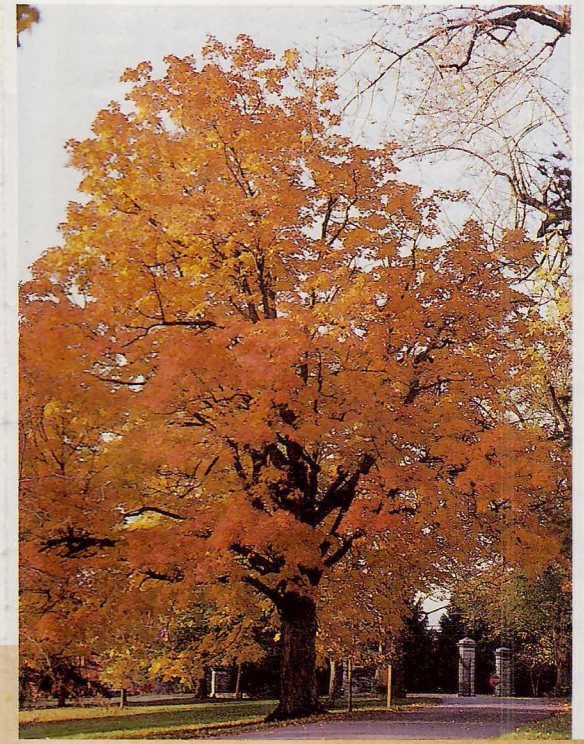
The present Orangerie is a reconstruction of the circa 1825 Greek Revival structure that burned in 1929. Orangeries were seldom seen in early America and were actually fading from fashion when Hampton's was built. At one time, the Hampton Orangerie housed one of the finest collections of

citrus trees in America. Grapes were also grown on the Orangerie's walls in espaliered fashion. During the warm season, 40 potted citrus plants encircled the Great Terrace. The plants were transferred to the Orangerie during the winter months. A hypocaust (wood furnace), located in the shed at the west end, provided heat in the winter through flues that ran under the building.

CONCLUSION:

At Hampton, an interdependent and harmonious relationship between art and nature was perceived as essential. In the 1859 sixth edition supplement to A. J. Downing's *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, Henry Winthrop Sargent states, "It has been truly said of Hampton that it expresses more grandeur than any other place in America."

Landscape gardening is an exceedingly fragile art which can disappear in a few years if the gardens are neglected. Consequently, Hampton's gardens and grounds are a heritage of incalculable value for current and future generations.



Guide

MAP KEY

- 1 STOPS
- B POINTS OF INTEREST
- 3 TREES OF INTEREST

TREE KEY

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Tulip tree | <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> |
| 2. Purple European Beech | <i>Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'</i> |
| 3. Common Catalpa | <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> |
| 4. Common Catalpa | <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> |
| 5. Common Catalpa | <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> |
| 6. Red Cedar | <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> |
| 7. Cedar of Lebanon | <i>Cedrus libani</i> |
| 8. Saucer Magnolia | <i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i> |
| 9. Pecan tree | <i>Carya illinoensis</i> |

LOCATION KEY

- A. Mansion
- B. Ice House
- C. Upper Stable
- D. Lower Stable
- E. Brick Terrace
- F. 20th Century Garage
- G. Smokehouse
- H. Wood Shed
- I. Privies
- J. Pumphouse
- K. Herb Garden
- L. Cutting Garden
- M. Orchard
- N. Ridgely Family Cemetery: Preservation Maryland
- O. Great Terrace
- P. Parterre I: Garden Club of America
- Q. Parterre II: Roland Park Garden Club
- R. Parterre III: Wolcott-Conroy-Lilly
- S. Parterre IV: District III, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.
- T. Greenhouse
- U. Greenhouse
- V. Gardener's Cottage
- W. Garden Maintenance Building
- X. Orangerie

