

of Amanda Lodge, Annapolis, 1793. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** lawyer, statesman, diplomat; admitted to practice law in Harford County Court, 1786. Pinkney has been acknowledged by both his contemporaries and later historians as one of the great leaders of the American bar. Although diplomatic missions took him out of the country for almost half his career, he maintained an extensive legal practice in Maryland and was counsel in seventy-two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. His arguments in such landmark cases as *McCulloch vs. Maryland* and *Cohens vs. Virginia* were important to the early interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. Pinkney's talent as an eloquent and persuasive speaker was noted by his colleagues in the legislature and at the bar. Roger B. Taney wrote, "He was a profound lawyer in every department of the science, as well as a powerful and eloquent debater." Scharf calls him "the most brilliant lawyer the state ever produced." **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Harford County, 1788, 1789 (Grievances), 1790, 1791–1792; Anne Arundel County, 1795; Senate, Western Shore, Term of 1811–1816: 1811 (did not attend, resigned on December 3, 1811, because of the "urgent duties on my profession"). **OTHER STATE OFFICES:** Constitutional Ratification Convention, Harford County, 1788; Maryland Senate elector, 1791; Executive Council, 1792–1793, 1793–1794, 1795–1795; special agent for Maryland in bank stock negotiations, 1796–1804; attorney general of Maryland, 1805–1806. Pinkney's successful handling of the bank stock negotiations earned him praise from the Maryland legislature. **LOCAL OFFICES:** common councilman, Annapolis, 1794–1796; mayor, Annapolis, ca. 1794–1795. **MILITARY SERVICE:** major, Rifle Battalion, 5th Baltimore Regiment of Volunteers, commissioned July 8, 1813, wounded at Battle of Bladensburg, August 1814. **OUT OF STATE SERVICE:** representative, U.S. Congress, 1791 (resigned in November 1791 after the question of his eligibility on the basis of residence was raised), 1815–1816 (resigned on April 18, 1816, having been appointed minister to Russia); U.S. Senate, 1820–1821 (elected to fill vacancy; seated on January 4, 1820), 1821–1822; appointed by President George Washington commissioner to London under the Jay Treaty "to adjust American claims for maritime losses," 1796–1804; joint commissioner to Great Britain with James Monroe, 1806–1807; minister plenipotentiary to Great Britain, 1807–1811; U.S. attorney general, December 11, 1811–February 10, 1814 (resigned fol-

lowing the introduction of a bill into Congress requiring the attorney general to reside in Washington, D.C.); minister to Russia with special mission to the king of the Two Sicilies, nominations confirmed March 7 and April 23, 1816 (respectively)- February 1818 (resigned). **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** credited by **James McHenry** (ca. 1752–1816) with originating and supporting the declaration of the Maryland General Assembly in support of President Washington, November 1795; drafted U.S. declaration of war against Great Britain, June 1812; argued against slavery in the General Assembly in 1789, but supported the constitutional rights of the slaveholding states in U.S. Senate debates on the question of the admission of Missouri to the Union. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY:** received \$12,000 from the General Assembly for his part in the negotiations for the return of Maryland's bank stock; invested \$8,000 of that money in 6% stock in the Bank of the United States, 1805. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** none (probably leased a lot in Bel Air, Harford County, for his office and residence). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** purchased 85 acres in Harford County in 1789, and received 165 acres in Harford County from his father-in-law, 1793; sold the 85 acres in 1796; purchased and immediately sold 138 acres in Baltimore County, 1814; purchased one-half acre lot on Whetstone Point, Baltimore City, 1819; by death owned a lot on Holliday Street, Baltimore City, which was leased out. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on February 25, 1822, in Washington, D.C.; buried in Congressional Cemetery. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, \$38,448.83 (including 5 slaves, plate valued at more than \$1,150.00, a library of 736 volumes and 250 pamphlets valued at \$800.00, stock in U.S. Bank, Bank of Baltimore, Franklin Bank of Baltimore, and Baltimore Library valued at \$21,584); FB, \$34,576.94. **LAND:** probably 165 acres in Harford County and 2 lots in Baltimore City (his residence was on another lot in Baltimore City which he leased from Robert Oliver).

**PLATER, GEORGE** (1695–1755). **BORN:** in 1695 in Maryland; only son. **NATIVE:** second generation. **RESIDED:** in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, by 1724; at "Sotterly," St. Mary's County, by 1729. Plater's wife Rebecca had a life interest in "Sotterly." When she died he bought the plantation from her daughters. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** George Plater (ca. 1664–1707), who probably immigrated to Maryland before 1689;