

MOUNT CLARE

This graceful Georgian Mansion, built between 1755 and 1768, is the oldest building of architectural significance in Baltimore. It was the summer home of barrister Charles Carroll, framer of Maryland's first Constitution and Declaration of Rights. It is believed that Carroll designed the Mansion himself.

The estate, bought by Charles Carroll's father, once covered 2,368 acres sweeping up from the harbor of Middle Branch north to Baltimore Street and easterly from Gwynns Falls to what is now Poppleton Street. At different times the land supported several plantations, grist mills, shipyards, iron furnaces and a greenhouse, famous for the cultivation of exotic fruit trees, broccoli, pineapple, herbs and spices.

During the Civil War, Union soldiers camped on the grounds and officers used the mansion as quarters. The estate remained in the Carroll family until 1890 when the remaining acres and mansion were bought by the City. The present wings of the mansion, designed in 1908, are a modern version of the gable - roofed cottages which were destroyed in the late 1800's.