



# THE HERITAGE

## John Russell Pope, an American Architect

### *John Russell Pope Knew Mrs. Jacobs*

“In his first independent residential commission, the Ecole des Beaux-Arts training of John Russell Pope is more in evidence than in any of his subsequent works” (Garrison 24). The residential commission was “Woodholme” in Newport, Rhode Island, Mary Frick Garrett Jacobs summer home which she purchased in 1899. After her marriage to Dr. Henry Barton Jacobs in 1902, she commissioned Pope to alter her Mt. Vernon Mansion. James Frick, Mary’s brother became a later Pope client. Pope’s summer home, The Waves” was in Newport. It’s likely that Pope was Mrs. Jacobs Newport neighbor and became a friend of sorts.



satisfied the growing pride of an increasingly and influential America.” (Garrison 13). In James Garrison’s book, he features 36 homes that epitomize Pope’s residential architecture. Garrison wrote that starting with Pope’s basis of real artistic talent and intellectual curiosity, he made the right academic and professional connections and

impressed his mentors every step of the way.

Pope designed numerous commercial, public, collegiate, and museum buildings—far too many to name or even count. “Pope, through the influence of his Baltimore residential patrons the Jacobses and Fricks, was asked to design a new art museum of Baltimore.” (Bedford 170). The Baltimore Museum of Art set the standard for Pope’s many future museum designs such as the expansion of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and the British Museum in London. Pope was asked to enlarge the B.M.A. in 1933 in anticipation of the gift of the Jacobs collection of Old Master paintings.” (Bedford 170). He designed the Museum’s neighbor, University Baptist Church. In Washington, D.C. the Scottish

### *Pope’s Architectural Career*

“John Russell Pope (1873-1937) was an architect of tradition and a master of proportion, massing, and scale. He drew from a personal palette rich in historic precedents from ancient Greece, Renaissance Rome, and 17th and 18th century Europe and America. No mere copyist or assembler of pieces, Pope produced refined and original designs that

## Maryland Capital Budget Grant



The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund Trustees are pleased to announce a **\$100,000** grant from the 2016 Maryland Capital Budget. The sponsors were **Senator Catherine Pugh and Delegate Antonio Hayes** who the Trustees thank graciously for their support of the Mansion’s important capital improvement projects. This grant was made possible also by **Joe Miedusiewski’s** efforts on the Board’s behalf.

This grant is an important piece of the funding package for the Tower addition. The group that is working on the design and construction of the project and those who have worked diligently to raise the capital are a bit closer to the finish line. ■



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*"Heritage" is distributed to members and friends of The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment on a quarterly basis.*

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is to preserve and restore the Mansion as a National Historic Landmark and to share the history, architectural and civic legacy of the Mansion for the benefit and education of the public.

**John Russell Pope**



*Baltimore Museum of Art*

Rite Temple, the National Gallery of Art, and the Jefferson Memorial were designed by him. Now to his very beginning. . . .

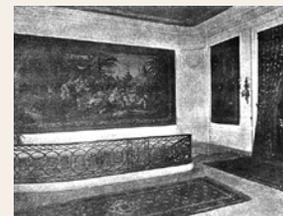
John Russell Pope was born in New York City in 1873 to John and Mary Loomis Pope. He entered the City College of New York with the initial aim of studying medicine. "Showing more aptitude for drawing than for some other courses, Pope entered the architecture program at Columbia University in 1891." (Garrison 15) During his education at Columbia, Pope made important contacts with the office of McKim, Mead & White of the Stanford White fame. In Pope's post-graduate year, "he entered and won the first McKim Traveling Fellowship to study at the new American Academy in Rome." (Garrison 15) Following his fellowship, his ties to McKim, Mead & White grew stronger especially to Charles McKim. By 1905, Pope started formally his independent practice. "He attained success quickly, some of it attained by virtue of his prior associations with McKim and Price and the careful foundation he had built with his education." (Garrison 16) Until then, he had worked as a freelancer for McKim, Mead & White and simultaneously joined the office of Bruce Price, another renowned architect in 1900. "Pope started practicing on his own in 1905 but he had already established a separate professional identity following Price's death." (Bedford 22)

***The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion***

In 1905 Pope was called upon to add to the Jacobs' McKim, Mead & White-designed house in Baltimore. "The new wing included a vast supper room, a library, a theatre, and a single bedroom for Dr. Jacobs." (Bedford 50). Dr. Jacobs' bedroom suite overlooked the Courtyard below. Pope designed the

spiral staircase descending from the Caen Stone Hall. The Caduceus medical symbol appears twice on the gilded railing. Pope had a penchant for spiral staircases as seen in the McCormick house in Washington,

D.C. (Bedford 62) and the Andrew Varick Stout house in Red Bank, New Jersey (Bedford 82). The Library was designed by



*Caen Stone Hall*

Pope on the site of #7. The Library shows Pope's signature sense of classical style and detailing. Built-in bookshelves lined the walls and still do. The shelves contained many rare books which were later given to the Peabody Library by Dr. Jacobs. The Drawing Room about 60 feet long and 30 feet wide was designed originally by Stanford White. It was later redecorated by Pope in 1916. The "Supper Room" also known as the "Hall of Mirrors" was where formal dinners and after-theatre suppers were served. Then there's the Ballroom with its stage. Red satin damask covered the walls.

In 1915, Pope created the art gallery (now kitchen)



*Mansion Library*

from stables. The gallery held the Jacobs collection of Old Master paintings. In anticipation of the art collection gift, Pope was asked to enlarge the Baltimore Museum of Art in 1933.

***His Personal Life***

John Russell Pope married at the relatively late age of 39 to Sadie Jones, a woman 20 years younger. "The Jones family summered in Newport, where Pope was active in the design of several major homes before he married Sadie in 1912." (Garrison 21). By all accounts, Pope was a devoted husband

## The Docent Tours

Sunday, August 14

Time: 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Docents will offer **free** tours of the Mansion to the public. Registration for the tours is required. Go to [www.esb.org](http://www.esb.org) to register. A short history of the Mansion and historical images are also available on that website. For more information about the free tours that Sunday e-mail [dale@esb.org](mailto:dale@esb.org). Docent-led fee-based tours will be available throughout the year to groups by appointment. Group tours of the Mansion can be scheduled by calling **410-539-6914**. Combination lunch/tours are also available. ■



## John Russell Pope *continued from page 2*

and father to his daughters Mary and Jane. He was not a person who enjoyed extended stays from his family. A third daughter Sarah died at a very young age. The marriage brought some financial security and enhanced his client contacts in the south and Baltimore. “When their elder daughter Mary was killed in an automobile accident in Newport in 1930, John and Mary became more reclusive.” (Garrison 21). “As a person, Pope is described as shy in crowds but animated in an intimate setting.” (Garrison 21) Pope died of abdominal cancer in New York on August 27, 1937.

### *His Legacy*

“In terms of longevity, he was truly the last of the great classical designers.” (Bedford 224) His architectural designs inside the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion and its brownstone façade outside are preserved and restored now 100 years later.

### *The Mansion’s Stewards*

The Mansion’s purchase by The Engineering Society of Baltimore in 1960, the establishment of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund in 1992 and through donors, benefactors, in-kind donors, various fundraisers, and the efforts of the Capital Campaign Fund, insures the Mansion’s restoration and preservation.

*With sincere appreciation to Bernadette Low, Ph.D., who assisted with the fact checking.*

Sources:

Bedford, Steven McLeod. *Pope Architect of Empire*. New York: Rizzoli, 1998.

Garrison, James B. *Mastering Tradition: the Residential Architecture of John Russell Pope*.

New York: Acanthus, 2004. ■

## A Brief History and Follow-Up... The Heritage Dinner on May 20th



In 1967, the first Heritage Dinner was created as an annual fundraising event for The Engineers Club. It was a black-tie affair held in winter in the marble and mirrored Dining Room. It provided, according to Mr. Gompf, chairman of the Heritage Dinner Committee, “the opportunity to enjoy the mansion in the kind of social setting for which it was built.” Upon the creation of the Endowment Fund, the event was retired and replaced by the annual Boiler Blasts which raised funds for replacement of the Mansion’s heating system which morphed into the annual Fireball Gala. The Heritage Dinner was brought back as an annual soiree in 2005 in celebration of the Club’s 100th Anniversary and funds were used for special projects in the Mansion such as installation of gas flames in three of the fireplaces. Now this dinner is open to the public under the auspices of the Endowment Fund. This year, the classy affair had forty-four (44) attendees and garnered over **\$7,000** for the special project of restoration of the Tiffany window “The Standard Bearers” in the foyer of the Mansion. Thank you to all who attended and contributed so generously. ■

## Enjoy the Hot Summer in the Cool Mansion... Silent Movies and Organ Concerts

Time: 2:00

**Sunday, July 10** – Organ  
Concert: Michael Britt, organist

**Sunday, July 31** – Organ  
Concert: “Music in the Palm Court” – James Harp, organist

**Sunday, August 14** – Silent  
Movie: “The Navigator” –  
Michael Britt, organist



*Michael Britt, organist*

The Wurlitzer Organ is a theatrical organ meaning it sounds like a full orchestra.

Admission: Members of the Engineers Club & Friends of the Mansion are admitted **FREE**.

Tickets are **\$8** Adults & **\$4** Children ages 11 & under.

Complimentary popcorn. Cash bar.

Reservations are made through **Patti at 540-539-6914**



## Annual Golf Outing Monday, August 22th

The Engineers Club and the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund will hold their Eleventh Annual Joint Board of Director Golf Outing at the Country Club of Maryland.

**Contact J Bitner at 410-539-6914** for sponsorships, costs, and details.



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#### DONOR RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES AMOUNT

(previous and current donations cumulative)

- \$100,000 & UP- Diamond Level—Stanford White Society
- \$50,000 & Up- Platinum Level—John Russell Pope Society
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- \$1,000 and above Mansion Society Honor Roll

Yes, I want to support the 2015 Capital Campaign with a pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid over 1 2 3 4 5 years. (please circle)  
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