

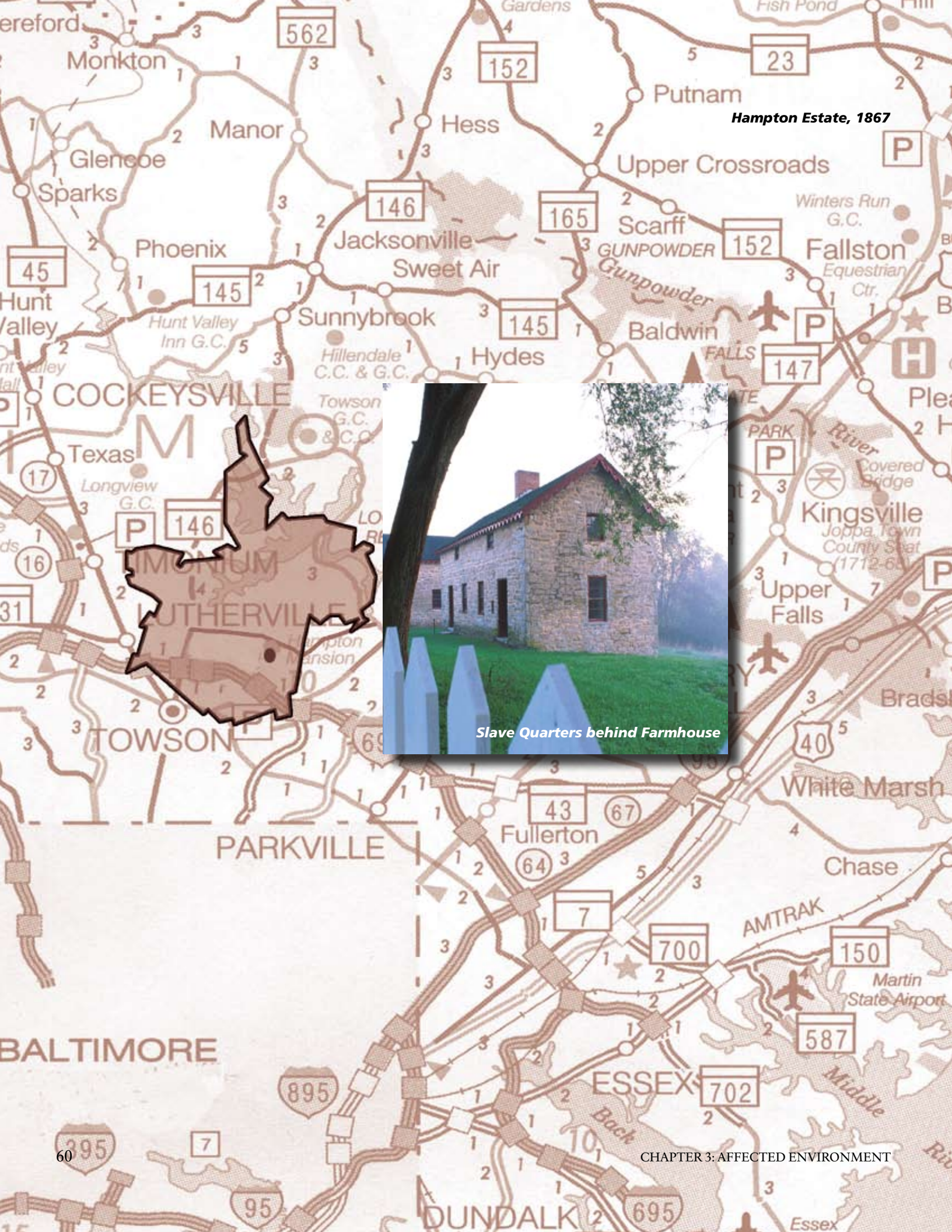
CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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Workers in Falling Garden, 19th century.



Hampton Estate, 1867

Slave Quarters behind Farmhouse

INTRODUCTION

Implementation of any of the alternative actions proposed in Chapter 2 could affect cultural and natural resources, socioeconomic environment, visitor experience and park operations. To establish a baseline for Chapter 4's analysis of the impacts of each proposed alternative, the existing condition of the resources and related conditions, identified above, are described in this chapter.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

In support of this General Management Planning effort, extensive efforts to inventory and identify park cultural resources were undertaken and the results of those efforts are available for additional reference. Archeological resources were reviewed in both an *Overview and Assessment Report* (Breckenridge, 2000) and an *Archeological Survey* (Long, 2001). For the Hampton cultural landscape, a *Landscape History and Contextual Documentation* was completed in 1999 (Ford), a Cultural Landscape Inventory was completed in 2006, and the *Cultural Landscape Report* was finished in 2006. Historic structures are documented in various historic structures reports, the park's formal *List of Classified Structures*, and annual condition assessments. Museum collections are documented through the Automated National Catalog System, the *Annual Checklist Program of Museum Storage Deficiencies*, the NPS *National and Northeast Region Storage Plans*, a Collections Storage Plan for Hampton, a *Collections Management Review* (1998), and Collections Management Plans (1997 and 2009). Ethnographic and historical research needs were assessed in a study of *African-American History at Hampton, Booker T. Washington, and George Washington Birthplace* (Farrar, 1990) and the *Hampton National Historic Site Research Needs Assessment Study* (King, 1996). Finally, all these resources were evaluated against the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places (NR) and the park's *NR Nomination and Continuation Sheets* were updated formally in 2004 (McKee).

Cultural Landscape And Historic Structures

Hampton National Historic Site retains the original spatial organization of the estate. The mansion sits atop a ridge overlooking Maryland's sweeping Dulaney Valley and the farm, gardens and outbuildings descend from this high point in all directions. The estate was designed to take advantage of the topography and micro climates of the site. The formal garden makes full use of light and the declining elevation as it steps down the south-facing hillside in five terraces. An icehouse rests out of the sun on the north-facing slope. The dairy, used for sterilizing containers and cooling milk, is placed below grade over a small spring-fed stream.

Overall, the original layout and design of the Hampton estate exhibits the sophisticated English picturesque design principles of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. As one of the most renowned farms in the United States during the early 19th century, Hampton was viewed as an American counterpart to the greatest of the improved English estates such as Holkham and Woburn Abbey. In Britain, the practical concerns of the rural economy had been melded with the aesthetic appreciation for the landscape garden. These aesthetic precedents were followed at Hampton's home farm in the siting and ornamental detailing expressed in the dairy and other outbuildings, the assemblage of ornamented farm buildings in a village-like setting in full view of the mansion, and the axial relationship between the mansion and the farmstead. Many of the support structures display high-quality construction with decorative details. The site is thought to be one of the few intact examples of the *ferme ornee*—or “ornamented farm”—in America. *Ferme ornee* is a term generally used by landscape historians to refer to country

estates laid out with both romantic aesthetic principles and practical farming considerations influencing the design and juxtaposition of built elements and decoration.

Gradually, the landscape changed: first with the loss of the original farmlands, then with their transformation into modern residential communities, and then with the redesign or loss of individual elements of the estate itself.

At the estate's height, the Ridgely family amassed 24,000 acres, including the core four thousand-acre Hampton estate (Home Farm). Gradually, portions of the family lands, including land around the Home Farm, were sold off. By the late 1930s, the Ridgely Family decided to sell the lands surrounding Hampton for housing. By the end of World War II, this last Ridgely owner was concerned that "...the estate would be swallowed up by the encroaching suburbs and eventually destroyed." *Cultural Landscape Report* (2006).

In the first half of the 20th century, the Loch Raven Reservoir was created, flooding the family iron works and related worker housing. Later in the century Interstate Route 695 was built, cutting off the mansion from former family lands to the south. To preserve the core of the original Home Farm, 43.29 acres surrounding the mansion and the farm buildings, the last remaining portion of the original 24,000 acres of Ridgely family lands, were sold and donated to the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities (SPMA) and the National Park Service. The residential development bordering the park is mostly screened by vegetation planted by NPS and adjacent residents. A tall concrete sound wall and vegetation block views of, but not noise or air pollution from, the Baltimore Beltway.

In the 1950s, the SPMA contracted with Alden Hopkins, a renowned preservation landscape architect, to reconstruct parterres on the three upper terraces based largely on English designs from the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His designs for the garden and for a new visitor parking lot were partially put into place. The *Cultural Landscape Report* (2006) and the National Register Documentation (2004) state that the Hopkins designs do not contribute to the period of significance and are not historically significant in their own right.

Since the 1950s, many changes to the landscape on the estate occurred including creation of a parking lot by the

orangery in the 1950s, loss and subsequent rebuilding of the orangery in 1976; construction of a park maintenance facility (the metal building) in the 1980s; authorized bulldozing of sections of the farm, including several building foundations and fence rows, in 1982; loss of the corn crib to arson in 1988; and construction of a modern entrance drive and overflow parking lot with adjacent large culverts on the west field in 1988.

Eight areas still retain significant elements of the original landscape: north lawn; west field, mansion and domestic service cluster; family cemetery and cemetery road; terraced garden; and, east orchard, garden maintenance area, farm landscape, and farm cluster.

The *Cultural Landscape Report* (2006) examined the evolving estate and made a series of findings and recommendations: that are useful in understanding the value of the cultural landscape to us today.

Landscape Significance

The landscape at Hampton is nationally significant for archeology, agriculture, architecture, conservation (historic preservation), landscape architecture, ethnic heritage, and social history. In addition, Hampton is also significant for its association with the Ridgely Family, and for its influence on settlement patterns of the Chesapeake region.

Period Of Significance

Taken together, Hampton's existing landscape has multiple layers of history and retains a high to moderate degree of integrity for a period of national significance spanning from 1745 through 1948. The period of significance from 1745 through 1945, were the years that Hampton was settled and built into a commanding, slave-holding estate that featured designed landscapes, progressive agricultural and commercial approaches, and period social trends and steady economic constriction as the transition from slavery to tenant farming impacted the economy of the estate.

Hampton also played a pivotal role in historic preservation in America after World War II. This period of national significance is 1945 through 1948. Post 1948 physical interventions in the landscape have low integrity and are non-contributing. Although once a vast industrial and business empire, elements in the landscape that depict an area of significance related to industry and economy no



longer survive and therefore have potential integrity as archeological resources only.

Hampton retains a high to moderate degree of landscape integrity and a strong ability to effectively convey the primary areas of significance of landscape architecture, agriculture, and social history. The challenge for the future is long term preservation of the critical elements that make this landscape significant.

Cultural Landscape Boundary

The recommended cultural landscape boundary is the park boundary. Within this boundary lie buildings, structures, sites, objects, landscape features and qualities that contribute to all periods and areas of significance. Some parts of Hampton, such as the west field and other remnant fields, have diminished integrity, and there are many modern, non-contributing features that are within the park boundary. The surviving landscape area of Hampton, however, played a critical role in its long history and, as an assembly, is critical in conveying its national significance.

In this report eight areas retaining significant elements of the original landscape were identified. A summary of these are presented below. A more detail description of these landscapes with their associated structures can be found in *Cultural Landscape Report* (2006).

North Lawn: Visitors approaching the park are greeted by large open areas dotted with deciduous trees. Masses of trees line the perimeter of the 17-acre

lawn, a tall grass meadow directly north of the mansion. Two two-story stone stables located on this lawn housed thoroughbred race horses and carriage horses. The subterranean icehouse, used for food preservation throughout the year, is visible above ground as an oval mound of earth. Its interior is a stone-lined shaft leading to a circular chamber with a brick dome.

West Field: The 13-acre west field is separated from the north lawn by the Ridgely-era entrance drive and sloping terrain. At the beginning of the drive is a pair of wrought iron gates displaying a stag, the Ridgely family emblem. This drive is closed to traffic because the gates' narrow width prohibits safe access by large vehicles. Visitors instead enter the park on a road that bisects the field and goes alongside an overflow parking lot in the vicinity of the former location of an orchard. The field has a rock outcropping in its center

and a dense evergreen screen planting along its western edge.

Mansion and Domestic Service Cluster: The mansion is a three-story house of scored stucco over stone, built between 1783 and 1790. At that time it was

the largest Georgian-style house in the United States, with two-story wings, one-story connecting rooms (hyphens), a cellar, an attic, and an oversized cupola. A red brick terrace extends along the full length of the south façade and around the east end.

On the east side of the mansion are several white clap board structures: a smokehouse, two privies, a garage, and a woodshed/paint house that was modified in the mid-20th century to accommodate a small carriage. This area also encompasses a small shingled house for a pump used to provide water to the mansion, the ruins of a building that stored coal gas used for lighting the mansion circa 1850 to 1925, and the remains of a foundation for a building of unknown purpose. A modern herb garden maintained by the Glen Arm Garden Club is planted on the site of an octagonal frame building that housed slaves and later servants, and burned in 1946.

West of the mansion is a brick and frame building rebuilt in 1976 over the foundations of an orangery that burned in 1926. The original was used by the Ridgely family to protect potted citrus and other plants through the winter. Its replacement serves as a meeting facility and the location of the site's only handicapped-accessible restrooms.

Ridgely Family Cemetery and Access Road:

The cemetery contains the remains of seven generations of the family and includes a small, classical revival mausoleum built early in the 19th century. It is located at the end of an unpaved road that winds through woodlands of the lower elevations to the southeast of the mansion. Enclosed by a six-foot-high brick, stone and metal wall, it has an iron-gated entrance framed by two very large yews. Little ornamental planting is evident inside the walls, although at one time there were many specimens present.

Falling Garden and East Orchard: The Great Terrace lies south of the mansion. Formerly a

bowling green, the nearly level lawn is scattered with trees, including catalpas planted at the time of the mansion's construction. The "Falling Garden" below it contains a series of terraces adorned with intricate parterres. Only the east parterre on terrace one retains its original design from the late 18th century. The gardens are maintained by the NPS with support from District III Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. and Historic Hampton, Inc. The third terrace contains peony beds planted during the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Ridgely

III;

the peony beds frame a grassy area and a weeping Japanese pagoda tree. A Chinese chestnut tree grows on the fourth terrace, which is kept in grass.

A wooded area, approximately 100 feet deep, separates

the fourth terrace from the I-695 noise wall and remnants of a fifth terrace.

On the east side of the terraced garden, the former location of the 21-acre orchard is today an open, meadow with the subtle remains of at least four terraces. No orchard trees survive. The southern and eastern edges of the orchard site are defined by natural woodland.

Garden Maintenance Area: Since the early 19th century this area has been the center of garden maintenance activities on the Hampton estate. The one-and-one-half-story wooden garden maintenance building is currently used for maintenance and curatorial storage. The two-story caretaker's cottage, constructed of brick and stone, is used as park quarters. The two stone and glass greenhouses continued to be used into the mid-20th century; greenhouse #2 was rehabilitated in 2000 but doesn't have heat. Further from the garden toward the park's western boundary, are two modern facilities built in the 1980s and the 1990s and presently used for collections storage: an aluminum-sided structure referenced elsewhere in this document as the metal building, and an enclosed and improved wooden shed, known as the pole barn. In 2005, modular buildings housing park staff and HHI were placed next to the metal building on the eastern edge

Living history at Home Farm

of the overflow parking area.

Farm Landscape and Lower House Cluster:

The home farm is set in a rolling landscape with small fields and wooded boundary line. The spring-fed stream that flows from the dairy runs northeasterly 442 feet to the edge of the property. Nine structures remain, representing the core of the home farm. All were designed, built and maintained with exceptional care, since they all were visible from the mansion.

The two-story frame lower house and its supporting buildings are located on the edge of a large limestone outcropping. The oldest part of the lower house dates from about 1740, and was expanded and modernized around 1775. After the family moved to the mansion around 1790, the lower house was inhabited by a succession of farm overseers. Major additions were made to the building circa 1830 and 1948.

Two stone structures, slave quarters Band C, were built circa 1850. Their barge board ornamentation and the high quality of their construction are attributed to the desire of the estate owners to create a picturesque village to be seen from the mansion. Following the Civil War, they were used to house tenant farmers. The historic use of slave quarters A, a log building near the lower house, has not been conclusively documented. These three buildings plus an ash house (used for making soap, candles, and lime for fertilizer) and a chicken coop (originally a dovecote and later a garage) are clustered near the lower house but outside a white picket fence that surrounds the house and encloses private lawns. Vehicular access to the lower house cluster is provided by a spur road off the main farm lane.

In the fields adjacent to the lower house cluster are several structures that were directly involved in the farm operation. A stone foundation marks the site of a large corn crib



that was destroyed by fire in 1988. The mule barn and the long house granary are two-story, well constructed stone buildings that share design elements such as scalloped barge board ornamentation with the stone slave quarters. The mule barn retains much of its historic interior of stalls and feed boxes. The granary was used to house hogs as well as to store feed. The late eighteenth-century dairy, a one-story stuccoed building, also shows careful design and construction. Dairy farming continued to be important to the Hampton estate into the 20th century.

Collections

The historic collections at Hampton represent more than 160 years of family life, with a concentration on the period between 1790 and 1900. They consist of over 45,000 historic objects, 100,000 archival items and 30,000 archeological artifacts. Surviving in their original

context, they greatly enhance the overall significance of the site (*Collections Management Review*, 1998).

Storage of Hampton's collections has been addressed by NPS in a *Collections Storage Plan* (1993) and *Collections Management Plans* (1997 and 2009). The most recent *Collections Management Plan* (2009) (CMP) makes recommendations about consolidating storage of Hampton's museum collections on-site and to fewer storage facilities. These recommendations are certainly in the spirit of the National and Northeast Region's Storage Plans which recommended consolidation. However, the new CMP provides more efficient and cost effective strategies than the national and regional plans, as the CMP responds to some new developments and more specific resource data than was available when the regional plan was developed. The collections are currently being stored in many different locations—nine on the Hampton grounds and two off site. Problems with existing storage spaces include small rooms, low ceilings, inconvenient door and window locations, radiators, duct openings, limited floor load capacities, unheated spaces,

Table 3-1: Collections Storage Facilities

BUILDING USED FOR STORAGE	AREA USED FOR STORAGE (sq ft)
Mansion (9 rooms on 2nd and 3rd floors)	1,580
Long house granary (2 floors)	1,900
Stable #1 (ground floor)	1,200
Stable #2 (ground floor)	1,000
Quarters B (2 rooms, 2nd floor, 225 SF per room)	900
Garden maintenance bldg. (part of 1st and 2nd floors)	300
Greenhouse #2 (stone section)	200
Pole Barn	1,000
Metal Building	2,100
Civil War powder magazine, Fort McHenry NM	1,370
NPS Museum Resource Center Storage Facility, NCR	16

Source: *Collections Management Review* (1998) with HAMP staff revisions (2006)

dirt floors, and insect and rodent infestations. Many of these conditions preclude efficient use of standard shelving and museum storage equipment. Table 3-1 describes the areas, on site and off site, that are currently used for storing Hampton's collections.

Environmental conditions for collections at Hampton range from completely unregulated (quarters B, greenhouse #2) to heating and cooling with some degree of humidity control (long house granary, stables 2, the mansion, and the Civil War powder magazine at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (NM&HS) in Baltimore). The powder magazine, the granary, pole barn, and the metal building currently offer the best environmental conditions for Hampton's collections. Pest management is of considerable concern, especially in historic buildings. An integrated pest management plan was prepared in 2002, but has not been fully implemented due to lack of staff.

Storage spaces at the granary are on two floors that have

significantly restricted access. Small, boxed items easily carried through small doorways are best stored there. A water line was installed to improve humidification during the winter. Dehumidifiers are operated during the summer and other periods of high humidity.

A 416-square-foot work room on the second floor of the mansion offers space for cleaning and maintenance of the scattered collections. The third floor of the mansion is now a principal object collections storage area. Hampton's curatorial staff estimates that, at most, half of the collections currently stored at Fort McHenry will be used in implementing the furnishing plans for the mansion. With the exception of several textiles stored in the long house granary, less than half of the remaining material currently in storage at Hampton will be used for exhibit (*Collections Management Review*, 1998). Curation of the collection is very professional; collections are catalogued and housekeeping and preventative conservation programs are in place. This is clearly documented in the 2009 *Collections Management Plan*.

The furniture and decorative arts acquired by the Ridgely's sustained a country house lifestyle, reflecting elegance on a grand scale combined with conveniences for daily activities. The historic furnished interiors presently open to the public relate the social and aesthetic history of this prominent Maryland family. The music room, drawing room, parlor, dining room, great hall, three bedrooms, and first story and second story stair halls exhibit period styles ranging from 1790, when the mansion was completed, to the latter 1800s.

Hampton's collections include outstanding examples of American silver, paintings by leading 18th and 19th century artists, a remarkably intact collection of household textiles representative of both centuries, and high-style American furniture. Furniture on display includes, in the drawing room, a complete suite of Baltimore painted furniture regarded by leading authorities in the field as the finest of its kind extant. The northeast bedchamber is furnished for children, although the children actually occupied rooms on the third floor. The third floor rooms are used for curatorial storage instead of exhibits because rooms open to the public need a second egress in the event of fire.

Recently, the construction of a new collections management facility was funded as part of the 2009 *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. This new facility is

included in the no action and the two action alternatives of this GMP/EIS. The new facility will alleviate collections storage and access problems related above as the current condition. It is anticipated that the new facility will be constructed early in the implementation of this GMP/EIS.

Archeology

Archeological investigations were carried out at Hampton between 1966 and 1994, and a park wide archeological survey was conducted in 2000. Most of the projects completed prior to the survey had focused on a single structure or landscape feature, and archeological excavation was primarily an adjunct to restoration or occurred in response to utility work that disturbed subsurface resources, see Breckenridge (2000) and Long (2001).

The *Archeological Survey* identified over fifty cultural features and collected over forty thousand artifacts relating to prehistoric and historic activity at the park. The prehistoric artifacts include Early Woodland projectile points and Late Woodland ceramics. The types and distribution of prehistoric resources at the park are indicative of short-term campsites at which lithic reduction, tool maintenance, and resource procurement were the primary activities. The historic artifacts collected date from the mid-eighteenth century to the late twentieth century. These objects provide important information about the various changes that occurred on the property. The historic features identified during the survey included pathways, trash pits, post holes, and several construction-related features. (Long, 2001)

In July 1999, Hampton entered into a cooperative agreement with the Maryland Archeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory of the Maryland Historic Trust in Annapolis to preserve, inventory and document archeological collections. Approximately 90 boxes of Hampton's archeological material have been processed by the Trust and returned to the site for storage.

Ethnography

Rare surviving slave quarters include two stone structures and possibly a log building near the lower house. The octagonal house, a wooden building that also originally housed slaves and servants, with its adjacent work yard and summer kitchen, was destroyed by fire. This work area survived through the mid-20th century and is documented in photographs, however, additional research is required to fully understand the design and use of the octagonal servants' quarters in order to meet require-



Mule Barn and Corn Crib Foundation

ments for reconstructing it for interpretive purposes in the future.

Dr. Kent Lancaster, Professor Emeritus of Goucher College, conducted African-American research in Hampton's primary records and archives from 1989 to 2004. Under a grant received from Preservation Maryland, Dr. Lancaster interviewed people who lived or worked at the Hampton estate, their descendants and acquaintances. Of 24 people interviewed between 1998 and 2001, five have been African-Americans who either worked at Hampton or were descended from former slaves on the estate. Dr. Lancaster bequeathed to Hampton his very extensive research and writings—which are now part of the park's archives. The work is principally composed of the numerous, highly detailed papers and analyses that he wrote after years of studying materials related to Hampton and all of its' people, both the Ridgelys and their servants. His work was especially, though not exclusively, focused on the history of the enslaved people at Hampton. His writings are particularly concerned with the number, identities, and occupations of the slaves, how they were cared for, what eventually happened to them. The research collection is deep and rich in content.

Hampton's manuscript and archival collections also contain a considerable number of original documents related to the enslaved population. These include exten-

sive probate records relating to the disposition of slaves after the death of Charles Carnan Ridgely, documents related to the purchases of slaves, reward announcement for a runaway slave, certificate for freeing a slave, a pass for a slave to travel, and a newspaper article about a slave of Governor Ridgely’s.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Riparian Wetlands And Water Quality

Hampton is in the Loch Raven watershed within the larger Gunpowder basin, which drains into Chesapeake Bay. At one time, two springs flowed on the park site. One was located in the wooded area on the south side of the property, just inside the I-695 noise wall. The ruins of a stone arch mark the origin of the former spring head. However, three site visits did not reveal any evidence of activity at this particular spring; even after heavy rainfall (EMC, 1999). Over the last ten years, park staff has improved the riparian buffer and removed invasive exotic plants from

Table 3-2: Water Quality Analysis— Hampton Dairy Spring	
Water temperature)	12° C
Dissolved oxygen	8 ppm
Biochemical oxygen demand	4 ppm
pH (standard units)	8 ppm
Total nitrogen	<5 ppm
Total phosphorus	1 ppm
Turbidity	0
Coliform bacteria	Positive

Source: Environmental Management Collaboration, Ltd. (1999).

Soil classifications are based on the *Baltimore County Soil Survey* (1976). The largest percentage of soils at the Hampton site are in the Joppa series, which consists of deep, well drained to somewhat excessively drained soils

that include gravelly sandy loam, with 2-5 percent slopes. Much of the farmstead soils and a portion of those on the south side of the mansion are in the Conestoga series, consisting of very deep, well drained soils on uplands. Conestoga loam with 3-8 percent slopes is found on a section of the western part of the farm property. Conestoga loam with 8-15 percent slopes underlies the higher elevation of the mansion, extends into the parterres, and also continues onto part of the farmstead.

Baltimore County floodplain maps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s *National Wetlands Inventory* (1981) show no floodplains or wetlands identified within the park boundaries. However, a band of hydric soil and hydrophytic vegetation extends along the banks of the dairy stream, the western border of the mansion site, and the far southern boundary of the park in the wooded area next to the I-695 noise wall. The soil in those areas is Melvin silt loam, local alluvium (Mo) from the Melvin series, which is subject to flooding at irregular intervals because the water table is at or near the surface for long periods during the year (*Baltimore County Soil Survey*, 1976). The narrow strips of palustrine forested, broad-leaved deciduous wetlands along the dairy stream banks are similar to those found in two streams near the park, one about 800 feet east of Hampton’s boundary adjacent to an unnamed tributary to Loch Raven Reservoir, and the other about 800 feet west of the park boundary along Hampton Branch.

Vegetation

Vegetation is a defining feature of the Hampton landscape. Plant species and planting styles represent changing horticultural and design trends from the 18th century through the 20th century as well as changing land uses on the property. A total of 823 native and exotic trees and shrubs have been identified by park staff as important elements of the site’s designed landscape. Vegetation presently on site can be divided into four categories: natural woodland, ornamental plantings, lawns and fields, and planted screens.

Natural Woodland

The natural woodlands at Hampton occur primarily along park boundaries and in other areas that are not actively managed. The southern and eastern edges of the terraces and the approach to the cemetery are cloaked in a natural stand of deciduous trees consisting of tulip

poplar, American sycamore, sugar maple, black cherry, red mulberry, and red, white and black oak. Dogwood, sassafras and spicebush are present in the understory. The area between the garden and the Beltway sound wall contains a very dense plant community of spicebush, honeysuckle, and deciduous trees. A row of three swamp white oak trees were discovered growing in this area in the fall of 2003. Along the northern reaches of the spring-fed stream is a mix of native canopy trees and understory exotics, some of which are highly invasive. Woodland also extends along the park's northern and eastern boundaries, where successional vegetation has taken over.

Ornamental Plantings

The ornamental plantings reflect centuries of interest in horticulture and landscape design by the Ridgely family. Ornamental trees are numerous in the park. Plantings in the garden maintenance area and around the lower house have a much less formal quality than the designed plantings of the mansion landscape. Around the mansion many very old trees remain, some of them planted by the first Ridgely families. Two large catalpas on the great terrace may date to the construction of the mansion. Two of Hampton's trees have been designated "state champions" by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, based upon height, crown spread, and diameter at breast height: a black pine west of the historic entrance and a weeping Japanese pagoda tree in the formal gardens. A third state champion, a pecan tree, was taken down in 2007 after severe storm damage.

Lawns And Fields

The lawns and fields consist of frequently mown lawns, and tall grass fields of both native and exotic grasses. Most of the area south of Hampton Lane falls into this category. The north lawn and the west field are both currently maintained in a combination of tall grass meadow and mown lawn, with stately canopy trees and other designed plantings. The site of the east orchard is a tall grass meadow with scattered deciduous trees. Mown lawn exists adjacent to the caretaker's cottage, the garden maintenance building and the greenhouses. On the north side of the lane, the farmstead comprises a mostly open landscape of lawn and meadows. The open areas outside the picket fence of the lower house are managed in tall grass meadow with a distinct edge of mown lawn. Inside the picket fence is mown lawn, with large canopy shade trees, dogwood understory, and ornamental shrubs along the inside of the fence.

Plant Screens

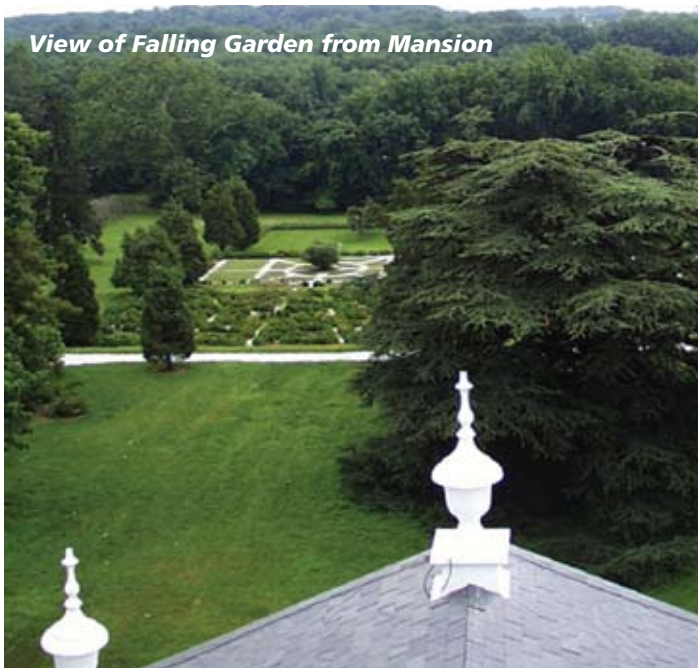
The vegetative screens have been planted to block views of the residences along the park boundaries. They are located along Hampton Lane on the north lawn (deciduous trees, Norway spruce, white pine, and a very large arborvitae), along the edges of the west field (white pine), and along the western edge of the farm (white pine and sweet gum). Both evergreen and deciduous trees have been planted as screening for the metal building in the garden maintenance area.

Throughout the park, changes in taste of family members and landscape architects have created incongruities and contradictions among landscape features. For example, the cedar of Lebanon on the great terrace, a contributing landscape feature that was planted in accordance with the design philosophy of Andrew Jackson Downing, has obliterated the sight line through the parterres from the south portico of the mansion as the garden was originally laid out. Various other tree plantings and garden "restorations," including the work of Alden Hopkins in the early 1950s, have altered some of the historic elements of the landscape.

The character and integrity of the landscape are additionally threatened by the establishment of opportunistic species that have adapted to altered environmental conditions such as wet soils, changes in mowing practices, and the growth of secondary forest vegetation. Turquoise berry, Japanese honeysuckle, American bittersweet, Chinese elm, and tree-of-heaven are examples that jeopardize the survival of Hampton's historic species by crowding them out. This problem is being addressed along the dairy stream through a project to remove exotic plants and replace them with appropriate vegetation, substantially completed in 2006.

Several pests have attacked the ornamental garden, trees and vegetation, causing much damage and loss. In 1992, the University of Maryland conducted a pest management study at Hampton. A total of 43 different insect pests were identified, representing 927 occurrences. Eighteen diseases, representing 593 occurrences, were also observed. An integrated pest management approach is being used to treat insects and diseases.

Soil compaction, which affects water and nutrient ab-



sorption and gas exchange by tree roots, is evident in areas of concentrated visitor use and pedestrian traffic. Fertilization, pruning, cabling, and lightning protection have helped the site's historic trees survive. To preserve exact genetic material, propagation of the purple European beech was contracted through Manor View Farms, Inc.; the Biltmore Ash, and catalpa were propagated by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's Historic Plant Nursery.

Wildlife

Hampton has a resident population of white-tailed deer that travel along the noise wall at the far south end of the property and along the dairy stream banks. The deer browse on vegetation and severely limit the use of certain plants; e.g., tulips can no longer be successfully grown at Hampton. Rutting activities in the fall damage young trees and shrubs, particularly the arborvitae bordering the formal garden. Deer are also of great concern to the neighbors.

Other wildlife known to occur on site is red fox, gray squirrel, flying squirrel, groundhog, eastern chipmunk, meadow vole, eastern cottontail, and raccoon. Many species of passerine migrate through the area along the Atlantic flyway during spring and fall. American kestrels, broad-winged hawks and red-shouldered hawks have been seen soaring over the park. Cavity-nesting birds and animals have a

wealth of tree cavities to utilize because of the abundance of large, mature trees. Species that have adapted to suburban environments and could visit the park are Virginia opossum, bat, and various species of rodent. Rodents, insects, and other animals are presently causing damage to the grounds and to some park buildings (*Natural Resources Inventory*, 1998).

SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Land Use And The Neighborhood

Over the past 50 years the quiet rural setting of Hampton National Historic Site changed significantly as highway infrastructure expanded and commercial, institutional and residential development intensified. While a sound wall blocks the view of the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) from the site, the sound of traffic on the park's southern boundary is highly audible. South of the Beltway are both the campus of Goucher College and Towson Center, a sprawling, congested commercial district. The single-family residences on the north, east and west sides of Hampton are zoned DR-2 (Density Residential: two houses per acre) by the county. Less than a mile east of Hampton is Notre Dame Preparatory School. Towson United Methodist Church is half a mile west of the park at the intersection of Dulaney Valley Road and Hampton Lane.

The Hampton Improvement Association has an architectural review committee that considers building requests throughout the neighborhood for compliance with historic covenants and community architectural harmony. They are continuing to see requests for small homes to be replaced by very large residences. They have been approving those plans as being in accordance with zoning and regulations they can enforce.

Transportation

Virtually all visitors to Hampton arrive by car or bus on I-695 and exit onto Dulaney Valley Road (MD 146) on the west, as directed by signs on the interstate. It is also possible to enter the park from the east by exiting onto Providence Road from I-695. Both roads intersect Hampton Lane, a two-lane paved county residential road that separates the farm from the mansion site. This road is classified as an urban collector, a roadway that provides both access and traffic circulation within residential, commercial and industrial areas. Estimated average



Visitors enjoy a carriage ride by the Hampton Mansion

daily traffic on Hampton Lane in 2003 was about 6,000 vehicles east of Dulaney Valley Road, and about 3,000 west of Providence Road. The level of service at the intersection of Hampton Lane and Dulaney Valley Road was 'A', and 'B' at Hampton Lane and Providence Road (Emery Hines, Baltimore County, September 2003).

Interchange improvements at Hampton Lane and Dulaney Valley Road and at Hampton Lane and Providence Road were completed in 2002. In 2003 a left turn lane was constructed from Providence Road onto Hampton Lane (at Cowpens). The county has plans for adding a four-foot bicycle lane and sidewalks along Providence Road, but no significant capacity enhancements have been identified

from the historic drive but still leaving a somewhat hazardous situation with limited visibility of oncoming cars. The new entrance road is used by staff and park visitors; the Ridgely-era entrance still exists but is no longer in use. The current entrance road is a paved circular driveway and crosses formerly open fields to the west of the historic entrance. It loops toward the garden maintenance area and then leads to a paved parking lot near the orangery. There are five paved parking spaces for buses and recreational vehicles on the west side of the loop. The upper parking lot was constructed by the NPS in the 1950s using designs of Alden Hopkins. It now includes four handicapped parking spaces with a small, paved ramp allowing people with disabilities to negotiate the curb.



Dairymaid and cow at Hampton's historic Dairy Day

for automobile traffic on Hampton Lane, Dulaney Valley Road, or Providence Road in the 2010 *Baltimore County Master Plan*.

The Ridgely-era entrance drive to the mansion was replaced in 1988 with an entry way that begins near a hill on Hampton Lane, resulting in some improvement. An overflow parking area that can accommodate 50 cars has been constructed approximately 100 feet down the hill. This lot was covered in rolled white gravel in 2006 to improve appearance and safety. A crushed white limestone area off the east end of the mansion provides emergency access as well as space for service vehicles for short term loading and unloading.

Primary road access to the lower house cluster is provided by a 14-foot-wide dirt and gravel drive leading from Hampton Lane. A field access lane extends from Hamp-

ton Lane to the long house granary. Parking space for the farm is available at a gravel lot behind the mule barn. Pedestrian pathways within the lower house cluster include a flagstone walkway from the drive to the house, and a boardwalk from the drive to the gate at the backyard fence. Pedestrian access to farm buildings does not meet current *Americans with Disabilities Act* standards.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Visitors to Hampton today encounter a very different setting from that of the late 1700s, 1800s, and early 1900s, when farmland stretched for thousands of acres around the magnificent mansion. The typical visitor approaching from Hampton Lane is not likely to see the full view of the front of the house until after having taken the mansion tour. This omission negates much of the potential drama of the site's initial visual impact, although the entrance into the west hyphen through a wide lawn shaded by mature trees does suggest that the site is an elaborate and grand one.

Approximately ninety percent of Hampton's visitors are adults; one-quarter of those adults are estimated to be senior citizens. In 1998, 3.4 percent (1,005) of the visitors were in school groups. Although guests to Hampton are not recorded by race or ethnicity, minorities are observed to represent a low but increasing percentage of the total.

Park facilities are not sufficient to accommodate all visitors. Public restrooms are located in the non-handicapped accessible basement of the mansion and in the accessible orangery. The restrooms are not adequate to serve peak visitation, school groups or bus tours. The orangery is currently used for meetings but is not considered suitable for educational use because of its acoustics and the difficulty of darkening the room for visual aids. Other accessible visitor areas include the west hyphen and the first story rooms of the main block of the mansion, and the first floor of the lower house, where small mechanical lifts are available. However, there is no assistance to the second floor of the mansion and no other visitor facilities are located at the farm complex.

Hampton has no visitor orientation or information center, or any space large enough to accommodate a bus load of people; the west hyphen, a single small room of the mansion, is the major public contact area. Space constraints do not allow for an orientation program that would give visitors a preliminary sense of the site's layout and their



Staff and volunteers sport historic attire for Hampton's Victorian Games Day

mansion, a visitor may easily miss seeing the farm or recognizing that it is a part of the site.

The NPS *Map and Guide* functions as the primary orientation guide for the site. It includes a general introduction, a time line, several brief pictorial essays, a site map, and a keyed text for a self-guided tour of the grounds, including the farm. A second brochure, *Gardens and Grounds*, lays out a detailed, self-guided tour of the mansion, garden and outbuildings, and was replaced in 2008. The grounds, cemetery, and farm are open every day for self-guided visits.

Three full-time, professional NPS interpreters are employed at Hampton, one of whom is also responsible for law enforcement 50% of the time. Seasonal employees and volunteers undergo a lengthy training process before undertaking public programs, making interpretation a labor-intensive commitment. The programs provided help visitors understand the complex human interactions and economy that maintained the estate for nearly 200 years.

Guided tours of the mansion are given regularly throughout the year. These tours focus on the development, history, and workings of the estate as well as its architecture and decorative arts. Guests see the great terrace with its spreading old specimen trees and the parterres of the garden. They can also enjoy the panorama overlooking the farm complex. Tours of the garden, grounds, cemetery, and wooden quarters A are offered with varying frequency depending on visitation, staffing, and season. The farm is staffed for a portion of each day, and farm tours are available by reservation any time of year as staffing permits.

For visitors interested in the estate and family history, architecture, and decorative arts, the Guidebook to Hampton National Historic Site is available for purchase from the gift shop. Site bulletins describe African-American culture at Hampton, the grounds, and the historic ironworks. Educational materials, including an 18-minute video, are available to schools prior to site visits. The park maintains an Internet web site at www.nps.gov/hamp that provides a description of the park, fee information, travel directions, and information updates on events and studies. Historic Hampton, Inc. publishes a biennial new letter.

A small, but increasing, number of visitors are arriving on foot from the immediate neighborhood and by car from the surrounding community for recreation. Most of these visitors are using the park for passive recreation (dog walking, evening strolls, etc.), although the hill behind the mansion is the best sledding hill in the area. In general, these visitors are dispersed and in low numbers, except for the infrequent sledding enthusiasts. There has been no attempt to count these visitors, but general observation by park staff indicates that the numbers of neighborhood recreationists are increasing. Sledding is prohibited and this is enforced when possible.



options for exploring it. Interpretive signs are mainly limited to label-type plaques or markers that identify a few trees and the uses of key structures. Basic exhibits on the workers were added to Slave Quarters B in 2007 and the Tenant Farmers' Quarters in 2008. Without orientation to the farm complex, located across Hampton Lane from the

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Staffing for the park consists of 12.5 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) assigned to park, supplemented by approximately 4.75 additional FTE from shared positions with Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Hampton and Fort McHenry are both managed by the same Superintendent and management team; all five division chiefs and the park's management assistant have responsibility for programs at both parks and therefore, divide their time. This is true of staff members in many of

the workgroups, as well. In 2002 more than 17,000 volunteer hours were committed to interpretation, museum and landscape services.

Staff offices have been relocated from the basement of Hampton Mansion, where radon levels were unacceptable, to modular buildings placed in the garden maintenance area in 2005. A similar but smaller building already in use by Historic Hampton, Inc., too small for the needs of the organization, was moved next to them. Administration is handled by park staff stationed at Fort McHenry. The maintenance crew is also based at Fort McHenry, and most maintenance equipment is kept there; however, some equipment and supplies are still housed in Hampton's historic structures.

One fire hydrant is located on Hampton Lane, one near the garden maintenance building, and one in front of the orangery. The orangery and lower house have fire detec-