

gett. . . ." SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., 1782; Esq., 1794; member of the Jockey Club at Annapolis. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: after the Revolution Stoddert began a career as a merchant in the Georgetown, D.C., firm of Forrest, Stoddert, and Murdock. Branches of the firm had been established in London and Bordeaux by *Uriah Forrest* (1746–1805). Stoddert became involved in the building of the nation's capital. In 1791 he was instructed by George Washington to purchase lots in Hamburg (Funkstown), Prince George's County, which were then incorporated into the city of Washington. In 1793 Stoddert was an incorporator of the Bank of Columbia and served as its first president. In 1797 he formed the Anacostia Bridge Company, which built a bridge over the Anacostia River (then known as the Eastern Branch of the Potomac). Stoddert owned the land adjoining the city where the bridge crossed the river. He also owned all except four shares of the bridge company's stock. Initially, Stoddert was very successful, but by 1801 commerce on the Potomac began to decline and he ended his life deeply in debt. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate, Western Shore, Term of 1786–1791: 1786 (elected on December 2, 1786, to fill vacancy in the 1786–1787 Assembly; declined to serve on December 18, 1786), Term of 1791–1796: 1791–1792, 1792, 1793, 1794 (did not attend; resigned on November 19, 1794, citing his position as president of the Bank of Columbia and the state of his health as reasons). OTHER STATE OFFICES: Executive Council, 1781–1782, 1782–1783, 1812 (elected to the 1812–1813 Council on November 10, 1812; declined to serve on November 24, 1812); Maryland Board of Pilot Examiners, appointed 1787. LOCAL OFFICE: justice, Montgomery County, appointed 1784, 1785, and 1791. MILITARY SERVICE: captain of Hartley's Continental Regiment (a Pennsylvania regiment), commissioned January 13, 1777; wounded at Brandywine, September 11, 1777, and resigned April 19, 1779. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: secretary to the Board of War, elected September 1, 1779, resigned February 6, 1781; secretary of the Navy, appointed May 18, 1798, resigned April 1801; interim secretary of War, June 1–June 12, 1800. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: at the time Stoddert was appointed the first secretary of the Navy, a naval war with France was thought imminent. Within two years the Navy under Stoddert's direction grew to fifty ships. After the crisis with France had passed, Stoddert purchased land for six Navy yards, began construction of a naval hospital at

Newport, Rhode Island, and drafted the bill for the government of the marine corps. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: By 1781 Stoddert was using "Canada" as his middle name. He continued to do this until at least 1796, but later dropped it. Family tradition maintains that Stoddert adopted this middle name to show his support for the annexation of Canada. Stoddert manumitted two slaves in 1798. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £305.0.0, including 5 slaves and 36 oz. plate, Annapolis Hundred, Anne Arundel County, 1783; 13 slaves, Prince George's County, 1790; assessed value £45.0.0, including 1 slave, New Scotland Hundred, Prince George's County, 1796; assessed value £844.0.0, including 15 slaves, New Scotland Hundred, Prince George's County, 1800; 17 slaves, New Scotland Hundred, Prince George's County, 1810 federal census; assessed value £474.0.0, including 10 slaves, New Scotland Hundred, Prince George's County, 1810; assessed value £1,560.0.0, including 8 slaves and 100 oz. plate, New Scotland Hundred, Prince George's County, 1813. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: no evidence of land ownership. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: acquired by purchase and patent ca. 48,000 acres in Allegany, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties and the District of Columbia, 1785–1813; sold ca. 41,000 acres in Allegany and Montgomery counties, 1796–1806. Purchased 1 lot in Piscataway, Prince George's County, 1789, 11 lots in Georgetown, D.C., 1785–1790, and 32 lots in Hamburg (Funkstown), Prince George's County, 1788–1792. At least some of the Hamburg lots were probably purchased at the direction of George Washington. In 1798 Stoddert bought a house on Prospect Avenue in Georgetown, D.C., and in 1799 he purchased "Bostock House," the Lowdnes family seat in Prince George's County. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: in December 1813 at Bladensburg, Prince George's County; buried at Addison's Chapel, Seat Pleasant, Prince George's County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, at least \$5,332.00 (including 11 slaves and 270 books). Stoddert also owned 196 shares of stock in the Anacostia Bridge Company. FB, the size of the entire estate is unknown. Stoddert's house and personal property in Prince George's County were sold to pay debts. After the debts were paid \$1,293.53 was distributed to his heirs. LAND: ca. 7,000 acres in Allegany, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties and the District of Columbia. Stoddert had mortgaged ca. 2,000 acres in Prince George's County,