

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

THEME: Commerce and Industry.
SUB-THEME: Architecture.

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Anne Arundel
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: Colonial Annapolis Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Colonial Annapolis Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Anne Arundel CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Individual ownership, public and private; address correspondence to Historic Annapolis Inc.,

STREET AND NUMBER: 18 Pinkney Street

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Anne Arundel County Courthouse, Clerk of Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 71

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
check under individual buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: various Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/ Annex

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of Prints and Photographs

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Anne Arundel
ENTRY NUMBER: 24
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Departing from the grid pattern characteristic of many American towns, the planners adopted a modified baroque plan, first applied by French baroque designers in garden layout, as at Versailles. This influence soon spread to England and was adapted by Christopher Wren and John Evelyn for the rebuilding of London after the 1666 fire. In the accepted planning practice of this style, the highest and most commanding locations were reserved for the State House and church.

The focal point was a large (528-foot diameter) public circle where the State House would stand dominating harbor and town. Nearby was a smaller (340-foot diameter) circle set aside for a publicly supported Anglican church. From the two circles a system of radial streets extended outwards toward the edges of town. Those leading into the statehouse circle have a pinwheel alignment so no one is directly on axis with the center of the circle. Because of this arrangement, the plan fails to achieve one of the major aims of baroque design which is the creation of terminal vistas by ending diagonal streets at some great public building, monument, or natural view. That the planner did not fully comprehend the problems of baroque layout is also seen in the awkward land shapes which result from the many lots bisected by diagonal streets.

An additional feature of the plan, never implemented, was a residential square inspired by and named for London's famous Bloomsbury Square. For the comfort and pleasure of town dwellers, the planners separated residential and official areas from necessary artisan, commercial, and port activities. In addition the Maryland Assembly ordered the construction of a handsome pair of gates with gate houses for the town "rangers" at the main overland (West Street) entrance and the ditching and planting of hedges (quick-sets) along both sides of the road outside the town from the gates to the top of the hill.

The State House on State Circle is a National Historic Landmark in its own right. Begun in 1772 and completed in 1784, it was the meeting place of the Continental Congress, 1783-84. It was here that George Washington resigned his commission as commander of the American armies, December 23, 1783, and Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris, formally ending the Revolutionary War on January 14, 1784. This noteworthy Georgian public building, capped by a 150-foot wooden dome which was completed in 1793 and is the prototype of many subsequent state house domes, is still in use as the State Capital. The old Senate Chamber where Congress met has been restored and is notable for its fine woodwork by William Buckland. Near the State House is the Old Treasury, the oldest public building in Annapolis. It was built in 1735-37, for the Commissioners for Emitting Bills of Credit and, with its exterior brickwork laid up in Flemish bond, survives virtually unaltered.

The Hammond-Harwood House, Maryland Avenue at Prince George Street, is also a National Historic Landmark. Generally regarded as William Buckland's masterpiece, this superb formal Georgian mansion in the Palladian manner is one of the finest examples of pre-Revolutionary

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7. Description: (1) Colonial Annapolis Historic District

architecture in America. Across Maryland Avenue is the Chase-Lloyd House. Begun in 1769 for Samuel Chase, signer of the Declaration of Independence and Justice of the United States Supreme Court, it was completed by Edward Lloyd IV, in 1772. The house is the only three-storied pre-Revolutionary dwelling built in Annapolis and the interiors are particularly fine with elaborately carved trim in the dining room, drawing room, and large center hall by William Buckland. The Chase-Lloyd House, along with the Brice House and Paca House, are individually designated landmarks. Many other notable 18th-century structures are within the district. Among them are the William Reynolds Tavern at Church Circle, McDowell Hall and the Charles Carroll-Barrister Birthplace on the Saint John's College Campus, the John Ridout House on Duke of Gloucester Street, the Peggy Stewart House on Hanover Street, the Slicer-Shiplap House near the waterfront and the Upton Scott House on Shipwright Street. The damage to the over-all appearance of the city caused by the six-story Hilton Hotel is not as severe as was expected. The Hotel sets off to the side, south of the wharf, and is not as intrusive as the Naval Academy's Field House, built 15 years ago, immediately to the north of the wharf area. The area between Franklin, Northwest, Calvert, Larkin and Shaw Streets contain approximately 25 eighteenth-century buildings. Commercial fronts hide the antiquity of 16 early Annapolis buildings along West Street between Church Circle and the intersection of West, Calvert, and Cathedral Streets, which marks the site of the historic entrance to the original town of Annapolis. To the west of this is Acton, at Acton Place, a Palladian mansion completed in 1762 for Philip Hammond, slightly outside the original town limits. The house is noteworthy for its unusual design, the facade facing Acton Place being composed of two pavillion motifs flanking a slightly recessed single center bay, the reverse of the usual arrangement.

Boundaries of the Colonial Annapolis Historic District:

The present boundary roughly approximates that of the original town plan, with slight additions to the Northwest to include open land behind St. John's College to College Creek and to the West to include Acton Place and the quiet residential atmosphere which remains down to the waters of Spa Creek.

The Boundary as shown by the green line on the accompanying Map #1 runs counterclockwise from the Annapolis City Dock area along the property line of the U.S. Naval Academy on the east to College Creek; thence in a westerly direction along the creek to the western curb of Roscoe Rowe Boulevard and Calvert Street; thence in a northwesterly direction on West Street at the south curb to Larkin Street; thence south on Larkin at the west curb line to Shaw; thence south on Shaw at the west curb line to the rear of the properties facing Franklin Street; thence along the rear property line of the buildings on Franklin Street in a westerly direction to the west boundary of the property on the northwest corner of

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7. Description: (2) Colonial Annapolis Historic District

Franklin and Southgate Streets; thence south along the rear property lines of the houses on the west side of Southgate Street to Spa Creek; thence along Spa Creek in an easterly direction to the point of beginning at the Annapolis City Dock area.

d. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century; 18th Century; 20th Century
 15th Century; 17th Century; 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1695

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Annapolis, capital of the colony and subsequently of the State of Maryland is a rare example of an attempt to create a European urban environment in a North American setting by the use of a modified baroque plan. With few changes, Annapolis developed in harmony with the original plan of 1695 to emerge in the mid-eighteenth century as the focal point of Maryland government, politics, and commercial activity and as a center of provincial wealth, culture, and taste. In 1783-84, the town was host to the Continental Congress and in 1786 to the Annapolis Convention, forerunner of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The basic features of that city have survived to the present and provide the boundaries for the historic district. Some streets within Old Town have been widened and a few street names have been altered, but the original plan is little changed. In addition to the many outstanding individual examples of high Georgian design, scores of two and three story buildings, some trim and well maintained, others rundown, line streets such as Cornhill, Market, and Conduit. None are distinguished in design or detail, but all are harmonious in scale and materials. In mass, scale, and texture, the physical evidence of Annapolis places it as near to the 18th century as to our own.

History

In 1695, under the direction of Royal Governor Sir Francis Nicholson, the capital of the colony of Maryland was transferred from its original location, St. Mary's, to a more central and accessible spot on a peninsula between the present Spa and College Creeks at the mouth of the Severn River. The site of the new capital, then denominated Anne Arundel Town, had been sparsely settled since the mid-seventeenth century. Befitting the seat of royal power in absentia the colonial government determined to plan and survey a new town of about 100 acres, which was soon enlarged to over 140 acres. The town, renamed Annapolis in honor of Princess (the future Queen) Anne, was incorporated in 1696.

The origins of the Annapolis town plan are obscure. In 1695, Richard Beard, Gentleman and Surveyor of Anne Arundel County, drew up and surveyed the original plat, which was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1704. The earliest extant rendering of the plan was made by James Stoddart in 1748 from notes taken in 1718. The Old World influences on the plan are

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. Significance: (1) Colonial Annapolis Historic District

strong and perhaps their source was Sir Francis Nicholson. Nicholson, a strong-willed man who was governor or lieutenant-governor of five different American colonies, had traveled widely in Europe and must have known Christopher Wren's baroque plan for rebuilding London after the Great Fire, 1666. Before coming to Maryland he helped found William and Mary College and later participated in planning Virginia's new capital, Williamsburg.

For several decades after its founding Annapolis developed slowly. Limited harbor facilities and the small inland extension of the Severn River made it a mediocre site for the growth of commerce. But as the century progressed and tobacco-based prosperity came to the Chesapeake Bay region, Annapolis grew. As Colonial wealth accumulated, planters, lawyers and government officials moved to the city. By the eve of the American Revolution the town had reached its zenith as an important American center of taste, culture, and politics. In 1776, it had an estimated 3,000 residents and not only were most of its approximately 450 houses made of brick, but several were of major architectural significance.

In 1789, Baltimore became Maryland's official Port of Entry, foreshadowing the eclipse of Annapolis as the State's first city. However, Annapolis remained the State Capital through the 19th and 20th centuries and in 1845 received an infusion of new life from the founding of the United States Naval Academy. Since World War II, the town's population, prospects, and land values have increased markedly. The relatively placid history of Annapolis since 1800 has fostered the survival of much of the atmosphere, many of the structures, and the basic street plan of the colonial era.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bierne, Rosamond, and Scarff, John H., William Buckland 1734-1774 Architect of Virginia and Maryland, Baltimore, 1958.
 Bradford, S. Sydney, "The Colonial Annapolis Historic District," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings Report, Northeastern Region, National Park Service, Property Files, Historic Sites Survey, Washington, D.C., 1965.
 Brown, William H. ed., "Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly, September 1693 to June 1697," Archives of Maryland, 1899, pp. 78, 83, 95, 110, 112, 122, 187, 196, 226-27, 265, 283, 291-92, 501-03.

(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	UTM		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	18.370430.4316000			
NE	18.361180.4315690			
SE	18.371540.4314690			
SW	18.370250.4314630			
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:		.75 square miles about 230		
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES				
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia Heintzleman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project; original report prepared by Charles D. McCormick, Joseph Watterson and ORGANIZATION D. Peter Myers, 1968.] DATE
 Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service 7/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1100 L Street, NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE D. C. CODE 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local

Name _____ (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)
 Title _____ (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Landmark Designated: June 23, 1975 date
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Boundary Certified: Cornelius Heine 6-19-75 date
 Chief Hist. & Arch. Survey

ATTEST: _____
 Keeper of The National Register
 Director, O.N.P. 6/11 date

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9. Bibliographical References: (1) Colonial Annapolis Historic District

Davis, Deering, Annapolis Houses, 1700-1775, New York, 1947.

Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952, pp. 381-84.

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Colonial Annapolis Files,
Correspondence, Inventory, and Reports, Historic Sites Survey,
Washington, D.C. 20240.

Reps, John W., The Making of Urban America, Princeton, New Jersey, 1965,
pp. 103-08.

Ridgely, David, Annals of Annapolis, Baltimore, 1841, pp. 87-131.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Page 1

Colonial Annapolis Historic District
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

#7 Description ADDENDUM (1 February 1983)

The Colonial Annapolis Historic District covers the oldest or core section of Annapolis around which the city developed. The district is characterized by a Baroque street plan of circles and diagonal streets superimposed on a terrain that rises to the northwest from the harbor at Spa Creek. Standing prominently on the highest point in the city overlooking the harbor is the Maryland State House, an eighteenth century brick structure with a very large wooden polygonal dome. A primarily commerical region surrounds the harbor, extends northwest along Main Street and out West Street from Church Circle. Another primarily commerical area is along Maryland Avenue between State Circle and the middle of the block formed by Prince George and King George Streets. Governmental buildings stand near the State House, primarily to the northwest of State Circle. The St. John's College campus is located in the northwest corner of the district between College Creek and College Avenue. The remaining sections of the district are primarily residential with educational, religious, commerical, and civic (i.e. firehouses, city offices) structures scattered through out. The U. S. Naval Academy borders on the northeast and is not included in the Colonial Annapolis Historic District.

The buildings within the district are of various types, materials, stylistic influences, proportions, and positions in the streetscapes resulting from construction or remodeling and date primarily from the seventeenth century through the first third of the twentieth century. Although the buildings are generally grouped by type and period to particular sections, the district is characterized by a mixture of types and periods in almost all sections of it. The oldest buildings, dating from the eighteenth and early to mid nineteenth centuries, stand primarily to the southeast of Church Circle in an area bounded roughly by Duke of Gloucester Street to the southwest and College Avenue on the northwest. Several eighteenth century and early-to-mid-nineteenth century structures are located along West Street and scattered to the southwest of Duke of Gloucester Street. The buildings from this period are generally of brick or frame construction, classical in design and decoration, and range from large scale such as the State House and Brice House to small as seen in several houses along Duke of Gloucester and East Street.

The late nineteenth century and early twentieth century period are marked primarily by development of residential areas to the southwest of Duke of Gloucester Street, to the northwest of State Circle, and along Prince George and King George Streets, and College Avenue. The area to the northwest of State Circle was obliterated in the mid-twentieth century for construction of several large state government office buildings. The areas along the harbor, Main Street, and Maryland Avenue clearly developed into their present use during this period with the struction of commerical buildings or the extensive remodeling of existing structures for commerical use. A

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Colonial Annapolis Historic District
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

#7 Description continued

similar change in the type of building from residential to commercial also occurred to a lesser extent along State Circle and School Street.

Stylistically, the buildings in the district range from high style formal Georgian seen in the State House and Hammond-Harewood and Brice Houses of the eighteenth century and the Colonial or Georgian Revival houses of the early twentieth century to the vernacular and plain single and double houses from various periods which probably make up the majority of the residential building stock in the district. The southwest edges of the district along Spa Creek are characterized primarily by Queen Anne, Shingle, Colonial or Georgian Revival, and Functional style houses setting on large lots with front, side, and back yards giving a garden-like setting. The areas with the older buildings also have in addition to the earlier classical influences Italianate, Queen Anne, Romanesque, Stick, Second Empire, and Functional styles evident. The commercial areas are characterized by buildings in rows abutting each other and the sidewalk and of various heights and decoration but generally shed-roofed or built to give a flat-roofed appearance.

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Anne Arundel County
Maryland

#8 Significance ADDENDUM (1 February 1983)

period: 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

Applicable Criteria: A and C
specific dates: various
builder/architect: various

Significance Summary:

The Colonial Annapolis Historic District achieves significance on three levels and in various periods from the town's history and the buildings that stand within the district. On the national level, Annapolis was host to the Continental Congress in 1783-1784 during which the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War was ratified in 1784 and to the Annapolis Convention in 1786 which lead to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The basic features of that city, which include a unique Baroque street plan and several outstanding examples of high Georgian design found in the United States, survive. State significance is acquired from the role of Annapolis as first a colonial capital and then the capital of the state, which it still is. The Maryland State House, begun in 1771 and still in use; the Old Treasury Building, erected in the eighteenth century; and the residences of people prominent in Maryland's political history stand within the district. On the local level, importance is gained from the city's function as the seat of Anne Arundel County. The county courthouse, begun in the early nineteenth century and extensively altered in the 1890s, stands on Church Circle near Government House, the official residence of the Governor of Maryland. The district is tied into a significant and distinguishable unit by the buildings which represent various types and periods of construction and which record the growth and development of the city from its founding into the twentieth century.

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Maryland

#7 Description ADDENDUM

4 February 1983

The elements which are non-contributive to the significance of the district date generally from post the 1930s and consist primarily of public and private office buildings, commercial structures in the shopping areas, and houses scattered throughout the district although found mainly in the area to the southwest of Duke of Gloucester Street. What makes these elements non-contributive are age, design, scale, and/or historical factors. Large scale mid-to-late twentieth century office buildings stand along Bladen Street, College Avenue, Francis Street, and Franklin Street. Multi-story parking garages are located along St. Johns Street and in mid-block formed by Main, Green, and Duke of Gloucester Streets. A few of the new structures line Main Street sandwiched by older, historic fabric. Some of the new buildings blend successfully into the streetscapes, such as a few of the commercial buildings along Main Street and some of the houses along Franklin Street. Other non-contributive buildings become visual intrusions such as the parking garages and huge office structures. Specific examples of these intrusions are the governmental buildings along College Avenue which, though Georgian influenced in decoration and a part of the continuum of the historic role of Annapolis as the state capital, are of a scale larger than the State House, which visually is a focal point because of the scale, and are set back from the street, atypical of most of the district thus giving a broad feel to the public area formed by the streets.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland

Colonial Annapolis Historic District contains a fine concentration of colonial buildings which illustrate and commemorate the political, commercial, and social life of one of the more important towns in the colonies before and during the Revolution.

Politicians, merchants, and plantation owners contributed power, money, and elegance to colonial Annapolis, imbuing it with a lively social and cultural life.

Although visited by Captain John Smith in 1608, the Annapolis area was not settled until 1649, when 300 Puritans moved into this section from Virginia. A tiny community, known as Anne Arundel Town, developed on the site of the present Annapolis, which received this name in 1695.

The Revolutionary War carried Annapolis to the pinnacle of its political significance during the eighteenth-century. Near the end of the Revolution, the Continental Congress sat in the Maryland State House, and Washington resigned his commission in the Senate Chamber on December 23, 1783. Just a few weeks later, the Congress ratified the Treaty of Peace with England on January 14, 1784, which acknowledged the independence of the United States.

The proposed historic district incorporates much of the original town. One of America's first planned cities, the town's dominant State Circle and military circle on the west, Church Circle, lie at the heart of Annapolis' modified radial plan. The streets that roughly radiate north and east from the two circles contain the greatest concentration of eighteenth-century buildings in the town.

In the area encompassed by the preceding district stand a number of interesting buildings. The Maryland State House, already a Registered National Historic Landmark, crowns the rise in State Circle. Not too far from it are the Howard-Harwood House (also a National Landmark), the Chase-Lloyd House, the Pava House, and numerous other eighteenth-century structures.

Historic District, Annapolis, Maryland

Location: Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

THE PROPOSED REVISED DISTRICT--counterclockwise from the Annapolis City Dock area is bounded by the property line of the U.S. Naval Academy to a point just northeast of the Carroll Barrister Birthplace; by a line drawn from this point across St. John's College Campus to a centerline of St. John's Street at right angles to it; then by the centerlines of St. John's Calvert, West, Larkin, Shaw, and Franklin Streets consecutively to a point 100 feet southwesterly of the southwest side of Acton House; by a line drawn from this point at right angles to the centerline of Franklin Street to the waters of Spa Creek; and by the waters of Spa Creek to the City Dock area.

THE PRESENT DISTRICT--counterclockwise from the Annapolis City Dock area is bounded by Prince George Street, Randall Street, King George Street, the U. S. Naval Academy, Hanover Street, Wagner Street, King George Street again, College Avenue, Church Circle, and Duke of Gloucester Street to the City Dock area. The District includes the William Reynolds Tavern at Church Circle, and McDowell Hall and the Charles Carroll, Barrister Birthplace on the St. John's College Campus.

Ownership: Various: State, quasi-public, and private.

Statement of Significance

Annapolis, capital of the colony and subsequently of the State of Maryland, was a planned city. The boundaries of the proposed revised Historic District roughly approximate those of the original town plan of Annapolis designed and surveyed in 1695. Unique for the period, the modified baroque plan represents an attempt to create an European urban environment in a North American setting. With few modifications Annapolis developed in harmony with the original plan to emerge in the mid-18th century as the focal point of Maryland government, politics, and commercial activity and as a center of provincial wealth, culture, and taste. In 1783-84, the town was host to the Continental Congress and in 1786 to the Annapolis Convention, forerunner of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Until about 1800, Annapolis was Maryland's most important city, and basic features of that city have survived to the present. Some streets within Old Town have been widened and a few street names have been altered, but the original plan is little changed. According to a 1967 survey, some 120 eighteenth-century buildings, many considerably altered, are standing in the proposed revised district. In mass, scale, and texture the physical evidence of Annapolis places it as near to the eighteenth century as to our own.

History

In 1695, under the direction of Royal Governor Sir Francis Nicholson, the capital of the colony of Maryland was transferred from its original location, St. Mary's, to a more central and accessible spot on a peninsula between the present Spa and College Creeks at the mouth of the Severn River. The site of the new capital, then denominated Anne Arundel Town, had been settled since the mid-seventeenth century, but sparsely. Befitting the seat of royal power in absentia the colonial government determined to plan and survey a new town of about 100 acres, which was soon enlarged to over 140 acres. The town, renamed Annapolis in honor of Princess (the future Queen) Anne, was incorporated in 1696.

The Town Plan

Like that of other Maryland and Virginia towns of the period, the legislation creating Annapolis authorized the appointment of town commissioners to purchase and survey necessary land, stake it into streets, lanes, alleys, and lots, and set aside space for a market, church or other

public buildings. But in Annapolis this routine legislation was carried out in a unique way. Departing from the grid pattern characteristic of many American towns, the planners adopted a modified baroque town plan. The focal point was a large (528-foot diameter) public circle where the State House would stand dominating harbor and town. Nearby was a smaller (348-foot diameter) circle set aside for a publicly supported Anglican church. From the two circles a system of radial streets extended outwards toward the edges of town. An additional feature of the plan, never implemented, was a residential square inspired by and named for London's famous Bloomsbury Square. For the comfort and pleasure of town dwellers, the planners separated residential and official areas from necessary artisan, commercial, and port activities. In addition the Maryland Assembly ordered the construction of a handsome pair of gates with gate houses for the town "rangers" at the main overland (West Street) entrance and the ditching and planting of hedges (quick-seets) along both sides of the road outside the town from the gates to the top of the hill.

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must have known Christopher Wren's baroque plan for rebuilding London after the Great Fire (1666). Before coming to Maryland he helped found William and Mary College and later participated in planning Virginia's new capital, Williamsburg.

Annapolis in the Eighteenth Century

For several decades after its founding Annapolis developed slowly. Limited harbor facilities and the small hinterland tapped by the Severn made it a mediocre site for the growth of commerce. Disputed land titles and the difficulty of attracting artisans helped further to retard population growth. Early observers noted that the town had perhaps 40 houses, most built of wood. But as the century progressed and long years of comparative peace brought stability and tobacco-based prosperity to the Chesapeake Bay region Annapolis grew. As colonial wealth accumulated planters and lawyers, royal and proprietary government officials made their homes or built town houses there. Horse racing, theater, a newspaper, and political, literary, and social clubs came to town as Annapolis flowered in provincial reflection of England's Georgian splendor. By the eve of the American Revolution the town had reached its zenith as an important American center of taste, culture, and politics. In 1776, it had an estimated 3,000 inhabitants and not only were most of its approximately 450 houses made of brick, but several were of major architectural significance.

Annapolis since 1800

In 1780, Baltimore became Maryland's official Port of Entry, foreshadowing the eclipse of Annapolis as the State's first city. However, Annapolis remained the State Capital through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and in 1845 received an infusion of new life from the founding of the United States Naval Academy. Since World War II, the town's population, prospects, and land values have increased markedly. The relatively placid history of Annapolis since 1800 has fostered the survival of much of the atmosphere, many of the structures, and the basic street plan of the colonial era. On June 23, 1965, in recognition of these and other values, the Department of Interior announced the eligibility of Colonial Annapolis Historic District for National Landmark status under Themes XVIII (Commerce and Industry) and XX (Subtheme Architectura).

The existing Historic District designated in 1965 includes about two-thirds of the original town plan. Generally, it comprehends State and Church Circles and the commercial, residential, and waterfront areas immediately south and east of them. According to a survey undertaken by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1967, about 95 eighteenth-century buildings are within the present district. Many of them are scarcely recognizable behind modern facades, but many others have been preserved and restored.

The State House on State Circle is a National Landmark in its own right. Begun in 1772 and completed in 1784, it was the meeting place of the

Continental Congress, 1783-84. It was here that George Washington resigned his commission as commander of the American armies, December 23, 1783, and Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris formally ending the Revolutionary War on January 14, 1784. This noteworthy Georgian public building, capped by 150-foot wooden dome which was completed in 1793 and is the prototype of many subsequent state house domes, is still in use as the State Capital. The old Senate Chamber where Congress met has been restored and is notable for its fine woodwork by William Buckland. Near the State House is the Old Treasury, the oldest public building in Annapolis. It was built in 1735-37, for the Commissioners for Emitting Bills of Credit and, with its exterior brickwork laid up in Flemish bond, survives virtually unaltered.

The Hammond-Harwood House, Maryland Avenue at Prince George Street, is also a National Landmark. Generally regarded as William Buckland's masterpiece, this superb formal Georgian mansion in the Palladian manner is one of the finest examples of pre-Revolutionary architecture in America. Completed in 1774 for the wealthy planter-lawyer Matthias Hammond, the house is virtually as it was in the eighteenth century. The front doorway has been widely regarded as one of the most perfectly proportioned examples of its type in this country and the interiors, notably the dining room and drawing room above it, have richly carved trim in Buckland's late manner.

Across Maryland Avenue is the Chase-Lloyd House. Begun in 1769 for Samuel Chase, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Justice of the

U. S. Supreme Court, and a dominant figure in Maryland politics during the Revolutionary period, it was completed by Edward Lloyd IV, a wealthy planter from Maryland's Eastern Shore, in 1772. It is the only three-storied pre-Revolutionary dwelling built in Annapolis. It is notable for its justly proportioned exterior and for its exceptionally fine interiors, particularly the outstanding carved trim of the dining room, drawing room, and large center hall by William Buckland.

The Paca House on Prince George Street is a large mansion of the traditional Tidewater five-part type and was built in 1763. The owner, William Paca, was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, delegate to the Continental Congress, and Governor of Maryland. The house, which until recently was part of a hotel, and its eighteenth-century gardens are currently the object of an extensive restoration project undertaken by Historic Annapolis, Inc.

Many other notable eighteenth-century structures are within the present district. Among them are the William Reynolds Tavern at Church Circle, McDowell Hall and the Charles Carroll, Barrister Birthplace on the St. John's College Campus, the James Brice House on East Street, the John Ridout House on Duke of Gloucester Street, the Peggy Stewart House on Hanover Street, and the Slicer-Shiplap House near the waterfront.

Those areas between the present and proposed revised boundaries of the historic district contain approximately 25 eighteenth-century buildings. Commercial fronts hide the antiquity of 16 early Annapolis buildings along West Street between Church Circle and the busy intersection of

West, Calvert, and Cathedral Streets, which marks the site of the historic entrance to the original town of Annapolis.

On the property of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church between Duke of Gloucester and Shipwright Streets is the Carroll Mansion. The four central bays of the house date from the early eighteenth century. The House was reputedly built by Charles Carroll of Annapolis and in 1737, was the birthplace of his son Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The younger Carroll was one of Maryland's Signers in 1776 and lived to lay the first stone of the roadbed of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1826. It is said that Lafayette and his officers were entertained at the house during their encampment near Annapolis in 1781. The asymmetrical exterior of the building is unusually informal for a large dwelling of the period. The mansion is now physically connected with the adjoining Redemptorist Novitiate and its interior has been extensively altered.

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one-story facade, it is an excellent example of early eighteenth-century vernacular building. For many years it was the home of the family of Annapolis printers who published one of the colony's first newspapers, the Maryland Gazette.

St. John's College Campus is outside the boundaries of the town plan of 1696, but it has been a part of the Annapolis scene since the college was chartered in 1784 as successor to King William's School (1696). The campus is an informal Annapolis landmark providing welcome greenspace, and a setting for several fine old buildings. McDowell Hall (included in the present Historic District) was begun as a governor's palace in 1744 and finished by the college. It was virtually rebuilt after a fire in 1904. Flanking McDowell Hall are two buildings of architectural interest. Pinkney Hall dates from 1857, and Humphrey Hall, a very early example of collegiate gothic designed by Robert Cary Long, Jr., dates from 1835. Also on the campus (and specially included in the present Historic District) is the Charles Carroll, Barrister Birthplace. It was built in 1722 and moved in 1956 from the southwest corner of Main and Conduit Streets in Old Town Annapolis.

Acton, at Acton Place, a Palladian mansion completed in 1762 for Philip Hammond, is slightly outside the original town limits. The house is noteworthy for its unusual design, the facade facing Acton Place being composed of two pavillion motifs flanking a slightly recessed single center bay, the reverse of the usual arrangement. Acton is unique among eighteenth-century Annapolis houses in that its grounds still extend to the water's edge.

Present Condition

Although the local preservationists feel they have been dealt a severe blow by the construction of the six-story Annapolis Hilton Hotel on the waterfront, the damage to the over-all appearance of the city is not as severe as was expected. The building is a solid block with a false mansard roof with fake dormers, and its flanking garage is a two-story open concrete structure---both just about as dull as they can be. But the hotel sets off to the side, south of the wharf, and does not present its broadside to the wharf and market area of the city. Bad as it is, it is no worse than the first disaster that happened to the waterfront about 15 years ago, when the Naval Academy's Field House was built immediately north of the wharf area.

Only fishermen and yachtsmen approach Annapolis from the water and get the full impact of the Hotel and the Field House. Local citizens and visitors approach the wharf area from the land side and can stroll about hardly aware of the two incongruous structures, which are more or less behind them and off to the sides. However, it is patent that the Annapolis waterfront cannot absorb any more such buildings. Even one more could do irreparable damage. To forestall this the city itself is taking positive steps. It is starting proceedings to condemn and acquire the land on the south side of the slip, from the market area east toward the Hilton Hotel, as far as the Fleet Reserve Club. Plans call for this property to be developed as a landscaped parking lot. This is what is desired by the City Council, but it could be developed into a far more

interesting and useful area of small shops with a park and promenade on the waterfront. The wharf and market area already has plenty of parking spaces, which are rarely filled. However, it is a well-intentioned effort and will at least protect the property against commercial exploitation. The land immediately north of the slip is a city-owned parking area, but the property abutting it, extending to the Naval Academy property line, is privately owned. Other than the Harbor House restaurant, it is poorly developed, and it is conceivable that undesirable commercial uses might be made of this property--which should be discouraged.

There have been several proposals to improve the city-owned market in the heart of the waterfront area, for there has always been a market there and its roof lines are good. But the present City Council is opposed to doing anything with it. On the other hand, the Council has already voted not to renew the lease on the "American" service station on city-owned land adjoining the market, with plans for still more landscaped parking.

Thus the view of the city from the wharf and market areas, which are--or should be--the heart of commercial Annapolis, is substantially the same as it has been for 150 years, if one overlooks modern shop-fronts, parked automobiles and mazes of poles and overhead wires. The vista up Main Street leads to the spire of St. Anne's Church, and above all rises the fine dome of the Capitol. Scores of the two- and three-story buildings are old, and a few still reveal their good brick walls, white trim and slender dormers.

Much has been said about the "uniqueness" of Annapolis' plan. This is not only historically true, but visually true. It is doubtful if there is any city in the United States which is so full of interesting vistas wherever one goes, as is the old part of Annapolis. In this respect it is very much like the old cities of Europe, where the vistas which charm us today were deliberately built into the cities centuries ago by their unknown builders. Furthermore, the streets of Annapolis are a perfect illustration of the creed of the urban designer which says that the quality of the design of the individual buildings does not matter as much as the overall quality of the "streetscape." Cornhill Street, Market Street and Conduit Street are lined with simple houses, brick and wood, some trim and well-maintained, others rundown; none are distinguished in design or detail, but all are harmonious in scale, texture and materials. The effect is delightful, and it is this quality that has drawn so many people to Annapolis to live---people who want to live in the quiet urban atmosphere of small houses, brick sidewalks and shade trees.

It is proposed that the limits of the Historic District be established to include all the city which was within the original city plan, plus certain areas which include recognized and desirable buildings. The major portion of the campus of St. John's College should be included, for its buildings are for the most part sturdy and pleasing nineteenth-century structures, and the grounds are open and quite beautiful. The area originally laid out as "Bloomsbury Square" should be included, for it now contains State office buildings of pseudo-Colonial Williamsburg design which have become an

integral part of the Annapolis scene; and the small area northwest of Church Circle, bounded by Calvert and Cathedral Streets, should be included, for it embraces the site of the original city gate as well as a number of early houses which might some day be restored. The area west of Duke of Gloucester Street should definitely be included because it is an integral part of the original plan, which showed the streets running right down to Spa Creek. This area should extend far enough west to include Acton and the little open square in front of it.

As a matter of principle, Historic District boundary lines should not run down the middle of streets, for both sides of a street go to make up its character and physical appearance, and both are apt to be of the same age and interest. In this case, however, it did not seem possible to follow this rule. On the east, the Naval Academy wall forms the boundary, and on other streets there seemed to be little reason to include both sides. The proposed lines have been established to include all the original plan and buildings of interest.

References: Rosamond Randall Bairne and John Henry Scoff, William Buckland 1734-1774 Architect of Virginia and Maryland, Baltimore, the Maryland Historical Society, 1952; S. Sydney Bradford, "The Colonial Annapolis Historic District," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings Report, Northeastern Region, National Park Service (Feb. 1965); William H. Brown (ed.), Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly, Sept. 1693-June 1697, Archives of Maryland 19(1899), 78, 83, 95, 110, 112, 122, 187, 196, 226-27, 255, 283, 291-92, 501-03; Deering Davis, Annapolis Houses, 1700-1775, [New York], Architectural Publishing Co., 1947, passim; Aubrey Land, The Dulany's of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1955, pp. 48-50, 185 ff; Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture, New York, Oxford University Press, 1952, pp. 381-84; National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Colonial Annapolis Files, Correspondence, Inventory, and Reports; John W. Reps, The Making of Urban America, Princeton, N. J., Princeton University Press, 1965, pp. 103-08; David Ridgely, Annals of Annapolis, Baltimore, Cushing and Brother, 1841, pp. 87-131.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Special Report

Colonial Annapolis Historic District (Boundary Revision), Maryland

See AB minutes April 18, 1968

Prepared by

Charles D. McCormick
Joseph Watterson and
D. Peter Myers

March 18, 1968

REGISTERED NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Historic District, Annapolis, Maryland

Location: Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Corrected Boundary
Revision 6/5/68

THE PROPOSED REVISED DISTRICT--counterclockwise from the Annapolis City Dock area along the property line of the U.S. Naval Academy to a point 10 feet northeast of the Carroll-Barrister Birthplace; thence in a southwesterly direction to a point on the centerline of St. John's Street 10 feet southeast of the Francis Scott Key Memorial Building; thence by the centerlines of St. John's, Calvert, West, Larkin, Shaw, and Franklin Streets consecutively to a point 100 feet southwesterly of the southwest side of Acton House; by a line drawn from this point at right angles to the centerline of Franklin Streets to the waters of Spa Creek; and by the waters of Spa Creek to the City Dock area.

THE PRESENT DISTRICT--counterclockwise from the Annapolis City Dock area is bounded by Prince George Street, Randall Street, King George Street, the U. S. Naval Academy, Hanover Street, Wagner Street, King George Street again, College Avenue, Church Circle, and Duke of Gloucester Street to the City Dock area. The District includes the William Reynolds Tavern at Church Circle, and McDowell Hall and the Charles Carroll, Barrister Birthplace on the St. John's College Campus.

Ownership: Various: State, quasi-public, and private.

Statement of Significance

Annapolis, capital of the colony and subsequently of the State of Maryland, was a planned city. The boundaries of the proposed revised Historic District roughly approximate those of the original town plan of Annapolis designed and surveyed in 1695. Unique for the period, the modified baroque plan represents an attempt to create an European urban environment in a North American setting. With few modifications Annapolis developed in harmony with the original plan to emerge in the mid-18th century as the focal point of Maryland government, politics, and commercial activity and as a center of provincial wealth, culture, and taste. In 1783-84, the town was host to the Continental Congress and in 1786 to the Annapolis Convention, forerunner of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Until about 1800, Annapolis was Maryland's most important city, and basic features of that city have survived to the present. Some streets within Old Town have been widened and a few street names have been altered, but the original plan is little changed. According to a 1967 survey, some 120 eighteenth-century buildings, many considerably altered, are standing in the proposed revised district. In mass, scale, and texture the physical evidence of Annapolis places it as near to the eighteenth century as to our own.

History

In 1695, under the direction of Royal Governor Sir Francis Nicholson, the capital of the colony of Maryland was transferred from its original location, St. Mary's, to a more central and accessible spot on a peninsula between the present Spa and College Creeks at the mouth of the Severn River. The site of the new capital, then denominated Anne Arundel Town, had been settled since the mid-seventeenth century, but sparsely. Befitting the seat of royal power in absentia the colonial government determined to plan and survey a new town of about 100 acres, which was soon enlarged to over 140 acres. The town, renamed Annapolis in honor of Princess (the future Queen) Anne, was incorporated in 1696.

The Town Plan

Like that of other Maryland and Virginia towns of the period, the legislation creating Annapolis authorized the appointment of town commissioners to purchase and survey necessary land, stake it into streets, lanes, alleys, and lots, and set aside space for a market, church or other

public buildings. But in Annapolis this routine legislation was carried out in a unique way. Departing from the grid pattern characteristic of many American towns, the planners adopted a modified baroque town plan. The focal point was a large (528-foot diameter) public circle where the State House would stand dominating harbor and town. Nearby was a smaller (348-foot diameter) circle set aside for a publicly supported Anglican church. From the two circles a system of radial streets extended outwards toward the edges of town. An additional feature of the plan, never implemented, was a residential square inspired by and named for London's famous Bloomsbury Square. For the comfort and pleasure of town dwellers, the planners separated residential and official areas from necessary artisan, commercial, and port activities. In addition the Maryland Assembly ordered the construction of a handsome pair of gates with gate houses for the town "rangers" at the main overland (West Street) entrance and the ditching and planting of hedges (quick-sets) along both sides of the road outside the town from the gates to the top of the hill.

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Annapolis in the Eighteenth Century

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The Pava House on Prince George Street is a large mansion of the traditional Tidewater five-part type and was built in 1763. The owner, William Pava, was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, delegate to the Continental Congress, and Governor of Maryland. The house, which until recently was part of a hotel, and its eighteenth-century gardens are currently the object of an extensive restoration project undertaken by Historic Annapolis, Inc.

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Thus the view of the city from the wharf and market areas, which are--or should be--the heart of commercial Annapolis, is substantially the same as it has been for 150 years, if one overlooks modern shop-fronts, parked automobiles and mazes of poles and overhead wires. The vista up Main Street leads to the spire of St. Anne's Church, and above all rises the fine dome of the Capitol. Scores of the two- and three-story buildings are old, and a few still reveal their good brick walls, white trim and slender dormers.

Much has been said about the "uniqueness" of Annapolis' plan. This is not only historically true, but visually true. It is doubtful if there is any city in the United States which is so full of interesting vistas wherever one goes, as is the old part of Annapolis. In this respect it is very much like the old cities of Europe, where the vistas which charm us today were deliberately built into the cities centuries ago by their unknown builders. Furthermore, the streets of Annapolis are a perfect illustration of the creed of the urban designer which says that the quality of the design of the individual buildings does not matter as much as the overall quality of the "streetscape." Cornhill Street, Market Street and Conduit Street are lined with simple houses, brick and wood, some trim and well-maintained, others rundown; none are distinguished in design or detail, but all are harmonious in scale, texture and materials. The effect is delightful, and it is this quality that has drawn so many people to Annapolis to live---people who want to live in the quiet urban atmosphere of small houses, brick sidewalks and shade trees.

It is proposed that the limits of the Historic District be established to include all the city which was within the original city plan, plus certain areas which include recognized and desirable buildings. The major portion of the campus of St. John's College should be included, for its buildings are for the most part sturdy and pleasing nineteenth-century structures, and the grounds are open and quite beautiful. The area originally laid out as "Bloomsbury Square" should be included, for it now contains State office buildings of pseudo-Colonial Williamsburg design which have become an

integral part of the Annapolis access; and the small area northwest of Church Circle, bounded by Calvert and Cathedral Streets, should be included, for it embraces the site of the original city gate as well as a number of early houses which might some day be restored. The area west of Duke of Gloucester Street should definitely be included because it is an integral part of the original plan, which showed the streets running right down to Spa Creek. This area should extend far enough west to include Acton and the little open square in front of it.

As a matter of principle, Historic District boundary lines should not run down the middle of streets, for both sides of a street go to make up its character and physical appearance, and both are apt to be of the same age and interest. In this case, however, it did not seem possible to follow this rule. On the east, the Naval Academy wall forms the boundary, and on other streets there seemed to be little reason to include both sides. The proposed lines have been established to include all the original plan and buildings of interest.

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