

PH0672602

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 9 1977
DATE ENTERED JUN 9 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Oxon Hill; Oxon Hill Manor

AND/OR COMMON

OXON HILL MANOR

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6701 Oxon Hill Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

CITY, TOWN

Oxon Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Prince George's

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Financial Realty Company
International Capital Corporation, George H. Olmsted, Jr., Agent

STREET & NUMBER

1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C. 20006

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro,

STATE

Maryland 20840

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oxon Hill Manor is located in a park-like area overlooking the Potomac River and Alexandria, on the west side of Oxon Hill Road (Maryland Route 414), just north of Balmoral Drive East in Oxon Hill, Prince George's County, Maryland.

Built in 1929 from a design by Washington architect, Jules Henri de Sibour, Oxon Hill Manor is a neo-Georgian house of 49 rooms. It consists of a main block and a wing to the north and has two stories with a partial basement and an unfenestrated attic space. The foundations are brick on concrete footings. The walls are of brick backed by hollow tile. The framing on the first floor is of reinforced concrete slabs. Hollow tile interior partitions support wooden joists. Roof trusses are of wood. Steel I-beams support those chimneys which do not descend below the second floor.

The main block is approximately 102 feet long by 53 feet deep. The main (or east) facade is five bays wide with a central, three-bay, projecting pavilion. A string course and quoins were laid into the brickwork. The entrance in the center bay has paired, three-paneled wooden doors hung below a two-light, hinged, rectangular transom. The door architrave has a cornice supported on consoles ornamented with leaves. Above the cornice is a broken, segmental-arch pediment with a terra cotta cartouche of a coat-of-arms in the center. The door sill is of molded stone.

The main block has French casement windows throughout. The principal first-floor windows are paired, four-light casements set under hinged, rectangular, two-light transoms; these can also serve as doors. Eight of the first-floor, main block windows have molded wood crosseted architraves with flat cornices. The north and south windows of the east elevation open onto wooden, console-supported, balustraded balconies and have triangular pediments. The central west window has an architrave duplicating that of the main (east) entrance. Two eight-light, single casement windows with brick flat-arch lintels and molded wooden sills flank the principal north window of the east elevation. Two other minor windows, similar except that three-light single casements are set below single-light transoms, are in the north and south faces of the projecting central pavilion. All but two second-floor, main block windows have four-light casements, those of principal windows being paired. What appears to be the central east window is actually two, with a heavy mullion masking the partition dividing two bathrooms. This disguised pair and the windows over the two balconied, first-floor windows, have crosseted, molded architraves flanked by flat consoles ornamented with scrolled vine motifs of classical Greek derivation. Consoles are placed against pilasters which are set on plinths and "support" monor entablatures abutting the roof cornice. Sections of the frieze are pulvinated. The sills continue across the entire width of the motifs. Plinths below the sills are "supported" by parapet motifs behind pediments of first-floor openings. Lower

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1928-1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jules-Henri de Sibour

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oxon Hill Manor today is of interest for both the present structure and the association of the estate land with Maryland's early history.

Essentially unaltered, the present house is expressive of a high level of 1920's prosperity. It was designed in 1928 for Sumner Welles from a neo-Georgian design by the Washington architect, Jules Henri de Sibour (1872-1938). The house successfully captures the essence of a Georgian country estate in the residential scale of its interior spaces and the development of the site with garden vistas and long views beyond the lawns. However, the architectural embellishment is inconsistent when compared to authentic 18th-century details. The mansion is typical of stylistically conservative, major American houses of its period.

Historical associations of Oxon Hill Manor fall primarily into three categories; (1) the Addisons and their role in colonial Maryland, (2) John Hanson's death and possible burial on the property, and (3) Sumner Welles' years at Oxon Hill, including reported Roosevelt-Churchill connections with the estate.

Recorded history of what would become known as Oxon Hill Manor begins with John Addison, brother of a chaplain to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, and uncle of the noted essayist Joseph Addison. John amassed considerable wealth as a merchant adventurer, and in 1685, as payment for providing overseas passages for colonists, he began acquiring lands from Lord Baltimore near the juncture of the Potomac and Eastern Branch (Anacostia). Soon he established his plantation headquarters there. Addison's public duties included those of colonel of militia, privy councilor to the governor, and foreman of his parish.

Colonel John Addison's son, Thomas, born in 1669 at St. Mary's City, became the first surveyor of Prince George's County at the age of 17. Like his father, he became active as a merchant and land speculator. He was appointed Lord High Sheriff of the county in 1705, acquired his father's rank of militia colonel upon the latter's death the following year, and served as a judge of the High Provincial Court of Maryland after 1712. After spending a year in London, during which time he visited his literary cousin, Joseph, Thomas returned to Maryland in the summer of 1710 to build the brick mansion called "Oxon Hill." The mansion was erected on a hill overlooking the Potomac near Oxon Creek

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

This form is a compilation of material taken directly from the sources listed on continuation sheet #10.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 55 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,2,6,0,6,0	4,2,9,6,2,9,0	B	1,8	3,2,5,9,0,0	4,2,9,5,3,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3,2,5,7,6,0	4,2,9,5,3,4,0	D	1,8	3,2,5,6,6,0	4,2,9,5,6,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the north by Route 495, on the west by two tracts of vacant land on the banks of the Potomac River, on the south by a subdivision known as North Potomac Vista, and on the east by Oxon Hill Road.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mary Fraser dePackah/
Pamela James

ORGANIZATION Citizens' Group for Oxon Hill Manor/
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

100 Vista Terrace/21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

Oxon Hill/Annapolis

DATE

July 1976

TELEPHONE

(301) 567-3399/267-1438

STATE

Maryland 20021/21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John N. Pearu

DATE

5/2/77

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Katherine H. Cole

DATE 6/9/78
KEEPT OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6.5.78

KEEPT OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

upper enframements thus form continuous vertical elements constituting most noteworthy exterior ornamental features of the house. Central second-floor windows of the west front and the principal north and south windows of the same elevation have enframements identical with those just described. Central windows is paired casement without mullion, as in the east counterpart. The latter two open onto porch decks and have five-light paired casements. Other principal second-floor windows have brick flat-arch lintels with keystone motifs. Minot (single casement) windows lack keystone motifs. The second-floor sills are of molded wood.

All service wing windows have wooden four-over-four light double-hung sash set under brick flat arches. The service wing window sills are of molded wood. There are no exterior shutters.

The house has truncated hip roofs with slopes covered by rectangular blue-grey slates. The decks are covered with slag; the flashings are copper.

The wood cornices are of cyma recta form supported by modillions ornamented with leaves. Eaves and gutters are concealed behind paneled brick parapets with stone coping. Parapets have small openings for overflow drainage. Downspouts are copper and have boxed headers. The service wing parapets are above brick stringcourses in lieu of the cornices; these parapets are unpaneled.

On the first floor there are five major rooms (see floor plan). The main or east entrance opens into a large entrance hall with fireplace. In the south end of the building is the drawing room, with fireplace. Immediately north of the entrance hall and of the same proportions is the library which has a fireplace sharing the chimney of the one in the hall. The dining room is north of the library. East of it is a hall, with stair in the northeast corner several smaller rooms just south of it. A small den is situated immediately north of the entrance hall. The doorway on the west facade is in the north bay of the library. The service wing extends to the north of the building.

The main stairs are of oak and have closed string. The railing is oak supported by wrought-iron, S-shaped scrolls of foliated pattern. The railing and its supports turn at the bottom to form a newel post of volute plan resting on a curtail step. The stairs in the service wing are of steel and concrete.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The flooring of the entrance hall and the other first floor hall in the main block are paved with squares of white marble and smaller squares of black marble set diagonally at the corners of the white squares. The other first-floor rooms of the main block have oak floors laid in a herringbone pattern.

The walls of the entrance hall and other hall are finished in plaster molded into fielded panels above plain dado and molded wooden chair rail. The ceiling has a plaster modillion cornice and two unornamented, broad, shallow, flat offsets around the periphery. The walls and the ceilings are covered with thin, closely woven fabric painted white. All other main block first floor ceilings are identical with the hall ceilings in design except for the cornices. None have centerpieces. The drawing room walls are flat plaster with plain, painted, protective fabric as in the hall. The ceiling cornice has a wide plaster frieze of Adamesque arabesques and octagonally framed urns in low relief, and shallow Roman classical running cornice moldings. The library walls have fielded pine panels with fluted Roman Doric pilasters, recessed book shelves, plain frieze and carved pine modillion cornice. The dining room has plaster walls divided into panels by half-round moldings of spirally wrapped, open ribbon pattern. The eight largest panels are papered with antique Chinese hand blocked and colored paper said to have been removed from an English Regency house. The other panels are protected by plain painted fabric. The cornice has a small plaster frieze of alternating paterae and pomegranates. The soffit of cyma recta cornice is reeded.

The doorways of the main block first floor have painted doors, each leaf with three fielded panels. In some instances, however, the proportions of the panels vary from front to back surfaces in order to match the decor of the different rooms. The hall sides of doors have mahogany finish. The drawing room surfaces of the doors are painted. The library faces have pine finish. The dining room sides are painted. The doorways in the halls have molded wooden architraves above which are pulvinated friezes and tall, denticulated, broken pediments enclosing slender lidded urns on socles. The drawing room doorways have molded architraves flanked by demi-term motifs headed by lidded urns in low relief. Entablatures above the architraves have flat cornices with water leaf running moldings and friezes ornamented by Adamesque swags and wreaths with lidded vessels of kylix form at the centers. The library doorways have pine architraves of bolection profile carved in foliate motif. The dining room doorways have simple molded wooden architraves.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

To the south of the house are two outbuildings built with the 1928-1929 structure. These are a five-car garage and attached manager's quarters and greenhouse, and a stable, both of brick painted white with hip roof.

There are formal gardens, in poor shape, to the south of the house.

The archeological site of the original Oxon Hill Manor is located on the parcel of land between this tract* and the Potomac River, to the northwest of the present mansion, and is therefore not included in this nomination.

*the nominated tract

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

in 1711. An inventory of Addison's properties listed eight other plantations under his general supervision, a mill and a store, 76 slaves and three indentured English servants. Thomas left over 15,000 acres to his children upon his death in 1727.²

Thomas Addison's eldest son, John, inherited his father's plantations and passed the land encompassing the mansion near Oxon Creek on to his son, Thomas Addison (c. 1740-1774). A survey of this property, containing 3,663 acres, was patented August 3, 1767, as "Oxon Hill Manor"--the first official use of the name.³

Upon this Thomas Addison's death in 1774, Oxon Hill Manor was inherited by his five-year-old son, Walter Dulany Addison. Thomas Hawkins Hanson, who served under Thomas Addison's brother, John, early in the Revolution, was appointed regent for the property. He married Addison's widow in 1778. Thomas Hanson was a nephew of John Hanson, first "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" under the Articles of Confederation.⁴

In the fall of 1783, a year after his term in the Congress, John Hanson visited his nephew at Oxon Hill Manor. In ill health, he died there on November 15. The possibility that he was buried on the estate, rather than near his Frederick home, has been the subject of much interest on the part of John Hanson "promoters" in recent years.

According to an Addison descendant, Nathaniel Washington, cousin of George, leased and occupied the estate from 1787 to 1792.⁵

The Reverend Walter Dulany Addison, rector of the Broad Creek Church near Oxon Hill, founder of St. John's Church in Georgetown, and one of the four clergymen officiating at George Washington's funeral, was the last Addison owner of Oxon Hill Manor.⁶ Unable to maintain it, he sold to Zachariah Berry on March 17, 1810, over 1,328 acres of the land patented by his father, including the mansion but reserving the Addison graveyard east of the house.⁷

Zachariah Berry died in 1845, and by the terms of his will the lands purchased from Walter Dulany Addison went to his son, Thomas.⁸ Thomas's later life was unfortunate. He became mentally ill, and his wife, fearing his threatened violence, left him in 1874. About 1876 Berry entered a Baltimore asylum for several months, but his initial improvement proved temporary. Management of his properties suffered,

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

and he became indebted for over \$20,000, unable even to pay his taxes. On February 18, 1878, Berry's adult sons, Thomas Owen and Norman, petitioned the Prince George's circuit court for a writ of de lunatico inquirendo; an inquisition pursuant to the writ on March 7 found Berry mentally incompetent and placed his properties in the hands of trustees to be sold for payment of his creditors. Berry was admitted to Mount Hope Retreat, a mental institution in Baltimore County, on February 19. Sometime between August and November 1879 he died.⁹

A court-ordered survey made by William J. Latimer in 1879 divided Thomas Berry's Oxon Hill property into a total of 49 lots totaling approximately 1,430 acres. The first auction, held July 31, 1879, at the mansion, sold some 42 acres to Dr. John W. Bayne; insufficient or no bids were received for the remainder. By 1886 at least 200 acres had been sold, with other tracts being rented pending sale.

Copy for an auction advertisement described the unsold Oxon Hill Manor property:

A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF TWELVE HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND, NEAR WASHINGTON CITY, ADJOINING THE LINE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, IN SIGHT OF THE CAPITAL

. . . all that valuable Real Estate known as Oxen Hill and Oxen Hill Manor in Prince George's County decreed to be sold and not heretofore disposed of lying between the Fort Foote road and the Potomac River where it strikes the District line together with that part of the Woodland still unsold and called Oxen Hill Manor. Oxen Hill upon which the mansion house is situated contains about 725 acres. This is one of the most fertile, eligibly located and valuable tracts of land in Prince George's County.

The improvements consist of an elegant brick mansion covered with slate and panelled with cherry, with commodious barns and stables and six tenant houses, also a wharf constructed of limestone (torn) at the public ferry landing opposite Alexandria which is a part of the property. This land is well adapted to market gardening fruit culture and stock raising.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The Woodland consists of about 500 acres divided into lots averaging from 20 to 30 acres lying on the roads to the Navy Yard bridge and to Silver Hill covered with white oak chesnut and pine wood.¹⁰

Samuel Taylor Suit contracted to buy the unsold remainder of Oxon Hill Manor May 23, 1888. He died soon thereafter, and after some complication the property was conveyed by the trustees to his widow, Rosa P. Suit, individually and as trustees for their children, on May 14, 1891.¹¹ On the same date she deeded it to John C. Heald for \$30,000.¹² Heald in turn sold Oxon Hill on February 20, 1892, to Reuben L. Coleman and others.¹³

Coleman acquired certain rights and interests held by other parties in the property during the next few years,¹⁴ and on January 21, 1905, he conveyed Oxon Hill Manor ("also known as Bean's Bargain, Pleasant Hills, Barnaba Manor, Talbot's Lot") to trustees for the Rock Creek Land Company, Inc. (one of whom was the aforementioned John C. Heald.)¹⁵

Unfortunately for the cause of historic preservation, Coleman's group conveyed Oxon Hill Manor minus the manor house, which had been destroyed by fire during their ownership February 6, 1895. The Alexandria Gazette of the following day gave an account of the fire:

When first discovered, a small spot in the roof only was burning, but it quickly spread, and in 15 or 20 minutes the whole eastern heavens were illuminated by the conflagration--the fire raging furiously, the flames leaping high, while a huge volume of smoke settled over the adjoining hills. Numbers of people in the city went to the streets facing the river to look at the fire, which continued to rage for several hours. The origin of the fire is unknown, from the fact that ice in the river rendered it impossible to communicate with the opposite shore. Nothing now remains of the former building but the walls and the four chimneys.¹⁶

The Rock Creek Land Company trustees deeded tracts totaling approximately 775 acres (including the mansion site) to Emma P. Coleman, widow of Reuben L. Coleman, for \$18,000 on January 29, 1907.¹⁷ Emma was dead by 1913, and on February 10 of that year Mary V. Parran, an

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

heir, granted a quit-claim deed to Oxon Hill to R. Lindsay Coleman, another heir.¹⁸ A deed of June 12, 1917, from John C. Parran and others to William K. Quinter and Thomas C. Coleman, trustees, recorded that R. Lindsay Coleman had died intestate and that his relatives were assigning the Oxon Hill Manor property to trustees to dispose of and settle the estate.¹⁹ Quinter and Coleman sold portions of the property to various parties, and on July 20, 1927, they deeded four parcels of Oxon Hill Manor to Sumner and Mathilde T. Welles. The Welleses bought two parts of Lot No. 1, all of Lot No. 2, and part of Lot No. 3 of Thomas Berry's subdivision (as surveyed by Latimer), totaling 245.17 acres more or less and including the mansion site, for \$110 an acre.²⁰

The house at Oxon Hill Manor today was designed for Sumner Welles in 1928 by Jules Henri de Sibour, AIA (1872-1938). Born in Rouen, France, de Sibour was brought to the United States at an early age. He graduated from Yale and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. Other local buildings of his design include the Folger Building and Playhouse on 15th Street NW (1906), 1785 Massachusetts Avenue (1910), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (1931), the Chevy Chase Country Club, Science Hall at Howard University, and Keith's Theatre in the Riggs Office Building.

Sumner Welles (1892-1961) served as Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador to Cuba, and Under Secretary of State in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was instrumental in promulgating the "Good Neighbor" policy toward Latin America, made a significant trip to confer with European heads of government in 1940, and assisted in laying the groundwork for what would become the United Nations organization. Personality and policy differences with Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, forced his retirement in 1943. Thereafter he wrote on foreign affairs, serving as editor of Harvard's American Foreign Policy Library from 1949 to 1953.

1

Guy Castle, "New School at Oxon Hill Recalls Glories of Old Prince George's," *The Enquirer-Gazette*, Upper Marlboro, Md., Oct. 18, 1957; "With the Rambler in Odd Nooks and Crannies About the City," *Washington Evening Star*, Aug. 3, 1912.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued) - Footnotes

2. Castle, "Glories of Old Prince George's."
3. Ibid.
4. Edward S. Delaplaine, "Presidency Forced on John Hanson," The Post, Frederick, Md., April 19, 1971; Herbert J. Stoeckel, The Strange Story of John Hanson, First President of the United States (Hartford, Conn., 1956).
5. Castle, "Glories of Old Prince George's."
6. Elizabeth Hesselius Murray, One Hundred Years Ago, or The Life and Times of the Rev. Walter Dulany Addison, 1769-1848 (Philadelphia, 1895).
7. Land Record Books J.R.M. 13, pp. 623, 627, 654; J.R.M. 16, p. 435, Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Md. (hereinafter cited as PGCC).
8. Book P.C. 1, pp. 284-89, PGCC.
9. Chancery Cause No. 1208 Equity, PGCC.
10. Ibid.
11. Land Record Book J.W.B. 18, p. 359, PGCC.
12. Ibid., p. 370.
13. Land Record Book J.W.B. 20, p. 412, PGCC.
14. Land Record Books J.W.B. 25, p. 606; J.W.B. 29, p. 430, PGCC.
15. Land Record Book 21, p. 359, PGCC.
16. Quoted in John Clagett Proctor, Proctor's Washington and Environs (a collection of articles written for the Washington Sunday Star, 1928-1949), (Washington, 1949), p. 195.
17. Land Record Book 38, p. 447, PGCC.
18. Land Record Book 84, p. 477, PGCC.

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19. Land Record Book 128, p. 1.

20. Land Record Book 293, p. 122. Metes and bounds are given in the deed. According to this and earlier deeds, a plat of the Latimer survey of 1879 was filed in Equity No. 1208. The writer was unable to locate it.

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(Significance, continued)

(Benjamin) Sumner Welles (October 14, 1892 - September 25, 1961) Under Secretary of State, was the most prominent owner of Oxon Hill Manor.

Welles, a grandnephew of Senator Charles Sumner, was born in New York City and educated at Groton and Harvard prior to entering the State Department in 1915 when his diplomatic career centered on Latin American affairs. He undertook several diplomatic financial missions as a representative of Presidents Harding and Coolidge to Haiti, Honduras and Santo Domingo. Throughout the twenties and thirties he represented the United States in Pan-American conferences. His ground work is credited with laying the basis for Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy."

In 1937 Roosevelt appointed him Under Secretary of State, marking the beginning of his involvement in European affairs. His reports on the Minich crisis elicited high praise from Secretary Cordell Hull. In 1940 Roosevelt sent Welles to meet with the heads of state. His report to the President indicated that no hope existed for peace. In 1941, he traveled with Roosevelt to meet Churchill off Newfoundland, which trip resulted in the announcement of the Atlantic Charter.

During the early 1940's, as a result of Welles' negotiations, all the Latin American countries except Argentina and Chile declared war on the axis powers.

Welles served on the Advisory Committee on the Problems of Foreign Relations in the State Department. The sub-committee he chaired put forth a document on international cooperation that provided the basis for the United Nations Charter.

Welles resigned on September 30, 1943, and retired to Oxon Hill Manor. During the remainder of his career he wrote extensively on foreign affairs: Fair Freedoms (1942); Time for Decision (1944); Where We Are Heading (1946); We Need Not Fail (1948); Seven Decisions That Shaped History (1950).

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