NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PL...
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Clifton Park

other names: B-4608

2. Location

street & number: Bounded on the northwest by Harford Road, northeast by Erdman Avenue and Clifton Park Terrace, southeast by the Baltimore Belt RR and Sinclair Lane ☐ not for publication

city or town: Baltimore ☐ vicinity

state: Maryland code: MD county: Independent city code: 510 zip code: 21217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: 7-30-07

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☒ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrus — Date of Action: 9/12/2007

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	2	buildings
1	0	sites
7	1	structures
6	0	objects
19	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Park
Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Park
Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation
Social/Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italian Villa
Gothic Revival
Romanesque Revival
Classical Revival
Stick Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
Brick
roof Metal
other Tile

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape Architecture
Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance

ca. 1790 -- 1940

Significant Dates

1801. 1852, 1873, 1895

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Hopkins, Johns

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Niernsee & Neilson; Wyatt & Nolting
Olmsted Brothers; Thomas, Frederick

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

_____

Clifton Park (B-4608)
Name of Property

Baltimore (independent city), Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 266.746 acres Baltimore East, MD quad

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	363457	4354164
2	18	364316	4353427
3	18	363569	4352629
4	18	362233	4352659

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Jo Lampl, architectural historian (1997); updated by Johns Hopkins (2005)

Organization Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date 2005

street & number 11-1/2 West Chase Street telephone 410-332-9992

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

street & number 100 North Holliday Street telephone

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21202

Description Summary:

Clifton Park is comprised of 266.746 acres in East Baltimore, bounded on the northwest by Harford Road, on the northeast by Erdman Avenue and Clifton Park Terrace, on the southeast by Belair Road, and on the southwest by the Baltimore Belt Railroad and Sinclair Lane.[1] Circa 1790, a farm house was built on the property by an unknown owner. Between 1799 and 1802, the land and farm house passed to a merchant named Henry Thompson, who constructed two additions to the house. Under Thompson's stewardship, the grounds were maintained primarily for crops and orchards. In 1841, Thompson's estate conveyed the grounds to Johns Hopkins, one of the city's most prominent businessmen. Under Hopkins' ownership, the property became a summer residence, and farming was joined by the art of landscape gardening. In 1874, Hopkins bequeathed the property to the Trustees of the Johns Hopkins University as the site for a university, but his wish was never fulfilled, and the grounds underwent only minor modification over the next 20 years. In 1895, the City purchased Clifton for a public park, turning it into one of the most well-equipped spots for active recreation in the city. For over 100 years one of the city's most widely used parks, Clifton Park has managed to balance its Romantic and active recreation legacies.

Today's landscape includes the Thompson/Hopkins Mansion, fragments of Hopkins drive and path system, and the outline of his parterre gardens and orchards. The park also reveals athletic grounds added by the Trustees of the Johns Hopkins University prior to 1894, as well as circulation changes and a golf course added by the City Park Commission in the 1910s. Also evident are a series of improvements designed by the Olmsted Brothers in the 1904-1917 period. These were based on site and (sometimes) planting plans for the band shell, swimming pool, and multiple athletic facilities. Lake Clifton, constructed as a city reservoir in 1887 and, until 1962 a defining feature of the park, was filled to make way for Lake Clifton High School in 1970.

The park's built resources include the Mansion, gardener's cottage, valve house for Lake Clifton, a dwelling/superintendent's house, a bath house, band shell, stables and shop building. Notwithstanding the Federal-era farmhouse at its core, the Mansion is considered the finest Italian Villa in Baltimore, based on Hopkins' extensive 1852 alteration. Other rarities are the gardener's cottage, an outstanding example of a Gothic Revival cottage; the valve house, individually listed on the National Register and a striking Gothic and Romanesque Revival water board structure; a Stick Style superintendent's house; classical revival bath house; and quasi-Arts and Crafts stables/shops building. The park's resources demonstrate the work of the Baltimore architectural firms of Niernsee and Neilson and Wyatt & Nolting, as well as that of
Park Architect Frederick Thomas and unknown staff at the City's Department of Recreation and Parks and the Baltimore Water Board. In the case of the band shell and bath house, the influence of the Olmsted Brothers in building design is documented. Other designed resources include "objects" such as a series of gate posts, a sculpture by Edward Berge, and one marble urn from Hopkins' day. Classical statuary in marble, a hallmark of the grounds during Hopkins' day, no longer exists on site.

Clifton Park's legacy as a recreational destination is clearly manifested in the park grounds today. The construction of the golf "links" at the park in 1916 represented a significant step forward for municipal recreation, as did the continual addition of tennis courts to the park in the late 19th and early 20th century and the construction of the country's largest concrete swimming pool in 1917. By 1926, Clifton had 26 tennis courts, the most widely used municipal golf course in the city, and a pool that was overcrowded. The popularity of the park's athletic facilities led, unfortunately, to the steady dismantling of the Mansion's floor plan and fabric as it was altered to serve recreational purposes. Over most of the 20th century, golf cart storage, pro shop, and locker room uses made their home amidst Adamesque plaster niches and marble mantels. Today, the tide is finally turning, with the construction in 1993 of a separate facility for golf patrons. Within the last ten years, the State of Maryland passed a

[1] The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, under the responsibility of the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks, owns and controls all 266.746 acres. Other parcels within the immediate vicinity have been transferred to other city agencies or are privately owned. *See* note at beginning of Noncontributing List at the end of this section and the Boundary Map at the end of the report.

bond bill to restore the Mansion to its 1852 appearance, which has been supplemented with public and private grants totaling more than $650,000. In 2004, the Department of Recreation and Parks committed funds to install a new roof, and work is currently underway.

Clifton Park has significance in the areas of landscape architecture and architecture during the period circa 1790-1940.[2] Within this time frame, there are 19 resources identified within the nomination in the list below. There are also 3 noncontributing resources identified on a list at the end of Section 7. The park maintains integrity of location, design, setting, materials workmanship, feeling, and association.

General Description:

There are 19 contributing and 3 noncontributing resources in Clifton Park. Contributing resources include 5 buildings, 1 site, 7 structures, and 6 objects, which are listed below according to their National Register categories (Buildings, Sites, Structures, and Objects) and in chronological order according to subcategories (such as "gates" followed by "statuary"). All historic names are given. If buildings received substantial alterations to adapt them to newer purposes, the dates of these alterations are given after the slash. These resources are identified on the Clifton Park National Register Sketch Map, included as an attachment with this nomination.

[2] Circa 1790 represents the year that the original farm house core of the Mansion house was built, and 1940 the date the shops building was constructed.

Buildings	**Date**
1. Mansion	Circa 1790/1812/1852
2. The Gardener's Cottage	1841-1852
3. Farmhouse/Superintendent's House	1879 (?)
4. The Shops Building	1899/1930s
5. The Bath House	1916-1917
Sites	
1. The entire site of Clifton Park	1841-1928
Structures	
1. The Circulation System	1841-1917
2. The Valve House	1887-1888
3. The Band Shell	1908/1949
4. The Mother's Garden Rest Pavilion	1928
5. The Mother's Garden Pergola	1928
6. The Mother's Garden Footbridge	1928
7, Octagonal Pavilion	Early 20th century (?)
Objects	
1. Gate at St. Lo Drive and Sinclair Lane	1909
2. Gate at St. Lo Drive and Alameda Avenue	Circa 1921
3. The Mother's Garden Gates	1928
4. Belair Road Gate	1930s
5. Hopkins' Marble Urn	Mid-19th century park placement
6. *On The Trail* Sculpture	1915 (1916 park placement)

Below are detailed physical descriptions of the park's contributing resources presented in the order listed above. Each description also contains a statement of significance identifying applicable National Register criteria. All buildings are on public land. Almost all are visible from a public right-of-way and most are accessible. Resources that once stood in the park but are no longer extant are discussed in the Significance Statement. As mentioned above, noncontributing resources are listed at the end of this section.

7.2.1 BUILDINGS

The Mansion: Circa 1790/1812/1852

This outstanding country retreat is a Baltimore City Landmark Building and is considered the finest Italian Villa standing in the city. It meets NR Criterion B for its association with Johns Hopkins, and criterion C for its architecture.

The Mansion of today resulted from at least four major periods of construction, the Italian Villa layer being the last and grandest of the three. (*See* Figure 1: Floor Plans of Clifton Mansion, prepared by Trostel and Pearre Architects.) At the core of this Downingesque masterpiece is a "Period I," two-story stone farmhouse built in the Federal era by an early property owner.[3]

[3] Architects Michael Trostel and Peter Pearre have conducted a thorough architectural evaluation of the Mansion and concluded that the woodwork seen in the core of the house dates to the Post-Revolutionary period, prior to the close of the 18th century. Specifically, the wood window trim in the main bedroom

This five-bay house had a central hall, single pile plan, stone walls, elegant windows, and elaborate interior wood trim. Front and rear central doors were aligned, and the stair was located in the house's northeast corner.

The "Period II" portion of the house consists of the addition of wings at the East and West ends with a basement level and perhaps a second floor by 1805, plus a major two-story brick addition constructed by Henry Thompson in 1812. Thompson, President of the Baltimore and Harford Turnpike Company, had purchased the various pieces of the "Orange" tract between 1799 and 1802 and moved there in 1803. The move to "Clifton," as the estate was called by 1803, and the more quotidian responsibilities of Thompson's life, are recorded in his diaries housed at the Maryland Historical Society.[4] Other Federal-era homes were located in the vicinity, including General Samuel Smith at Montebello, Charles Carroll of Homewood at Homewood, William Patterson at Homestead, and Daniel Bowly (Thompson's father-in-law) at Furley Hall. Ranking with these men of influence, Thompson set out to expand his dwelling accordingly. His 1812 addition included a one-story piazza along the building's south face and its extension to the north via a rear corridor, polygonal bay window (with kitchen in basement, dining room on first floor, and chamber above), and, possibly, new one-room wings at the east and west end of the house.[5] Details of this "Period II" construction are noted in March of 1812, when Thompson "commenced plastering (his) new house, or rather, new addition."[6] Thompson also recorded how he used "plaster Paris to ascertain effect at Clifton," "put up marble chimneypiece in new octagon chamber," and installed "marble chimneypiece in new dining room."[7] The 1812 addition at Clifton Mansion reveals Thompson's wealth and status in its delicate plaster work, finely carved wood and marble mantels, and trompe l'oeil ceiling decoration in the Dining Room, which contained an elaborate trellis/garden scene. The plaster work in the house's main parlor is executed in the Adamesque style and is most likely a rare example of the craftsmanship of master Irish artisans known to have worked at other Federal-period Mansions such as Homewood and Mount Vernon.

"Period III" of the Mansion was initiated by Johns Hopkins, owner of the property beginning in 1841.[8] Hopkins hired one of the leading Baltimore architectural firms of its day, Niernsee and Neilson, and proceeded to transform a handsome Georgian Mansion into a picturesque villa. Hopkins added a third floor above the main block, a monumental tower at the west end of the building (from which he had an unparalleled view to the Baltimore Harbor) and several rooms at the building's eastern end, including one with a circular bay on the north side. He also broadened Thompson's piazza into a front arcade that ran around three elevations of the house, and constructed a rear arcade that opened onto Thompson's dining room.

The exact nature of Hopkins' efforts is chronicled in a February 6, 1852 newspaper article located at the Maryland Historical Society and reprinted in the *Baltimore News Post* in 1938.[9] The article notes the red stained glass windows of the new tower, the black walnut stair within the tower, the carved Italian marble mantels located throughout the house, and various uses of all of the rooms. According to the article, the ground floor featured a kitchen, servants' hall, wash-house, pantry, store rooms, and

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chamber at Clifton, with pilasters extending below the window sill to the floor level, recalls similar woodwork at Hampton, a 1785-1790 house standing in Towson, Maryland. Henry Thompson, typically mentioned as the house's original builder, purchased the property in stages between 1799 and 1802, making it more likely that the core of the farmhouse of the Mansion predated his ownership. Earlier 18th century property owners included Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Abraham and Isaac Van Bibber, John Wise, John Nicholson, William Magruder, and David Geddes. (Baltimore County land records)

[4] In diary entries in 1801 and 1802, Thompson recorded construction projects that have been attributed in various sources to Clifton, such as "bricks brought over," and "loads of lime" purchased. The physical evidence to support a connection between 1801 brickwork and the stone Mansion itself, however, is lacking.

[5] The exact date of construction of the one-story wings at either end of the house is unclear. The wings are built of stone, but select demolition would be required to determine whether they predate the 1812 addition.

[6] Diaries of Henry Thompson, Maryland Historical Society, Manuscript Division.

[7] Ibid.

[8] This date was taken from deed research done by John Brunnett, AIA, showing that Edward Hinkley, Trustee for the Thompson estate, conveyed Clifton to John Hopkins (11 parcels totaling 55 acres) for $15,800. (Baltimore County Land Records, JK 306/393). Other sources site 1836 as the purchase date and speak of it being close to 500 acres. *See*, "The Acquisition of Clifton Park" by Warren D. Elliott, research paper, University of Maryland Baltimore County, December 1, 1993.

[9] The original documentation appeared in the *Sun* (Vol. XXX, No. 67, p. 2).

cellars for milk vegetables and fuel, along with an undefined covered area under the arcades. The first floor featured a principal hall at the west end, a main corridor, a parlor and adjoining breakfast room to the south, an arcade, dining room, salon, and library on the north, and stair, servants' room, housekeeping rooms, and water closets on the east. The second floor and tower contained eight large chambers, a bathroom, and a large billiard room opening onto a terrace. The billiard room featured ceiling murals of Shakespeare and views of Clifton that were devastated when the room's chimney collapsed during the mid 1970s. The third floor contained the servants' rooms. The 1852 article notes that the exterior of the Mansion was "rough-coated" to imitate free-stone and that the-house as a whole had developed "the graceful proportions of the Italian villa style of architecture, with massive arcades, projecting cornices and brackets, depending for its effect on the varied masses and outlines of the whole rather than on the minuteness of its details."[10]

The Italian Villa style was popularized in the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux. Downing summarized its applicability to rural estates, pronouncing: "The Italian style is, we think, decidedly the most beautiful mode for domestic purposes, that has been the direct offspring of Grecian art. It is a style which has evidently grown up under the eyes of the painters of more modem Italy, as it is admirably adapted to harmonize with general nature, and produce a pleasing and picturesque effect in fine landscapes."[11] In Calvert Vaux' *Villa and Cottage Architecture* of 1864, the codification of the Italian Villa style reads like a blueprint of Clifton Mansion: a porte cochere, a library with octagonal bay and verandah, a main stair in which balusters are incorporated into a traceried design ("... a design of still higher pretension"), and use of bay windows and broad verandas.[12]

With the Period III transformation of the house, Clifton Mansion became one of several grand Italianate country seats in the eastern section of the county. There was the A.S. Abell estate known as Guilford, the Wyman's Homewood Villa, and the Walters' Tivoli. Like many of these estate owners, Hopkins occupied Clifton Mansion only during the summers, living in a Baltimore city townhouse in the winter. The caretaker family took up residence in the Mansion in the winters. Beginning in 1867, Hopkins started planning for the future of Clifton as a university. He appointed trustees of the Johns Hopkins University Corporation in that year, along with a similar corporation dedicated to the establishment of a hospital in his name.

In 1874, one year after Hopkins' death, his estate at Clifton and sizeable holdings of B&O railroad stock were bequeathed to the trustees of Johns Hopkins University for university purposes, but this was not to be. The trustees decided to invest in faculty, rather than new construction. Running the school out of rented buildings on Howard Street, Clifton was used only as an athletic center for school athletes. Unable to agree on whether Clifton was the appropriate site for its university, the trustees spent years deliberating the merits of an in-town versus "country" campus. As the university mulled over its options, several events took place on the grounds that added to the trustees' dissatisfaction with Clifton as the ultimate university site. In the late 1870s, the Water Board requested that the University sell 72 of its acres for construction of a water storage lake. The university refused, and the city ultimately was forced to condemn over 44 acres of the grounds for construction of the reservoir. In 1892, the Belt Line Railroad condemned 15 more acres of the grounds to build a line connecting Camden Station and the Philadelphia Line. As the dividends on its railroad stock kept shrinking, the trustees began to see Clifton as a vehicle for lessening their financial burdens. In 1894, when Mayor Ferdinand C. Latrobe offered to acquire Clifton for a park, the trustees grasped the opportunity. Clifton Mansion had a new owner in the City of Baltimore.

After twenty years of essentially no maintenance, the City improved the ailing structure. The Park Commission actions were

[10] Carroll Dulany, "Day by Day," *Baltimore News Post*, Number 1, 1938 reprint of a February 6, 1852 article.
[11] Andrew Jackson Downing, *Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture*, New York: Dover Publications, 1991, 333. Republication of the seventh edition of a *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America: With a View to the Improvement of Country Residences*, New York: Orange Judd Agricultural Book Publisher, 1865.
[12] Calvert Vaux, *Villa and Cottage Architecture: The Style-Book of the Hudson River School*, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1991, 99. Republication of *Villas and Cottages: The Great Architectural Style-Book of the Hudson River School*, Harper & Brothers, 1864.

small at first, but turned from incremental to substantial as more and more of the Mansion was turned to active recreational or entertainment-related functions. In 1898, General Superintendent Charles H. Latrobe recommended that the Mansion be used for multiple purposes other than a Casino (*i.e.*, restaurant), including a gymnasium, infant play area, natural science museum, and Park Commission offices.[13] In 1899, the interior of the Mansion was equipped with a ladies waiting room, a reception room, a golf room, and an office. In 1904, the outside of the Mansion was thoroughly renovated, and an appreciation of the building's outstanding interior detail was noted in a simple statement of the Park Commission's annual report: "The decorations of the interior are of an unusual style, and are worthy of preservation."[14] The report commented that only a small portion of the building was being used at the time, including a rear wing (occupied by an employee) and one room on the south side of the lower floor, which was used as a women's retiring room.

In 1915, three rooms in the Mansion were "improved" for dancing, music, and entertainment, with instructors from the Social Service Corporation (a division of the Public Athletic League, or PAL) teaching 900 girls enrolled in a course on the art of entertaining.[15] PAL women served as "play and entertainment leaders"[16] at the Mansion and in its vicinity, instructing both sexes in activities such as theory of play, games for little children, athletic and social games, ring games and folk dances, team games, handicraft, story-telling, and first aid.[17] Fifty new lockers were also installed in that year. The following year, in 1916, one room "with ample light and substantial chairs" was made available to the public for business meetings and/or social gatherings.[18] This room probably was the second-floor billiards room.

In 1925, the Park Board ordered repairs to the Mansion and more of its space was allotted to park and civic functions. The exterior walls were patched and the basement was turned over to golfers and tennis players as a locker room. An unspecified room in the house was made available to civic groups such as the Domino Club. By 1929, the Mansion also accommodated a lockup for park police.

In 1937, the Mansion roof, porticoes, and walls were repaired following a fire. The work was done by Park Architect Frederick Thomas in 1938.[19] In 1938, the President of the Park Board recommended that the Mansion become a museum containing local antiques and research institution for the study of Baltimore furniture, glass, and silver. This represented the first serious recognition of the Mansion's architectural significance and an unspoken affirmation that use of the house for athletic facilities was inappropriate. The recommendation went unheeded, however. During World War II, the tower of the Mansion was reportedly used for civil defense.[20] In 1948, the first tee of the golf course was moved from Harford Road to an area near the Mansion.[21] According to newspaper articles, it was at this time that the golf pro shop was moved from an independent structure to the basement of the Mansion.

In 1963, Arthur M. Weber, a Baltimore architect, prepared plans for the alteration of the Mansion specifically to upgrade its golf- and tennis-related facilities. (These plans are housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue.) The renovation was disastrous for the Mansion's historic floor plan and building materials. The major impetus of the program was to move the snack bar and pro shop up from the basement to the Mansion's first floor. According to Weber's plans, the first-floor salon was

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[13] Ibid, p. 45.
[14] *44th and 45th Annual Reports of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1915*, Baltimore: Wm. J.C. Dulany Company, 1905, 44.
[15] *Fifty-Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1915*, Baltimore: Meyer & Thalheimer, 1916, 9.
[16] *Fifty-Seventh Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1915*, Baltimore: King Brothers, 1917, 8 and 9.
[17] Children's Playground Association, *Report on Baltimore Playgrounds for 1916-1918*, Baltimore City Archives.
[18] *Annual Report for the Year 1916*, p. 8.
[19] Minutes of the Park Commission for 1938. Baltimore City Archives.
[20] The reminiscences of Joe Vaeth, former head golf professional at Clifton who grew up at the intersection of St. Lo Drive and Harford Road. Recorded in the Baltimore Municipal Golf Corporation's newsletter, undated.
[21] Article in the *Baltimore Sun*, May 22, 1956, Enoch Pratt Library, Maryland Room, Clifton File.

converted to a snack bar, and the dining room and north arcade as the pro shop. The west end of that arcade was to serve as an office and shop. The house's original pantry was renovated into a soda fountain and the library to its east, into the women's restroom. The housekeeping rooms at the east end of the main corridor were converted to a women's locker room. The main parlor, with its delicate plaster work, was altered to function as the men's locker room. Windows were blocked or replaced with aluminum doors. Decorative trim was removed. Chimneys were blocked and sealed. The North porch was enclosed with multi-pane windows. Laminated plastic and vinyl finishes were added, and acoustical tiles were suspended from ceilings. Some of the existing showers, lockers, and toilets in the basement from earlier renovations were untouched, while the covered area under the arcades was converted into a golf cart storage and charging area. Amazingly, the 1812 kitchen's cast-iron fire back and crane withstood its conversion to a furnace room during early twentieth century renovations and remain in place today.

In 1975, the Mansion was designated a Baltimore City Landmark Building. In August 1975, a $100,000 "restoration" took place, but a heat gun used in the process led to a fire in the second floor Northeast corner and the loss of more historic fabric. The details of work done during the 1975 restoration are not known.

In 1993, the Baltimore Municipal Golf Course Association, a nonprofit organization that runs the city's golf courses, constructed a new clubhouse just north of the Mansion, allowing the removal of golf-related functions from the Mansion itself. Realizing it would need a new tenant, the Department of Recreation and Parks approached Americorps and its local affiliate, Civic Works, Inc., that same year. Civic Works has occupied the building since then. Civic Works' mission of job training and community service appeared to match the requirements of a building in desperate need of restoration. The idea behind the proposed lease would be that Civic Works would occupy and restore the Mansion simultaneously. The organization moved in shortly thereafter and began the mission of restoring the Mansion. In 1997, it received 200,000 dollars from the Maryland General Assembly and the National Trust for Historic Preservation for rehabilitation of the structure. The Maryland Historical Trust received an easement on the property as the result of the state funding. John Brunnett, AIA, of Baltimore was hired as lead architect and, with Civic Works members, began the task of stripping portions of the structure down to its original material. Using the 1852 newspaper article as a baseline, the long-term goal is to return the house to its 1852 appearance. A more immediate goal is to comply with the requirements of the American Disability Act.

In 1998, Civic Works hired Mr. Chris Wilson to oversee the Mansion's restoration. Since then work on the Mansion has included demolishing all remnants of the golf club facilities on the Main floor, repairing refinishing and painting walls, cornices and ceilings. This has included replication of original decor, replacing 95% of the galvanized plumbing with copper, construction of new men's and women's rooms and a utility closet on the first floor, repairing significant termite damage to first floor framing, lifting two floors to their original height and inserting steel beams to support them, installing new wiring, period lighting fixtures, and a heating system to half of the main floor, uncovering and replacing rotted original flooring, rebuilding original walls and doorways, hanging replicated doors with period hardware, contracting a thorough lead cleaning of the building, lifting the floor of the Grand Staircase to its original height and preparing new support, conducting numerous repairs and stop-gap measures in preparation of additional funding, and extensively examining original wall and ceiling finishes and conducting comprehensive archaeological study in parts of the building. In July 2000, Civic Works was granted $50,000 by the Maryland Historical Trust toward the restoration of the Mansion's tower. So far work in the tower has included extensive cleaning of bird debris, restoration of transom windows, structural examination, architectural planning and renderings, examination of original paint finishes, removal of modern structures and finishes, demolition of deteriorated modern replications of original decorative elements, and upgrading existing wiring. In 2001, a non-profit organization called The Henry Thompson of Clifton Society, with the aid of a grant from the Ludwick Family Foundation, sponsored the renovation of the Mansion's original dining room. This restoration included demolishing the golf club men's toilet and shower rooms, rebuilding original walls and doorways, replicating and installing original woodwork in the form of chair rail, door casings and a mantelpiece, new plasterwork and repairing plaster cornice, painting in original colors and decorating with period wallpaper, draperies and carpet. In 2004, another non-profit organization dedicated to the Mansion, The Friends of Clifton Mansion, raised

over $200,000 towards Mansion restoration. At this time, the city's Department of Recreation and Parks dedicated additional funding ($250,000) to replace the roof. The City selected Donald Kann and Associates as the architects for this project, and work has currently begun. Work shall include re-pointing of the Mansion's four chimney stacks, replacing all existing standing seam metal roofing and concealed guttering over the enclosed Mansion with new material, and repairing all existing structural damage to the roof framing. The work on the roof and tower are expected to be complete in 2005.

2. Gardener's Cottage: 1841-1852

The gardener's cottage was constructed by Johns Hopkins as part of his horticultural compound on the estate. The building meets NR Criterion B for its association with Hopkins and Criterion C as an outstanding example of a mid-19th century Gothic cottage, the design of which shows the influence of pattern books of the period. It is a rare surviving example of an ornamental building constructed during Hopkins' development of the estate.

As one of only a pair of buildings remaining from Hopkins' era at Clifton, the gardener's cottage is emblematic of the quality Hopkins used for the design of all of the various structures on his estate. In the mid-19th century, this also included a porter's lodge, farm houses, a boat house, and numerous propagating houses. The cottage's Gothic detailing complements the Mansion's Italianate style, reflecting ideals of the Picturesque movement and capturing the attributes of "rural architecture" specified by Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux in their in their 19th century pattern books. The gabled entry portico and verge-board and finial eaves are trademarks of the Downingesque style. In this house, Hopkins' gardener and his family lived amidst orchards, formal gardens, greenhouses, and a conservatory that was attached to the cottage structure. Two of Hopkins' gardeners are known by name: a Mr. Fowler and Mr. Hogarth.

The gardener's cottage was built as a rectangular brick structure, but received additions early on. The brick section of the cottage is a rectangular, cross-gable structure facing west. It has a one-story block with gable-roofed entry porch and interior end chimney, and a two-story block with a second chimney, grouped windows, and prominent dormers. Both the entry porch and gable walls of the two-story section feature decorative verge boards with wooden scroll work and finials. Most of the window openings in the house are arched. To the rear of the one-story section stands a narrow, two-story frame wing addition. This addition was clad originally in german siding and is now covered in shingles. An elegant wood and glass conservatory that ran alongside the cottage's south face was demolished in 1915.

As early as 1874, the building is shown on atlases as having three parts, but the nature and materials of these parts are unclear. (*See* Figure 2: The Johns Hopkins University Grounds, Clifton, by Simon G. Martenet, Surveyor and Civil Engineer, 1874.) The 1894 City of Baltimore Topographical Map (reproducible only in parts) shows cross-hatching for the brick structure and an additional rear wing, and an "X" but no cross-hatching through a large section that matches the footprint of the historic conservatory. (*See* Figure 3: Portion of the City of Baltimore Topographical Map, Made Under the Direction of C.T. Douglas, Chief Engineer, 1894.) The original 1896 Bromley Atlas, on the other hand, shows the small rear wing as a yellow structure (frame), and the large structure on the south side (conservatory) as pink, with no "X" through it. It is highly unlikely that a stable would have been erected with a party wall to the house, so the "X" is probably inconsequential. In 1896, the *Annual Report of the Park Commission* noted that the foundation timbers of the cottage's kitchen wing had to be replaced, since the "house and conservatory behind it were buried in the ground and every sill decayed." This reference seems to indicate that the frame wing that exists today, along with the conservatory that was razed in 1915, were very old additions, probably added prior to 1874, as the three-part footprint shows up on the map of the year. In addition, the 1896 reference seems to suggest that the frame section housed the kitchen. While seeming odd today, the addition of a conservatory to such a modest structure was thought fitting in the mid-19th century, and even came at Downing's recommendation: "... The more varied and irregular outline of Gothic buildings enables them to receive an appendage of this nature with more facility in almost any direction, where the

aspect is suitable. ... Though a conservatory is often made an expensive luxury. . . there is no reason why cottages of more humble character should not have the same source of enjoyment on a more moderate scale."[22]

When the city purchased the building in 1895, it set out to correct structural failures in the building. It cut eighteen inches out of the terrace surrounding the house, because the lack of a cellar had caused the decay of sills, which in turn had resulted in the cottage's floor sinking below the level of surrounding ground. As reported by the Commission: "The fact is, the house and the conservatory behind it were buried in the ground and every sill decayed."[23] The Park Commission's 1896 *Annual Report* mentions the addition of new windows to the cottage's upper story, which is likely a reference to an existing pair of north-facing dormers on the building.[24] In 1897, the *Annual Report* details the complete rebuilding of the conservatory, the re-shingling of the cottage, and the underpinning of the kitchen wing with brick.[25]

The gardener's cottage was the central building in Clifton's gardening compound. There is a mention of the cottage in the same newspaper article of February 6, 1852 that described Hopkins' alterations to the Mansion: ". . . the beautiful group formed by the gardener's lodge and conservatory in the terraced garden and the extensive grape house and orangeries stretching along several hundred feet. . ."[26] Tall cypress trees, some of which remain today, stood to either side of a lane leading to the cottage from the east. One ended up viewing the conservatory prior to seeing the cottage itself. On the north side of the lane were boxwood bushes and four statues Hopkins had purchased in Italy.[27] The statues represented the four seasons and stood on two-foot pedestals positioned at 15-20 foot intervals. "Spring" was the form of a young maiden; "Summer" was a youth; "Autumn" was a mature woman; and "Winter" was a bearded old man.[28] To the north of the cottage, a network of paths separated a roughly rectangular piece of grounds into six sectors. A line of greenhouses stretched out to the northeast of the cottage in a narrow terrace of its own.

Today, the cottage is vacant and in poor repair, having suffered from vandalism and fire damage. While the kitchen wing is damaged, the original masonry structure is intact. The roof, now asphalt shingle, has collapsed in places. The current tenant, Civic Works, and the Friends of Clifton Mansion intend to stabilize the building.

3. *Farm House / Superintendent's House:* 1879 (?)

The farmhouse meets NR Criterion C as a strong example of Stick Style architecture, which is uncommon in the region. There is a good likelihood that it represents the work of architect E.G. Lind who designed a farmhouse for Johns Hopkins University in 1879 for $2,637.29.[29]

This farmhouse is one of at least three that stood on the Clifton property when the City purchased it in 1895.[30] It was probably built to house a farmer/caretaker for the Clifton grounds, as administered by the trustees of Johns Hopkins University. With the City's purchase of the grounds for a park, the house was given over to the Park Superintendent and his family. The house received minor repairs throughout its lifetime as the Superintendent's House, which are recorded in the *Annual Reports* of the Park Commission. Continuing in virtually the same tradition, the house recently was the home of the Director of the City's

[22] Downing, *Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture*, pp. 391 and 392.
[23] *37th Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 1896*, Baltimore: John B. Kurtz, 1897, 32.
[24] Ibid.
[25] *38th Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 1897*, Baltimore: Thos. I. Sheubrooks, 1898, 37.
[26] Carroll Dulany, "Day by Day," *Baltimore News Post*, November, 1938.
[27] In 1896, the city replanted and trimmed some of Hopkins' boxwood. According to Ed Shull, a landscape architect who has studied Clifton, boxwood is extremely difficult to date.
[28] "Baltimore Around the Clock," *Evening Sun*, May 22, 1937, Enoch Pratt Free Library.
[29] E.G. Lind's Manuscript Project List, Maryland Historical Society.
[30] Two of these farm houses were razed in the 1970s.

Department of Recreation and Parks. It now stands vacant and in good condition.

The building is a two-story, gable-roofed, square dwelling with stone foundation with grapevine joints, horizontal and vertical novelty siding, brick chimneys, and a decorative slate roof. The house is oriented toward the southeast with a projecting upper section in the facade gable. An original, one-story kitchen wing with jerkin head gable projects to the rear. A wraparound porch on the southeast and southwest elevations is now screened in. Windows are 4/4 double-hung sash throughout the house. Paired windows on the facade flank a central door with transom and sidelights. Second-story windows feature metal awnings. Typical of the Stick Style, the house has wide overhanging eaves and hexagonal and half-hexagonal polychromatic slate shingles. Security grilles on the windows and a large satellite dish on the porch roof are two reversible alterations that currently detract from the building's appearance. A small addition at the rear of the original kitchen wing is compatible with the original structure, while an outbuilding and garage represent newer additions. In the front of the house is a flagstone path of unknown date.

4. *Shops Building: 1899 / 1930s*

The Shops Building was built in two phases. It meets NR Criterion A for its primary association with the 20th-century development of the city park system and Criterion C for its architecture. Although primarily functional in character, the Shops Building exhibits decorative features typical of the period in its grouped fenestration arched courtyard entrance, and small balcony.

The Shops Building began as a simple rolling stock shed that may have been built in 1899. In that year, the Park Commission built a stable and "wagon shed" at Clifton, which is recorded in its *Annual Report.* A June 20, 1929 set of drawings (housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue) reveals a Spanish Mission style courtyard building planned as an addition to the existing rolling stock shed. Although the current building's drawings have yet to be found, the building's footprint and basic character matches that of the 1929 plans, suggesting that what was built represented a later scheme for the building. The 1929 plans have a Spanish Mission character, but otherwise show functional solutions, such as the insertion of sliding lift doors into the old shed's bays and room layout in the new three-sided courtyard building. The rolling stock shed was to retain its original use. The two-story section that formed the west face was to feature a carpenter's shop on the first floor and rest rooms in the older section. The new, north wing was to accommodate harnessing and the storage of fertilizer, cement, gas and oil, tools, paint, top soil, and lumber. The building's east end in the 1929 scheme was depicted as a two-story stable. What was actually built at the east end of the shops building is only one story high but a ramp at its east end may suggest a stabling purpose. Stylistically, what was constructed following the 1929 drawings exhibits a quasi-Arts and Crafts roofline on its west face, and more of a Colonial Revival sensibility in its side wings.

This addition must have been made in the decade of the 1930s, since a 1941 plan shows a small addition on the building's south face. The architect of the Shops Building of the 1930s was Frederick Thomas, unofficial park architect in the 1930s and official park architect in the 1940s. Undated detail drawings of the building's cupolas bearing Thomas' name have been found in storage at the shops building; they are now housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue. Other known park works by Thomas include the 1938 aquarium and 1944 renovations to the "Negro Pool," both at Druid Hill Park.

The physical link between the rolling stock shed (which always had a two-story section at its west end) and the new building is evident on the facade at the cornice line. Today, the cinder block and stucco building is in good condition, suffering primarily from minor and/or reversible alterations. First-floor windows are 6/6 double-hung sash on the facade. The second-story facade and first-floor side windows are blocked, but courtyard windows on the second story have retained their multi-pane units with operable awning sections. Some original slate roofing remains, but most sections feature asphalt shingles or composition

roofing. The small, concrete block addition on the south elevation houses a snack bar. Original windows and shutters belonging to the building are stored in the Superintendent's Office on the second floor.

5. Bath House: 1916/1950

The Bath House was built in 1916 according to plans by Baltimore architects Wyatt & Nolting with consultation from the Olmsted Brothers landscape architects. The building meets NR Criterion A for its association with the construction of what was described as the "largest artificial swimming pool in the United States"[31] and for its association with the 20th century development of the city park system. It also meets NR Criterion C for its handsome Classical Revival architecture. Olmsted Brothers correspondence housed at the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, along with plans at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue and with the Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes, Inc. provide details on the origin, design, and construction of this building between 1911 and 1916.

In November, 1911, P.R. Jones of the Olmsted Brothers firm made notes to the file stating that "someone interested in the neighborhood south of the park" thought he could obtain money from the City Council for a bathing pool.[32] William S. Manning, General Superintendent of the Parks at the time, had Wyatt & Nolting do a sketch for a bath house on a site south of the railroad tracks in Clifton Park. The pool site had been elected by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Manning thought that the bath house should be a combination bath and field house, serving not only the future pool, but existing athletic fields located on the opposite side of Washington Street (now St. Lo Drive) and south and north of the railroad tracks. Jones noted that using the pool site for a "field house" was problematic given its distance from the ball fields located north of the tracks.

In 1915, Jones visited Patterson Park with Harry Gross, Park Engineer, to understand conditions at the swimming pool there. The Olmsted Brothers and Wyatt & Nolting had collaborated on the design for that field house in 1905-06, and Jones wanted to learn from conditions there. The Free Public Bath Commission had established procedures for handling the crowds at Patterson, which swelled to upwards of 6,000 per day. They placed four people together at one time in an enlarged bathing booth (broadened by removing partitions between booths); had attendants lock and unlock lockers as opposed to patrons, thus preventing the loss of individual keys; and kept alternating rounds of visitors in one-hour swimming shifts. These tight conditions led Jones to ponder the design of two-story bathing booth wings for Clifton's bath house, with men changing on the first floor and women above. A pergola atop the wings could accommodate spectators. After observing the long lines of people waiting to swim at Patterson's pool (a queue sometimes 500 people long), Jones also noted that the west side of Clifton's bath house should be graveled, not planted with grass. Finally, Gross, the engineer, recommended "mushroom construction" as a space saving measure for the main pool building, describing it as concrete posts set at intervals with iron beams on top to support the floors.[33] On January 4, 1915, P.R. Jones of the firm made a study for the swimming pool and bath and field house. He suggested a two story structure; the upper story for athletes and baseball players and the lower story for swimmers' locker rooms. The bath house wings would extend to the side (like at Patterson Park) with the pergolas above.

Manning then turned to the Olmsted Brothers to supply the Commission with the actual architectural plan. The Olmsteds responded by suggesting that Wyatt & Nolting be hired to act as architectural consultants, with the Olmsted firm retained for planning consultation. The firm wrote a letter to Manning, clarifying its role in the design process:

> We take this occasion to explain that we do not claim to be architects, and we feel that it is no more right and proper for us to make architectural plans and elevations for buildings of importance than it would be for the

[31] *Baltimore Municipal Journal*, February 20, 1920, housed at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Clifton File.
[32] Correspondence in Series B, Project No. 2407, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.
[33] P.R. Jones Notes, April 6, 1915. Olmsted Bros. Correspondence in Series B, Project No. 2407, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

architects to make plans for important parks. We do make architectural drawings for minor buildings and other structures forming parts of our park designs in some cases, but it is usually because the proposed cost of the structures is so small that it would hardly be a paying proposition for an architect to take the work in the ordinary course of business, and from the point of view of our employers, after we have put all the time and study and expense in making drawings to illustrate our ideas, it would seem unnecessary in many cases to employ an architect in addition. We cannot lay down any arbitrary rule as to the limit of cost of minor buildings for which we will undertake to complete architectural drawings, but it seems to us that this field building in Clifton Park is decidedly of such importance and will probably cost so much as to fully justify the employment of an architect.[34]

The Park Commission complied and Wyatt & Nolting were retained as architects. In October 1915, Wyatt & Nolting wrote to the Olmsted Brothers describing the scope of work for the Clifton Park Bath and Field House. Upon receiving direction from Manning, the Free Public Bath Commission, and the Social Service Corporation, Wyatt & Nolting were asked to provide a building to include dressing rooms for male and female bathers, a gymnasium of 5,000 square feet, a somewhat smaller dance hall, eight or ten club rooms, locker rooms for the athletes, and laundry and heating facilities. The letter stated that the architects thought one multi-storied building could serve all these purposes, especially since the bathing facilities could serve men and women on alternate days.[35] Wyatt & Nolting proposed that the basement of the main building and one-story bath house wings be built first, to house primarily all of the functions of the building, and that second and third stories could be added later, when funding was in place.

The Olmsted Brothers responded by suggesting that Wyatt & Nolting forego the design of bath house wings, placing the lockers in the main building themselves, and use the money that would have gone toward temporarily roofing those wings towards building a permanent second floor on the main building. The Olmsted Brothers illustrated their suggestion with elevations and sections (not in the Library of Congress records) showing a three-story building with club rooms on the uppermost floor that were dispensable if money was inadequate.

Wyatt & Nolting disagreed with the Olmsted's recommendations, stating they intended to proceed with their original scheme for staging the design. At some point between January and December, 1915, however, this consolidated scheme was shelved in favor of a more elaborate one providing separate buildings for each of the main functional objectives. The revised scheme consisted of three, equally important buildings to be grouped around the pool: a Bath House (known as Building A), a Dance Hall (known as Building B), and a Field House/Gymnasium (known as Building C). Plans for Building C are all that remain from this trio and are housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue. Through references in notes on the drawings, however, Building C's drawings provide information on all three of the planned structures.

All three were to be Classical in orientation, making use of swags, traceried fanlights, pediments \ quoining, etc. Plans for Building C, the "gymnasium to serve boys and men," indicate locker rooms and showers on the basement level, an enclosed gymnasium above, and projecting open loggias at the ends. Roof trusses were to be steel. The gymnasium level in Building C, and the Dance Hall in Building B, were to occupy the first floors and were to be enclosed, save for end loggias. Building B was to be identical to Building C, only in reverse. The only change between the two was that Building B was slated to have a plaster ceiling in the dance hall.

Building A was the only one of the trio ever built. The 1916 *Annual Report of the Park Board* cites the construction of the "the

[34] Ibid.
[35] Letter from Wyatt & Nolting Architects to Mssrs. Olmsted Brothers, October 14, 1915. Series B, Project No. 2407, Manuscript Division Library of Congress.

lower portion of a centrally located building - one of three - all of which are intended for swimming pool, gymnasia, dancing and social gathering purposes."[36] The *Report* noted that the center building contained facilities for those using the pool in the summers, as well as showers for year-round bathing.[37] The loggia was constructed a short time later, but was yet to be completed at the writing of the 1917 *Annual Report.*

Buildings B and C never made it off the drawing board, presumably due to the onset of World War I and financial limitations.

Building A, the Bath House, was completed in stages, with the basement story opening with the first pool season in 1917. The pool itself was a monumental concrete-bottomed structure, complete with a giant slide in its center and lighting within the circumference. At 3 ½ acres, it was the city's largest public pool. In the first summer month, the building and pool was run by the Free Public Bath Commission. After 1917, it was run by the Playground Athletic League. The first set of bath house wings were opened in 1918 and designed by Wyatt & Nolting. In 1950, they were replaced by the set of detached bath house wings that exist today. These were designed by the engineering firm of J.E. Greiner Company in November, 1949 as part of the larger project to rebuild the Olmsted Brothers' designed swimming pool and upgrade the facility.

The Bath House is built into sloping ground so that the west facade is one story and the pool side, two stories. The ground story is enclosed and features locker rooms and showers, while the upper story is an open loggia, and presumably filled the spectator function. The basement-level walls are rusticated, reinforced concrete, with window and door openings staged in a regular rhythm across the building's length. Door openings are pedimented. At the loggia level, quoined brick piers at corners and door surrounds provide the only wall surface with classical columns in between. These and interior brick columns and timber posts support the asphalt-shingled, hip roof. Classical concrete balustrades at both the loggia and parapet levels unfortunately have been removed, stripping the building of some of its elegance. At the loggia level, the balustrade was replaced by a series of brick panels in 1951. Two prominent chimneys originally provided ventilation for the heating and laundry systems in the basement. The original open stair entrance to the basement level from the building's west side is now enclosed in concrete block. The building is in good condition, but some brickwork has been damaged and minor vandalism is a problem.

In 1950, the large oval Olmstedian pool was removed and three, rectangular pools inserted into the ground: a large, central swimming pool; a small wading pool immediately to the east of the bath house; and a small diving pool at the south end of the swimming pool. The one-story bath house wings built in that year project out from the main building at an angle, sited roughly on the footprint of Buildings B and C had they ever been built. These bath houses have concrete block walls and obscure Plexiglas windows (now painted over) near their shed roofs.

7.2.2 SITE: 1841-1928

The entire Clifton Park site represents a designed landscape of the 1841-1928 period. The designed landscape is the basis for the park's draft nomination to the National Register. The site meets NR Criterion C for its landscape architecture, reflecting both the Romantic approach taken by Hopkins and the active recreation and public health philosophies of the Olmsted Brothers and Park Commission. The history of the design of the park is described below in order to explain how the current physical environment reflects the period and associations for which the site is significant.

The grounds at Clifton did not become a public park until 1895. Prior to that time, the property was first farmed, and then transformed into a country estate. This transformation was sponsored by Johns Hopkins, beginning around 1841, when he

[36] *Annual Report for the Year 1916*, pp. 3 and 8.
[37] In the early 20th Century, public baths for lower income neighborhood residents were seen as a means of protecting public health and promoting clean living. The Olmsted Brothers firm was active in this arena, as was the Free Public Bath Commission.

introduced the art of landscape gardening into the Clifton grounds. Thus, 1841 marks the start of the period of significance for the site. The end of the period of significance for the site is 1928, the year that the Mother's Garden was dedicated as the last major landscape improvement.

***Johns Hopkins' Private Landscape:* 1841-1873**

Hopkins' Clifton functioned as a summer estate and exhibited all of the attributes of the English landscape garden adapted for the American landscape by Andrew Jackson Downing, foremost commentator on the art of rural architecture and landscape gardening. (*See* Figure 2.) Hopkins outfitted Clifton with sweeping lawns, groves of trees, meandering drives and paths, ornamental lake, and parterre gardens of the Romantic landscape. Befitting someone of his stature and obviously well-read on the subject of landscape gardening, Hopkins erected an entrance lodge along Harford Road to announce the presence of the estate and monitor guests. Such a lodge was advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing as not only "handsome," but useful as a porter's residence.[38] Also true to Downing's principles, Hopkins Roman-inspired gate house corresponded in style with his Italianate villa. As for the physical link between the two, Hopkins heeded the principle of picturesqueness specifically stated by Humphrey Repton and reiterated by Downing that neither the house nor entrance lodge should be visible from one another and that the drive meander through varied ground.[39] Downing also suggested the use of ornamental statuary and vases in rural settings, a cue which Hopkins took to an extreme. During his lifetime, the drive from Harford Road to the Mansion reportedly was lined with 100 Classical statues.[40] Less numerous were the elegant marble vases and urns scattered across the grounds.

As the 1874 map reveals, lawns were primarily in the area surrounding the Mansion. Large plots of grass featured stately trees and isolated spots of decorative shrubbery and floral displays. To the southeast of the Mansion were a farmer's house and outbuildings and to the northeast was the gardener's cottage. Farmer Isaac Ludlow tilled the estate's farmland, plotted primarily to the south and west of his house, and to the north, east, and south of the gardener's cottage. An ornamental lake for boating, fishing, and swimming and complete with picturesque bridges, was sited to the east of the Mansion, immediately south and west of the gardener's cottage. It was fed by a stream running through the property.

Apart from the main entrance on Harford Road, there was an entrance from Mine Bank Lane, which was likely more of a service entrance. It stretched all the way to the gardener's cottage complex. Similar to the main drive to the estate, the short lane to the gardener's cottage was lined with statuary, in this case four marble statues representing the four seasons. According to tradition and written recollections, Hopkins was a horticulturist, taking pride in the growth of exotic plants. His property is said to have featured rare bushes, for example. Attached to the gardener's cottage was the estate's conservatory where floral specimens were cultivated. A line of greenhouses, a grapery, and orangerie stretched out to the north of the cottage. A series of paths divided the grounds in the area into parterres for gardens and orchards. On the whole, the Clifton of Hopkins' day was a showcase for Downingesque principles of design. (*See* Significance Section below).

Today, the main lawn fronting the Mansion, a portion of the circulation system, some plant material, and a partial outline of the parterre garden's borders remain from Hopkins' landscape improvements.

***Johns Hopkins University Landscape:* 1874-1894**

Hopkins' landscape did not undergo any radical restructuring during the 20-year period that Clifton was owned by the trustees for the Johns Hopkins University. Instead, farming and landscape gardening were continued, with a new farmhouse added, and

[38] Downing, *Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture*, p. 357.
[39] Ibid, p. 360.
[40] Photographs showing the grounds with its marble statues can be found in the Legg Collection at the Maryland Historical Society, Prints and Photographic Division. Today, Lake Clifton High School features two classical marble statues that may have once been part of Clifton's grounds, though this is not certain.

landscape gardening in the Hopkins' tradition was basically neglected.

The City of Baltimore Topographical Map of 1894 (reproducible only in part, *see* Figure 3) and a map of the park grounds from 1896 (Figure 4: Bromley Atlas of 1896) reveal the changes made during the University's ownership. The predominant changes were the use of an open meadow just east of the Mansion for tennis and ball grounds and the filling in of Hopkins' lake. Both changes marked the impending overhaul that would transform the days of passive recreation to that of active recreation. The athletic fields were installed as practice fields for the university's athletic teams and Hopkins' lake (which appears on the 1874 map of the property just below the word "Clifton") was probably removed for fears of being "malarial."[41] Nonetheless, the trustees saw fit to retain the horticultural activities begun by Hopkins, maintaining his greenhouses and, according to the 1894 map, planting orchards and a rather elaborate decorative parterre garden north of the gardeners' cottage.

To the university's dismay, the Water Board successfully petitioned the City and forced the trustees to relinquish 44 acres for a reservoir on the site. In 1888, the Water Board completed Lake Clifton, a smooth, oval body of water that interjected a geometric form into the hitherto Romantic landscape. Access to the lake dictated the construction of new streets and the hard angle of Washington Street (now St. Lo Drive) was added to the landscape mix; its axial alignments a decided contrast to earlier, circuitous drives. Today, the tennis courts and St. Lo Drive remain from this period of the park's landscape history, while Lake Clifton has been filled in for the Lake Clifton High School.

***Clifton as a Municipal Park and the Influence of the Olmsted Brothers:* 1895-1917**

Clifton's landscape would undergo far more extensive changes in the period between 1895 and 1917, when the City made most of its improvements. The Park Commission focused initially on the gardening aspects of Clifton, retaining the legacy first cultivated by Hopkins himself. Its first report on the City's activities occurred in 1896. The Park Commission's *Annual Report* of that year included a description of the area surrounding the gardener's cottage: "a fine old greenhouse terrace, occupied for many years by Mr. Fowler's temporary structures, which he took away with him, has been entirely restored ...(it) has been soiled, sodded and divided into beds for next year's planting."[42] The *Report* continues, mentioning that the University's pear orchard was cleared of dead or problem trees and that fig bushes were sheltered for the winter. It also noted that a second terrace around the Gardener's Cottage was graded and its banks sodded.

The following year, the old Hopkins garden in the valley below was restored and the thickets in the garden-valley cleaned out.[43] Part of the pear orchard was cleared for a tree nursery of 1,000 deciduous trees, four to six feet high, which had been transferred from the woods. The tree specimens included oak, hickory, maple, tulip, and dogwood, amongst others. The garden on the "upper greenhouse terrace" was filled with flowering shrubs, hardy perennials, and clumps of ornamental grasses.[44] Boxwood surrounding the 4,000-foot orchard plat were replanted or trimmed and cultivated. Finally, the City planted 300 lineal feet of hemlock hedge to protect the "upper terrace" from northwest winds and to serve as a backdrop for the garden there.

The conservatory was repaired and opened to the public, who viewed ferns, selaginella, and begonias planted in rockeries, in addition to other plants.[45] Meanwhile, the propagating house on the upper terrace was used for the cultivation of 47,889 bedding plants, 43,110 of which were used at Clifton and the rest of which were intended for use at other parks, a planned extension at Carroll Park, and the Clifton Mansion grounds. Despite water shortage problems, the lawn in the garden valley east of the conservatory was gradually extended starting in 1897. The Commission hoped to remove a stone-lined ditch running

[41] Elliott, "The Acquisition of Clifton Park," p. 9. "Malarial" in the 19th Century meant noxious air caused by marshy soil.
[42] *37th Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 1896*, Baltimore: John B. Kurtz, 1897, p. 35.
[43] *38th Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 1897*, Baltimore: Thos. J. Scheubrooks, 1898, p. 38.
[44] Ibid.
[45] Ibid.

through the valley with a pipe line, to achieve an unbroken lawn surface. In concluding its remarks for 1897's gardening, the Commission *Report* noted "the great beauty and luxuriance of the flower beds at Clifton during the season. The greenhouse terrace was especially attractive from the fine massing of colors and variety of the plants used. This succession of rectangular beds was 400 feet long by 15 feet wide. The old Hopkins garden in the valley was also very attractive with its complicated patterns."[46]

In 1898, the propagating house received an annex 100 feet long by 8 feet wide and the quality of color and display in the Clifton Park gardens was noted again: The "large square beds of the upper terrace, and the fancy beds in the old Hopkins' garden" were the sites of these ornamental works.[47] In addition, a large "butterfly bed" with the name of the park was produced on the southwest slope of Lake Clifton. The pear trees and fig bushes were scaled back significantly in number, in favor of their replacement with trees and plants for park purposes. The area around the Mansion continued to be improved, with 2,000 square yards of sodding and the removal of the baseball fields from the university's grounds to a large new field on the Harford Road side of the park, south of Washington Street. The removal of baseball, which was seen as too noisy a sport so close to the Mansion, left the area free for tennis, while reserving a smaller area for the construction of a playground for children.[48] As for landscaping directly in front of the Mansion, the Commission retained an old smoketree from the 19th century, and may have been responsible for the planting of the magnolias, at least one of which predates 1915.[49] In 1898, the city completed construction of a 1,400-foot long loop around the Mansion (designed by General Superintendent and Engineer Charles H. Latrobe), but it remained to be connected with the main entrance. At some point prior to 1915, the Commission authorized the double key-hole foot path on axis with the main door, inserting an urn in the first circle and flagpole in the second. (*See* "Structures," "Circulation" below).

Other landscape plans recommended by Latrobe in 1898 included the connection of Clifton with Montebello; the conversion of West Washington Street into a mall or promenade to be planted with trees; the sale of the 20 acres south of the Belt Railroad line, saying it could never be useful to Clifton as park land, but might prove suitable to a bathing pool constructed by the Free Public Bath Commission; and the concentration of nursery and propagating activities for parks citywide at Clifton.[50]

At the turn of the century, work at the park consisted of a new roadway leading from the Belair entrance to a stone culvert, improvements to the Mansion, and construction of a stable and wagon shed (part of the Shops Building). Recognizing that Clifton was at a turning point as far as the nature and scale of its improvements, Francis H. Waters, the new General Superintendent as of 1899, implored the Commission to take a long view of the park's possibilities:

> The natural beauties of the landscape present many possibilities, but in order that the subject may be studied comprehensively and intelligently, it would seem to be imperative that suitable maps be prepared, and the whole area be considered in the way of all future improvements before any single improvement is entered into. It is a very easy matter to spoil the whole effect of future work by going into the projection of roadways or walks blindly before the parking of the whole acreage is carefully studied.[51]

Though the comprehensive plan would never be developed, the influence of a public report five years later would awaken the Commission to the benefits of hiring landscape architects to assist with the park's improvements. In the meantime, new

[46] Ibid p. 39.
[47] Ibid p. 40.
[48] "Fifty Years Ago," *Sun*, April 11, 1948, Enoch Pratt Free Library.
[49] The western magnolia appears on a 1915 topographical survey of the Mansion and its vicinity produced by the Olmsted Brothers, while the eastern magnolia does not.
[50] *Annual Report for the Year 1898*, p. 45.
[51] *40th Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1899*, Baltimore: Wm. J.C. Dulany Company, 1900, 28.

greenhouses were built in 1900-1901 to expand propagating activities. The facilities were used for the growing of flowering and bedding plants for multiple parks and squares, with Crotons mentioned specifically in the *Annual Reports*. In 1901, a water lily pond was installed near the greenhouses and aquatic plants became a growing attraction to the public.[52] The Commission also intended to establish a "Pinetum" and arboretum on the grounds, though these ideas never came to fruition.

In 1904, the Olmsted Brothers came to Baltimore and changed the scale of the dialogue concerning the city's parks. In that year, the firm submitted *Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore*. The firm laid out a vision for Baltimore consisting of a system of parks connected along the lines of Boston's Emerald Necklace. The firm defined six different types of open space for the city: small parks, large parks, valley parks, parkways, cross connections, and outlying reservations. They suggested joining them in a network of green. The various landscape entities would provide open space, fresh air, a variety of scenery, and active and passive recreation to Baltimore's citizenry. According to the Olmsted Brothers' vision, the city's major parks (Druid Hill, Clifton, and Patterson) would be linked by a series of connector parkways or alamedas (parked boulevards). The *1904 Report's* recommendations for Clifton Park itself were rather minor; namely that it be improved by the addition of three small parcels: a valley between the park and Belair Road at the park's east comer, a small woodland strip near Erdman Avenue, and a narrow strip of land east of the reservoir. The firm also recommended selling the land south of the Belt Railroad (a B&O spur which had torn through the property in 1892), except for some land to be preserved as a setting for the Washington Street entrance from North Avenue. The Olmsteds also recommended that some land be taken at the intersection of Belair Road and Mine Bank Lane to provide for an entrance there, and that another entrance be made from Broadway, north of North Avenue. Of all of these recommendations, one was completely fulfilled and one partially fulfilled: the strip of woodland at Erdman was purchased and a small sliver of land south of the railroad and east of Rose Street was sold off.

The firm's recommendation for parkways connecting Clifton to other parts of the city was more successful. Although downscaled from initial plans, the "parking" of 33rd Street and construction of the Alameda as connections from Wyman Park to Clifton were streetscape enhancements and real estate boons completed in 1917. A proposed parkway along Rose Street leading south to Patterson Park, however, never materialized.

In 1904, the Commission noted the beauty of the outdoor floral display at Clifton while remarking upon its inconspicuous location (in the area near the gardener's cottage). This is the last mention of the park's floral qualities, as attention was turned to larger site planning and athletic issues. The Olmsted Brothers correspondence at the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, along with plans available at the Department of Recreation and Parks and photographs housed at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts, provide a fairly detailed picture of the Commission's actions and the firm's contributions to Clifton.

The first Olmsted Brothers' designed improvement was the selection of a site and planning of an athletic ground in 1904. Perhaps intended as a temporary solution or perhaps recognizing early that the Commission would not be selling land south of the railroad, the athletic field was laid out on the west side of Washington Street, south of the tracks and east of Harford Road. This area of land still appears on the 1896 and 1906 Bromley Atlases as "City of Baltimore" land, not necessarily "Clifton Park." Two sewers were constructed in order to drain the area properly, and gymnasium apparatus presented by Robert Garrett, former Olympian and Chairman of the Public Park Athletic League, was installed. The *Annual Reports* listed a track at the new field under Clifton expenditures for 1906 and photographs of the athletic ground from the Olmsted National Historic Site from the same year shows the grounds still under construction. The grading and stone wall that defined the perimeter of the grounds remain from the Olmsted period. The track itself may have been removed by the mid-1940s, when a second track existed on the

[52] *42nd Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1901*, Baltimore: The John D. Lucas Printing Co., 1902, 31, and *43rd Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1902*, Baltimore: The John D. Lucas Printing Co., 1903, 14.

north side of the railroad tracks and the *Annual Reports* noted the popularity of the "track" (singular) at the park. It no longer appears on a 1970s drawing of that section of the park. A December 16, 1915 Olmsted Brothers plan titled "Plan Showing Layout of Buildings and Swimming Pool" (housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue) reveals that a small field house was built between 1906 and 1915 alongside the track just south of the B&O Railroad track, but it no longer stands.

The next major project included construction of a band shell. In 1906, the Commission began to work with Wyatt & Nolting, architects, and the Olmsted Brothers on its design. (*See* "Structures, Band Shell" below for more information). At first, its location was slated to be in an area on the south side of Washington Street, between Harford Road and Lake Clifton Valve House. By 1908, the location was changed, however, at the urging of the Olmsted Brothers, who took topography into account. The band shell was re-sited to a slightly more interior park location on the west of Washington Street, north of the railroad tracks. The firm provided grading, orientation, seating, and lighting plans plus written recommendations for the band shell itself.

In a July 1907 letter to the Park Commission, the Olmsted Brothers pointed out the need for a general plan for the park as opposed to incremental change. This is the first reference amongst several in the firm's correspondence devoted to the topic. Regrettably, the Olmsted Brothers were asked for the next nine years to do designs on an as-needed basis, but were never commissioned to undertake a comprehensive plan for the park.

A third project revolved around road revisions. In 1911, the Olmsted Brothers laid out new connecting drives in Clifton Park with a widened Harford Road and recommended paving materials for various junctures. As conditions have changed since 1911 along Harford Road, the extent to which these paving recommendations were taken is not clear. Starting in 1911 and continuing through 1916, the firm was assigned the task of designing the grounds for a bath and field house, swimming pool, and children's playground. The site selected for the pool area was south of the railroad tracks and east of Washington Street, and that for the playground, north of the tracks on the same side of the street. P.R. Jones of the Olmsted Brothers firm was concerned about the location of these facilities given the proximity of the B&O Railroad, fearing that soot and ashes would be unhealthful, but these concerns were set aside. A January 1915 Olmsted Brothers plan shows the original scheme for a bath house with a central facility and angled bath house wings embracing a pool. This layout was similar to the structures built at Patterson Park in 1905-1906, which the Olmsted firm also designed. A December 16, 1915 Plan shows the evolution of that scheme, with the pool drawn as a long oval structure with graded bottom, turf gutter and three equal sized connected buildings framing its western edge. In the plan, the central building is titled "bath house" and the other two, simply "#2" and "#3." Only the bath house was built, and its pool touted in the day's municipal journals as the largest "artificial" (*i.e.*, concrete) pool in the country. A photograph housed in the Paul Perot collection of the Maryland Historical Society, Prints and Photographs Division, shows that the pool featured a dramatic winding stair that led to a tall, concrete slide platform at its center. The photograph also reveals that there were electric lights on tall lamp posts within the pool itself. The *Annual Report* for 1916 describes the planting of a significant mass of large and small growing shrubs around the pool to separate people in bathing suits from patrons using other park lawns and spaces nearby, the implication being that "throngs" of bathers were highly unsightly.[53]

The children's playground was designed by the Olmsted Brothers in the area north of the pool. It replaced an existing children and women's playground which had to be dismantled at the time due to the construction of Sinclair Road. A 1915 electric light system plan and a January 18, 1915 grading plan for the swimming pool and children's playground (both housed with the Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes, Inc.) show the playground's facilities: a wading pool, sand courts, swings, a slide and a toilet shelter. A circa 1915 photograph showing a bird's eye view of playground activities at Clifton

[53] *Annual Report for the Year 1916, p. 8.*

reveals that the playground was quite large and included at least two open pavilions in addition to playground apparatus.[54] In 1970, plans by Knecht & Human, landscape architects, housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue, reveal that the Olmsted playground was substantially in place at the time. Today, a basketball court and a set of concrete steps are all that remain.

At the same time as it was working on the pool and children's playground, the Olmsted Brothers firm continued to advise the Commission on matters of access and landscaping. Responding to the Commission's request that Washington Street resemble the elegant Madison Avenue in Druid Hill Park, the Olmsted Brothers issued a series of plans, beginning in January, 1914, for walks beside the right-of-way and relocation of linden trees to border the path. These plans also included the creation of a path leading from Washington Street to the 1908 band shell. In 1915, 10,000 new trees and shrubs were planted along Washington Street leading to the park from North Avenue and a rustic railing was installed.[55]

Another Olmsted Brothers project revolved around adaptations to the park's ball fields. A January 15, 1915 plan titled "Grading Plan for the Baseball Field at Clifton Park" (housed with the Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes) shows how the firm rearranged Charles H. Latrobe's baseball diamond south of Washington Street. The Olmsteds' more comprehensive vision included baseball, softball, and "small boys" diamonds, several of which remain today.

Finally, a February 1, 1915 plan contains the firm's proposal for the area surrounding the Mansion. (*See* Figure 5: Topography in Vicinity of the Mansion House: Revision of Roads and Walks Together with Proposed Grading). Instead of approaching the Mansion from the original picturesque Hopkins drive (which by 1915 had lost the porter's lodge), the Olmsted designed drive was more direct. (*See* "Structures," "Circulation" below). This Olmsted plan for the Mansion was never implemented, however, and what we have in the vicinity of the Mansion today are remnants of Hopkins' plan coupled with circa 1898 Commission improvements.

The 1917 *Annual Report* confirms that sixty American elms were planted in the park in that year, but their location is not known.[56] Undoubtedly, their selection and placement were considered by the Olmsteds. Independent of the immediate Mansion grounds, most aspects of the firm's 1904-1917 plans were implemented and their landscape imprint remains today. The firm's work is embodied in the landscaping, building orientation and design solutions for the athletic grounds, swimming pool, band shell, baseball fields, children's playground, and Washington Street.

The Tennis Courts and Golf Course

Lacking any Olmsted connection, but important to the popular and landscape history of the park, are its tennis courts and golf course. The tennis courts are first identified on an 1894 topographical map of the City of Baltimore and were installed during the university's tenure. In 1902, a group of patrons organized the Clifton Tennis Club[57] and by 1914, there were 26 (or 27, depending upon the source) clay tennis courts just east of the Mansion, a number which remained constant for several years thereafter.[58] In the 1910s, they were the most popular courts in the park system, in large part due to the convenience of showers, lockers, rest rooms, and porches available at the nearby Mansion.[59] Today, there are eleven all-weather courts. Famous players such as Arthur Ashe and Pam Shriver played on these and Druid Hill's courts in their youth.

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[54] Barry Kessler and David Zang, *The Play Life of the City of Baltimore's Recreation and Parks, 1900-1955*, Baltimore City Life Museums and Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks, 1989, p. 16.
[55] *Fifty-Sixth Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31,1915*, Baltimore: Meyer & Thalheimer, 9 and 10.
[56] *58th Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31,1917*, Baltimore: King Brothers, 1918, 9.
[57] Elliott, "The Acquisition of Clifton Park," p. 12, citing a 1902 *Sun* article.
[58] The number 26 comes from an original identification label on a 1926 photograph in the Paul Perot Collection at the Maryland Historical Society.
[59] *Annual Report for the Year 1916*, p. 9.

The golf course is a much more prominent feature of the landscape. It has received numerous alterations over the years, denying it the status of a "historic designed landscape" in its own right. Without it, however, Clifton's landscape history as a public park would be incomplete. The golf course should be considered an integral part of the historic designed landscape of the greater Clifton Park site.

The citizens of Baltimore first began agitating for a public golf course for working people in the early 1910s.[60] By 1916, the Commission responded with the inclusion of an 18-hole golf course at Clifton.[61] It was the first municipal golf course in the city and has been responsible, ever since, for the park's popularity citywide. Many state amateur championship were played on the course over the years, and at least a dozen golf pros reportedly got their start at Clifton.

Golf was first instituted in the United States in the 1780s by merchant-class Scottish immigrants who had settled in the south. By the late 19th century, its popularity and geographic foothold had increased significantly, and Americans emulated the Scottish in the development of "links" and clubs, which were social and athletic congregations of golf players. Between the 1880s and 1920s, the sport took hold in the American psyche and Clifton's golf patronage continued to be the highest of all city golf facilities.

According to a newspaper article from 1956, Clifton's golf course was laid out by Alexander Campbell, a Scotsman.[62] Campbell was born in Troon, Scotland in 1879 and was the oldest of seven golfing brothers.[63] He came to the United States in 1896, and played in several national competitions here, coming in second place in the 1907 U.S. Open. He served as the club professional at the Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, making him a neighbor of the Olmsted Brothers. It is possible, therefore, that the Olmsted Brothers suggested Campbell as a designer for Clifton's Golf Course, since the firm was actively working on improvements at the park in the 1910s. Whatever his introduction, Campbell ended up leaving Brookline for a job as the Baltimore Country Club pro. While in Baltimore, he also designed the Forest Park Municipal golf course, before moving on to Dayton, Ohio, where he served as a pro and designed additional courses. He died in 1942, having designed over thirty golf courses in his lifetime.

Despite its historical significance as the city's first course, the 1916 *Annual Report's* remarks on the matter are quite simple: "...there was also laid out a golf course of eighteen holes, which has proven quite popular, and which will be further improved as to trees and greens during the present year."[64] The Report noted the course's route: "The Golf Course starts from a place near the Mansion and the United Railways Company's passenger waiting station, following along side the Harford Road, then bears to the right and paralleling Erdman Avenue, then again bearing to the right and paralleling Belair Road to the slope of Lake Clifton embankment. The players then return by a course somewhat paralleling the route just described to the place of commencement."[65] According to the 1956 article, the 5,771 square foot course differed from other "links" of its day in that it had no special grass on level surfaces that served as putting greens and hardly any traps.[66] Under pressure to add tees, the Commission added 18 tees (at 6 x 12 feet) and 18 greens (at 50 x 50 feet) soon after the course opened. In 1917, two clock golf sets were installed.

In 1930, the golf course was changed in layout according to plans prepared for the Board of Park Commissioners, which are housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue. This remodeling was one of four or five such alterations to the course over the

[60] Ibid, citing March 31, 1913 *Sun* article.
[61] *Annual Report for the Year 1916*, p. 4.
[62] Newspaper article from May 22, 1956 located in the Clifton Park Vertical File at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Room.
[63] Information on Campbell comes from Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronal E. Whitten, *The Architects of Golf*, Harper Collins, 1993, 217.
[64] *Annual Report for the Year 1916*, p. 4.
[65] Ibid, p. 8.
[66] Information from a newspaper article of May 22, 1956 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Room, Clifton Park Vertical File.

past 75 years.[67] One of the course's remodelings (probably in 1930) was designed by Charles "Gus" Hook, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Baltimore for several decades. Hook is credited with the remodeling of Clifton's golf course in several golf publications.[68] In addition to remodeling Clifton and Forest Park municipal golf courses, Hook designed the courses at Carroll Park, Mount Pleasant Municipal Course (1933) and Pine Ridge Municipal Course (1959).

Architectural plans for 1930 also illustrate that a one-story rectangular ticket booth was designed simultaneously with the remodeled course. According to recent golf shop management, this ticket booth was located near the first tee, which was then close to Harford Road. Drawings from 1940 also show that Park Architect Frederick Thomas designed a major addition to the existing shop near the No.1 tee (possibly the "ticket booth structure), and called it the "Refectory Building," but it is not clear whether this building was ever constructed. In 1948, the first tee was moved from its Harford Road location to the lawn of the Mansion, and the golf pro shop was moved from what was described as a "small two-room building" behind the tee to the basement of the Mansion. The Mansion served as the golf course's pro shop and locker room for the next forty-five years, until the recent construction of a separate golf building.

The Mother's Garden

The next substantial improvement occurred in 1928, when the "Mother's Garden" was installed at the northern point of the park, where Harford and Erdman Roads intersect. The original plans were drawn by the City of Baltimore, Department of Parks & Squares, and dated September 12, 1926. They are available at the Department of Recreation and Parks. In a March 22, 1926 version of the plans (also housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue), the scheme remains the same except that the pergola and bridge are credited to by Sally Jo Hoss, Landscape Forester.

The Mothers' Garden was a sanctuary for "old fashioned flowers," including canterbury bells, phlox, zinnias, rhododendrons, iris, and lady's slippers.[69] Today, the garden's outline and built features are intact to the original plan, but the planting material has been modified in places. The plan features five spokes radiating from a rest pavilion at the top of a small hill, the whole composition contained within a loose circle with a lily pond that provides a linear element at the garden's east end. These five paths, paved in flagstone, create five hillside plots which were originally planted with old fashioned flowers. Bordering the garden on the east and north are masses of shrubbery which may be those that remain today. The lily pond no longer features water, but has been converted to a grass and flower bed.

The Garden's original built elements are constructed in an orange-brown stone known as "Maryland copper rock." They originally included a pergola at the north end, lily pond bridge on the east, and "rest pavilion" at the center. Other original features included a bronze sun dial, granite bird's bath, a limestone bench within the path system, lighting, and two sets of entrance posts. The rest pavilion features copper rock walls with raked joints, a flagstone floor, and asphalt roof that was originally slate. The pergola is a rock and log structure.[70] The bridge is built of reinforced concrete paved with copper rock with raked joints. The sun dial and bird bath are missing today, along with lamp posts that had hanging lanterns. A concrete foundation for the sun dial remains, located at the intersection of the entrance path Park Drive and the southern path. The bird bath stood at a wide section of the path, on line with the rest pavilion and a one of the entrance posts. The Mother's Garden dedication ceremonies were held August 30, 1928, and women from the Gold Star Mothers, the Mothers Clubs of the Playground Athletic League, and the City's home for the aged attended. The garden was rededicated in May 1984.

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[67] The information on the number of remodeling projects comes from Joe Vaeth, head golf professional at Clifton from 1959 to 1985, in the Baltimore Municipal Golf Course newsletter.
[68] Cornish and Whitten, *The Architects of Golf*, pp. 294-295.
[69] *Baltimore Sun* article, May 31, 1928, housed at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Clifton Park Vertical File.
[70] Original plans for the pergola are ambiguous regarding its construction, showing cedar logs for the roof on the plan portion of the drawings and chestnut logs for the roof on the elevation portion. Whatever was installed originally has recently been replaced with new logs.

Miscellaneous 20th Century Landscape Improvements after the Period of Significance

After 1917, when the *Annual Reports* end, newspaper articles, some photographs, and a few drawings provide periodic updates on the condition of the parks in the second quarter of the 20th century.[71] The Depression took its toll on the park, with workers laid off and some park land rededicated for other municipal needs. Clifton Park Junior High School was built on a southwest portion of the grounds in 1932 and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed several roads in the park during the decade, as WPA Project 507-597. A 1937 newspaper article records that there were four small lily ponds in place behind the gardener's cottage, a vinery beside the cottage with a pear orchard behind the vinery, and six greenhouses still standing in the vicinity.[72]

In 1940, the park received a new sports area adjacent to the tennis courts. It contained eight badminton courts and facilities for paddle tennis, volley ball, clock golf, deck tennis, service ball, archery and horse shoes. This facility no longer stands. A public comfort station was authorized as a WPA project in 1940 to be located on the Harford Road side of playing fields, but whether this was ever constructed is unclear.[73] By 1947, a second running track had been installed in the area behind the band stand, and a Department of Parks drawing for that year shows the addition of "pits" at the track. The *Annual Report* for that year states that the running "track" (singular) was a popular attraction, making it unclear whether the original Olmsted Brothers-designed track in the athletic ground south of the railroad was still used for running. In 1962, Lake Clifton was filled in for the construction of a high school. In the late 1970s, city farms were added to the area east of the gardener's cottage. In the 1990s, a small children's playground was installed between the Mansion and Shops Building.

7.2.3 STRUCTURES

1. *Circulation System:* 1841-1917

The contributing features of the circulation system at the park are scattered in their location, and date from the period when Johns Hopkins first improved the grounds to the time when the Olmsted Brothers' plans were implemented. The circulation system meets NR Criterion C for its embodiment of the characteristics of both a 19th century Romantic landscape and 20th century active recreation park.

In the area around the Mansion, one can still see evidence of the Romantic pattern from Hopkins' day. Between his porter's lodge and the main house, Hopkins laid out a sinuous drive in the shape of a reverse "S" curve. The drive began on Harford Road, bowed out on the north side of the Mansion, dipped down southeast of the Mansion, and turned northward to progress underneath the house's west-end porte cochere before re-merging on the north side of the house. In this non-direct manner of entry, Hopkins was heeding a key principle of the Romantic School that neither the house nor entrance lodge be visible from one another and that the main drive be one of mystery.[74] Today, while the start of the drive at Harford Road no longer exists, one can still locate the point on the grounds where the drive dipped to the southeast of the Mansion. This drive can still be followed underneath the porte cochere and back out to the north side of the Mansion. In a second possible example from the mid-19th century, part of the drive leading to the Mansion alongside the tennis courts may date to Hopkins' era, when a drive appears in the same location (*see* Figure 2). Other circulation routes that remain from Hopkins' day include the main path to the gardener's cottage, and well-worn paths through tall grass leading to the north of the cottage toward the parterre garden. Within the parterre garden itself, herringbone brick paths identify the divisions between historic planting beds while representing a

[71] *See*, Clifton Park Vertical File at he Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Room.
[72] "Baltimore Around the Clock," *Evening Sun*, May 22, 1937. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Room, Clifton Park Vertical File.
[73] Item identified in the Park Commission minutes for November, 1938, housed at the Baltimore City Archives.
[74] Ibid, p. 360.

newer material.

Several changes in the circulation system that are evident today date to the time when the grounds were owned by Johns Hopkins University, between 1874-1894. The most prominent change was instituted by the city's Water Board and represents the addition of Washington Street (now St. Lo Drive) circa 1888 to provide access to the new reservoir, Lake Clifton. The drive on the south side of the tennis courts which leads east up to the Park Superintendent's house dates to this period also and was presumably initiated by the university to provide access to athletic fields and the caretaker's farmhouse.

When the Park Commission acquired the property, it placed the improvement of circulation as a high priority. In 1897, there were six entrances to Clifton: four on Harford Road, one on South Washington Street, and one on Belair Road. Only two had gates at the time, and the Commission repaired the iron gates at the main entrance and erected new double wooden gates elsewhere. General Superintendent Charles H. Latrobe, a skilled engineer and architect, prepared plans for the improvement of the grounds at the main entrances on Harford Road and around the Mansion, but was stalled by a slow-moving Commission. The nature of these plans is not known. Latrobe, seeing the larger picture, also recommended transportation changes that presaged Olmsted Brothers' recommendations in their 1904 *Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds.* Specifically, Latrobe pointed out that the drive system throughout Clifton could be connected with the drive around Lake Montebello by means of a brief tunnel under Harford Road, and that Lake Montebello could be connected with Druid Hill Park by creating a boulevard along 33rd Street, Charles Street, 30th Street, King Avenue, and Cedar Avenue. Latrobe also recommended a transportation link between Druid Hill Park and Carroll Park using Fulton Avenue.

In its 1898 *Annual Report,* the Commission remarked upon the future development of a "system of driveways for Clifton," noting that only when it was completed should the open lawns of the park be planted with trees. The same report described the completion of a 1,400 foot long new loop around the Mansion, which was completed save for an "essential" connection with the main entrance.[75] This is the main loop drive that exists around the Mansion today. The City also inserted the double key hole-shaped flower-lined path directly on axis with the Mansion's front door. The first bulge in the path held a marble urn, and the second bulge still houses a flagpole. In the same vicinity, the City also altered the footpath leading away from the house to the southeast at an uncertain date, a feature which remains in the grounds today. Also in 1898, the lake driveway was turned over from the Water Board to the Park Commission for maintenance. The 1898 *Report* noted that footways in the park were restricted to an esplanade east of the Mansion, a spring south of Washington Street, a connection between a stone bridge and the Belair Road, and the system through the nursery and gardener's cottage.

In 1901, the City built a continuous gravel drive from Belair Road to Harford Road and linked Clifton with Lake Montebello to its north. Another new road connected the greenhouse terrace and the drive to Belair Road. New gravel was placed on the main entrance road from Harford Avenue to the Valve House. In 1902, the Commission commented on the proposed connection of Clifton with Wyman Park and Druid Hill Park via a boulevard, stressing the increasing desirability of the park for recreational driving.

In the 1904-1917 period, the Olmsted Brothers instituted the Clifton Park - Wyman Park boulevard connection, and designed many improvements to the park's internal circulation system that remain intact to varying degrees today. These include grading and topography plans for Washington Street (St. Lo Drive) and Harford Road, the circulation systems around the band shell and children's playground, and walk connections between Washington Street and the bath house. Although the Olmsted Brothers provided a 1915 plan for improving walk and drive connections to the Mansion from Harford Road and surrounding the Mansion itself, this plan was never implemented. It consisted of a much more direct drive from Harford Road to the Mansion and a figure eight or double loop concept in the area of the Mansion itself, with the house in the center of the upper loop and the

[75] 39th *Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1898*, Baltimore: Thos. J. Sheubrooks, 1899), 37.

lower loop located on its south lawn (*see* Figure 5).

In 1914, with greater automobile and pedestrian use, the Commission abandoned its soft road and path surfaces in favor of hard, smooth surfaces such as crushed stone mixed with heavy tar and asphalt binders, and concrete and cement paths. Pebble gutters were replaced with concrete and concrete curbing was added. In 1914, electric lights fed by an underground wiring system were installed at the driveway approach from North Avenue.[76] These changes, while functional, marked the transition from the softer, equestrian-oriented park of the Romantic movement to the harder, automobile-oriented park of the Active Recreation era.

2. *Lake Clifton Valve House (Gate House):* 1887/1888

This resource is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. It meets NR Criterion C for its architectural, industrial, scientific, and engineering significance. Originally constructed to house machinery associated with the operation of Lake Clifton, the valve house is an extraordinary structure combining ornamental and functional purposes. It incorporates Gothic and Romanesque elements in an eclectic, picturesque composition characteristic of late 19th century design.

In 1876, the City's Water Board dammed the Gunpowder River at Lock Raven in order to bring water to the northeast section of the city. A reservoir was built at B&O Railroad President John W. Garrett's estate, Montebello, for distribution of the water. Just a few short years later, however, in 1879, the Water Board recognized Lake Montebello's limited capacity, and began searching for a second reservoir site. It requested 72 acres of land from the Johns Hopkins University trustees for a second reservoir one mile south of Montebello. Johns Hopkins himself already had an ornamental lake on the grounds, but nothing of the scale or character required for a city reservoir. The trustees declined to sell, fearing loss of a portion of the land would diminish the estate's potential value overall. The City initiated condemnation proceedings, and forced the trustees to the table. As a result, they sold over 44 acres to the Water Board.[77]

The reservoir, called Lake Clifton, was completed in 1888 at the southeast end of the former Hopkins estate. It was a large oval body of water surrounded by a dirt road. The octagonal Valve House, or Gate House, was required to operate the reservoir's flow from Lake Montebello. A 108-inch pipeline ran from Lake Montebello, underneath Harford Road and Washington Streets, to Lake Clifton. The water flowed through the valves (or gates) under the valve house, as it coursed south to supply the lake. According to the 1970 National Register nomination, the engineers for the structure were Edward Heffner, Jr., Samuel W. Knapman, and Charles A. Hook, the Director of Recreation and Parks for several decades. Washington Street was constructed to provide access to the lake from the city and the Valve House was positioned as a focal point where the street took a 90 degree turn.

Like Druid Hill Park's western pumping station and marble tower, and Montebello's valve house, edifices constructed by the Water Board in the second half of the 19th century were architectural gems reflecting a range of stylistic idioms. Clifton's valve house, for example, was designed with the spirit of a small medieval cathedral. Rock-faced granite walls are trimmed in smooth-faced ashlar. Openings are large Romanesque archways alternating with what were originally stained glass, paired Gothic windows. A pyramidal clay tile roof supported by iron trusses caps the octagonal form. Above the cornice, gabled dormers with paired Gothic windows and Jacobean parapets enlivens the roofline. At the apex of the roof is a tile-clad minaret. Ornamental dolphins were once a decorative icon of the building (their location uncertain), but were stolen over the years. On the interior, large wheels were set beneath the marble flooring for powering the water gates and still remained in 1973. A marble table that used to rest along an interior wall commemorated the completion of the project in 1888. "1887" is also sandblasted on the exterior stonework. An electric light system plan for the park, dated September 30, 1915 (available at the

[76] *Fifty-Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1914,* Baltimore: Meyer & Thalheimer, 1915, 12.
[77] Elliott, "The Acquisition of Clifton Park."

Department of Recreation and Parks) identifies the valve house as the "gate house" and the former farm house immediately to its north as the "gate keeper's residence," indicating that a Water Board employee lived in the farmhouse to monitor the machinery for the reservoir. The valve house remained operational well into the 20th century, but was no longer needed by the 1960s. In 1962, the city drained the lake and filled it for a new high school completed in 1971.

The building has had few or no alterations, but has lost much of its historic fabric. Iron gates in the lower half of the arched openings date to 1938. Most of the stained glass has been lost or shattered. The roof is missing most of its tiles. Currently, a developer has obtained the right to convert the building into an office, following the Secretary of Interior's Standards for historic preservation. Work has begun on the adjacent grounds to install electrical and water service, and no work on the structure has started.

3. *The Band Shell: 1908/1949*

This structure meets NR Criterion A for its association with the early 20th century development of the Baltimore City park system. Although its architecture dates primarily to the late 1940s (beyond the period of significance), the shell's positioning in the landscape and its role in the park's cultural history stem from the early 20the century and account for its contribution to the park.

In 1906, Major Richard M. Venable, then President of the Park Board, requested that Wyatt & Nolting design a combination band shell, shelter, and toilet for the park. The desired location was selected by Warren Manning, then Superintendent of the Parks. It was along Washington Street leading from Harford Road to the valve house. Along with the band shell, pergolas were planned lining both sides of Washington Street. This location for the band shell was altered to its current site by the Olmsted Brothers, however, who thought that the topography in that area was wrong for a concert grove, commenting wryly: "as a rule, people don't like to sit with their heels higher than their hands."[78] In addition, the landscape architecture firm objected to the proposed orientation of the shell with its back to the drive. The Olmsted Brothers thought this positioning would deny automobile drivers the ability to hear concerts from their cars. As unofficial designers for park improvements, the Olmsted Brothers also suggested movable benches, wide aisles on axis, and festoons of incandescent light that could be hung between trees on concert nights, or for fairs and garden parties.

Wyatt & Nolting accepted the Olmsted Brothers' recommendations, designing a "music shell" in 1908. The *Annual Report* for that year described its construction, complete with electric lighting. The original band shell stood like a small classical temple in the landscape. It featured a cylinder within a rectangular loggia, and fluted Tuscan columns and quoined corner piers framed the structure. The columns and piers supported a Classical entablature. The shell projected above the entablature and was open on the facade and featured small, grilled windows near the arch on the rear. The Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline contains photographs of the structure at its completion and renovation plans housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue include tracings of the original 1907 Wyatt & Nolting drawings. From these tracings, it is known that the original band shell and entablature were made of wood and the columns and piers of concrete. A stucco Greek fret motif ran along the cornice at the arch and a modest arched niche in the shell's back wall lent a touch of elegance. Enclosed storage space surrounded the shell and was accessed via the rear of the building, but was not visible to the public. The first concerts at the new shell took place in 1914. Five narrow paths radiated out from the shell in an easterly direction, with benches providing seating between them. Harry Gross, Park Engineer, was responsible for the steps around the bandstand, according to a drawing of the original structure dated April, 1908 (housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue).

[78] Letter from Olmsted Associates to Warren S. Manning, 7-18-06. Series B, Project No. 2407, Olmsted Brothers Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

On March 25, 1947, a fire devastated the structure. What stands today was built following the fire and is a renovated and stripped version of the original shell. Plans prepared by the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Building Construction in October, 1948, show how the band shell was partially rebuilt at that time. (These plans are housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue). The existing arch was retained, but columned terraces were lost. In their place, stubby, stucco-on-cinder block wings were added to either side, resting upon a portion of the terraces' concrete floors. The remaining extent of the terrace floors extend blankly into the landscape. The 1948 plans detail the removal of stucco in the band shell arch and the addition of new stucco to "hide the existing design completely with flat surface," thus removing from view the Greek fret which ran along the arched cornice in the Wyatt & Nolting design. The plans also depict the reworking of the rear elevation of the shell with a gambrel roof in asbestos tile and non-descript doors and windows to provide access to toilets. The revised structure opened in 1949 and the features that remain today date to this period. The band shell was abandoned in 1964. The building is in fair condition, with the concrete floor spalling badly.

4. *The Mother's Garden Rest Pavilion:* 1928

The Mother's Garden rest pavilion is the centerpiece of the Mother's Garden, designed in 1926 and dedicated two years later. This copper rock pavilion meets NR Criterion A for its association with the early 20th century development of the city park system. (*See* "Site" description for more information). It also meets Criterion C for its contribution to the designed landscape of the park.

5. *The Mother's Garden Pergola:* 1928

This pergola is a defining feature of the Mother's Garden, dedicated in 1928. This copper rock and log pergola meets NR Criterion A for its association with the early 20th century development of the city park system. (*See* "Site" description for more information). It also meets Criterion C for its contribution to the designed landscape of the park.

6. *The Mother's Garden Foot Bridge:* 1928

This foot bridge is a defining feature of the Mother's Garden, dedicated in 1928. This diminutive, copper rock-faced bridge meets NR Criterion A for its association with the early 20th century development of the city park system. (*See* "Site" description for more information). It also meets Criterion C for its contribution to the designed landscape of the park.

7. *Octagonal Pavilion: Early 20th Century?* :

This octagonal pavilion appears to fall within the park's period of significance and may represent the rebuilding of an earlier structure. Its exact chronology remains unclear, however, and much of its material and workmanship appear to be recent. The first pavilion to stand on the Clifton grounds dated to Johns Hopkins' day. On the 1874 map of Johns Hopkins University grounds (*See* Figure 2), a small octagonal structure can be seen to the southeast of the Mansion. It was approached by a network of paths just east of the main drive. An undated but seemingly late 19th century photograph housed at the John Hopkins University, Hamburger Archives, reveals the character of this structure, but from a distance. The photograph reveals a very delicate structure with a pyramidal roof, extremely narrow vertical supports, and a railing at its base; clearly not the structure that stands today. An entry in the 1896 Park Commission *Annual Report* notes that the "summer house overlooking Lake Clifton was nearly rebuilt, painted and furnished with benches."[79] Neither the 1896 nor the 1906 Bromley Atlases, however, show the structure on the grounds, indicating perhaps that a simple frame pavilion was deemed too insignificant to record. The structure that stands today, therefore, cannot be tied to any known provenance based on available archival sources.

[79] *Annual Report of 1896*, p. 35.

It is located to the southeast of the Mansion, near the location of the original Hopkins gazebo. It rests upon a contemporary brick foundation and has a concrete floor. It features timber framework and wood infill walls. Each of the building's eight short walls is pierced by Gothic arched openings and saw-cut clovers above. The railing is a solid wood panel with sawn vertical slits. The pyramidal roof has asphalt shingling and is in need of repair.

7.2.4 OBJECTS

1. *St. Lo Drive Gate: 1909*

In 1909, the *Annual Report* notes that pillars were added at the Washington Street entrance to the park.[80] These Port Deposit granite posts meet NR Criterion C as one of several gates that, together throughout the park, represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. They are granite shafts set upon two-step plinths and featuring wide entablatures and flat panel caps. In 1947, the gates are featured in an architectural drawing showing that Clifton Park and Saint-Lo Drive were to be incised in the granite and that bronze dedication plaques were to be secured to the pillars' inner faces. These features were added to commemorate the re-naming of this portion of Washington Street to St. Lo Drive, after the French city of the same name. In July 1944, that city was liberated by the 29th Infantry Division, and the gates were rededicated as a memorial for the men of that division.

2. *The Harford Road Gate: Circa* 1921

These poured concrete gate posts most likely date to circa 1921, when a Park Commission drawing (housed at city offices at 2600 Madison Avenue) shows "typical" gates of this character. Similar gate posts can be found at Patterson Park. They meet NR Criterion C as one of several gates that, together throughout the park, represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Bronze plaques dating to 1947 that identify Clifton Park on the Harford Road elevations and St. Lo Drive on their inner faces either were never installed or have since been removed.

3. *Mother's Garden Gates:* 1928

This resource consists of two separate locations of a pair of copper rock gate posts linked by chains. The gate posts are located on Park Drive: one at its intersection with Harford Road and one just south beyond a small gravel parking area. As part of the Mother's Garden complex, they meet NR Criterion A for their association with the early 20th century development of the city park system. They also meet NR Criterion C for their contribution to the designed landscape of the park.

4. *Belair Road Gate: 1930s*

These copper rock gate posts and the road leading into the park from them were constructed as Works Progress Administration Project #20 and are identified as such in a photograph housed at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. They meet NR Criterion C as one of several gates that, together throughout the park, represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The gates consist of ashlar stone blocks set in courses on a plinth of the same character. The stones at the top of the posts are corbelled. On the Belair Road face of both posts, large smooth stones have been sandblasted to read "Clifton Park."

[80] *50th and 51st Annual Reports of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 1909 and 1910*, Baltimore: Meyer & Thalheimer, 1911, 24

5. *Hopkins' Marble Urn*

This marble urn stood, until recently, in the keyhole path that leads from the Mansion entrance southward onto the main lawn. The piece is a very large marble urn dating as a part of the landscape to Hopkins' era, when marble urns and statuary were abundant on the estate's lawn. The urn meets NR Criterion B for its association with Hopkins and Criterion C for its association with the romantic designed landscape of his day. It is now kept in storage due to recent vandalism and requires restoration. The urn has been replaced with a cast iron urn of period design. It has also been vandalized and has been twice repaired.

6. *On the Trail:* 1915 / 1916 *Park Placement*

This sculpture was presented to the city by the Peabody Institute, William H. Rhinehart Fund, and in 1916 became the first monument in the park. Rhinehart was a Baltimore sculptor who died in 1874. The statue meets NR Citerion A for its association with the development of the Baltimore park system in the early 20th century.

The sculptor was Edward Berge, who studied in Paris under Auguste Rodin. Reportedly, it was Mayor James H. Preston who came up with the idea for an Indian scout sculpture.[81] While in Paris, Berge made a model of the Indian scout and exhibited it at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904, where it won a medal. The 7-foot 4-inch bronze is a dramatic depiction of an Indian warrior. He stands upon a seven foot flint boulder atop a high marble base with bronze leaves climbing from the boulder up his back. The boulder came from Deer Creek in Harford County where Mayor Preston had played as a child. Like Rodin's work, the figure of the Indian is highly muscular and is depicted as he is moving. His left hand shades his eyes as he looks ahead and the same hand contains three arrows. He clutches a bow in his right hand. A leather thong holds up his loin cloth and also contains his ax. He is wearing moccasins and a feather stands up from the top of his head. In 1945, vandals broke the Indian's bow, which is still missing. Otherwise, the sculpture is in good condition except for the thick mass of yew that hides its inscription.

7.3 NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Clifton Park is comprised of Lot ½ in Block 4199. The land is owned by the Mayor and City Council and managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks. It contains 266.746 acres. The following parcels are owned by the Mayor and City Council, but are managed by the Department of Education: Lot 8 (the valve house), Lot 9 (Lake Clifton Senior High School), Lot 10 (Clifton Park Junior High School), and Lot 2A (School No. 94). Lot 7, St. Vincent's Cemetery, has been privately owned since 1854, as has the Hebrew Cemetery (Block 4181). Two other lots were sold earlier in the century to private interests: Lot 4/6 (former lot BX-2) and Old Lot BX-3, consisting primarily of semi-industrial buildings on Sinclair Lane east of Patterson Park Avenue. (*See* Boundary Map at end of report). All buildings or objects on Lots 7, 9, 10, 2A, 4/6, and Old Lot BX-3 are considered noncontributing because they do not relate directly to the park's significance as an estate or public recreation center or have poor integrity. They are not enumerated below because they are technically outside of park boundaries.

The valve house (Lot 8) is the only structure that is technically outside of the park boundaries but is considered a contributing resource of Clifton Park. This contribution is based on the valve house's historical association with Lake Clifton, which functioned as a major attraction of the park between 1888 and 1969.

[81] *See*, Cindy Kelly's work for Save our Sculpture Survey, located with the City of Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation.

The following structures within Lot ½ are considered noncontributing resources. They are listed below, along with type of resource (B=Building; ST=Structure), date of construction, and reason for status.

Name of Resource	Type	Date	Reason	
1. Golf Club House	B	1993	Recent	
2. Golf Course Maintenance Building	B	2nd quarter	Architecturally 20th century	undistinguished
3. Garage behind Superintendent's House	ST	20th century	Recent and architecturally	undistinguished.

Summary Statement of Significance:

As the home of a prosperous merchant named Henry Thompson, the elegant summer retreat of Johns Hopkins, the potential site of the Johns Hopkins University, and one of the city's most widely used public parks, Clifton has played many roles in the history of Baltimore's evolution from farm land to sophisticated urban center. As a result, the park meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C for its multi-faceted historical, architectural, and landscape architectural significance.

Clifton Park meets National Register (NR) Criterion A for its association with the development of the city's park system in the 19th and 20th centuries. Seizing upon the opportunity to provide a public park for the northeast sector of the City, Mayor Ferdinand Latrobe III acquired Clifton from the trustees of Johns Hopkins University in 1895. The city's initial stewardship was guided primarily by horticultural interests, but as the new century approached, so did new ideals. By 1919, thanks to the Commission's responsiveness to the public and the vision of the Olmsted Brothers, Clifton Park would be described as the "Elysian Fields" of Baltimore, with an 18-hole golf course, 27 tennis courts, a 3½ acre swimming pool, and baseball, football and lacrosse fields.[82]

The park meets NR Criterion B for its particular association with Johns Hopkins, patron and namesake of the world-renowned Johns Hopkins University and Hospital. Hopkins purchased Clifton in 1841 and remodeled its farmhouse into one of the most elaborate Italian villas in the city. In addition to updating the house, Hopkins reworked the grounds into an Arcadian landscape, complete with planned vistas to the harbor, winding drives and paths, a porter's lodge, gardener's cottage, orchards, crops, and parterre gardens. A small, but significant part of the grounds' character and two of its most celebrated buildings hark back to Hopkins' 1841-1873 occupation.

Finally, the park meets NR Criterion C in two ways: for its architectural and landscape architecture significance. Regarding the first measure, the park's collection of built resources includes several unparalleled examples of building types and architectural styles, such as the Italian Villa Mansion, Gothic Revival gardener's cottage, and Gothic/Romanesque Revival valve house, as well as a rare example of a Stick Style house in the Superintendent's house. Along with these Victorian edifices are three notable 20th century resources that represent the work of a well-known local firm and the park's official architect. Regarding Clifton's landscape architecture significance, the park is a strong example of a designed landscape of high artistic value. Within the 19th century, Clifton was laid out as a private estate in the English landscape garden tradition advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing. Clifton still features the "Beautiful" landscape elements of this tradition in its broad lawns, tall shade trees, vista to the harbor, and remnants of its meandering drive. On the other hand, the Clifton of the early 20th century was a pioneer in the area of active recreation, hosting the city's first municipal golf course, largest artificial swimming pool in the country, and the greatest concentration of tennis courts in the city. People flocked to Clifton to engage in the newly discovered joys of publicly-sponsored athletic recreation. These improvements required extensive planning, grading, road building, and planting operations. Most of this work was spearheaded by the Olmsted Brothers and is still manifest in the landscape today.

The period of significance of Clifton Park dates from ca. 1790, the year the first farmhouse was built on the property to 1940, the year by which the last major edifice, the Shops Building, was completed.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The history and cultural significance of Clifton Park are described below in the following fashion:

[82] Elliott, "The Acquisition of Clifton Park," p. 12, citing *Baltimore Journal* article of August 18, 1919.

1. The Early Farm Years and Henry Thompson's Ownership: Ca. 1790-1841
2. Johns Hopkins and the Art of Landscape Gardening: 1841-1873
3. The Johns Hopkins University: 1874-1894
4. Clifton Park: 1895- 1956

8.2.1 THE EARLY FARM YEARS AND HENRY THOMPSON'S OWNERSHIP: CA. 1790-1841

The history of settlement at Clifton dates to the 18th century when a stone farm house was built on the property ca. 1790.[83] This farm house still stands as the core of Clifton Mansion. According to deed research, the ground now known as Clifton appears to have been part of the tract called "Orange," various parcels of which belonged to Abraham and Isaac Van Bibber, Nicholas Carroll, John Nicholson, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and John Wise in the late 18th century.[84] Any one of these gentlemen could have built the original house.[85]

The first owner known to have added to the original house was Henry Thompson. He purchased 100 acres of the "Orange" tract from John Nicholson in 1799.[86] Thompson would figure widely in the rebuilding of the farm house on the tract. Thompson was born in Sheffield, England in 1774 and settled in Baltimore twenty years later, where he was in business as Hodgson and Thompson operating a dry goods store and hardware business. In 1798, he married Ann Lux Bowly, the daughter of Daniel Bowly of "Furley," a wealthy Baltimore merchant. Thompson himself went on to establish a large fortune as Henry Thompson & Son, Commission Merchants. As a prominent citizen, Thompson was elected to the position of director on numerous boards, including that of the Baltimore and Harford Turnpike Company, the Port Deposit Railroad, and the Bank of Baltimore. In 1818, he was appointed to head the Poppleton Survey, and was thus responsible for the ultimate development of a street plan for the City of Baltimore.

In 1801, Thompson purchased additional parts of "Orange" from John Wise, increasing his land holdings north of the city.[87] Thompson continued to assemble land in the vicinity, including the estate and property of William Magruder in 1801 and of David Geddes in 1802.[88] As a careful man used to recording business transactions, Thompson also kept a personal diary that today provides invaluable information on his contributions to the house at Clifton.[89] In 1803, he recorded the first direct statement on "Clifton," writing: "All of our family moved out to Clifton." A February 11, 1814 entry corroborates this date, noting: "Stayed because of bad weather first time since living at Clifton, nearly 11 years."[90]

Thompson continued to purchase part of the Orange tract by buying a 150 acre parcel from Abraham Van Bibber in 1804.[91] That same year, Thompson transferred a 55 acre part of his property to Daniel Bowly, his father-in-law, the reason for which is unclear.[92] Thompson's diary records that Mr. Bowly planted the apple orchard at Clifton two years prior on March 29, 1802. Bowly died November 12, 1807 and in a list of the property of Daniel Bowly recorded in Chancery Court in 1810, the court

[83] The estimated date of the core farmhouse, circa 1790, comes from Baltimore architects Michael Trostel and Peter Pearre, who undertook an architectural evaluation of Clifton Mansion. *See*, "Description," "Mansion" at the beginning of this nomination for more information.
[84] Information taken from deed research completed by John Brunnett, AIA, a Baltimore architect involved in ongoing restoration of the Mansion.
[85] The chain of title for the late 18th century is somewhat confusing, especially without the benefit of a plat or tax assessment data to corroborate information. Henry Thompson, the second owner of the house, also purchased land in the area from Magruder and David Geddes, but it is unclear whether that land was considered part of "Orange." The Federal Tax of 1798 for Baltimore County records Abraham Van Bibber owning a house on the Philadelphia Road, but its dimension and the location does not match Clifton.
[86] Baltimore County Land Records, Liber WG 56, Folio 190.
[87] Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 67, Folio 640.
[88] Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 70, Folio 676.
[89] Henry Thompson's diaries are housed at the Maryland Historical Society.
[90] Ibid.
[91] Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 81, Folio 28.
[92] Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 82, Folio 312.

divided Bowly's estate equally among his heirs. "Clifton" was one of the properties assigned to Ann, Bowly's daughter and Thompson's wife, thus returning the estate to Thompson's hand.[93]

In 1812, Thompson records the construction of a major addition to his home at Clifton in great detail in his diary. (*See* "Mansion House" in "Description" section above). The addition nearly doubled the size of the house, and turned it from a standard Federal farmhouse into a Neoclassical Mansion with piazza in front and octagonal room at the rear. An insurance statement dated December 1, 1818 from the Baltimore Equitable Society verifies the dimensions, orientation, and materials of Thompson's addition(s) to the house, along with the fact that the outside walls of the whole house were now plastered.[94] Earlier that same year, in May 1818, the property was assessed, indicating Thompson's ownership of 260 acres in "Orange," 160 acres in "Theredimes," plus improvements, 10 slaves, 6 horses, 6 cattle, 50 sheep, and 2 garages.[95]

By 1823, Henry Thompson's acreage in Orange had grown to 300 acres. In September 1835, Henry and Ann conveyed the 55 acre Clifton property, identified as "Lot 65 of the Baltimore Company Plan" to Daniel Cobb for $12,000, plus four parcels that had belonged to their deceased son John for an additional $8,000.[96] Henry Thompson died on August 24, 1837 at the age of 63. In 1839, his sons Henry Anthony Thompson and Samuel Thompson filed a complaint against Ruth Cobb, the executrix of Daniel Cobb's estate. A decree of Baltimore County Court and court of Equity passed on April 2, 1839 appointed Edward Hinkley trustee to hold the auction of the Thompson estate. In February 1841, Hopkins purchased the 55 Clifton acres plus 101 acres of the parcels originally owned by John Nicholson for $15,000.[97]

8.2.2 JOHNS HOPKINS AND THE ART OF LANDSCAPE GARDENING: 1841-1873

Hopkins purchased the estate as his summer residence, content to live during other seasons in a townhouse in the city, first on Lombard Street, and later on West Saratoga Street. For the first ten or so years, Hopkins lived in the house as he bought it before undertaking a major addition.

Johns Hopkins rose to prominence as a city leader from a hardworking childhood and entrepreneurial young adulthood. By the time he settled at Clifton, he was a well-respected businessman with ownership of or major stakes in his own commission merchant business, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and several banks. By the mid 19th century, he could count himself amongst the city's financial elite, keeping company in the countryside with John W. Garrett, President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, who lived at Montebello next door.

Hopkins was born a Quaker in 1795 in Anne Arundel County. After several years of school, he and his brothers were forced to drop out in 1807 to work full time on the family's tobacco plantation. This change was necessitated by his parents' decision to free their slaves according to the Society of Friends' decree on the immorality of slavery. In 1812, Hopkins moved to Baltimore to live with an uncle, Gerrard Hopkins, to assist him with his wholesale grocery and commission merchant business. While with his uncle, he flourished as a merchant and fell in love with Gerrard's daughter, his first cousin, Elizabeth. The marriage was forbidden by his uncle and the Quaker Church, and neither Elizabeth nor Johns ever married throughout their lifetimes.

In 1819, during an economic downturn, Hopkins split with his uncle, forming his own grocery and merchant business. The split arose because Johns agreed to accept whiskey as payment for goods while his uncle, a devout Quaker, declined to do so. Johns then fashioned a new business from this payment, bottling and selling the whiskey as "Hopkins' Best." Profits from the

[93] Chancery Court, Liber 80, Folio 253-323.
[94] Baltimore Equitable Society Information from the Baltimore City Archives, as copied by Trostel & Pearre Architects.
[95] Baltimore County Commission of Tax.
[96] Baltimore County Land Records, Liber TK 252, Folio 539.
[97] Baltimore County Land Records, Liber TK 306, Folio 393.

whiskey trade enabled Johns to venture into banking and commercial warehousing, as well as investing. In the second quarter of the 19th century, Hopkins had invested heavily in the new Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, becoming one of its directors by 1847 and chairman of its financing committee in 1855. After the State of Maryland and City of Baltimore, Hopkins was the railroad's largest investor. His entrepreneurial reach grew, extending to steamships, insurance companies, and warehousing. He generously extended lines of credit to the city during hard times, while living a very frugal existence in many ways himself.[98]

Hopkins' Imprint upon Clifton

Despite his personal frugality in manner of dress and transportation, Hopkins was determined to make Clifton a model of good taste. While continuing the tradition of farming at Clifton, he also converted a large portion of the estate into a pleasure ground. Through its architecture and landscape setting, Clifton Park is the place that best demonstrates Johns Hopkins' prominence, education, hobbies, and tastes. In 1852, he undertook a major renovation of the Georgian Mansion on the property, enlarging it substantially and converting it to an Italian Villa. In this effort, Hopkins placed himself in the forefront of the "rural architecture" movement nationwide. The revised Mansion, designed by Niernsee and Neilson, was a tour de force of Downingesque architecture. He also constructed a porter's lodge for the caretaker's family, a gardener's cottage (east of the Mansion and the centerpiece of Hopkins' intense horticultural activities), and several farmhouses on the property that made it a self-contained community of sorts. From the porter's lodge, one wound through varied scenery, eventually arriving at the Mansion, and, beyond it, experiencing a man-made lake used for rowing, swimming, and fishing, wide lawns with groves or individual plantings of rare trees and bushes, and complicated "gardenesque" floral displays. His estate included a boat house, bath houses, a bridge, and islands. The walk from the main gate to the Mansion was lined with life-size Classical statues. The Mansion house was cared for by Mr. Hopkins' widowed sister, Mrs. Crenshaw, while a farmer, gardener, and vegetable gardener resided in the various picturesque dwellings on the estate. Hopkins grew wheat, corn, and potatoes; had pear orchards; and constructed a line of hothouses for oranges, grapes, flowers, and tropical trees. With the estate as a self-sufficient Arcadia of sorts and the Italian Villa Mansion as its heart, Hopkins was directly inspired by the philosophies of Andrew Jackson Downing.

The English Landscape Gardening School and Andrew Jackson Downing's Role as Interpreter

At almost exactly the same time that Hopkins purchased Clifton, Downing, a horticulturist by training, was promoting the ideals of English landscape gardening and urging its practice in both the private and public spheres. Writing in the 1840s and 1850s, Hopkins most certainly would have been aware of Downing's views. Downing's 1841 book, *A Treatise on the Theory* and *Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America; with a View to the Improvement of Country Residences,* had the most relevance for Hopkins in planning both the addition to his house and the landscaping of his grounds. One year later, Downing authored *Cottage Residences* and, in 1850, *The Architecture of Country Houses.* These books were, essentially, pattern books of "Downingesque" architecture. As for the influence of the English landscape gardening school in the public sphere, Downing's writings in the *Horticulturist* and William Cullen Bryant's editorials in the *New York Evening Post* focused attention on the need for a great rural park for New York City. Both men advocated London as a model for public parks landscaped in the private estate tradition.

Downing was inspired to press for English style public parks because of the recent success of the "rural cemeteries" in this country, also inspired by the English landscape school. The rural cemeteries were park-like burial grounds which featured romantic elements such as winding drives, small lakes, and secluded groves. The rural cemetery movement was initiated in Boston in 1831 by the efforts of a local doctor and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society to create a place of burial that was

[98] Hopkins was known for not owning an overcoat and walking everywhere, a fact that some speculate led to a cold that he caught in the winter of 1873 that ultimately killed him.

seen as healthful. Their collaboration resulted in Mount Auburn Cemetery, a spot that became popular not only with families of the dead, but with other visitors and sightseers. The melancholy beauty of these new cemeteries drew people to stroll, relax, and even picnic amongst picturesque mausoleums and markers. Writing in 1849 that New York, Philadelphia, and Boston all had great cemeteries, Downing wondered why the principles of the same English landscape school could not be applied to places for the living.

In his *Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture,* Downing described the English landscape school of the 18th century as the "modern" school of landscape gardening for 19th century America. Downing contrasted this school with the formal landscape gardening practiced by the "ancients." The modern school was an attempt to create a seemingly natural portrayal of nature through great manipulation. The practitioners of the school were inspired by painters of the prior century - Nicholas Poussin, Salvatore Rosa, and Claude Lorraine - who painted dramatic canvasses of an ideal and powerful nature.

The first of the practitioners of the new school was Sir John Vanbrugh, who created a romantic landscape for Blenheim Palace in 1700. His vision was carried forward and crystallized in the work of Charles Bridgeman, William Kent, and Capability Brown, culminating in the work at the end of the century by Humphrey Repton. The English landscape school continued into the next century through the popular "Gardenesque" theories of botanist John Claudius Loudon, whose writings focused on the display of exotic plants in the landscape. All of these practitioners' works were studied by Downing and others who translated the style into a vision for America.

The English gardeners were inspired not only by painters, but by a theoretical argument underway in literary circles. This argument revolved around the best means for turning aside the formality and geometry of French and Dutch inspired landscapes. The consensus of the literary elite was to embrace a more "natural" line, but it was the method by which this was to be achieved that was hotly debated. Three distinct approaches to representing the natural ideal emerged: the "Beautiful," the "Picturesque," and the "Sublime." The Beautiful was epitomized by the work of Capability Brown, whose gardens featured encircling belts of trees to contain views, clumps of trees to enrich a middle distance, serpentine lakes, and smooth unbroken areas of lawn. The Picturesque, on the other hand, was launched as an attack on Brown's version of landscape gardening. To those advocating the Picturesque, Brown's landscape forms were too soft, round, and smooth. The Picturesque aesthetic, defined by Sir Ovately Price and Richard Payne Knight, sought rougher, more rugged, irregular, and dramatic landscape imagery. The third strain, the Sublime, never really entered the realm of landscape gardening practice, as it could hardly be effected by the hand of man. Sublime landscapes were meant to overwhelm the viewer and remind him of his powerlessness in the face of Nature. Rough seas, jagged mountain peaks, and threatening storms were the elements of the Sublime.

The argument over whether landscapes should be Beautiful or Picturesque was never fully resolved, but the work of Humphrey Repton, the first person to use the term "Landscape Gardener," resulted in something of a combination. Repton's primary consideration was the natural character of the place at hand. In the last years of the 18th century, Repton transformed Brown's Beautiful aesthetic into a landscape rooted in practicality. He saw a fitting place for more formal elements immediately around a house, and more rugged or pastoral elements father away from the house. Through his "red books" showing before and after versions of landscapes, Repton incorporated elements of the Picturesque and Beautiful in single compositions.

In a slightly different approach, Downing suggested that the two major strains of the English Landscape Gardening School, the Beautiful and the Picturesque, should be kept distinct from one another in small landscapes, such as those of the cottage dweller or small estate owner, but that in big landscapes, the two elements could be combined, as long as they were separated. Like London, Downing was a nurseryman, and he too stressed the importance of showcasing individual species.

Hopkins seems to have picked up on this caveat with his grounds landscaped primarily in the Beautiful mode, with the winding drive perhaps being its most Picturesque element. Due to Downing's untimely death in 1852, critical acclaim of the property fell

to Downing's publisher and friend, Henry Winthrop Sargent. It was Sargent who described Clifton in his 1859 Supplement to the Sixth Edition of Downing's *Landscape Gardening:*

> Clifton Park, near Baltimore, the residence of Johns Hopkins, Esq., is unquestionably one of the most elaborate places in this country. We remember no other, where in addition to a fine and costly house, there is so large a range of glass, with such diversified and extensive grounds; the varieties of trees, shrubs, walks, lawns, large pieces of ornamental water, containing numerous islands planted with masses of rhododendrons and evergreen shrubs, and connected by appropriate and tasteful bridges, are all, certainly, much in advance of any other place we know.[99]

This praise, coming from the man who inherited Downing's mission to spread the gospel of landscape gardening, reveals the stature held by Hopkins and Clifton at mid-century.

Hopkins' Bequest

In 1867, Hopkins established two Maryland corporations as vehicles for channeling his wealth after his death: The Johns Hopkins University and the Johns Hopkins Hospital. In his will of July 9, 1870, Hopkins left his money to three entities: 1) a trust fund managed by three friends for the benefit of his relatives; 2) the Johns Hopkins University Corporation, to which he left the 330 acre Clifton estate and most of his stock in the B&0 Railroad; and 3) the Johns Hopkins Hospital Corporation, to which he left his bank stock, and all real estate and leasehold estate not previously willed to others. On March 10, 1873, Hopkins issued a detailed letter to the Board of Trustees of the Hospital specifying the location, layout, and enclosure of the hospital to be founded in his name. It was to be between Broadway and Wolfe, Jefferson and Monument Streets. No such letter was apparently written to the University, or it has never been found. Hopkins was definitive, however, on forbidding the sale by the trustees of the B&O stock. The dividends of the stock were to fund the construction of the buildings and the operation of the university.

8.2.3 THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY: 1874-1894

On December 24, 1873, Johns Hopkins died and Clifton was bequeathed to the Johns Hopkins University for use as a university. The trustees spent the next 20 years using the property as a farm, partial garden, and athletic facilities for its athletes, but never as the university site. Instead of commencing immediately to build a campus at Clifton, the trustees decided that the institution should focus, first and foremost, on graduate-level studies. To that end, the president of the new university convinced the board of trustees that the initial outlay of funds should go toward the hiring of experienced faculty, rather than construction of new buildings. The board thus authorized the opening of the school in rented buildings on Howard Street, downtown. In 1874, the Building Committee of the trustees discussed opening a wide avenue from Charles Street to Clifton and constructing roads for the University within the estate grounds, but discussion led nowhere. Instead, they purchased a building and additional lots on Howard Street, building new science laboratories there.

This downtown construction was opposed vigorously by trustees John W. Garrett, Lewis Hopkins (Johns' nephew) and at least two others, who thought that the board ought to pursue construction of the school at Clifton, according to Johns' wishes. A severe rift in the board developed, with the public also privy to each sides' claims through the media's attentive reporting. Various reasons were given for the opposition to Clifton, including the fact that it was "malarial," required too long a commute by horse car, and was bordered by cemeteries and distilleries. The foes of the Clifton site latched upon a codicil of Johns Hopkins' will as a release from the obligation to build at Clifton. With this tactic they were able to add an amendment to their

[99] Downing, *Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture*, p. 557.

charter allowing them to locate the university within the City of Baltimore. In 1887, with John Garrett no longer on the board (he had died three years previously), the trustees declined an offer by his daughter to build a science center at Clifton contingent on the establishment of a timetable for locating the University there. As the B&O Railroad stock crashed in the late 1880s and throughout the early 1890s, the trustees' income grew scarce, and they began to view Clifton as a way to generate income.

In January, 1894, Mayor Ferdinand C. Latrobe provided a solution to the trustee's fiscal crisis by suggesting that the City buy land for a park. Latrobe described his motivation for the purchase as the acquisition of land for a park and as aid to the financially troubled Johns Hopkins University.[100] By an Act of Assembly of 1894, Chapter 149, and Ordinance No. 137, the City was authorized to issue a four million dollar loan and to set apart approximately one million dollars of that money towards the purchase of the property for a public park to be known as "Hopkins Park." Clifton was then purchased by condemnation August 2, 1895 from the trustees of the Johns Hopkins University. The cost of the land was $713,385.69 and the expenses $8,960.61.[101] According to Mayor Latrobe, "the idea originated solely with me, and it is gratifying to know that I not only obtained a beautiful park for the city, but aided at the same time one of our great institutions."[102] The Trustees now had cash and were free to locate elsewhere. Five years later, they accepted William Wyman's Homewood estate on Charles Street as the site of their new campus.

8.2.4 CLIFTON PARK: 1895 - 1956

The City's initial purchase at Clifton included 252.9 acres, a portion of which was arable land and a portion of which was a consciously designed estate. Unlike Druid Hill Park, which benefited from the Park Commission's hiring of a landscape gardener, Howard Daniels, Clifton Park had no such professional. Instead, it was adapted from private estate to public park in a more incremental fashion. It was only beginning in 1904, with the hiring of the Olmsted Brothers firm that Clifton began to be transformed in a more systematic fashion, but even this effort was hampered by the lack of a comprehensive plan.

The Park Commission's first report on Clifton appears in its *Annual Report* for 1895. The *Report* notes that the farming operations were continued and records an inventory of buildings:

> Mansion House (26 rooms and 3 closets)
> 1 frame farmhouse, 3 stories, slate roof, 9 rooms
> 1 frame house, 3 stories, 12 rooms (Hilltop House)
> 3 frame greenhouses, 300 feet long in all
> 1 gardener's house, brick, 2 stories, 8 rooms, with greenhouse attached
> 1 brick greenhouse, 100 feet long
> 1 porter's lodge of brick, arched entrance, with 2 rooms on each side[103]

In the 1896 *Annual Report,* the City noted its renovation of the gardener's cottage for its occupation by the park gardener's family, the repair and renting of the porter's lodge to a park hand, and the repair of the Hopkins greenhouses and conservatory. An exterior fence that stood at that time also was repaired. The city focused on correcting drainage problems in the vicinity of the Mansion (the water closet drainage fed directly onto the baseball grounds) and along Belair Road, where houses and slaughter houses on that road cut a deep ravine into the park at that point. The City also cleaned up the area around Mine Bank Run by building a wall and improving drainage.

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[100] Ferdinand C. Latrobe, II, "Mayor Latrobe and Baltimore's Parks: His Memoirs Reveal How Several Were Acquired" in *The Baltimore Sun*, March 3, 1931. Contained in the Clifton files of the Ferdinand Hamburger, Jr. Archives of the Johns Hopkins University.
[101] *Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the Public Park Commission for the Year Ending December 31, 1895,* Baltimore: John B. Kurtz, 1896, 15.
[102] Ibid.
[103] Annual Report for the Year 1895, p. 48.

The Park Commission also set to work repairing the exterior of the Mansion, including carpentry, plastering, spouting, brick work and painting. Improvements to the Gardener's Cottage included the laying of new floors, the addition of two windows on the second floor, papering the interior, painting the building inside and out, altering the grading around the house and repairing sills, and re-shingling the frame kitchen wing and underpinning it with brick.

In 1896, a fire on the property destroyed Hopkins' barn and stable, so the City provided a new one by adapting an old tool shed to include stalls for 8 horses and a harness room. That same year, the "old greenhouses" to the north of the gardener's cottage were removed, so that only Hopkins' permanent greenhouse, 100 feet x 30 feet is size, with its potting room, was repaired. This repaired greenhouse was capable of housing 23,000 plants and formed the basis of a propagating operation that would grow to considerable size. The Local Superintendent's House also required minor work, and in 1897, the summer kitchen, outhouses, and woodshed connected with it were rebuilt. Other work at the park in 1896 included the construction of a new fence around St. Vincent's cemetery, which was funded by both the park and cemetery, and a new locust post and ribbon wire fence on Harford Road.

Farming was pursued as a major operation. The pear orchard was cleaned out of dead or unappealing trees, fig bushes attended to, and the nursery plowed and prepared. A terrace surrounding the gardener's cottage was graded, re-soiled, and divided into beds for planting, and a terrace near the greenhouse was restored as well. Both the pears and figs were sold to help finance park improvements. The farming on the property consisted of fields of rye, oats, corn, and hay for fodder. Only the rye was sold with all other crops fed to the park stock, including stock at Druid Hill and Patterson Parks. The 1897 *Annual Report* notes the existence of a corn crib, a temporary stable made from a tool shed, and two hay barracks at Clifton.

Other early improvements included public sanitation measures for the grounds' conversion into a park. In 1896, three old wells on the property were cleaned and reopened, and one was equipped with a pump for drinking water. In 1897, a new well with pump was opened near the Mansion and used by the ball players. The Commission also decided that public closets were necessary, and recommended dry closets with movable metal boxes, since there was no available sewer for water closets. In 1898, the park received a main line for the introduction of city water. The line carried water up Washington Street from the south to the tennis court area and up to the stable complex at the Superintendent's house. Accordingly, the Superintendent's House received a bath room and kitchen sink. As for drinking water for park patrons, a spring south of Washington Street west was repaired and found pure, and a city water-fed fountain was placed nearby. Several other unimproved springs were identified on park grounds.

Athletics continued to be the main draw of the grounds in the late 19th century, since Hopkins' narrow roads discouraged leisurely carriage drives by large numbers of people and reformers were promoting athletics as a critical ingredient of proper moral development. At Clifton, a wire fence was erected in 1897 to separate the tennis courts from the ball field and cycle races were held around the perimeter of the lake. In 1898, close to 12,000 people visited the park, alerting the Commission in 1899 to the desirability of an outdoor gymnasium for their entertainment.

The Park Commission sought to create more facilities to respond to the zealous call from reformers promoting athletics as critical to proper moral development. The two strongest movements within the active recreation umbrella were the playground and boys' athletics movements. In Baltimore, two private reform groups sponsored the incorporation of these national movements into the city's public parks: the Children's Playground Association (CPA) and the Public Athletic League (PAL). The first group looked to Boston as a model. In that city, reformer Joseph Lee and his followers established playgrounds in slum districts. Boston's "Sand Gardens," for example, were first established in 1885.[104] Baltimore followed in 1897, when

[104] Cheryl L. Jordan, "The Evolution of the Baltimore City Board of Recreation: 1940-1988," Dissertation, University of Maryland, 1993.

Eliza Ridgely and Eleanor Freeland formed the Children's Playground Association of Baltimore City and arranged for the first park playground shortly thereafter at Druid Hill Park.[105] By 1902, the organization had received a permit to operate children's playgrounds in all city parks and had established a training program for its teachers that was the second of its kind in the country.[106] Within four years, the organization's mission had broadened to include libraries, summer reading, cooking classes, and children's gardens, one of which was located in Patterson Park.

The second group, the Public Park Athletic Association (the forerunner of the Public Athletic League) was founded in 1902 by native Baltimorean and Olympic gold medalist Robert Garrett. Whereas the CPA served young children, the PPAA served boys over seven and young men. The PPAA applied to the Park Board for space and funds to establish athletic fields inside the city's parks. As with all reformers of the active recreation movement, the PPAA linked athletics to self reliance and a young person's ability to survive the stress of a congested urban life. It managed the athletic facilities at Druid Hill Park during the early 20th century. In 1922, the PPAA and the CPA merged into the Playground Athletic League (PAL) and continued to administer the athletic facilities in the city's parks through partial funding from the city budget. By 1925, Baltimore's athletic facilities outnumbered those of any other city.[107]

Some "passive" pursuits continued, such as the concerts by the Fourth Regiment Band held in a grove west of the Mansion and lit by incandescent gasoline lamps. The park had 26 settees and 262 benches for those less athletically inclined. In 1899, the city acquired a strip of woodland on the south side of Erdman Avenue that had not been part of the 1895 purchase. The Commission also decided to sell the five acres of land south of the railroad track on the west side of Washington Street. A new drive was made from the only entrance on Belair Road to a stone culvert in the park. The General Superintendent reminded the Commission that the entire system of drives should be mapped out and implemented for a desirable landscape effect, rather than piece-meal corrections. In 1900, the Commission authorized construction of new connecting roads and the widening of old Hopkins roads and added a playground at the south end of the park. This first facility included swinging poles, horizontal bars, merry-go-rounds, see-saws, sand beds, and swings, and was reportedly constantly in use. The baseball diamond was repaired and a wire back-stop was installed at the tennis courts.

In 1901, the ball field in the southwest corner of the park bounded by the B&O Railroad, Washington Street, and Harford Road was improved and a football grid, ball field, and more tennis courts added elsewhere on the grounds. An athletic dressing room was placed in the basement of the Mansion. A boys' bathing pool was commenced near one of the ice pond in the valley above St. Vincent's cemetery. In 1902, the city acquired the ice ponds at the northeast end of the park from private owners. The extent of construction or duration of this bathing pool is not known.

In 1904, work commenced on a new athletic ground, also called a "playground" at the time. The location of this facility was south of Washington Street and east of Harford Road, a site selected by the Olmsted Brothers. Yet despite all of these improvements, the 1904 *Annual Report* described Clifton Park as "entirely undeveloped a park as yet," indicating that the lack of a comprehensive plan for use of the park by the public made improvements difficult. The *Report* also commented that the nursery at Clifton was neglected.[108]

In 1908, the band shell was built and public comfort facilities were inserted into the Mansion. A temporary field house also was constructed which no longer stands. In its Annual Reports for 1909 and 1910, the Board took the opportunity to stress the urgency and its financial commitment to the proposed connection between Clifton and Wyman Parks via the Alameda and 33rd

[105] Barry Kessler and David Zang, *The Play Life of a City: Baltimore's Recreation and Parks, 1900-1955*, 7. Another source cites the first playground at a city school yard.
[106] Ibid, p. 7.
[107] Ibid, p. 21.
[108] *44th and 45th Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1903*, Baltimore: Wm. J.C. Dulany, 1905, 41.

Street, as had been suggested by the Olmsted Brothers in the 1904 Report. In 1911, the Commission devoted much of its attention to providing these connections. The route of the proposed "Alameda" was altered slightly that year, due to the objections of property owners. Parkway connections continued to proceed in 1913 and 1914, as 33rd Street between Wyman Park and Clifton was opened and its "parking" begun.

As for recreational activities, 5,000 games of tennis were recorded for the year on the park's 10 courts and 800 games of baseball on six diamonds in 1913. That same year, eight more tennis courts were added making a total of about thirty courts.[109] The Annual Report for 1913 mentions that the athletic fields, children's playground areas, and ball and soccer fields were all actively used. In 1914, the Commission report mention plans for the construction of a swimming pool at Clifton. The idea behind pool construction was that each of the city's large parks would have a pool and athletic field house and that swimming lessons would become a required part of the city's public school curriculum.[110] New lighting was added in the area of the basketball courts and around the children's playground in 1914 and a new playground for children was begun as well. The Mansion was "improved" to provide facilities for dancing and music in an etiquette school of sorts for girls.[111] In general, the Commission continued to complain that the demand for athletic facilities, such as playgrounds, game fields, tennis courts, and swimming pools, was beyond its financial means and resulted in deferral of their installation. New greenhouse construction proceeded in 1914 as the last of Johns Hopkins' greenhouses was torn down. The Clifton greenhouses continued to provide plant materials for all other parks, City Hall and the Courthouse.

In 1916-1917, two monumental events propelled Clifton into the city's most popular park. In those years, an 18-hole golf course was added, marking the city's first introduction into what had heretofore been a private amusement, and Clifton's swimming pool opened. Not only did this increase the number of visitors, but it had a profound impact upon the character of the grounds. The pool was the country's largest artificial swimming pool. In 1916, the City also improved access to Clifton as 33rd Street was seeded and made ready to receive shade trees. Playground buildings and toilets were installed at Clifton in 1917 (these no longer stand) and the athletic field near Harford Avenue and Washington Street was graded and lights installed.

In the 1920s, the most significant improvement was the addition of the Mother's Garden at the park's northern end. A self-contained landscape entity, the Mother's Garden used copper rock landscape features and old-fashioned flowers to pay tribute to the city's maternal population. In the 1930s, the Shops Building was constructed (from an 1899 rolling stock shed) and the golf course was remodeled. Horticultural propagation continued as a significant activity. An article in the 1938 Baltimore News Post remarked upon the "outbuildings" full of exotic plants and fruits and the floral department's "extensive and inviting horticultural exhibition."[112] Between 1938 and 1947, the Commission authorized a refectory building for the golf course (which may or may not have been built) and the rebuilding of the band shell which suffered a fire in that year. In 1947, the Commission added pits to an existing running track north of the old Olmsted athletic ground.

Although extremely popular with the white population of Baltimore, Clifton experienced the same pattern of racial divisiveness that plagued other city parks in the first half of the 20th century. In 1911, the Ward Eight councilman demanded that the Park Board bar African Americans from using Clifton because an athletic event there had turned into what he called a "riot."[113] The Park Board capitulated to this demand, with the director of the Playground Athletic League appearing before the Commission in July of that year to insist that public ground be set aside for athletic facilities for African Americans, since they were forbidden to use Clifton Park. In an unofficial citywide policy of segregation, black patrons visited Druid Hill Park and Carroll Park for

[109] *Board of Park Commissioners for the Year 1913*, p. 18. The number of courts means that 12 more courts must have been added in 1912, a year for which no Annual Report was found.
[110] *55th Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1914*, Baltimore: Meyer & Thalheimer, 1915, 6.
[111] *56th Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1915*, Baltimore: Meyer & Thalheimer, 1916, 9.
[112] "Clifton Statuary," *Baltimore News Post*, November 3, 1938.
[113] Kessler and Zang, *Play Life of the City*, p. 33.

golf, but generally stayed away from Clifton. In 1942, upon word that blacks were being given "secret" tickets to Clifton's golf course, white golfers protested to the Park Board, and blacks continued to be directed to Carroll Park's nine-hole course. Also in the 1940s, the Park Board avoided requests by the School Board to install athletic facilities at Clifton for black Dunbar High School students.[114] Clifton's athletic facilities were finally integrated in 1955, and its swimming pool in 1956, following the *Brown versus Board of Education* case in 1954 and other local lawsuits.

Today, Clifton is enjoyed by a diverse population and features elements of its Romantic origins and pioneering athletics. The landscape surrounding the Mansion and the gardener's cottage hark back to the 19th century Picturesque ideals of Johns Hopkins, while the tennis courts, golf course, swimming pool, athletic fields, and band stand are testaments to late 19th and early 20th century athleticism and group recreation philosophies of civic reformers and the Olmsteds. With the elegant Mansion at its core, a pioneering golf course surrounding it, Classical Revival pool and band structures, and the English country Mother's Garden, Clifton is a hybrid of landscape ideals and traditions that testifies to our ever-changing relationship with the landscape.

[114] A set of 1950 drawings by Bernard Evander for the School Board shows a field house and athletic facilities for Clifton District 5, located south of the railroad and east of Patterson Park Avenue. It is not clear whether this building was constructed or whether it was intended for Dunbar High School students.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Clifton Park is bounded on the northwest by Harford Road, on the northeast by Erdman Avenue and Clifton Park Terrace, on the southeast by Belair Road, and on the southwest by the Baltimore Belt Railroad and Sinclair Lane. See Boundary Map for exact boundaries within this general polygon.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of Clifton Park as a proposed district include all of lot 1/2, the land owned by the City and operated as a park, plus lot 8, an interior lot featuring the Valve House, which is owned by the City and managed by the Department of Education. Lot 8's resource maintains a critical historical and architectural association to the park and its development. See Boundary Map

Period of Significance Justification:

The period of significance ranges from 1790 to 1940. The 1790 date defines the earliest known portion of Clifton Mansion, then built as a stone farm house. This date marks the beginning the evolution of Clifton Mansion. 1940 marks the date when the Shops Building, the last major edifice of the park, was completed.

Clifton Park Photo List:

(1) Exterior of Mansion, southeast elevation.
(2) Exterior of Mansion, northwest elevation.
(3) Plaster niches in Mansion parlor, west wall.
(4) Dining room of Mansion, east wall.
(5) Exterior of Gardener's Cottage, west elevation.
(6) Superintendent's House, southwest elevation.
(7) Shops Building, southwest elevation.
(8) Bath House, southeast elevation.
(9) Valve House, south elevation.
(10) Band Shell, north elevation.
(11) Mother's Garden Pavilion.
(12) Mother's Garden Pergola.
(13) Mother's Garden Foot Bridge.
(14) Octagonal Pavilion, south elevation.
(15) Gate at St. Lo Drive and St. Clair Lane.
(16) Gate at St. Lo Drive and Harford Road.
(17) Gate at Belair Road entrance to Clifton Park (at Indian Lane).
(18) Gates at Mother's Garden.
(19) Urn in front of Mansion (circa Johns Hopkins era).
(20) On the Trail Sculpture, south elevation.
(21) View from Mansion Tower, south.

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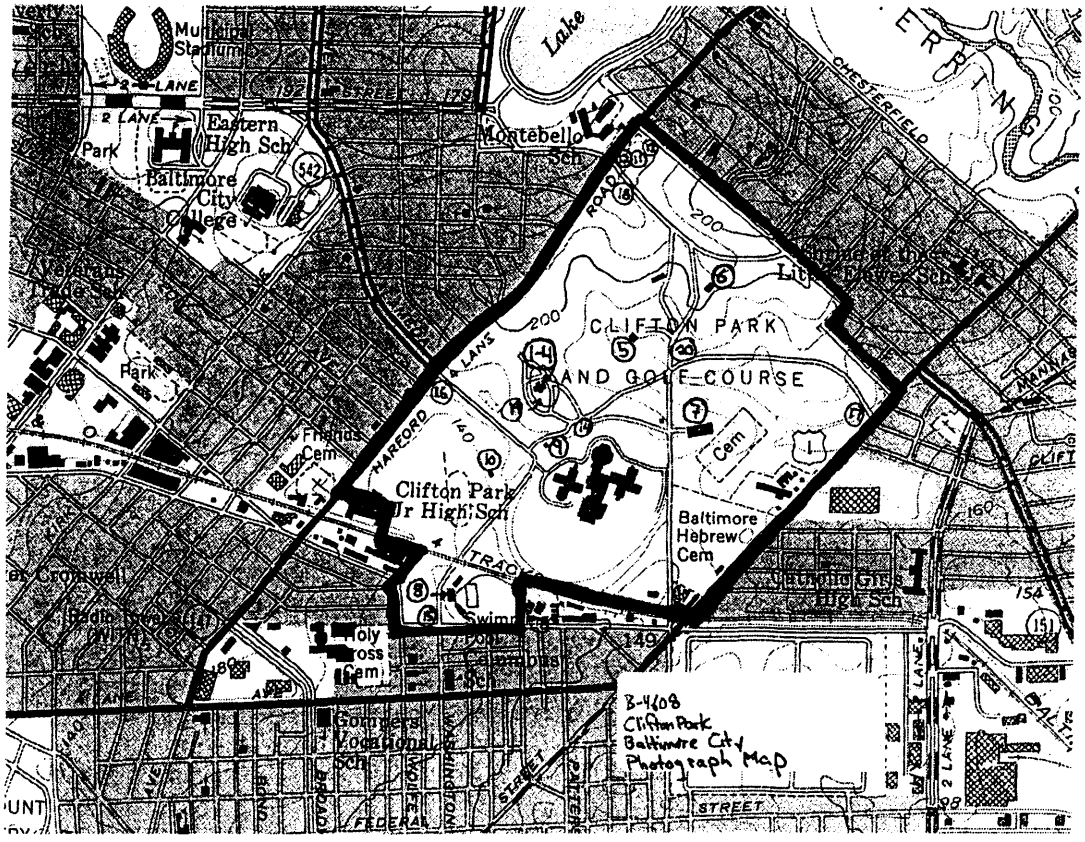
(22) View from Mansion Tower, north.
(23) View from Mansion Tower, east.
(24) View from Mansion Tower, west.



Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register

The Clifton Park Valve House B-63

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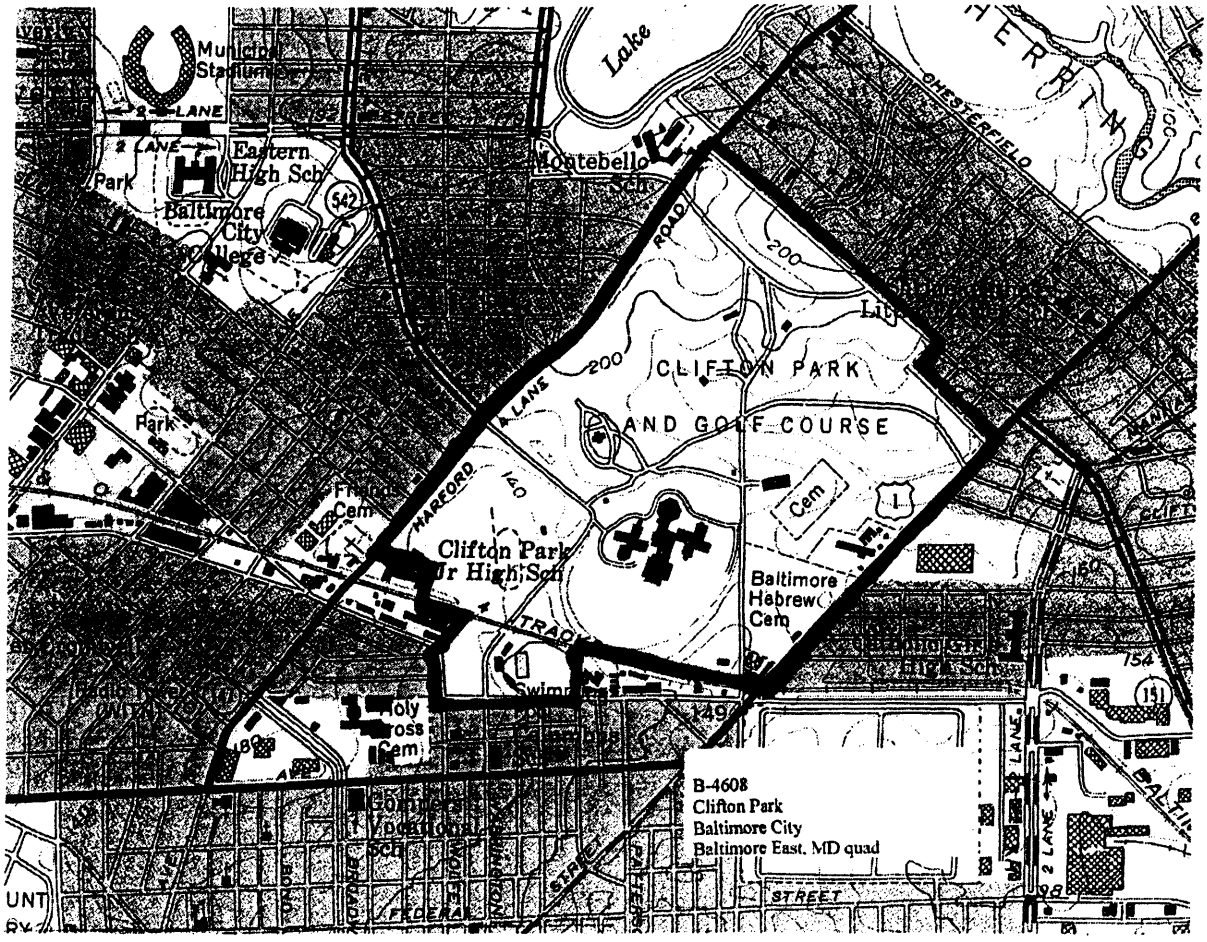

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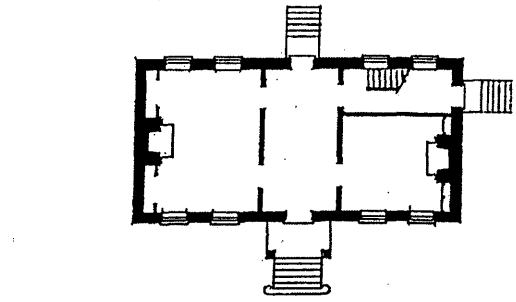
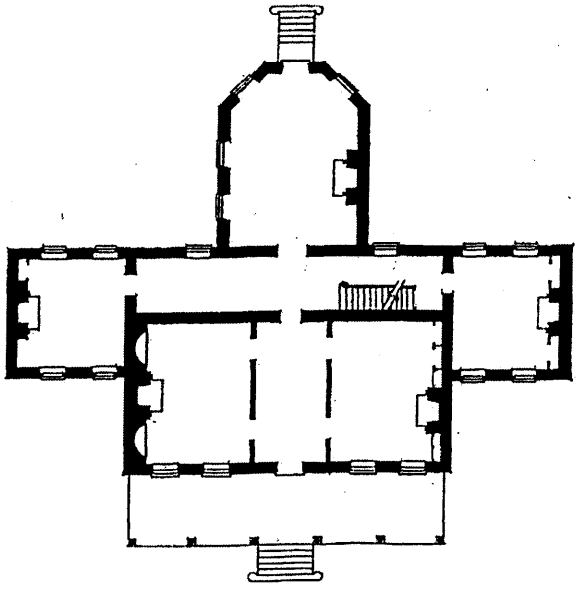


FIRST FLOOR PLAN - circa 1790



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - 1812

Figure 1 Floor plans from Trostel and Pearre Architects, Baltimore, Maryland.

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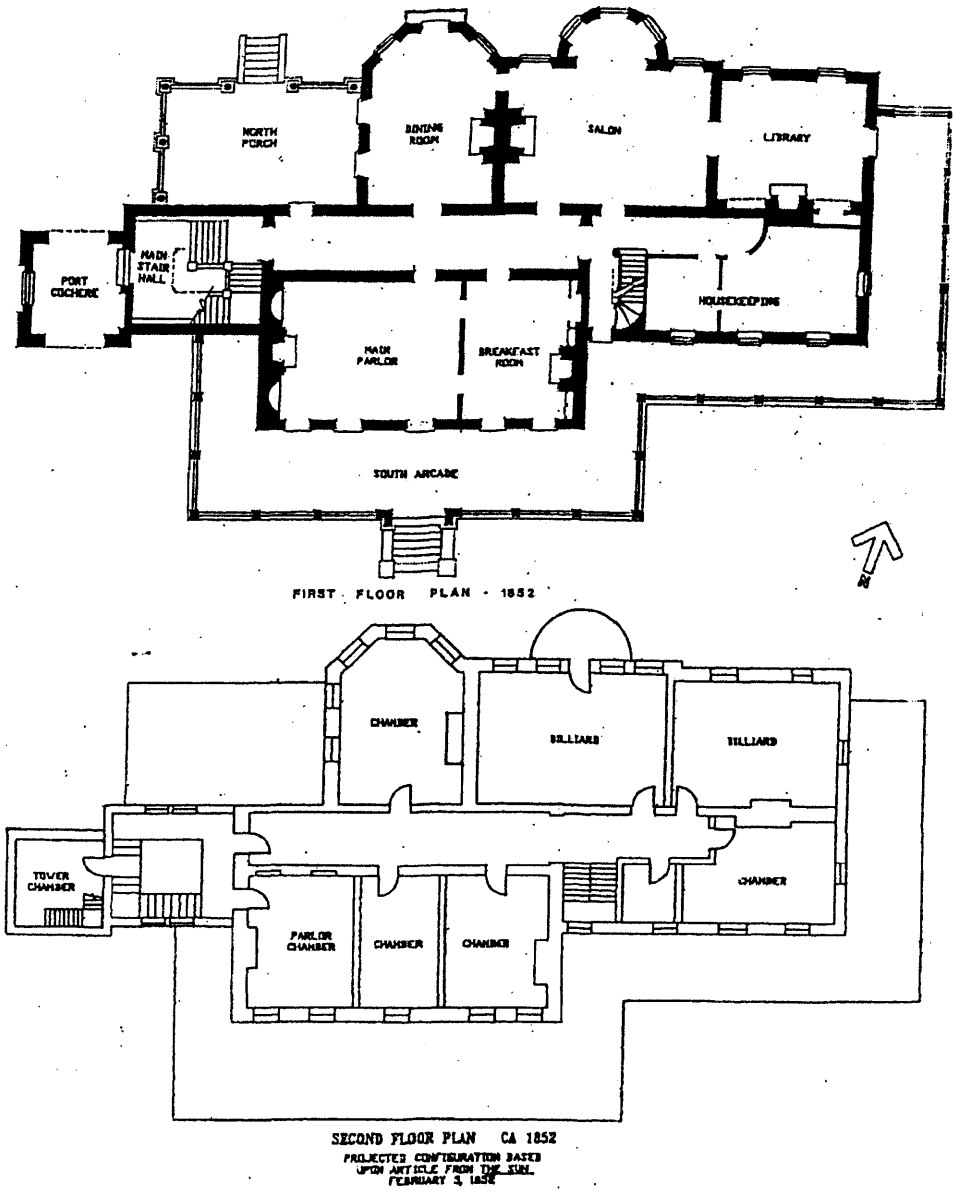

Figure 2 Floorplans from Trostel and Pearre Architects, Baltimore, Maryland.

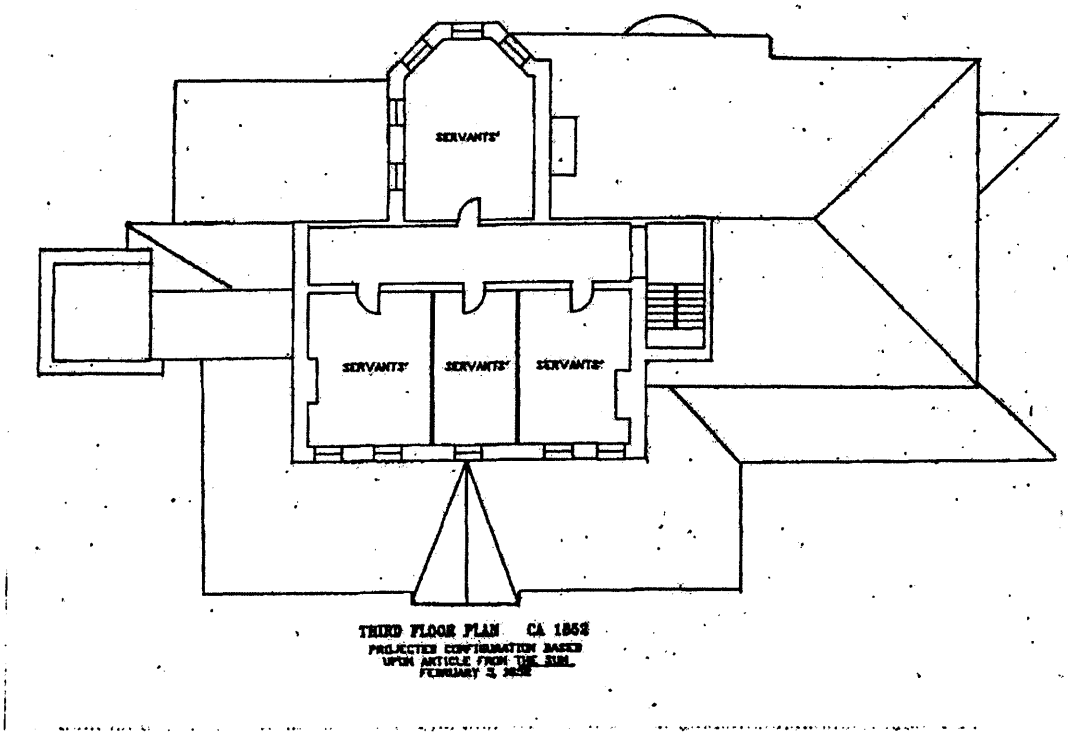

Figure 3 Floorplans of Clifton Mansion