HO-32 OAKLAND MANOR Private Columbia

One of the great Manor houses of Howard County, Oakland Manor is associated with the Honourable John Dorsey who surveyed Dorsey's Adventure in 1688 and later willed the property to his grandson Edward Dorsey. Robert Oliver, an Englishman acquired the property in 1827 and some ten years later George R. Gaither bought "Oakland Manor" Colonel George Riggs Gaither, his son, was famous for "Gaithers Thoopers" who held their Sunday reviews at Oakland Manor and later became a unit of the Confederate Army. Oakland Manor is most noteworthy, however, as the home of Luther Martin who settled in Maryland about 1770. He became one of Maryland's greatest lawyers, attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and playing an important role in developing the compromise plan in legislative representation. Despite this fact, he refused to sign the document and opposed ratification. In 1818 he became Attorney General of Maryland and served four years in that capacity.

Architecturally the manor is a fine blending of the Federal, Greek revival and Romanesque. The federal elements are found in the hipped roof, the twin central chimneys, and the large fan light over the central north en= trance door. The ground floor windows are inset into roman arch recesses ante dating the Beaux-Art style of the 1890's and more representative of the Romanesque. The central north porch or portico with the attached porte cochere supported by massive doric columns is representative of the Greek Revival style.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oakland Manor is a three sectional stone building facing north whose central two story high, three bay wide, one room deep hipped roof section is taller in scale than its east and west gabled roof (running east-west) two story high, three bay wide, one room deep stone wings which spring from the center section's east and west walls. The central section features central twin wide brick chimneys, and a fine one story high Palladian portico running the entire width of the central front elevation of the house, held by five doric columns and two pilasters applied to each end of the north wall of the central section of the manor. A simple wooden railing connects the columns and encloses the porch from which is extended a porte cochere supported by an additional six doric columns on two wide stone pillars. A simple cornice decorated with a row of dentils runs along the perimeter of the porch and porte cochere.

The central north entrance holds a cross paneled door with fan lite which has a newly built enclosed outer porch featuring a roman arch with twelve rectangular lites, the middle four taking up the upper portion of a central door.

Above the central entrance lies a tripartite window composed of a central rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites flanked by narrow rectangular double-hung windows with two-over-two lites and decorated by a single projecting hipped roof flat wooden lintel held by brackets. A rectangular double-hung window holding six-over-six lites lies on each side of this central window and is surmounted by a hipped roof projecting flat wooden lintel held by brackets. A shed roofed dormer window holding two lites lies east.

Of the central chimneys facing east

The fenestration of the building is rectangular in shape, double-hung, proportionally scaled and vertically alligned with six-over-six lites decorated with projecting wooden sills and shutters. The following exceptions are 1) The second floor windows of the east and west wings hold four-over-four lites, and the basement windows which lie under each of the three first and second floor windows of the east and west bays hold three-over-three lites. A stone belt course runs above the cellar windows separating the basement and first floors of the east and west wings. The first floor windows of the east and west wings are placed into roman arch recesses which are decorated with stretcher stone roman arch lintels.

2) A rectangular entrance door is located in the second floor middle bay of the east wings north wall with an iron fire escape to the ground,

No appertures appear on the east and west walls of the east and west wings of the original house but a stone parapet rises from these end walls flush with them. The wide brick east and west chimneys inset into these walls continue this parapet affect with the central chimneys rising from the middle of each wide chimney and giving a stepped effect to the parapet.

A one bay deep, four bay wide stone addition lies on the south featuring first floor roman arch recesses into which are placed rectangular double-

hung windows in the east and west bays holding six-over-six lites and two french doors in the two central bays, the one to the west being boarded up. Above lie rectangular double-hung windows, those in the east and west bays holding six-over-three lites (air conditioning units take the bottom three lites of the windows), while those in the central two bays hold six-over-two lites. They are decorated with stretcher stone flat arched lintels and shutters. A one story shed roofed brick addition lies on the west wing's south wall with a rectangular entrance located in the west bay.

The open terrace which lies along the central section of the south wall has a wooden ballustrade along its southern perimeter connected by five brick and stone piles. Wide stone steps on the east and west approach the terrace. The south wall of the east wing holds first floor rectangular double0hung windows with six-over-six lites while the second floor windows hold four-over-four lites, with the west bay of this section holding a rectangular entrance door approached by an iron fire escape.

To the east lies the Eye of the Camel Art Studio which previously had belonged to the caretaker of the manor, north lies Governor Warfield Parkway and south lies Lake Kittamagundi. The Manor House sits on a lovely hill facing north, over looking Columbia and Wilde Lake.

400 acres)

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Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	
TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

On this property was later built Oakland Manor which Colonel John Dorsey sold to Luther Martin, Attorney General of Maryland in 1785.

This farm comprised all or parts of 'Dorsey's Adventure' 'Dorsey's Inheritance', (c.1688 -

Good for Little", Chew's Vineyard" and "Adam the First (1687-500 acres) embracing some 1100 acres.

In 1827 the property was sold to Robert Oliver, an Englishman who increased the estate to 2300 acres and later sold it to Col. Charles Sterrett Ridgely.

In 1838, George R. Gaither of Baltimore bought "Oakland Manor", his son, Colonel George Riggs Gaither, organized "Gaithers Troopers" which later became a unit of the Confederate Army.

As the home of Luther Martin, Oakland Manor has national as well as State-local significance. Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey on February 9, 1748, Luther Martin graduated from Princeton University and settled in Maryland about 1770. He became one of Maryland's greatest lawyers, attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and playing an important role in developing a compromise in regard to legislative representation. As a delegate he urged harmony and compromise and due to a powerful address to the members of the Constitutional Convention a committee was appointed to consider alternate plans for representation. Martin served on this committee which resulted in our bicameral legislature, offering equality of representation in the Upper House or Senate and representation based on population in the Lower House or House Of Representatives.

Luther Martin was not satisfied with the final draft of the Constitution and refused to sign it or advocate ratification. In 1818 he became Attorney General of Maryland and served for four years in that capacity. In 1826 he died in New York at the house of Aaron Burr.

Architecturally the house is a fine blending of the Federal, Greek revival and Romanesque. The federal elements are found in the hipped roof, the twin chimneys, and the large fanlight over the central north entrance door. The ground floor windows are inset into roman arch recesses ante dating the Beaux-Art style of the 1890's, and more representative of the Romanesque. The central north porch or portico with the attached porte cochere supported by massive doric columns is representative of the Greek revival style.

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Page 11 HO 155 District 6

OAKLAND MILLS PROPERTY-1923

Ellicott City Times, June 28, 1923, p. 4:

Karr, Hammond, & Darnall

Attorney's Sale Valuable Fee Simple Property, Known as Oakland Manor and located in the fifth election district of Howard County on the road leading from Ellicott City to Scaggsville.

By virtue of the power contained in a mortgage dated June 6, 1921 from John V. Findlay

FIRST: All that tract of land particularly described by metes and bounds in the mortgage aforesaid containing 350 acres, 2 roods, and 9 square perches of land, more or less.

much as is not included within the above described parcel of SECOND. So land, being a mill seat and the land whereon Oakland Mills formerly stood, together with what was formerly a millrace and all appurtenances thereto belonging. Among the improvements on said property are: the colonial manor house containing 15 rooms, three baths, 120 x 60 feet, built of stucco over stone, gardiners house containing 8 rooms, and a tenant house containing 8 rooms. The manor house and gardener's house being equipped throughout with electricity being supplied by a private line connected with the lines of Con. Elec. and P. Co. Water is furnished by a ram from a nearby stream rushing through the property. Also a stone stable 100 x 26 feet now used as a garage, cpw stable 60 x 20 feet, stalls for 20 cows, dairy, smoke house, and other necessary out-buildings, two beautiful meadows, containing about 100 acres with two streams of water running through them. The property adjoins the property owned by Dorsey M. Williams. It has a large frontage on the County road leading from Ellicott City to Scaggsville, known as the Old Columbia Road

R. BENNETT DARNALL

Gales

OAKLAND MILLS:

Page 5 HO-155 District 6

American, July 31, 1824, p. 1, col. 4: (short adv.)

Merchant and saw mill with the store and dwelling house, cooper's shop, and about 16 acres arable land.—The stand is reputed to be an excellent one for a country store well known by the name of the "Oakland Mills." For terms enquire of JOHN B. MORRIS,

President of the City Bank

American, Sept 21, 1838, p. 3, col. 7

OAKLAND FOR SALE

substantial and elegant kind. The main building or Mansion House, is of stone and rough cast,—Li8 feet by Li—with two wings attached on the East and West, built and finished in the same manner: each wing being 31 feet by 22, making the whole length of the building 110 feet; with a piazza to the main house of Li6 feet by 71 deep. The walls of the House are 26 inches thick. There is a large Hall—

A REPORT FOR THE ADAPTIVE USES OF OAKLAND

The Howard County Regional Chapter of the American Red Cross has realized that their building Oakland, also known as Oakland Manor, is presently under utilized but has great potential for use by other non-profit organizations as well as for their own offices. In addition, with minor changes the mansion can regain much of its architectural distinction and become a very handsome setting for receptions, meetings and parties.

HISTORY

From the time of its construction in 1820 until about the Second World War, Oakland was recognized as one of the major houses in Howard County. Over the past fifty years, the house has lost parts of its architectural character and its early history forgotten.

Oakland sits on part of the tract of land patented as "Felicity". The Federal Direct Tax of 1798 lists Deborah Sterrett as the owner of Felicity which contained a little over 1,100 acres. There were two houses on the property, one of log and stone and the other of log. More research should be done on the property history using primary source material in the Hall of Records, but it appears that Deborah Sterrett, who was the widow of John Sterrett, had inherited the property from her father's family the Ridgelys. Until Howard County was formed in 1851, this area was part of Anne Arundel County and referred to as Upper Anne Arundel. The Ridgelys were one of the wealthiest families in Upper Anne Arundel in the eighteenth century.

At Deborah Sterrett's death, Felicity was inherited by her son Charles, who, in 1820, constructed the present mansion as a country seat which he called Oakland.

At some time, probably shortly after 1800, Charles Sterrett changed his name to Charles Sterrett Ridgely. It is likely that this was done in order to inherit the estate of an uncle. In the Baltimore City directories, Charles S. Ridgely is listed as "gentleman" indicating that he had neither a business nor a profession. He was a member of the Class of 1802 at St. John's College and was elected to the House of Delegates in Annapolis where he was Speaker of the

House. In 1808 he fought a duel with William Barney. He had his portrait done by the French painter Charles St. Memin. An engraving, also by St. Memin, of the pastel portrait survives. Charles Sterrett Ridgely maintained a town house on Franklin Street near Charles which was then the newest and most fashionable neighborhood of Baltimore. He raised a squadron of cavalry and in 1812 held the rank of major in the Maryland militia. After 1815, he was always referred to as General Ridgely.

In 1825, two years before his death, Charles Sterrett Ridgely sold Oakland for \$47,000.00 to Robert Oliver, one of the great merchant princes of Baltimore. Oliver gave the estate, which contained 567 acres, to his son Thomas Oliver for use as a summer residence. The Olivers increased the size of the property to approximately 775 acres by purchasing adjacent tracts known as "Talbott's Resolution Manor", "Howard's Fair and Aimicable Settlement", "Joseph's Gift", "Dorsey's Search" and "Dorsey's Search Resurveyed".

The Thomas Olivers put Oakland up for sale in 1838. The advertisement in the Baltimore American of September 12th read in part:

OAKLAND FOR SALE ... The improvements are of the most costly, substantial and elegant kind. The main building or Mansion House, is of stone and rough cast, - 48 feet by 41 - with two wings attached on the East and West, built and finished in the same manner: each wing being 31 feet by 22, making the whole length of the building 110 feet; with a piazza to the main house of 46 feet by $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. The walls of the House are 26 inches thick. There is a large Hall - 6 rooms and 2 pantries on the first floor - 7 rooms and a large closet on the second floor, 3 bed rooms and wine closet in the garrett and 5 rooms or apartments besides a wine room in the cellar or basement - and also a hot air furnace for warming the whole house. Near the east wing is a wash house, and an ice house, both built of stone in the most convenient and suitable manner - the ice house is arched and capable of holding about 1200 bushels of ice. The carriage house and stabling (which are also of stone and built in the most faithful manner) is 91 feet by 36. All of these buildings were erected by General Ridgely, in the most strong and beautiful manner.

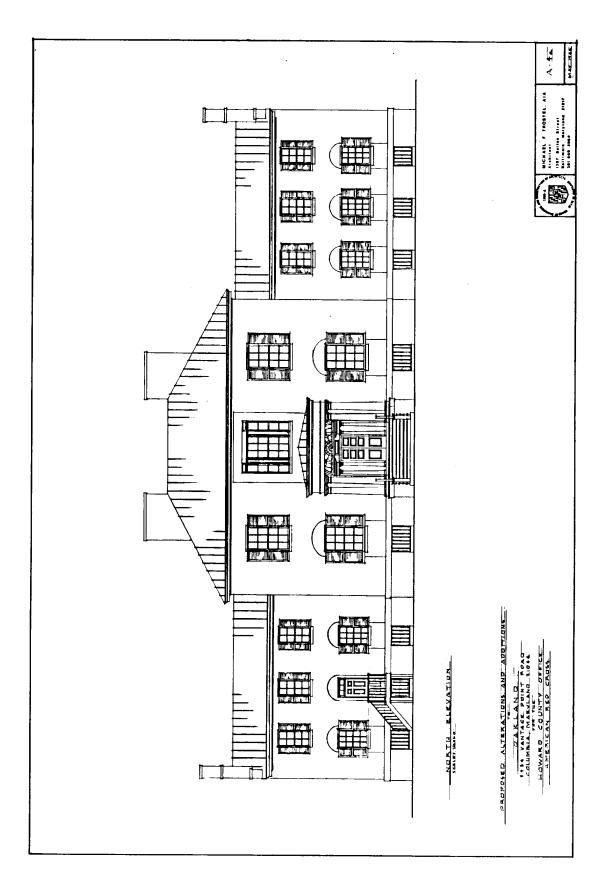
The estate was purchased in November by George Riggs Gaither, a Baltimore merchant, for \$50,459.95. Gaither was another of the spectacularly successfully merchants in Baltimore's early history. He arrived in the city in 1825 at the age of 28 and "retired to private life" 15 years later. A biographical sketch of Gaither published shortly after his death in 1875 stated: "Mr. Gaither purchased and resided for several years on the magnificent country seat in Howard County, Maryland, known as 'Oakland', which was the former property and residence of the late Charles Sterrit (sic) Ridgely. ... Mr. George R. Gaither accumulated a princely fortune in Mercantile operations and judicious financial transactions, ... The estate he left may be estimated in the millions."

George Gaither sold Oakland to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Tabb in 1864. The Tabbs were interested in racing and during their ownership a half mile track was constructed and a number of the famous race horses of the latter part of the nineteenth century were bred and trained there. A detailed map of the estate was made during the Tabb ownership which shows the location of all of the buildings and roads and indicates gardens and orchards near the mansion.

In 1906 John V. L. Finley purchased Oakland, then totaling 421 acres, from the Tabbs' heirs. Finley was descended from a distinguished Baltimore family and had recently married the daughter of General Columbus O'Donnell. From stylistic evidence, it was probably the Finleys who constructed the present porch and porte-cochere on the entrance front and the porch on the garden side. Photographs show that the south porch was two stories high and had a gallery at the second floor level. When the Finleys sold the property in 1923, the mansion was advertised as containing 15 rooms and three baths, and was lighted by electricity.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Ryan of Washington became the owners of Oakland in the mid-1930s. The June 9, 1940 issue of the Baltimore Sunday Sun reported that the Ryans had been making extensive changes to the mansion. The original stucco was removed. The south porch was also removed and a terrace created on that side. The greenhouse at the east end of the house was demolished and the space made into a rose garden. On the interior, the entrance hall and two flanking rooms were removed to create a large hall. The chimneys for the rooms were demolished and the two staircases redesigned. The partition between the pair of parlors across the south side was removed to form a drawing room.

Oakland passed through a number of ownerships after the Second World War before being acquired by the Rouse Company as part of their planned community of Columbia. The house then suffered several years of hard use until becoming the headquarters of the Howard County Office of the American Red Cross.



A REPORT

FOR THE

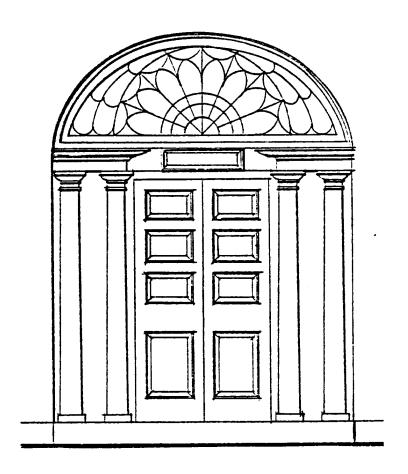
ADAPTIVE USES

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OAKLAND

FOR

THE HOWARD COUNTY REGIONAL CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS
8434 VANTAGE POINT ROAD
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND 21044



BY

MICHAEL F. TROSTEL, AIA 1307 BOLTON STREET BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217 301/669-3964

MAY 1985

CLASSICAL MARYLAND 1815-1845

Fine and Decorative Arts from the Golden Age

Gregory R. Weidman
Jennifer F. Goldsborough
with
Robert L. Alexander
Stiles Tuttle Colwill
Mary Ellen Hayward
Catherine A. Rogers

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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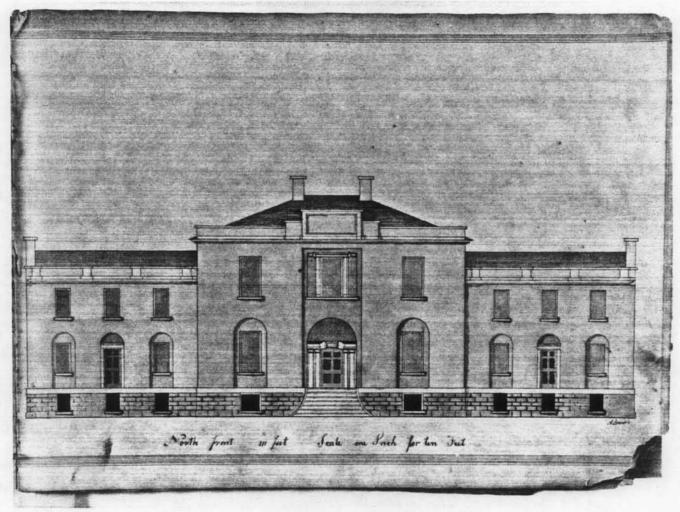


Fig. 26. Oakland
Abraham Lerew
1810-1811, near Ellicott City
North Front, 1810; 8 3/4 x 12 in.; black ink; yellow and gray washes.
Maryland Historical Society

This rural villa for Charles Sterret Ridgley is unified by the continuous base and the series of Adamesque windows in arched recesses. Built of local stone in irregular courses, the house probably was stuccoed, a popular treatment at the turn of the century; as the drawing indicates, it may have been painted yellow. The attentuated Tuscan columns probably were chosen as a symbol of the rural location.

Church (1814-1817; no. 25) the brick was stuccoed, a neoclassical fashion beginning around the turn of the century, and along with white stone and wood painted white the whole contrasted with the red and white coloration typical of the previous century. Its great tower was unusual in the age of neoclassical horizontality, but this survival from the Wren-Gibbs tradition marked the church as the seat of a bishopric, the first built since the Revolution. Its height was somewhat mitigated by the emphasis on the sequence of

classical orders, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite. Making a grand entrance, the four pairs of Doric columns had correct Greek form and proportions taken from the publication of Stuart and Revett that Long borrowed from the Baltimore Library Company. From the same Library he obtained Adam's volumes which he used for interior finish.

In the villa Oakland (1810-1811; no. 26), Abraham Lerew (d. 1817) fused the major elements of the traditional five-part house (such as



Fig. 27. Benjamin Henry Latrobe (by 1764-1820) By Rembrandt Peale Oil on Canvas, c. 1816 Gift of Mrs. Gamble Latrobe, 81.15

In Peale's sympathetic portrait, the raised head and lively eyes suggest Latrobe's alertness and quick mind. Educated at Moravian schools in his native England and in Germany, he acquired architecture and engineering through apprenticeship. In America from 1796 to 1820, he died of yellow fever in New Orleans where he had gone to establish a municipal waterworks. Of highest importance among his American activities, he supervised construction of the U.S. Capitol and the White House before and after the destruction of 1814.

Homewood, the Carroll mansion) in an integrated design, with the main block rising higher and the wings spreading to either side. Arched windows in shallow recesses stress the planarity of the smooth wall stretched skin tight between the masonry-coursed basement and the blocking course of the attic. The elegant balance and tension characterize the Federal style.

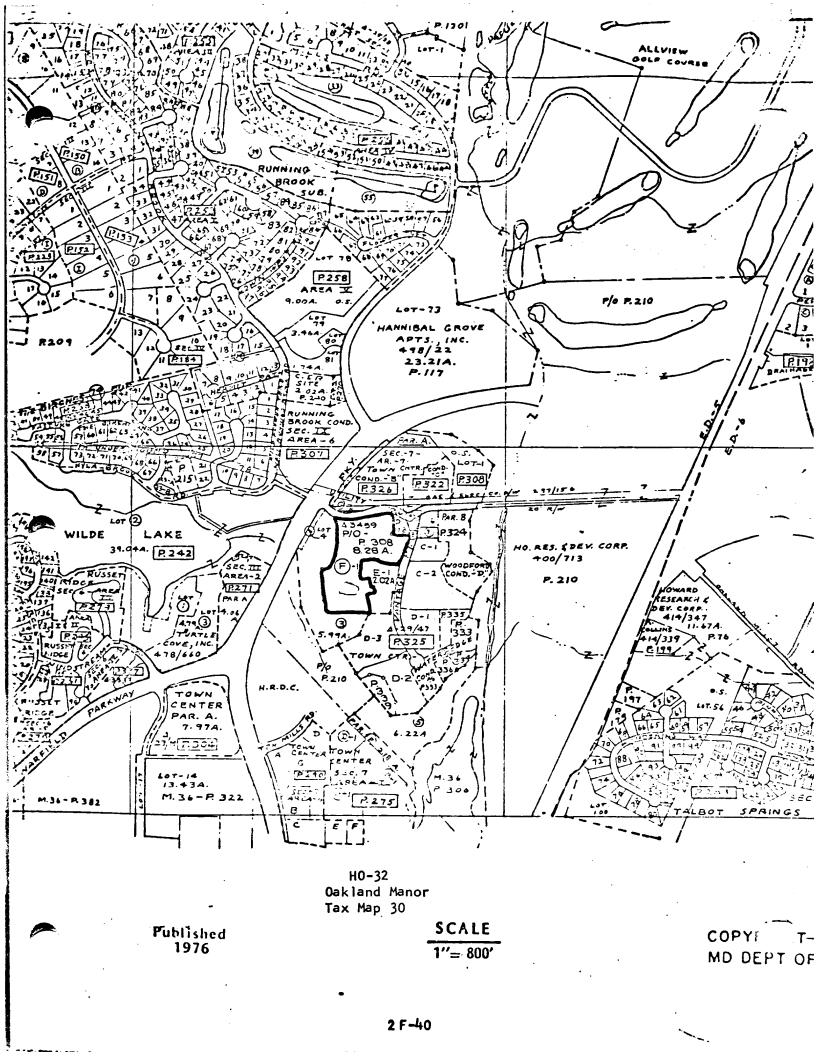
A very strong element in early nineteenth-cen-

tury Baltimore was the second phase, the modern style of Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764-1820), part of the movement stressing fundamental building forms and functions. This concern arose in Europe and although each country developed its particular version, the common interest led to shared language and motifs. Latrobe's was the English version, the foremost practitioner of which was Sir John Soane, architect of the Bank of England and other buildings as well as a teacher. Latrobe passed it on to such an early pupil as Robert Mills (1781-1855) and a late one William F. Small (1798-1832). The French form of this modern style was introduced by Maximilian Godefroy (1765-c.1840) after his arrival in Baltimore in 1805. Out of a shared interest in the restoration of the art of architecture, such men studied the early stages of building when, they theorized, the forms responded to human needs and the first efforts at construction. Many buildings show this dual concern, but the architects did not always achieve a balance of the two aspects. Some directed their attention to the expression of a building's function through its forms. The designs of others reflected basic structural devices, and columns actually carried and supported the structure. Whether of wood, stone, or brick, walls served for both support and enclosure, and thus their continuity and solidity were paramount. Much thought was given to how to break into the wall plane with doors and windows, niches and other recesses. A related interest was the use of simple geometrical forms, usually shaped by the bare walls and roof. Ornament was acceptable only as an architectural device such as the capital of a column spreading the weight of the beam carried overhead, or the cornice topping a wall and protecting it from rain. These were extreme positions, of course, and most architects sought both goals.

These architects often took stylistic cues from antiquity. Both Greek and Roman examples were emulated. Latrobe's Roman Catholic Cathedral has a Greek Ionic portico (built 1860-1863, no. 28). An entire building, the Roman Pantheon, served as the prototype for Long's Medical College and Robert Mills's First Baptist Church (1816-1818).

See Also:

Wilde Lake Barn HO-576



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 76°52′30″ 39°15′ —— 33000m E 1340 2.3 MI. TO U.S. 40 HO-32 Oakland Manor
U.S. Geological Survey Map Savage, Md. Quad 4345000m N Oakland Mills 4342 12'30"



HO-32 OAKLAND MANOR

CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON PLANNING CONSULTANT HISTORICAL BITES SURVEY

HO-32 RIA Cakland Manor



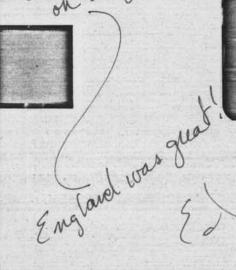
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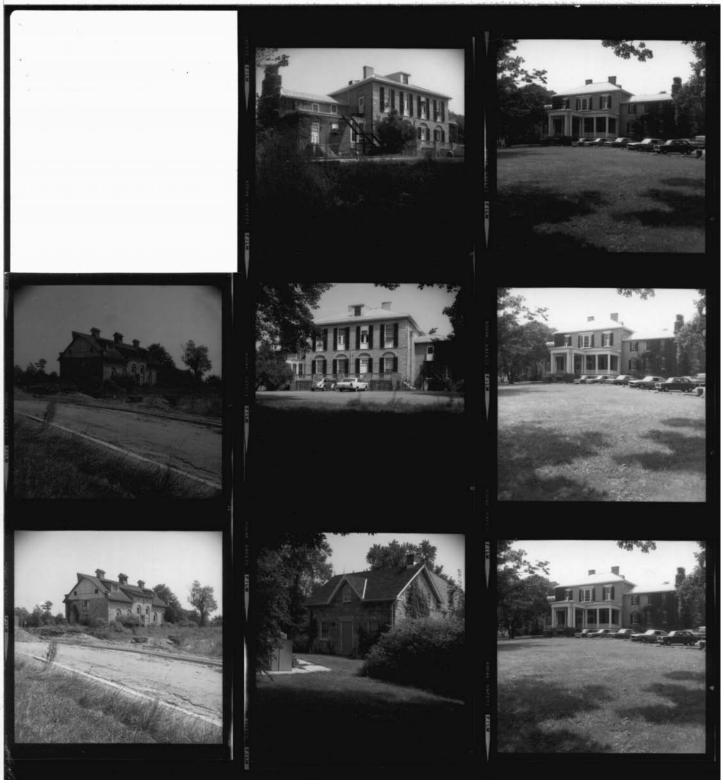




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MARYLAND HISTORICAL'
TRUST



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PLANNING CONSULTANT HISTORICAL SITES BURYEY M HT FILE



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