Women and Children on the front steps of the mansion, late 19th century.
Aerial view of Hampton Estate, 1999?

Lower House
ORDER DESIGNATING THE HAMPTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE NEAR TOWSON, MARYLAND

June 22, 1948, 13 F.R. 3783

Whereas the Congress of the United States has declared it to be a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, and

Whereas historic “Hampton”, near Towson, Maryland, built between 1783 and 1790 and one of the finest Georgian Mansions in America, has been acquired for the people of the United States through a generous private gift to the Nation, and

Whereas the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments has declared that “Hampton” is of national historical significance as a splendid example of a great Georgian Mansion illustrating a major phase of the architectural history of the United States, and

Whereas title to the above mentioned building and appropriate grounds is vested in the United States:

Now, therefore, I, J.A. Krug, Secretary of the Interior, under and by virtue of the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior by section 2 of the Act of Congress approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467), do hereby designate the following-described lands, with the structures thereon, to be a national historic site, have the name “Hampton National Historic Site;”

That certain parcel of land, together with the structures thereon, situated in the Ninth Election District of Baltimore County, State of Maryland, conveyed to the United States of America by John Ridgely, Jr., and Jean R. Ridgely, his wife, by deed dated January 23, 1948, and recorded in the Baltimore County Registry of Deeds on February 19, 1948, which according to a survey made by Dollenberg Brothers on December 29, 1947, is found to be within the following metes, bounds, courses, and distances, to wit:

Beginning at a stone heretofore set at the beginning of the fifth or south twenty-two and one-half degrees west sixteen feet line of a parcel of land containing one thousand acres allotted to John Ridgely of Hampton in certain petition proceedings in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County and recorded in Judicial Liber W.P.C. No. 209 folio 235 in the case of John Ridgely of Hampton vs. Otho E. Ridgely, et al.; and running thence with and binding on the outline of said parcel of land as the bearings are now referred to true meridian as established on “Plat No. 1 of Hampton” the eight following courses and distance viz: south thirteen degrees thirty-five minutes west sixteen feet to a stone, south seventy-seven degrees thirty-one minutes east one hundred ninety-nine and sixty-six one-hundredths fee, south nineteen degrees thirty-seven minutes west ten feet to a stone, south seventy-five degrees twelve minutes east twenty feet to a stone, north eighteen degrees two minutes east ten and eighteen one-hundredths feet to a stone, south seventy-seven degrees four minutes each one hundred forty-seven feet and ninety-five one-hundredths feet to a stone, north seventeen degrees fifty-five minutes east forty-two and fifty one-hundredths feet to a stone, north twenty degrees eleven minutes west thirty-two degrees north ninety-five one-hundredths feet to a stone, north sixty-one degrees four minutes west one hundred eighty-four feet to a stone, north fourteen degrees five minutes east, running parallel and distant five feet westerly from the west wall of the Burial Ground there situate, one hundred eighty-four and thirty-seven minutes west ten feet to a stone, north twenty degrees eleven minutes west one hundred forty-one and two one-hundredths feet to a pipe, thence leaving said outlines and running for lines of division the six following course and distances viz: north nine degrees eighteen minutes east, running parallel with and distant five feet westerly from the west wall of the Burial Ground there situate, one hundred eighty-four and thirty-seven minutes west ten feet to a stone, north twenty degrees eleven minutes west one hundred forty-one and two one-hundredths feet to a pipe, north twenty degrees eleven minutes west one hundred eighty-five and sixty-one one-hundredths feet to a pipe; thence leaving said outlines and running for lines of division the six following course and distances viz: north nine degrees eighteen minutes east, running parallel with and distant five feet westerly from the west wall of the Burial Ground there situate, one hundred eighty-four and thirty-seven minutes west ten feet to a stone, north twenty degrees eleven minutes west one hundred forty-one and two one-hundredths feet to a pipe, north twenty degrees eleven minutes west one hundred eighty-five and sixty-one one-hundredths feet to a pipe; thence leaving said Lane and running for a line of division south thirty-two degrees east one hundred eighty-three and five one-hundredths feet to a pipe set in the fourth or south seventy-four degrees east one hundred nine and four-tenths perches line of the above referred to one thousand acres of land allotted to John Ridgely of Hampton; and thence running with and binding on a part said line, south seventy-nine degrees eighteen minutes east one hundred seventy-eight and seventeen one-hundredths feet to the place of beginning. Containing 43.295 acres of land more or less.

The administration, protection, and development of this national historic site shall be exercised by the National Park Service in accordance with the provisions of the act of August 21, 1935, supra.

Warning is expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, deface or remove any feature of this historic site.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of the Interior to be affixed, in the City of Washington, this 22nd day of June, 1948.

/s/ J. A. Krug

HAMPTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE GMP

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ORDER ADDING CERTAIN LANDS AT HAMPTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Secretary of the Interior

December 23, 1953, 18 F.R. 8874

Whereas, the following parcel of land adjoining Hampton National Historic Site in the Ninth Election District of Baltimore County, State of Maryland, has been purchased by the United States as an addition to, and for use in administering, developing, protecting and interpreting, the said National Historic Site:

Now, therefore, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority contained in the act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666, 16 U.S.C., 1946 ed., secs. 461, et seq.), the following described land is hereby added to and made a part of the Hampton National Historic Site:

All that parcel of land situate in the Ninth Election District of Baltimore County, in the State of Maryland, and which, according to a survey dated January 27, 1953, prepared by Dollenberg Brothers, Surveyors, is found to be within the following metes, bounds, courses and distances, to wit:

Beginning for the same at a point in the center of a 50-foot road heretofore laid out, and at the beginning of the thirteenth or N. 71° 56' W., 176.45 feet line of a parcel of land which by a deed dated January 23, 1948, and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber J.W.B. No. 1618, folio 391, was conveyed by John Ridgely, Jr., and wife to the United States of America, and running thence with and binding on the thirteenth and fourteenth lines of said parcel of land, as the courses are referred to in the true meridian, the two following courses and distances, viz: N. 71° 56' W., 176.45 feet and N. 4° 27' E., 393.25 feet to the south side of Hampton Lane, heretofore laid out 50 feet wide, thence binding on the south side of said Lane as now extended, with the right and use thereof in common with others entitled thereto, N. 76° 0' E., 250.87 feet to the center of the first herein mentioned 50-foot road, as now extended, and thence binding in the center of said 50-foot road, with the right and use thereof in common with others entitled thereto, S. 11° 49' W., 518.50 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 2.118 acres of land, more or less.

The administration, protection, and development of the land hereinabove described as a part of the said National Historic Site shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of the act of August 21, 1935, supra.

Warning is expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, deface, or remove any feature of this addition to said Site.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of Interior to be affixed, in the city of Washington, this 23rd day of December 1953.

FRED G. AANDAHL,  
Assistant Secretary of the Interior
RELATING TO ADDITION OF THE FARM COMPLEX
TO HAMPTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

October 12, 1978, Congressional Record, Pages 36221-36222
Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, the amendment I am offering today, along with Senators Sarbanes, Humphrey, and Case would expand the boundaries of the national historic site of one of the largest and finest Georgian homes in America. The Hampton NHS would be enlarged by approximately 14 acres to include the original farmhouse and six outbuildings.

Currently, this historic site consists of Hampton Mansion and several outbuildings located on a 45-acre tract just north of the Baltimore Beltway in Towson, MD. North of the mansion grounds is Hampton Lane, where the 14-acre farm parcel is located. This land area, virtually unseen from view by the dense vegetation is set back, somewhat, from Hampton Lane. In fact, the average visitor is probably not even aware of the existence of the farm, let alone capable of associating it with the mansion. Most would not even understand its true significance, which, I think, needs some explaining.

The significance of the farm is, simply, that Hampton originally was not just the mansion and its immediate grounds; rather, it was a sprawling plantation ...large venture, encompassing both agriculture and industry and the farm is an integral part of the enterprise.

It is important to note that many of the outbuildings on the Hampton Farm share common features with the [word illegible] buildings of the mansion. Several of the structures exhibit the same cornice and crescent-shaped cutouts, and the slate work of the masonry buildings is of similar appearance. This apparent relationship is important when relating the history of the Hampton estate as a single entity. In addition, it seems likely the nails, spikes, hinges, and other remaining hardware still visible in the buildings on both tracts of land were fabricated at the former carpenter/blacksmith shop from iron produced at Northampton furnace and should be noted as an example of how self-sufficient Hampton was.

Henry and Ottalie Williams in their book, “Great Houses of America” describe Hampton as “one of America’s most imposing late-18 century mansions.” So it is—and more.

Built by Charles Ridgely between 1783 and 1790, it stands today as one of the largest and finest Georgian houses in America. The mansion is furnished in the 1790-1830 period and contains many original Ridgely family pieces. The formal gardens, composed of six rectangular parterres in three terraces, are renowned for their sheer beauty.

Since 1948 Hampton has been the property of the American people as a national historic site. It is administered by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities for the National Park Service. This arrangement has been eminently successful. Over the years it has provided the citizens of the Nation with a truly magnificent view of a late 18th century manor house.

And now—an exciting new development has taken place. The Hampton Farm is being offered for sale. We now have the opportunity to rejoin these two properties in one contiguous and grand Hampton National Historic Site. The acquisition of the Hampton Farm and its rehabilitation would have a dynamic effect upon the mansion as it is currently interpreted. The operation of a revitalized farm complex would dramatically help to transform Hampton from a site of primarily genealogical and architectural interest to what it really was—the centerpiece of a once vast estate, of which the farm was a major component.

The farm house, built in 1690, was originally known as Huntsman’s Lodge and served as the home of Charles Ridgely while he built the mansion. The farm house has never been out of Ridgely hands.

I would like to describe for my colleagues the outbuildings which would be acquired pursuant to this amendment.

The overseer’s house was the main building of the farm complex. It was built in stages, and its earliest section is believed to date from the early 18th century, or perhaps even the 1690s. The house is wood, with a stone foundation and wood shingle roof. The most recent addition dates from the 1940s, when the Ridgely family moved their place of residence from the mansion.

The shed/garage is situated very near to the overseer’s house, and is a small wooden structure. As explained by Mr. John Ridgely III, the garage was built in two sections with the newer portion constructed from scrap lumber during his youth.

There are three slave quarters located on the property. All of them are two stories high, built on stone foundations with wood shingle roofs and brick chimneys. Two of the buildings have wooden cornices with crescent designs. Slave quarters III has an improved interior with a bathroom and was also used as a tenant house.
The bake oven is structurally sound stone located between slave quarters I and II, and has excellent interpretive potential.

The stuccoed stone dairy, believed to have been built before 1843, is partially below ground and includes a stream. There is an outdoor fireplace on the site and a brick chimney.

The rectangular-shaped two-story long barn/granary was built after 1843. The corncrib is built on a stone foundation and has horizontal ventilated siding. One interesting feature of the structure is the doorway. The door itself has long iron hinges running almost the width of the door. It is believed that those hinges are the original ones and were produced at the Northampton furnace and the farm blacksmith shop. Above the main door is a transom door. Carved vertically at the door frames are Roman numerals (either VIII or VIIII). It should be noted that this feature was common in country buildings, and represented the builder’s instruction mark. Such numbers provided guidance as to the proper construction of the structure’s timber and beams. They were usually found in the attic. Such a feature, a mark of rural artisanship, must be protected against any damage or deterioration. The corncrib, surrounded by dense vegetation, was built after 1843.

The mule barn is a two-story structure built prior to 1843. There are wooden planks over the dirt floor. The remnants of the stalls and troughs are still in place, including areas worn down by the animals stabled there. There is a crescent-shaped cornice on the barn, which is also present on the Hampton mansion greenhouse.

Hampton could be viewed as a prototype for iron and steel mills which developed later in the 19th and 20th centuries. Its farm was an important element in the early efforts toward industrialization.

As I have mentioned, the farm produced the food and other necessities for the slaves as well as the residents of the Mansion. In addition, the farm was profitable in itself. The estate produced prize-winning racehorses, cattle, sheep and swine. The farming activities predominated as the profitability of the ironworks began to decrease, and by the mid-19th century it was the profits generated by the agricultural activities which supported the elegant life at the mansion.

As my colleagues can see, the farm buildings were very important to the estate. And since those structures are still standing, we should do all we can to protect them.

The builder of Hampton Mansion, Charles Ridgely II was a public servant, in addition to being a businessman. He served the State of Maryland in a number of capacities, beginning as a representative to the General Assembly from 1790-95; as a Maryland State Senator from 1796-1800; and finally as Governor of the “Old Line State” from 1815 to 1818.

The Hampton mansion and grounds remained in the hands of the Ridgely family until 1948, when it was designated a national historic site.

Mr. President, on March 9, I wrote to the Director of the National Park Service requesting his views on the proposed Hampton expansion. On March 24, I received a reply from the Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, which I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the Record as follows:

Hon. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Mathias:

Your letter of March 9 to Director Whalen, concerning acquisition of 17 acres of land adjacent to Hampton National Historic Site was referred to me for a reply.

I have discussed this matter with Mr. Harrison, and feel the proposal has merit. However its inclusion in the National Historic Site would, of course, require the support of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior with accompanying specific legislative authorization.

This office has begun to prepare the necessary legislative support data so as to be ready should such data be requested by the Director, National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. Stanton, Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Region

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, we will not have this opportunity again. The Ridgely family farm, in all likelihood will be divided among the heirs of Mr. D. Stewart Ridgely, a banker, sportsman, and last member of his family born at Hampton, who was killed in a traffic accident.
this past summer. I therefore urge the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to act now to accept this amendment.

**Baltimore County, Office of Planning and Zoning.**


**Maryland Department of Natural Resources.**

**Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration.**
I-695/Baltimore Beltway MD 140 to MD 702 Baltimore County, Maryland, Environmental Re-Evaluation. October 2, 1998.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.**


**U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration.**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture.**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chesapeake Bay Program.**