

THE ROSSBOROUGH INN ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND





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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, AND PRESERVATION
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Executive Summary.....7

Introduction.....9

Abbreviated Timeline for the Rossborough Inn.....12

Part 1: Historical Narrative and Documentation

 Early History.....16

 The Changing Landscape: The University of Maryland in the 1920s-1940s.....25

 Renovating the Rossborough Inn.....29

 Campus Planning in the 1940s.....39

Part 2: Architectural Development and Assessment

 Architectural Description50

 Construction Chronology.....54

 Condition Assessment.....62

 Review of Significance.....63

 The Rossborough Inn Historic Designed Landscape.....65

Part 3: Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations

 Campus Planning and Preservation.....70

 Master Plan 2011-2030: Future Visions for the University of Maryland and the Rossborough Inn.....72

 Conclusions.....78

 Recommendations.....79

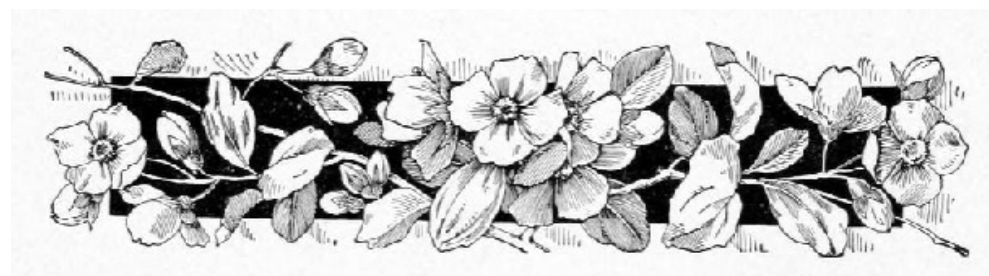
Acknowledgements.....82

Bibliography.....83

Endnotes.....84

List of Figures.....88

Appendix: Detailed Timeline for the Rossborough Inn.....90



This study of the Rossborough Inn was undertaken by graduate students in the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Program under the aegis of the university's Office of Facilities Management. The goal of the project has been to trace the history and determine the significance of the Rossborough Inn and to use those findings in critically assessing options for its future role in the evolving campus.

Each of three major campus projects that are currently in the planning stages have the potential to dramatically impact the Rossborough Inn and Gardens, either as significant threats to the integrity of the site or as exciting opportunities to return the historic structure to its earlier prominence. The proposed Purple Line light rail system is slated to be built directly north of the Rossborough Inn, with a stop positioned nearby. The Discovery District redevelopment scheme is envisioned as transforming the character of the Route 1 corridor, to include erecting a satellite museum of the Phillips Art Gallery. The potential sites for the new building for the School of Public Policy are located directly south and/or west of the Rossborough Inn.

From circa 1803, when a local entrepreneur named Richard Ross constructed the Rossborough Inn, the building hosted a variety of influential leaders of the day. By the 1830s the Rossborough Inn had been converted as a private residence on the "Rossburg" tenant farm; in 1858 it was sold by the Calvert family to the newly established Maryland Agricultural College. Over the next three decades the building was pressed into a variety of uses: as a residential rental property, then as the residence for the college president, and finally as the college laundry. When the Hatch Act was passed by Congress in 1887, the Rossborough Inn was selected to be the home for the Maryland State Agricultural Experiment Station. After serving in that capacity for almost 50 years, in 1938-39 the vacant structure was restored under the direction of the Works Progress Administration. The Rossborough Inn operated as a tea room and house museum until it was turned into the University of Maryland Faculty Club in 1954. After another half-century serving as a focal point of dining and special event activities on campus, the Rossborough Inn was converted once again, this time as administrative office space.

The decades of the 1930s-1940s were a pivotal period for the University of Maryland. The Rossborough Inn played a crucial role in helping President Harry "Curly" Byrd promote his vision of transforming the university from its agricultural roots to a major academic institution. Over 15 new buildings were erected, following popular Colonial Revival architectural designs. Along with restoring the Rossborough Inn to evoke its historic past, the nearby Dairy building was dressed in Colonial Revival finery, and by 1941 the gardens and landscape surrounding the buildings were configured to provide a new formal pedestrian entry to campus.

One of the primary statements of significance for the Rossborough Inn is its pre-eminent place within the ceremonial campus entrance. The ensemble composed of the inn building, Turner Hall (formerly the Dairy), and the surrounding area, remains largely intact and deserves to be recognized and preserved as a significant designed historic landscape. We believe that there are opportunities to preserve and enhance the Rossborough Inn and the historic landscape as prominent features of the university, while respecting the character and the contributions of the oldest building on the campus.



The Rossborough Inn stands at a major intersection in the University of Maryland's past and future. To better understand both, the university's facilities management organization commissioned this study of the past, present, and potential future uses of the Rossborough Inn. The impetus for this effort arose from three specific planning questions: first, to understand how the intended route of the Purple Line of the Washington Area Metro Area Transit Authority will affect the Rossborough Inn; second, to evaluate how the proposed new School of Public Policy building will be designed, situated, and arranged with regards to the Rossborough Inn; and third, to explore the potential relationship between the Rossborough Inn and new development envisioned as part of the university's Discovery District. At the heart of all three of these questions is the goal of better understanding and preserving the significance of the Rossborough Inn and exploring its role in the evolving campus.

Research on the historical significance of the Rossborough Inn was conducted through several channels. The majority of the evidence was gathered from the University of Maryland special collections, located in Hornbake Library

on the College Park campus. The papers associated with prominent university figures proved to be the most helpful in tracing the history of the Rossborough Inn during the period in which the property was part of the college. In addition to the holdings at Hornbake Library, collections at the Library of Congress, the Historical Newspapers Database, and Ancestry.com were especially helpful. Several previously published reports, including a 1926 student thesis, the booklet published in 1940 that summarized the renovations at the Rossborough Inn, an architectural report prepared in 1975 by faculty and students in the Architecture School, and an assessment of the historical significance of buildings on the campus conducted by EHT Tracerics, Inc., provided important contextual information. Additional research in the Calvert family papers was conducted at Riversdale, the former Calvert family mansion, and we interviewed various stakeholders associated with the Rossborough Inn.

The findings from the archival research enabled us to identify the most important moments in the Rossborough Inn's long history. Beginning with the mystery surrounding the structure's date of construction and original intended use,

this report will review the Rossborough Inn's many functions over the years, including as an inn, tenant farm, laundry, faculty residence, and the State of Maryland's Agricultural Experiment Station. After its renovation in the 1930s, the Rossborough Inn served as the ceremonial point of entry to the campus and a center of social life for the university, before transitioning to its current use as administrative offices. Our research demonstrates that, while the Rossborough Inn has had many identities over two centuries, several themes emphasize its role as a social gathering space and campus landmark.

As the uses of the Rossborough Inn were redefined over the years, we found that the building was significantly altered to go along with its changing function. Physical investigations were carried out to determine the extent of the surviving original fabric and to assess the structure's current condition. We determined that virtually all of the interior furnishings date to the 1938-39 renovations, while the east and west exterior elevations retain approximately 85 percent of their original fabric.

The Rossborough Inn has long been considered significant due to its age and role in the early history of the university, and, more recently, as an example of the restoration philosophy and methods of the 1930s. Our research indicates that the Rossborough Inn is also significant as the major component within the designed historic landscape that was created during the late 1930s at a critical point in the development of the College Park campus.

This report is organized into three parts. The first focuses on the history of the Rossborough Inn and its relationship to the university, starting with a detailed investigation of the documentary record beginning in the 18th century – several decades before the inn was built – and spanning until the present. The second section focuses on the fabric of the building and includes a chronology of architectural changes and an assessment of its current condition and integrity. These findings serve as the basis for the conclusion that the Rossborough Inn should also be considered as part of a significant designed historic landscape. Finally, a review of campus preservation efforts at other universities provides a context for considering the best potential uses for the building

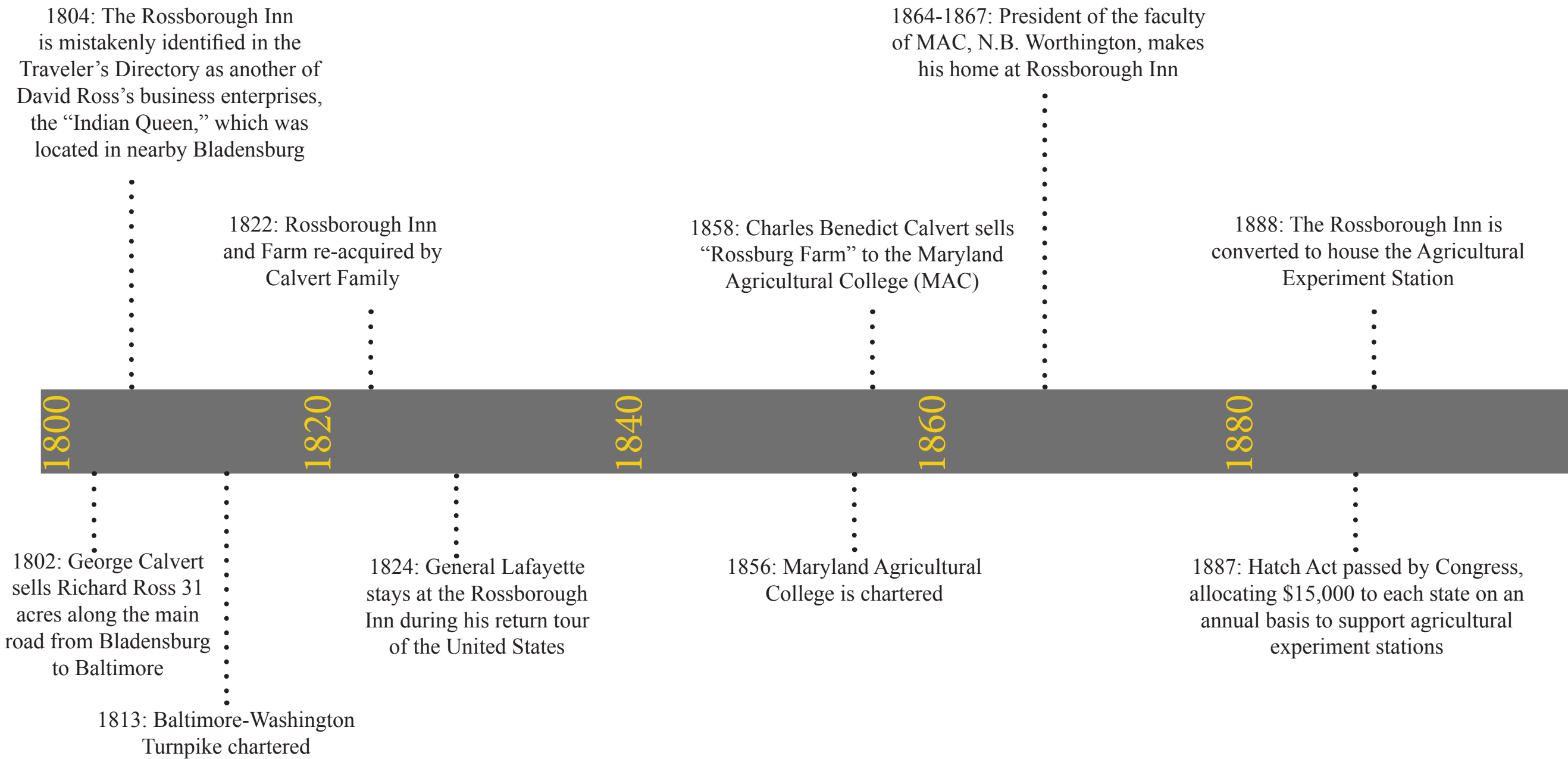
with reference to the possible impacts on the Rossborough Inn under the University of Maryland’s current master plan for development. The proposed plans for constructing a building to house the School of Public Policy were judged to be of particular concern. We have offered several specific recommendations regarding the future preservation and use of the Rossborough Inn, along with measures aimed at ensuring that the historic significance of the entire College Park campus be considered in the future.

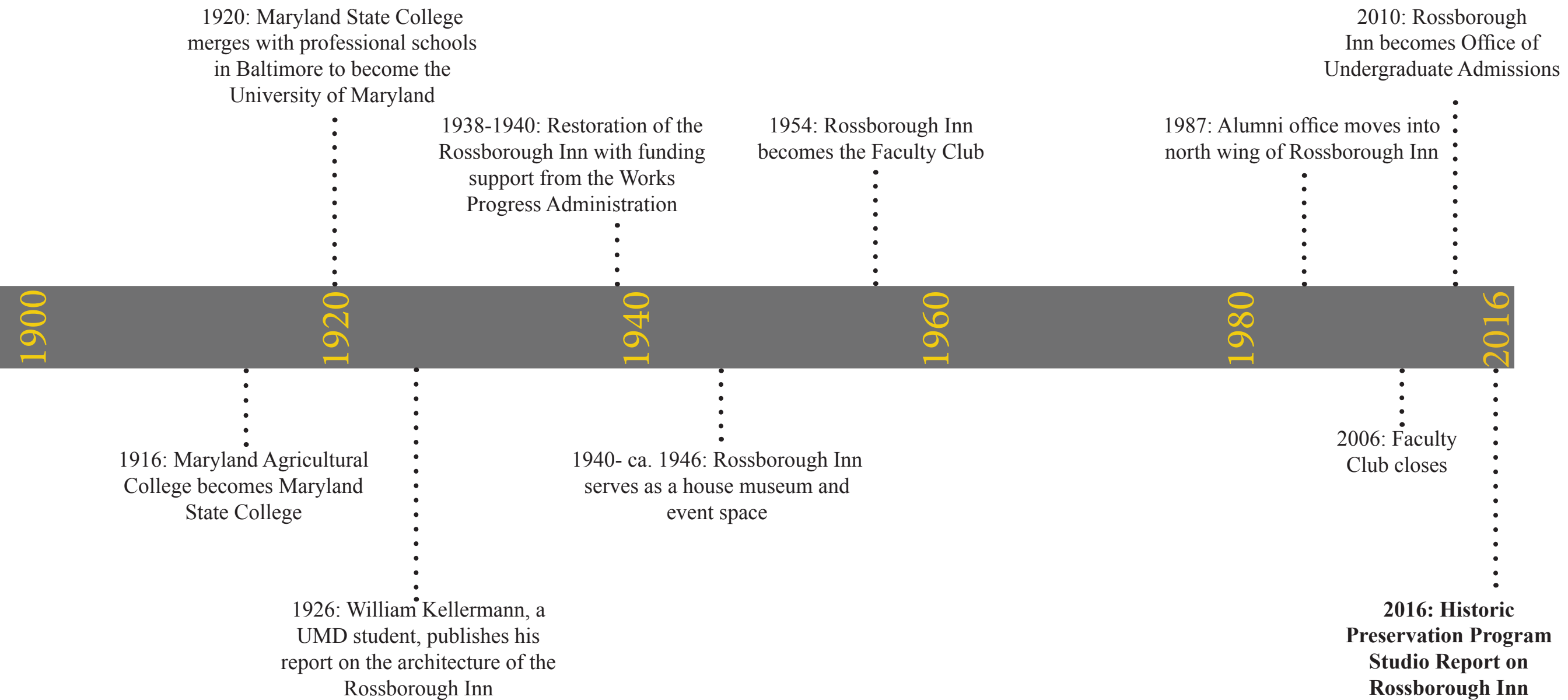


*1938 Proposed
Front [East] Elevation*



Timeline for the Rossborough Inn









Historical Narrative and Documentation

Early History

The land patents for the property on which the Rossborough Inn is situated date to the 17th century, but the story of the building begins with Irish immigrant Richard Ross. In 1802, Ross bought 31 acres of land from George Calvert on which to construct his second tavern in Maryland. Ross's first tavern, the "Indian Queen," was located several miles east in the small community of Bladensburg. The first reference to

the Rossborough Inn building in 1804 indicates that it was used as a tavern. A bulletin in the *Washington Federalist* announced the sale of land three miles from Bladensburg, near the Paint Branch and "Ross's Tavern." The combination of the 1802 deed of sale and the publication of the bulletin in 1804 provides a relatively tight date of construction between those years. Many different construction dates had been claimed for the Rossborough Inn in the past. Two dates, 1793 and 1798,

were particularly popular, although there is no documentary evidence for their support. These claims likely stem from the date "1798" that is molded into the unusual keystone above the main doorway.¹

The land on which the Rossborough Inn sits was listed as "unimproved" in the 1798 direct tax list for Prince George's County, and it was another six years before the land was recorded as improved.² The *Traveler's Directory*, printed in 1804 in Philadelphia, identified a tavern or inn where the Rossborough Inn stands, but

called it the "Indian Queen." This misidentification was likely due to confusion with Ross's other tavern in Bladensburg.

During this time, Bladensburg was a significant port town and was connected to both Baltimore and Washington, D.C., by way of a road passing in front of the Rossborough Inn. This road was incorporated into the Washington-Baltimore Turnpike when it was chartered in 1813. Richard Ross was a supporter of the turnpike and he was rewarded, as traffic increased steadily along this important north-south route.³

Tavern and Inn

Ross sold his tavern along the turnpike to John Davis in 1814. Under Davis's management, and with the help of a small staff including a Pennsylvanian stage-office keeper named Hugh Graham, the increased traffic meant that the Rossborough Inn became a popular roadside stop on the route from Washington to Baltimore.⁴ Called 'Ross's Tavern' and the 'Inn at Rossburg,' travelers could find food and drink, as well as a place to stay. An advertisement for the "Rossburg" appeared in 1815 in a bulletin published by the *Baltimore Patriot and Evening Advisor*. While the Rossborough Inn was



Figure 1. 1804 *Traveler's Directory* showing Rossborough Inn location mistakenly labelled as 'Indian Queen.' (North at bottom)

Washington City & Georgetown STAGES,
By way of M'Coy's, Davis's (Rossburg) & Bladensburg.
THE COACHEE VIGILANCE & Stages
U. S. MAIL

START every morning from the Office next to Gadsby's Indian Queen Hotel—the two former at 4 o'clock, the latter (admitting only six passengers) & recently removed to this office, at 5

All these Stages arrive at M'Keown's (formerly Davis') and O'Neal's, Washington City, and Crawford's, Georgetown, two hours previous to the departure of the STEAM-BOAT FOR ALEXANDRIA & FREDERICKSBURG, in which passengers in the above lines going further, south, who prefer that mode of conveyance to the Stages, have a preference.

AND FOR THE FURTHER ACCOMMODATION OF THE PUBLIC, particularly for those persons not wishing to start so early, THE PROPRIETORS on Friday the 1st of September, intend running the

PILOT THRO' TO WASHINGTON in 7 Hours, taking its departure every morning at 7 o'clock, and carrying only **SEVEN PASSENGERS.** New Stages and fresh Horses have been placed on the road, and the owners pledge themselves that every attention shall be paid to the accommodation of passengers travelling in these lines. Fare of each passenger in all of them \$4, with an allowance of 25 lbs. baggage—150 lbs. extra, equal to a passenger; and all baggage, to be at the risk of the owner or owners thereof.

JACOB G. SMITH,
 JNO. GADSBY,
 STOCKTON & CLARKE, } Baltimore.
 BY M'Coy, Bladensburg.
 JNO. DAVIS, Rossburg.
 DAN M'KEOWN, } Washington.
 WM. O'NEAL,
 WM. CRAWFORD, Georgetown.

Figure 2. 1815 stage coach advertisement listing the Rossburg stage stop, under the management of John Davis.

hosting both travelers and locals, George Calvert, who had owned the property until 1802, began to buy land surrounding the inn to add to his Riversdale estate. Riversdale is the large, five-part late Georgian mansion built by the Calvert family from 1801-1807, which was the Calvert family home until 1887. George Calvert's wife, Rosalie Stier Calvert, died in 1821, leaving George with control of her, and her late father's, sizable estate.⁵ George Calvert invested the fortune

in real estate in Prince George's and surrounding counties, and he reacquired the Rossborough Inn and the surrounding farmlands in 1822. During this time, the Rossborough Inn was known for its good food and congenial accommodations.

One of the most notable events that took place at the Rossborough Inn occurred in October 1824.⁶ While on his triumphal return tour to the United States, Major General Marquis de Lafayette spent the night at the Rossborough Inn during his trip from Baltimore to Washington. An illness in the Calvert household prevented Lafayette from staying at Riversdale as originally planned. As reported the following day by the *Baltimore Patriot and Mercantile Advisor*, "The general was not as it had been stated, to proceed to Mr. Calvert's, but accommodations were provided for him and his suite at Rossburg."⁷ The *Saturday Evening Post* described his accommodations as "comfortable."⁸ Unfortunately, Lafayette himself recorded nothing about his stay other than his time of arrival, at 10 PM, and his departure the following morning.⁹ Reflecting on the general's stay years later, the "Rambler" of the *Sunday Evening Star* recalled: "This statement seems a little strange at the present day, for it is notorious that nearly

Rossburg or Rossborough?

Now officially referred to as the "Rossborough Inn," the building had been known by several names over the years. At different times the building was referred to as the "Inn at Rossburg," "Ross's Tavern," "Ross's Inn," "Rossburg House," "Rossburg Dwelling," and the "Rossburg Farm." Many of the names reflect different uses and relationships to the property, but it is the same building in each instance. Most confusing are references to Ross's Tavern or Ross's Inn, as Richard Ross owned two taverns only a few miles apart. During our research, we found multiple reports with references to a "Ross's Tavern" that we believed to be the Rossborough Inn, only to discover that they referred to Ross's other property in Bladensburg.¹⁰

every big or pretentious country house in Maryland and Virginia was, according to local legend, occupied by the Marquis de Lafayette on the occasion of his grand triumphal tour of the United States. It seems to be a fact, though, that Lafayette and his suite...put up for the night at a country hotel instead of at the home of some



Figure 3. Portrait of the Marquis de LaFayette by Ary Scheffé, 1824.

Historical Narrative and Documentation

Coade Stone

The keystone is made of a ceramic faux stone patented by Coade's Artificial Stone Manufactory Company, located in London, England, beginning in the 1770s. The face of the keystone bears the molded image of Silenus, a minor Greek god of wine, agriculture, and celebration. Silenus's presence symbolized merriment, revelry, and wisdom; an appropriate welcome to an inn and tavern!



A hardy material, Coade stone combines the molding quality of clay with the durability of stone. A second Silenus Coade keystone is reported to be located at the Edwardian mansion, Polesden Lacy, in Surrey, England.

great landholder and tobacco planter, or at the mansion of some early republican merchant prince.”¹¹

The “Rambler” was right, the circumstances of Lafayette’s stay at the Rossborough Inn were highly unusual. As an honored guest, Lafayette should have stayed at the home of George Calvert, as the Calvert’s were wealthy landowners and influential in local politics. However, George Calvert made a social error that caused Lafayette and his party to stay at the Rossborough Inn instead. George Calvert wrote a letter to the editor of the *Federal Republican and Baltimore Telegraph* several days after the general’s stay to explain the situation. After Lafayette had accepted his invitation to stay at Riversdale, the family home, one of the Calvert daughters fell ill with a “bilious fever.” George wrote to Lafayette’s party “in case a favorable change should not take place, [you are welcome] to lodge at the Inn at Rossburg, two miles from my house, to which I would send furniture, servants, etc., for his accommodation.”¹² His daughter’s illness abated, and when the group arrived at the Rossborough Inn, Calvert invited them to stay at Riversdale instead. However, Calvert had unintentionally offended a member of Lafayette’s party, the Committee of Arrangement, by not specifically inviting him to Riversdale, and as a result the group stayed at the Rossborough

Inn. Calvert wrote to the newspaper lamenting his mistake and apologizing that the general had to stay at a country inn because of his faux pas, instead of with the Calvert family at Riversdale.¹³



Figure 4. Riversdale, home of the Calvert family.

The Rossborough Inn most likely ceased operating as a public house during George Calvert’s period of ownership. A romanticized newspaper account from 1849 referred to the Rossborough Inn’s “palmy days, when the house was well kept and patronized” as long past, while it dreamily recalled the “hot buckwheat cakes, the chicken, ham and eggs, and the never-failing cup of delicious coffee, to say nothing of the numerous et cetera with which that gifted table abounded.”¹⁴ The condition of the turnpike continued to deteriorate over

the years. A concerned citizen by the name of Duckett wrote to Charles Calvert in 1853 to inform him that the road was in such poor condition, that Duckett had been thrown from his horse when one of the horse’s hooves caught a hole in the road. “It is,” he wrote, “a great outrage that the public should be resigned to pay tole [sic] over such a road.”¹⁵

Calvert Property

In the years following Lafayette’s visit, the Rossborough Inn ceased operating as an inn and was converted into a tenant farm. After the Baltimore-Washington Railroad was opened in 1832, traffic along the turnpike declined, and various accounts indicate that the road fell into disrepair. Travelers were more concerned with the dangerous condition of the road than with the stops along it. In 1836 Calvert advertised in a local paper that the Rossborough “Farm” was for rent. Prospective tenants inquired about the condition of the soil on the property, which appears to have steadily declined in fertility. While George Calvert continued to buy farms to rent out to tenants, Charles B. Calvert was advised by his lawyer and brother-in-law, Thomas Morris, that agricultural land was not a wise investment at the

time. In a letter dated 1830, Morris wrote to Charles that, “a bad Tennent for a very few years destroys the benefit of a life spent improving [the land] and destroys its value.”¹⁶

George Calvert was unable to find willing tenants, and the Rossborough Inn still was operating in 1838. The *Baltimore Sun* reported on March 13, 1838, that a man named Henry Biernan, along with two accomplices, fled north to Baltimore, after a robbery. Upon arriving at the Rossborough Inn, Biernan “performed a slight of hand trick in the money drawer at the tavern in such a bungling manner as to subject him to be transferred to the county jail at Upper Marlboro.”¹⁷

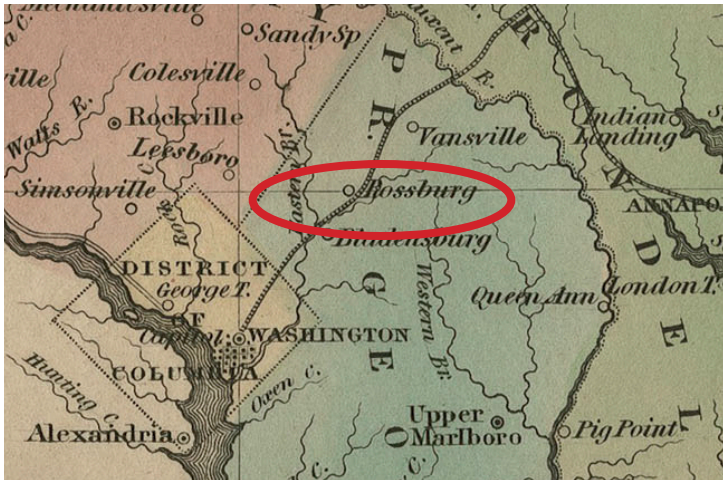


Figure 5. Detail of Rossburg depicted on 1838 map of Maryland. (North at top)

When George Calvert died in 1838, his Riversdale estate, along with several other parcels of land, was split between his two sons, Charles Benedict Calvert and George Henry Calvert. Charles and George took different levels of interest in their father’s estate. George had relocated to Baltimore at the time of his father’s death, and decided to remain; Charles continued to live in Prince George’s County, where he managed the family land.¹⁸ In 1858, Charles sold a portion of the Riversdale estate, including the Rossborough Inn and the surrounding farm fields, to the newly formed Maryland Agricultural College, for \$20,000.¹⁹

A plat of “Rossborough Farm” that was produced during Calvert’s ownership depicts the metes and bounds of the tract. Remarkably, the plat also includes detailed plans of the three levels of the Rossborough Inn building. While undated, clues on the map itself help to establish a 20-year range when it must have been produced. Charles Benedict Calvert is listed as a neighbor to the parcel – land he acquired following his father’s death in 1838. In addition, as the Maryland Agricultural College is not referenced, the plat almost certainly was drawn between 1838 and 1858. Perhaps

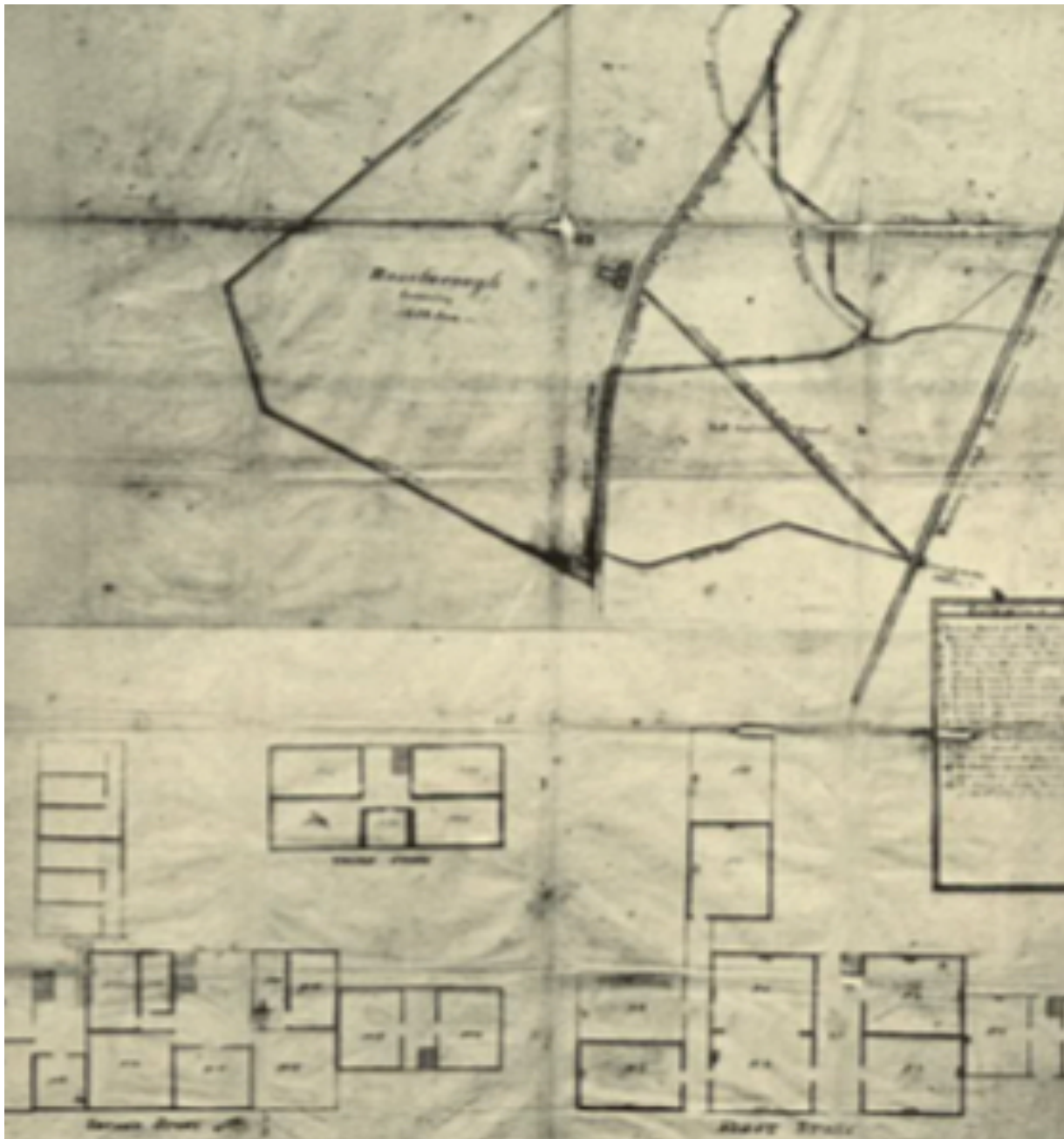


Figure 6. Undated 19th Century plat of Rossborough Farm, with accompanying plans of the three floors of the inn.

it was produced at the time of George Calvert’s death, or when the property was transferred to the college.

Maryland Agricultural College

By the 1840s, the poor condition of agriculture in the state of Maryland had spurred leading farmers to look to agricultural developments in Europe to serve as models for a new type of American institution to address their concerns. Two centuries of tobacco farming had depleted the fertility of the soil and made it difficult to transition to other crops. The Maryland Agricultural College (MAC) was a private institution chartered by the state in 1856, with the aim of fostering agricultural education. Often repeated in the lore of the university is the misconception that Charles B. Calvert donated the 428-acre Rossborough Farm to the trustees, when in fact he sold it for the considerable sum of \$20,000. Along with the sale, Charles Calvert was elected as the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and he was named as the second president of the college after the first president resigned one month after the school’s opening; Calvert served in that capacity for two years, from 1859 until 1860. Construction on the barracks, the first academic building on campus, began in 1858, and the college opened its doors to the first class the following year.



Figure 7. Charles B. Calvert

Historical Narrative and Documentation

enthusiasm: “that evening, College officials provided food for the soldiers, and young women appeared from the surrounding neighborhood. Fifes and fiddles came out, and partying lasted into the night.”²⁴ However, in newspaper accounts immediately following the troops’ stay, college officials denied preferential treatment toward the Confederate army.²⁵ During the war, more faculty and students fought for the Confederacy than for the Union, reflecting their overwhelmingly rural and southern backgrounds.²⁶

Campus development focused on two separate areas: the Rossborough Inn with its associated farm and agricultural complex located by the turnpike, and the Barracks and a growing cluster of buildings that housed students and academic classrooms. The hill where the Barracks were built came to be known as “the Acropolis.” The Rossborough Inn became a landmark on the road between Baltimore and Washington once again, signaling to passersby that they were approaching the

Maryland Agricultural College. The building was put to many different uses, with high turnover. In 1865, the Rossborough Inn was listed as a country boarding house for rent, “with part of the furniture, if desired, on application to J. O. Wharton, Agricultural College.”²⁷ Later, it was a rental property for at least a short period.

The State of Maryland purchased half of the college in 1866, thus bringing the private institution into the public domain.²⁸ This action saved the college, which had been forced to close for a year and continued to struggle with low enrollment and the threat of bankruptcy.²⁹ Unlike other colleges that struggled during this tumultuous period, MAC did not accept female students to make up the lost tuition from lower

male enrollment.³⁰ The future direction of the college remained uncertain, as local farmers were upset that the institution was not living up to the promises that had been made at its founding. In support of their grievances, the farmers “banded together” and were able to convince the federal government to withhold aid that was available in 1876 and again in 1882 via the Morrill Grant.³¹



Figure 10. Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station in action, 1899.

Agricultural Experiment Station

The future fate of the Rossborough Inn was dramatically impacted in 1887 when the U.S. Congress passed the Hatch Act, which established agricultural experiment stations in each state. An allotment of \$15,000 was slated to pay for buildings and equipment necessary for the advancement of agricultural science. Stations were often aligned with a land grant college, and its association with MAC led to the Rossborough Inn's selection as the home of the new Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. Farmland around the Rossborough Inn was poor quality as a result of "continuous cropping," which was viewed positively by the experiment station staff, since the soils would "respond quickly to applications of fertilizing materials."³² The building was described in the experiment station's first bulletin as a two-story brick building with an annex in need of repair.³³

The Rossborough Inn remained the home of the experiment station for

several decades following its conversion. The interiors of the main house and annex were altered to host the station's work. A detailed description of the alterations was published in the station's first bulletin in 1888:

Without much change to the exterior, the main building has had a third story added, and all has been remodeled and so thoroughly repaired, at an expense of about three thousand dollars, so that very suitable and satisfactory quarters for the Station have now been provided. The rear building has been connected ... by an enclosed gallery ten feet long.³⁴

With cheerful painted letters on the building proclaiming the home of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, the Rossborough Inn once again claimed its landmark status.

A program of experimentation was initiated almost immediately, including those aimed at increasing the potato crop yield and improving soil fertility. The station grew to

be a substantial agricultural complex, as an experimental orchard was established and fields were laid out for growing fodder-corn and cane, and barns, stables, greenhouses and other support structures were erected over the years.³⁵ Chemistry instructor, H. J. Patterson, proudly wrote of the 80-light combination gas machine installed for use by the chemistry laboratory that had been created on the first floor of the old Rossborough Inn, demonstrating the station's keen interest in new technologies.



Figure 11. Animal husbandry was a vital part of the experiment station, as demonstrated by this photo from the 1920s.

Historical Narrative and Documentation

MAC to UMD

The MAC grew steadily in the last decades of the 19th century, with the experiment station an integral component of campus activity. A number of new buildings were erected on the “Acropolis.” Science Hall (now Morrill Hall) was completed in 1898, followed by the Administration building in 1905, which, along with several other buildings, formed a quadrangle. The experiment station continued to expand; by 1906 it had grown to a formidable compound, including the laboratory at the Rossborough Inn, a dairy, at least one barn, two greenhouses, and a pig pen. Heated by steam and lit by both gas and electric lights, the old Rossborough Inn was considered well equipped to carry out the station’s experiments.³⁶

Change was coming, however. On November 29, 1912, a massive fire broke out at approximately 10:30pm in the Administration Building during the Rossbourg Club’s



Figure 12. Photo of the Rossborough Inn taken by student William Kellerman in 1926.

Thanksgiving dance in the neighboring Barracks building. The fire quickly spread and destroyed the Administration building as well as the Barracks.³⁷ The loss of two of the school’s main buildings ushered in a new wave of architectural changes on campus. While the initial impetus came from the fire, changing societal attitudes played an even larger role in transforming the campus. In 1916, the MAC began to accept female students for the first time, and the way buildings on

campus were used was altered accordingly in order to separate the sexes. That year the MAC officially changed its name to the Maryland State College. This new identity was short lived, however, as the school changed its name again in 1920 when it merged with the professional schools in Baltimore to form the University of Maryland. To advertise this change, the words “The University of” were painted above “Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station” on the walls of the Rossborough Inn, thereby signaling to all passersby on the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike that

the University of Maryland was born.³⁸



The Changing Landscape:
The University of Maryland in the
1920s-1940s

An Evolving Campus

From the late 1910s to late 1920s, the layout of the University of Maryland underwent a dramatic change. With the construction of new buildings following the 1912 fire, the admission of women in 1916, two name changes, and a shifting academic focus, the university was given the unique opportunity to redefine itself more than 50 years after its founding. In particular, the loss of two of the most important structures on campus provided the administration with the opportunity to reconsider the architectural style of its buildings.

A variety of new buildings were needed to support these efforts, including new women’s dormitories and instructional facilities to

accommodate the increased student population. The university hired architectural firm Flournoy & Flournoy in 1918 to design new buildings and create the first campus plan. Their plan called for a Colonial Revival architectural style to provide a cohesive and homogenous look for the campus.

Almost ten years later, in 1927, the administration hired two renowned landscape architecture firms to aid in campus planning, landscaping, and design.³⁹ Both the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, and O.C. Simonds & West of Chicago were tasked with creating a campus plan for College Park. Each of the plans focused on the placement of two planned structures: the new library and an administration building. Both firms sought to maintain a green space to the east and south of the new library, which would feature trees, meandering paths, and possibly a lake, creating a picturesque landscape with curved boundaries.

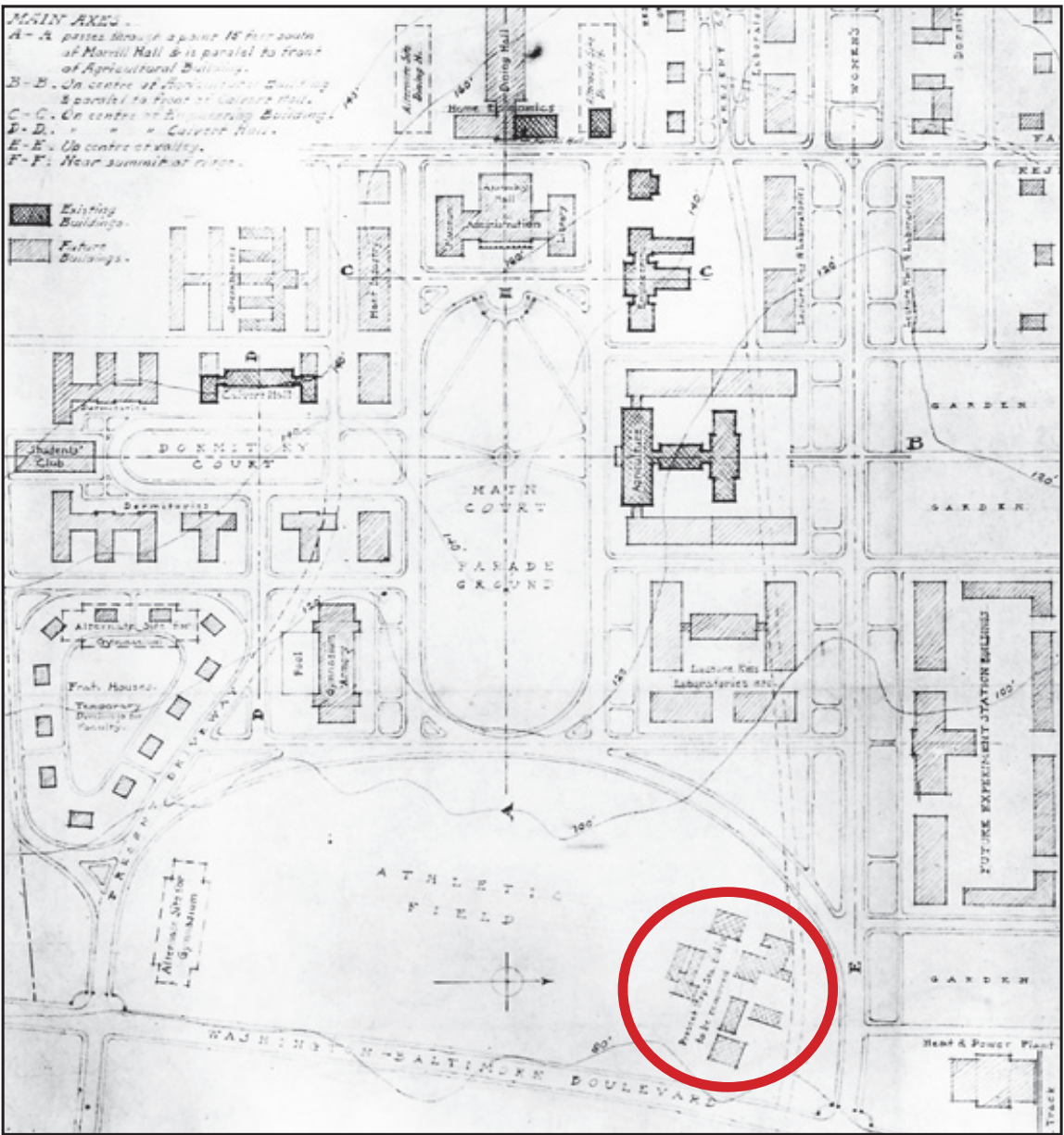


Figure 13. 1918 Campus Plan by Flournoy & Flournoy Architects, from Washington, D.C. This rather ambitious plan shows the existing group of buildings surrounding the Rossborough, and the planned new experiment station complex just to the northwest.

Historical Narrative and Documentation

The landscape architects emphatically disagreed on the location of the new administration building. Simonds advocated placing the building due east of the proposed library, which would provide a sweeping view to and from Baltimore Avenue. He argued that the administration building would be a beautiful representation of campus with the added benefit of blocking the view of the chemistry building. Olmsted countered

that in that location, the structure would block the views from the hill eastward.⁴⁰ Despite their differences, both men agreed on the importance of keeping the open adjoining spaces. In a letter written in 1928, Simonds argued that, “the old brick building...should be regarded as permanent features.”⁴¹ This “old brick building” was the Rossborough Inn.

Only a few years later, the university hired Charles W. Eliot, II to create a new campus plan. Eliot worked for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission at the time. Concerned about the ethical implications of accepting a consulting job so close to where he worked, Eliot wrote to Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to ask for advice. Eliot and Olmsted’s relationship had deep roots: Eliot’s uncle had

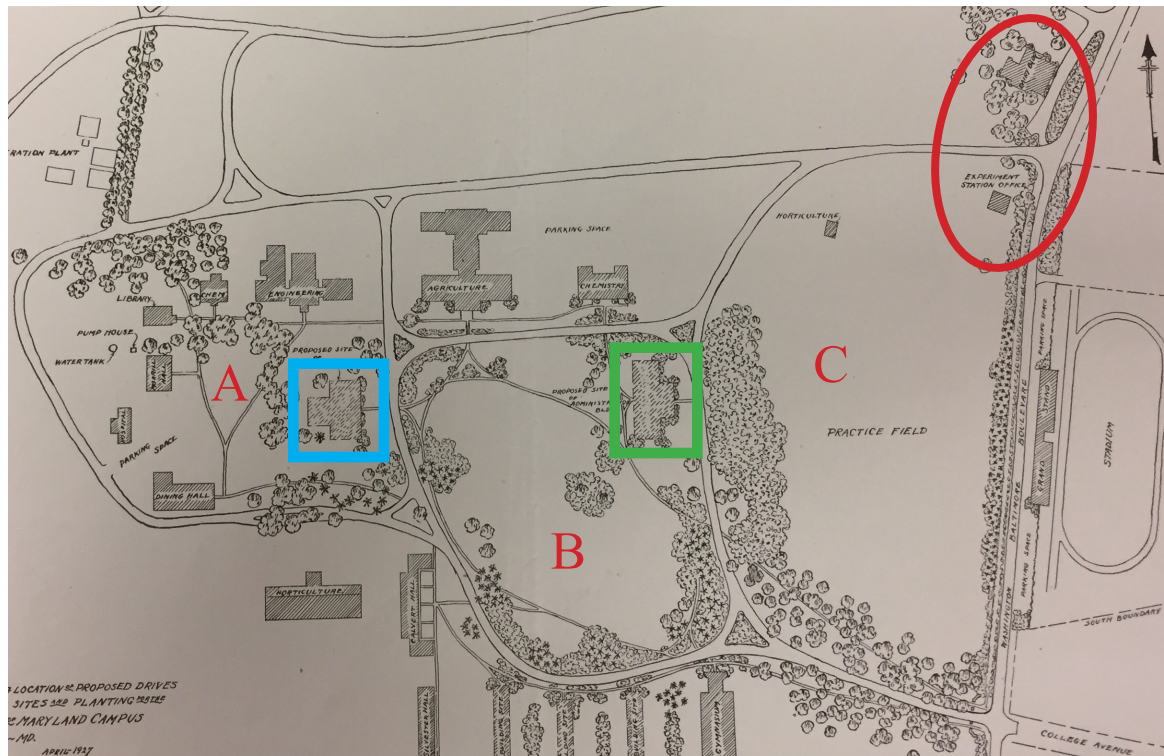


Figure 14. Simonds Plan, 1927. This plan focused on three main components: the Acropolis (A), Valley (B), and Field (C). The Acropolis was the center of campus life. In this plan, the Rossborough Inn and Dairy building are set apart from campus, but maintain a relationship with the open area that became the Chapel Field. The proposed library (in blue) and administration building (in green) are also visible.

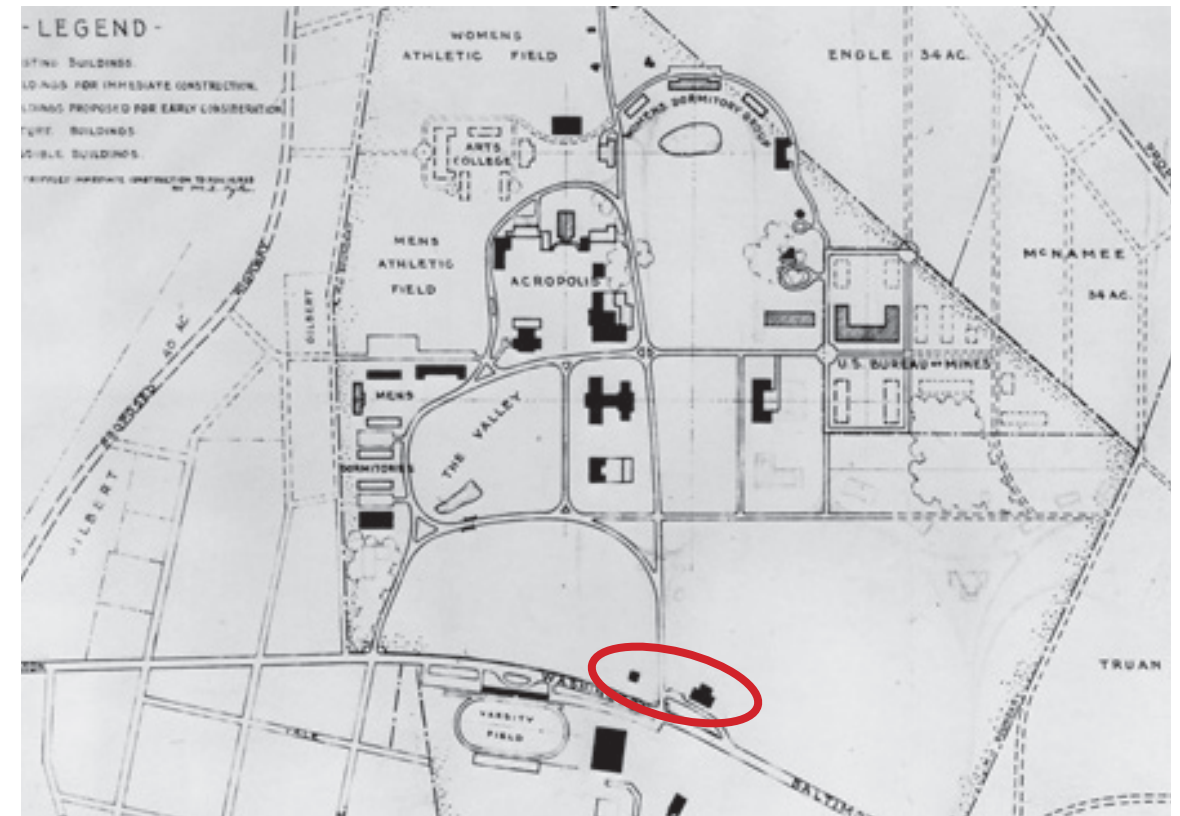


Figure 15. Eliot Plan, 1931. Eliot called for maintaining the connection between the valley and field.

previously worked for the Olmsted firm and it was Olmsted himself who had originally suggested that Eliot become a consultant to make extra money. It is not known if Eliot knew that Olmsted had worked with the university just a few years prior or whether Olmsted reacted to Eliot's letter. At any rate, Eliot accepted the commission and drafted a plan, dated February 1931.⁴²

Eliot's plan maintained the Acropolis, Valley, and Field layout that Olmsted had advocated, with most development taking place to the north and south of the Acropolis. This would have maintained the relationship between the Rossborough Inn and the open fields. At this time, there were no new plans indicated for the Rossborough Inn and the Dairy.

The Colonial Revival

The first plan in 1918 advocated for a uniform campus-wide building style based on Colonial Revival design concepts. The Colonial Revival movement was a form of cultural expression that affected architecture, art, landscape design, interior design, film, and literature. The movement stemmed from nostalgia for past ways of life and was popular in the

United States from the 1870s to the 1940s. Colonial Revival architecture can be broadly defined as "includ[ing] red brick and white-trimmed buildings that replay eighteenth-century James River estates, clapboarded saltboxes that recall early New England houses, and banks that resemble the missions of the Spanish padres in California and the Southwest."⁴³ In the northeast and on the University of Maryland campus, this played out largely as red brick buildings with white trim and other selected colonial features.

The Colonial Revival movement inspired retrofitting existing buildings as well as influencing new construction. In her article, "Reviving Colonials and Reviving as Colonial," Betsy Hunter Bradley postulates that buildings were remodeled in two ways. First, those that were constructed before the Victorian Era were termed to be "colonial" and thus worth reusing.⁴⁴ This meant that these colonial buildings would be remodeled to reflect how they appeared in the past. Second, Victorian-style buildings were "revived" into colonial buildings. This meant that their entire Victorian façade and details were removed and replaced with ones inspired by colonial models. This was "considered a public

service," because colonial buildings represented modernity and dignity.⁴⁵ Bradley describes this practice as gaining popularity beginning in the early 20th century for residences, later expanding into urban commercial areas.

Creating a Cohesive Image

The rationale and design concepts that were embraced under the name of the Colonial Revival began to influence construction on the College Park campus in the 1920s. Most of the new buildings were designed using red brick walls with white trim, columned porticoes, and gable roofs, which reflected the design choice that Klauder and Wise had stressed as particularly appropriate for universities and colleges. Accordingly, older buildings on campus also were "revived" as colonial. This is most evident with the former Dairy building. Situated on Route 1 (Baltimore Avenue) near the Rossborough Inn, the former Dairy building (now Turner Hall) was constructed in 1923--1924 in the international style. By 1934, the architecture of the building was no longer in keeping with the rest of campus, and the Dairy building was transformed. A brick veneer was laid over the concrete frame,

Historical Narrative and Documentation

Harry “Curly” Byrd (1889-1970)

Harry Clifton “Curly” Byrd was born February 12, 1889. He attended the Maryland Agricultural College and graduated in 1908 with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. Following graduation, Byrd continued to be involved on campus, and in 1911 he served a temporary position as the football team coach. After that, Byrd held many different positions at the university, and eventually served as President Pearson’s assistant; in this position, he was referred to colloquially as Vice President Byrd. Byrd served as president of the university from 1935-1954. Byrd’s tenure as president is remembered for transforming and expanding the university through federal initiatives, such as those that funded re-cladding the Dairy building and “restoring” the Rossborough Inn. Byrd retired from the university in 1954 to undertake an unsuccessful run for governor of the State of Maryland.

the roof was raised to a steep gable, the windows and doors were replaced, and fanlights, keystones, faux double-end chimneys, and other colonial features were added.

One of the main reasons for reviving buildings as colonial was “the desire for housing to appear up-to-date,” because the Colonial Revival style was in vogue compared to past Victorian styles.⁴⁶ Reviving the Dairy building in the colonial mode was the first step in presenting the “up-to-date” image of the university as viewed from Baltimore Avenue. One major campus entrance was located between the Rossborough

Inn and the Dairy building. The appearance of the buildings at the campus entrance marked them as important and set the tone for the university’s image.

Vice President Byrd appears to have been the driving force behind the changes to the Dairy building. In a letter dated January 9, 1934, Dr. H.J. Patterson, Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and former president of the college, commended Byrd’s plan to re-face the structure, stating that “the plans which you have submitted would certainly improve the appearance of the building greatly, in fact make it a very pretty building.”⁴⁷ Yet Patterson also conveyed his concern that the money could be better spent elsewhere, arguing that there were many other more important issues on campus that should be addressed. Byrd’s plans for the Dairy building remained controversial within the administration, but the project proceeded and in 1934, the dairy was covered with a Colonial Revival veneer at a cost of approximately \$44,000.⁴⁸ Byrd selected a local architect, Major Howard Cutler, who already was an important player in planning the campus and designing new buildings.⁴⁹ In an exchange between President Pearson and Dr. Patterson,

Pearson referred to the re-cladding of the Dairy building as part of the “extensive changes that Mr. Byrd has in mind.”⁵⁰ From these letters, it appears that the changes made to the exterior of the Dairy building are attributable to Vice President Byrd and that making improvements to the appearance of campus was one of his highest priorities.

The alterations to the Dairy building complemented the architectural details of its neighbor, the Rossborough Inn. Prior to the 1938 renovation of the Rossborough Inn, both buildings featured parapet gables and paired interior end chimneys. The windows on the Dairy building were capped with jack arches featuring a stone keystone, while stone lintels with a faux keystone capped the windows at the Rossborough Inn. The facades of both buildings featured fanlights and dormer windows. With the renovation of the Dairy building, the two structures combined to mark the symbolic entrance to what was becoming a more modern university. The transformation was not yet complete however, because the deteriorating Rossborough Inn, surrounded by outdated farm buildings, was a notable exception that could not be tolerated for long.

While the alterations to the Dairy building were underway, the old Rossborough Inn fell into a state of disrepair. Beginning in 1927, Charles Crisp, the superintendent of buildings on campus, registered his concern with the poor condition of the Rossborough Inn. By 1933, Crisp was on record as stating that he no longer wanted to be held accountable for what he believed to be its unsafe condition.⁵¹ In his letter to Vice President Byrd, Crisp claimed that the structure was so

compromised that, “a renovation of the present building would leave only the exterior walls and possibly the frame work of the roof.”⁵² Byrd chose to consider the poor condition of the building to be an opportunity, however, to further the vision of transforming the campus according to Colonial Revival-inspired designs. A renovated Rossborough Inn, restored to its Federal-era appearance, would serve as a prominent signal of the major changes to the university that were underway.

Renovating the Rossborough Inn

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) renovation of the Rossborough Inn was undertaken between September 1938 and the end of 1939, and resulted in significant changes to the exterior and interior of the building. Before the renovation, the inn consisted of three floors with a mansard roof, and had a one-story porch running the length of the east elevation; there were no wings. The most obvious changes to



Figures 16 and 17. The International style original design of the Dairy building was in stark contrast with the Colonial Revival-inspired renovated structure, renamed as Turner Hall; many of the features of Turner Hall mirrored the Rossborough Inn as it appeared in the 1930s.

Historical Narrative and Documentation

Howard Wright Cutler (1883-1948)

Major Howard Wright Cutler was born on February 19, 1883, in Ouray, Colorado. He attended the Rochester Athenium and Mechanics Institute where he received a Bachelors of Architecture degree. Cutler served at the rank of major in World War I and worked on the Surgeon General's staff designing military hospitals. Upon returning to civilian life in 1919, Cutler moved his family to Washington, D.C., where he established the firm of Cutler & Woodbridge. Cutler eventually opened a solo practice based out of his home in Silver Spring, Maryland. Cutler worked for the University of Maryland from the 1920s until at least 1946. He designed numerous campus buildings on the College Park and Princess Anne campuses, advised President Byrd on new construction, acted as lead architect for the Rossborough Inn renovation, and produced at least two campus plans. His daughter, Katherine Cutler, was one of the first licensed female architects in Maryland.

the building that were made during the renovation relate to these features. Gable-roofed masonry wings were added on the north and south sides of the building; the mansard roof was removed and replaced by gables; the double chimneys on each end were rebuilt as single stacks; and the porch was removed. From the evidence provided by photographs taken during the renovation and from the architect's drawings, it is clear that the interior was gutted and all of the original features were replaced. The majority of surviving original fabric consists of the brick exterior walls and the fenestration of the east

elevation. This includes the stone lintels above the windows and the brick arch and Coade keystone over the doorway.



Figure 18. In preparation for the renovation, all the walls of the Rossborough Inn were heavily braced, which seems to corroborate Crisp's concerns over the safety of the building.

Remodeling and reviving historic colonial structures remained a popular practice throughout the 1930s. Beginning in the late 1920s, the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, as a colonial capital provided a model that was widely emulated.

According to Bradley, "designated Colonial, a house was categorized firmly as one worthy of reconsumption."⁵³ In 1937, the university received funding from the WPA for the

restoration of the Rossborough Inn. The WPA was a federal program that funded a variety of projects, from infrastructure to public artworks, with the goal of putting the unemployed, including artists, architects, laborers, and writers, back to work during the Great Depression. It is unclear how many historic structures the WPA restored, but an article from 1938 describes similar WPA projects in Louisiana and Oklahoma. Beginning in 1935, at least six buildings in Louisiana were restored with

\$300,000 provided by the WPA. A chapel and school building in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, were restored with \$25,000 of WPA funds. With the sponsorship of the Native American Osage tribe, the structures were adapted to be a museum of tribal

history. Both projects appear to have been restorations and included updating the mechanical systems.⁵⁴

According to Crisp’s correspondence, Rossborough Inn’s structural issues were extensive, including cracked and bulging walls. The scope of the work undertaken by the university and the WPA encompassed these concerns but was also aimed at restoring the Rossborough Inn to its “original” condition. The justification for the project was based on the building’s age and historic context, and the scope of work document made clear that the building should be “preserved and in order to be preserved must be repaired.” The scope of work also alluded to the fact that the University of Maryland lacked sufficient funds to undertake this work on their own⁵⁵

The Rossborough Inn project began in 1938, with Major Howard Cutler acting as the presiding architect. After much delay on his part, Cutler provided a series of scaled

drawings to guide the restoration crews.⁵⁶ Major Cutler was involved with numerous campus building projects and acted as a university liaison during this time.⁵⁷ When the project

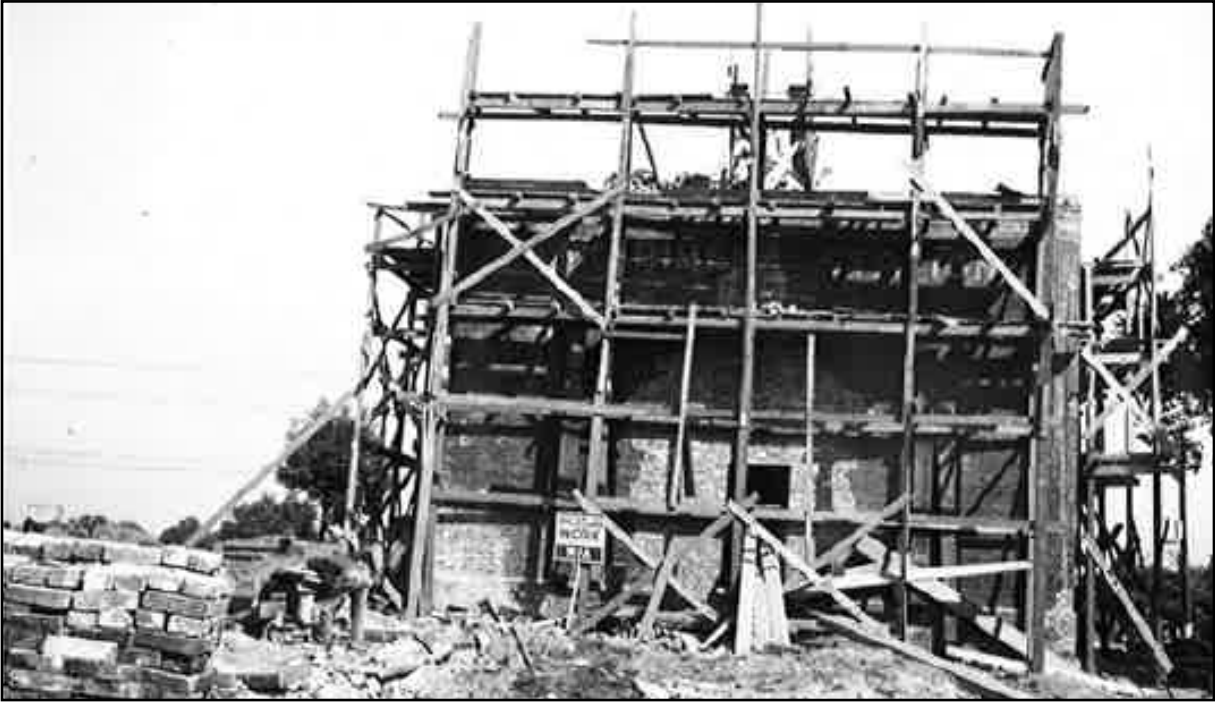


Figure 19. The progress of the renovation was documented with black and white photographs; here the structure is shown with the interior gutted and the roof and gable walls removed, but roughly 85 percent of the walls of the main block of the structure were preserved.

was conceived, the work was restricted to the main core of the building, as the existence of the former wings was unknown at the time. According to the agreement between the university and the WPA, the federal agency was to provide 70 percent of

the funds for the renovation, with the university contributing the remaining 30 percent. Most of the WPA funding would be in the form of labor, and their contribution would not support furnishing and outfitting the interior.⁵⁸ The scope of the work was extensive: updating the plumbing, electrical, and heating systems; removing old plaster and paint; replacing timbers; installing a new roof; and repairing the exterior walls.

The Wings

Although the fact that wings had flanked the main block of the Rossborough Inn structure had been discovered as early as 1926, Cutler was unaware of their prior existence and they were not included in the original scope of work. Kellerman had reported on the

evidence of the plat drawn between ca. 1838 and 1858, and reproduced the plat and traced the building plans as part of his study.⁵⁹ It was not until mid-summer of 1938 that Cutler and Byrd were made aware of the plat.⁶⁰ In addition to the floor

Historical Narrative and Documentation

plans, archaeological excavations conducted in July under the direction of Crisp confirmed the existence of the wings and provided relatively precise dimensions for the size of their footprints.

When university administrators learned about the wings they elected to recreate them. Byrd claimed to have found out about the plat from an older man who stopped by and told them that the building used to have wings, and that there was a plan of the building included on the property plat. At the time, Cutler chose to design the wings as masonry structures, even though the archaeological evidence indicated that the north wing, at least, was of frame construction. An 1860 insurance document that was discovered during the current project also indicates that the wings were frame.⁶¹

The decision to rebuild the wings at all proved to be controversial. To begin with, the wings were an additional expense for which the university had not planned.⁶² The idea of recreating the wings also raised an important philosophical issue, as it was argued that rather than preserving the building, doing so meant that the university and the WPA



Figure 20. The ghost lines indicating the changes to the roof, as well as the outline of the former wing were clearly visible on the north end wall.

were reconstructing it. An official with the National Park Service reported the substance of the new expanded scope of work to officials at the NPS and the WPA. In response to the resulting inquiry by NPS staff, President Byrd justified their approach to the Rossborough Inn by explaining that the plans they first submitted did not include the wings because they had not known they existed.⁶³ Byrd offered that the university planned to produce a pamphlet to distribute at the opening of the building, which would include a copy of the plat, along with historic photographs and the documentary history of the Rossborough Inn. Byrd stated he would send a copy to the NPS to serve as justification.

Based on a combination of evidence provided by the 19th-century floor plans and archaeological findings, Byrd and Cutler amended their scope of work to include the wings. Byrd stated that, “We were, of course, delighted to get this accurate information of the Rossburg Inn as it originally existed, and the restoration is now being carried out definitely and accurately according to the original plans. It is our further purpose to restore this building, not only to its original condition, but to furnish it in the style of the 1790s period and to exhibit it as

something of a show place.”⁶⁴ Byrd also claimed that they had learned that the inn was, in fact, called “Rossborough” rather than “Rossburg,” and that became the official name.

Archaeological Findings

Archaeological excavations were carried out around both ends of the house, and to the west where the existing brick outbuilding was slated to be demolished. This work was undertaken on July 24-26, 1938, under the direction of Howard Crisp, who worked as superintendent of university buildings and grounds. Crisp documented the findings on two scaled plans, indicating that three brick foundations and other architectural evidence were revealed. The notations on the plans are the only records for the project that have been found (see figures 21 and 22).

The most substantial of the buildings had been attached to the south end of the inn, measuring roughly 31’6” by 25’2”. According to Crisp’s plan, the wing was composed of two parts: the larger section seemingly consisting of a single room, with 8”-wide walls and a brick floor, which Crisp inferred had been used as a “dining room.” Remnants of a

brick walkway led to the northeast corner of the structure, which Crisp postulated as marking the general location of the exterior doorway. A surface laid with “flag stones” was found spanning the roughly 9’-wide space between the room and the end wall of the Rossborough Inn. The stone floor was bounded on the east and west by 14” “retaining walls,” with remnants of brick steps leading up to each side. The hypothesized retaining walls butted against the exterior wall of the Rossborough Inn on the north and the brick structure to the south, suggesting that the stone-floored space was an in-fill. Based on the 8”-wide foundation Crisp postulated that the brick building was one-story in height; he seems to have interpreted the stone floor as an open-ended passageway that was “elevated” to some degree above the brick floor.

There are other features marked on the plan relating to the Rossborough Inn itself, which Crisp used as evidence to speculate how the south side of the building was laid out, and how it related to the south wing. It is likely that by late-July the interior of the Rossborough Inn had already been gutted. Crisp may have recorded interior features before that was done, however, as he indicates the placement of two partitions that

divided the south end of the building into three rooms, with the narrower middle space seemingly serving as a hallway leading to the wing. The note on the drawing states: “Positive evidence – Mortised and tenoned partition[s].” The drawing also shows an exterior doorway centered on the hallway, which faced another door opening centered on the north wall of the “dining room.” Complicating matters is that Crisp must have included elements on the drawing that he could not have observed archaeologically, such as a stairway leading from the doorway down to the brick floor.

The archaeological findings to the north of the Rossborough Inn indicated a considerably smaller structure, although dimensions cannot be determined precisely from the notations on the plan. It also appears to have consisted of two separate sections: a stone-floored space bounded by retaining walls fitted between the main block and a smaller structure that Cutler concluded had been of frame construction. Cutler hypothesized that the stone floor marked an open-ended “coach shelter.” Crisp did not hypothesize on the function of the frame portion, and he prepared a design in which it was divided into restrooms for women and men. Crisp drew a sketch showing

Historical Narrative and Documentation

the restored Rossborough Inn with the one-story, frame north wing; the height and slope of the gable roof was to be based on the ‘delineation’ – ghost marks – that were visible on the north exterior wall. Crisp does not appear to have prepared a similar rendering depicting his proposal for restoring the south wing.

The floor plans on the plat indicate that a rectangular, two-story structure stood just to the west of the Rossborough Inn. By 1938 there was a brick building in that location that had been expanded and subjected to a variety of alterations over the years. The plans called for demolishing the building to make way for a somewhat larger version that would be oriented in the same way. According to his notes,

Crisp recognized that the portion

of the structure closest to the Rossborough Inn was earlier in date than the rest, and he exposed that portion of the building foundation. The structure that he revealed was 24’ by 18’6

in dimension, with 14” walls, a brick floor, and the 8’10”-wide base for a fireplace centered on the west wall. A brick hearth ran the width of the fireplace; a “pot hanger” was found

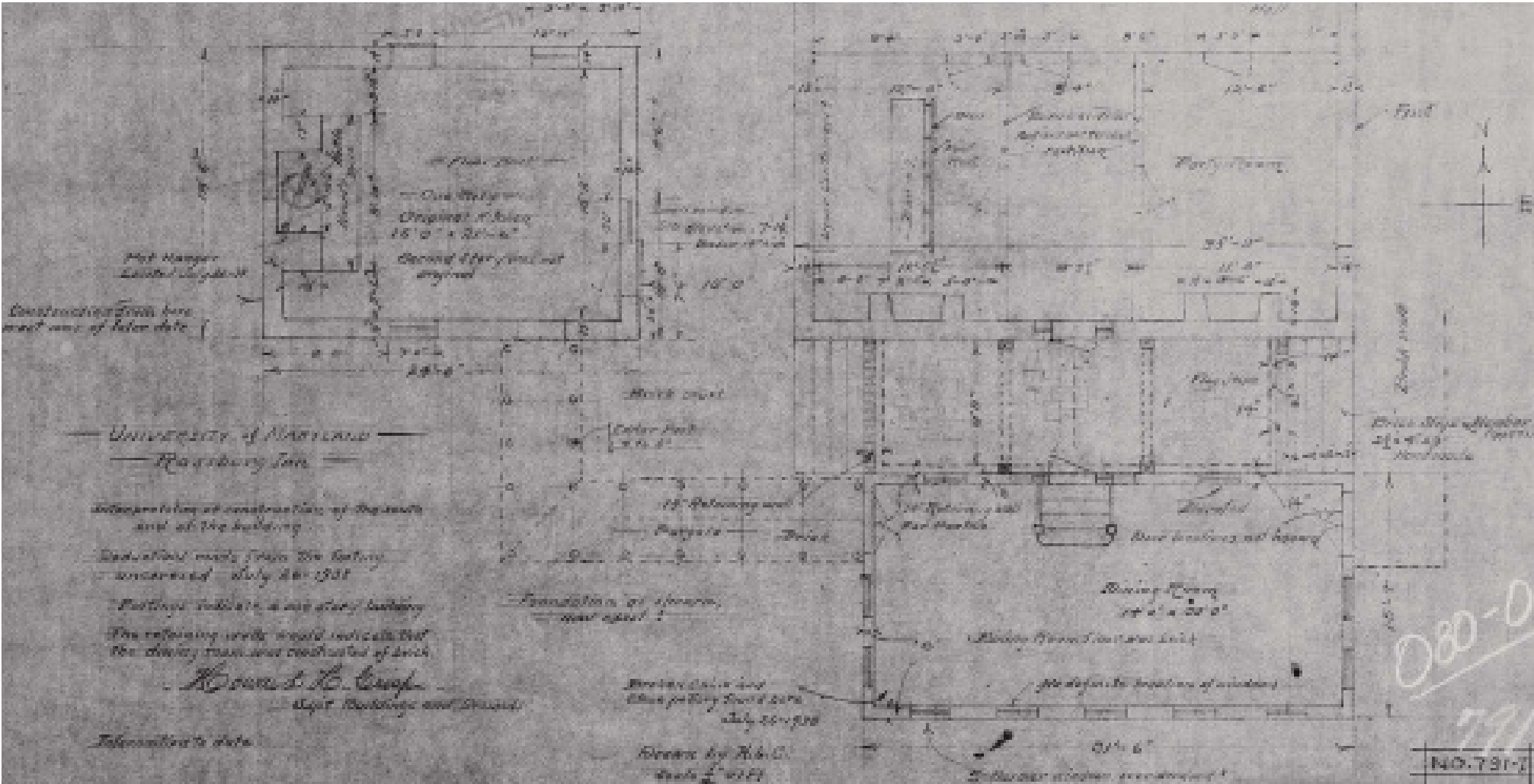


Figure 21. Archaeological plan and drawing of the proposed restoration proposed by Crisp, 1938. Note the kitchen annex in the upper left and dining room in the lower right.

within the fireplace opening. Crisp interpreted this evidence to conclude that the original function of the structure was as a kitchen.

The evidence of floor plans on the 19th-century plat took precedence over the archaeological discoveries in the final design. The dimensions of the wing footprints roughly

follow Crisp’s findings, but the north wing was reconstructed in brick; the roofline follows the ghost marks that were visible on the north wall of the Rossborough Inn. Crisp’s interpretation

that both wings included open-ended, stone-floored structures to accommodate circulation on the south and coach storage on the north was disregarded in favor of the floor plans. The north wing was built as a symmetrical, center passage plan with flanking chambers on the first floor and in the half-story, just as indicated on the plat. On the south, a side stair hall ran the width of the building where the stone floor had been located, with two chambers with end chimneys on each level. The two-story outbuilding was erected on the site of the earlier version, with an open colonnade running

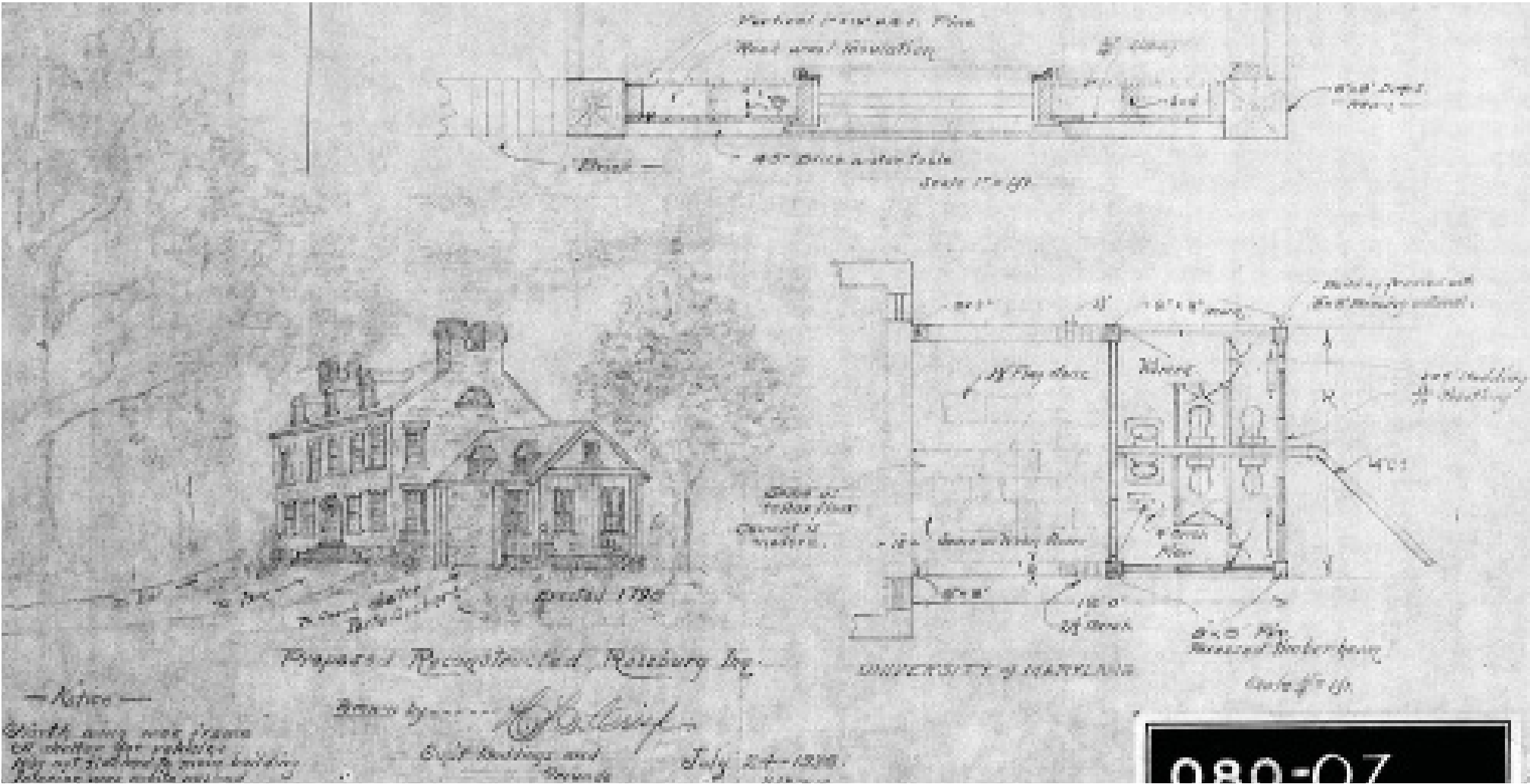


Figure 22. Archaeological plan and drawing of the proposed restoration proposed by Crisp, 1938.

Historical Narrative and Documentation

Mark Mercer Shoemaker (1898-1983)

Mark Mercer Shoemaker was born on May 9, 1898, in Washington, D.C., and resided in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area for much of his career. He attended the University of Michigan where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1921 and a Master of Landscape Design degree the following year. After his graduation, Shoemaker operated a private practice until he was hired by the Maryland Extension Service as an assistant landscape specialist. He rose quickly through the university's ranks and by 1940 had been appointed by President Byrd to manage landscaping on the campus. Shoemaker also was instrumental in the planning and execution of the university's master plans between 1946 and 1954, when a major boom in construction occurred on campus. When he retired from the University in 1963, Shoemaker was a landscape architecture professor in the horticulture department.

along the south wall roughly in line with the side passage in the south wing.

Interior

The decision to restore the Rossborough Inn to its presumed 18th-century appearance brought President Byrd in contact with a number of historians, antique sellers, furnishings experts, and consultants. Among them was Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., the commercial arm of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which attempted to



Figure 23. Interior of Rossborough Inn shortly after renovation.



Figure 24. The Rossborough Inn elms before 1938.

assist the university in designing and installing the proposed “historic” taproom.⁶⁵ President Byrd was at the forefront of these efforts, wrote personally to various consultants, and played an active role in decisions relating to restoring the Rossborough Inn. Decorating the interior of the Rossborough Inn became an important element of its renovation and largely reflected the values of the Colonial Revival movement.⁶⁶

The Rossborough Inn's English Elms

Four massive English Elms once stood in front of the Rossborough Inn. The elm saplings were widely believed to have been imported from England and planted on the property around 1800. The trees served as landmarks for travelers on the path that would eventually become the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike. They bore witness to General Marquis de Lafayette's visit in 1824, the founding of the college in 1856, occupation of the Rossborough Inn by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War, and the host of famous and influential people who visited the Rossborough Inn during its time as the university's faculty club. The last of the trees succumbed to Dutch elm disease in 1979.⁶⁷

The Garden and Well

The Rossborough Inn Garden is central to the identity of the Rossborough Inn today and is an integral part of the building's history and significance. Constructing the garden was undertaken separately from the WPA restoration of the buildings, although the opening reception for the "restored" Rossborough Inn was put on hold until the garden was completed. Mark Shoemaker was a professor of landscape architecture in the horticulture department on campus, and he was in charge of all aspects of implementing the garden, from developing the landscaping design and selecting plant nurseries, to preparing the specifications of the bricks for the walls.



Figure 25. Building the garden walls in 1939.

Shoemaker provided detailed instructions for the work to be carried out on the garden. He prepared a general plan, as well as detailed construction specifications and a planting plan, all of which were to be carried out under his direct supervision. In all, Shoemaker's plans for the garden would require an estimated 6,575 man-hours to complete. This estimate included rough grading; excavating planting beds; transporting, mixing, and spreading top soil; sodding; and planting, but did not include the time it would take to build the walls, benches, or tree seats.⁶⁸

Shoemaker's plans for the area around the Rossborough Inn are recorded in his 1939 campus landscaping plan. Using red and green lines, Shoemaker detailed his vision for a series of low brick walls to extend out from the future site of the Class of 1910 Gate, around the Rossborough Inn and its gardens, and to continue down Baltimore Avenue in both directions. Although a copy of the original planting plan has not been found, the 1939 campus plan indicates that the garden would extend from the walled-in courtyard located south of the kitchen annex. The space would be defined by a wall of vegetation with a small, decorative sun dial at its far southern

end.⁶⁹ Photographs taken at the Rossborough Inn opening reception in 1940 provide more detail for the completed garden. While retaining its general layout today, only three of the original 50 species of plants on Shoemaker's planting list are known to remain.

Historic photographs of the Rossborough Inn indicate that the existing well house is on the site of the original well. In 1939, the well's water quality was tested and found to be unsafe to consume.⁷⁰ Byrd wanted to use the well, nevertheless, but the chair of the Department of Bacteriology, who did the water quality testing, strongly urged otherwise.⁷¹



Figure 26. The completed garden with boxwood edged brick walkways, 1940.

Historical Narrative and Documentation



Figure 27. The 2015-16 University of Maryland basketball team (right) re-staging the historic photo of the 1973-1974 basketball team (left) at the Rossborough Garden well head.



Figure 28. Close up of Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall in Shoemaker's campus plan, 1939.

When Shoemaker designed the garden, he chose to build a well head at the site of the contaminated original well shaft. The well head was an important feature of parties and receptions held at the Rossborough Inn and remains in the garden to this day.

The historic associations evoked by the restored garden were highlighted in 1998, when it was rededicated in the memory of the many African Americans who had been instrumental in the university's founding and continued success.

Grand Opening: May 30, 1940

As late as mid-1939, the university still did not have a defined use for the Rossborough Inn, beyond President Byrd's vision for a "show place." Even before the grand opening in 1940, the faculty had asked to use the Rossborough Inn as a faculty club, a request that President

Byrd summarily rejected. It would take another 14 years and a new president of the university for the faculty club at the University of Maryland to become a reality. The Rossborough Inn opened in May 1940 as a tearoom, as a museum, and as a space to host university functions. Many university dignitaries attended, including President Byrd, Professor Mark Shoemaker, and Adele Stamp, the Dean of Women Students. Many patriotic groups, such as representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution, were also invited.



Figure 29. President Byrd with Mrs. Shoemaker in the Rossborough Garden during the grand opening, 1940.

Campus Planning in the 1940s

By the time the newly refurbished Rossborough Inn was dedicated, the university was evolving quickly under the leadership of President Byrd. A six-year expansion plan for the College Park, Baltimore, and Princess Anne campuses of the university had been launched in 1939, with an anticipated price tag of \$2.4 million. By 1941, Byrd had already built ten new buildings in College Park and removed the road between the Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall, and in 1941 he proposed to add ten additional buildings to his plan.⁷² The campus was changing rapidly and President Byrd was its strongest advocate.

The placement of the new buildings generally adhered to the vision laid out by Olmsted and Simonds. The Morrill Quad was preserved, as was the valley to the south and east of it, now known as the Chapel Lawn. The new administration building had not been built where Simonds had intended, however, with the Memorial Chapel erected there in 1953 in its stead. The chapel building effectively separated Morrill Quad and Chapel Lawn. In the

late 1920s, the university was planning for a new quad, now known as McKeldin Mall, which further reflected a significant reorganization of the layout of the campus. The first building on the new mall, Holzapfel, was erected in 1932.⁷³



Figure 30. During his visit in 1939, Olmsted photographed the Rossborough Inn; the renovation was completed, but the line of vehicles between the inn and Turner Hall demonstrates that it remained a congested entrance that was not pedestrian friendly.

The 1939 expansion plan created landscape design issues. On August 15, 1939, President Byrd wrote a letter to Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in which Byrd concluded that the “considerable construction...now presented [the

administration] with quite a problem in landscaping.”⁷⁴ He also mentioned that the campus construction had loosely followed Olmsted’s plan and not that of Simonds. This reference likely pertained to the location of the administration building. Byrd

asked Olmsted to visit as soon as possible, but it was several months before he eventually arrived in October 1939.⁷⁵

After his visit, Mr. Olmsted corresponded frequently with Professor Shoemaker and President Byrd about plans for the future of campus. The campus had already changed drastically from 1927. The natural valley that Olmsted termed “sacred” had remained, but major changes were being considered, including a new green space to the north of the valley as well as a new stadium and athletic complex. The majority of the correspondence from Olmsted involves campus plantings and the location of the new stadium, although Olmsted mentioned the state of the old elms, which he misidentified as oaks, next to the “oldest” building, the Rossborough Inn.⁷⁶

Historical Narrative and Documentation

No fewer than three campus plans were prepared in 1939, reflecting the uncertainties that surrounded the planning process at the time. Olmsted produced a campus plan for the new stadium, physical education building, sports fields, and pool. Olmsted suggested that all of these buildings should be placed east of the coliseum – not to the south, which was the original planned site.⁷⁷ Olmsted wanted to preserve what he considered as one of the most important aspects of campus: the eastward view from the hill down to the valley. Olmsted argued that large buildings to the south of the coliseum would destroy this view. Professor Shoemaker's plan incorporated the main elements of Olmsted's vision, and was the one that was adopted. The third plan was prepared by Major Cutler, which apparently was not favorably received.

A Ceremonial Entrance to Campus

While Olmsted did not mention the Rossborough Inn in his plans, it seems likely that the idyllic historic buildings located at the foot of the hill coalesced with his east-facing

vision of the campus. The road that ran between the restored Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall was removed and the farm buildings that had been clustered to the rear of the inn were demolished. By 1941 a brick-paved pedestrian walkway



Figure 31. Shoemaker's 1939 plan for the campus called for removing the road between the Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall and replacing it with a pedestrian walkway. The two buildings were intended to act as a terminus to the mall while still maintaining an open relationship with the field to the south.

took the place of the road, and brick walls that ran between the Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall tied the complex together.⁷⁸ An elaborate brick and iron gateway was donated by members of the class of 1910, which was positioned at



Figures 32 and 33. The Class of 1910 Gate dedication in 1941.

the beginning of the walkway and served as a ceremonial entry portal to the campus. Additionally, the original stone walls that had separated Baltimore Avenue from the university were replaced by a gift of the class of 1910 with a new brick wall after the original had been removed to accommodate the expansion of the road. Taken as a whole, these measures served to create a new, formal entrance to the university that was no longer reminiscent of the school’s agricultural history. When traveling on Baltimore Avenue, a visitor would see the pedestrian gate, the Rossborough Inn, and Turner Hall, all framed by the natural valley (now known as the Chapel Lawn).

Rossborough Club

Taking its name from the oldest and most prominent building on campus, the Rossborough Club was founded in 1892 as a social society with the sole purpose of organizing and hosting monthly dances on the Maryland Agricultural College campus. Referred to as the “Rossbourg” Club in its earliest days in the 1890s, the organizers successfully made the argument that “no college is complete” without institutions “to further the development of our social nature”.

The club dances quickly became institutional events on campus. They provided an excuse for women to take the train up to College Park from Washington, 1912, after which they were held in local hotels and then in other buildings on campus. While it is not known what caused the Rossborough Club to falter, it ceased to appear in the university’s yearbook after 1960.



(Top) Figure 34. Rossborough Club drawing, 1903;
(Above) Figure 35. Rossborough Club drawing, 1904;
(Right) Figure 36. Rossborough Queen, 1950.

Historical Narrative and Documentation

Finding a Use for the Rossborough Inn

Following the renovation, President Byrd sought a prominent and permanent use for the Rossborough Inn. His hope was that the structure would perform an important ceremonial role that took advantage of its historic significance. To that end, Byrd outfitted several rooms in the main block of the inn with antique furnishings to serve as a museum. A tea room operated out of the new outbuilding, known as the “Carriage House,” and the garden was the scene of a variety of social events and a meeting place for students. The museum idea had failed by 1946, but for the succeeding six decades the structure continued to be used primarily as a hospitality center, hosting the university faculty club for more than 50 years.

Throughout much of 1939 and early 1940, there was no consensus on what the Rossborough Inn would be used for. In June 1940, Byrd told the Maryland State Council of Homemakers Clubs that they could not use the Rossborough

Inn as their headquarters because he intended on using it as a museum and showplace. He also stated that many groups wanted to use the Rossborough Inn for their own purposes, including that the alumni wanted to claim the space for their

headquarters, and that the faculty wanted to use it as a club house. Byrd made it sound as though neither of those uses were being seriously entertained, but an article in the *Evening Star* that was published that month stated that when the Rossborough Inn opened, the space would serve as a “faculty-alumni club with recreation and reception rooms, a private dining hall, a large meeting room and eight bedrooms for alumni and guests at special functions at the university.”⁷⁹ Yet another article, this one published in the *Baltimore Sun* in May 1940,

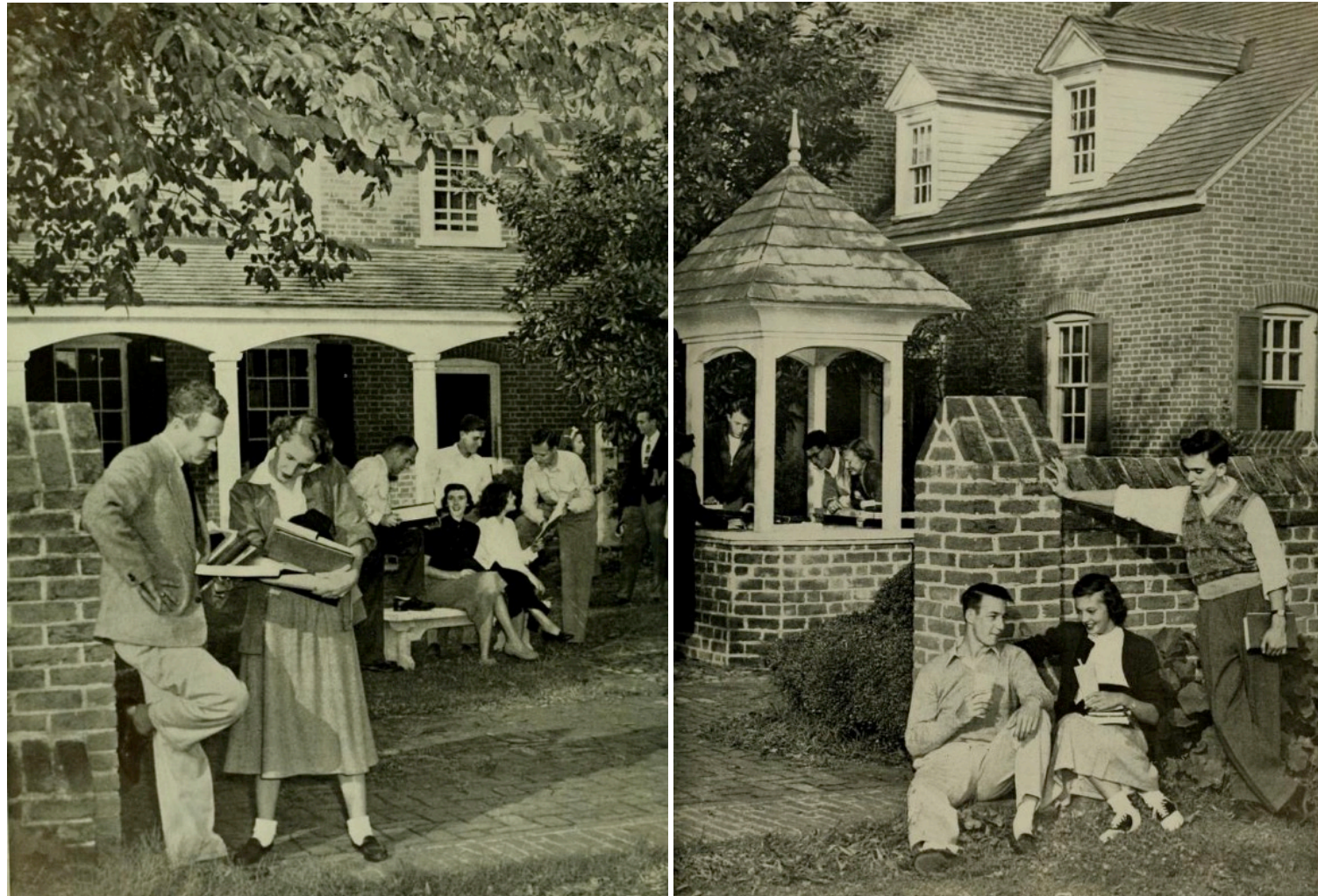


Figure 37. Staged photograph of students studying in the Rossborough Inn garden, about 1950.

stated that, “The main building will serve as a combined museum and faculty-alumni center, and the rear ell, containing a large dining room and kitchen, will be converted into a faculty tearoom.”⁸⁰ While the newspapers and private correspondences disagreed on what functions the Rossborough Inn would serve, President Byrd himself continued to move forward with plans for the site to operate as a multi-functioning space, as an inn, a restaurant, and a museum.

In May 1940, Byrd laid out his plans for moving forward with the Rossborough Inn as a guest house and restaurant. His instructions called for hiring two people – one to operate the inn and one to act as hostess for the “dining room or cafeteria.” His plans also stated that he intended on using the middle portion of the main building as a museum and occasional meeting space. The wings were to function as lounges and conference rooms for faculty and alumni, with the north wing dedicated for the use of women and the south wing for men. The basement was to be used as recreation rooms for all faculty. The second floor of the kitchen annex was to be a museum while the first floor of the kitchen annex was to host a dining hall. Byrd recommended implementing a membership

fee for faculty and alumni who expected to use the inn as a club. Byrd also attempted to dissuade use of the central quarters of the inn because of the expensive antiques that would be stored there. Additionally, Byrd declared that the Rossborough Inn would only be used for functions connected to the “official life of the University.” These plans put the Rossborough Inn on a steady course toward acting as an unofficial faculty club.⁸¹

Museum

In June 1940, President Byrd informed the Maryland State Council of Homemakers Clubs that he anticipated that the Rossborough Inn would be used as a museum and showplace. What he failed to mention was that, by the summer of 1940, the museum was already complete: the university had already solicited, selected, and paid an outside consulting team to acquire the furnishings for the inn. They had purchased over \$15,000 in antiques, borrowed on loan or received as a donation an undetermined quantity of additional antiques from as far away as California, and had made clear in an operations document that the second floor of the building was going to be used as a museum.⁸² While his sincerity in conveying his

intentions for the building were lacking, his planning was not. Byrd assembled a team of architects, including Major Howard Cutler, to interview and select the furnishings consultant.

The committee for the furnishing of the structure recommended that Mr. Dorsey Griffith and Mrs. Adams, historic interior specialists, choose all of the furnishings because their vision for the Rossborough Inn reflected “the social practices of the inn at its most active period.”⁸³ Mr. Griffith and Mrs. Adams purchased both reproduction and antique items that would be utilized in the Rossborough Inn’s museum.⁸⁴

The items that Mr. Griffith and Mrs. Adam chose conveyed order and domesticity. These included fireplace tools that “evoked the vanished hearth and domesticity in a world increasingly turned toward work outside the home.”⁸⁵ They romanticized the past and were meant to represent hard work, diligence, and the domestication of women. In 1939, many Americans were concerned that these values were threatened.⁸⁶ The exterior of the inn represented progress, while the interior touted idealism of a pre-industrial past.



Figure 39. 1946 article on Rossborough Inn antiques in storage.

In May 1940, the state comptroller wrote to Byrd suggesting that the president take out an insurance policy on the antiques in the Rossborough Inn, which required an inventory and valuation of each piece. The policy included \$15,000 worth of coverage;⁸⁷ Griffith's inventory of the Rossborough Inn revealed an assessed value of the collection totaling \$15,177.60.⁸⁸

Although Byrd, Griffith, and Adams spent extensive time and considerable sums of money in outfitting the Rossborough Inn with hundreds of antiques, its role as a museum appears to have been short lived. In a 1946 article

from the University of Maryland alumni magazine, a student discussed touring the storage room in the Arts and Science building (today's Skinner Hall), which housed the antiques that had been removed from the Rossborough Inn. It is impossible to tell whether all of the items from the Rossborough Inn were in storage, or only a select few, but the article specifically mentioned several

items listed on Dorsey and Adams's inventory, including a grandfather clock, harp, and spinning wheel. The final reference to the Rossborough Inn museum antiques comes from a series of communications between the state comptroller and President Byrd. This interaction reveals that the university had violated their insurance contract by failing to report stolen items in a timely manner. Wilbur Cissel, the comptroller, wrote to President Byrd in March 1954 to inform him that \$5,151.05 in antiques had been stolen from the Rossborough Inn and the insurance company had reimbursed \$2,575.53 (50% of the claim).⁸⁹

Faculty Club and Hotel

Long before plans to restore the Rossborough Inn were set in motion, faculty at the University of Maryland had appealed to the university's administration for a club of their own. By one account, the faculty had been asking for 18 years to have a faculty club when plans for the Rossborough Inn's renovation were made public. A letter from A.E. Zucker, a professor in the Modern Languages Department, requested that President Byrd consider turning the Rossborough Inn into a faculty club in December 1938 – only months after the renovations had begun. Interest in a faculty club at the University of Maryland may have arisen because of the existence of a faculty club at Johns Hopkins University. Johns Hopkins' faculty club was founded in 1899, but it moved in to a brand new building on the university's 19th century Homewood Campus in 1937 and was in sight of the Homewood House. Perhaps this development spurred some interest on Maryland's campus for the establishment of their own faculty club in association with a historic structure.⁹⁰

In 1954 Dr. Thomas B. Symons, Dean of Agriculture Emeritus, and the acting president of the university immediately

following Byrd’s retirement, granted the faculty’s request. In fact, the establishment of the faculty club was one of his first efforts after gaining office.⁹¹ Once the faculty club officially opened, the use of space within the Rossborough Inn changed accordingly: the main portion of the structure was converted to use as an inn, while the kitchen annex became a restaurant. While it is unknown whether the kitchen annex served as a restaurant or as a tearoom prior to the founding of the club, it was converted entirely to a lunch-only service and catering restaurant. Chairs and tables were also located in the garden during this time, but it is not known whether seating had been available in the garden prior to the establishment of the faculty club.

Shortly after the opening of the faculty club, positive press on the new venture began to pour in. One article stated that the Rossborough Inn was the perfect place for a faculty club because it was known for its “spacious, quiet rooms, its formal herb garden, magnificent elm trees, [and made for] an ideal academic retreat, be it for a cup of coffee, a hot lunch, or a place just to come to and rest.”⁹²

The Rossborough Inn faculty club hotel opened for guests on January 1, 1955. The hotel featured five regular rooms on the second floor (202, 203, 204, 207, and 209), as well as three emergency lodging rooms located on the third floor (301, 304, and 305). The inn was managed by Mr. H. Douglas Wilson and his wife, Alice Henych Wilson, who lived in the north wing while they managed the hotel between 1954 and 1968. When the inn closed in March 1968, 2,600 lines had been used in the hotel registration book encompassing an estimated 3,500 guests. Guests had stayed from one night to “one month to more than four years.”⁹³

Faculty Center

When the hotel closed, the use of the Rossborough Inn changed once again: the main block of the building became a fine dining restaurant with private dining rooms on the second floor, and offices for the faculty club and restaurant staff took up the third floor. The kitchen annex became an

The Hunt Room and Evelyn Harris

A newspaper article from 1955 applauded hiring a hostess for the restaurant in the annex of the Rossborough Inn, called The Hunt Room. Evelyn Harris, who had previously gained fame as a farmer in Maryland for surviving the depression through bartering, was selected as hostess.



informal restaurant where students and faculty could pick up a sandwich, and tables were positioned in the garden where they could eat. The north wing, which had previously housed the hotel manager and his family in the 1950s, became the residence of the restaurant’s manager.⁹⁴ In 1965, the university offered assistance to the faculty club board to improve the offerings of the “Faculty Center.” Plans for an addition were prepared but were never carried out.

Historical Narrative and Documentation



Figure 40. Architectural rendering of proposed expansion of the Rossborough Inn, 1965.

The club hosted many social activities at the Rossborough Inn, including wedding receptions, retirement parties, and university events, as well as rented out the garden for private functions. In the late 1970s, the third floor of the Rossborough Inn was used as student housing, and non-university activities were allowed for the first time.⁹⁵ Sometime after 1982, the university's dining services division took over the food preparation, which appears to have coincided with a decline in the quality of the offerings. A newspaper article from 1999 stated that, "For all the rich physical beauty and easy

elegance of the Inn, food is another matter. A simple kitchen in the former stables out back produces unremarkable institutional food." In the 1990s, the Rossborough Inn began hosting special dinner functions and buffets in an attempt to increase profits through advance ticket sales.⁹⁶

In 1999, the University Club was sued by Andrew D. Levy, a graduate of the University of Maryland Law School. His lawsuit was brought because of the

Rossborough Inn's lack of wheelchair accessibility. As soon as the lawsuit was introduced, the university took steps to correct the situation, including widening doorways, adding an accessible toilet, building an accessible ramp in the rear of the building, and creating more handicap parking spaces. In 2003, a budget reduction at the state level led the university to lay off 82 individuals, raise tuition, and reduce the number of dining halls, including discontinuing the food service portion of the Rossborough Inn.⁹⁷



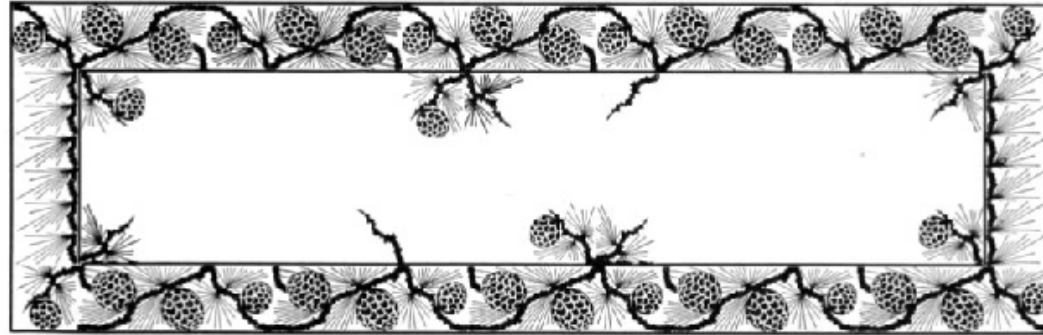
Figure 41. Rossborough Inn waitresses, 1970.

Alumni Office

The University's alumni have had a long history of association with the Rossborough Inn. More than a year before the WPA renovation would be completed, the alumni association dedicated the Rossborough Inn to "the spirit and traditions of University of Maryland graduates" as part of the 1939 alumni day activities. This was seen as a natural connection because the Rossborough Inn was the oldest building on campus and "perhaps the building best known to all graduates."⁹⁸ The following year, Byrd indicated in a

letter that the alumni had requested that the Rossborough Inn serve as the headquarters for the alumni association, although it appears that he did not grant that request.⁹⁹

The Maryland legislature created the Maryland Higher Education Commission in 1988 to restructure the public universities in the state. As part of this restructuring, the first official alumni association dedicated solely to the University of Maryland, College Park, was founded. Prior to this action, a barebones staff squirreled away in the Administration Building and Turner Hall had worked to connect and mentor alumni and raise money for university programs. Just prior to the official chartering of the Higher Education Commission, the association moved their offices into the Rossborough Inn's north wing. Sometime after 1999, their headquarters moved to an office building on Baltimore Avenue; then in 2006 they relocated to the newly built Samuel Riggs Alumni Center.¹⁰⁰



Architectural Development and Assessment



Architectural Development and Assessment

Architectural Description

As it stands today, the Rossborough Inn is largely the product of the extensive renovation carried out in 1938-39 that attempted to return the building to its early 19th century appearance. The side-gable-roofed brick structure is in three parts, with the east-facing 2½-story central block flanked on the north and south by 1½-story wings. The changes carried out in the 1930s were extensive, as the main portion of the circa 1803 structure had been altered significantly and the wings did not exist. A brick two-story outbuilding is positioned on axis to the rear (west), with an open colonnade running along the south wall and connecting to the south wing. This outbuilding is referred to as the “carriage house,” and was constructed in the 1930s to replace a brick building that had been erected in multiple phases and had incorporated the original kitchen.

The roof and the gable walls were demolished down to the level of the eaves in the 1930s, when they were rebuilt with a moderately pitched gable covered with slate, with three pedimented dormer windows on both the east and the west, and unusually-large single-stack interior end chimneys. Approximately 85 percent of the bricks in the walls appear

to be original. Based on the photographic evidence for the changes to the end walls, the original gable had been replaced by a gambrel roof before the structure was extensively modified to suit the needs of the experiment station in 1888. At that time the roof was raised once again to a mansard form, to allow full-height ceilings for the rooms on the third floor. By 1888, the end chimneys consisted of paired stacks, which seems to have been the case during the gambrel roof period as well. The three-part cornice that runs the length of the east and west walls was based on period examples, which was used in simplified form on the wings as well.

The main block is arranged in a five-bay, center passage plan, with a balanced façade. The current recessed doorway was created in the 1930s, with wood paneled jamb liners; according to the notes, the original six-panel door was retained at that time, but since then it has been replaced in kind. The doorway features a compass-headed double-arch, made of rubbed brick, with a Coade keystone -- molded into a likeness of the Roman deity Silenus -- above a fan-light transom. The date “1798” is molded into the bottom of the keystone. Carved sandstone was used to ornament the doorway

and the first and second floor windows; stepped, rectangular impost blocks anchor the springing of the doorway arch, and jack arches with a protruding faux keystone cap the double-hung, 6/6 wood sash windows. The stone foundation projects roughly 18” above grade before transitioning to the brick walls and a simple water table that steps back roughly 2½ inches. The water table begins just above the brick arches for the four wood basement windows; the windows are covered with horizontal louvres. The brick bond on the east elevation is Flemish; the brick joints were pointed with a hard, Portland-mix mortar, and are crudely scribed. Half-round metal gutters run the length of the elevation with downspouts at the corners. The gutter partially obscures the wood, three-part cornice that runs the length of the wall, terminating just before the corners. A brick stoop with five steps and two wrought iron handrails is centered on the doorway. Four iron tie rod anchors formed into the shape of a five-pointed star are regularly spaced at the height of the first-floor ceiling.

When the wings were rebuilt numerous details were copied after the main block, but where that evidence did not survive the designers provided period-inspired solutions. Thus,

the wall cornices on all three sections match stylistically, as do the pedimented dormer windows and the louvred shutters for the main windows. The wings were constructed using hand-

made bricks and a scribed joint laid in a Flemish bond that generally match those in the main block.

The 1 1/2-story south wing is the larger of the two, set back slightly from the face of the wall at the southeast corner of the main block, extending to within roughly five feet of the

southwest corner. The footprint of 30'9" by 24' roughly conforms to the archaeological evidence. The Flemish bond brick walls and exterior end chimney are supported by a poured concrete foundation. The fenestration of the two-bay elevation consists of a side-passage doorway in the southeast corner and a 6/6 wood sash window to the south, with pedimented dormers and 6/6 wood sash, directly above. The wall openings are capped with segmental arches; the first-floor windows are flanked by louvred shutters. The water table matches the style of the main block but is not as high, reflecting the lower floor level in the wings. Interior doorways provide access between the wing and the main block.

The longer three-bay north wing is laid out in a center passage plan, and it also roughly matches the footprint revealed by the



Figure 42. Facade (east elevation) of Rossborough Inn, 2016.

Architectural Development and Assessment

archaeological excavations. The center doorway and flanking 6/6 wood sash windows are capped with segmental brick arches; a five-light transom is above the six-panel door. Three pedimented dormers, with 6/6 sash, are aligned above; the slightly lower height of the roof peak and narrower width of the building translates into the bottoms of the dormers projecting below the eaves. The brick wall in Flemish bond, projecting water table, brick exterior end chimney with corbelled cap, and the four-step brick stoop, all match the south wing.

The end walls of the main block are mostly obscured by the wings. On the south, the wider wing precludes window openings on the first and second floors; a fanlight window is centered on the wall above the line of the eaves. The end wall of the wing is dominated by the exterior chimney, with two weathering steps; two 6/6 sash windows with segmental arches are symmetrically placed on each floor level. On the north, the narrower width of the wing allows for two 6/6 sash windows with segmental arches in the first and second floors, with a matching fanlight centered in the gable. The north wing has one 6/6 sash window, with a segmental arch, on each side of the chimney on the first floor level.

There are several differences on the west elevation of the main block that reflect its builder’s vision of its lesser importance. The fenestration is less regular, with the doorway placed off-center to accommodate the main staircase rising against the north wall of the center passage. Exacerbating this irregularity is the 6/6 sash window located just above the doorway that does not line up with the middle dormer window. The doorway and windows are capped with segmental brick arches rather than stone, and the Flemish bond brickwork is less precisely laid. With the exception of a gable roof that shields the doorway in the north wing and the absence of transom windows over the doorways, the west elevations of the wings match precisely the east.

The floor plan of the main block is configured with a center passage flanked by two rooms on the north, and one room on the south that spans the width of the building. All of the interior features were installed in the 1930s, with plaster walls and ceilings, wood floors, paneled doors, and reproduction woodwork and hardware. A shallow arch spans the passage near the mid-point, which is supported by narrow, paneled wood pilasters; the arch may be a

restored original element. All first floor rooms have cornices, chair rails, and baseboards. The fireplaces are outfitted with Federal-style wood mantels. All of the interior doorways’ door trim have been altered to accommodate wheelchair access. A doorway centered in the south wall provides access to the side passage in the south wing and to two first-floor rooms. There is no interior access to the north wing.



Figure 43. First floor plan.

The second-floor is laid out with seven rooms arranged around the stair hall. The plan indicated on the plat was largely recreated, although short partitions were added on either side of the hall to create vestibules leading to bathrooms that were installed in the two smallest rooms. The rooms are treated as they were on the first floor, but with a clear decrease in the level of ornamentation. There are no cornices above the first

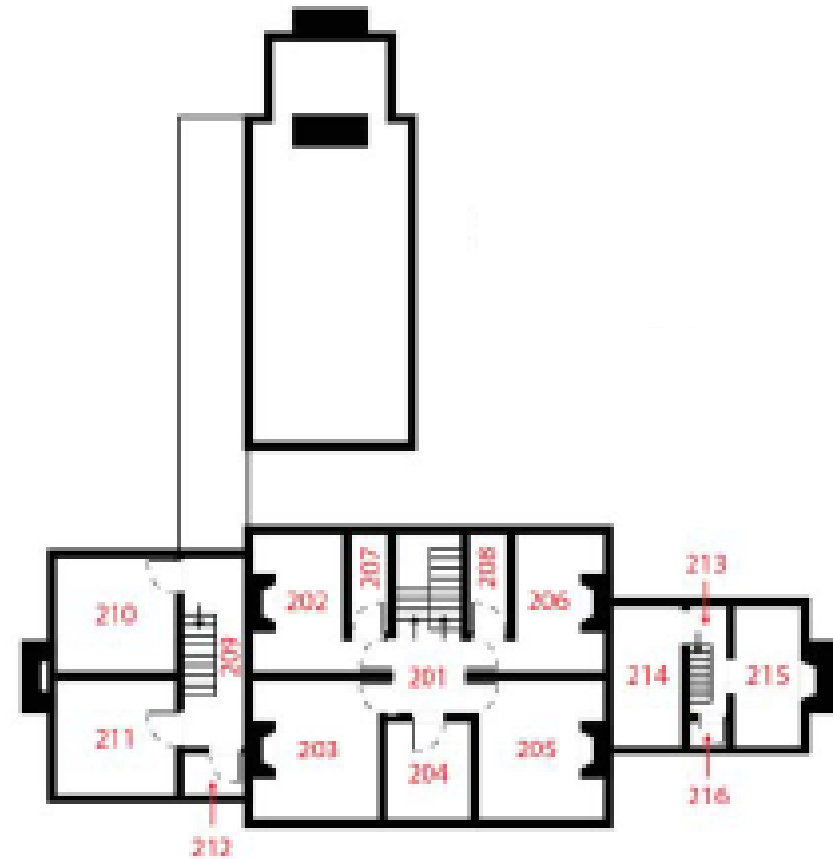


Figure 44. Second floor plan.

floor, and the profiles of the chair rails and the door casings are less complex. Four of the rooms are outfitted with fireplaces with mantels following the general pattern on the first floor.

Five rooms are arranged around the stair hall on the third floor. Four of these rooms are outfitted as offices; the fifth is devoted to storage and housing of HVAC system elements.

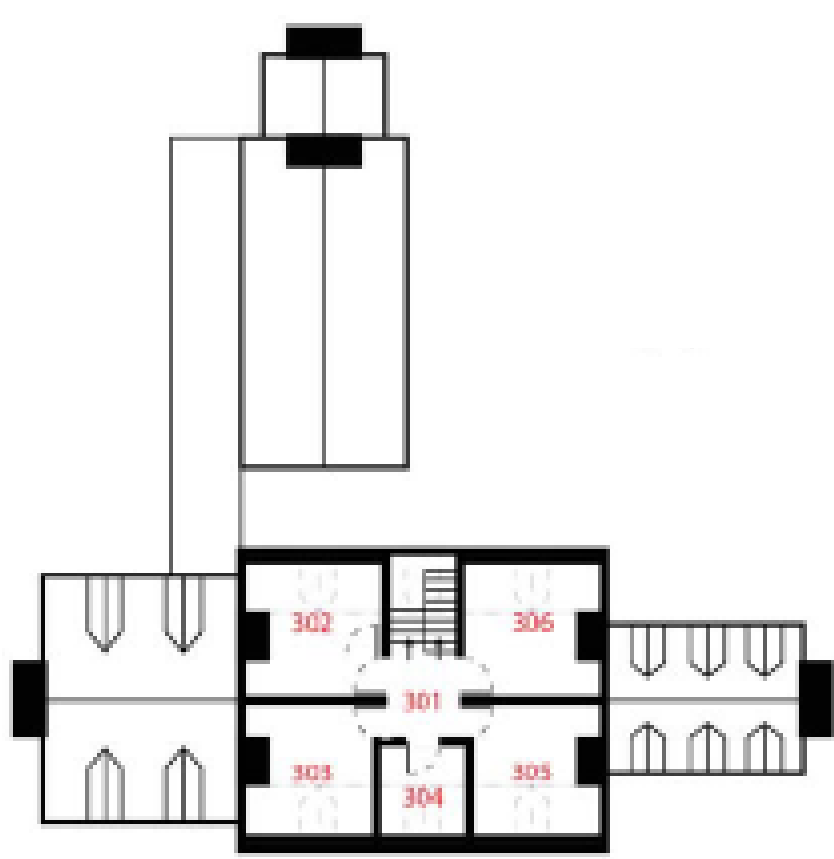


Figure 45. Third floor plan.

As the gable roof was restored in 1938, the ceilings slope significantly. There is no chair rail on this level; the fireplace mantels follow the style of those throughout the building.

Access to the basement is by a doorway fitted under the main staircase in the center hall. The full-height basement is limited to the main block; a 4'-high crawl space was

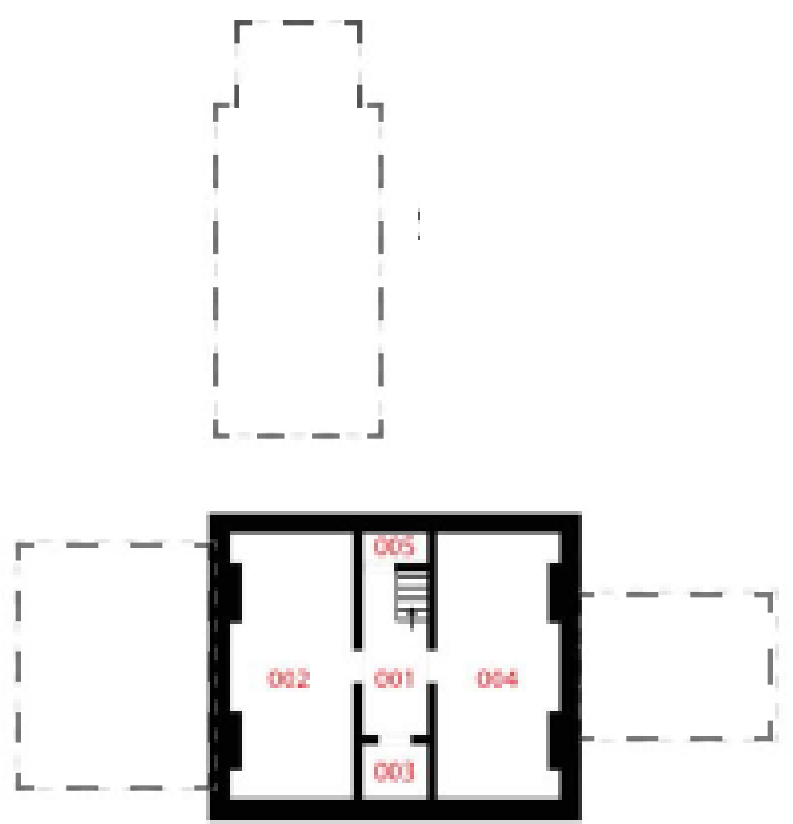


Figure 46. Basement floor plan.

Architectural Development and Assessment

excavated below the wings to provide access to mechanical systems. The basement has been altered significantly from its function as two game rooms and mens' and womens' toilets, in support of the inn and later the faculty club. The original stone walls have largely been replaced with concrete blocks, and the floor is poured concrete. The floor joists are exposed, confirming that they are 20th-century dimensional lumber.

The double-pile, side-passage south wing is fitted out to match the main block, with similar woodwork profiles, mantels, and door casings. The east doorway has been blocked off to accommodate a toilet, which was created by partitioning the east end of the passage. The stairway runs to the west along the south wall of the passage to a landing providing access to three rooms. The first-floor rooms were adapted to serve as a kitchen during the period of the faculty club, with tiled floors and built-in counters and sinks.

The single-pile north wing is laid out with a center passage on both floors flanked by one chamber on either side. The stairway rises to the west to a half-landing and returns to the east. As with the main block and south wing, the plastered

rooms feature a chair rail and baseboard; only the first floor hall has a cornice, which is similar to those in the main block.

The gable-roofed brick outbuilding is oriented with the long axis running perpendicular to the main block. The five-bay, 1½-story main section is closest to the house; a one-story, two-bay room is attached to the rear. An interior end chimney is centered on the end wall of the main section and an exterior end chimney is centered on the end wall of the rear room. An open shed-roofed colonnade runs the length of the south façade and connects with the south wing. Single doorways lead into the large room in the main section and into the one-room rear section. The windows on the first floor are 6/6 double-hung wood sashes; pedimented dormers with 6/6 sashes are regularly positioned on the roof. The north elevation conforms to the number of bays on the south, with matching windows but without doorways. An interior stairway leads to the second level, which is divided into five rooms and a hallway: a bathroom near the head of the stairs is the first room in line. All architectural details match the wings, including Flemish bond brickwork, door and window trim, and pedimented dormers.

Construction Chronology

A number of primary sources provide invaluable information for tracing the building's construction history. Property deeds, newspaper articles, and other sources confirm that the structure was built as an inn ca. 1803 and continued in that use until the mid-1830s. The most detailed primary source is the combined property plat and floor plans for the main block, wings, and the associated outbuilding, dating to ca. 1838-1858. An 1865 insurance document indicates that the wings were of frame construction. The next helpful source is the first annual bulletin of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station from 1888, which recorded changes that were made to the structure at that time. A number of photographs beginning ca. 1891 document the structures' fluctuating physical condition over the next four decades. The student thesis by Kellerman prepared in 1926 provides the second detailed description of the structure as it existed before the renovations of 1938-39. Finally, plans and photographs related to the renovation document the condition of the structure before and during the work; the architectural drawings also indicate a number of interventions were not carried out.

The Plat

The “Rossburg Farm” property plat depicts the building’s three-part plan with the outbuilding connected to the south wing by an open-sided, covered walkway. The floor plans strongly reflect the function of the structures as an inn complex. Multiple small rooms are located on the upper floors of the main block, the south wing, and the outbuilding, which presumably were designed to accommodate overnight guests. The three substantial rooms on the first floor, with the double-sized room south of the passage, fit the pattern for dining and gathering spaces in inns of the period. The direct connection between the wing and the front room of the outbuilding suggests that the room served as the kitchen; an inference that is supported by archaeological findings. There is no internal connection between the main block and the north wing, which is arranged as a center passage with flanking rooms on each level. This supports evidence from the fire insurance document that the north wing was not intended for public use, but possibly reserved for innkeeper quarters.

The center passage plan of the main block’s first floor indicates two substantial rooms to the north, and the single large room to the south. Short walls project from the side walls in the south room, suggesting that the space was intended to accommodate groups of varying sizes, as needed. According to the plat, a doorway near the southeast corner of the space provided access to the south wing via a relatively narrow side passage, which connected with the two substantial first-floor rooms. An exterior extension of this passage connected with the doorway in the corner of the front room in the outbuilding. All of the first floor rooms presumably were heated by end

fireplaces, while several smaller rooms on the upper floors in the main block, the south wing, and the second floor in the outbuilding, were not. The passage in the wing was repeated on the second floor by a hallway reached by a stairway in the southwest corner; two substantial rooms take up most of the footprint, with a much smaller third space occupying the east end of the passage. The second floor of the main block was divided into seven rooms opening onto the upper hall; five more rooms occupy the third story.

It is unclear whether the wings were conceived as original elements of the plan of the Rossborough Inn.

The insurance claim from 1865 indicates that the wings were frame construction, and the archaeological findings indicate that the brick foundations of the wings were not tied into the end walls of the main block. This evidence suggests that the wings may have been later additions. But, the absence of any windows on the south end wall of the main block suggests that erecting the wing already was planned when the inn was constructed. The photographs of



Figure 47. Floor plans from plat.

Architectural Development and Assessment



Figure 48. Ghost outline of north wing, 1926.

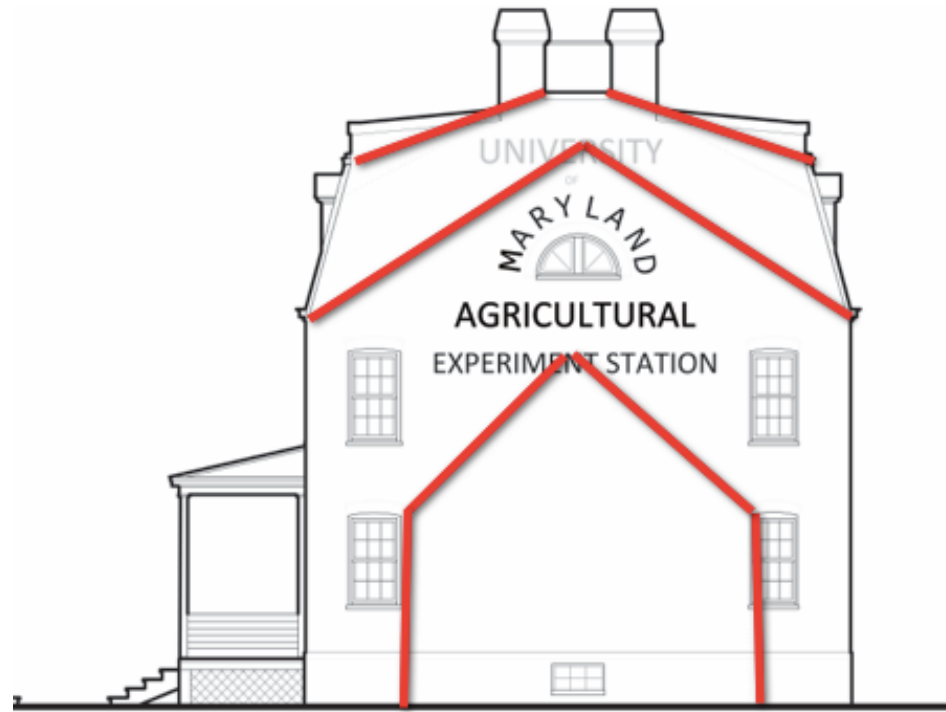


Figure 49. Rendering of north elevation with previous rooflines of main block and outline of north wing indicated.

the structure beginning ca. 1891 show only a single double window centered on the south wall on the first floor, and the fanlight in the gable. Although the wall is painted in all of the images, it is likely that evidence of infilled windows would be visible. The character of the double window indicates that it was a later feature, added after the wing had been removed, possibly where a doorway had been located. Although the plat indicates that the connection between the main block and the

wing was via a doorway near the east wall, the central location of the double window suggests that the doorway had been located there instead, and a centered doorway is indicated on the archaeological plan. The direct connection between the south doorway of the wing and the doorway in the outbuilding suggests that the arrangement was planned at least by the time that the outbuilding was erected.

The evidence provided by early photographs indicates that the roofline of the main block already had been altered before it was changed again in 1888. The line in the brickwork indicates that the original gable roof had been converted to a gambrel, with the resulting increase in the head room on the third story. This could indicate that the success of the inn had caused the owner to introduce lodging rooms there for the first time, or to improve the accommodations by raising the ceilings. The archaeological findings also indicate that the front room of the outbuilding was originally one-story in height, and that the rear portion that existed at that time was a later addition. By the time of the plat, the outbuilding already had been lengthened and a second level had been added. Therefore, it is clear that after the original Rossborough Inn had been constructed in 1803, it had been expanded to better serve its guests. Documentary evidence indicates that the use of the property as an inn had ceased by the late-1830s, largely due to the decline of the turnpike in competition with the railroad installed in 1832. It seems likely, therefore, that the expansion to the inn occurred sometime before plans for the railroad were made public.

The archaeological findings support the conclusion that the structure was intended to function as an inn, and provide provocative evidence to interpret the uses of a number of the rooms. The investigators interpreted the large brick-floored room occupying the south half of the south wing as a dining room, with aligned doorways in the wing and in the main block. Crisp also noted that he had found physical evidence indicating that the south side of the main block had been divided into two rooms flanking a hallway leading to the wing (see figure 21). The evidence of the hallway presumably led Cutler to indicate that there would be three doorways in the south wall of the center passage, to provide access to the hall and the two flanking rooms. This configuration was not implemented, however, as it conflicts with the evidence provided by the 19th-century plat. Crisp also uncovered a section of flag stone paving running between the main block and the dining room, and a second similar feature in the north wing (see figure 22). Again, as these findings conflict with the evidence of the plat, Crisp's interpretation was rejected and the space was restored according to the plat.

The conflicting evidence suggests that the archaeological findings and the plat may reflect two different phases of use. Crisp interpreted the area in the north wing as indicating a storage space for coaches. Brick steps were found leading up to both ends of the stone-paved passage on the south, seeming to make it impossible for that corridor to have served in a similar function for vehicles or horses. But perhaps the wings had been built originally as Crisp interpreted and had been altered by the time the plat was prepared circa the 1830s. Open ended, paved pass-throughs incorporated into

coaching inns are documented as relatively common features in England, although they were likely to be found most often in urban areas circa the 1830s-40s.¹⁰¹ In those instances, the passage led to an interior courtyard associated with the service area of the inn. If this had been the case at the Rossborough Inn, then the changes made to match the plans on the plat would have been extensive. Unfortunately, the archaeological excavation's records are insufficient to be able to determine the stratigraphic relationships of the features described, and thus are not useful in interpreting the chronological sequence.



Figure 50. Construction of kitchen annex, 1939.

Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, 1888

The description of the Rossborough Inn contained in the 1888 bulletin of the experiment station indicates that some changes likely occurred during the years when the property was used by the Maryland Agricultural College.¹⁰² The wings were gone and the floor plans on the upper levels had been reorganized, although the first floor seems to have remained largely intact. It was described as consisting of a wide hall extending the width of the building, with

Architectural Development and Assessment

two connected rooms on the north and “one large room for the chemical laboratory” on the south. The number of rooms on the second floor was reduced, but it is not possible to determine whether those changes were carried out in 1888 or earlier. The partitions dividing the area north of the hall into three rooms were removed to create one room that was “intended for a museum.” Two rooms on the south were bed chambers, and the room at the head of the stairs was retained as a library and study. The most pronounced alteration that was made to accommodate the new occupants consisted of raising and changing the roof to a mansard shape to allow a full-height ceiling on the third floor for staff quarters.

The rear outbuilding was adapted to accommodate a variety of functions. The first floor remained two rooms, with one “used for the heating apparatus and steam power, and the other for a general workshop.” The interiors of these rooms likely were extensively modified, and the center chimney depicted in photographs from this period is quite tall, undoubtedly to accommodate the new heating plant. The second level remained divided into several small rooms: “a



Figure 51. MAES Front Elevation, 1926.

good seed room, wash-room, and photographic and other closets.” A connection was made between the second levels of the outbuilding and the main block via “an enclosed gallery ten feet long.” The window that had provided light to the stair landing was converted into a doorway to provide access to the outbuilding. The one-story shed-roofed porch running the length of the façade was not mentioned in the report, suggesting that it was an earlier feature.

Kellermann, 1926

By the time William Kellermann, a student at the university, wrote his assessment of the Rossborough Inn, it had already undergone extensive alterations over the years of its use by the college and then the experiment station. Kellermann’s report is the only detailed description of the architecture of the Rossborough Inn prior to the WPA reconstruction efforts. His assessment includes photographs, measurements, a brief conditions assessment, and a building description. He measured all openings, fireplaces, and rooms, and measured some of the joists and bricks. Kellerman remarked on the “mansard roof ... [as] a new feature, as the original [roof] was of the gable type.” The roof itself was noted as covered with both tin and wood shingles. Kellermann also traced the plat map that hung in the Rossborough Inn, which indicated the previous existence of two wings and a smaller kitchen.¹⁰³

Kellerman’s most significant contribution to interpreting the building was his conclusion that the core of the structure had always been arranged as a center hall plan, with brick interior partitions marking the outline of the



Figures 52, 53, and 54. Kellermann images of Rossborough Inn exterior; 1926.

passage. Kellermann noted the interior arch spanning the center passage, and concluded that it was an original feature. He also hypothesized that the eight-foot wide, shed-roofed porch addition was likely not original to the building, suggesting that it may have been built to “properly set off the building” from the street. The second-floor gallery leading from the main block to the outbuilding was still in

place. By the time of Kellerman’s investigation, the first floor joists already had been replaced.

1938-39 Renovation

The “restoration” of the Rossborough Inn that was carried out in 1938-39 aimed at preserving a seriously deteriorated structure, and returning it to its historic appearance. Photographic

evidence indicates that they gutted the interior of the building and removed the roof structure down to the eaves, with no historic material other than the walls likely to have survived. The plan for restoring the building was guided by a combination of the surviving physical evidence, and the 19th-century plat and floorplans. Some liberties were taken, however, as the outbuilding was demolished without

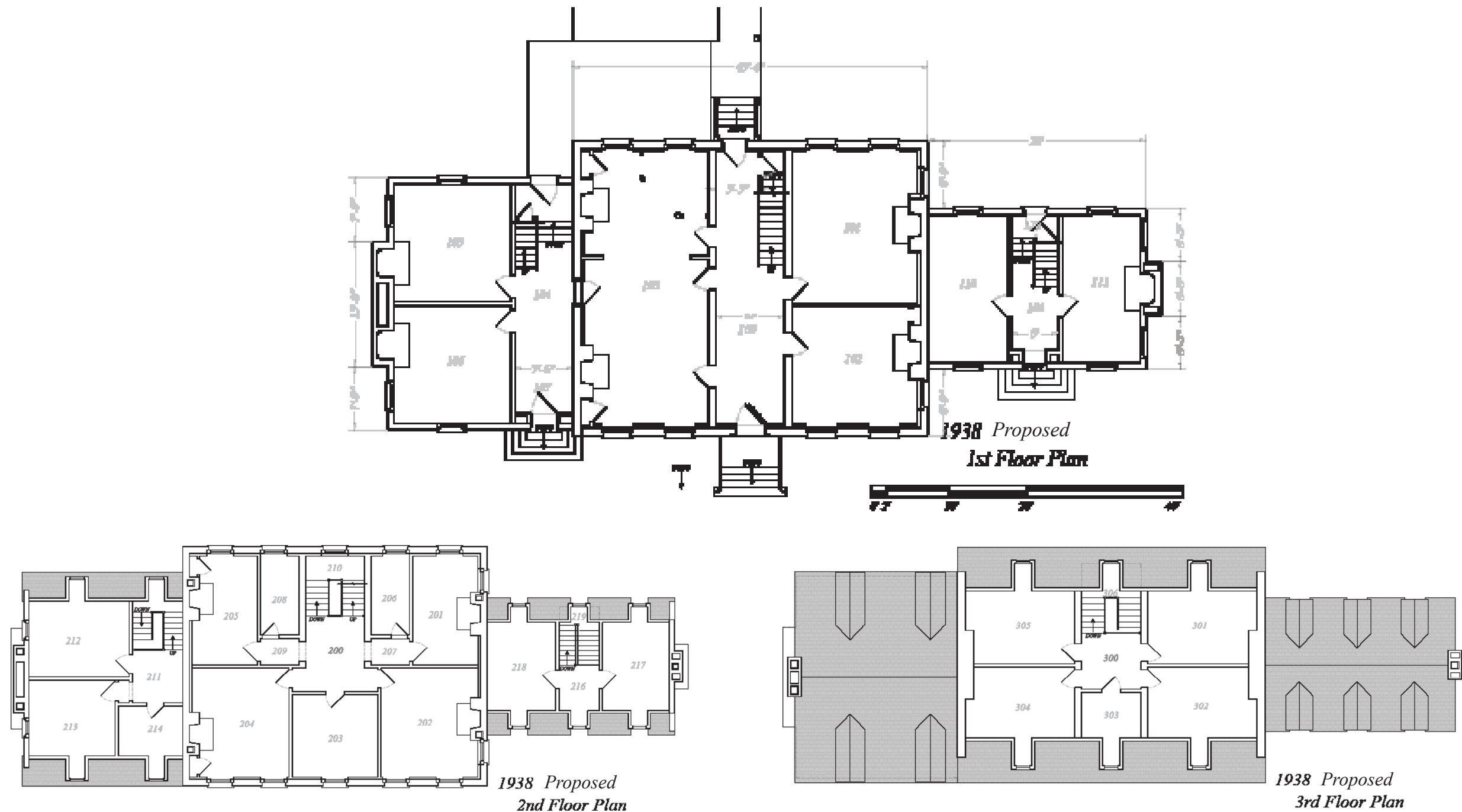


Figure 55. 1938 proposed floor plans.

regard to historic material, and was rebuilt with only cursory reference to the plat. The wings were constructed of brick to mimic the main block, even though the archaeological evidence revealed a much more complex story. The design for the woodwork on the interiors was based on “period” examples, as interpreted in a Colonial Revival sensibility. Among these were the bar located in the corner of the “tap room,” the fireplace chimney mantels, cornices, and chair rails.

Landscapes and Gardens

The colonial-style gardens were introduced during the 1938-39 renovation. While gardens were installed both to the north and south of the kitchen annex, the south garden is much better documented, and, it appears, assumed a greater social role as a genteel, 18th-century affectation to display wealth and elegant living. The origins of the garden likely stem from the cultural movement in the 1930s and 1940s to revive the “colonial” spirit with fervent nationalism and patriotism. Unfortunately, many of the modern imitations opted for ornate, elaborate, and, at times, ostentatious

displays despite evidence that “colonial gardens were simple, functional, and even somewhat bare.” Colonial Williamsburg established the trend for colonial-style gardens during their “high style” architectural restoration of the town. In this respect, the inclusion of the colonial garden during the Rossborough Inn’s 1939 renovation is indicative of the thoroughness of the renovation and further establishes the quality and integrity of the Colonial Revival statement of significance.¹⁰⁴

The plan for the garden was conceived, designed, and executed by Mark Shoemaker. Shoemaker gave detailed specific instructions for the work. These included an overall plan, along with detailed construction and planting plans, all of which were to be carried out under his direct supervision. Although copies of his planting plans are no longer available, the species list he provided to local nurseries and photographs from the Rossborough Inn’s opening reception in 1940 reveal a highly ornate, painstakingly manicured garden full of carefully shaped boxwoods and an abundance of flowers.



Figure 56 (at top). Rossborough Inn Garden, 1950; Figure 57. Rossborough Inn Garden Plantings during opening reception, 1939.

Architectural Development and Assessment

Condition Assessment

With the extensive restoration of the Rossborough Inn that was undertaken in the 1930s, the surviving historic material dating prior to that work is limited to the exterior of the main block. The east façade retains the most historic fabric, with lower percentages found in the west elevation and in the north and south walls. The gables, the chimneys, the roof, and the dormers are all 1930s replacements. In addition, the window frames and sashes, the front and rear doors and casings, and all of the hardware were replaced either in the 1930s or afterward. The north and south wings and the outbuilding were constructed using non-historic materials in 1938-39. Therefore, the assessment of current conditions will focus on the main block, considering the other structures as they relate to its preservation.

The buildings appear to be in good structural condition overall. The main threats to the historic fabric consist of the use of incompatible materials such as Portland-based mortar, poor workmanship, lapses in maintenance, and moisture damage caused by inadequate drainage and what is likely to be the failure of metal flashing at the south chimney.

East elevation

- Incompatible Portland-based mortar has been used throughout; the joints are uniformly poorly struck;
- A relatively low number of bricks (fewer than 10) have spalled (lost their surface integrity), likely due to hard mortar in the joints;
- Efflorescence is visible on the surfaces of several bricks near the northeast corner;
- One of the rubbed bricks in the doorway arch has spalled;
- The ground surface is in direct contact with the bottoms of the basement window sills; there is no apparent evidence of deterioration in the sills at this time;
- The corner downspouts terminate less than 12” from walls;
- The ground slope all along the wall is inadequate to direct rainwater away from the building.

West elevation

- Incompatible Portland-based mortar; poorly struck joints;
- There is extensive mortar loss in brick joints at the northwest corner;
- The corner downspouts terminate less than 12” from wall.

North and South elevations

- Incompatible Portland-based mortar; poorly struck joints;
- There are dark stains on the surfaces of both chimneys, likely indicating water penetration.
- A section of the plaster ceiling in room 304 adjoining the south wall has buckled and fallen; this is most likely due to a leak in the roof associated with the chimney flashing.

North and South wings

There are no gutters on either wing, and several of the bottom courses of bricks are stained and/or exhibit fungal growth. The growth is particularly extensive along the west wall of the south wing, where the paved surface of the garden causes rainwater to splash against the wall; the pavers are deflected, which allows water to pond directly against the building. The main threat to the wings and the outbuilding is long-term exposure to moisture as the result of inadequate drainage and ponding in the paved portions of the garden. The bricks that were used in the 1930s as infill for the main block and in constructing the new buildings are sufficiently dense as to have resisted any apparent damage due to water penetration so far.

Recommendations

- Repair the damaged plaster on the third floor and address the likely cause by inspecting and repairing the flashing around both of the chimneys.
- Improve water drainage away from all of the structures, following the general guidance found in *NPS Preservation Brief #39: Controlling Unwanted Moisture in Historic Buildings*.
- Develop a systematic program of maintenance that aims at preserving the historic masonry walls, to include selecting an appropriate high-lime mortar to be used in all future repairs, and generally following the guidance found in *NPS Preservation Brief #2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings*.

Review of Significance

The Rossborough Inn has long been considered an important structure in terms of its age and original function, and because of its central place in the history of the development of the University of Maryland. This interest resulted in repeated attempts on the part of faculty, students, and staff of

the university to assess the significance of the Rossborough Inn according to the criteria for nominating properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. To that end, nomination forms were prepared and submitted for review by the Maryland Historical Trust and the National Park Service in 1978, and amended in 1980 and again in 1988. While the nomination was ultimately withdrawn by the university, the NPS determined that the property was eligible for listing, and as such, the Rossborough Inn receives all of the protections afforded to listed properties. The basis for the determination of eligibility rests on four areas of significance:

- The structure’s relationship to the history of the University of Maryland,
- An example of early 19th century architecture,
- An example of an early 20th century Colonial Revival restoration,
- The inspiration for the campus-wide adoption of Colonial Revival style architecture beginning in the 1930s.

Relationship to the History of the University of Maryland

The Rossborough Inn and its outbuildings were the only structures on the property when the precursor to the University of Maryland was founded, and the Rossborough Inn is the oldest structure on the sprawling College Park campus. Because of its prominent position along Baltimore Avenue, the structure has served as a reflection of the university to the outside world. The Rossborough Inn’s transformation from inn to agricultural experiment station during the formative years of the college was vital to the success of the institution. An article lauding the opening of the college observed that, “We are justly proud of the Military Academy at West Point and the Naval School at Annapolis because they make their students ‘first in War.’ The object of the Agricultural College of Maryland is to make its students – ‘first in Peace!! And first in the hearts of their countrymen!!!’”¹⁰⁵ The alterations that were made to the Rossborough Inn in 1938-39 reflected the intention of the university’s administration to cement its new identity as a prominent liberal arts institution. For these reasons, the Rossborough Inn and the trajectory of the university are intimately intertwined.

Architectural Development and Assessment

Example of 19th Century Architecture

The design of the Rossborough Inn reflects the late Georgian Federal architectural style that was popular at the turn of the 19th century. It is one of only a few buildings of its type to survive in Prince George’s County. Although the inn was altered over the years, the façade of the original portion of the structure retains its integrity, as the rare Coade keystone and double-arched doorway, stone window lintels, and fenestration remain unchanged since its original construction.

Example of Early 20th Century Colonial Revival Restoration

The rehabilitation of the Rossborough Inn carried out in 1938-39 reflects both the intentions and methods of the early proponents of historic structure preservation and restoration in America. The building was selected to be restored based on its apparent great age and its architectural significance, its historic use as an inn, and for its traditional role as the ceremonial face of the university. The WPA was crucial in helping to preserve a variety of historic structures during this period of social and economic upheaval, and echoed the

interest in colonial architecture as an appropriate expression of American history and values. Remodeling a building in the Colonial Revival style served as a symbol of a better time while creating an instant connection to a secure past.

The methods that were adopted for restoring the Rossborough Inn reflected the standards of the day, which had been promoted by the architects who directed the Colonial Williamsburg restoration that began in 1929. The restoration was based on a combination of documentary evidence and physical investigations to determine the original design, and to ascertain how much of the original material survived.¹⁰⁶ The 19th-century plat provided crucial information for the arrangement of the interior, and served as a detailed guide for the designers. Archaeological excavations were carried out to confirm the presence of the wings that were indicated on the plat, and they were reconstructed on the footprint of the old foundations. Both the interior and exterior woodwork details were based on surviving comparable examples. Although the extent of the interventions and the conjectural nature of the design for the wings would not be considered acceptable practice today, these differences reflect how the

field of historic preservation has evolved over the last eight decades, and are an important part of the history of the field.

Inspiration for Campus Design

The renovation of the Rossborough Inn occurred in conjunction with a flurry of new construction on campus between 1928 and 1945. The majority of these structures were built in “variations of Colonial themes,”¹⁰⁷ and Olmsted and others cited the Rossborough Inn as influencing the decisions. The inn was the only early 19th century building on campus, and reflects the late Georgian Federal architectural style that inspired the Colonial Revival movement. The renovation of the Dairy building in 1935 and the restoration of the Rossborough Inn in 1938-39 mark the shift to the Colonial Revival style that would be the hallmark of the design of campus buildings for decades to come.

Integrity

The Rossborough Inn has been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C: association with significant historical

events, and for its architectural distinction. The Rossborough Inn retains all seven aspects of integrity that are required to support the significance criteria: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.¹⁰⁸ While the Rossborough Inn has been altered, its character defining features are intact. The Rossborough Inn is still a center passage dwelling, and the current floor plan closely resembles the plan on the historic plat. Additionally, the fenestration on the façade is unchanged, and an estimated 85% of the original brick remains, as do the stone lintels and Coade keystone. The Rossborough Inn continues to be a prominent landmark adjacent to Baltimore Avenue, successor to the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike that had been established in 1813.

While some modifications have been made to the Rossborough garden since 1940, they do not affect the character of the space and are reversible. Photographs from the opening reception in 1940 show boxwood edging along several of the brick walkways. These boxwoods have since been removed but are easily replaceable. Additionally, the grassy areas within the garden have been paved with blue stone pavers. Removing these and replacing them with grass

would restore that area of the garden to its original appearance. The western brick wall of the garden has been modified to allow for an additional entrance to the space, which does not significantly impact the design or feel of the garden as a whole. Finally, the holly hedge that extends south from the garden enclosure is composed of the original plants.

The Rossborough Inn Historic Designed Landscape

Cultural landscapes are recognized as an appropriate scale of preservation and a type of heritage worthy of protection. The National Park Service defines cultural landscapes as “a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.”¹⁰⁹ Four types of cultural landscapes fall under this definition: historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, historic sites, and ethnographic landscapes. For our purposes, we will focus on historic designed landscapes.

The portion of campus surrounding the Rossborough Inn, extending along Baltimore Avenue from the Chapel

Lawn to the Engineering Field qualifies as a historic designed cultural landscape under the criteria of the National Park Service. The contributing elements to this landscape include the Rossborough Inn and Garden, the 1910 Gate and walls, and Turner Hall. The outline of these elements likely were already envisioned in 1934 when the Dairy building was retrofitted as the neo-Federal brick structure that was renamed Turner Hall. According to the master plan prepared by Mark Shoemaker in 1931, the landscape was intended to serve as a grand entrance to the recently renamed University of Maryland. The major institution of higher education for the state of Maryland deserved an entrance worthy of the university’s status, and the campus grounds were manipulated to achieve just that.

The cultural landscape was created through a series of construction projects and renovations of previously existing buildings. The initial step in the actualization of the cultural landscape occurred in 1934 when the Dairy building (thereafter known as Turner Hall), was re-clad in brick in an effort to turn the international style “cow shed” into a Colonial Revival-style educational facility. This was followed by the renovation of the Rossborough Inn, which began in 1938,

Architectural Development and Assessment

and the construction of the Rossborough Garden, beginning in 1939. The final component was completed in 1941 when the Class of 1910 Gate (located between the Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall) and the brick walls fronting Baltimore Avenue were constructed and dedicated, and the road that formerly ran between the structures was removed.

The landscape was meant to be viewed from the perspective of Baltimore Avenue facing towards the university. Looking west up what is today known as Rossborough Lane, the Class of 1910 Gate frames the pedestrian entrance next to a road, with the complementary facades of the Rossborough Inn on the left and Turner Hall on the right evoking images of the country's colonial past. In its dedication photograph, the piers of the 1910 Gate frame the Palladian window of the Administration Building behind it and reinforce an identity of sophistication, elegance, and prosperity. The delicate cupola of Anne Arundel Hall caps the scene; standing on the hill across the mall as though it were a literal representation of the “shining city on the hill” that America's future promised its young people. The distance and height of Anne Arundel past the entrance, with its colonial atmosphere, created a sense of

moving towards the future – a future that would require effort and dedication to reach. Later construction of the Reckord Armory and the McKeldin Library have obscured this original view, but the elements of the 1941 designed landscape and its relation to the campus remain.

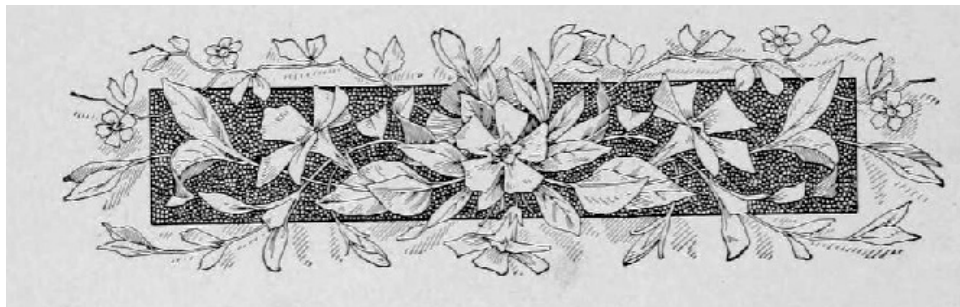
This layout, especially the use of the Administration Building and Anne Arundel Hall, both of which were constructed contemporaneously with the changes made to Turner Hall and Rossborough Inn, was a specific design envisioned by either Byrd or Shoemaker and subsequently reviewed by Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr. In this way, the Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall served as the terminus of the academic mall, thereby further instilling notions of order, planning, and formality on the campus through the built environment. Olmsted recommended to Shoemaker that he maintain the green space to the south of the Rossborough Inn/ Turner Hall complex (today known as the Chapel Lawn) in order to maintain the spirit of the academy.¹¹⁰

Although the university has undergone significant changes since the original Rossborough Inn historic designed

landscape was envisioned, much of the original design remains intact. We propose that this historic designed cultural landscape be recognized as a new type of significance with this high level of integrity, and that further altering any of the contributing elements along the Baltimore Avenue frontage would present a serious threat to the integrity of this historic space. The green spaces on either side also deserve consideration as important cultural features. The Chapel Lawn to the south is particularly noteworthy given its long history as an integral component of the campus and its close relationship to the Rossborough Inn landscape.

The Chapel Lawn and the Engineering Field should be considered their own cultural landscapes, spatially and historically related, but separate from the Rossborough Inn Historic Designed Landscape. The broad open spaces that characterize the landscapes today recall the open agricultural fields that surrounded the Rossborough Inn for much of its existence. Over the years both spaces have been integrated into the landscape plan for the university, with the Chapel Lawn playing a particularly prominent part. In the plans of Olmsted, Shoemaker, Simonds, and others, the green space

bounded by Baltimore Avenue on the east and Morrill Hall on the west was considered crucial to the character of the university. With construction of the chapel in 1954, the space was effectively divided into the east portion, now known as the Chapel Lawn, and the Morrill Quad to the west. These green spaces function together as venues for student body activities, where intramural sports teams play and the marching band drills. They also serve as a pedestrian alternative to walking along Baltimore Avenue. Despite this joint function, each component is a separate landscape that evolved in accordance to different eras of campus planning.



Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations



Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Campus Planning and Preservation

A number of proposals have been made over the years to establish a framework for how the historic resources on the College Park campus of the University of Maryland should be managed and preserved. As early as 1974, a draft nomination form was prepared for the Rossborough Inn to be considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The form was revised and submitted for consideration by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1978 and 1988, and while the nomination never was formally approved at the level of the National Park Service, the Rossborough Inn was determined to be eligible (DOE) for listing. The Rossborough Inn and two other structures on campus (Morrill and Calvert Halls) also are listed as historic sites under the Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan (2010). Thus, official recognition of the historical significance of these structures has been received on both the federal, state, and local levels of government.

A campus-wide preservation survey was prepared in the late 1980s under the direction of David Fogle, a member of the faculty of the School of Architecture and the founder

of the university's historic preservation program. In addition to the Fogle plan, which was never officially adopted, studies to nominate the campus as a historic district were conducted in 1991 and 1998, but they were not formally accepted by the university administration. As part of the planning for the current College Park Facilities Master Plan, in 2011 the preservation consulting firm, EHT Tracerics, Inc., was hired to prepare a Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility form. The consultants argued that the College Park campus was eligible for listing as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C, and was significant under the themes of agriculture, education, social history, architecture, and others. The form was completed, but when the Facilities Master Plan was adopted in 2011, the preservation component along with the consultant studies was not included in the final document, nor has the university formally submitted the National Register nomination form.

The current planning related to construction near the Rossborough Inn highlights the desirability of adopting a coherent and cohesive plan for preserving the significant

historic resources found on the campus. Given the Rossborough Inn's DOE status, and the various permitting requirements related to approving the construction of the Purple Line light rail system through campus, an assessment was conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to determine the effects of the Purple Line on the historic resources. The report found that routing the line to cross Baltimore Avenue between the Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall, and then through the center of campus, would have no adverse effect on the historic resources. The rationale for this finding was that "the project would not create effects that would diminish the historic district's integrity of design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association." As for the Rossborough Inn, the finding of no adverse effect was based on the determination that, "while the addition of the wires would alter the property's setting and feeling, this change would not diminish the characteristics that render this property eligible for the NRHP," and that "the new visual element would be minimal and the property has a strong and constant connection to the area's transportation evolution."¹¹¹

At issue with the findings of the Section 106 assessment is that the property boundary for the Rossborough Inn that was used in the study was a narrow rectangle bounded by Rossborough Lane on the north, which did not include Turner Hall. The research conducted for the current project has found that the Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall should be considered as contributing elements to the Rossborough Inn historic designed landscape, which was created between 1938 and 1941. Given these findings, we recommend that the determination of no adverse effect be revisited. If a preservation plan were to be developed for the College Park campus, that process would provide the opportunity to carry out the type of intensive research for the campus as a whole that led to the discovery of the significance of the Rossborough Inn historic landscape.

Planning Models

Many colleges and universities around the country have embarked on campus preservation planning initiatives, which provides a number of models that could prove useful in carrying out a similar exercise at College Park. In the early

2000s, the Getty Foundation recognized a void in preservation planning on US college campuses. From 2002 until 2007, the foundation administered the Campus Heritage Initiative, which assisted more than 85 universities and colleges around the country in creating heritage or preservation plans.¹¹² Since that time, many more colleges and universities have created their own heritage or preservation plans.

Our survey of campus preservation plans reveals that there are several shared components. These include conducting a study of campus history and development, surveying all campus buildings, ranking the campus buildings according to significance, and developing guidelines for both new construction, building additions, and preservation. Much of this work has already been accomplished for the College Park campus over the years, and would serve as a strong base for developing a full preservation plan.

The University of Virginia’s Historic Preservation Framework Plan of 2007 goes a step further by surveying and evaluating cultural landscapes as well as individual structures.¹¹³ The University of Virginia planners considered

all buildings on campus, and determined their level of integrity and developed a matrix for assessing their preservation priorities. For example, buildings could be categorized in descending order of significance as:

- Fundamentally important to university history (“which applies exclusively to the Jefferson buildings and Grounds”);
- Essential to university history and present character;
- Important to university history and present character;
- Contributing to university history and its present character;
- Not contributing to university history and its present character; or
- Significant outside the university context.

The Virginia plan integrated cultural landscapes, and had different criteria to reflect the evolving nature of the campus. The individual landscapes were determined and evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Significant within spatial organization of the campus plan:
 - Historic open space,

Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations

- Continuity of traditional land use,
 - Traditional circulation pattern/route,
 - Historic entry/gateway or focal point,
- Significant view or vista;
 - Significant as a setting for historic building or sculpture;
 - Significant as a work of design; or
 - Significant for association with an important event or person.

The plan addressed the integrity of the cultural landscapes, concluding that, “In most cases, integrity was evaluated based on the survival of enough features to convey the general character of its historic appearance or the presence of features representing its evolution over multiple periods of development.”¹¹⁴

The last component of the plan was the university’s preservation guidelines. This was addressed at the administrative level as well as at the site level. Guidelines were developed for the administration to follow in preserving resources as well as for the physical care of the resources.

The preservation guidelines also addressed adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

Facilities Master Plan 2011-2030: Future Visions for the University of Maryland and the Rossborough Inn:

The impetus for this project is the ongoing planning to develop portions of the University of Maryland campus, which has the potential to have significant negative impacts on the integrity of the Rossborough Inn and its designed historic landscape. Three projects have been proposed that have the potential to affect the historic resources negatively, but each of the initiatives also provides an opportunity to take advantage of the Rossborough Inn to provide added value to the finished products, as well as to re-invigorate the Rossborough Inn as a vibrant contributor to campus life. The projects are the Discovery District, the Purple Line light rail system, and the new School of Public Policy building. All three are included in the 2011-2030 Campus Master Plan, which addresses the over-arching themes of transportation, sustainability, and land use.¹¹⁵

Discovery District

The proposed Discovery District is designed to combine flexible research space with housing, retail, and dining in a walkable development. The mixed-use community will serve as a “central node” between the University of Maryland College Park and the Research Park. One potential use for the Discovery District is to provide community space for business incubation, which is a key asset that the City of College Park currently lacks. Both sides of Baltimore Avenue will be affected by the district, as areas of the Engineering Field that front Baltimore Avenue are proposed to be developed into retail space and housing. The scale of the buildings will vary, although a maximum height of between seven and eight stories has been mandated due to the proximity to the College Park Airfield. Such heavy development will increase the level of foot traffic in the area adjacent to the Rossborough Inn, an area where there is presently little pedestrian activity. A faculty club and a satellite museum of the Phillips Art Gallery have also been proposed for the district; both of these activities relate well to the historic uses of the Rossborough Inn, and suggest that they are opportunities for cross programming and

a shared mission. However, the scale and complexity of the new buildings that will make up the Discovery District also have the potential to overpower and lessen the significance of the Rossborough Inn and the historic campus entrance.

School of Public Policy

Current plans call for creating a new School of Public Policy (SPP) to take advantage of the university’s national

prominence in a variety of social science fields and its proximity to Washington, DC. The school is envisioned as a world-class program and facility. The area west of Baltimore Avenue adjacent to and immediately west of the Rossborough Inn has been proposed as the site for the new building, which will host a variety of functions and serve as a venue for conferences and presentations by noted scholars and public officials. The dynamic programs envisioned for the SPP

provide the potential for invigorating the Rossborough Inn by developing complementary programs. The 1930s Colonial Revival garden seems a particularly promising venue for holding special activities related to SPP events. However, the placement of the building could encroach upon Rossborough Inn’s modestly scaled architecture and cultural landscape, and/or block the connection between the Rossborough Inn and the adjoining Chapel Field.



Figure 58. Conceptual plan showing Discovery District buildings in white. The School of Public Policy is located below the Rossborough Inn.

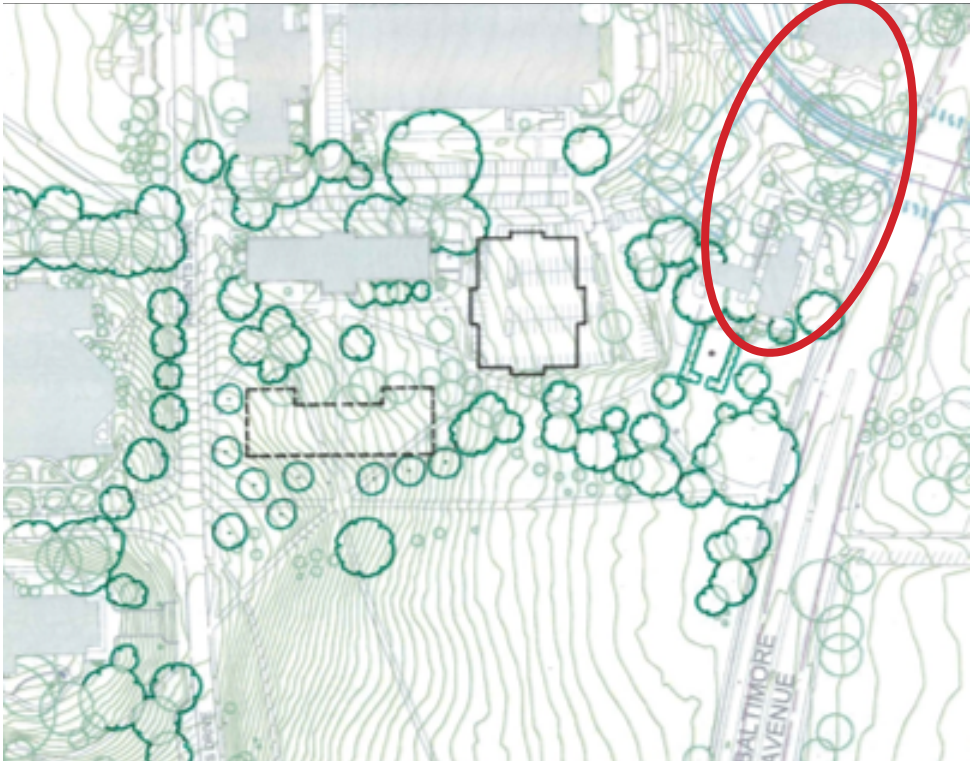


Figure 59. Alternative proposed locations of future School of Public Policy

Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Purple Line

The Purple Line is a 16-mile light rail public transportation system designed to connect Bethesda in Montgomery County with New Carrollton in Prince George's County, Maryland. The project will be a public-private partnership and is estimated to cost \$5.6 billion.¹¹⁶ As of November 2016, construction of the Purple Line has been halted by a federal judge due to concerns about ongoing safety issues and declining numbers in Washington Metropolitan Area Transit ridership.¹¹⁷ Further concerns about the possibility of an additional environmental assessment by the Federal Transit Authority also will delay construction of the new rail line. However, if the project continues as planned, the tracks for the trains will bisect campus by crossing Baltimore Avenue and entering the university along Rossborough Lane between the Rossborough Inn, Turner Hall, and the Reckord Armory.

The Section 106 assessment of the potential impact of the Purple Line on the campus as a whole, and on the Rossborough Inn in particular, returned a finding of no adverse effect. However, the assessment considered only the

Rossborough Inn and a small area surrounding it. Conversely, a significant finding of this study is that the Rossborough Inn and its garden, Turner Hall, and the Class of 1910 gate all should be considered as a significant historic designed landscape. Therefore, reinvestigating the potential impact of the Purple Line on that larger historic resource should be conducted as part of the reviews undertaken by the Federal Transit Authority and the US Department of Transportation. In the event that the reassessment also finds no adverse effect, measures to mitigate the impact of the construction should be undertaken.

Themes

As the campus urbanizes via the Discovery District, providing greater access to public transit by way of the Purple Line, and expanding the retail corridor along Baltimore Avenue, there is an opportunity for the Rossborough Inn historic designed landscape to benefit from this development. When considered either as a threat to the integrity of the resource, or as an opportunity to reinvigorate the Rossborough

Inn, our recommendations focus on the latter. In the spirit of campus revitalization and building stronger connections to Washington, DC, as well as the surrounding metropolitan and local area, so too can the Rossborough Inn be revitalized and play an important role in this transformation.

The Facilities Master Plan presents several themes, three of which seem particularly relevant for consideration in this context.¹¹⁸ These are: (1) environmental stewardship and sustainability, (2) landscape design and land use, and (3)



Figure 60. Conceptual drawings of the Baltimore Avenue corridor.

vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems. Each theme will be used to explore the Rossborough Inn’s potential future uses within the context of the master plan initiatives.

(1) Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

As preservationists, we believe that the “greenest building is the one already built,” and, as such, adaptive reuse of the Rossborough Inn is strongly encouraged.¹¹⁹ The 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan addresses sustainability and environmental stewardship, but does not evaluate how



Figure 61. Conceptual drawings of the Baltimore Avenue corridor.

existing buildings can be assigned new uses to fit other demands. The Rossborough Inn is one such building that could be considered for a new use. In order to consider uses, however, certain parameters must first be addressed. First, the floor plan of the Rossborough Inn dates to the early 19th century and was designed to serve the needs of an inn, not a university. It is small compared to the institutional scale of most campus buildings. In the past, the building’s small scale has been a challenge to the success of the enterprises located there. An annex was proposed in 1965 to provide additional dining space to serve the increasing needs of the faculty club; the addition was never constructed, possibly because the hotel in the main block of the Rossborough Inn closed only a few years later, which created more room for dining without the cost of new construction. In the late 1970s, only the first two floors and the kitchen building were used as dining space, while the third story contained offices for the faculty club. Currently the Rossborough Inn serves as the Office of Undergraduate Admissions: on a daily basis the building is either virtually empty, except for the

staff working in the nine individual offices, or overflowing with the families of potential students on their first visit to campus. Its small scale precludes any use that would bring larger numbers of people to the space.

Scale, however, is not our only concern when considering sustainability. Appropriate occupants should take advantage of the historic context to return the structure as a meaningful landmark on campus. As the undergraduate admissions office, the Rossborough Inn is only open to the public during a set number of hours as the embarkation point for campus tours. Rarely, if ever, after their first tour of campus do students, faculty, parents, or alumni have a reason to return to the Rossborough Inn. In the past, the Rossborough Inn had served as a social gathering place, an important road marker along the Baltimore-Washington turnpike, a beacon for the Maryland Agricultural College and the early University of Maryland, a museum (twice), and a place for eating, drinking, and socializing. The Rossborough Inn was once a hub of activity, but, as the focus of campus shifted away from Baltimore Avenue in favor of McKeldin Mall in the 1950s, the Inn was displaced from campus life.

Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations

The proposed developments along Baltimore Avenue will once again bring the Rossborough Inn back into the center of action on campus, and it has the opportunity to become a vibrant social hub once again.

(2) Landscape Design and Land Use

One of the key factors that contributes to the significance of the Rossborough Inn is the presence of the cultural landscape that includes Turner Hall, the Rossborough Garden, and the Class of 1910 Gate. The placement of the School of Public Policy building near the Rossborough Inn could encroach on this landscape, and the extension of the proposed building all the way to Baltimore Avenue would destroy it. In order to discuss the impact of a project on the cultural landscape, its boundaries must be clearly defined. We argue that the boundaries of the Rossborough historic designed cultural landscape extend from the north side of Turner Hall to the southern boundary of the Rossborough Inn garden, and

from the eastern edge of the service road in front of the Reckord Armory to Baltimore Avenue.

The Discovery District Plan of 2015 shows the proposed School of Public Policy building as an L-shaped structure located directly west of the Rossborough Inn. One side of the building extends between the Rossborough Inn and the Chapel Lawn all the way to Baltimore Avenue. In

other university planning documents, the building has a much smaller footprint that does not interfere with the connection between the Rossborough Inn and the Chapel Lawn. The 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan also reveals details that could threaten the Rossborough Inn's cultural landscape setting. The plan's conceptual proposals present different and conflicting ideas and values. For example, one section refers

to the campus as "an oasis of green in an urban corridor in the city of College Park," yet elsewhere includes plans to reduce significantly the overall amount of green space on campus.¹²⁰ The Rossborough Garden is not only a contributing element to the cultural landscape and a part of the historic significance of the building, but it is an important part of the campus green space. As the current undergraduate admissions office, the Rossborough Inn and Garden welcomes potential new students and their families, a function which we believe it should retain.



Figure 62. Proposed boundary of Rossborough Inn Historic Designed Landscape.

(3) Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation Systems

The issues related to vehicular and pedestrian modes of transportation are particularly relevant to the Rossborough Inn due to its location along Baltimore Avenue and proximity to the Class of 1910 Gate pedestrian entry point to campus. The manner in which pedestrians navigate the campus is identified as a primary concern in the 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan (FMP). The FMP calls for bicycle and pedestrian corridors that move east-west and north-south across campus, thereby creating a visual and functional line from McKeldin Mall down to Baltimore Avenue. The re-integration of Baltimore Avenue into the planning philosophy of campus holds the potential to take advantage of the Rossborough Inn's placement at the intersection of a proposed major pedestrian corridor.

As of the publication of this report, the route for the Purple Line has been determined, although the timeline for implementing the project is in question. One stop on the Purple Line will be located directly east of the Rossborough Inn across Baltimore Avenue on Rossborough Lane. The

placement of this stop is intended to serve the proposed tenants of the Discovery District, including the new Phillips Museum, visiting artist housing, and guests of the hotel and its restaurants. From this location, the line will continue across Baltimore Avenue and enter campus between Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall. The line will be paired with a roadway, operating as a dual carriageway through the campus.¹²¹ The entry between Rossborough Inn and Turner will also contain a campus bicycle route, which will round out the multi-modal access point.¹²²

Because the Purple Line project will receive state and federal funding, the authorities in charge of the project are legally required to assess the potential effects of the line's construction on nearby natural and cultural resources. This assessment mandate falls under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Properties identified as being on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places must be evaluated for the potential negative impacts. A 2013 Section 106 and Section 4(f) Report by the Federal Transit Administration and the Maryland Transit Administration



Figure 63. Conceptual drawing of future Purple Line corridor on Rossborough Lane.

Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations

found that the Purple Line will have “no adverse effect” on the Rossborough Inn. While the overhead (catenary) wires and poles supporting the rail line will be visually intrusive, the report concluded that the rail line would do no permanent damage to the material of the building.¹²³ However, if the significance of the Rossborough historic designed cultural landscape were considered as well, there would be an adverse effect. A section of the 1941 brick wall next to the Rossborough Inn will be removed when the Purple Line is constructed, and this wall is a contributing feature to the WPA-era cultural landscape. The report also does not consider the potential eligibility of Turner Hall for the National Register of Historic Places. Built in the 1920s, Turner Hall meets the minimum eligibility requirements (greater than 50 years old) and a Determination of Eligibility study should have been completed. Furthermore, the Section 106 Report defines the historic boundary of the Rossborough Inn to include only the house and adjacent garden, which we argue is too limited in scope and should be expanded.

Conclusion

This report reflects an intensive investigation into the history of the Rossborough Inn, its role on campus, and its future potential, which has generated a substantial body of knowledge and led to several new discoveries. From our research, we confirmed that the Rossborough Inn was built between 1802-1804, with the likely construction date of 1803. This research also demonstrated that the Marquis de LaFayette stayed at the Rossborough Inn on October 11, 1824, during his return tour of the United States. Other revelations include the finding that major modifications were made to the Rossborough Inn with the direct input and extensive personal interest of then-President Harry Byrd. The 1938-39 renovation of the Rossborough Inn, undertaken at the behest of President Byrd and with funding support from the WPA, played a crucial role in preserving the structure and laying the groundwork for the ceremonial pedestrian entry to the campus marking the symbolic transformation of the university. The Rossborough Inn and Gardens is also notable for its role in the university’s social community, including serving as the home of the faculty club for over 50 years.

This research led us to identify the significance of the Rossborough Inn historic designed cultural landscape. This well-preserved enclave was created between 1938 and 1941 and consists of the Rossborough Inn, the Rossborough Garden, the Class of 1910 Gate, and Turner Hall. The cultural landscape served as the terminus of the mall and as a pedestrian entrance to campus. It was envisioned by Harry Byrd and achieved with input from Mark Shoemaker, Howard Cutler, and Fredrick Law Olmsted, Jr. The creation of this landscape represents a significant moment in the university’s history, as it re-defined itself as a center for liberal arts education in addition to an agricultural school.

A closer examination of the plans for the area around the Rossborough Inn cultural landscape revealed several opportunities for growth as well as a variety of potential threats to the future of the historic resource. The Purple Line light rail system, the School of Public Policy, and the nearby Discovery District, all present new opportunities to dramatically increase foot traffic and visitation to the Rossborough Inn by creating new attractions for students, faculty, and guests. However, all three developments also

present significant dangers for the Rossborough Inn in terms of scale, as they threaten the integrity of the cultural landscape and diminish the significance of the Rossborough Inn as a campus institution. We urge that the university respect the value of the Rossborough Inn building and cultural landscape by ensuring that the new structures are sited and designed accordingly.

Recommendations

The Rossborough Inn

The Rossborough Inn is a modestly scaled building, once standing alone on the landscape and prominently positioned as a landmark on a major thoroughfare, but now hemmed in on three sides by significantly larger buildings and the sprawl of 20th century campus development. Its scale serves as a reminder of the past and limits the types of functions that it can accommodate. We recommend that any changes to the surrounding landscape take into consideration the scale of the Rossborough Inn and the integrity of the cultural landscape, including the garden and its historic, visual,

and physical connection to the Chapel Field and Memorial Chapel. Any changes to the Rossborough Inn should follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

We recommend that the use of the Rossborough Inn be reconsidered in light of its past functions and developmental history. Historically, the Rossborough Inn has been a place of gathering: as a tavern or inn from the early 1800s and as a dining area from the 1940s until the 2000s. It was also used as a museum after the renovations of 1888 and 1939. For these reasons, as well as in light of the various opportunities presented by the future construction of the Purple Line, School of Public Policy, and the Discovery District, we recommend that the Rossborough Inn return to functioning as a social space. We imagine the Rossborough Inn as a mixed-use facility, and propose the following as potential components that should be considered.

1. Café: The existing spaces are particularly well adapted to a specialized dining experience. Between the Rossborough Inn itself and the outbuilding, there is sufficient space to establish a modest kitchen, with room for dining in the outbuilding,

in the garden, and/or in the main block. In the event that the proposed Phillips museum is constructed on the east side of Baltimore Avenue, a café/restaurant could be a complement to the activities and programs of the museum, as well as the School of Public Policy.

2. Residence: The number and size of the rooms in the Rossborough Inn lend themselves to a highly specialized residential function, such as housing artists, visiting professors, or post-doctoral students, possibly in partnership with the Phillips museum.

3. Special Exhibit or Gallery Space: The Rossborough Inn has acted as a museum space in two different phases of its history. It could be used as an extension of the Phillips and feature special rotating exhibits, exhibits of local artists, or as a rotating gallery space. The Rossborough Inn could be used as a museum for the history of the University of Maryland

4. Events venue in association with the SPP: The mission of the expanded SPP to foster a wide range of public and educational programs provides the opportunity for the Rossborough Inn and Garden to serve as a complementary

Campus Preservation, Conclusions, and Recommendations

highly specialized events venue.

5. Seminar classrooms: The Rossborough Inn was an educational facility from 1858 until approximately 1933, and the spaces are easily amenable for small seminar classes or for student breakout rooms. This use also could be tied to the Phillips museum, to host study groups, roundtable decisions, or lunches.

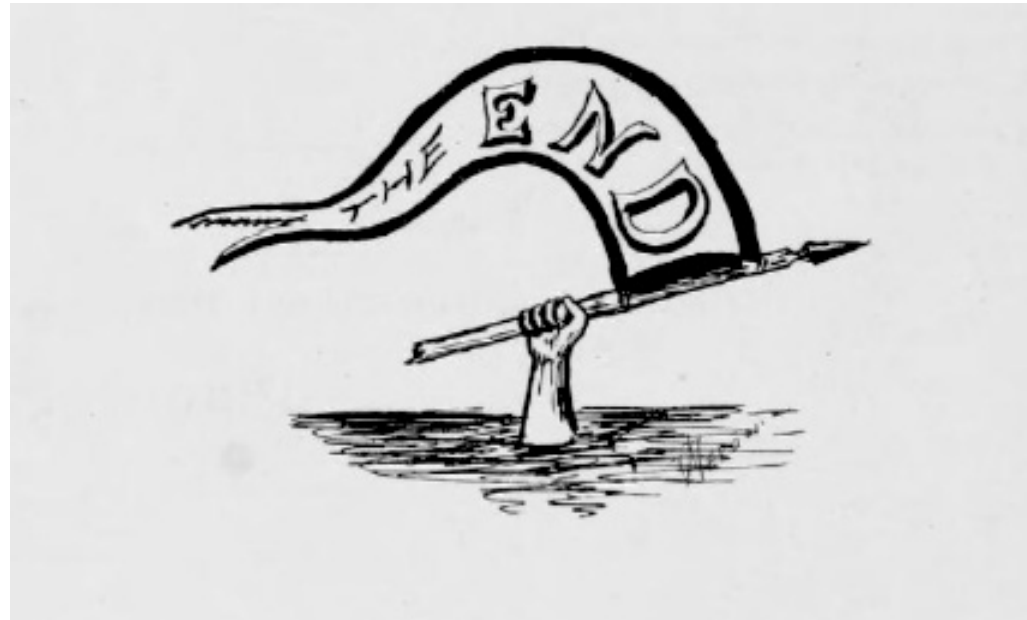
The University Campus

In association with the future uses of the Rossborough Inn, but also as an outgrowth of the findings from this study, we offer the following recommendations related to preserving the historic resources of the university campus.

1. Preserve the Rossborough Inn designed historic landscape and the visual connection between the Rossborough Inn cultural landscape and the Chapel Lawn. This goal should be transmitted as a priority to the designers of the School of Public Policy building.
2. Revisit the Section 106-mandated assessment of the potential negative impact of the Purple Line on the historic resources on campus, to include

- the Rossborough Inn historic designed cultural landscape. This assessment should also reconsider all other campus buildings along the Purple Line route to determine if any additional historic resources were missed during the initial Section 106 review and now require a DOE study.
3. Mitigate the adverse effects of the Purple Line on the cultural landscape; we suggest that interpretive signs be placed at the Rossborough Inn, Turner Hall, Ritchie Coliseum, the Class of 1910 Gate, and the Reckord Armory.
 4. Develop a campus-wide preservation plan. The preliminary studies already carried out by David Fogle and EHT Tracerics, Inc. have laid the groundwork for preparing the plan. Actions leading to completing the plan include:
 - a. Inventorying all of the buildings and landscapes on campus,
 - b. Establishing preservation priorities,
 - c. Developing a preservation policy,
 - d. Appointing a campus preservation officer,

- e. Hiring preservation consultants, or tapping the expertise of students and faculty in the Historic Preservation Program in the School of Architecture.
5. Evaluate the significance and integrity of cultural landscapes throughout the campus as part of the preservation planning process; examples include the Chapel Lawn and Engineering Field.



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and space for us to view important documents related to the Calverts' ownership of the Rossborough Inn.

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Finally, we owe special thanks to David Fogle, for establishing the Historic Preservation program at the University of Maryland and encouraging the growth of preservation on campus.

There is a large amount of information on the Rossborough Inn. Identifying, reading, and analyzing all of the relevant resources in three months posed a challenge, but the following methodology allowed us to locate the maximum amount of sources and read them efficiently. We began by looking at previous reports on the inn and then used their bibliographies to find other sources. We utilized the University of Maryland archives, Library of Congress, Chronicling America newspaper repository, 1939 restoration blueprints, and interviews with stakeholders.

Hornbake Library has a treasure trove of information relating to the building, along with the papers of leaders in the 1939 restoration project funded in part by the WPA. President Byrd's papers, Mark Shoemaker's papers, the WPA records, and other records are located at Hornbake, and our thanks go out to the library staff for their gracious support, patience, and heavy lifting. Hornbake also was a fantastic source for early photographs of the Rossborough Inn from 1891 through to the modern period. Some of these photos are digitized and accessible via the Maryland libraries website, but others were found in many boxes in the archive's collection.

To complement the historical research on the Rossborough Inn, we conducted an architectural investigation and conditions assessment while reviewing the primary source documentation. To understand the relationship between the Rossborough Inn and the landscape of campus development, we consulted campus development proposals from the last ten years.



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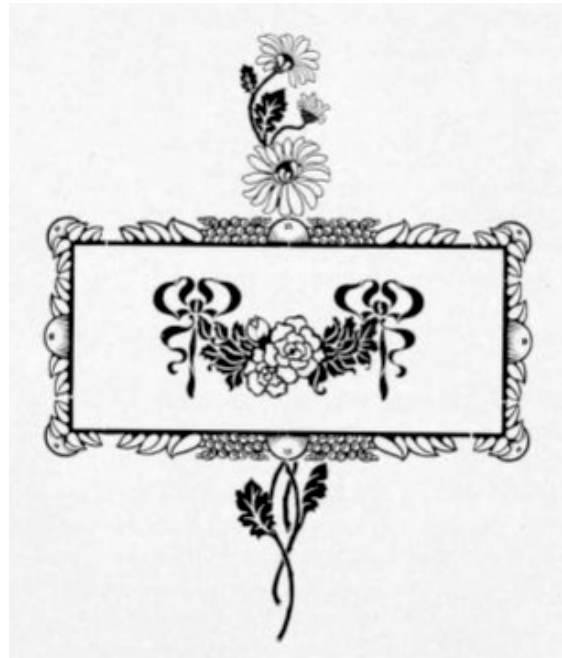
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List of Figures

Cover- Agricultural Experiment Station event, 1920s.
Cover Interior- A baseball game outside Rossborough, around 1915.
Page 4- Class of 1910 Gate with Cherry Blossoms, 2016.
Page 6- Drawing from 1899 *Reveille* year book.
Page 8- Rossborough Inn, 2016.
Page 11- Proposed 1938 East Elevation, rendered by Diane Bickle.
Page 14- Drawing from 1900 *Reveille* year book.
Page 15- Photo of boy riding a lawn mower at the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, 1899.
Page 18- Photo of Silenus Coade Keystone.
Page 24- Drawing from 1898 *Reveille* year book.
Page 48- Drawing from 1900 *Reveille* year book.
Page 49-WPA photograph of Rossborough Inn renovation, 1938.
Page 67- Aerial of University of Maryland Campus, 2010s.
Page 68- Drawing from 1899 *Reveille* year book.
Page 81- Drawing from 1897 *Reveille* year book.
Page 83- Adele Stamp and unidentified woman at Rossborough Inn well head.
Page 87- Drawing from 1901 *Reveille* year book.

Figure 1- *Traveller's Inn and Directory*, 1804, map showing the location of the "Indian Queen" where Rossborough stands.
Figure 2- Reprint of 1815 stagecoach line bulletin.
Figure 3- Portrait of the Marquis de LaFayette by Ary Scheffe, 1824.
Figure 4- Photo of Riversdale, home of the Calvert family.
Figure 5. Detail of Rossburg depicted on 1838 map of Maryland.
Figure 6. Undated 19th Century plat of Rossborough Farm, with accompanying plans of the three floors of the inn.

Figure 7- Photo of Charles. B. Calvert .
Figure 8 - 1911 Sanborn insurance map showing layout of Rossborough property.
Figure 9- Earliest known photo of the Rossborough Inn, 1891.
Figure 10- Photo of boy riding a lawn mower at the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, 1899.
Figure 11- Agricultural Experiment Station event, 1920s.
Figure 12- William Kellerman photo of Rossborough, 1926.
Figure 13- 1918 Campus Plan by Flourney & Flourney Architects, from Washington, D.C.
Figure 14- Simonds Campus Plan, 1927.
Figure 15- Eliot Campus Plan, 1931.
Figure 16- The dairy building, prior to 1930s Colonial Revival re-design.
Figure 17- Turner Hall, previously the dairy building, after re-cladding.
Figure 18- WPA 1938 photo of Rossborough renovation .
Figure 19- WPA 1938 photo of Rossborough renovation .
Figure 20- William Kellerman photo of Rossborough, 1926.
Figure 21-Archaeological plan and drawing of the proposed restoration proposed by Crisp, 1938.
Figure 22-Archaeological plan and drawing of the proposed restoration proposed by Crisp, 1938.
Figure 23- 1940s interior view of Rossborough.
Figure 24- Photo of four elm trees outside Rossborough, prior to 1938.
Figure 25- Slide image of work crew building the garden walls in 1939.
Figure 26- The completed garden with boxwood edged brick walkways, 1940.
Figure 27- The 2015-16 University of Maryland basketball team (right) re-staging the historic photo of the 1973-1974 basketball team (left) at the Rossborough Garden well head.
Figure 28- Close up of Rossborough Inn and Turner Hall in

Shoemaker's campus plan, 1939.
Figure 29- President Byrd with Mrs. Shoemaker in the Rossborough Garden during the grand opening, 1940.
Figure 30-1939 Olmsted photograph of the Rossborough Inn.
Figure 31- Shoemaker Campus plan, 1939.
Figure 32- Class of 1910 gate, around 1941.
Figure 33- Class of 1910 gate dedication, 1941.
Figure 34-Rossborough Club drawing, 1903.
Figure 35- Rossborough Club drawing, 1904.
Figure 36- Rossborough Queen, 1950.
Figure 37- Students outside Rossborough, about 1950.
Figure 39- 1946 article on Rossborough Inn antiques in storage.
Figure 40- Architectural rendering of proposed expansion of the Rossborough Inn, 1965.
Figure 41- Rossborough Inn waitresses, 1970.
Figure 42- Facade (east elevation) of the Rossborough Inn, 2016.
Figure 43- First floor plan of Rossborough.
Figure 44- Second floor plan of Rossborough.
Figure 45-Third floor plan of Rossborough.
Figure 46-Basement plan of Rossborough.
Figure 47- Floor plans from plat.
Figure 48- Ghost outline of north wing, 1926.
Figure 49- Rendering of north elevation with previous rooflines of main block and outline of north wing indicated.
Figure 50- Construction of kitchen annex, 1939.
Figure 51-MAES station front elevation, 1926.
Figure 52- William Kellerman photo of Rossborough, 1926.
Figure 53- William Kellerman photo of Rossborough, 1926.
Figure 54-William Kellerman photo of Rossborough, 1926.
Figure 55-1938 proposed floor plans.
Figure 56- Rossborough Inn garden, 1950.
Figure 57- Rossborough Inn garden plantings during

opening reception, 1939.

Figure 58- Conceptual plan showing Discovery District.

Figure 59- Alternative proposed locations of future School of Public Policy.

Figure 60- Conceptual drawings of the Baltimore Avenue corridor.

Figure 61- Conceptual drawings of the Baltimore Avenue corridor.

Figure 62- Proposed boundary of Rossborough Inn Historic Designed Landscape.

Figure 63- Conceptual drawing of future Purple Line corridor on Rossborough Lane.

Appendix: Detailed Timeline for the Rossborough Inn

1696-1733
First mention of the Rossborough Property, then known as "Bucks Lodge"

1720
John Nelson buys 250 acres of "Bucks Lodge"

1729
Nelson sells 250 acres of "Bucks Lodge" to John Prather, a planter

1737
John Prather sells 250 acres of "Bucks Lodge" to Benjamin Belt, Jr.

1742
Benjaman Belt, Sr, to Thos. Owen (Pledged by B. Belt for debt released by Glassford)

1792
Thomas Duckett appointed trustee (180 acres bucks lodge plus other property)

1793
Date on Coade stone keystone at the Rossborough Inn

1798
Sheriff's sale of "Bucks Lodge"

1799
Duckett/Belt sells 160 acres to Richard Ross, part of the 'resurvey of Buck's Lodge' made in 1798 by John McGill

1802
Duckett-Belt to George Calvert 160 acres part of "Bucks Lodge" and other property
George Calvert sells Richard Ross 31 acres along main road Bladensburg to Baltimore, 7.5 acres of another parcel

1802-1804
The Rossborough Inn built (Early 1800s John W. Brown operates Inn at Rossborough)

1804
The Traveller's Directory with the Rossborough Inn listed as 'Indian Queen' published

1813
Baltimore-Washington Turnpike founded

1814
Richard Ross sells Rosborough parcel and building to John Davis

1815
September 4- Baltimore Patriot and Evening Advisor Handbill showing Rossborough as a stop on the Turnpike from Baltimore to Washington

1822
John Davis sells Rossbourough Parcel and building to George Calvert
[Unkown date between 1822-1858: Undated plat map of Rossburg House from Calvert papers]

1824
October 11- Lafayette stays at Rossborough
George Calvert writes to the Federal Republican and Baltimore Telegraph to explain why Lafayette could not stay at Riversdale.
Rossborough for rent (from Calvert Papers)

1838
George Calvert Senior dies, George Henry Calvert and Charles Benedict Calvert inherited Rossborough Parcel
Article published in The Sun, March 13, 1838, in which it describes two thieves who stayed at Rossburg and stole money from them. Called Rossburg a "tavern."
Rossborough for rent (from Calvert Papers)
[Unknown date between 1838-1858: Undated plat map of Rossborough Dwelling]

1839
Rossborough for rent

1849

Article in National Era, "Farmlands Near Washington," published April 5, 1849, describes the "luxurious breakfast" at the Rossburg Hotel. Goes into detail about the breakfast items and suggests that it no longer serves food. Also suggests that the building and farm have not been maintained.

1852

December 1: Unknown white male found dead at Rossburg, "Farm of Charles B. Calvert," on November 27th.

1856

Maryland Agricultural College chartered

1858

Charles Benedict Calvert sells Rossborough to Maryland Agricultural College

1860

December 29th, Charles B. Calvert signs an insurance document on the Rossborough and its outbuildings. This is important because the dimensions of the building are listed and construction techniques.

1862

Received Morrill Land Grant

1864

April: General Ambrose (GAR) camps at Rossbourogh with Troops
July: General Johnson (CSA) makes headquarters at Rossborough

1864-1867

President of Faculty of MAC, N.B. Worthington makes home at Rossborough (Kellerman 1926)

***1865**

February 11- One of the barns at the Rossburg Inn burnt down. (1865 Insurance document)

February 14th- Fire in the "unoccupied wing at the Rossburg house." (1865 Insurance document)

Advertisement in The Sun, May 16, 1865 (ran multiples) "Country Boarding House for Rent: The Rossburg House, situated near the Agricultural College, on the Baltimore and Washington Turnpike and a half-mile from a station on the Railroad, will be rented with part of the furniture, if desired, on application to J.O. Wharton Agricultural College."

1877

In The American Farmer, July 1877, WM B. Sands writes to the editor to describe shortcomings of the Agricultural College. "It was proposed to give the professor of agriculture \$2,000 and the large and pleasant Rossburg house, which, though now in bad repair, could be made comfortable as of old." Mentions the Rossburg house a few times as a large house.

1887

Federal Hatch Act Passed, granting 15,000 to agricultural colleges to start experiment stations

1888

March 8- In The Sun, Rossburg is described as the college laundry. "The experiment station will be located at Rossburg House on the college farm, and about 300 yards from the college main building...It was in days of yore a well-patronized country tavern, where Congressmen from Washington spent days and nights in social diversions. Both Henry Cly and Daniel Webster were fond of this gay resort...At present it is the college laundry, and its steam apparatus and water supply will come in well for the experiment station. The handsome residence formerly occupied by the president of the college will be assigned as a home for the director of the experiment station."

March 21- In The Sun, states that "nothing as yet has been done in the way of repairing or remodeling the old Rossburg tavern, now used by the college as a laundry..." Goes into details of finances

April 20- Map of fence lines of Agricultural College Maryland drawn in front of Rossborough. These fence lines are mentioned in the first annual report of MAE from 1888 as an experiment. Rossborough renovated for Agricultural Experiment Station- "In the midst of the area specially designated was a two-story brick building, with annex, situated just west of the turnpike and facing it. This was assigned for use of the station. This was the old manor of Rossburh, the name by which the place was known before it became property of the College. Although nearly a hundred years old and much out of repair, it remined a substantial structure, the main

Appendix: Detailed Timeline for the Rossborough Inn

building being 43 by 18 feet. Without much change to the exterior, the main building has had a third story added, and all has been remodeled and thoroughly repaired, at an expense of about three thousand dollars, so that very suitable and satisfactory quarters for the station have now been provided. A hall nine feet wide extends across the middle of the first floor of the main building. On the north side there are two rooms, 16 feet square and connecting, for the general offices; on the south the whole space is thrown into one large room for the chemical laboratory. On the second floor, over the entrance, is a library and study; on the north, a room 33 by 16 feet intended for a museum, and on the south a room for the principal assistant, and a guest-chamber. On the third floor are four good rooms for the private quarters of the assistants and a small one for meteorological apparatus and chemical stores. The rear building has been connected with the one in front by an enclosed gallery ten feet long. The ground floor of the annex has two rooms, one used for the heating apparatus and steam power, and the other for a general workshop, supplied with shafting, turning-lathe, etc., but not yet fully equipped. Above is a good seed-room, wash-room, and photographic and other closets. The buildings are heated by steam, supplied with hot and cold water under pressure, and the principal rooms lighted by gas from an automatic machine provided for the laboratory. Excepting the museum and one smaller room, the buildings are well finished, furnished, and equipped for their special uses. " (First Annual Report of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, 1888).
The museum mentioned above was designed to highlight results of experiments made at the station, illustrative of the kind of work being produced.

1891
Rossborough Club formed

1898
Morrill Hall built

1907
4 elms standing outside of experiment station

1908
H. C. Byrd graduates from MAC with degree in civil engineering

1912
Campus fire that destroyed the barracks- Morrill Hall left standing

1915
Route 1 paved around this time

1916
MAC became Maryland State College

1920
Renamed University of Maryland

1924
Dairy building built

1926
January 11- Kellermann publishes his report on the Rossborough Inn.
June 9- Sub-committee on Student Affairs reports the activities of the Rossburg club
July 19- Dr. E. C. Auchter writes of the need for a Horticultural Building on campus

1927
January 10- Crisp writes to Byrd to tell him a new building would cost approximately \$25,000 and repairing the Rossburg would cost significantly more. At this time, he believes that only the exterior walls could be salvaged for renovation purposes.
April 1927- Simonds creates a drawing plan of campus. He will continue to use this in 1927-1928 to demonstrate his ideas.
November 7- O.C. Simonds writes to Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. In regards to the placement of the Administration building and a campus visit. Simonds encloses his response to President Pearson.
November 29- Handwritten letter from Olmsted to President Pearson enclosing the draft of his report on landscaping and building placement on campus.
November 29- Olmsted sends his 14 page report to President Pearson. This report calls for campus development to take place to the north west of campus, the location of the library, and preserving the green space in the center of campus and the eastern views.
November 29- A.S. Thurston (Associate Professor of Floriculture) transcribes Simond's field notes from his visit to campus and sends them to President Pearson. Simond dictated which plants should be planted where.

December 7- President Pearson reports the campus plans of Olmsted and Simonds to the Board of Regents via a letter.

December 14- Simonds writes to President Pearson to tell him that he and Olmsted are in agreement on the location of the library, but that they disagree on the location of the Administration Building. Simonds encloses a sketch of campus which he has marked up according to his letter.

December 27- Olmsted writes to Mr. F. P. Veitch at the US Department of Agriculture enclosing his plan and justifying his choice on the location of the library.

1928

January 14- Simonds publishes his 8 page report on campus planning for UMD.

February 2- A document on the horticultural needs of the university is published.

1929

July 3- President Pearson writes to Mr. Crisp to tell him that he likes his idea about a curb on the east side of the Dairy Building and he likes his idea about widening the service road.

1930

August 9- Mr. Crisp writes to President Pearson that the elms were trimmed to make way for a Western Union wire and that only a minimal amount was removed.

1931

November 13- Bill for the landscaping and repair to the front of campus entrance after Baltimore Avenue was widened.

1933

September 29- President Pearson writes to Mr. Crisp to ask him to inspect the Rossborough. Some activities have been moved there and Pearson wants to make sure that it is safe.

November 20- The University applies for a grant of \$128,883.60 for three campus projects. These are: the construction of the Arts and Science Building, the construction of a new Girls Dormitory and the recladding of the Dairy Building. The application is made to the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA). Vice President Byrd will be the contact person at UMD.

November 23- Crisp writes to professors to tell them not to smoke in the "Rossburg building"

November 23- Crisp writes to President Pearson expressing concern over the Rossborough.

He states that the floor joists are bad, the walls are bulging and cracked. Crisp "authorized the placing of two traverse girders" to support the first floor. He states that the building is occupied on all three floors and suggests that activities be moved to the Arts and Science Building when it is complete. He recommends that the building be razed.

December 12- Crisp writes to Cutler with concern about his plans for the brick veneer at the Dairy Building.

1934

January 9- Dr. Patterson writes to Mr. Byrd about concern with the Dairy Building project. He thinks that there are more pressing needs at the university.

February 8 – W.S. Small to H.J. Patterson about enrollment in College of Agriculture summer courses

October 8- Harvey Ayres, Specialist in Dairy Manufacturing, writes to President Pearson to ask if the Dairy is going to be re-clad and lets him know of current repair work that could be redundant.

October 12- President Pearson writes to Dr. Patterson to apologize for him not being included earlier in decision making. He states that Mr. Byrd will get in touch with him to explain the changes that he has in mind.

October 19- Construction agreement on the Dairy Building is signed.

1934/1935

Around this time Rossborough ceased use as the Agriculture Experiment Station

1935

January 31- Mr. Crisp writes to President Pearson to let him know that the Rossborough is unsafe. They have "boarded up the west wing and advised the occupants to use the toilets at the Dairy building. I have also instructed my men to barricade the walk which is on the north side of the west wing." In this letter, Mr. Crisp refers to two other events. He refers to the letter from Mr. Pearson on January 28th on the action of the Board of Regents. He also refers to President Pearson's letter on January 12th to Mr. Byrd. As a consequence, Byrd and Crisp conducted a site visit to the Rossborough. At that time, Byrd believed that there was no immediate threat and that activities could remain there.

May 20- President Pearson writes to the Board of Regents to tell them that the foundation of the Dairy Building is different than expected and the project will require additional funds. He mentions that work has begun at this point.

Appendix: Detailed Timeline for the Rossborough Inn

July 11- Mr. Crisp writes to Mr. Byrd to tell him that they will be placing a new corner stone at the Dairy to read "Remodelled in 1935" instead of "modernized" since the new style is not modern and the architectural style is older than the building itself.

1936

H.C Byrd becomes president of UMD (until 1954)

1937

November 10- The WPA Project Proposal for the Rossborough renovation is submitted. This form breaks out the cost of labor, materials and activities to take place. It is similar to a Scope of Work.

1938

Byrd inquires about Colonial tap rooms

April 30- Letter of recommendation by Byrd for Cutler

June 17- First WPA image of the Rossborough is recoded. It is titled "Rossburg Inn before beginning restoration work."

July 1- Byrd responds to a letter about termites in the Rossborough. No other correspondence about termites

July 7- J.E. Catlin of The Virginia Craftsman, Inc in New York City, writes to President Byrd about furnishing the Rossborough Inn.

July 13- Crisp writes to Cutler to seek approval for his plans. It appears that Crisp drew up plans for work at the Rossborough and the WPA would not start work until Cutler approved of Crisp's plans.

August 12- Cutler writes to Byrd about adding a new wall in the basement. He claims that he sees no reason for it, but that Crisp wants it built.

August 15- Crisp writes to Cutler about constructing a concrete wall in the basement.

August 16- Davis at the WPA writes to President Byrd asking for drawings of the Rossborough. He claims that Cutler is not providing enough information and that work cannot proceed. In this letter, Davis talks about the additions to the rear and each end of the building. We can assume that they have found the wings at this point.

September 2- Davis writes to President Byrd to tell him that Cutler's plans are inadequate and missing vital information. He claims that in fact, these are not even drawings of the Rossborough Inn.

September 3- President Byrd writes to Cutler to ask for drawings. He claims that the WPA

people asked for the drawings three weeks ago and that the drawings that they just received are "useless sketches." Because of this, the WPA will be removing some people from the project.

September 9- Davis writes to Cutler to ask for clarification on his drawings. In this letter, he mentions that he is missing information for the "old section" and the additions.

September 10- Cutler writes to Davis at the WPA to explain his drawings and to answer Davis' questions.

October 4- According the WPA photographs, they were excavating for the rear wing at this time. They were also repairing the south end at this time. It appears that they had not begun to work on the wings yet.

October 18- President Byrd writes to Cutler to tell him about a picture of the taproom at the old Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg that he saw. Byrd states that the bar is similar to the taproom that he saw in Harrisburg and would like to show it to Cutler.

September 29- V.M. Geddy from Williamsburg Restoration, Inc. writes to Coach Dobson to tell him that they have replica panels from the Raleigh Tavern available and inquires as to who he should contact about furnishing the Rossborough.

September 30- Coach Dobson writes to Vernon Geddy letting him know that he brought his letter to President Byrd and that they would like more information about historic bar rooms of that era. Dobson writes that they could find no evidence that would assist in restoring a bar room and that there was no interior paneling at the Rossborough so they will not need that.

November 12- WPA photograph records that the south end repairs had been finished and that the construction of the rear and south wings was to begin. This continued until January 3rd.

November 15- V.M. Geddy from Williamsburg Restoration, Inc. writes to President Byrd to tell him the location of a tavern in New Kent County, which they mentioned in a previous letter.

November 26- President Byrd writes to Mr. H.M. Pearson of W. & J. Sloane in New York City to inquire how much it would cost for them to "construct suitable furniture for the entire building." Byrd sent them a plan of the building.

December 1- Letter from M. H. Davis (WPA engineer) to Byrd stating that due to the changes made to Rossborough from the initial proposal, he must apply for more funds, and that new blueprints are required

December 9- Cutler and Hopkins writes to President Byrd to tell him that they have selected bricks which match buildings on campus for new construction buildings to "carry out the scheme of our colonial architecture."

December 10- The University is awarded an Honorable Mention in Architecture for Ritchie Coliseum and the Dairy Building.

December 10- Leon Abramson wrote to President Byrd recommending Queen City Renovating Company to remove the painting and pointing at the Rossborough.

December 12- A.E. Tucker, of the Department of Modern Languages, wrote to President Byrd to inquire about establishing a faculty club at the Rossborough.

1939 *

Unknown within 1939- Receipts from Townson Nurseries for plants purchased in connection with Rossborough restoration, Shoemaker armory sketch, Shoemaker campus plan,

Unknown within 1939 -- Byrd to Mrs. Adams about receiving \$500 for her work, the payment schedule for the interior decorating of the Rossborough, and a short list of other expectations related to decorating

January 11- Byrd responds to Cutler and Hopkins about their brick selection. He approves the selection, except he thinks that the new dormitories should be constructed of Homewood brick since the current dormitory building is constructed of that one.

February 9- NPS letter to Mr. Sringer from Byrd about building plans

February 24- Letter to Byrd from Unknown about plaster corners and finishing

February 27- Letter to Byrd from Mr. Frasch (of W. & J. Sloane), "Thank you very much for your letter. The arch on the first floor main hall was there originally and is simply being placed back where it always was"

February 28- Expenditures of University Funds in Connection with the Restoration of Rossburg Inn, totaling \$23,677.82

March 6- Letter from Byrd to Cutler "Down at Rossburg Inn Saturday morning some question was raised to me about making the steps on the two wings of the building wider than the steps at the main entrance. Also there was some question about having three way steps, the steps on each end leading nowhere"

March 6- Letter to Byrd from Cutler discussing his architectural work on campus and lack of appropriate reimbursement "Frankly if the contract that you propose was to prevail it would ruin me financially, in fact bankrupt me..."

March 15- Letter From Maryland Lumber Co. To Byrd indicating the transom needs replacement.

March 28- Letter from Byrd to Bill (Towson Nurseries) wanting them to bid on planting work

April 4- Article published saying the use of Rossborough has not been determined yet;

Suggests museum use as well as faculty club and luncheon room. Says it will have 21

bedrooms, tap room, (image 20160928_154824.jpg in archives folder on box)

April 6- Letter to Frank Monaghan (Director of research for NY World's Fair) from Byrd

informing him that UMD is restoring Rossborough and would be interested in having it as a stop along a proposed reenactment of Washington's journey from DC to Baltimore, Philly, and NYC for his inauguration

April 13- Statement from the Alumni Association that they will be dedicating the Rossborough Inn. They state that at this time, the use of the Rossborough is unknown. In the statement, they describe the changes that have been made to the building.

April 18- Explanation of Rossborough Changes

May 4- Letter from Byrd to Cutler saying he thinks the main entry steps to Rossborough are not "architecturally in keeping with the other parts of the building" and 'they could not be much worse than they are now"

June 2- Dedicatory plaque is placed on the building by the Alumni Association (taken from Historic Rossborough Inn: 1798-1940).

July 13- Letter to Byrd, report on poor quality of the well water at Rossborough, undrinkable

July 21- Letter from Shoemaker to Henry Hohman asking for information of available boxwoods for Rossborough

August 21-Telegram to Byrd about problems with Cutler

August 21- MD state budget and procurement asking Byrd about paying for equipment

August 23- President Byrd writes to Mr. Walter Kirkman, Director of Budget and Procurement, to say that the Rossborough Inn furnishing will come out of the regular funds unless the university has any Bond Issue money left.

August 25- Letter from Henry Powell Hopkins to Byrd recommending Dorsey to purchase furnishings for Rossborough

August 28- Letter to President Byrd from Benson & Co. In which they state how disappointed they are at not being chosen to furnish the Rossborough, especially since they are the only Maryland firm that was competing for the job. In the letter they advise Byrd to not use true antiques since all of the outstanding antiques are already in museum collections.

September 23- Letter to Byrd about error in restoration

October 18- Shoemaker to Casbarian about which nurseries to purchase plants from

November 7- President Byrd writes to Mrs. John Hay Whitney of Upperville, MD to inquire about an old stage coach that she may have. He asks her if she would be willing to gift it or lend it indefinitely to the university. They planned to put it in the "carriage and coach yard."

November 15- Letter from L. B. Broughton to Mr. Ralph Williams regarding expression of desire to open the Rossborough Inn for dinners

November 27- Letter from Mark Shoemaker to Crisp about covering the Boxwoods at Rossborough with lattice due to cold- notes boxwood in front of building

Appendix: Detailed Timeline for the Rossborough Inn

December 8- Receipts from Townson Nurseries for plants purchased in connection with Rossborough restoration
December 22- Letter to Byrd, response to request to survey faculty about desire for restaurant at Rossborough
[Unknown date between 1939-1940: Shoemaker's list of potential campus landscape projects to be completed by WPA or Prison Labor and Shoemaker's "Specifications for Landscape Development of Grounds: Rossborough Inn" published]
[Unknown date between 1939-1940: Stetson and Adams estimate for decorating and furnishing Rossborough Inn]

1940

Unknown date in 1940- Rossborough Report published, requisition for antiques 1939-1940 fiscal year,
January 24- Letter from Byrd to Griffith about borrowing furniture (not proper to do so)
January 26- Letter from Byrd to Miss Mary Elinor Griffith thanking her for donating her antique (1774) purse to the Rossborough Inn
March/April- Towson Nurseries delivered plant order for Rossborough to Shoemaker
March 6- Receipt for mirror
March 21- Letter from Townson nurseries to Shoemaker about plant delivery
April 5- Rural Women's short course (18th annual) includes drawing of newly restored Rossborough
April 6- Receipt for purchasing blueprints of Luminair
April 29- Letter from Byrd to Mrs. Harold L. Ickes inviting her to act as hostess at opening reception
May 4- Letter from Byrd to Tallaferro about what to include at reception
May 20- Summary of Discussion on Policies for the Operation of the Rossborough Inn (List of anticipated uses of the Inn and operational strategy)
May 23- Letter from Byrd congratulating class of 1910 for raising money for class gift
May 27- Shoemaker letter trying to buy boxwoods from private citizen
May 28- Letter from Byrd to Mrs. Cole inviting to receive at reception
May 29- Letter to Byrd recommending antique insurance for the inn
May 29 – Receipt from John Schwarz Antiques
May 31- Formal opening reception held at the Rossborough Inn
June 1- Receipt for the purchase of antiques for the Inn
June 1 – Article in Evening Star article about the re-opening of the Rossborough inn

June 3- Antique Receipt from Segal & Sons
June 4- Antique rug receipt
June 10- Letter about lamps for basement
June 10- Unpaid light installation notice
June 10- Letter to Epley suggestions on basement furniture
June 11- Rossborough antique list, physical inventory taken (20 pgs)
June 26- Letter from Byrd about initial uses of Rossborough Inn
August 10- Letter from Byrd to woman who donated seeds, says Shoemaker likes them
September 19- Shoemaker to Casbarian ordering photos of Rossborough which Jack Chisolm took
September 25 – Final accounting of total costs of WPA projects on UMD campus, including 'Rehabilitation of Rossborough Inn' and 'Construction of Garage'
October 6- Article with photographs of interior of Inn published in the Sunday Sun, Baltimore
[Unknown date between 1940-1941: William Cole to Chester Snyder and Associates about the correct names to include on the class of 1910 Gate plaque]

1941

Unknown date in 1941- Rossborough Club rival started
February 7- Letter from Byrd to Mrs. Allen about borrowing Chippendale furniture (Says Inn "is not continuously open to the public, but we have made arrangements to keep it open every Thursday afternoon from two to four o'clock")
February 25- Letter from Byrd to Mrs. Lee Jarrell saying the Inn is not open for accommodation and is only a museum.
March- Another WPA project on campus, book about Maryland place names begins
May 20- Letter from Byrd to Mr. Pouleur about pistol
June 18- Shoemaker recommendations on 1910 gate plaque
July 28- Letter from gate company to shoemaker about class of 1910 gate
August 28- Letter about College Park Rotary Club event at Rossborough

1942

December 7- Byrd letter about returning Chippendale desk

1945

Unknown date in 1945- University facilities history published

1946

April 13- Letter from Byrd to Cutler under unknown circumstances (entire letter transcribed). "Dear Howard, The restoration of the Rossborough Inn cost just a little over \$63,000. Of course, you understand, that this would not represent the cost of a new building. The work at that time was done at much less cost than it could be done now. At the same time, there was a good deal of time and money spent on tearing down and getting ready to go to work which would not be involved in a present cost. Sincerely, H. C. Byrd"

1947

January 15 – Rossborough Club requests permission from Dean of Women’s Office to hold dance until 1 a.m.

January 17 – Adele Stamp approves of Rossborough Club request with condition that the dances be better lit

1954

Rossborough Inn becomes the Faculty Club. Article in The Sun, Nov 10, describes the process for becoming a faculty club and the woman who will be the hostess. Apparently, the Faculty Club tried to find a home for 18 years.

March 26 – Wilbur Cissel (state comptroller) to H.C. Byrd about settlement from insurance company for missing Rossborough Inn items

April 10 – Byrd to Cissel congratulating him on the insurance settlement

August 18 – Acting President Symons to Mrs. Evelyn Harris about travel expense vouchers

August 27 – Acting President Symons to Mrs. Evelyn Harris about making arrangements for staying on campus

1955

January 1 – Hotel at the Rossborough Inn opens

1957

November 26- Letter to Mr. Shoemaker about Elm trees needing 700 lbs tree food to offset damage accrued in 1957

1959

November 26 – F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company to Shoemaker providing quote for feeding Rossbrough Elm trees and installing new lightening protection cables

1965

November – Faculty Club Questionnaire sent out regarding additions to Rossborough or possibility of new location

1967

September – Faculty Club selling tickets for three different international trips (Not in Rossborough)

December – Faculty Club hosting dinner and theater party and selling tickets in advance (Not in Rossborough)

1968

March – Faculty club hosting dinner and theater party and selling tickets in advance (Not in Rossborough)

March – Hotel at Rossborough Inn closes

1970

April 28- Article recounting stories of pranks done by MAC students in the 1910s

1975

Senkevich report is published.

August 13 – newspaper article recounting Lafayette’s stay at Rossborough

1979

Elm trees succumbed to tree disease (From washington post article) *note that the Rossborough was still being used as a faculty club and restaurant at this time

1999

February 3- Washington Post article says Rossborough is Faculty club and restaurant (article also cites building at built 1804)

2006

Rossborough no longer the Faculty Club

About 2010

Rossborough becomes the office of undergraduate admissions