

Appendix A

**HAMPTON MISTRESS BUILT A ROMAN BATH**

**By Louise Hubbard  
(Washington Post, March 5, 1960)**

In 1949 Governor William Preston Lane participated in ceremonies which dedicated Hampton, patrimonial home of the Ridgelys for 150 years, a National Historic Site. He paid tribute to a former squire of the great mansion, Maryland's governor in 1816-1819, and referred to the home as "part of the fabric of the Nation's Heritage."

Hampton was saved for posterity by the Government because it represents an important phase in the history of American architecture. A mid-Georgian classic, it was built between 1783-1790 by Charles "the Mariner" Ridgely from the profits of his iron furnace and shipping enterprises. Charles probably designed the house but delegated the execution of his plans to a master carpenter whom he paid more than 3,000 pounds sterling.

The gates of the estate open from Hampton lane, less than a mile from Towson, Maryland. A driveway curves in front of the homes situated on the highest point of extensive grounds, once part of a 2,000 acre holding. The height of the structure is accentuated by a large octagonal cupola in the center of a roof decorated with urn-shaped finials, carved cornice, and framed dormers.

The walls are native stone, stuccoed on the outside and plastered inside, separated by an air space 2 feet wide. The main facades have double-galleried porticoes, with Chinese chippendale railings across the fronts on the upper level. These porches also have windows in enclosed sides, making them ideal summer living rooms. Blue glass fanlights above double entrance doors bear the family coat of arms, a deeper blue shield with a red band containing three white stars.

Hampton is one of the largest houses of its period measuring 175 by 55 feet. The central Great Hall runs the full depth. Approximately 22 by 53 feet in size, with a ceiling almost 14 feet tall it often doubled as a dining room. Fifty guests could be seated with ease and an invitation list of 300 persons was not uncommon.

When we see the exquisitely carved woodwork and hand planed walnut floors in the elegant drawing room, dining room, music and sitting rooms we should think of the hordes of workmen who came from

great distances to do the jobs. Daily these artisans rode through the forests from their homes and in the winter had to be dismissed by 3:00 o'clock so as to have daylight protection from bands of hungry wolves.

A modest stairway, rising from a small stairhall, halts on the second floor in a very elaborate middle hall. All the bedrooms open from this hall which has a rare convenience--four shallow closets for clothes storage. The third floor, divided into 10 low-ceilinged rooms, was the children's domain. A steep circular stairs winds up to the cupola or "doom," as it is described in the deed.

The wings which flank the main section of the mansion are attached by closed hyphens. In one is the old kitchen where present-day visitors may enjoy lunch or tea at tables set around a huge cooking fireplace, wall oven and brick warming stove.

The other wing was originally a laundry, with a school room above. For a while one of the later mistresses of Hampton converted the laundry into a Roman bath. Returning home from a trip to Italy she had cubicles installed here, taking advantage of the pump and well installed in one corner.

Many of the windowpanes have become wavy and clouded through the centuries, but still bear legible names scratched by diamonds. Crystal chandeliers blaze in rooms furnished with possessions of the Ridgelys and others. Portraits of members of the family, President Monroe and the Duke of Wellington hang on the walls. Books brought from England in the 1600s share bookcases with editions acquired by succeeding generations. The gardens are lovely in every season--surely an inspiring place to spend a day.

## Appendix B

### HAMPTON MANSION: A STANDARD FOR MAGNIFICENT

By Susan Stiles Dowell  
Maryland, XIV (Autumn 1981)

When Rebecca Dorsey Ridgely arrived at the "Large, New Building" which was to be her home, she was overcome by "a desire to be more Devoted to the Lord . . ." and promptly went to prayers.

Subsequent manor mistresses proved no less taken with their colossal abode. Eliza Ridgely embarked on a lifelong shopping spree which netted wall-to-wall "Turkey" carpets, chandeliers, and priceless European artwork. Margaretta Ridgely entertained 1,500 for tea, and Helen Ridgely, who likened the mansion to "the castle of some feudal lord," helped organize a hunt cup on the lawns.

Since 1788, Hampton Mansion has set a standard for magnificence in American manorial living. Not even the 20th century passing of the princely Ridgelys from Hampton's halls has diminished its reputation. Superlatives still apply.

The National Park Service, which owns and manages Hampton National Historic Site, states in its Historic Structure Report of 1980 that Hampton Mansion "is one of 71 outstanding examples of Georgia architecture still in existence in the United States. Its opulence has survived to the present, virtually intact . . . ." Also noted is the startling fact that at the time of its sale to the National Park Service in 1948, the mansion and its original outbuildings were a "superb and unaltered example of a great southern slave plantation."

The sight of Hampton mansion on its Baltimore County hilltop, surrounded by 45 acres of garden and grassy turf, is a shock for the unsuspecting motorist meandering along the suburban lanes north of Towson. If its grounds appear prodigious today, the incredulous on-looker might try imagining it with its original boundaries. It is said that Captain Charles Ridgely, builder of Hampton, could ride 27 miles across his property. At the time of his death, he had amassed a total of 10,000 acres in Baltimore County alone. A century later, descendants were still inheriting land in Baltimore City and Harford County.

Captain Ridgely was fourth in a line of enterprising new-world Ridgelys. Beginning with Robert, deputy secretary of the colony in St. Mary's County in 1671, the Ridgelys managed to be in the right places at the right times throughout Maryland history. Charles the Planter was ensconced in Anne Arundel County when that county was the richest in the Province. Charles the Merchant bought into Baltimore Country when it was frontier. Captain Charles the Builder capitalized on vast deposits of Baltimore County iron ore.

For 100 years after Captain Ridgely's death, iron ore was the source of Ridgely wealth. The Northampton Furnace supplied the Continental Army with armaments and became the keystone in a successful family mercantile business. Its profits built Hampton Mansion, and when the iron ore ran out, Northampton Furnace, now covered by the waters of Loch Raven Reservoir, provided a spectacular view from the mansion's north portico.

At the time of its construction, 1783-1788, Hampton Mansion was called "Ridgely's Folly." Wolves roamed the wilderness. The nearest neighbors were cabin dwellers who could not afford the price of a warming stove. A paucity of local gentry discouraged the influx of fashion; yet Captain Ridgely was a tycoon. His burgeoning wealth could easily underwrite the building of a palace in the boondocks.

Until recently, the majestic cupola atop Hampton Mansion was thought to be a replica of the octagonal dome on Castle Howard in England. Charles Ridgely, so the legend goes, displayed his kinship with the English Howards by copying their cupola. More probably, the idea originated with Ridgely's carpenter-architect, Jehu Howell. On a flyleaf of a 1787 accounting book, Ridgely wrote a note: "When I gave Mr. Howell leave to put on the Dome on my house, the expense, to me was not to exceed 180 pounds . . . ." Charles Ridgely indulged in luxuries, but flamboyance had a limit.

Jehu Howell may have been the architect of Hampton. Captain Ridgely, himself could have been the architect. Since the original plans for the building were lost many years ago, the identity of the master is a mystery. Whoever he was, he designed one of the largest houses in America, a record which stood until the mid-19th century.

His design, alas, did not earn him kudos. Diminutive wings and bulky porticos have categorized the architect as an amateur. Whatever his breach of Georgian architectural etiquette, he built a house that would accommodate the Ridgelys for six generations.

The new house was not yet painted when the Captain died. He was 57 and childless. His heir apparent was his nephew, a brother-in-law and business associate, Charles Carnan. Thirty-year old Carnan had

only to satisfy one condition in his uncle's will in order to inherit a fortune: change his name. With alacrity he obliged; by an act of the Maryland legislature of 1790, Charles Ridgely Carnan became Charles Carnan Ridgely. Aunt Rebecca, Captain Charles' wife, was still alive, and she had inherited the house. Only persistent wheedling and a fair portion of young Charles' fortune convinced her to relinquish Hampton Mansion.

By then, the new heir had become General Charles Carnan Ridgely. He and his wife celebrated their acquisition of Hampton Mansion by beginning work on the formal gardens. At a time when Jefferson was instituting the European mode of natural landscaping on the grounds of Monticello, General Ridgely moved tons of earth to create old-fashioned parterres on the south side of Hampton. It is said that construction of these three terraces involved movement of one of the largest volumes of earth in any early-American garden project. The result of his efforts, embellished by later generation, inspired one visitor to write: "it has been truly said of Hampton that it expresses more grandeur than any other place in America."

The General, a genteel man and superb host, lived well. A British guest in 1800 reported that Ridgely reputedly kept the best table in America; his stables housed the fastest thoroughbreds of the time; his fields were models of cultivation. His slaves numbered 312 and at his death in 1828, most of them were free. His will decreed that all slaves over 45 years of age were to be "provided for comfortably during their old age at the general charge of my Estate, to be borne in equal contribution by all my children and grandchildren."

The good General's term as Governor of Maryland from 1815 to 1818 gave Hampton Mansion its finest hours. One of the belles of the ball may have been a young lady who would become Hampton's most famous mistress. Eliza Ridgely married the General's son John when he was 38 and she was just 25. Her likeness, after a portrait by Thomas Sully (currently in possession of the National Gallery of Art), adorned calendars and playing cards of the time. Her considerable fortune, lavished on her by a doting father, brought to Hampton Mansion as quality of furnishings that could only be found on long, leisurely trips to Europe. A family legend recounts that she played the harp for the Marquis de Lafayette. Later in life, she and John Ridgely visited Lafayette at his home in France.

The ambience created by Eliza still pervades Hampton Mansion. The drawing room is filled with her Baltimore-made Empire furniture. An account she had with Scalamandre of New York City was recently researched and a duplicate order filled for drawing room draperies. Her "Turkey" carpets and chandeliers furnished several rooms, and her harp graces the music room. In the garden, twelve marble urns which

she had purchased in Europe still decorate the walkways. Her innovative coleus garden is gone, but the quaint orangerie has been reconstructed.

Perhaps Eliza's greatest bequest to Hampton was the magic of her own likeness. In 1948, Alisa Mellon Bruce, fascinated with Sully's portrait of Eliza, "The Lady with the Harp," was prompted to learn more about her. Her inquiry led to the discovery that Hampton might be sold. Mrs. Bruce promptly formed the Avalon Foundation to purchase the house and 42 acres of its grounds in order to present them to the United States Government as a National Historic Trust property.

Today, Hampton is preserved as the stately antebellum plantation it was during Eliza's day. Her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, even great, great grandchildren, were born and raised at Hampton. The Civil War, the loss of slave labor, and the increasingly pinched economy taxed the resources of those later generations, yet they managed somehow to preserve the beauty and character of their ancestral home. With the 1980 purchase of 14 acres from the adjoining Ridgely farm, Hampton National Historic Site has annexed a number of the original plantation structures, some of which predate Hampton Mansion. Given sufficient time and funding, the National Park Service may one day be able to present the public with a complete picture of one of America's oldest working plantations.

Appendix C

**STANDING STUDY COMMITTEES OF THE  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

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Committee on Political Questions,  
International Security, and Disarmament

Committee on Parliamentary,  
Juridical, and Human Rights Questions

Economic and Social Committee

Committee on Education, Science,  
Culture, and Environment

Committee on Non-Self-Governing  
Territories, and Ethnic Questions

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