



Thank you for visiting this beautiful house that has been the official residence of the governors of Maryland and their families for 137 years. My husband, Governor Martin O'Malley, our four children and assorted pets are honored to make our home here and are so pleased to join life in the city of Annapolis and get to know its residents.

We are keenly aware of the home's rich history and feel the presence of those who have lived here before us, especially those families whose young children enlivened the house with their laughter and fun.

Please enjoy your visit here and feel free to ask any questions of the staff as you tour the house. Again, thank you for visiting Government House and I hope you'll come back again soon.

Katie O'Malley

First Lady of Maryland
July 2007

"Bladen's Folly" and Jennings House

The Government House that you are visiting today is not the first residence of the governors of Maryland. In 1742, Governor Thomas Bladen purchased a four-acre plot near College Creek for construction of a governor's residence that would have been one of the grandest buildings in the colonies. However, because of a dispute between Bladen and the House of Delegates, this house was never completed. After the Revolutionary War, the unfinished building, sometimes referred to as "Bladen's Folly," was turned over to St. John's College and renamed McDowell Hall, after the college's first president.

In 1753, Royal Governor Horatio Sharpe leased Jennings House which was on the grounds of what is now the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1769, Jennings House was purchased by Robert Eden, Maryland's last royal governor. During the Revolutionary War, the house was confiscated by the state and was used as the governor's residence for the next 90 years. In 1866, Jennings House was sold to the U.S. Naval Academy, and a new governor's residence was built on State Circle. Jennings House was used by the Naval Academy as the superintendent's residence and, then, as the library until it was torn down in 1902.



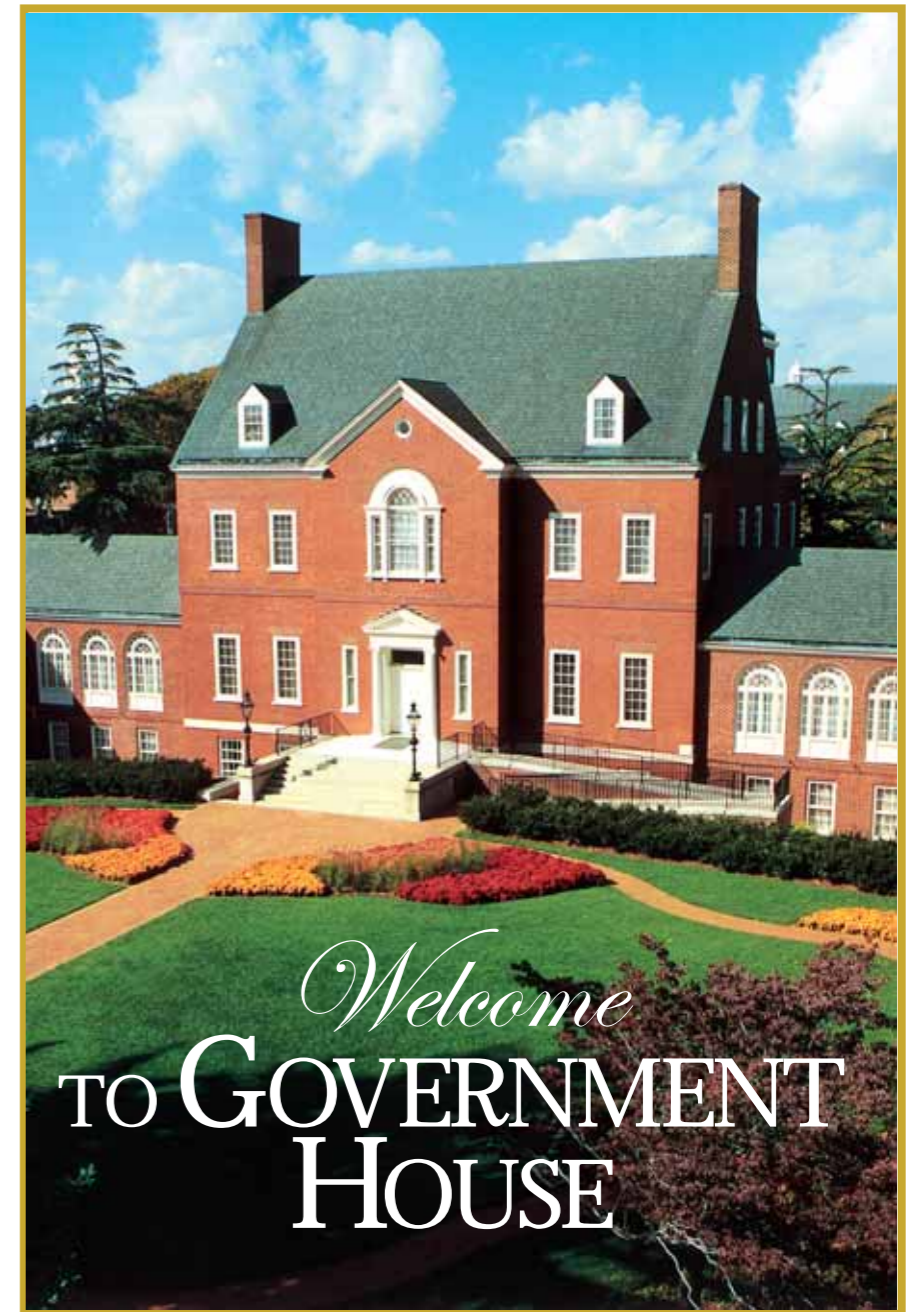
Government House in 1907

Portrait of George Washington

As you tour Government House, please be sure to notice the portrait of George Washington over the fireplace in the Drawing Room. It was painted by one of the nation's finest portrait painters, Charles Willson Peale, who served in the Revolutionary War with General Washington and painted him many times. In the bottom corners, you will see small drawings of faces that were probably done by Peale's children, many of whom grew up to be famous painters in their own right. George Washington visited Annapolis often and had many friends here.



Martin O'Malley, Governor



Governor Martin O'Malley and First Lady Katie O'Malley are delighted to welcome you to Government House. They are settled into this lovely home with their four children, three dogs and two cats, and are enjoying living in the capital city. Not since 1939, when Herbert O'Connor became governor, have so many children moved into the governor's home.

This beautiful house has been the residence of Maryland's governors for 137 years, since Governor Oden Bowie and his family moved into the brand new home in 1870. The house



has an interesting architectural history and was originally built as a high-style Victorian mansion, representative of the late nineteenth century's most fashionable architectural and decorative designs.

By the 1930s, however, a very different architectural aesthetic had taken hold in Annapolis, driven by the city's new preservation awareness and a desire to place more emphasis on the city's colonial history. It was decided that

The Victorian Parlor

Government House should better reflect this early period and blend in more with the many historic buildings surrounding it.

Therefore, an ambitious program of renovation was undertaken in 1935, during the administration of Governor Harry Nice, to convert the Victorian structure into the Palladian-inspired Georgian house you see today. It is constructed in a five-part Georgian architectural plan, similar in appearance to the city's most famous historic houses built during Annapolis' Golden Age before the American Revolution. There are 54 rooms in the house, including the private residential rooms for the governor and his family, administrative offices and service areas.

The Federal Parlor

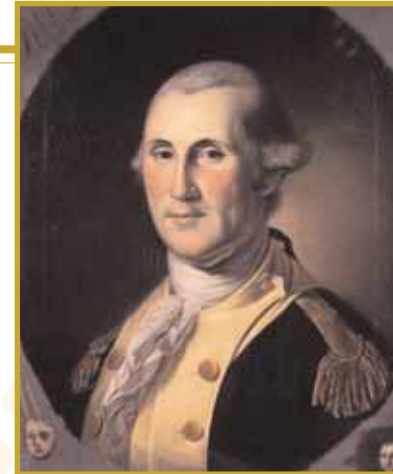


However, reminders of the residence's Victorian origins are still evident, including panels from the original, heavily carved walnut doors, featuring the Great Seal of Maryland and symbols of Maryland industry and agriculture, which are on display in the Entrance Hall. Also, the décor of the Victorian Parlor, one of Government House's public rooms, recalls the ambience of this period of the house's history.

Like the architecture of the house itself, the public rooms within Government House reflect the long and rich history of design in Maryland. There are seven public rooms on the main floor: the Entrance Hall, the Victorian Parlor, the State Dining Room, the Drawing Room, the Federal Reception Room, the Empire Parlor, and the Conservatory. The furnishings in these rooms reflect the decorative styles of the individual time periods and feature the work of cabinetmakers, craftsman, and artists from Maryland.

Visitors to the house are greeted in the Entrance Hall by large portraits of people who were important in the founding of Maryland: Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of King Charles I of England and for whom Maryland was named; Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore and Maryland's first proprietary governor; and Charles Calvert, fifth Lord Baltimore. The portraits of Queen Henrietta Maria and Cecil Calvert were painted by Maryland artist Florence Mackubin (1861-1918) and are part of the state-owned art collection. The portrait of Charles Calvert was painted by Thomas Sully in 1853 after the original by a Dutch artist and is on loan from the Maryland Historical Society.

The State Dining Room features more of the state-owned portrait collection, including 18th century portraits of Governor Horatio Sharpe and his family and of Governor John Hart. Furnishings in this room include two sideboards and a set of chairs by Potthast Bros. of Baltimore ordered for Government House by Governor Phillips Lee Goldsborough in 1912. Two sterling silver tea services, made by Baltimore makers and donated to Government House by First Lady Honolulu McKeldin, wife of Governor Theodore R. McKeldin, are also displayed in this room.



George Washington by Charles Willson Peale, after 1782. Maryland Commission on Artistic Property MSA SC 4680-1-79.

With the exception of some items on loan, almost all of the furniture and fine art in Government House are part of the state-owned collection and are managed and cared for by the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property of the Maryland State Archives. Works from the state-owned collection are featured throughout the public rooms. Some of these have important associations with Maryland's early governors, including a tall clock made by John Fessler of Frederick(town) around 1800 and owned by Maryland's first elected governor, Thomas Johnson. Another piece owned by Johnson is the overmantel looking glass in the Victorian Parlor. Many of the furnishings are reproductions of colonial period designs that were purchased for the house after the renovation of 1935 and have been in continuous use since that time.

Over time, governors have contributed to the appearance of the house through the addition of various architectural and decorative elements. In 1987, a new skylight by Maryland craftsmen was installed, and in 1990, a fountain, featuring Maryland symbols and reminiscent of the house's Victorian origins, was placed in the garden.

The entire O'Malley family – Governor Martin O'Malley, Judge Katie O'Malley and their children: Grace, Tara, William and Jack – hope that you enjoy your visit to Government House. If you should encounter one of the four-legged members of the family, it will be either Lady, the golden retriever; Scout, the Airedale terrier; or Winston, the Teacup poodle. The family also has two cats who are probably hiding. Most of these pets are rescue animals and love their new lives in Government House.

Welcome and enjoy this important part of Maryland's history!



The State Dining Room