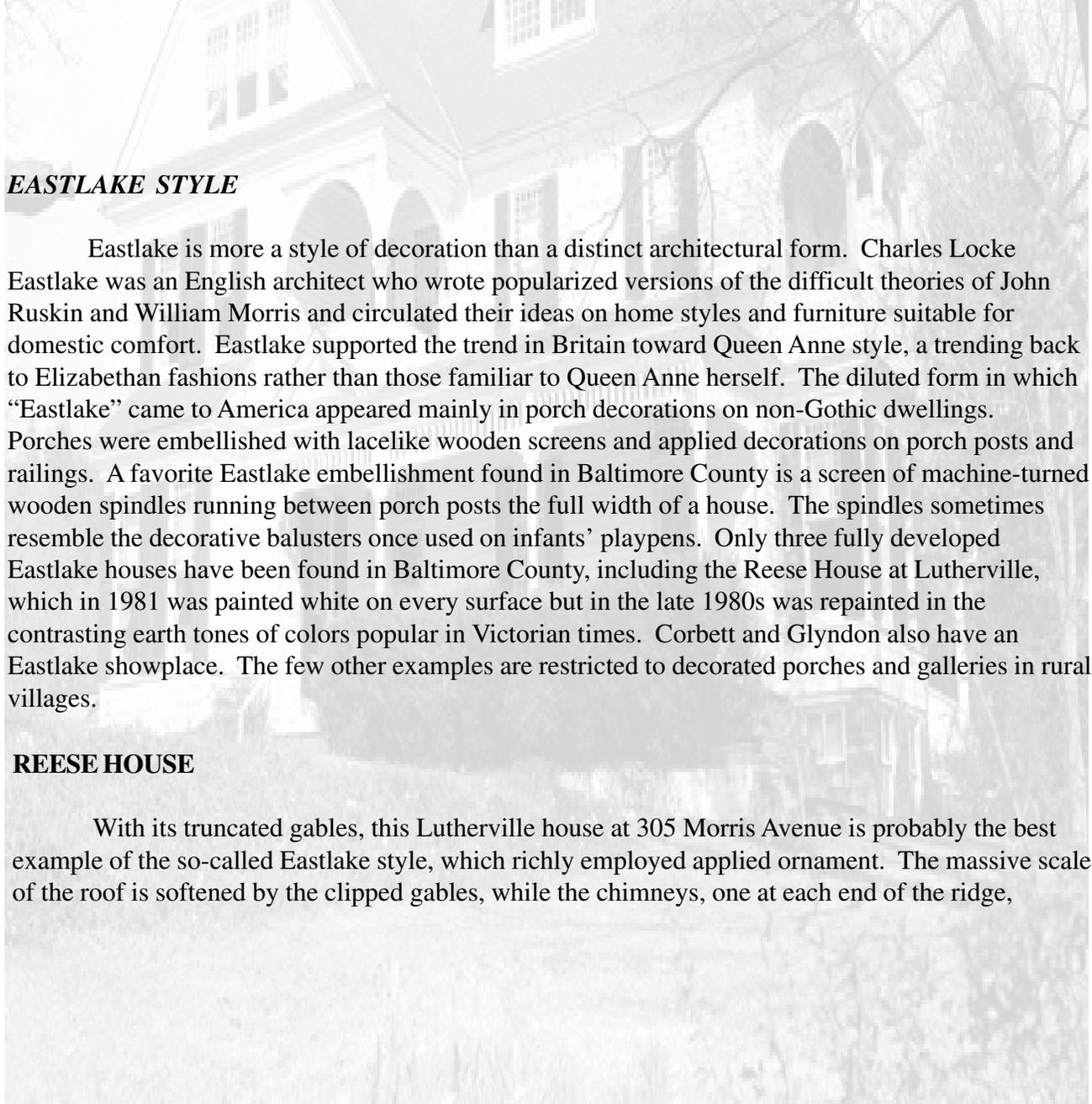




History Of Architecture

Baltimore County, Maryland



EASTLAKE STYLE

Eastlake is more a style of decoration than a distinct architectural form. Charles Locke Eastlake was an English architect who wrote popularized versions of the difficult theories of John Ruskin and William Morris and circulated their ideas on home styles and furniture suitable for domestic comfort. Eastlake supported the trend in Britain toward Queen Anne style, a trending back to Elizabethan fashions rather than those familiar to Queen Anne herself. The diluted form in which “Eastlake” came to America appeared mainly in porch decorations on non-Gothic dwellings. Porches were embellished with lacelike wooden screens and applied decorations on porch posts and railings. A favorite Eastlake embellishment found in Baltimore County is a screen of machine-turned wooden spindles running between porch posts the full width of a house. The spindles sometimes resemble the decorative balusters once used on infants’ playpens. Only three fully developed Eastlake houses have been found in Baltimore County, including the Reese House at Lutherville, which in 1981 was painted white on every surface but in the late 1980s was repainted in the contrasting earth tones of colors popular in Victorian times. Corbett and Glyndon also have an Eastlake showplace. The few other examples are restricted to decorated porches and galleries in rural villages.

REESE HOUSE

With its truncated gables, this Lutherville house at 305 Morris Avenue is probably the best example of the so-called Eastlake style, which richly employed applied ornament. The massive scale of the roof is softened by the clipped gables, while the chimneys, one at each end of the ridge,

provide a symmetrical balance to the shed roofed dormer. This dormer, with its pair of small square windows separated by a square panel of a raised “Elizabethan” strap-work design, has additional paneling above the windows and central panel.

The roof, with its hexagonal butt composition shingles, has its eaves carried on a cornice with modillions and a frieze space that is carried directly over the second floor window heads. The cornice is carried around at the same level to the eaves of the two story, semi-octagonal bay window. At the second floor level of the bay window, the wood shingled siding of the house flares over the first floor window heads which have typical one-over-one sash hung with louvered blinds.

At the first level, a handsome front porch gives the house much of its architectural character. A pediment, its tympanum shingled, fronting one of the elongated windows, which flank the sidelighted and transomed doorway, is balanced somewhat by the projecting bay window. The pediment, with its moulded rakes and the porch roof, are carried on four heavy, turned columns with corner brackets supporting pierced frieze boarding. The balustrade is shingled. This house was built for Andrew Reese in 1887. (Rodd L. Wheaton, 1972)

MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE

At the time of the 1980 town survey, this long, rectangular, gable-roofed frame and clapboard country store at 21514 York Road served as the Maryland Line post office, as well as the residence of the building owner. However, in mid-1980, the postal operation was moved to the south end of town. Although the postmaster estimated the age of the building at 1880, the lot had only cost \$125 in 1898 when J. Frank Trout purchased it. Trout sold in 1911 to H. Curtis Krout, the same year that county tax ledgers proved the existence of a store. Although this store is extremely plain and scarcely fenestrated on the sides, its street facade, the gable end of the structure, was an exuberantly decorated late Victorian design that included a porch for the store and a porch or gallery for the living quarters on the second floor. The two store windows were each composed of four large panes. A decorative lattice formed of small round spokes ran between the porch columns. The gable peak of the house included scroll brackets, a latticework of small dowels or spokes, and an infill of fish scale shingles. In mid-1981 (at least before September 29), the store windows were replaced with domestic-type sash windows.

Maryland Line Post Office



FULTON-KURTZ HOUSE/MCDONALD HOUSE

This is a late Victorian cross-gabled structure of 2½ stories, three bays wide at 21510 York Road in Maryland Line. The full width front porch has turned posts decorated with an overhead latticework of small spokes forming an abacus pattern. Outer covering is white composition shingle. The house was presumably built for Mrs. Emily Fulton, who bought the vacant lot in 1883. The builder was probably her son-in-law William Kurtz, local carpenter and undertaker. The house lot

passed to Mary E. Kurtz in 1884, and subsequent owners were Ferdinand Briggs and wife, Norman Robert Briggs, and J. Nelson McDonald, Bessie J. Koller, and finally Clark K. and Mary C. McDonald. This is a well designed, well kept house that complemented the once exuberant general store structure, which adjoins it on the north.

McDonald House



TOWNSEND-SMITH-CLINTON HOUSE

Samuel Townsend, one of the three developers of Glyndon, had a large, frame, 2½ story, speculative house built and sold it to J. Smith Orrick in 1888. The 1898 Bromley atlas showed it as Walter S. Smith's, and from 1903 to 1912 it belonged to Emory W. Warfield. Located on the north side of Butler Road, originally called Dover Road east of the volunteer fire department, this is one of the most festive of the few Eastlake style houses in the county with its wrap-around porches and porch-post decorations of scroll-sawn lacework and turned spindles. The gable peak has a lace-like wooden screen above the attic windows. The gable end of the house faces the street and the crossgables open into the side yards. The front door is unusually wide with an extra wide fanlight above it that also embraces a pair of sidelights as well as the glass-paneled door.

SHADOWLAWN

In 1889, Robert Merryman, who owned much of Corbett village, including the store, sawmill, general store, carpenter shop, post office and coal yard, built a personal residence at the east end of this depot town, a large frame and shingled Eastlake style house, the most elaborate in a fairly fanciful Victorian town. The house boasted such features as open sleeping porches, stained glass-rimmed windows, black marble mantels, a ballroom with disappearing doors, and turned wooden spindle decorations. The house is in excellent condition within a National Register and Baltimore County historical district. (Andrew Clemens, 1984)

Shadowlawn



WHIMSICAL CASTLES

At least six “fake Scottish baronial castles” were built in 20th century Baltimore County—the term of derision was uttered by a Scottish-American. Unlike Queen Anne castles in frame and wood, the late models were the real things in stone, but with plumbing, central heating, and electricity to make them as habitable as scenic. Unlike Glen Ellen, the last generation was not in pointed Gothic but Elizabethan and Jacobean, usually constructed in good local fieldstone. The houses were usually well built and endure to the present; two of them, the Cloisters and Wickcliffe, have held up under the traffic of school age visitors and residents. Another baronial castle is Cliffeholme at the west end of Green Spring Valley, which was restyled from a rambling, complex, bracketed, High Victorian style into a smooth-walled house with a number of projecting pavilions and a variety of broad chimneys. The work was performed early in this century for Charles Alexander. (Thomas, 1978, pp. 246-247)

WICKCLIFFE

Wickcliffe was not actually Scottish but a partial copy of the residential part of Warwick Castle in Warwickshire, which is at least fairly north in England. Dr. Walter F. Wickes and his wife bought 80 acres on the west end of the Brooklandwood estate and in 1912 began building with Wilson L. Smith as architect. Blake and Engles were the contractors. An estimated \$200,000 went into the construction of a superbly crafted two-story stone palace with towers and battlements, clustered casement windows, slate roofing partly hidden behind crenelated parapets. There were 65 rooms, the largest of which was 44 by 32 feet. Overall measurements were 82 by 206 feet. Completion was reported in an illustrated article in the *Sun* of May 17, 1915. The house was sited on a dramatic hilltop north of Green Spring Valley Road, east of Green Spring Avenue. By 1945, the house had proved impractical for ordinary living—needing 11 servants—and was purchased by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and converted to Maryvale Trinity Preparatory School, a day and boarding academy that continues to the present. The building sheltered the entire functions of the school in its earliest days. (Thomas, 1978, pp. 191-192, *Sun*, April 30, 1981)

BRYN AWELL

Bryn Awell, a Welsh name for “breezy hill” was built 1925-1927 at 12500 Jarrettsville Pike, designed by Laurence Hall Fowler for Tilghman G. and Dorothy Pitts. The house is fieldstone with two stories, various projecting bays, slate covered gable roofing, casement windows, bay windows, multi-flue chimneys, 23 rooms, and five fireplaces. There is a fine view of Loch Raven. (*Sunday Sun*, Rotogravure Section, March 19, 1935)

SUMMER HILL

“Live like a king,” was part of an advertisement to sell Summer Hill in 1978. Built in 1929 on a large estate that has subsequently been subdivided into the 1957 suburb of Summer Hill, this baronial castle near Phoenix stands on Stanwick Road, a great 2½ story hall nine bays wide, with fieldstone walls, slate roofing, three soaring chimneys, a pedimented entrance set in a stone arched portal, 22 rooms, plus sauna, stone gazebo, and covered dog run. The living room was 19 by 33 feet with a marble fireplace. This castle was designed by its owner, Charles Ellet Rieman, president of the Western National Bank, who lived until 1954. Mr. Rieman had his contractors construct the house to his own specifications from photographs collected in England. A local architect whose

profession had been bypassed glumly noted that, “The roof leaked from the start.” This house also enjoys a view of Loch Raven. (Sun, December 5, 1954).

Wyndon



WYNDON

Built in 1930 overlooking Loch Raven, Wyndon was built at 12600 Jarrettsville Pike for William G. Baker, Jr., of the Baker-Watts brokerage house. It was assessed at \$70,000 when added to the tax ledger as “New 1931.” The great fieldstone house was visited by the national convention of Garden Clubs of America in May, 1940. The club’s tour brochure described the garden as laid out on the floor plan of Chartres Cathedral. Much like Bryn Awell, Wyndon is 2½-stories with end pavilions, slate roofing, semihexagonal bay windows, massive chimneys, and various Georgian dormers. Most of the windows are the double-hung sash types rather than the Elizabethan casements found in other castles. A recent Martin Barry drawing depicts the full and varied facade of this fine house, another hilltop residence with a view of Loch Raven.

HAMBLEDUNE-SELSED

A great English style stone hall towers above the scenery on Seminary Avenue west of Lutherville and was the replacement of the original frame Hambledune of 1894 that had burned in 1928. The vast area west of the Interstate 83 contained a number of Hambleton family houses belonging to the relatives of General Frank Sherwood Hambleton, who died at the Bad Nauheim spa in Germany in 1908. His widow, Mrs. Anna Brooks Crawford Hambleton had a modern, \$70,000, ten-room castle designed by D. K. Este Fisher. The house was added to the tax ledgers in 1930 and it served as her home until her death at age 75 on July 14, 1939. The large fieldstone structure with its range of clustered casement windows was reported in her obituary to be the replica of an ancestral seat in England, Hambleton Hall. Mrs. Hambleton was the mother of Mrs. Jack Symington and grandmother of Fife Symington, who lived there in the mid-20th century. Fife Symington was an active Republican and was appointed ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago during the Nixon administration. Mr. Symington changed the name to “Selsed,” the title of a colonial land survey made in 1694 for Roland Thornberry. Unfortunately, the reconstructed map of early surveys by Dr. Arthur Tracey, as well as other known survey corners, prove that Selsed lay entirely south of Seminary Avenue, while the house given that title is about a quarter mile north of the road. In 1991, the grounds were being turned into an expensive subdivision and the castle stood empty. It was briefly filled with visitors in May of that year as the Baltimore Symphony Decorator Show House.

THE CLOISTERS

On the next hilltop southeast of Wickcliffe, another castle rose in 1930, as if in reply to a feudal challenge. Sumner A. and Dudrea W. Parker had the dream of building a castle to house their collection of European antiquities and they assembled architectural elements overseas, old door frames and gateways, not to mention the oriel window from Glen Ellen in the Providence Road

vicinity which was being demolished at the time. This dream castle became a reality and the Parkers are obvious heroes to present-day collectors, few of whom are able to make the gathering of relics an absorbing family project. The Parkers had a basic idea of what they wanted to build but commissioned the firm of Palmer and Lambdin to put the elements together in a livable format. The late Charles M. Nes, Jr., noted that one of his first assignments as a young architect in the firm was to fit the puzzle together. "It was so cheap to build in those days," noted Mr. Nes at a 1980s Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting. Of course, the Cloisters was still expensive but the owners managed the project without the sort of ruin that befell Robert Gilmor with his Glen Ellen. Selected groups and friends got to view the great stone pile during its residential years but its builders intended to leave it as a public museum; and on the death of Mrs. Dudrea Parker in 1972, her executors began to search for a public body to take the house as a museum for children. Baltimore City accepted the offer, although the house is in the county at 10440 Falls Road just south of Hillside Avenue. The Cloisters Children's Museum operated a number of years, then closed. The house has four levels and is laid out in an asymmetrical form with many angles for viewing the gables and chimneys. The roofing is heavy slate resembling Cotswold stone shingling. The site is available for receptions and meetings and is well worth a visit.

The Cloisters

