### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hilton is an early 20th century, Georgian-revival mansion farmhouse. The re-construction was designed by Baltimore architect Edward Palmer in 1917; detailed drawings and specifications are preserved in Palmer's successor's office, Nes, Campbell and Partners, and copies are preserved in the Catonsville Community College archives.

The entrance facade is the north; the south facade overlooks a broad view across the Patapsco River valley. The main house is five bays in length,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories above a high ground floor, with a gambrel roof. A closely spaced pair of chimneys rises flush above each gable. A shallower  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story wing, five bays in length, with a gabled roof, extends from the east end; a 2-story west wing is but one bay in length. The walls of the main house -- the walls of the original structure -- are of rubble stone covered with stucco. Roofs are covered with green Vermont slate.

A small enclosed porch of the Tuscan order centered on the north facade shelters the principal entrance in the ground story; originally fully glazed, it was probably considered a porte cochere. Above the porch in the second story, continuing the axial emphasis, is a tri-partite window; and above it in the third story is a wider dormer containing a Palladian or Venetian window. Tall casements or French doors are in each bay of the first story; above are 6/6 windows, below are 3/3 windows; a single dormer is centered between the two outer bays of each side, containing a 6/6 window.

The fully developed cornice has both dentils and modillions and a concealed gutter above it. The first story windows are framed with wooden architraves supporting a frieze and cornice. On the dormer walls Tuscan pilasters flank the sash and support a plain frieze and full pediment. Cheek walls are slated.

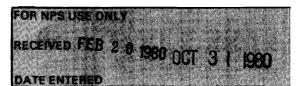
The south facade is nearly identical, but a terrace at the first floor level extends its full length, enclosed below in the ground story with stuccoed walls, pierced by low arched windows at grade level. The small Tuscan porch is unenclosed and shelters a wide, elliptically arched entrance to the first floor consisting of a six-panel door, leaded sidelights and a leaded transom. Continuing the axial emphasis as on the north facade, this is a tri-partite window in the second story and a tri-partite dormer in the third, consisting of a slightly projecting 6/6 window flanked by single four-light casements; above the central window is a solid-arched fan-louvre rising in the pediment. The pediment and the flat frieze extending above the flanking casements are supported by pairs of Tuscan pilasters.

The south cornice and other elements of trim are identical to their counterparts in the north facade.

The north and south facades of the east wing are virtually identical to each other. The length of the east wing is expressed as five bays in the second story but openings of the ground and first stories are only in the middle and end bays; three dormers are in the attic story. The first story openings are like their counterparts in the main house (French doors), 6/6 windows are in the second story, and the dormers are identical to those of the main house. The south terrace extends across most of that facade of the east wing, and the French doors of the north facade are screened by iron railings. The cornice, simpler than that on the main house, has dentils but no modillions.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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### (DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The north and south facades of the west wing are virtually identical: a tall, tripartite window extending to the first floor flanked by wooden Tuscan pilasters supporting a full flat entablature, and a 6/6 window in the second story extending slightly above the cornice in a semi-dormer with a pedimented roof not unlike typical dormers elsewhere on the house.

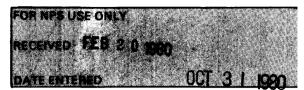
The floor structures within are of reinforced concrete and the partitions are bearing walls of brick, all dating from the 1917-1918 re-construction. All finished elements date from that period and virtually all elements are in place and in good condition. Nothing was saved from the original house.

In plan, a wide central hall extends through the house in the central bay of each story and, basically, a pair of rooms is on either side. The westerly pair, in the ground and first story, are treated as single spaces; a side hall leads to the east wing between the easterly pair in all stories.

In the ground story, the hall floor is paved in black and white marble laid checker-board fashion, with a black marble base. Walls are paneled with tall, narrow flat panels with plain stiles and rails, all of painted wood. The moulded plaster cornice includes dentils, a soffit with a fret and a crown moulding, all moulded with simulated carving--egg-and-dart in the bed moulding, acanthus foliage in the crown. An open stair rises against the east wall, toward the north; its moulded mahogany rail is supported by slim, Tuscan column newels and slim, turned balusters; step-ends are embellished with scrolls of simulated carving. The original doors have been replaced with flush mahogany fire-rated doors.

The westerly rooms were joined by a wide opening trimmed with Tuscan pilasters; now reduced by a modern partition with a door of standard width, the original trim remains. The southerly window jambs extend to the floor while the northerly ones extend only to the sills. The south windows, now void of sash, look into the space beneath the south terrace. The northwest room has a wooden floor laid in a herringbone pattern and the southwest room has a concrete floor; all are covered with resilient tile. The plaster walls have applied plaster mouldings with simulated carving, describing panels the full height of the wall. Above is a cornice, similar to that in the hall but the soffit exists only in the order above the wide opening, embellished with a fret. The fireplaces in both sections of the double space have firebox surrounds and hearth of buff marble with dark red veining; the inner edge, adjacent to the firebox, is moulded with an ovolo profile. The mantels are similar but not identical, both richly embellished in a late 18th century Georgian or Adamesque mode. The south mantel has a bolection surround supporting a fluted frieze with a central panel containing an anthemion and bell-flower motif in bas-relief. The north mantel has a two-plane

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Hilton Mansion Baltimore County CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

#### (DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

architrave surround with carved backband, flanked by paneled pilasters supporting carved consoles, in turn supporting a carved shelf; in the carved, stop-fluted frieze is a center panel containing an Adamesque urn and swags in bas-relief.

The southeast room has no fireplace. The walls are laid out in panels like the westerly rooms, and the plaster cornice is identical. The original wooden floor remains exposed, of quarter-sawn white oak in a herringbone pattern with a border of alternating white oak and mahogany parallel to the walls. Surrounding the double doors opening to the center hall and to the side hall is an architrave supporting a cornice.

The northeast room is identical to the southeast but it has a fireplace with cream marble surround and hearth. The mantel consists of paneled pilasters with applied rosettes and bell-flowers, a frieze with anthemion and bell-flowers in bas-relief and with paneled end and center blocks with urns in bas-relief; the shaped shelf is edged with carved crown moulding.

In the west wing is a small plain room and a modern bathroom.

In the east wing are two modern toilet rooms next to the main house. Beyond were the kitchens, now a large plain room, and in the northeast corner is another smaller plain room formerly with a dumb waiter. In the southeast corner of the east wing is a back stair extending to the third floor; its moulded birch rail is supported by plain square balusters.

The center hall of the first or principal story has a floor of black and white martle squares, checkerboard fashion, with a black marble base. The walls are paneled with painted wood, like those below, with flat panels and plain stiles and rails. Small square panels are immediately below the cornice and tall panels of matching width extend to the marble base. The plaster cornice has a fret soffit and all mouldings have simulated or moulded carvings. The south door with its semi-elliptical leaded transom and leaded sidelights opens to the south porch as described above; beneath the stair landing the north door, with similar sidelights, opens to the small enclosed porch above the ground story entrance. A wide opening centered in the west partition of the hall gives access to the large single space west of the hall. That opening is flanked with fluted wooden Tuscan pilasters and columns with carved capitals and rosettes in the necking.

The principal stair rises clear to the third floor with intermediate landings against the north wall. The moulded mahogany handrail is supported by Tuscan column newels of mahogany and painted, turned balusters. The step-ends are scrolled and carved. Wall paneling extends up and around the landing between the first and second floors, terminated by the paneled pilaster which visually supports the beam at the south SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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| CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland | ITEM NUMBER | 7 | PAGE | 3 |

### (DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

edge of the landing above; that beam has a fretted soffit.

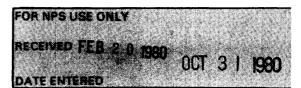
The floor of the large west room (called the Living Room in the original drawings is of quarter-sawn white oak, laid in a herringbone pattern, with a border of white oak and mahogany elements parallel to the walls. Above and below the fluted chair rail the plastered walls are divided into large panels by applied plaster mouldings, moulded to simulate carving. The richly moulded cornice is similar to its counterpart the central hall. The two fireplaces are identical, with white marble hearths and surrounds edged with an ovolo moulding adjacent to the firebox. The identical mantels have engaged (three-quarter) fluted columns of the Composite order, a frieze richly embellished with shallow octagonal panels and foliated simulated carvings, boldly projecting end blocks with urns in bas-relief and a central panel with swags, rosettes and a wreath. The shelf is edged with a carved crown moulding.

The two easterly rooms are nearly identical to each other. Double doors formerly opened from the central hall to the southeast room, and double sliding doors, each of mahogany with six panels, open from each room to the side hall between them. The herringbone floors, the walls and the cornices are like those elements of the large Living Room to the west. Fireplaces are similar but not identical. Both have white marble surrounds and hearths. In the southeast room (called the Drawing Room in the original drawings) the mantel has paneled pilasters with applied Adamesque ornamentatic of intersecting garlands rising from urns at the bottom. Applied urns are in the end and center blocks of the frieze, itself embellised with intersecting garlands surrounding rosettes. A cast bronze and crystal electric chandelier is probably original. The mantel of the northeast room (called the Den in the original drawings) has pilasters with an overall floriated Adamesque ornamentation, a frieze with a series of swags in bas-relief and flush end blocks with urns.

The side hall between the two easterly rooms has a black and white marble floor like that of the center hall. It leads to the Dining Room (as it was called in the original drawings), the principal room of the east wing. Story heights in the east wing are identical to those of the main house, allowing the Dining Room sufficient height to make it equal in importance to any room in the main house. Indeed the architectural embellishment of the Dining Room makes it perhaps the most important room of the house.

The Dining Room floor is of quarter-sawn white oak, laid in a herringbone pattern with a border of white oak and mahogany parallel to the walls. The walls are fully paneled of mahogany in small square flat panels with plain stiles and rails. Fluted mahogany Tuscan pilasters are at each corner and flanking each of the two tall, glazed (with French doors) openings in the north and south walls, the wide doorway centered in the west wall (leading in from the side hall) and the projecting chimney breast

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### (DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

centered in the east end. Intersecting mahogany beams, embellished with architrave, frieze and bed-moulding span in each direction from the pilasters; the large areas thus formed in the ceiling are subdivided into multiple smaller areas or coffers by intersecting runs of the fretted soffit of this order, the fascia and the carved crown mould ings. The small ceiling panels of the coffers are flat, all of mahogany. The firebox surround is of limestone, a Tudor or four-centered arch with carved spandrels; an outer lining, also of limestone, enframes the lining with a moulded edge. The mahogany mantel consists of pairs of fluted Composite columns supporting a frieze embellished with carved roundels; end blocks are embellished with carved linenfold motif set in a panel. Above the dentiled and carved bed-moulding is a shelf edged with a carved crown moulding. Paneled doors, matching the wall paneling, flank the chimney breast and they open into the former serving pantry in the northeast corner of the wing and into the secondary stair hall in the southeast corner.

The former serving pantry, a plain room, is now fitted as a small modern kitchen.

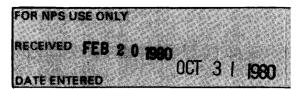
The west wing was called the Sun Parlor in the original drawings and all three exterior walls are fully glazed with original materials, mullions defining a tripartite arrangement.

The second floor plan is similar to the first, except that the space west of the central hall is divided into two bedrooms (all called Chambers in the original drawings). Closets to serve each room separate the two westerly chambers and a short passage with arched sliding doors allows communication between them. Above the side hall east of the central hall is a similar narrow hall leading to the east wing; originally closets for each of the two easterly chambers occupied that space, a fact documented by the original drawings and by examination of the doors and the floor.

The central hall and all of the chambers are embellished like the easterly rooms below: oak floors in a herringbone pattern, plastered walls with applied plaster mouldings, and plaster cornices, moulded as carvings. Each fireplace has a marble surround and hearth and a late Georgian or Adamesque type mantel, each different, embellished but simpler than those below. Doors to the central hall have been replaced with flush mahogany fire-rated doors, but the original mahogany-stained birch six-panel doors remain elsewhere.

The west wing is divided into two bathrooms, serving the two westerly bedrooms or Chambers. The tiled floors have been removed recently for repairs to the plumbing but the original glazed tile walls large lavatories supported on fluted pedestals remain. Portions of the wall finishes adjacent to the main house are now removed for the repairs, exposing the original exterior wall of the early 19th century house. The wall is constructed of rubble stone, covered with stucco and finished with paint. The original color appears to be a rich dark pink and the latest coat of paint is brown SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

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#### (DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

perhaps to simulate brownstone. The pre-1917 photographs, assembled and preserved in the College archives, indicate the darker color in a peeling condition.

Next to the main house, in the east wing, are two original bathrooms to serve the two easterly Chambers, each retaining its tiled floor, glazed tiled walls and oval lavatory supported by a fluted pedestal. East of the bathrooms are several small, plai servants' rooms on either side of a narrow corridor running the length of the wing. These rooms retain their simple trim, six-paneled birch doors and hardware. The original drawings indicate an earlier scheme of playrooms with servants' rooms in another structure immediately east of the wing. This scheme is marked "void" in lettering contemporary with the drawings (1917).

The principal stair extends to the third floor, rising within the enlarged centra dormer described above. The third floor plan is similar to those below, a central hall with two rooms on either side, but at its south end are two original bathrooms, retaining original finishes and fixtures similar to those below. The oak herringbone floors extend throughout the third story but the plastered walls are plain and there are no fireplaces.

More small rooms are in the finished third story of the east wing, lighted by dormers, and the secondary stair also extends to the third floor. The west wing has an unfinished attic where all visible construction dates from the 1917 period.

A large unfinished attic extends above the main house, accessible from a ladder off the northwest room. All visible construction dates from the 1917 period.

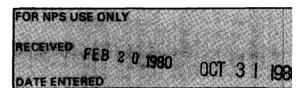
A boiler room is in a sub-basement beneath the northwest room, its walls constructed of stone. The reinforced concrete ground floor is visible above. Utility tunnels extend beneath the perimeter of the ground floor, accessible from the boiler room and from hatch doors in the northeast and southeast corners of the ground story.

### The Early Nineteenth Century House

The early nineteenth century house is documented by several excellent photographs in the College archives, and by an inventory of 1853 discussed by Bayly Ellen Marks in her Hilton Heritage (Catonsville Community College Press, June 1972, 22ff). Prior to 1917, Hilton was a very simple stuccoed house of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories above a high basement, the south front expressed as five bays in length, the north front as three. The north entrance was sheltered by a small one-story portico and a one-story, hipped-roof porch extended across the south front and west end. The south entrance had a pair of doors, each with three small rectangular panels above the lock rail, a single taller panel below. Sidelights extended to the head of the opening and a three-light transom extende between them above the doors. The head of this opening was flat, not arched. All

#### SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



6

Hilton Mansion Baltimore County CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

windows were 6/6 with louvred blinds. Three dormers were in the southerly roof slope but none were in the northerly. The broad flush end chimneys were actually pairs of very closely spaced chimneys of three arch-topped flues each, linked and made flush by a wall at their outer faces, backing a small pent for roof access. The service wing was to the east but it projected northwards from the main house, the peak of its roof being approximately aligned with the northeast corner of the main house. The wing was two storys in height above a high basement and it was three bays in length. Its windows were also 6/6 with louvred blinds and a chimney rose from its extreme east end.

Its plan, as described in the publication cited above, was similar to the existing plan: a central hall with two rooms on either side. That was a very typical plan for the period, the expected plan for a house of this breadth and depth.

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of this nomination were drawn to maintain a setting for the house (the lawn areas to the east, south, and west) but to exclude obvious non-contributing buildings and areas (a new building to the northwest of the house and the large parking lot to the northeast) while utilizing such lines of convenience as the driveway around the east, south, and west edges.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SIGNIFICANCE

Hilton is an elegant, early 20th century Georgian-revival mansion built within the walls of a large, plain, early 19th century farmhouse. It is prominent today as the well-preserved, tastefully-adapted and much-used focal point of a modern, thriving, suburban college campus. It was constructed of the best available materials, all specified in detail (its original construction documents, specifications, working drawings and details, are preserved) and identifiable today. It was embellished throughout with highly ornamented mantels, cornices, paneling, stair elements, floors selected from catalogues of the period and assembled in accordance with prevailing taste. Changes since 1917 have been few and they are superficial. The house remains a three-dimensiona text of early 20th century taste. HISTORY

Biographical sketch of the architect Edward Palmer: In 1917 George Worth Knapp hired Baltimore architect Edward Livingstone Palmer, Jr. (1877-1952) to completely renovate the Mansion at Hilton and its dependencies. Palmer, who graduated from Johns Hopkins in 1899, had recently left the employ of the Roland Park Company, where since 1907 he had been a member of the Committee on Approval of Plans. In this capacity he had emphasized competent landscape development. In 1948 he was described by the American Institute of Architects as a "pioneer in site planning, he set a standard for controlled development in suburban residential areas which has become universal today," and was made a Fellow of the Institute.

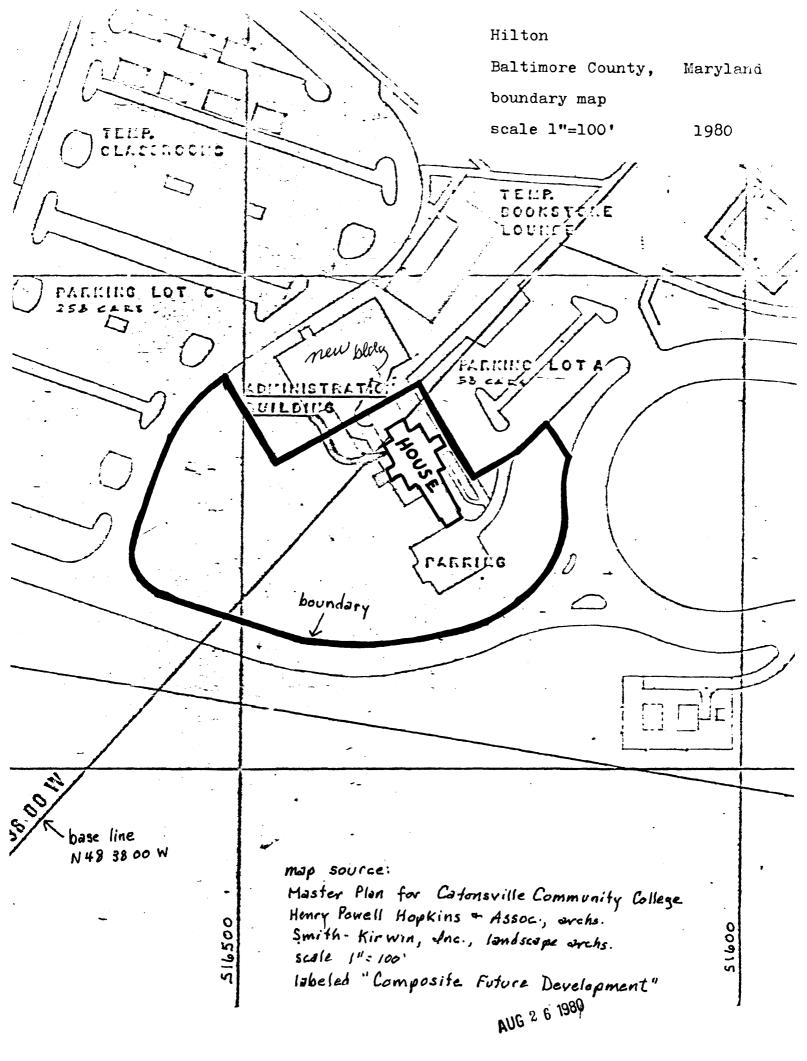
When he undertook the Hilton commission, Palmer had earned a reputation not only for landscape and site planning in Roland Park, Guilford and Homeland, but also for designing several hundred residences in Roland Park. He was "an enthusiastic supporter ( the traditional Maryland style," but was by no means limited in his stylistic approach. At Hilton he completely redesigned the mansion house from the ground up. He was also responsible for the renovation of the two cottages and bowling alley which stand on the east side of the Arch wall. Here he took the rustic stone buildings of the late 1840's and renewed them using a Tudor motif. All the surviving buildings at Hilton, mansion, cottages, bowling alley, McCulloh house, stable, and barn, bear the mark of Palmer's "high conception of architectural taste," as well as of his versatility.

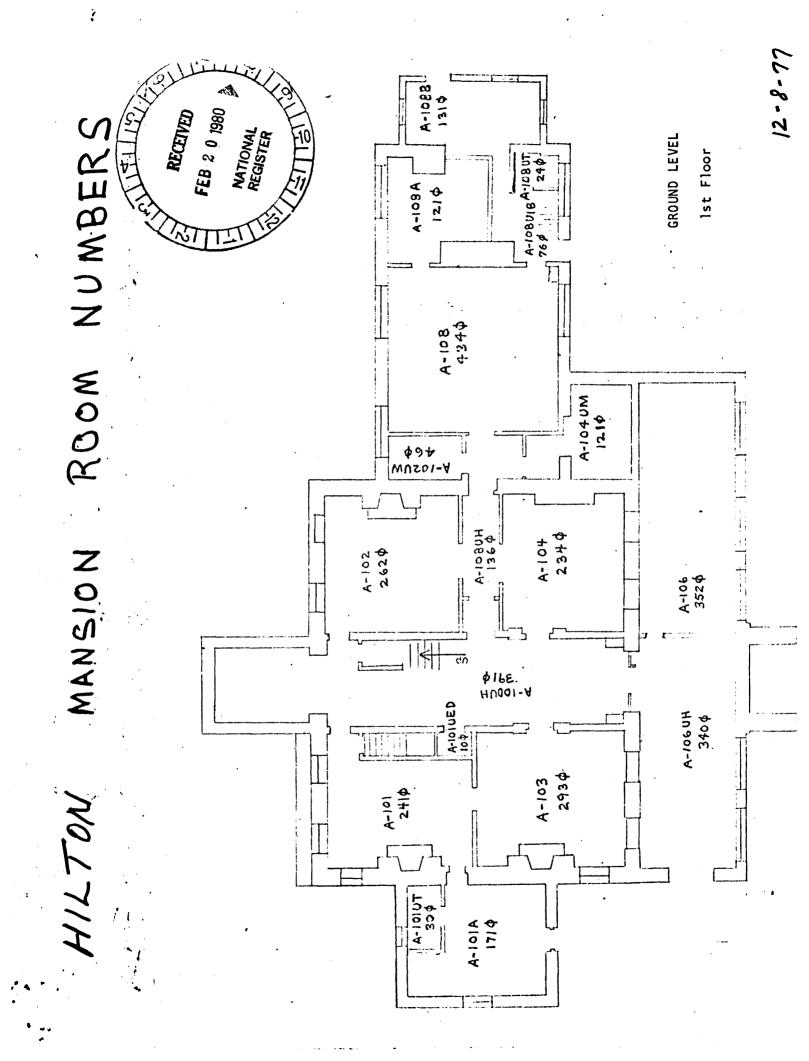
Palmer enjoyed a long and distinguished career, designing many major buildings, including Levering and Mergenthaler Halls at Johns Hopkins, City Hospitals, and the Sunpapers Building. When he died in 1952 the <u>Sun</u> wrote, "For more than a half century, Mr. Palmer, his vision and his drawing board, contributed many architectural landmarks to Baltimore and the surrounding counties."

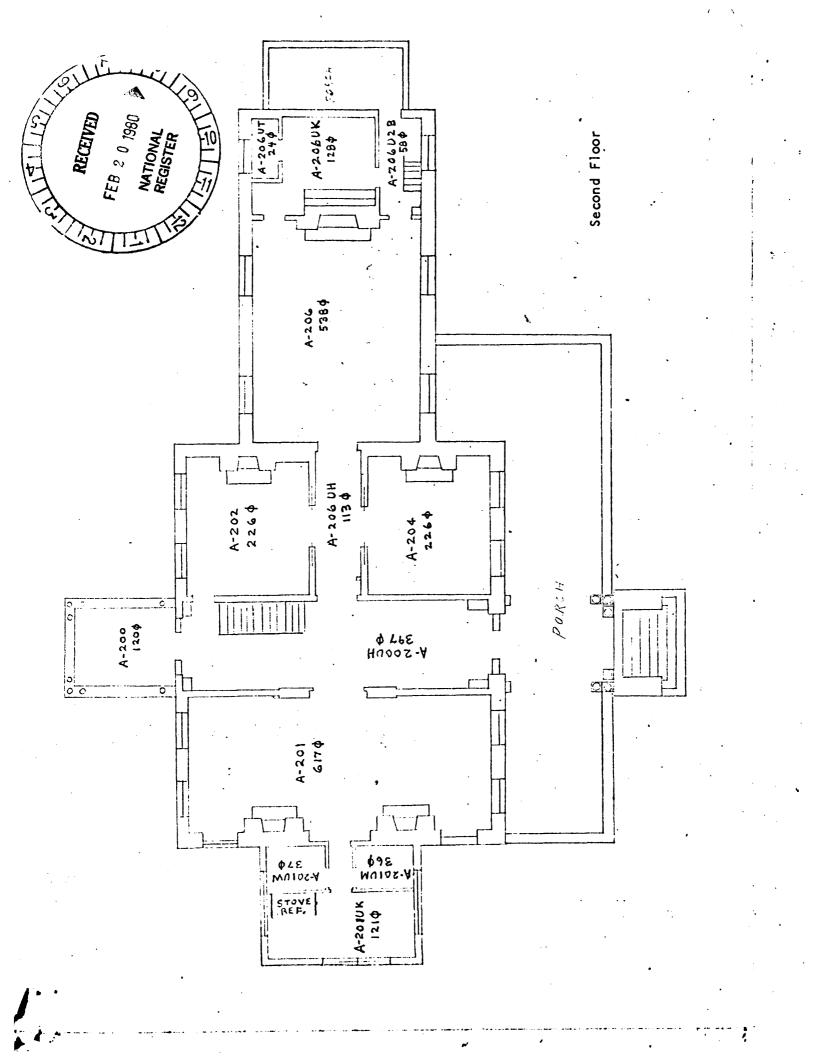
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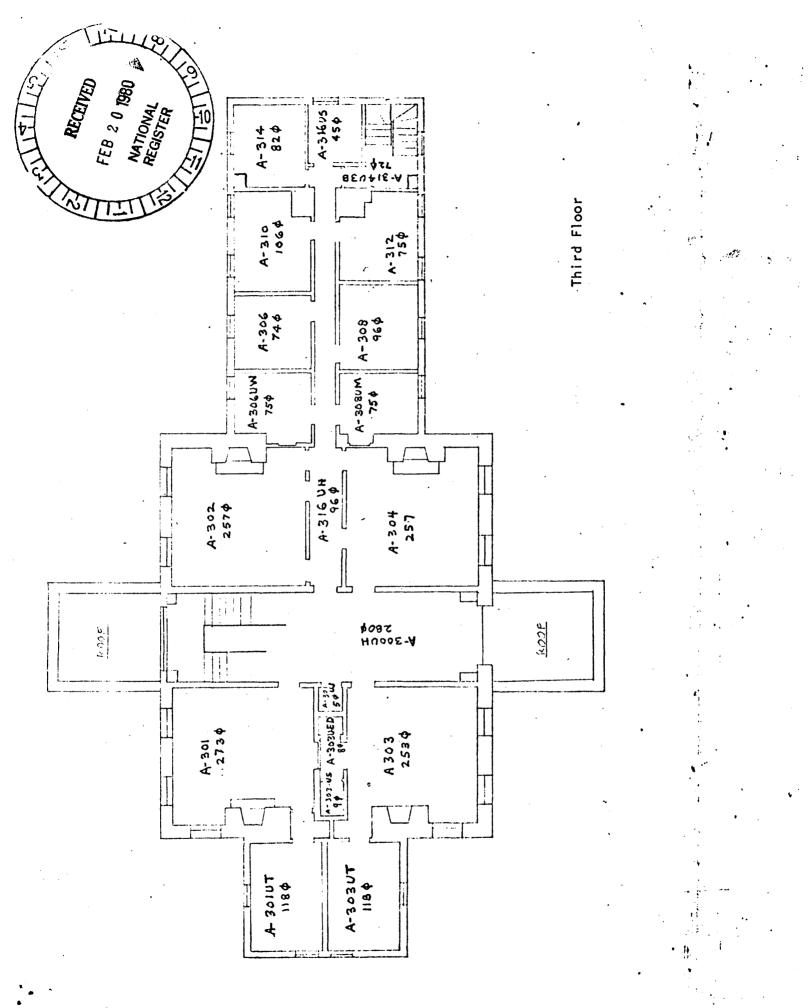
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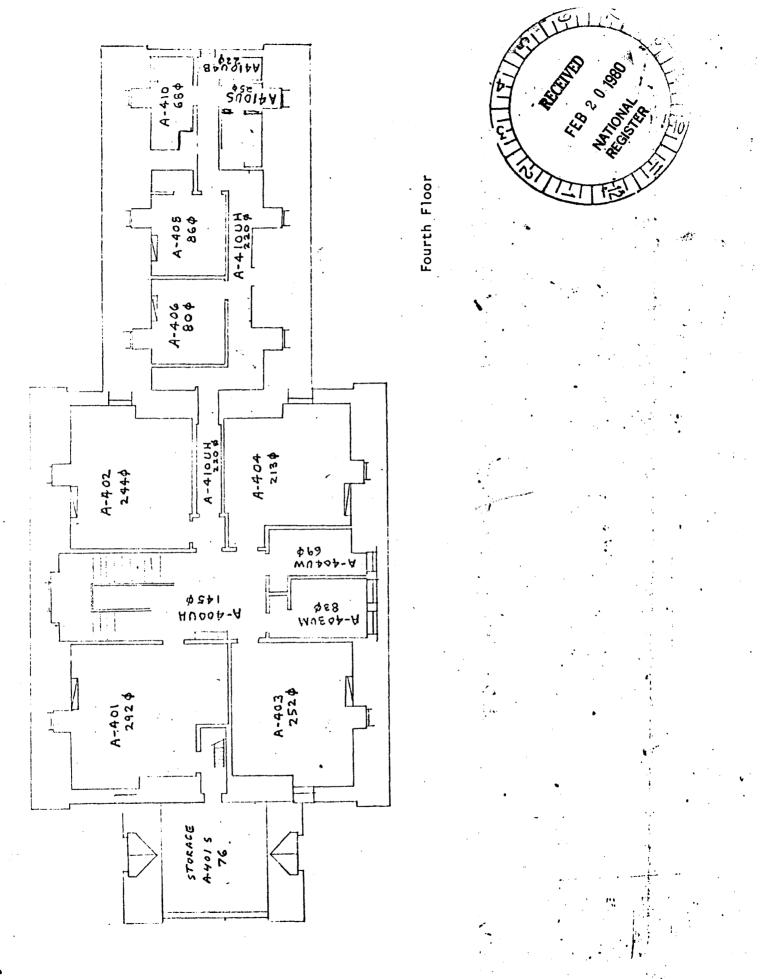




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