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Hampton Mule Barn
537 1/2 St. Francis Road
East of Hampton Overseer's House (Hampton Farm House)
North of Hampton National Historic Site
Towson
Baltimore County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-0

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PHOTOGRAPH
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-0

HAMPTON MULE BARN

Location: 537½ St. Francis Road, east of Hampton Overseer's House (Hampton Farm House), north of Hampton National Historic Site, Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: John Ridgely, Jr. estate

Present Use: Storage

Statement of Significance: This utilitarian barn had a specialized use on the Hampton estate.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Mule Barn is built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Ridgely Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion and an adjoining forty-two acres to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. After the completion of the sale, John Ridgely, Jr. and his wife moved to the Overseer's House (HABS No. MD-226-J) across Hampton Lane. John Ridgely, Jr. died in 1959 and his wife, Jane Rodney Ridgely, like all the past Ridgely wives, maintains dower rights to the property. John Ridgely III is executor.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1850. Traditionally, the existing barn replaced an earlier structure which burned after 1843.
 3. Architect: Unknown
 4. Construction information: None known
 5. Alterations and additions: None known
 6. Important old views: A mule barn structure is located on the 1843 plat of the estate on the site of the existing structure.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:
See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).
- C. Sources of Information:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.
 2. Secondary and published sources: None known

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: This two-story, gable roof structure has four bays at the north and south elevations. Three first floor bays and two second floor bays, which extend into the gable ends, are at the east and west elevations.
 2. Condition of the fabric: The structure is in a deteriorating condition.
- B. Description of Exterior:
1. Overall dimensions: The structure measures 34'-3" x 42'-3".
 2. Foundations: The foundations are rubble stone masonry.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: The coursed rubble stone masonry walls have scored mortar joints. Over the masonry openings are flat arches with stone voussoirs.
 4. Structural system: The masonry bearing walls and interior partitions support the second floor structure and the roof structure.
 5. Porches: None
 6. Chimneys: None
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Centrally located at each end elevation and flanking a pair of windows on each side elevation, the doorways have plain wood frames, stone and concrete sills, and are hung with board and batten "Dutch" doors. The loft doors of each end elevation have pairs of board and batten doors in each opening.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Remnants of double hung sash are in the south window openings and at the south window opening of the west elevation. Pairs of board and batten shutters are in the other window openings. All have wood frames.
 8. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The gable roof has wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: The eaves are boxed and a jig-saw cut fascia board extends up the verges of the gable ends.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans: A narrow central passage extends the length of the structure and separates two spaces. At the second floor two hay lofts parallel a central catwalk.
 2. Stairways: A hatchway extends through the loft floor and has access from the corridor by using the wood slats of the partition sheathing as a ladder.
 3. Flooring: Much earth floor is exposed, though there are remnants of floor boards, 10" to 15" wide, resting on wood sleepers.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The outside walls are rubble stone masonry and the interior walls are wood slats. Exposed beams support the open hay rack forming the ceiling finish of the first floor. The roof structure is the ceiling of the hay loft.
 5. Doorways and doors: One board and batten door survives at the first floor and is nailed shut.
 6. Special decorative features: The first floor corridor contains two wood feed boxes.
 7. Hardware: There are various examples of wrought iron hardware including hinges, pintels and bolts at the doors and shutters.
 8. Mechanical equipment: None
- D. Site and Surroundings: The Mule Barn is located north of the Corn Crib (HABS No. MD-226-N) and west of the private lane which extends north through the property. The axis of the Mule Barn is roughly northeast to southwest.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.