

BA-257

OLD GERST TAVERN - c. 1814 - No. 10848 Old Philadelphia Road, White Marsh. Believed to have been built shortly after laying out of the Baltimore and Havre de Grace Turnpike Road, which was chartered in 1814. Also called the Twelve Mile House as shown on the 1850 map by Sidney and the Jacob Gerst's Tavern as shown on 1877 atlas plate. Dimensions given in 1918 tax ledger as 16 x 48 feet. Frame house with full-width porches and brown shingle covering as shown in 1970 photos. Repairs and restoration undertaken in 1978 have removed some of the porches and covered the shingles with clapboarding (painted yellow or cream color.) Earlier reports estimated age at 1795, although it is not found in Traveler's Directory strip-maps of 1804. Owner: Roger Mainster. Note: Mrs. Gambrill of White Marsh believed that this house dated to 1795 and existed before the turnpike was laid out.

122. "Red lion, Baltimore road"

28 September 1813

Pencil

21.3 cm. × 48.8 cm. (8-3/8 in. × 19-3/16 in.)

SKETCHBOOK XII

Map reference: White Marsh Quadrangle, Maryland

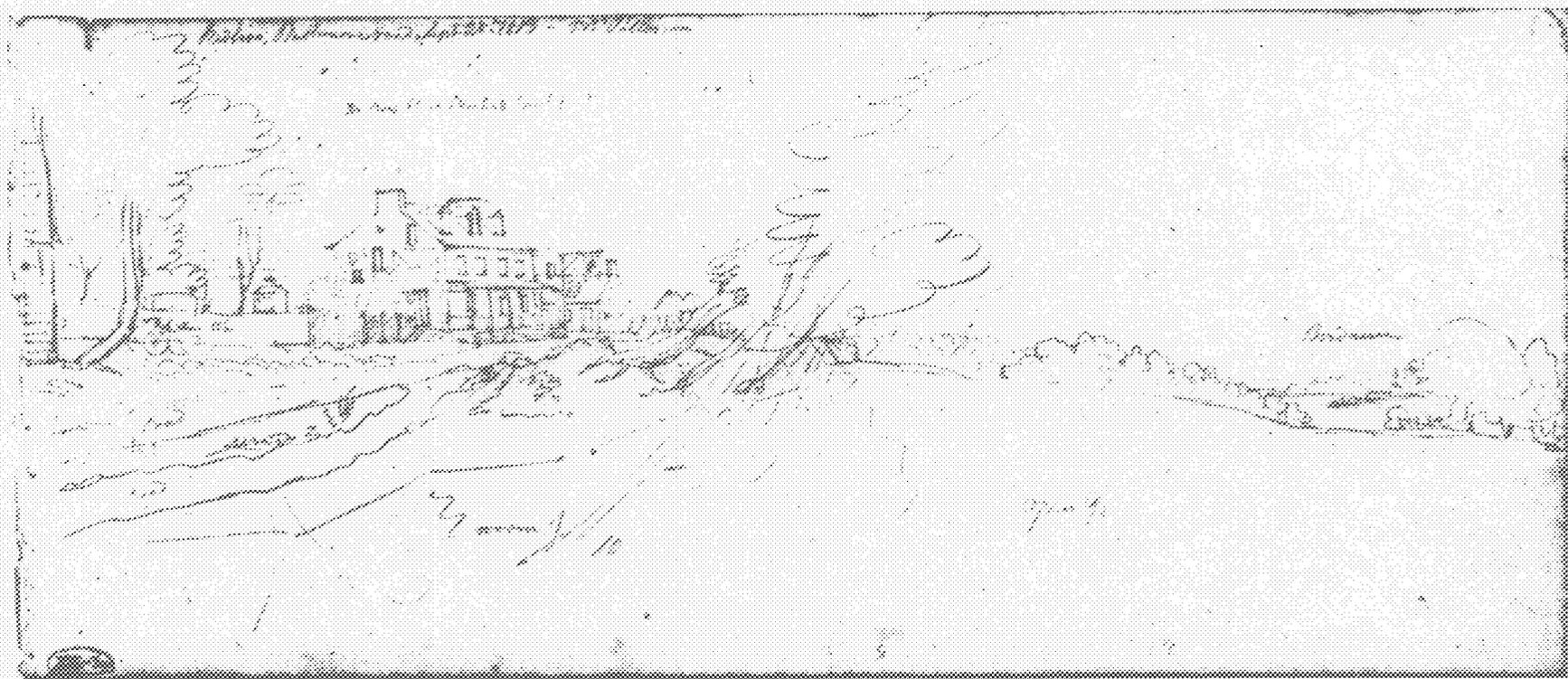
UTM coordinates: Viewing position: 18.037762.436033; Red Lion Inn:

18.037764.436043

Orientation: 25°

With his architectural work in Washington at a virtual standstill due to the onset of war, Latrobe made plans to enter into the business of constructing steamboats with Robert Fulton in Pittsburgh. Optimistic about his prospects there, he wrote to his brother: "If I live to finish what I have now undertaken and which will occupy three or four Years, I shall very probably be able to sit down at my leisure for the rest of my life." (BHL to Christian I. Latrobe, 15 January 1813, in BHL, *Correspondence*, 3) The Latrobe family left Washington for Pittsburgh by way of Philadelphia in the middle of September 1813.

On the first day of their journey they stopped at the Red Lion Inn, a well-regarded hostelry in Baltimore County, Maryland. Situated at the head of Bird River on the old Baltimore to Philadelphia Post Road (on a section known as Red Lion Road), thirteen and a half miles northeast of Baltimore, the inn was originally built about 1760 and was known at different times as the Stone Tavern and Skerrett's Tavern. From descriptions of the structure and its foundation, it appears that Latrobe did not sketch the eighteenth-century inn, which may have been destroyed by the time he passed through in 1813, but another inn building of the same name constructed near this site. In this panoramic view, Latrobe is looking north, with the Old Post Road running northeast to the Bird River (in the right background).



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(1795) Latrobe's view of America, 1795-1820

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