

Hampton Carriage House  
535 Hampton Lane  
Southwest of Hampton Mansion  
Hampton National Historic Site  
Towson  
Baltimore County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-P

HABS  
MD.  
3-TOW. V,  
IH-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-P

HAMPTON CARRIAGE HOUSE

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

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

Present Use: Storage

Statement of  
Significance: This structure typifies the continuum of out-  
building construction at Hampton during the  
nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

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

2. Date of erection: Circa 1885
3. Architect: Unknown
4. Construction information: There has been no research to date in the Ridgely family papers which would provide information concerning this structure.
5. Alterations and additions: The building, which formerly housed a stable, carriages, and living quarters, is presently used for storage.
6. Important views: The Carriage House is not indicated on either the 1843 plat of Hampton or the 1877 Hopkins Map. A cottage is shown on the site in the 1843 plat.

B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).

C. Sources of Information:

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

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

2. Secondary and published sources: None known.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The one-and-a-half story, three-bay frame structure is characterized by central attic gables on the long facades in the manner of nineteenth century architect Samuel Sloan's cottage designs.

2. Condition of the fabric: The structure is in poor repair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The Carriage House measures 42'-10" x 20'-3".
2. Foundations: The foundations are constructed of rubble limestone. A cellar under the south third of the structure may survive from the earlier cottage construction. Stone foundations support the interior walls.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The wood frame structure with corner boards has shiplap siding on the north wall with a 6" exposure to the weather. The other elevations have German siding. Originally the walls were painted a yellow-buff color and the trim was painted a light brown.
4. Structural system: The building has a frame structure typical of the 1880's.
5. Porches: Though there are no porches, each first floor access door has a shed roofed hood supported on diagonal braces and jig-saw cut brackets. An outside bulkhead, with board doors, provides access to the cellar.
6. Chimneys: A square brick chimney projects from the west slope of the main roof and has a corbelled brick cap.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Flanked by a door and a window, the sixteen foot wide, elliptically arched carriage entrance with plain board trim was originally hung with sliding doors, now removed and stored in the building. The west access doorway with its three-light transom has a door with three vertical panels. The two east doorways, one at each end flanking the central two windows, have four-panel doors with panel moulding.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The first floor windows typically have small shed roofed hoods supported on jig-saw cut brackets. Each opening has plain board

trim and is hung with six-over-six light sash. Three light cellar windows are at the west and south cellar openings. Pairs of windows with four-light sash fill the attic gables except for the north elevation, which has a pair of outswinging louvered doors that provide access and ventilation to the hay loft.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The roof and the four attic gables are covered with asphalt shingles which probably replaced original wood shingles.
- b. Cornice and eaves: The eaves and verges of the structure are ornamented with 1 1/2" wide jig-saw cut fascias in an open scrollwork pattern. A crown moulding completes the cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The first floor, divided approximately into thirds, has a central space for carriages and is flanked by a single room at the south and a pair of rooms on the north. In the attic three rooms are over each main area. Originally the north rooms provided space for a stable and a feed room at the first floor and a hay loft at the second floor. The south room at the first floor was used as a living-kitchen area and the central and south attic spaces were used for bedrooms.
2. Stairway: An enclosed stairway rises two steps near the northeast corner of the south first floor room. Winders turn the run to a small hallway between the attic chambers. The stair rises within the carriage room.
3. Flooring: The stable and carriage room dirt floors are at grade. Tongue and groove yellow pine flooring, 2 1/2" wide, is in the south first floor room. The northeast room of the first floor has rough pine flooring. The second floor flooring is 3 1/2" wide tongue and groove yellow pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings of the former living quarters are plastered. The walls and ceiling of the stable and the hay loft are exposed framing. Board and batten siding sheathes the carriage area and the feed room.

5. Doorways and doors: The interior doors of the former living areas are of a four-panel type and are hung within frames trimmed with plain boards having beaded inner edges.
  6. Special decorative features: Each entire window opening has trim similar to the doorways. The trim forms the aprons. Plain 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " baseboards are used throughout the former living quarters.
  7. Hardware: Surviving hardware is typical of the late nineteenth century. The overhead tracks remain for the sliding carriage entrance doors and sections of trolleys remain on the doors stored in the building.
- D. Site and Surroundings: The Carriage House is located west of Hampton gardens, south of the greenhouses, and north of the Gardener's House. A driveway connects the structure to Hampton Lane.

#### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

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

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