

# Panel recommends modest changes in mansion decor

By John Dorsey  
Sun Art Critic

**I**n a letter received yesterday by members of the Governor's Mansion Trust, a committee on furnishings for the house recommends that the current extensive redecoration of the building, under the direction of Gov. William Donald Schaefer's official hostess, Hilda Mac Snoops, can be accomplished largely with furniture that is already in the house.

"The great majority of items to be used in the seven public rooms already exist in the Governor's Mansion," the letter states, though "some furnishings" will need to be purchased.

The letter, signed by Barbara Wells Sarudy, administrative director of the Maryland Historical Society, contains the recommendations of the trust's Ad Hoc Furnishings Subcommittee. The subcommittee is composed of Ms. Sarudy, William R. Johnston, associate director of the Walters Art Gallery, and Jean Woods, director of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts.

Conversations with people

See **MANSION**, 3C, Col. 4

# Modest changes urged in mansion decor.

## MANSION, from 1C

knowledgeable about the redecoration indicate that most of the seven rooms will apparently retain to a considerable degree the period styles they had under the administration of Harry Hughes, but with reproduction rather than period furnishings, and different wall coverings and rugs.

Two federal rooms will remain federal in style, the Victorian parlor will become a Victorian study, the empire parlor will become a late empire-early Victorian music room and the state dining room will retain the set of dining furniture that was made for it in the 1930s. Only the former Billy Baldwin room will be changed completely. It will revert to its original function as a conservatory, to reflect Governor Schaefer's interest in plants.

The present administration's redecoration of the mansion has caused considerable controversy.

The subcommittee's letter notes that its recommendations are based on certain prerequisites, of which one was the present administration's objective to create a "historical environment rather than to create historically accurate Maryland period settings." Many period furnishings have already been returned to lenders.

The letter also notes that wall coverings, rugs and lighting fixtures "were chosen and ordered before this committee began its task." Many of the rooms are to have fabric wall coverings that were described by one observer as "conservative creamy-beige" — a vast expanse of nothing that will jolt you." Rugs are to be mainly Orientals, and three Waterford glass chandeliers have been ordered.

It is not yet known whether the subcommittee's recommendations will be followed. Mrs. Snoop, as she has done in the past, declined to comment on the letter.

According to sources familiar with the project, together with the recommendations in the letter (if carried out), the rooms are expected to be as follows:

The conservatory will have white-on-white fabric wallpaper and two of the Waterford chandeliers. Plant stands will replace current shelves, two Martha Washington chairs elsewhere in the house will replace two "country French" chairs, and the current rug will eventually be replaced with a Portuguese needlepoint rug, when necessary.

The former empire parlor will become a late empire-early Victorian music room, with a circa 1850 square piano and a harp. An empire sofa and chairs will be bought, together with upholstered benches for the windows, but the present lamps, reproduction empire pier table and center table will be kept.

The federal reception room will remain federal in style, with the existing set of Maryland Hepplewhite seating furniture, including two settees, three side chairs and an arm

chair. This room will have a 14-by-14-foot rug depicting the state seal.

The drawing room will remain essentially late Colonial to early federal, with two existing pairs of sofas, an existing pair of wing chairs and three existing tilt-top tables, plus the addition of period accessories such as bowls and candlesticks.

For the hallway, the subcommittee recommends scenic wallpaper instead of fabric wall covering. Existing sideboard tables will be retained and the other Waterford chandelier will be placed in the hall.

The state dining room will remain much the same, with the Potthast empire-style dining furniture originally made for it. The seats of the chairs will be reupholstered to match whatever draperies Mrs. Snoop selects for the room.

The Victorian parlor will become a Victorian study, with period bookcases, desk, desk chair, desk lamp and side chairs. A pair of Turkish chairs original to the house will be reupholstered and placed in the room.

### "BEST 'DIRTY HARRY' EVER!"

— Pat Collins,  
WFOR-TV



**BOULEVARD TWIN**  
Storero 236-4923

**JF CAMPUS HILLS 7**  
Storero 836-2111

**COLUMBIA CITY**  
Delby Storero 987-8818

**JF 5-STAR CINEMAS**  
Storero 366-8666

**UA GOLDEN RING**  
874-3333

**UA HARBOR PARK**  
837-3688

**UA MARLEY STATION**  
Delby Storero 788-3388

**SECURITY SQUARE VW**  
255-8811

**JF TIMONIUM CN**  
Delby Storero 252-7282

**JF TOWN**  
WABOVE THE LAW  
836-2284

## "Totally entertaining!"