

Hampton Orangery
Hampton National Historical Site
Towson
Baltimore County
Maryland

HABS MD-226-R

HABS
MD,
3-TOW.V,
IC-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Addendum to
Hampton Orangery
535 Hampton Lane
West of Hampton Mansion
Hampton National Historic Site
Towson
Baltimore County
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. c. 20240

HAMPTON ORANGERY

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, west of Hampton Mansion,
Hampton National Historic Site, Towson,
Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park
Service

Statement of
Significance: The Orangery, presently a ruin, is indicative of
the nineteenth century standard of living at
Hampton, which was provided with fresh citrus
fruit.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Orangery was built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it to the National Park Service in 1948 under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service.
2. Date of erection: Circa 1830
3. Architect: Unknown

4. Construction information: No specific information is available. Minimal Ridgely family account book entries for greenhouse work may pertain to the Orangery.
 5. Alterations and additions: The frame structure of the Orangery was partially destroyed by fire in the late 1920's and was removed from the site after 1936.
 6. Important old views: A photograph of the structure exists in the Hampton Collection in the Maryland Room at the Baltimore Enoch Pratt Free Library. The photograph gives a full view of the south and east elevations. Within the Hampton National Historic Site files is a view of the southeast corner of the Orangery looking towards Hampton Mansion. A 1936 HABS photograph shows the Orangery in ruins before the wood structure was removed. The Orangery is located on the 1843 plat of the Hampton estate and is called "Green H."
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).

A reporter for the Baltimore American wrote that, "You are delighted in beholding the rich profusion and balmy fragrance of numerous plants and flowers, adorned with orange trees, and an extensive and highly cultivated garden." This account, published November 15, 1832, is the earliest known reference to orange trees at Hampton. The interest in citrus trees in America had probably originated in Genoa, Italy, where orange and lemon trees were extensively cultivated. Their popularity spread northward in the mid-seventeenth century, particularly under the care of the Dutch. In the northern climates it was necessary to move the trees indoors during the winter months into glazed structures called orangeries. In America prior to the Revolutionary War several of the colonials were able to afford the luxury of citrus trees including Charles Carroll of Annapolis who in 1768 ordered from merchants in Madeira "...a Bearing Lemon Tree or two in Boxes with earth." Following the war orangeries were built in several locations in the former colonies including the one constructed at Wye House on the Maryland Eastern Shore for the Lloyd family. The cultivation of citrus trees was included in "An Old Gardener's," The Practical American Gardener, published in Baltimore as one of the first American garden books by Fielding Lucas in 1819.

Though the account books of John Ridgely between 1830 and 1851 do not specifically mention citrus trees, his daughter, Eliza, wrote in her diary in 1840 that she "... stayed some time in the two greenhouses where we got some oranges and lemons."

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.

Within the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History files is Norman M. Souder's "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section, Orangery," 1966. The report includes plans and photographs.

2. Secondary and published sources: Charles E. Peterson's Notes on Hampton Mansion, published by the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service in 1970, provides information on the gardens at Hampton.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Originally a one-story, simplified classic revival structure, the Orangery had a nine-bay south (front) facade and a three-bay east elevation with triple hung sash. The north and west elevations had double hung sash over brick walling.
2. Condition of the fabric: The brick walling, which has survived, is in good condition. The foundations of the frame section have deteriorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The structure measures approximately 16'-4" wide and has a 46'-4" facade.
2. Foundations: The foundations are rubble limestone masonry and were stuccoed.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The existing north and west walls are constructed of brick, 13" thick and 7'-0" high. The exterior of the walls is stuccoed.
4. Structural system: Originally, the pilaster mullions between the windows of the east and south elevations and the half height pilaster mullions between the north and west windows supported the roof structure.

5. Porches: On the north elevation at the east corner a brick air lock addition, 5'-0" x 5'-6", originally enclosed inner and outer doors to the structure. The south jamb of the outer door has collapsed. The central south entrance has limestone steps.
6. The 1936 HABS photograph of the Orangery shows that there was a brick chimney which extended above the roof and was supported on an existing stack which projects 7" from the center of the inside surface of north wall. The chimney did not have a cap but did have a plaster wash above the original roof line.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Originally, the structure had four-panel doors at the air lock addition and a two-vertical-panel door at the central bay of the south facade. One sash was over it. The spaces for the door jamb nailer blocks are still visible in the air lock structure.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The south window bays, which flanked the central entrance, and the east bays had twenty-five over twenty-five over twenty-five 8" x 10" light triple hung sash. Fifteen-over-fifteen 8" x 10" light double hung sash filled the nine bays of the north elevation and the three bays of the west elevation. Square, simplified Tuscan-type pilasters without caps and with neckings and beveled bases separated the south and east bays. Half height pilasters set on the walling formed the mullions between the north and west windows.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The structure originally had a low gable roof which formed pediments, which were stuccoed, at the east and west elevations. It had wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: A full entablature surrounded the structure and had an architrave with dentils set flush with the top of the pilasters below projecting frieze boarding which received a small bed moulding. A crown moulding, which also continued up the rakes, was set on projecting fascia and soffit boarding above the bed moulding. It all formed a simplified classic cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The structure has one rectangular space with the adjoining air lock addition space.
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: The floor material is undetermined as it is covered over with a thick mat of sod.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The brick walling is plastered.
5. Doorways and doors: There was originally an interior door from the air lock into the main space, of which the east jamb has collapsed.
6. Special decorative features: None
7. Hardware: Wrought iron rings or hooks are spaced at intervals on the north and west walls suggesting that espaliered trees were grown against the wall.
8. Mechanical equipment: None

- D. Site and Surroundings: The Orangery is located near the west wing of Hampton Mansion. A marble chip paved walkway extends to the south brick paved terrace of the mansion. A modern parking area is directly to the west of the Orangery, which has a row of tall arbor vitae shrubs behind the north wall.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.