B-7

Mt. Clare Mansion

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-10-2011

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Easement

Property/District Name: Mount Clare Mansion Survey Number: B-7

Project: Mount Clare Maintenance Facility Agency: MTA

Site visit by MHT Staff: x no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended ___

Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G
___None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Mount Clare Mansion in Baltimore City, is a National Historic Landmark, and is an example of a wealthy plantation owners dwelling from the second half of the eighteenth century. It is a 5-part Maryland house, with hyphens and extensions. The north facade is the main entrance and contains a portico which has a "tower" built above it. The house is owned by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of American in the State of Maryland and is maintained as a recreational park. The project MTA plans will not directly affect the house, and it remains eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and as a Landmark.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance

Prepared by: Parsons, Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas for MTA

Anne E. Bruder — March 21, 1998
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services — Date

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

[signature] — 3/26/98
Reviewer, NR program — Date

JMS

Survey No. __B-7__

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

____ Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
__X__ Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
____ Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
____ Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

____ Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
____ Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
____ Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
____ Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
____ Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
____ Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
____ Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
____ Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
__X__ Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
__X__ Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
__X__ Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
__X__ Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
____ Unknown Period (___ prehistoric ___ historic)	

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

____ Subsistence
____ Settlement
____ Political
____ Demographic
____ Religion
____ Technology
____ Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

____ Agriculture
__X__ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
____ Government/Law
____ Military
____ Religion
__X__ Social/Educational/Cultural
____ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: __Building__
Historic Environment: __Rural -Urban__
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): __Single Family Dwelling and Park, plantation__
Known Design Source: ___

Easement MAGI #0400072904 0007

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore City
TOWN VICINITY
STREET NO. Carroll Park

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY B-7

2. NAME Mt. Clare Mansion

DATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP *(Plan Optional)*

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES *(Author, Title, Pages)*
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

EASEMENT 32
B-7

SITE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Clare, Maryland

Location: Baltimore County, in the center of Carroll Park, off Washington Boulavard, between Monroe Bayard Streets.

Ownership: City of Baltimore; operated by the National Society of Colonial Dames in Maryland, Mrs. William R. Miller, President, Mount Clare, Carroll Place, Baltimore, Maryland, 21227.

Statement of Significance

Mount Clare, erected around 1763-67, is an excellent example of a Southern brick plantation house with superior Georgian architectural qualities. It is also the oldest and finest extant colonial structure in the city of Baltimore. Mount Clare's existing wings and hyphens, however, are reconstructions that do not follow or resemble the original detached dependencies.

History

In 1754 John Henry Carroll built a bachelor's house on this plantation; his cottage was probably utilized as one dependency of the later main house, thus giving rise to tradition that Mount Clare was built in 1754. Charles Carroll, the barrister (so-called to distinguish him from his distant relative--Charles Carroll, the signer), and brother of John Henry, inherited the estate, and about 1763, on the occasion of his marriage, probably began the construction of the main section of Mount Clare. [1] Work was still in progress on the house in 1767. The plantation house remained in the hands of the Carroll family until 1840. Between that year and the beginning of the Civil War, all of the outbuildings, including the two dependencies of the main house, disappeared. During the war Mount Clare was used as quarters for Union officers. After 1865 the house was leased by a group of German men who used it as a German beer garden until 1890, when the City of Baltimore purchased the structure and 70 acres of land for a park in South Baltimore. In 1910 the City reconstructed the two existing hyphens and wings which were then used as public restrooms. In 1917 the National Society of Colonial Dames in Maryland took over the operation of the main house. Mount Clare has been repaired, restored, and redecorated from time to time, major work being done in 1940. In 1960 the two wings were also given to the National Society and these have been converted into a colonial kitchen and library.

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[1] The architectural style of the house and other construction features also support a date of 1763, rather than 1754.

Condition

Mount Clare is a two-story brick structure with a partial basement and an attic and is 46 feet long and 36 feet deep. The south (or rear) wall is laid in all-header bond brickwork above the water table and the other three walls are laid in an irregular Flemish bond. The roof is gabled and there are two pair of finely decorated brick end chimneys. The upper two-thirds of each stack is corbelled so as to achieve a panel and cornice effect. The main facades are interesting and different from each other. The north (or front) elevation is dominated by a projecting portico with a room over it. The room is lighted by a Palladian window and the gable roof above the room and porch is pedimented. The portico, 18 feet wide and 8 feet deep, has four round limestone columns and two half-round pilasters, which support a classical entablature of wood. With its broad portico, the north facade appears to be only three bays wide. Most of the windows on the north elevation and on both gable ends have rounded wooden lintels which are topped by segmented brick arches. All first floor windows have nine over nine light sash and those in the second story, nine over six sash. The cornice on front and rear elevations is boldly modillioned.

The south (rear or garden) facade has five bays with the central three projecting slightly in a pavilion which is crowned by a broad pediment. The existing lunette in the center of the pediment is a 19th century replacement; an old painting showa an oval or circular opening in this place. A particularly interesting feature of the south facade is the use of colossal brick pilasters at the corners of the pavilion and house. These pilasters are polychromatic, with lighter bricks running down their centers, giving the effect of narrow quoins to the edges. The windows on this elevation have rectangular wooden frames and flat brick arches above. An early 19th century painting of Mount Clare shows that the central block once had two detached dependencies. These were simple gable-roof cottages that were built at right angles to the main house. The reconstructed wings and hyphens do not follow the 18th century plan or ressemble the dependencies.

The north entrance door of the main house opens into a center hall that extends about half-way through the house. To the left of the main hall is a separate stair hall, and to the right a small office. The second tier of rooms, on the south side, is comprised of two large rooms, the dining room in the northwest corner and the drawing room in the southwest portion. The walls of the first rooms are plastered in a manner to give the effect of wooden paneling, an interesting and ususual treatment. The chimney pieces have delicate decorations in the Adam style and may have been added after 1783. There are simple wooden baseboards throughout and the floors are of wide pine boards. The second floor contains three bedrooms and the room located over the portico. The main house is in excellent condition and is open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

Mount Clare, Baltimore, Maryland - East (rear) elevation. NPS Photo. 1968

Mount Clare, Baltimore, Maryland (West or front elevation)

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Rec'd from N.R. Oct, 1987

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Mount Clare, Baltimore, Maryland

Superior Georgian architectural qualities are found in Mount Clare (1763-1767), an excellent example of a Southern brick plantation house. Mount Clare is a two-story brick structure with a partial basement and an attic and is 46 feet long and 36 feet deep. The south (or rear) wall is laid in all-header bond brickwork above the water table and the other three walls are laid in an irregular Flemish bond. The roof is gabled and there are two pair of finely decorated brick end chimneys. The upper two-thirds of each stack is corbelled so as to achieve a panel and cornice effect. The main facades are interesting and different from each other. The north (or front) elevation is dominated by a projecting portico with a room over it. The room is lighted by a Palladian window and the gable roof above the room and porch is pedimented. The portico, 18 feet wide and 8 feet deep, has four round limestone columns and two half-round pilasters, which support a classical entablature of wood. With its broad portico, the north facade appears to be only three bays wide.

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NSHSB: 12/19/69
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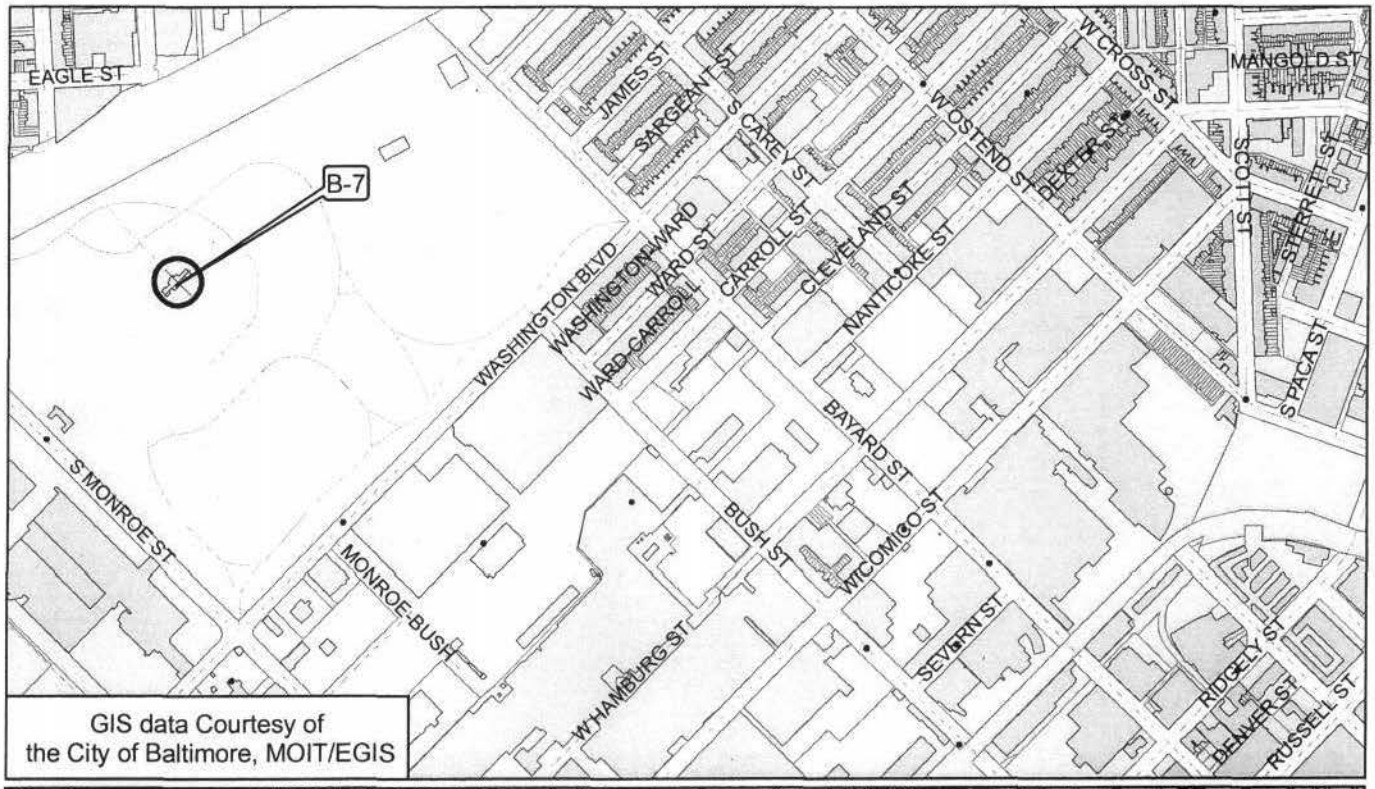
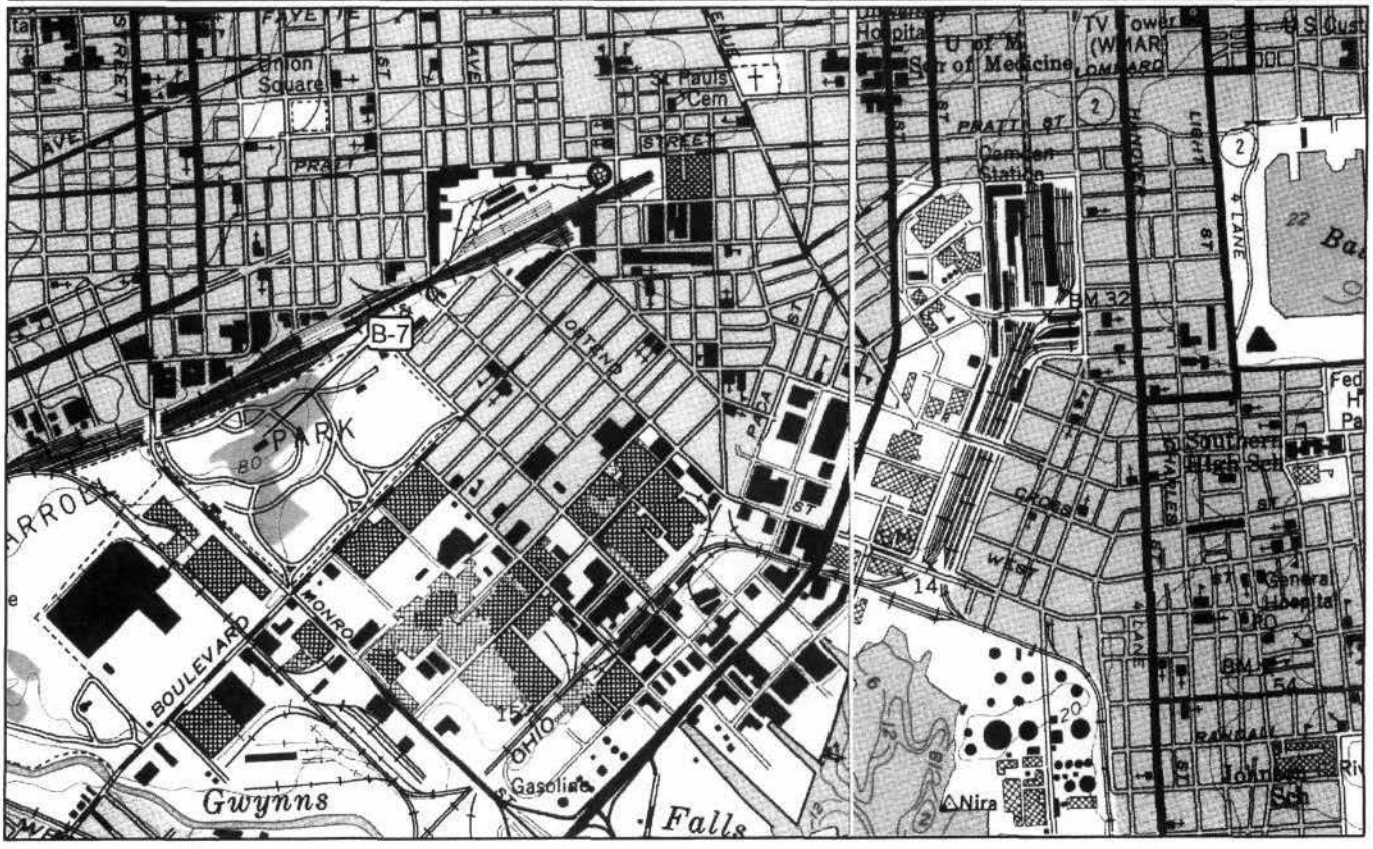
References: John C. Fitzpatrick, Some Historic Houses, Their Builders, and Their Places in History (New York, 1939), 31-36; J.M. Hammond, Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware (Philadelphia, 1914), 130; Richard H. Howland and Eleanor P. Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore A Pictorial History (Baltimore, 1953), 7,8; Maryland, A Guide To the Old Line State (New York, 1940), 251; Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide To Early American Homes --South (New York, 1956), 43-44; Katherine Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers (New York, 1930), 154-158; D. Swann, Colonial & Classic Homes of Maryland (Baltimore, 1939), 287; Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill, 1950), 92.

Historic American Building Survey: Maryland-192. (7 photos, 17 data pages, 1960).

B-7
Mount Clare Mansion
1500 Washington Boulevard
Block 0731 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS



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Mt. Clare Mansion 1754-60

Carroll Park

Baltimore, Maryland

A PHOTOGRAPH

THE [illegible]RES CO.

[illegible] 1, MASS

54203-X