HAMMOND - HARWOOD HOUSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

PREPARED BY:

HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE ASSOCIATION INC.

FUNDED BY:

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS PROGRAM





Introduction

Hammond-Harwood House is a 1774 Anglo-Palladian historic house museum and garden in the Historic District of downtown Annapolis, Maryland. The building is a National Historic Landmark and has been well-preserved by the non-profit Hammond-Harwood House Association. This Cultural Landscape Report is the result of a Cultural Landscape Study focused on the streetscape of the house and conducted in 2018-2021. The ultimate aim is creating curb appeal with a new landscape that balances historical accuracy with modern usage—all in the name of enhancing the superb architecture of the house and adding to its significance for Annapolis residents and visitors.

While the architecture of the house is well-documented and preservation of original components is a high priority, a study of the way the house and its architecture relate to their surroundings has not previously been undertaken. While various Annapolis gardens, public and private, have been well researched, there has not been a study of the way the grand urban townhomes and vernacular wooden houses present at the street level. This study is meant to address that lack with respect to Hammond-Harwood House. Additionally, the front landscape has not received adequate attention over time, with the result that the presentation of the house on Maryland Avenue does not match the excellence of the architecture or the quality of the fine and decorative art collection inside.

Identifying and analyzing the significance and integrity of the cultural landscape is the first step in addressing these concerns. Recommendations for an appropriate landscape treatment, hardscape, lighting, seating, signage, and lighting will be based on the Cultural Landscape Report results.

Acknowledgements

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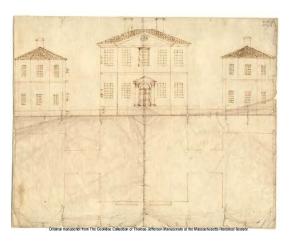
HAMMOND - HARWOOD HOUSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE SURVEY

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HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE OWNER TIMELINE

1774-1786: Matthias Hammond

Land description: "Two lotts [sic] (92 and 105) or Parcels of Ground lying and being in the City of Annapolis contiguous, and adjoining to each other."

1786-1789: John Hammond

Land description: "Four acres or Lotts [sic] of Ground in the City of Annapolis."

1789-1810: Phillip Hammond

Land description: "Two lotts [sic] or parcels of ground situate lying and being in the City of Annapolis contiguous and adjoining to each other and known and distinguished in Stoddarts Plott [sic] of said City by the numbers ninety two and one hundred and five" and "also all those other two lotts or parcels of ground lying and being in the said City of Annapolis contiguous and adjoining to each other and known and distinguished in said Stoddert's plat of said City of Annapolis by the numbers ninety one and one hundred and six, which said last mentioned two lots where purchased by Matthias Hammond aforesaid of his brother Denton Hammond on or about the 23d of March 1774, all which said four lotts or parcels of ground lie contiguous and adjoin each other and form a square commonly called Hammonds square."

1810-1811: Ninian Pinkney

Land description: "Two Lotts [sic] or parcels of ground situate lying and being in the city of Annapolis contiguous and adjoining to each other and known and distinguished in Stodderts plots of said city by the numbers ninety two and one hundred and five... also all those other two lotts [sic] or parcels of ground lying and being in said city of Annapolis contiguous and adjoining to each other and known and distinguished in said Stodderts plotts [sic] of said city of Annapolis by the numbers ninety one and one hundred and six... all which said four lotts [sic] or parcels of ground lie contiguous and adjoining each other and form a square called Hammonds square."

1811-1828: Jeremiah Townley Chase

Land description: "Four several lots or parcels of ground lying and being in the City of Annapolis contiguous" to and adjoining each other and known and distinguished by the numbers ninety one, ninety two and one hundred and five and one hundred and six forming a square commonly called Hammonds square."

1828-1857: Richard Moale Chase in trust for Frances Townley Chase Loockerman Land description: N/A

1857-1860: Hester Ann Harwood, Matilda C. McBlair, and William Harwood as Committee Land description: "Lots lying on Prince Georges street in the City of Annapolis as laid off by John Duvall Esquire surveyor of Ann [sic] Arundel County to wit No. 1,2,3 and 4" and "Lots on Prince Georges Street to wit No. 5,6,7,8,9 and 10 to them and their heirs as Tenants in Common."

1860-1870: Hester Ann Harwood and William Harwood as Committee for Townley C. Loockerman Land description: N/A

1870-1924: Lucy M. Harwood and Hester Ann Harwood Junior Land description: "A House and garden, and lots adjacent in the City of Annapolis."

1926-1940: St. John's College

Land description: "The said real estate consists of a lot of ground located on the South or South East corner of Maryland Avenue and King George Street, in the City of Annapolis, Maryland, fronting on Maryland Avenue one hundred thirty nine feet and three inches, more or less, and extending on King George Street one hundred forty seven feet nine inches, more or less, improved by a large brick dwelling with two brick wings, the main building being designated as No. 19 Maryland Avenue."

1940-Present: Hammond-Harwood House Association Incorporated

Land description: "The same parcel of ground described in a Deed from Nicholas H. Green, Trustee to the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College in the State of Maryland, dated April 1, 1927 and recorded among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County in Liber F.S.R. 12, folio 322."



OBSERVATIONS ON THE FRONT YARD OF THE HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE

In 1985, Annapolis architect Michael Trostel called attention to the "Annapolis Plan," a manner of arranging urban houses that allowed the owner to receive visitors with ceremony at the street, and later, to survey ornamental landscapes from the dwelling's best room, situated in the rear of the house.¹ Practically speaking, these "Annapolis Plan" houses faced *both* ways. The Hammond-Harwood House is one of the best examples. In keeping with its dual orientation as designed by architect William Buckland, workmanship on the masonry exterior prioritized orthogonal views of the street and garden fronts. That is to say, the finest work appears on the street and garden exposures of the main house and wings, while the flanks of these buildings displayed coarser work.

This practice continued into the 19th century. By that time, the transition between the fine front and the coarser flank was achieved by laying the front wall with tighter coursing than the sides. To make the transition between these dissimilar walls, the front was typically keyed to the sides every few courses. The Pavilion fronts at the University of Virginia illustrate the practice, which produced a visually jarring result, like the dovetailed corner of a drawer.

What is marvelous about the Hammond-Harwood House is that the transition from fine to coarse work is practically invisible. It was accomplished gradually, all on the side walls, maintaining the same 2 ¾" coursing used on front. The masons did this by diminishing the side-wall bricks as they moved away from the corners. As those bricks became smaller, the joints between them became larger. In this way, the masons transitioned incrementally from carefully made ¼" mortar joints in the main facades, to conventional ½" joints in the side walls.

The surpassing quality of the two main facades leaves no doubt that they were intended to be seen: the front from Maryland Avenue, the rear from a secluded pleasure ground behind the house. If that observation seems too obvious to merit comment, consider that the masonry's amazing subtlety required ingenuity, attention, time, and money to achieve. Consider, too, that the house was conceived essentially as two opposed fronts. In the execution, skill and technique were applied selectively and expressively to highlight that conception.

Significantly, the side walls connecting these fronts have *no* windows on the front floor and only three on the upper floor. Only the southern orientations of the stair, the drawing room and the best chamber were allowed side windows upstairs, for light, and for a view of the future State House. In contrast, the street and garden fronts were essentially transparent, containing virtually all windows in the house. These were present for what they did on the outside of the house, and equally for views they afforded to significant spaces inside the house.

This positioning of the Buckland-designed house and dependencies on the site was similarly calculated to achieve certain visual effects. Remembering that the property line lies at the inner edge of the present sidewalks, residents could have expected the new house to present a continuous wall along that boundary. But because the property originally compassed a four-acre parcel commonly known as Hammond's Square, there was no compelling reason to place the house *on* the street—but very good reasons to set it back.² Moving the house away from Maryland Avenue allowed passersby, whether on foot, mounted, or in vehicles, to experience the entire building as an integral design, and that brought compositional considerations to the fore.

Where residents experienced many buildings in the town as a sheer wall, looming at the walk, the Hammond-Harwood House advanced and receded rhythmically to create visual interest and to highlight the dwelling's functional divisions. Moving the building away from the street allowed observers to see the entire "performance" as a unity. Yet as they moved, these same observers experienced every element from countless vantage points, seeing obliquely, then frontally, and then again obliquely...

Moving *along* the street, the house avoided the monotony of typical frontages by presenting an assemblage of compelling forms, each scaled to the building's domestic purpose, each modulated in size and adornment to express its functional importance. No doubt, it was this symphony of forms that induced Thomas Jefferson to measure and study Matthias Hammond's house—and Buckland's design—during the winter of 1783-4, when Congress was convened in Annapolis.

To realize the potential of this design, the open space before the house may have been quite plain, but for the moment, that is beyond knowing. Archaeologically, retaining walls around the basement window wells suggest that the grade has been raised above its original elevation at the front façade of the main house. Judging from the old door thresholds and early paving of the hyphens, the grade at these doorways remains closer to its original height. These observations, added to the accompanying review of documentary images, allow some sense of the front yard's physical history since 1858.³

Mark R. Wenger



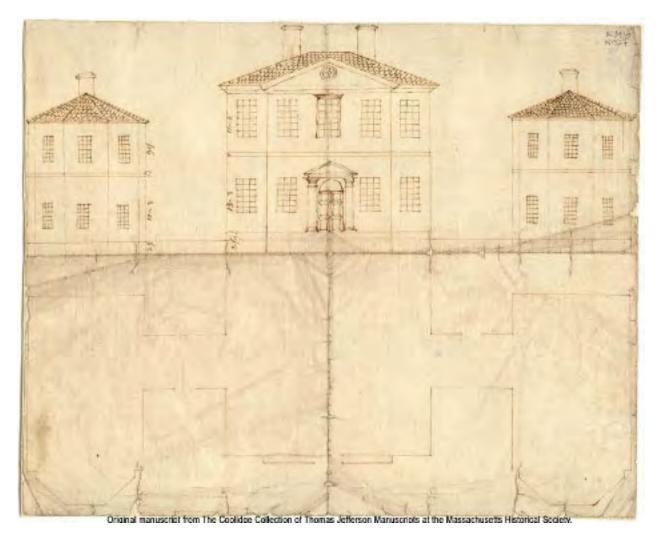
¹ Michael Trostel, "The Annapolis Plan in Maryland," in *Building by the Book*, Mario Valmarana, ed., (Charlottesville: Center for Palladian Studies in America, 1985).

² See early property descriptions for Matthias, John, and Phillip Hammond (1774-1789), in "Hammond-Harwood House Timeline," n.d., Hammond-Harwood House Archives.

³See "The Front Yard of the Hammond-Harwood House: An Iconographic Chronology," March 2020, Following.

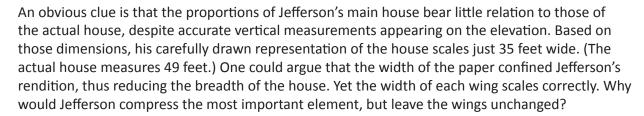
HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE: STREETSCAPE EVOLUTION

by Mark R. Wenger, AIA



Plan and elevation for an undesignated project, inspired by the Matthias Hammond House.¹ Thomas Jefferson. 1783-84.

Any review of Hammond-Harwood iconography is obligated to begin with Thomas Jefferson's famous drawing. He must have prepared it during the winter of 1783-1784, while Congress was meeting in Annapolis. Ostensibly, it provides a measured plan and elevation of Matthias Hammond's house as designed by William Buckland, but the drawing may not be what it seems.



Another important anomaly is that Jefferson's wings stand in a different relation to the house than the actual wings. Today, their *squared* front corners stand slightly behind the dwelling's main façade. On Jefferson's plan, the corners stand well in advance of that façade. Clearly, the width of Jefferson's paper cannot explain this departure from the actual building.

At the main entry, Jefferson showed a Doric frontispiece, while the actual doorway is Ionic.² In the opening, moreover, he showed double doors, while a single door seems always to have occupied the present opening.

The correct vertical dimensions on Jefferson's elevation leave no doubt that he measured the Hammond house. But his drawing seems to represent a *new* design, inspired by careful study of that structure.³

This supposition accounts for Jefferson's radical alteration of the main house; it explains his anomalous placement of the wings; it makes sense of his Doric doorway, and it reveals why he showed double doors in that portal.

Attracted by the quiet richness of Buckland's design, it seems that Thomas Jefferson sought to entertain himself by recording, and then re-imagining one of the town's finest houses.

Compelling as it is, the result of this exercise tells us little about the Hammond-Harwood House we don't know. A possible exception is Jefferson's rendition of the roof, which appears as a covering of round-butt wooden shingles. This would be a plausible covering in pre-Revolutionary Annapolis, and square-butt wooden shingles have been noted in an early context at the Ridout House.⁴

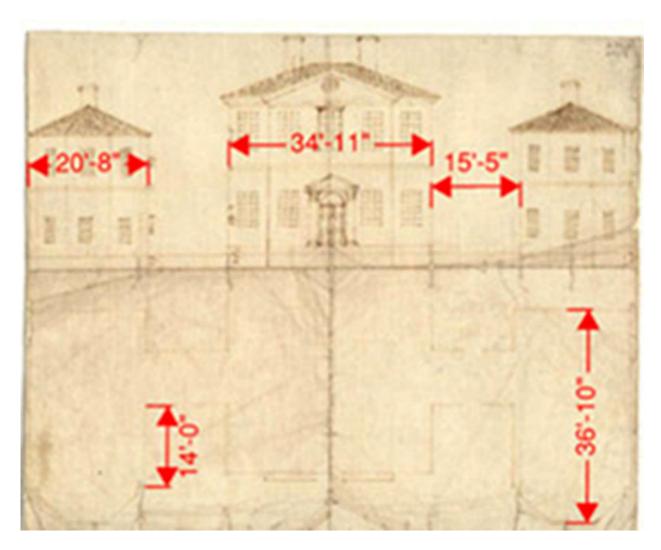


¹ Elsewhere, this drawing is universally identified as a depiction of the Hammond-Harwood House. See N527, Thomas Jefferson Papers, Architectural Drawings, Massachusetts Historical Society. The assertion is not entirely wrong, but it misses an important point.

² Jefferson carefully drew capitals which could represent either Doric or Tuscan orders, but each of the column bases display two torus members, identifying the frontispiece as a Doric composition.

³ Dimensional comparisons of the drawing and house appear on the following page.

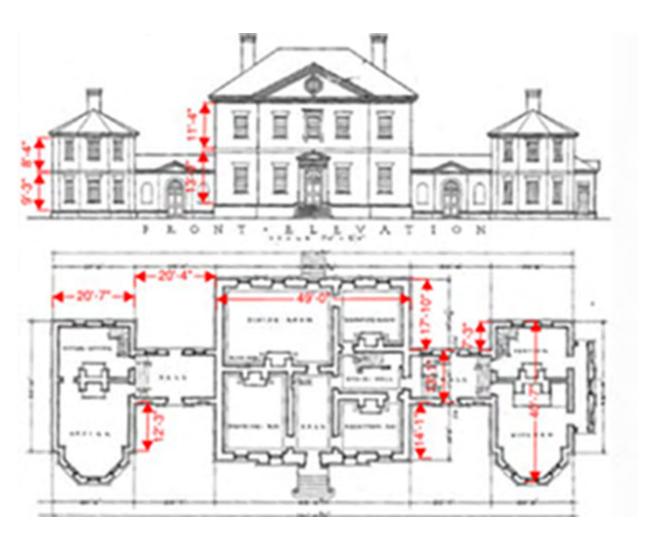
⁴ See VAF Guidebooks, Poe House and Ridout House in Annapolis, and Ringgold House in Chestertown.



The Jefferson drawing. Scaled dimensions appear in red.

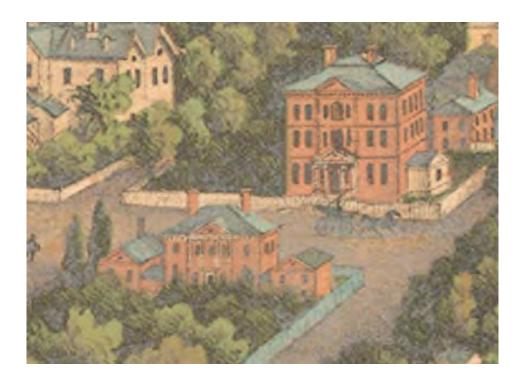
These are based on vertical measurements Jefferson recorded on the elevation.

All but the widths of the wings deviate from actual measurements of the house.



Scaled measurements of the present house.





1858. Detail of the Annapolis bird's-eye view by Edward Sachse.

This detail of the 1858 view by Edward Sachse shows the property as it appeared from the east. One hesitates to place much faith in the color of the rear enclosure, but the draftsmanship seems astonishingly accurate where it can be evaluated against surviving features -- although the wings are shown as single stories, when they are actually two stories. A notable feature is the enclosure that stood along King George Street at what is now the outer edge of the present sidewalk. Most importantly, this enclosure turned 90 degrees at the corner, and continued some distance along Maryland Avenue, possibly crossing in the front of the house. Close to Maryland Avenue, it appears that the artist intended to depict vertical pales in the fence. Perhaps this enclosure was an antebellum addition. Whatever the date, a barrier taking in what are now sidewalks would equate today with a fence at the curb. Whether at the curb, or at the inner edge of the present walk, this fence would have obscured a house that was made to present itself to the street. Perhaps it bowed back toward the front of the house, as across the street at the Chase-Lloyd House? If so the fence of what had become the Harwood property would not have been as successful as *that* across the street, where the house sits much higher, allowing the deeper, higher steps to pour out over and beyond the barrier.

At this early date, no tree is visible peeking over the top of the left wing. However, two tall trees (Lombardy poplars?) stand near what is now Cumberland Court.



Image #1 - 1892 or before.

James M. Crane & Eric E. Soderholz, *Examples of Domestic Colonial Architecture in Maryland and Virginia*, 1892. Copyright: The Heliotype Printing Company, Boston.

This photo, published in 1892,⁵ may be the earliest showing the Hammond-Harwood House. It shows no cast-iron vent stack on the outward flank of the near wing. At the front doorway of the main house, a wooden stoop rests on four stout columns, probably of wood. The stoop and its steps stand perfectly square and plumb. The white-painted finish of these elements, and of the doorway, is brilliant and was obviously recent when the photo was made, but the main cornice had not yet been re-painted. At this time, the front doors of the house and of the near wing were painted a dark color, contrasting with the white wooden trim.



⁵ James M. Corner and Crane and Eric E. Soderholz, *Examples of Domestic Colonial Architecture in Maryland and Virginia*, 1st ed., (Boston: Boston Architectural Club, 1892), plate 17.

A large stone at the outer corner of the wing may have served as a splash block, standing under a truncated rain leader. Nearby, a bollard delimits what was presumably the northern boundary of the property, just at the foundation of the wing. At the stone curb of the Maryland Avenue sidewalk, a cast-iron hydrant aligns with the flank of the wing. By this time, there appears to have been a brick walk along King George Street as well as Maryland Avenue.

Judging from the visible texture of the yard, the area looks to have been planted with some sort of ground cover which began a short distance back from the walk. This planting and the narrow strip of lawn at the walk were neatly maintained, and the property generally presented a well-groomed appearance. Further down the street, a relatively young tree stood at the curb, more or less aligned with the far hyphen.

The fence seen in the 1858 Sachse view had disappeared entirely. However, the curb stones seem to have followed the course of the vanished fence, including the right-angle turn. The ground cover succeeding the fence would have been a sensible way to maintain the re-exposed space before the house. The rear enclosure, post-dating the 1858 view, is difficult to make out in this image, but it looks to have been a high wooden fence with pointed tops on the pales. Unlike the fence in the Sachse view, this one stood aligned with the flank of the wing.

The photo seems to have been taken in the spring. The image is credited to the Heliotype Printing Company of Boston. Sanborn fire insurance maps for this area of town show that lots behind the Hammond-Harwood House remained vacant until 1891 at least. That would seem to be the condition reflected here, as the fencing along King George Street appears continuous.



Image #2 - Probably 1892-1895. From a glass plate negative.

The Hayman Studio

Here is another early photo of the mansion (no cast-iron vent stack appears on the flank of the north wing), but numerous changes have occurred since the first image. The steps had begun to sag slightly, and the posts supporting the stoop were soiled. The main cornices of the house and wings had been painted; the ground cover, possibly ivy, had grown deeper and coarser; the bollard near the wing leaned more noticeably than before; the curbing stones made a right angle at the corner of King George Street and Maryland Avenue; and the stone in front of the hydrant had become more visibly dislocated than in the previous view.⁶

A stone splash block continued to stand below a truncated rain leader at the near corner of the wing. Efflorescing salt is visible on the belt course and down at the splash block, where the masonry had been wetted repeatedly by runoff from the roof.

The photo marked "Hayman Studio" seems to have been a glass plate negative originally, judging from what appear to be cracks at the left margin.



⁶ A scrawny utility pole stands at this corner. It is possible that the pole and the 90-degree turn in the curbing stones were present in 1892, but the photographer of image #1 may have excluded these for compositional reasons.



Image #3 - Probably 1892-1895. Photo by George W. Jones, appearing here on a later, unused postcard.

Initially, this photo appears contemporaneous with the one preceding. Seemingly, little had changed since the previous photo, but this one was taken from a slightly different angle, and probably on a different day than the preceding image. In both cases, shadows indicate that the sun was in the west, well up in the sky, all indicative of summer, which is confirmed by the trees in full foliage. Despite being taken about the same time of day, the two images reflect very different lighting conditions (sunny and clear *versus* overcast), and the steps seem to have slumped just a bit more in this photo, and they had become just a bit dirtier.

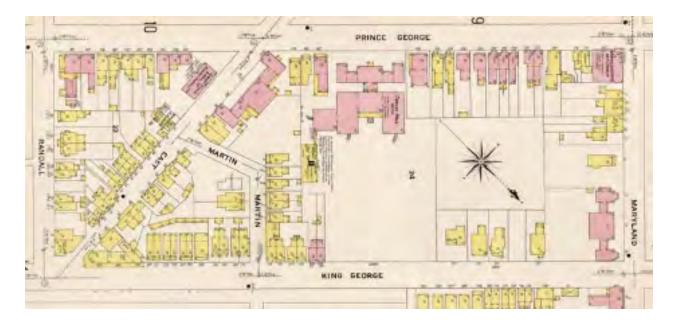


Image #4 - 1897. Sanborn Fire Insurance Plan. Library of Congress

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Company mapped Annapolis neighborhoods at least as early as 1885. The 1897 map, illustrated above, is the first to show buildings on lots immediately behind the Harwood mansion. All four of these buildings were dwellings, each standing 2 or 2 ½ stories high. In all, five lots had been created contiguous to the remaining rear yard.

Just up Maryland Avenue, toward the State House, another two-story dwelling had been built. This structure left open the area lot that became Cumberland Court by 1913. That thoroughfare would open the undeveloped parcel of land shown here in the middle of the block.

The black dot at the corner of Maryland Avenue and King George Street represents the cast iron hydrant seen in the 1892 photo. The 1885 Sanborn survey for this area indicates that hydrants and water mains were already in place by that date. This hydrant in front of Hammond-Harwood House stood beyond the property line, which coincided with the inner edge of the sidewalk. Thus, the fence seen behind the house in the 1892 photo stood on the Harwood property line.



Image #5 - c. 1905?

This photo, supposedly dating to c. 1905, documents the addition of a cast-iron vent stack on the side of the wing since the previous photo. Street lighting had been introduced, so that a large electric fixture and many utility lines now hung from a robust new post. The decline of the house was increasingly evident as the steps continue to sag and accumulate dirt. The visible flank of the main house had been darkened by splash-back above the hyphen roof, probably a consequence of clogged gutters above. Perhaps this explains the bright new rain leaders at the front corner of the wing, and at the junction of hyphen and main house. Above the main roof, a missing corner of the north chimney had been repaired, and the stone curbing had been reconfigured to make a rounded transition between the adjacent streets.

Despite the decline of the house, the lawn was carefully kept, and it remained quite simple. Behind the house, a high board fence enclosed the rear of the property. Judging from the perspective, the top of this fence was probably at or just below the axis of the camera lens, perhaps about five feet above the street—more of less the height of the nearest windows sills.

Beyond that fence, the image shows several framed buildings. The Sanborn maps for this portion of Annapolis indicate that these structures, all houses, were erected behind the Harwood House between 1891 and 1997.

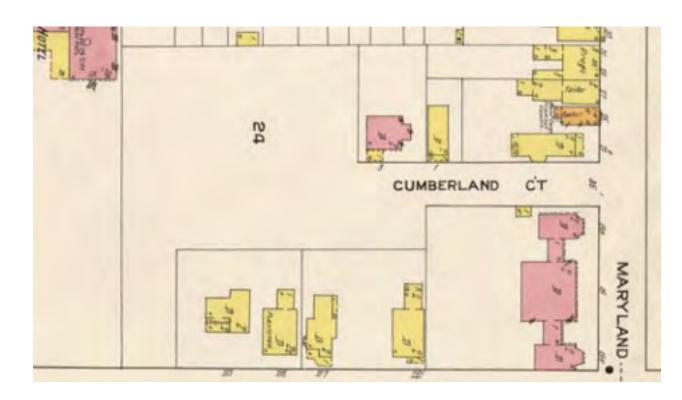


Image #6 - 1913. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Library of Congress.

By 1913, Cumberland Court had been created to provide access to undeveloped property in the middle of the block. Two dwellings, each standing two stories, stood on newly created parcels cut out of extant properties. From 1885 to 1921, only this map fails to show the 1-story appendage on the southwest end of the building. Whether it was inadvertently omitted on this edition, or simply demolished and later rebuilt, is uncertain.



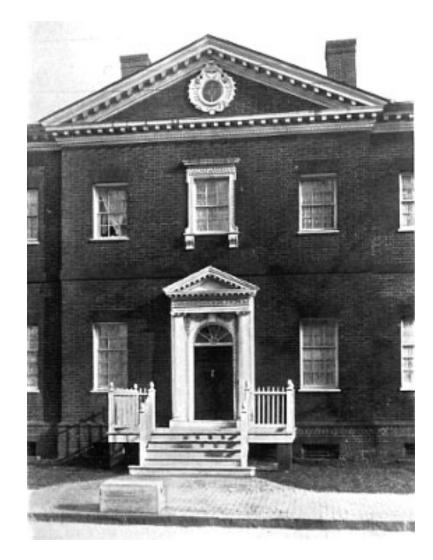


Image #7 - Before 1914.

Hammond, Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware, 1914.

This image, published in 1914, may be the first to show the Colonial Revival porch and wooden balustrade that succeeded the wooden stoop. The details of the balustrade may have been inspired by those at the Chase-Lloyd house across the street. The brick walk appears to have been reworked to accommodate the new steps. As yet, there were no boxwoods and no chain fence at the walk, and it looks as if all ivy had disappeared. A stone mounting block[?] appears at the curb.

At this time, Lucy M. Harwood and Hester Ann Harwood still possessed the property and lived in the house.



Image #8 - Before 1922. The Harwood House *The Architectural Forum*, October 1922, p. 160.

This image, taken late in the afternoon, looked *northward* along Maryland Avenue, with the sun in the south, coming over the photographer's shoulder. A gnarled utility pole stands at the curb, and a mature deciduous tree stands before the bowed front of the wing, aligned more or less with the flank of that building, and thus with the property line. Some sort of barrier appears to lie across the lawn, just west of the Colonial Revival porch. The lawn itself appears to be closely cropped.

The house retains the standing-seam metal roof extant since the 1892 photo.





Image #8 - c. 1928 Historic Houses for St. John's.

This photo was taken from a nearly identical vantage point as that preceding, but at a later time. Stone steps and iron railings had since appeared at the front doorway, but no boxwood or ivy. The unsightly utility pole and the single exterior step of the wing's eastern appendage had disappeared. Owing perhaps to the ownership of St. John's College, the property presented a neater appearance, including what appears to have been a recent re-painting. The brochure cited in the caption bears no publication date, but one antiquarian book dealer places its publication around 1928. St. John's College had acquired the property in 1926. It appears that a slate roof had since been installed.

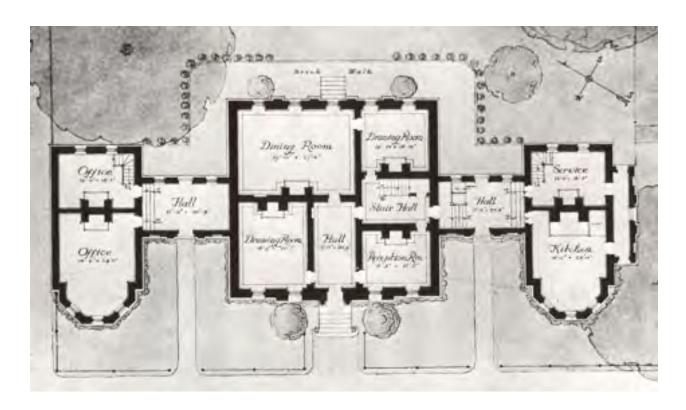


Image #9 - 1933. Site plan of the Hammond-Harwood House. *Great George Houses of America*, 1933.

Architects' Emergency Committee.

The 1933 site plan published by the Architects' Emergency Committee is important for showing the precise layout of walks, plantings, and fences in the St. John's era, features that are difficult to plot from oblique photographic views. The succeeding image, made three years after the plan, correlates very closely with it. The boxwoods at the front entry, the ivy girding the foundation, and the chain fence all appear in the photo. The drawing shows the canopy of the large tree in front of the south wing.





Image #10 - 1936. This view was taken for the Historic American Buildings Survey in June of 1936.

E. H. Pickering, a local photographer, was mentioned among the contributors.

Perhaps he produced this image.

American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress.

This photograph confirms the details of the 1933 site plan immediately preceding.

After St. John's College purchased the Hammond-Harwood House in 1926, the building was opened as a decorative arts museum. That undertaking was well underway by 1936, as indicated by the well-maintained state of things and by the museum sign suspended over the doorway of the north hyphen. The slate roof is clearly visible here, probably applied shortly after St. John's College acquired the property.

By the time of this photo, the Colonial Revival porch had been present for nearly a decade, and so was enfolded in small boxwoods and ivy. The lawn was now cordoned off by a suspended chain fence, with short, pointed posts painted in some dark hue. The street was handsomely paved.



1940. "Annapolis Has Week to Save 1774 House...," *New York Herald Tribune*, May 26, 1940.

By 1940, the utility pole at King George Street had moved back from the corner, the posts of the suspended chain fence had been painted white, and a new fire hydrant had appeared on the corner by the Chase-Lloyd House.

Financial necessity compelled St. John's College to sell its historic house properties in 1940. The painted banner proclaims the availability of the Hammond-Harwood House.



1966. Looking east.
National Register of Historic Places.

After the 1940 sale, the Hammond-Harwood House continued to function as a museum, as indicated by the sign. By 1966, parking meters had appeared, and small metal wickets served to keep pedestrians off the lawn as they turned to approach the visitors' entry. The boxwoods flanking the main entry had grown plump over the space of a quarter century. In the meantime, efforts to beautify the yard continued with the addition of small boxwoods by the front entries of the hyphens. Perhaps the wooden posts of the chain fence had rotted and failed; at any rate the fence was gone. A small magnolia tree stood in front of the far wing. In the future, this tree, or one of its progeny would assume a more imposing aspect. A paired magnolia may have been planted at the same time in front of the south wing—it is not shown in this photo, however.



After 1969. Looking south.

A 1969 Buick stands before the front of the mansion in this color photograph. Since the previous photo, boxwood shrubs had billowed out to enclose the front steps completely, extending clear across the main dwelling's central pavilion. In the meantime, a mature magnolia had occupied the yard in front of the wing. Metal wickets and the intersections of the walks had disappeared, but small boxwood bushes planted at the corners took over their function of protecting the lawn at its most vulnerable points. The curb now painted red to warn away motorists who thought of parking in front of the mansion or too close to the corner. The museum sign present in the 1966 photo seems to have moved closer to the walk for the main entrance.





Reportedly 1985. Looking south.

By the time this photo was taken, the boxwoods had grown to embrace everything between the basement windows. The small boxwoods near the main walk had not survived, but those at the north hyphen doorway had grown to occupy most of the available space. The magnolia tree was now as tall as the wing. The red paint remained on the curb, but the parking sign was gone.



July 25, 2006. Looking southeast.

Twenty years after the preceding image, the great boxwoods were moving to envelope the basement windows, while those at the hyphen door were beginning to creep over the sidewalk. On both sides of Maryland Avenue, ADA compliant crossing points had removed the curb stones at the intersection with King George Street. That thoroughfare had been paved with asphalt, while an unsightly utility pole carried larger and more numerous cables while holding a collection of traffic signals aloft. The remaining curbstones retained their coat of red paint.

In the yard, a pole light wrapped in boxwood showed the way to the entrance.

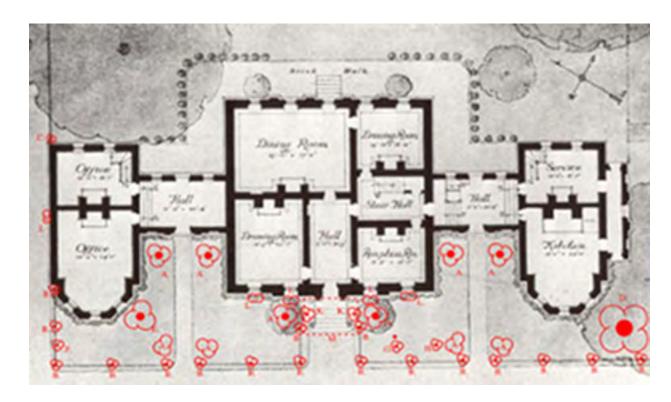




2011. Looking southeast.

At the time of this photo the slate roof of the far wing was being replaced. The boxwoods at the entry have been broken down and those by the hyphen doorway were getting out of control.

Meanwhile, the hardscape remained little changed.



1933. Site plan of the Hammond-Harwood House.

Overlaid with known ground disturbances along Maryland Avenue and King George Street. *Great George Houses of America*, 1933.

Architects' Emergency Committee.

Successive photos reveal much about the recent history of the yard in front of the Hammond-Harwood House. The features overlaid on this 1933 site plan show the approximate locations and scale of known ground disturbances along Maryland Avenue and King George Street. In the future, areas untouched by these intrusions might yield important data about the history of the landscape.

KEY:

- A. Planting/root holes for boxwood shrubs.
- B. Postholes for chain fence.
- C. Fence post for rear enclosure of property.
- D. Root hole of large tree.
- E. Root hole of magnolia tree.
- F. Posthole for bollard.
- G. Posthole for signpost.
- H. Posthole for signpost.
- I. Excavation for cast iron waste line/vent stack.
- J. Excavations for cellar window wells.
- K. Excavations for piers of Colonial Revival porch.
- L. Excavations for basement window wells.
- M. Excavation for existing stoop and steps.



HISTORIC CONTEXT ANNOTATED ANNAPOLIS MAPS

As of the date of this writing, no historic site or garden plan, map, and/or sketch has been found that dates to the period of significance of the Hammond-Harwood House. The period of significance starts with the initiation of construction of the Chase-Lloyd House in 1769, followed by the initiation of construction of the Hammond-Harwood House in 1774 and extends through the active period when the Hammond-Harwood House was occupied the Pinkney, Lookerman, and Harwood families into the early 20th century. Because there is no historic record of the garden layout specific to the Hammond-Harwood House property, maps of Annapolis that include the Hammond-Harwood House become our primary record to review and incorporate into our collective understanding of the cultural landscape. Therefore, this Cultural Landscape Report includes a series of historic maps of Annapolis that have been arranged in chronological order.

The maps present three items of highest relevance:

- 1. How the Hammond-Harwood House relates to the waterfront because fill over time has had a significant impact on the development of the urban character of Annapolis. Two points of access to the waterfront would have been important to the location of Hammond-Harwood House—the Severn River Ferry landing at the end of Maryland Avenue extended, and Taylor's Wharf, at the end of King George Street. Additionally, the Severn River would have originally been in view from the rear of the mansion.
- 2. How the Hammond-Harwood House relates to the State House and to the ongoing construction of residential and commercial buildings in Annapolis; and
- 3. How the historic maps can shed light and give us a higher level of understanding of how the Hammond-Harwood landscape has evolved over time.



1690 HENRY RIDGELY PLAT OF ANNAPOLIS

EARLY RECORD OF NATURAL LANDFORM

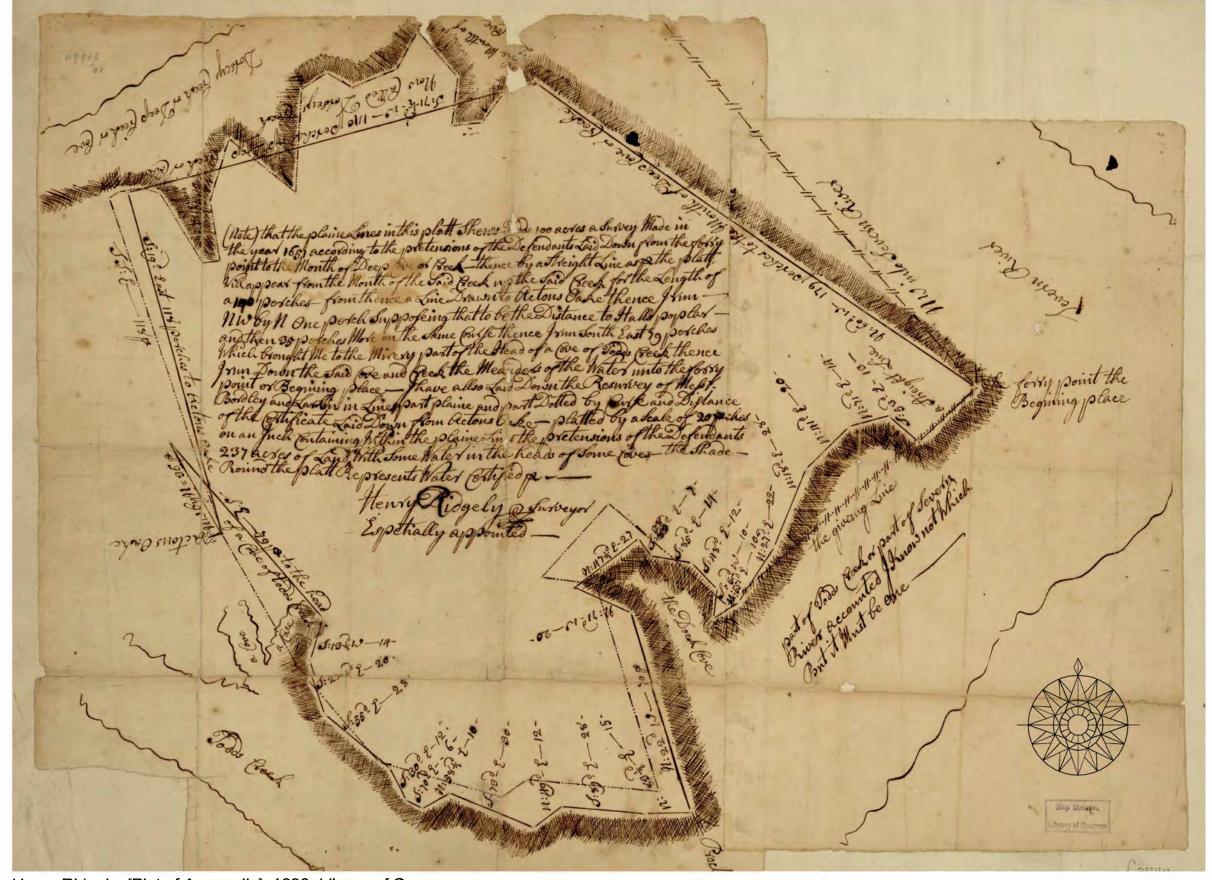
1690 – Survey of Annapolis, Henry Ridgely

This very early survey map identifies the Annapolis "Dock Cove" and shows the original outline of the landform where the City Dock and U.S. Naval Academy shorelines are presently located. Spa Creek is identified as Todds Creek, the water off the Dock Cove is identified as "part of Todds Creek or part of Severn River accounted-I know not which but it must be one." College Creek on the northwest side of the plat is identified as Dorsey Creek or Deep Creek.



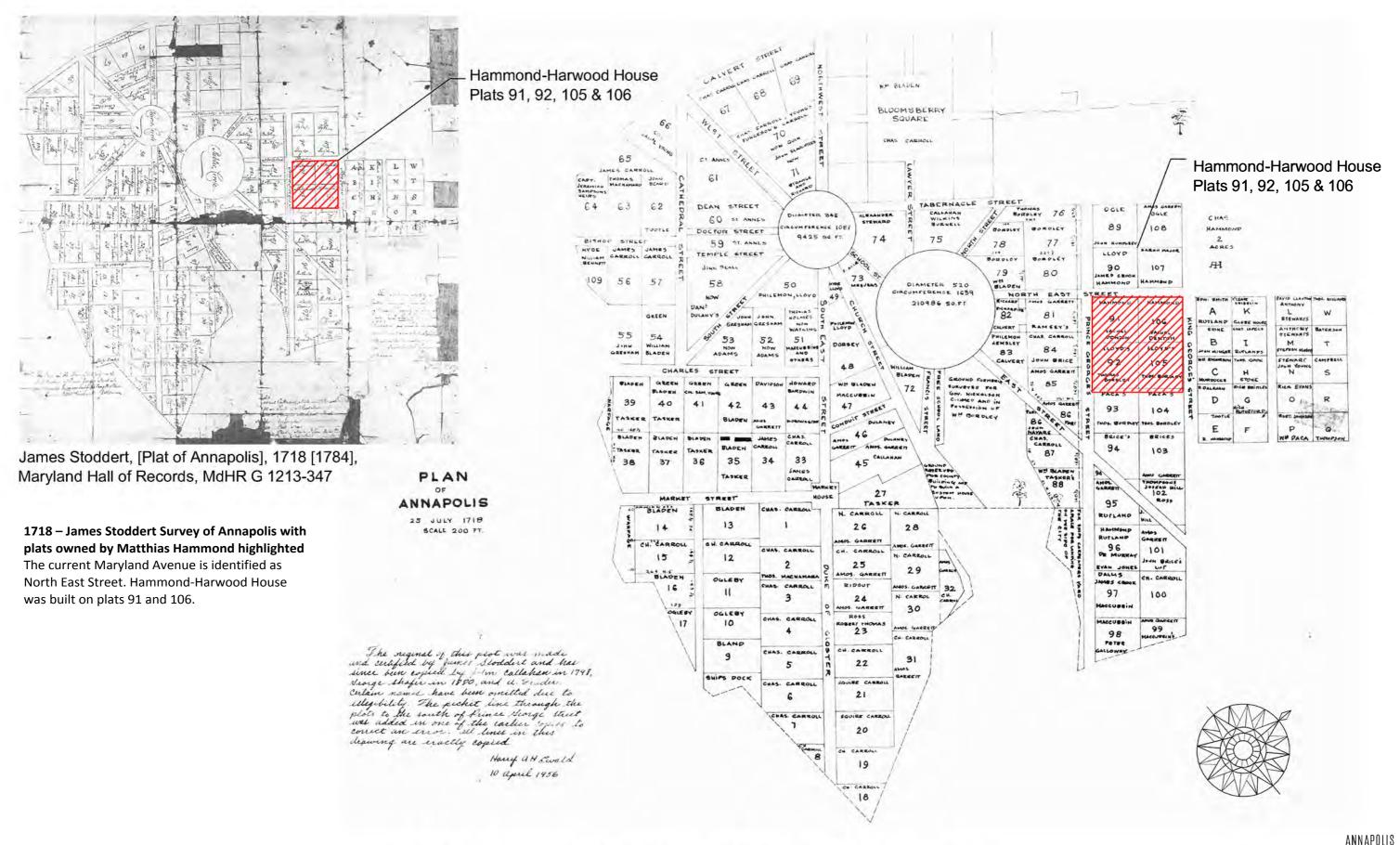
Figure 1, Henry Ridgely, Plat of Annapolis

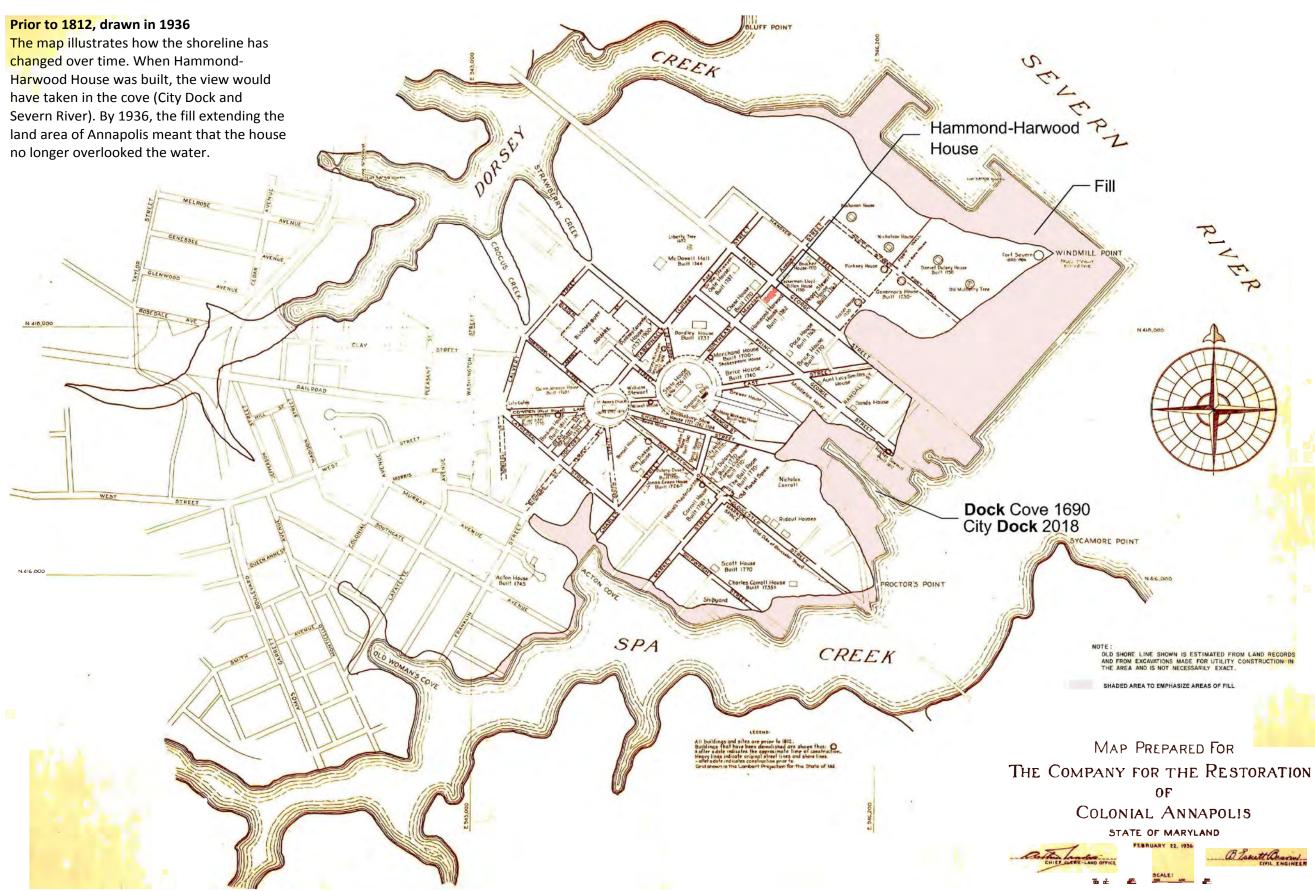




Henry Ridgely, [Plat of Annapolis], 1690, Library of Congress

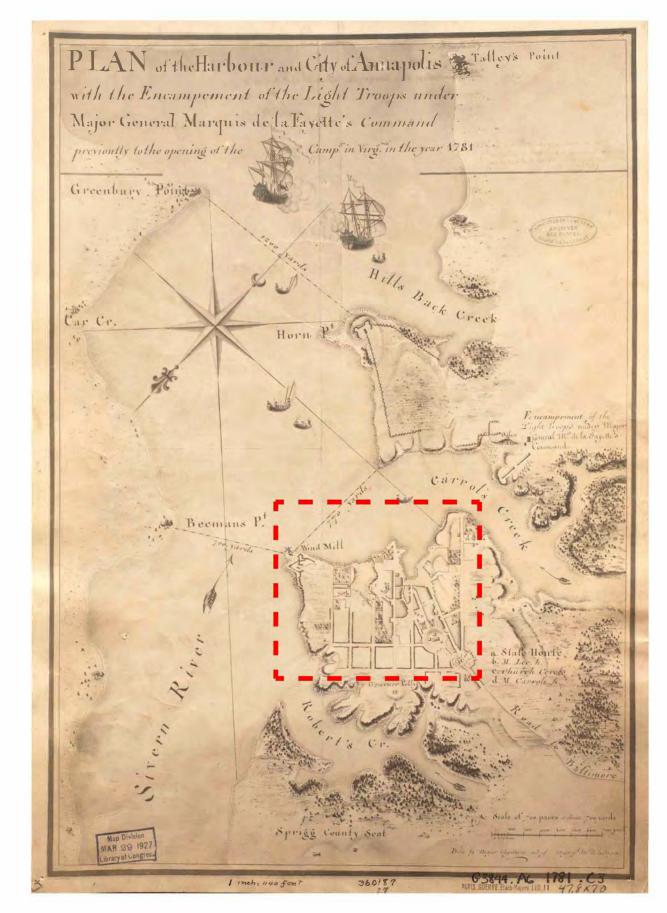


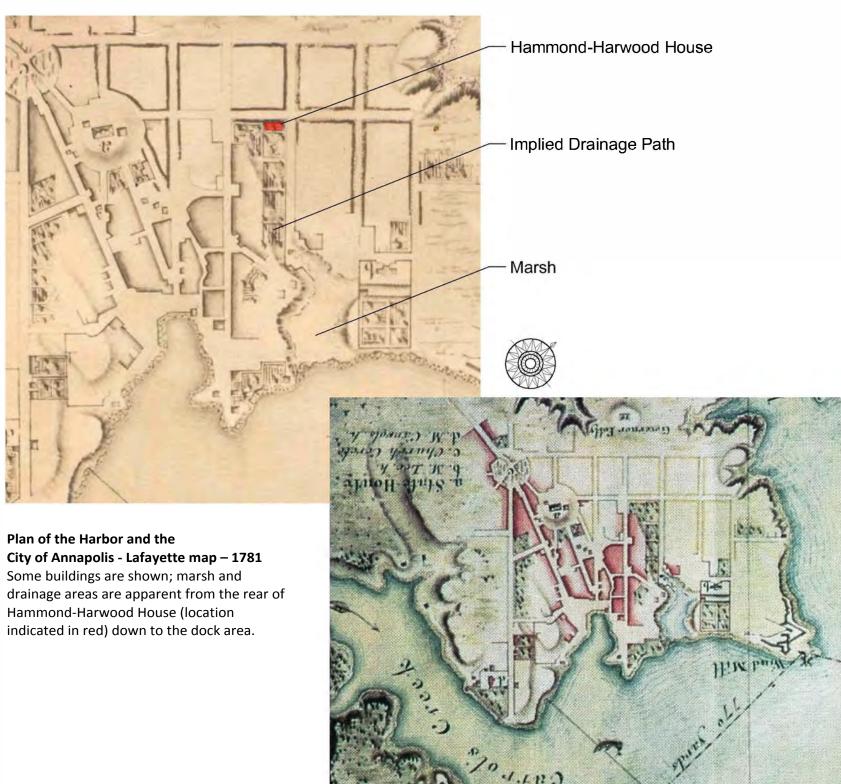






Map Prepared for the Company for the Preservation of Colonial Annapolis February 12, 1936





Plan of the Harbour and City of Annapolis with the Encampment of the Light Troops Under Major General Marquis de la Fayette's Command, Map Division Mar. 29, 1927, Library of Congress



Detail from The Harbor of Annapolis - 1846 - George M. Bache and F.H. Gerdes

The city dock area is larger and more naturally shaped than today. There is a pond identified on fill land where the Naval Academy Field House stands now. Also apparent is the infill from ongoing construction in the city. Hammond-Harwood House is still located away from most of the building—almost in the country—and along with Chase Lloyd House across Maryland Avenue, heralds the approaching edge of urban growth.



Detail from George M. Bache amd F. H. Gerdes, The Harbor of Annapolis, 1846, Peabody Library Collection of the Johns Hopkins University, MdHR G 1213-486.

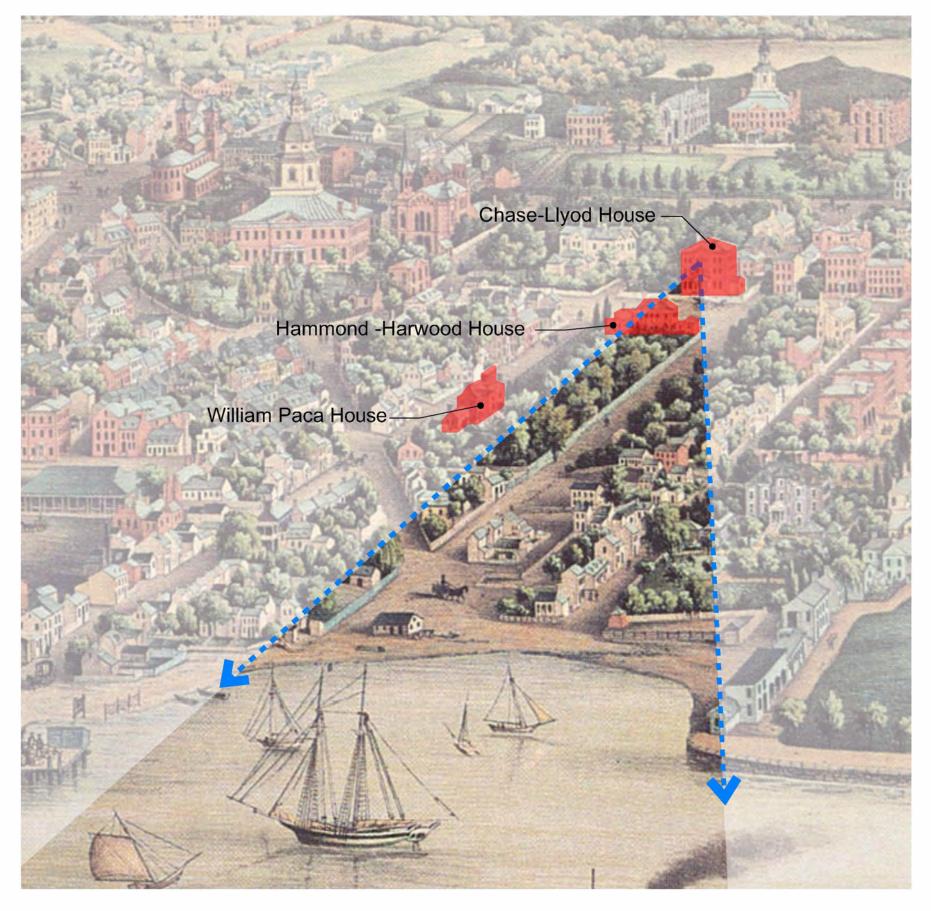


1858 BIRD'S EYE VIEW

- WOODED CONDITION
- GROUNDS OF HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE
- CHASE LLOYD VIEW OF WATER

Sachse Bird's Eye View of Annapolis - 1858

This detail from the Sachse print highlights the naturalistic wooded back garden of Hammond-Harwood House, and the views toward the Severn River from it and from the Chase Lloyd house across Maryland Avenue. Also visible is a fence—likely wooden—along the King George Street side of the property.

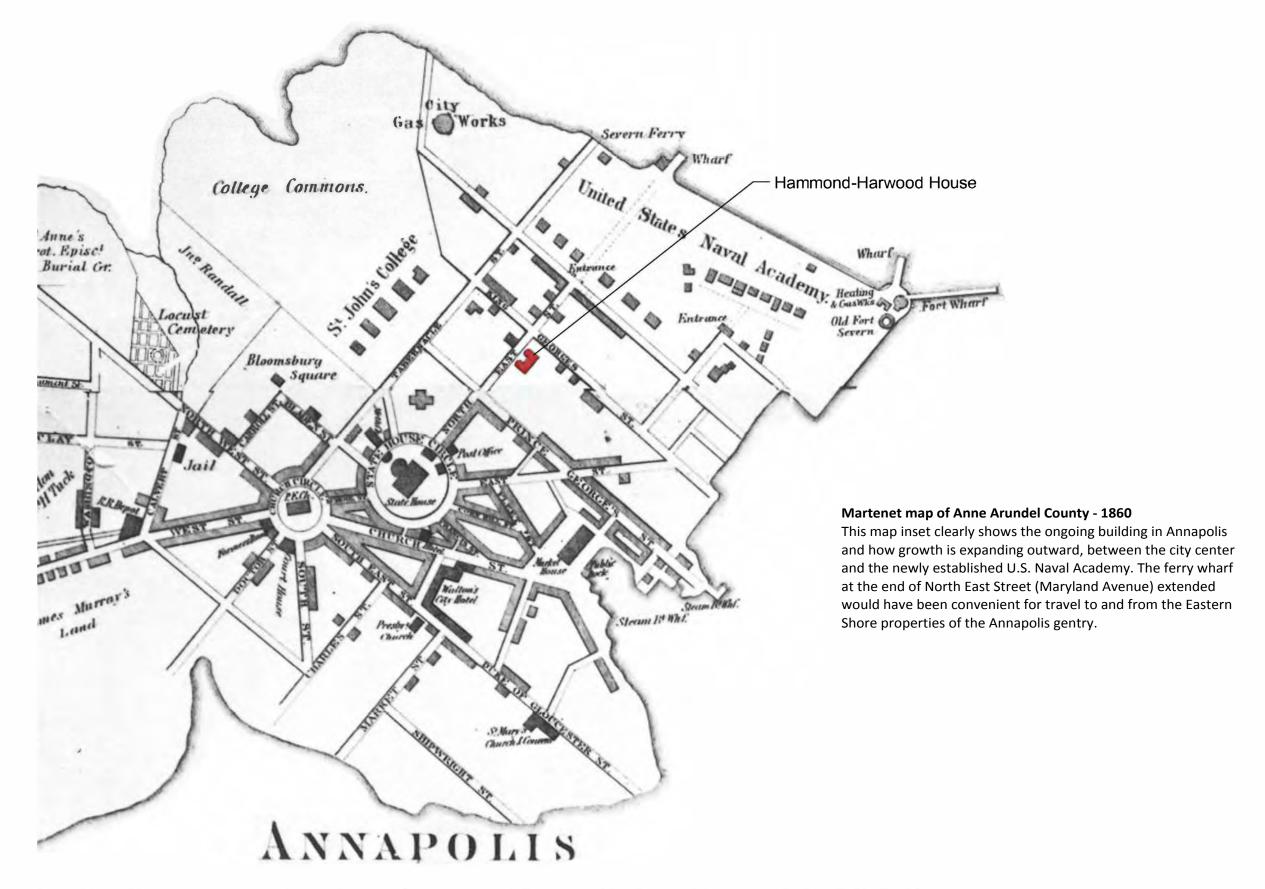






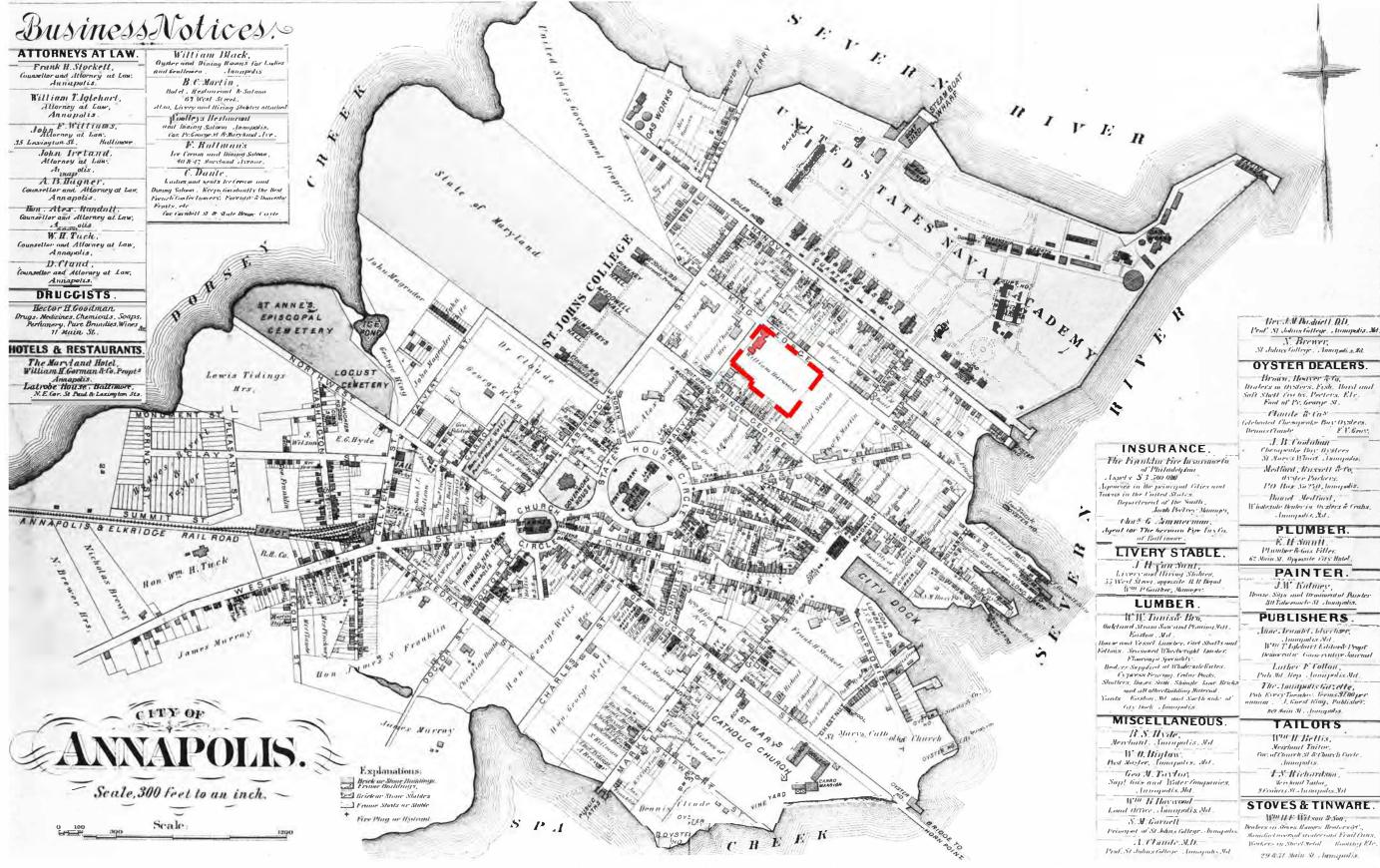


Edward Sachse, Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, ca. 1858, Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR G 1213-349



Detail from Simon J. Martenet's Map of Anne Arundel County, 1860, Library of Congress, MdHR G 1213-461



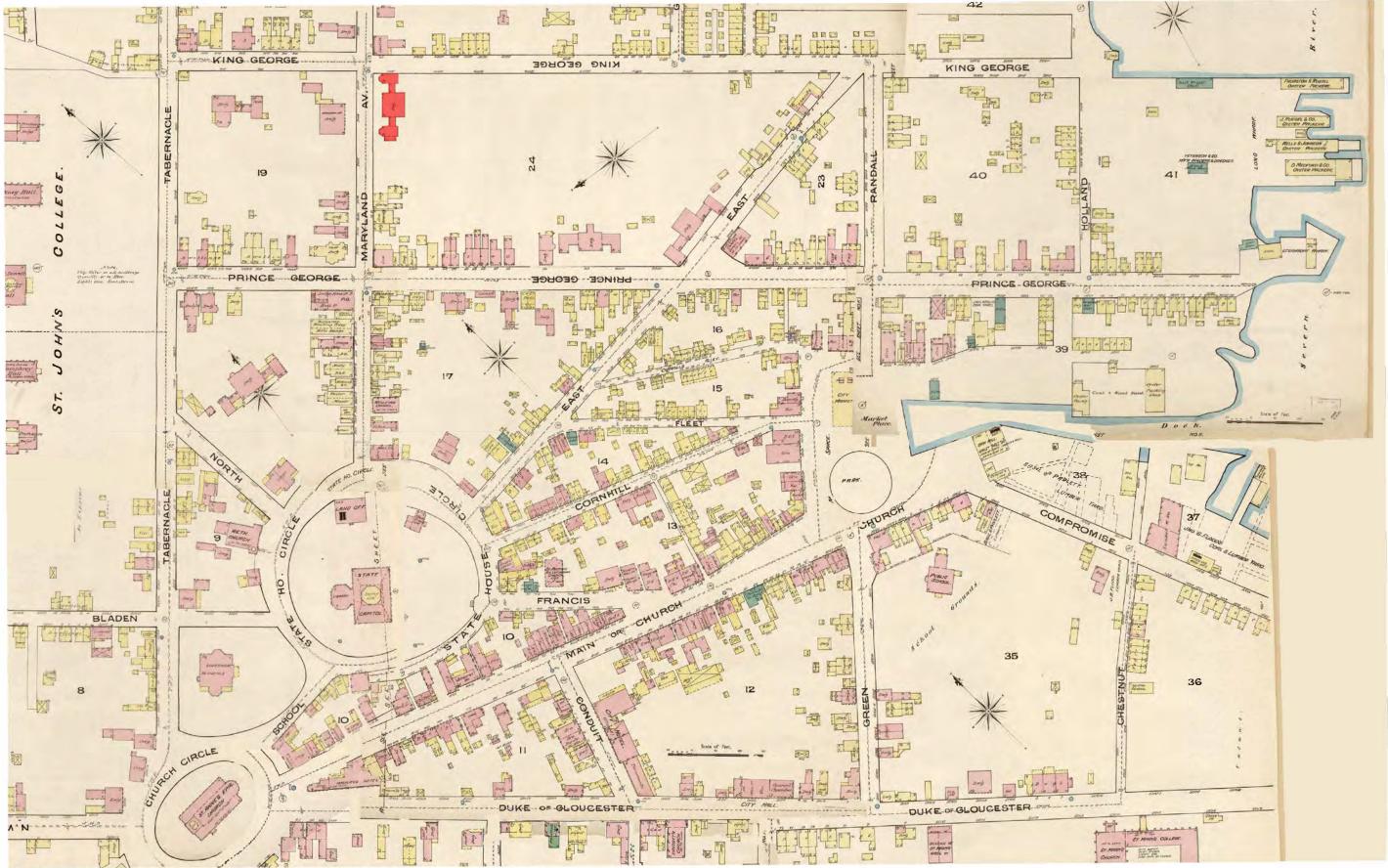




G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of Anne Arundel County -1878

The exponential growth of commerce in Annapolis is shown on this post-Civil War map. The relative openness of the area between Hammond-Harwood House and Paca House on the east and between Hammond-Harwood House and Ogle on the west is apparent.

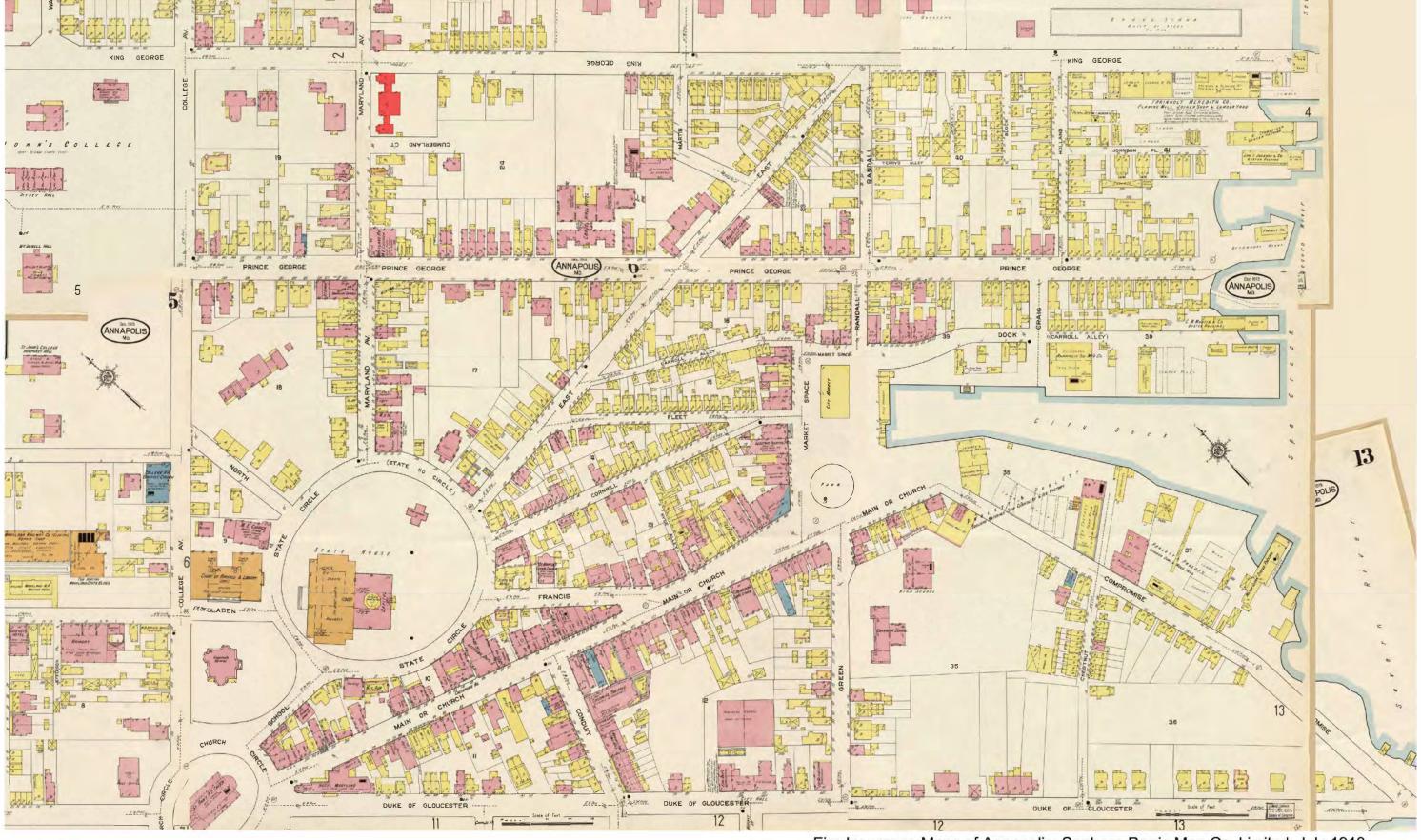
Plate from G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Anne Arundel County,* 1878, Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR G 1213-177 | 1878



Fire Insurance Maps of Annapolis, Sanborn-Perris Co. Limited, July 1897

The Sanborn maps were vitally important because they identified buildings as made of wood or masonry. This version was actually nine maps pieced together to create a larger window into Annapolis's makeup.



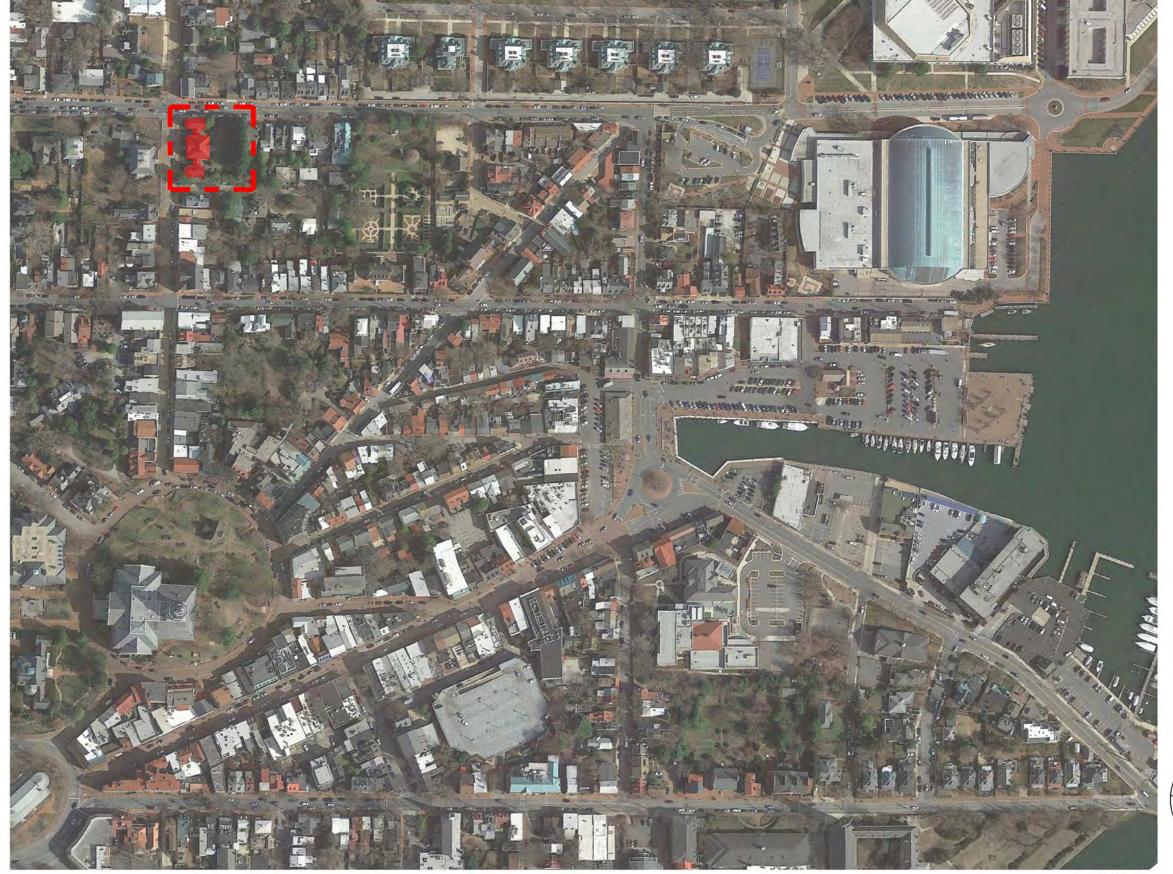


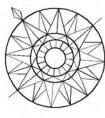


Sanborn Fire Insurance Map - 1913

After the turn of the century, Annapolis continued its steady build-up. The areas around Hammond-Harwood House and extending throughout downtown Annapolis are much denser. The Hammond-Harwood site is largely lost to other surrounding buildings.

Fire Insurance Maps of Annapolis, Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Limited, July 1913





Google Earth



LANDSCAPE MORPHOLOGY

The relation of the Hammond-Harwood House to the water in 1825

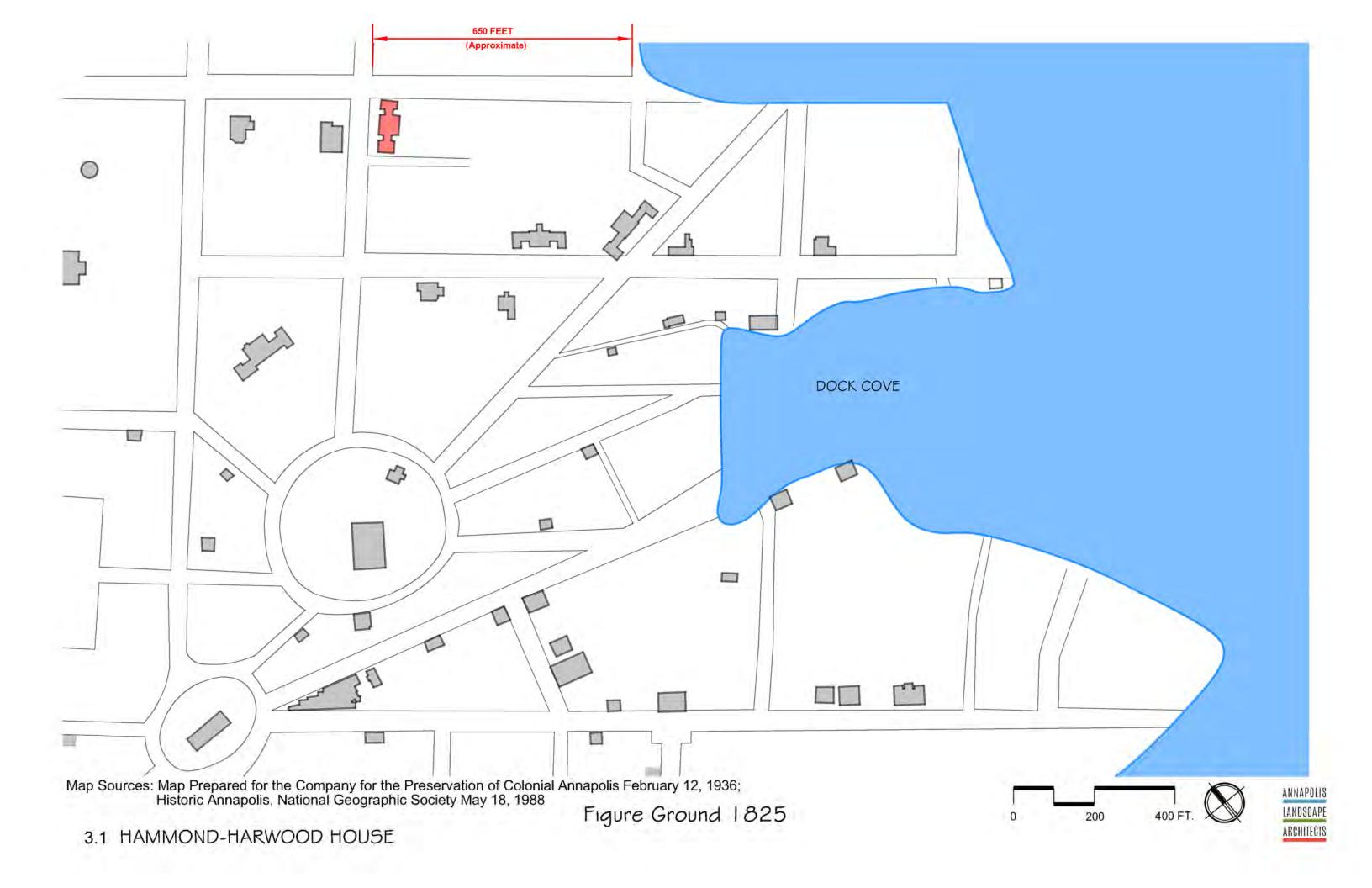
The building is approximately 650 feet from the Severn River accessible from the wharf at the end of Maryland Avenue. Occupants would have been able to obtain goods from the Eastern Shore at this wharf. The distance to the State House is about equal to the distance to the water signifying an ideal placement for this townhouse in the early days. The area is less dense than 25 years later; Hammond-Harwood House would have been on the outskirts of the more developed parts of Annapolis.

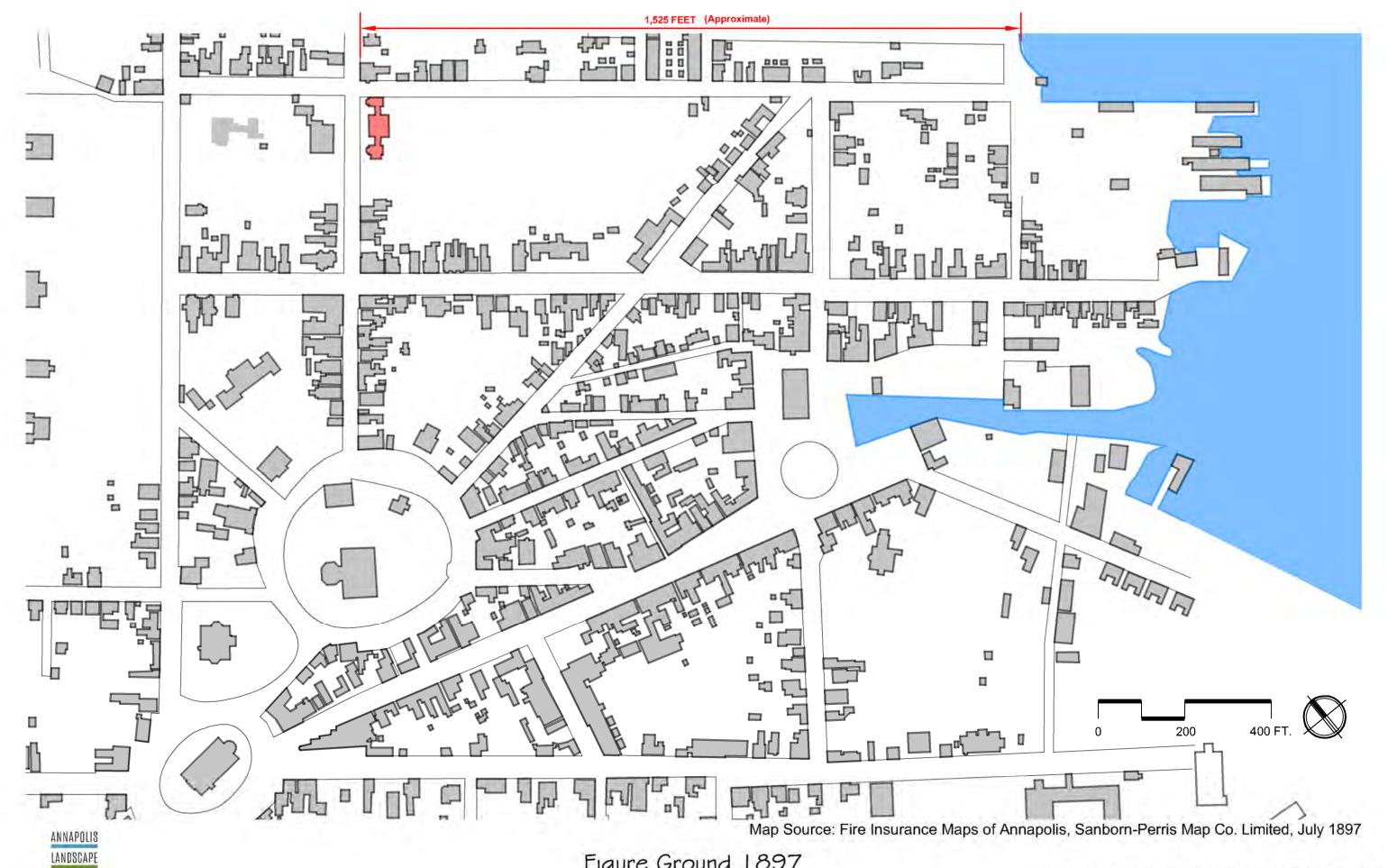
By 1897, the distance to the nearest shore has increased to 1525 feet, making Hammond-Harwood House more associated with the life of the city.

In 1913, with the buildup of the Naval Academy between King George Street and the river, the distance from the house to the shore has increased to 2000 feet. The urban fabric is filled in and buildings surround Hammond-Harwood House on the north, south, and east.

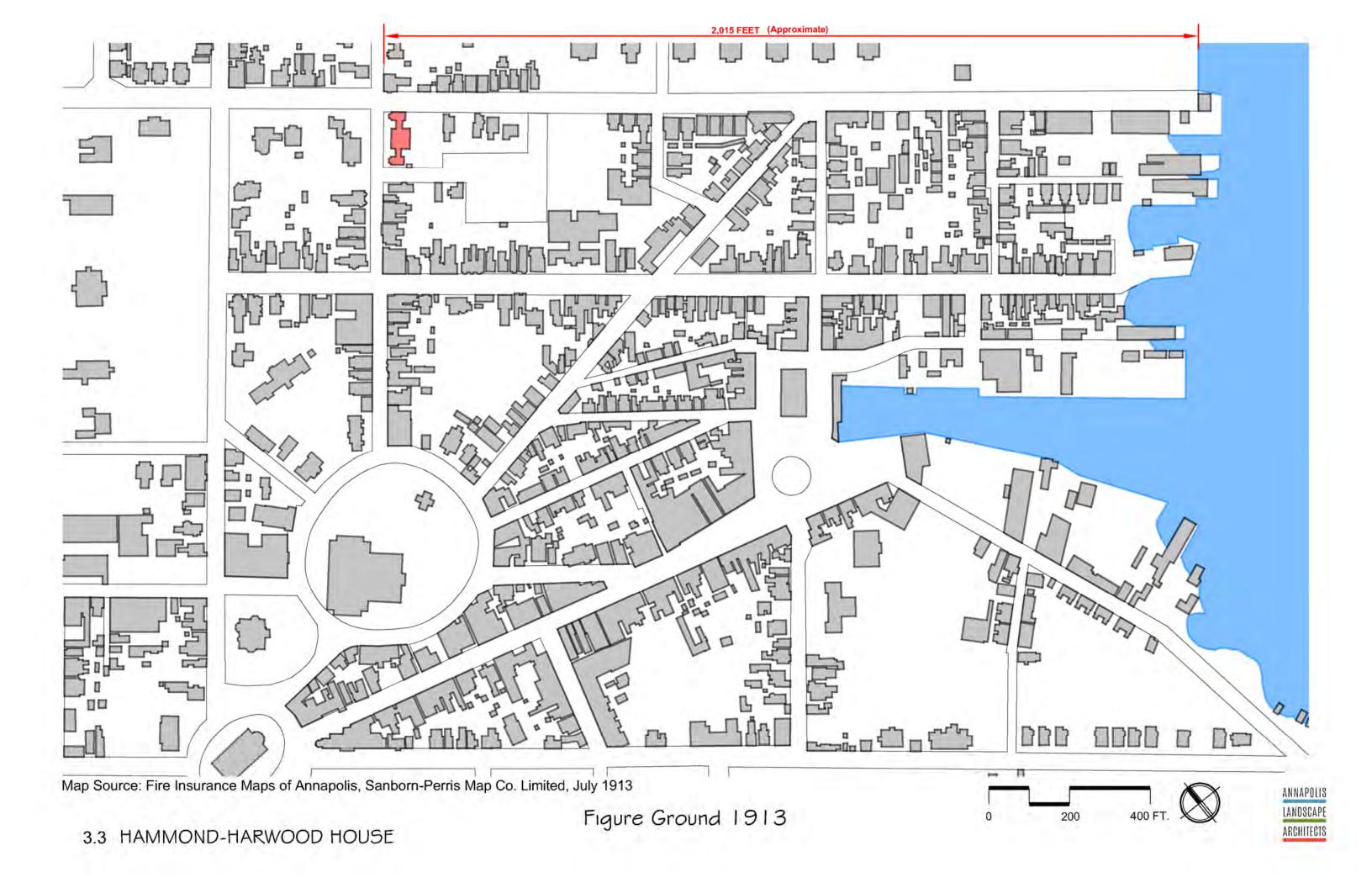
Present morphology shows the full development of the surrounding properties, with all but one of the original four plots being sold off and developed.

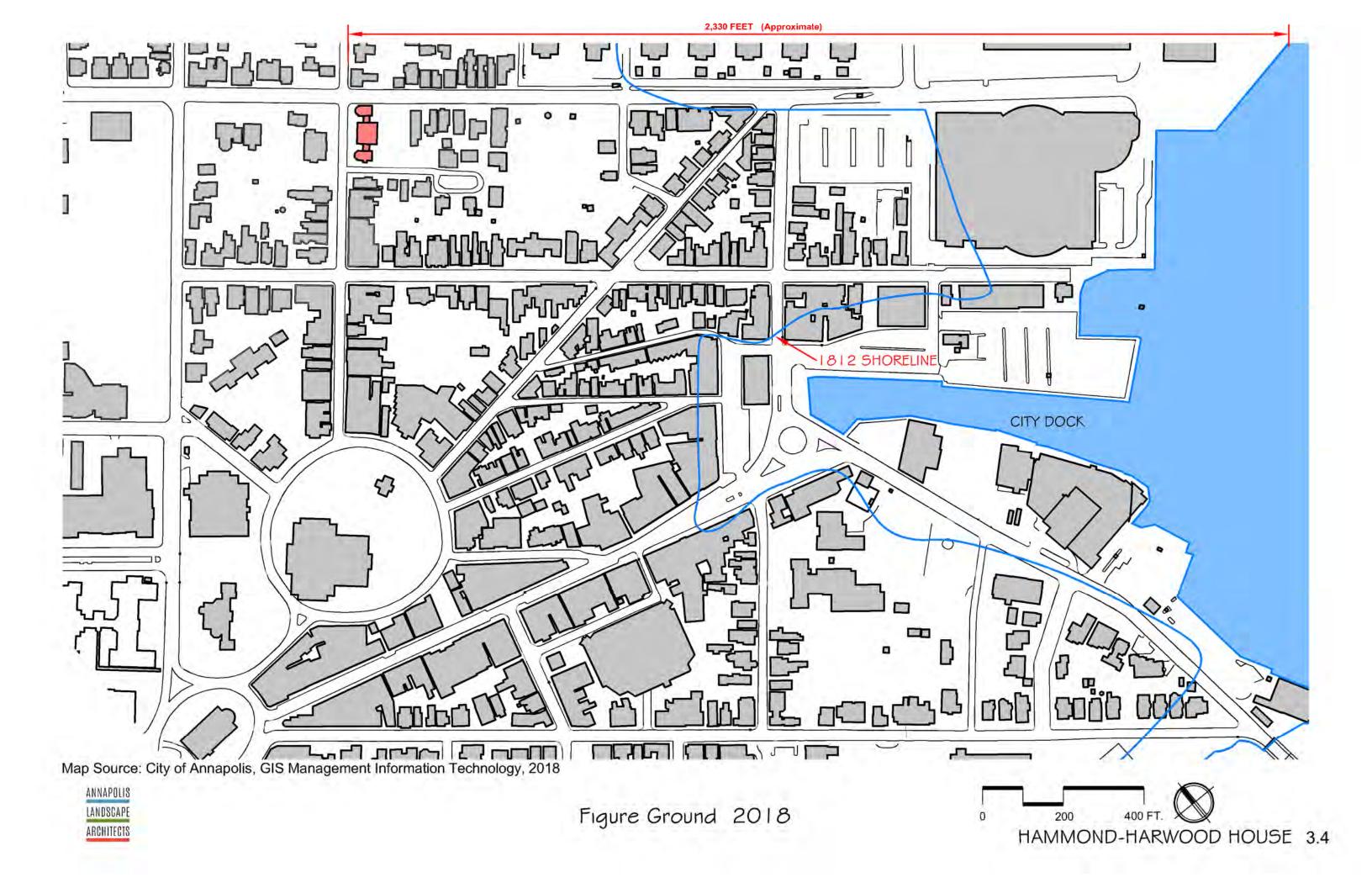






ARCHITECTS





SITE CONTEXT DIAGRAMS

These diagrams illustrate the relationships between the Hammond-Harwood House and its surrounding landscapes, including other buildings such as the Chase Lloyd House opposite, the Maryland Avenue sidewalk, Maryland Avenue streetway, King George Street, and the front and rear planted landscape.

A 2003 analysis of the siting of the house by Edward Shull makes the interesting points that 1. the four parcels on which the house was built were completely unimproved in 1774 and thus likely an area where livestock would have roamed freely; 2. the site was bisected by a stream that feeds the water features in the lower part of the Paca garden; and 3. the elevation of the site was below that of the surrounding roads (such as they were) and then sloped downward toward the Severn River in the rear. The most logical place for a house was on the corner of King George and North East (Maryland Ave.) streets, opposite Chase Lloyd House.

Of the grand houses built during this early Annapolis time, Paca, Brice, Chase, and Hammond were all pushed against the edges of their properties, so that viewers would face the principal facade of each from the street. This placement also meant that each property preserved a large area which could be used for a garden or open prospect, and it also took into account the placement of other nearby buildings such that the site lines from main rooms were preserved. The geometric analysis and view slot shown in diagram 4.1 illustrate how the Hammond-Harwood House design and siting allow for unimpeded views of the Annapolis waterfront from the Chase Lloyd home across the street.

Shull also offers an explanation for why architect William Buckland sited Hammond-Harwood House so close to the street: The spoil resulting from the excavation for the house's cellars was likely used as fill to create the front yard and the rear terrace. Considering that Hammond's lots were a bit lower than the surrounding lots, it would have taken more fill and increased the costs of the construction to site the house farther back from the street. Additionally, geometric analysis of the width of the facade of the main block shows that the house is set back from the mid-point of the street such that a triangle is created—mirroring the geometry of the house design itself.

In terms of the streetscape of Hammond-Harwood House, since the house was designed to be viewed horizontally, rather than vertically, a single flow along the front facade is important. This flow ensures the pure form of the building. We can conclude that the landscape would have been clean in the front so as not to distract from the beauty and form of the architecture. Mark Wenger's chronological analysis of changes to the streetscape (Section 1.0) show how that original conception has been modified over time.



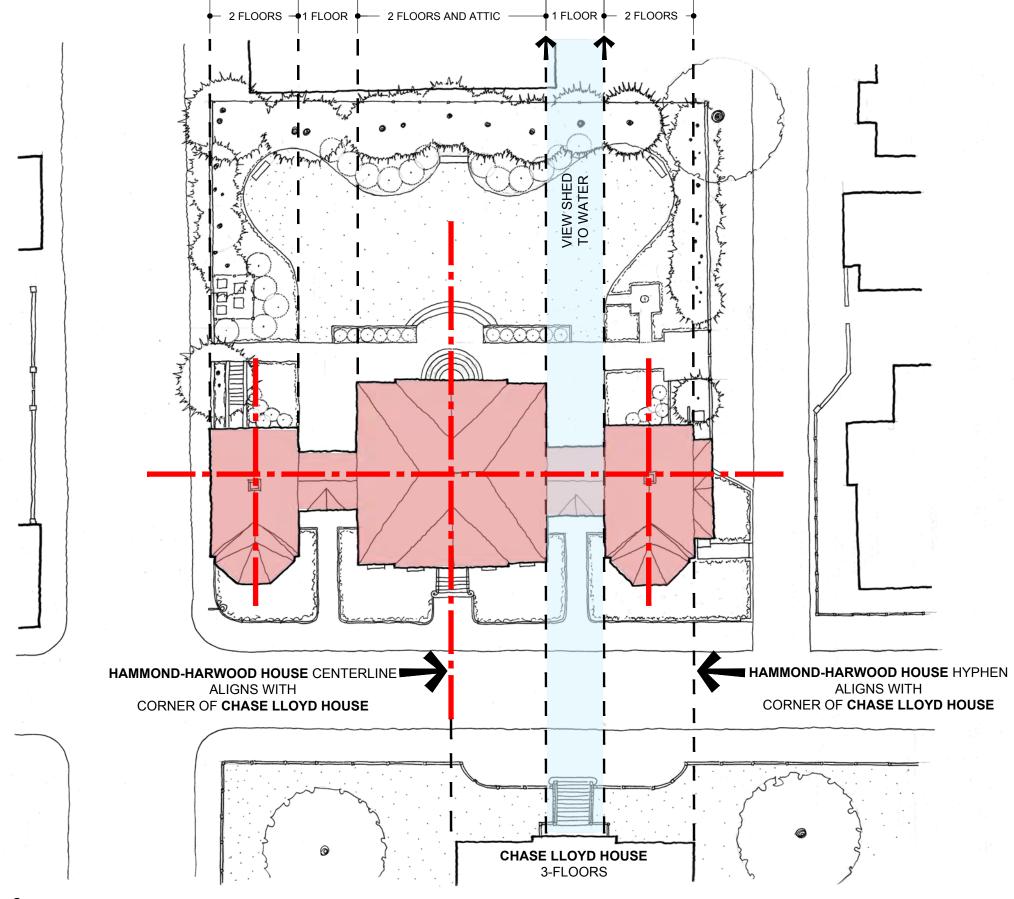


Diagram No. 2



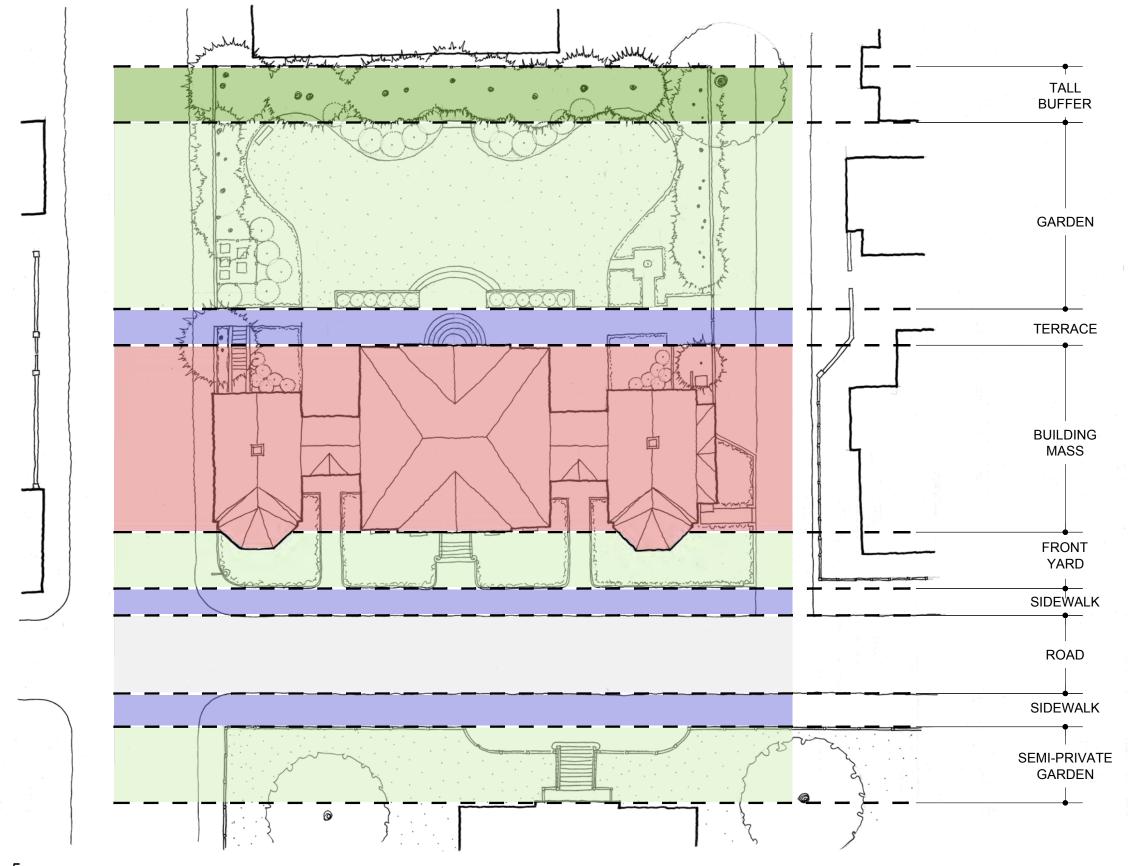




Diagram No. 5

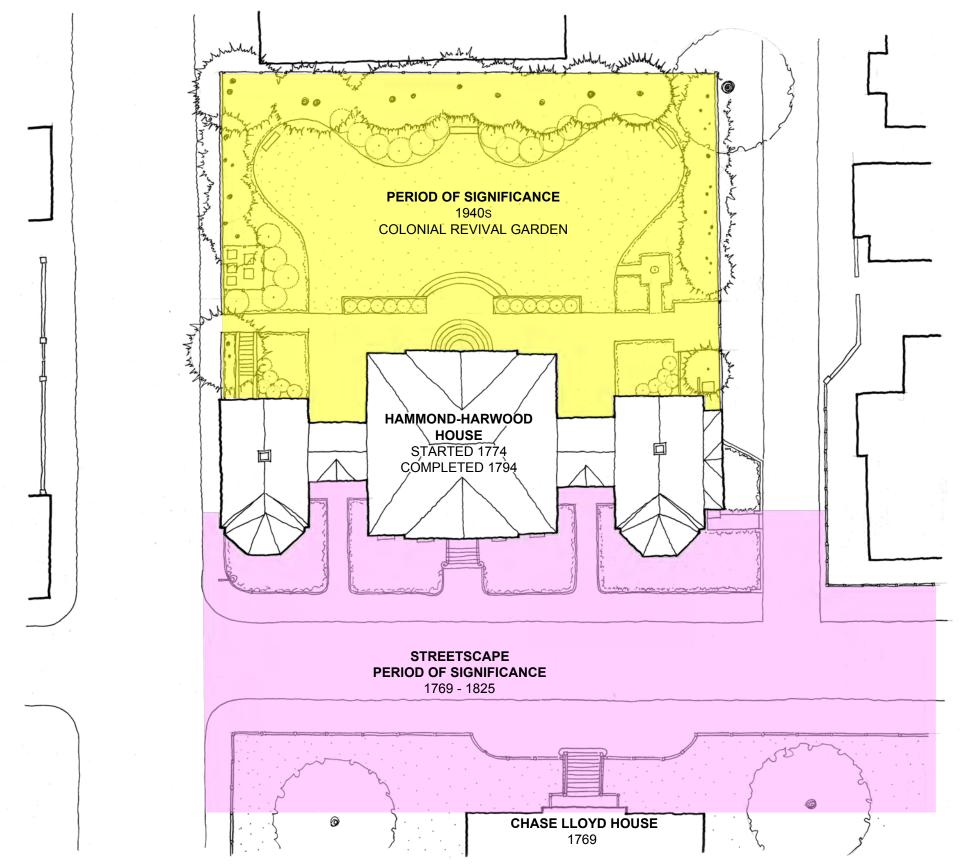
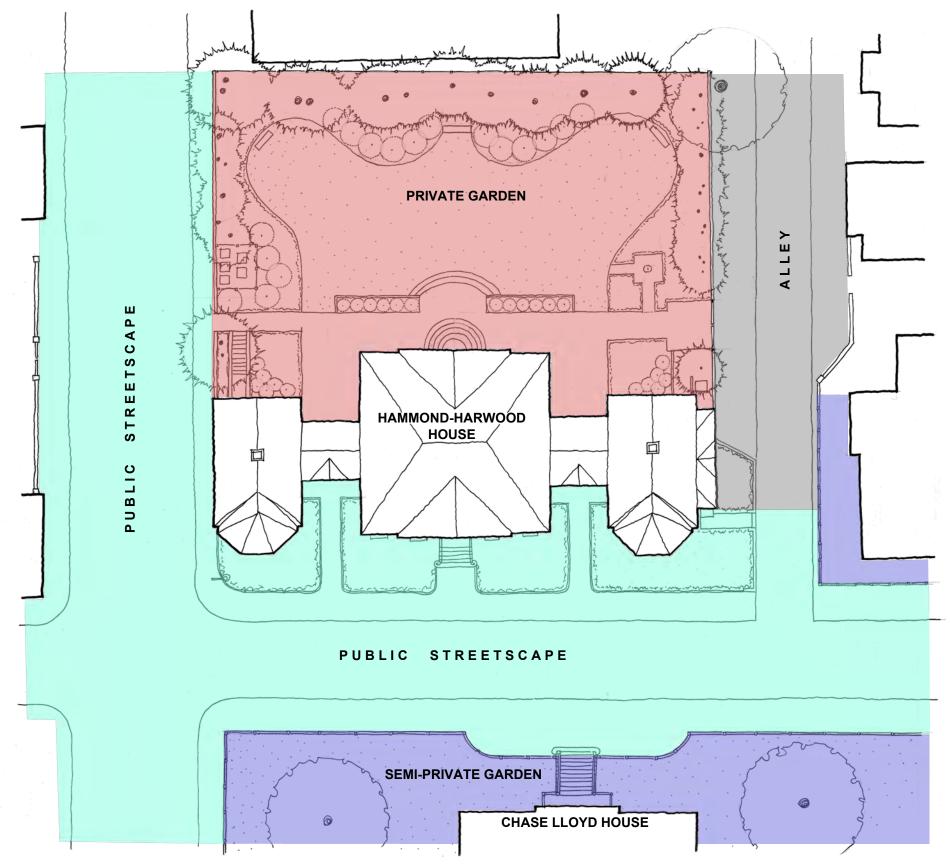
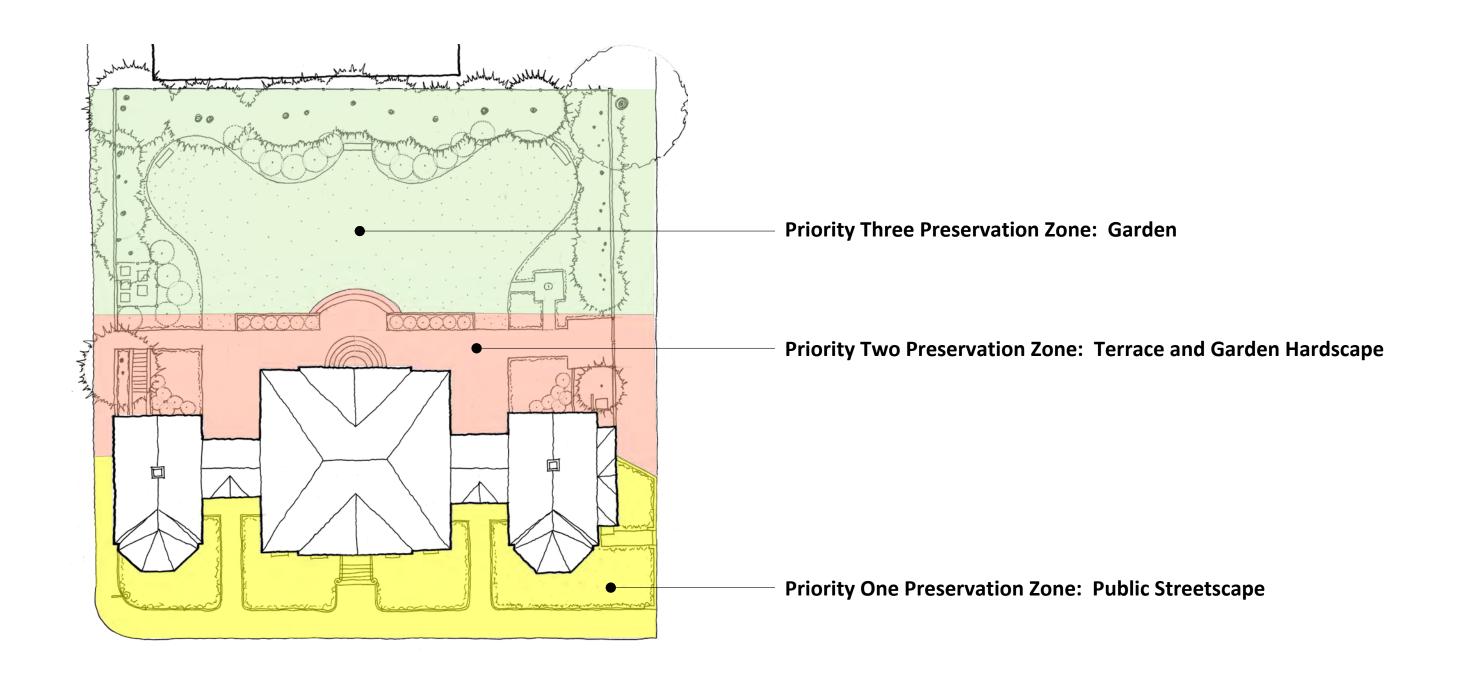


Diagram No. 3











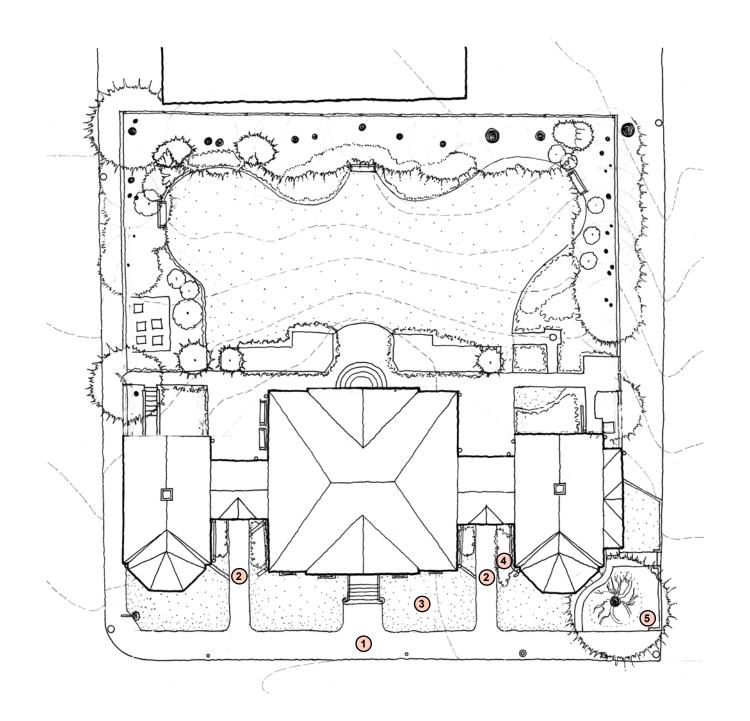
PRIORITY ONE PRESERVATION ZONE Public Streetscape

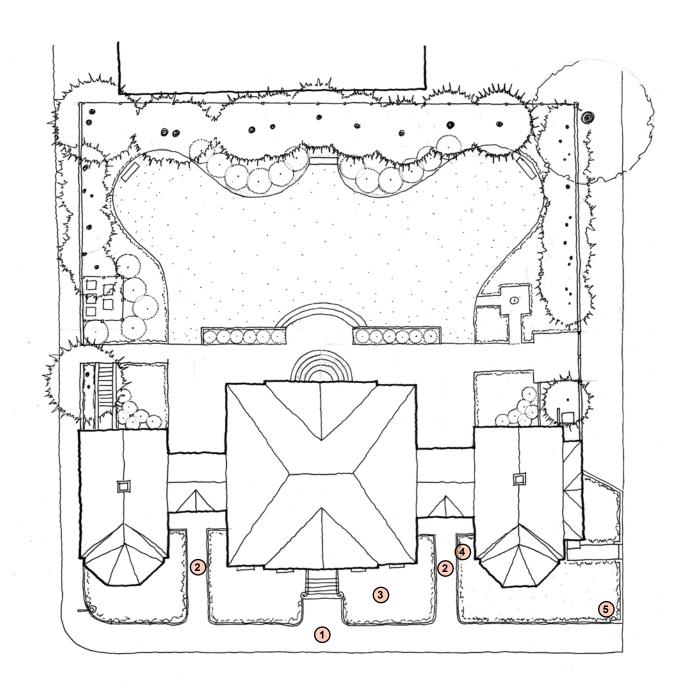
The streetscape is the public face that should reflect the stature and refinement of Hammond-Harwood House for approaching visitors and the Annapolis community alike. The current condition of the sidewalk and landscape that is in view from Maryland Avenue is problematic. The sidewalk is out of level with gaps between the bricks that create trip hazards; the walkways show a patchwork of new brick clashing with the older brick that has the patina of time. The grass lawn attracts the dog walkers (and shows resulting wear). Boxwood by the hyphen doors are overgrown and compromise a true appreciation of the architecture. The magnolia tree, while a beautiful specimen, is too large for its space, its roots form an unsightly mass above ground and below ground they impinge on the foundation of the house. The roof gutter outfalls disperse stormwater close to the hyphen landscape alcoves. Saturated soil immediately adjacent to the building foundation is damaging to the historic masonry structure.

Proposed design interventions should relate to the Period of Significance for the public streetscape that starts with the construction of the Chase-Lloyd House in 1769, followed by the construction of the Hammond Harwood House in 1774 and extends through the active period when the house was occupied by the Loockerman/Harwood family. Changes to the landscape should at the same time consider current usage of the site as a museum and important landmark in the Annapolis Historic District.

Priority Two Preservation Zone - Terrace and Garden Hardscape, and Priority Three Preservation Zone - Garden will be dealt with in the future.







EXISTING CONDITIONS

PRESERVATION TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



1 Brick Paving

The condition of the brick sidewalk in the front of the Hammond-Harwood House needs attention. The brick is of mixed quality with a large percentage of the brick appearing to be hand-molded and consistent with many other historic sidewalks in Annapolis: beige clay marbling mixed with a majority of redder clay. Patches of wirecut brick stand out as patchwork since the finish on the newer brick reflects light while the hand-molded brick tends to absorb light. The sidewalk on Maryland Avenue is out of level with gaps between the bricks that create trip hazards. After rain or snow, water collects on the brick paving in front of the hyphen entrances. The roots of the large magnolia tree have encroached on the paths to the kitchen annex entrance causing the bricks to heave up.

Recommendation: A brick salvage survey should be conducted to quantify the salvageable character-defining brick. The historic brick with beige clay marbling mixed with a majority of redder clay should be carefully removed, culled for reusable brick, stacked or stored, and reset according to a plan that prioritizes historic brick reuse. Some like-kind infill brick will have to be selected to replace brick that has been lost due to attrition. When the brick is reset, an appropriate base technical section will need to be designed that provides a rigid foundation for the brick; this will remedy the unevenness that can cause tripping hazards as the brick moves over time. In order to level and straighten the pathways to the kitchen annex, the magnolia and its root system will need to be removed.











EXISTING CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2 Stormwater Management

Currently the stormwater management on the street side of the house is inadequate. No engineeredsite features are in place specifically to treat the quality of stormwater runoff and/or to reduce the quantity of runoff. Stormwater including that discharged from the building roof gutters flows towards lower ground over land to the street in the front.

The concentration of roof gutters and downspouts dominates the visual environment at the key building entrances at both hyphens. The gutters themselves in combination with the extensions, both in the form of pipes on the surface of the ground and ground-level brick spillways connecting to the main pathways, are dysfunctional. The confluence of runoff in the area near the building entrances at both



hyphens creates a microclimate resulting in a concentration of moss colonizing the brick walking surfaces. This saturated condition is damaging to the building structure because moisture can be a contributing factor to the loss of mortar integrity.

The front streetscape zone lacks the natural pitch to create positive drainage; the elevation at the hyphen doors is approximately one foot higher than the curb, which is not enough grade change to establish a well-drained environment.

Recommendation: The area between the gutter outfalls and the Maryland Avenue curb is close to level, which is the primary reason that there is a lack of positive drainage and or overland flow away from the building. A combination of drainage systems is the best means to solving this problem. However, a possible combination of surface microretention, below grade cisterns, and a possible mechanical connection to a curb outfall would be difficult to put into place (and to obtain permits for), considering the historic nature of the street, the sidewalk, and the house grounds.



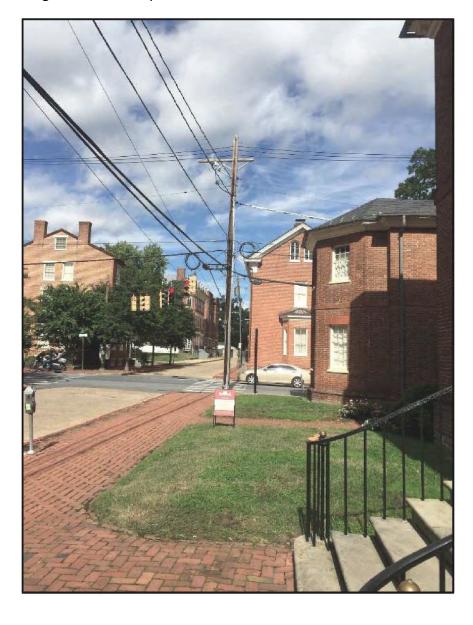




3 Front Lawn

The lawn is in poor condition resulting from overuse. The front lawn constitutes a large portion of the landscape visible upon approach to the building. Local neighbors visit the lawn on their dog walks, as obvious from the spots of dead grass and the predominant weeds—both appearing as the summer progresses. Even with fall treatment and annual re-seeding, the lawn in its current condition is not a successful component of this significant landscape.

Recommendation: Rethinking the front lawn and planting this zone with perennial groundcovers and herbaceous plants should be considered. Predominantly evergreen plant material should be considered because winter condition is important. Plants selected should not distract from the building and should be lower than the water table on the building so as not to screen one of the key architectural design elements of the building's facades.



4 Shrubs and Foundation Planting

Overgrown shrubs and foundation plantings are unsightly and do not contribute to the quality of the front landscape. Boxwoods by the hyphen entrances screen the water table of the building from view. Additionally, these boxwoods have lost their ideal forum and natural habit.

Recommendation: Where foundation shrubs have obscured the view of the building and the brick water table they should be removed. Liriope on the north side of the front are unkempt and should be cared for or replaced.

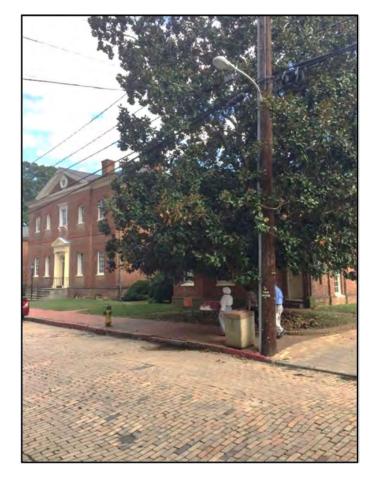




5 Magnolia Tree

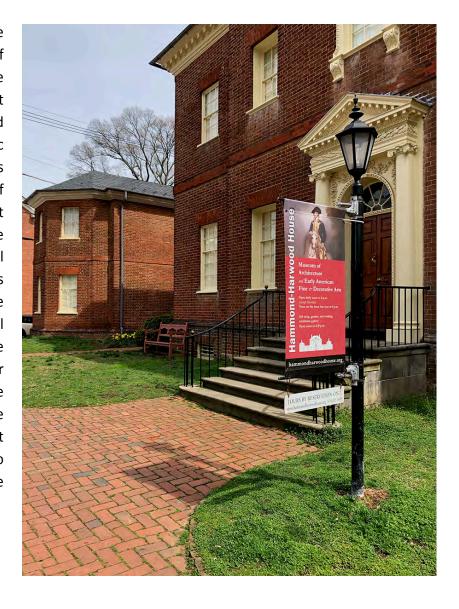
The large evergreen Southern Magnolia tree in the front between the building hyphen on the State House side and Maryland Avenue most likely dates to the era of the rear garden reconstruction in the 1940s. This tree creates an condition asymmetrical companion tree on the north hyphen was removed in the early 1990s) and blocks the view of the south hyphen. Because some of the roots have grown above ground over time, the area under the tree does not support any type of landscape treatment. The tree, while a significant specimen, is problematic because the roots have disrupted the brick pathways to the kitchen addition and grown near the building foundation causing intrusion into the original fabric.

Recommendation: The tree and its roots should be removed because there is no indication that it dates to the period of significance of the landscape.



6 Lighting, Signage, Seating

These important elements of the streetscape appearance Hammond-Harwood House should be addressed. Current use should be considered and weighed along with the basic principles of the architecture as evidenced in the period of significance. In order to respect the architecture, the streetscape should exhibit one horizontal landscape elements flow; introduced over time have tended to cut up the original clean visual presentation of the building. Some type of barrier like a short fence or hedge between the sidewalk and the front landscape treatment should be considered in order to dissuade dogs from visiting the front landscape.







SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This Cultural Landscape Report outlines important information about how the architecture of the Hammond-Harwood House has related to its landscape over time. The emphasis in the report is on the streetscape, the side of the house facing Maryland Avenue, although the idea of the building having two significant "faces"—to the street and to the garden in the rear, including the original view toward the Annapolis waterfront—must be considered.

As historic preservation architect Mark Wenger points out, the original intent of William Buckland's design is for the house to have a horizontal presentation—unimpeded by plantings, close to the original street and in proximity to other contemporaneous houses: Chase Lloyd across the street, Brice House and Paca House on Prince George Street, and Ogle House on King George Street. As the historic maps illustrate, the house originally was sited halfway between the State House and the waterfront wharf, which was later filled as the U.S. Naval Academy was built. Features of landscape morphology must also take into consideration when looking at the original site of the house—its elevation, its relation to streams and ponds leading to the Annapolis waterfront, and its location on the outermost periphery of the developing city.

Over time, the growth of the city and the Naval Academy meant that the original relationship of the house to its landscape changed. A conventional decorative landscape was developed by the owners, with trees, boxwood and other shrubs, ivy, and lawn. Development also meant that features like light posts, curbs, fences and brick pathways were added.

Today the Hammond-Harwood House stands as a representation of beautiful architecture adapted from European designs to suit Maryland colonial culture. A hallmark of Annapolis's Historic District, the house welcomes thousands of visitors to its museum every year. Its forward face to visitors and residents alike, however, is not commensurate with its design excellence—and this report offers recommendations to allay that disjunction. The task now is to sort through what makes sense and deal with the problematic issues that endanger preservation—like drainage and tree root intrusion—as well as those that prevent the pure form of the architecture from being appreciated. The ultimate goal is to have a beautifully landscaped streetscape for Hammond-Harwood House that marries the original intended experience of the building with the current use of the house as both a historic site and museum of fine and decorative art and Annapolis social history.



APPENDIX





