

Mrs. Hughes Leaves Mark In Md.

Pat Hughes, Maryland's First Lady, moved into Government House in Annapolis when her husband, Harry, became governor in 1979. She recalls she found the governor's residence a "confusing mix" of Maryland art, antiques and interior decor. Some of it seemed "inappropriate" to her.

She resolved to do something about it, and while she will move out when her husband's second term expires in 1987 she will leave her own legacy of the Hughes years in Annapolis.

She wanted Government House to be a place where visitors could acquire knowledge of Maryland and its long history. She called on the Maryland Historical Society and its staff, and the result was an ambitious project to "re-intall" seven public rooms in the mansion.

IT IS NOW about complete, at a cost of more than a million dollars, all of it's raised by Friends of Government House. No government funds are involved.

Mrs. Hughes feels that the mansion belongs to all of the people and that its public rooms should not reflect anyone's individual taste. That's what has happened and visitors may see for themselves in guided tours Tuesdays through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Government House was built in 1888 for only \$70,000. It was a

handsome Victorian mansion and it remained that way until 1936 when modernization transformed it into a Georgian revival country house during the administration of Gov. Harry Nice.

The latest renovation is under a master plan devised by Stiles T. Colwill, chief curator of the society, and its curator of furniture, Gregory E. Weidman. Each room was given a period as well as a focus, with special em-

Scratch Pad By DICK MOORE

phasis on the work of Maryland artists and craftsmen.

Two major criteria were that the rooms must reflect life and culture in Maryland, and they must be useable for public events.

"This is a house, not a museum," Mrs. Hughes said. By actual count, more than 250 events have been held there during the Hughes administration, among them state dinners for royalty.

The "re-intalled" rooms are the Federal Reception Room, the Empire Parlor, an 18th Century style dining room and ceremonial hall. Paintings, carpet, furnishings

and fabrics all reflect Maryland's history.

THEN THERE'S the recently completed 20th Century Room, in white and bold colors. It was designed by the late Billy Baldwin before he died in 1983. A native of Maryland, he became a celebrated interior decorator and designer in New York. Thus the bridge from colonial times to the late 20th century is complete.

A tour of the elegant rooms is indeed a learning experience. Guides are knowledgeable about the art and antique furnishings. They came from Government House, the society's collection, and gifts from other museums as well as private donors.

Reservations for tours are required and may be made by calling Government House at 269-0090. Visitors also see a slide show of a year's activities at the mansion.

People Patter

WE VISITED Government House recently with former Sen. Mary L. Nock and her husband, Garland. The trip evoked fond memories for the Eastern Shore legislator who spent more than 30 years in Annapolis.

Pleased with the result of the extensive renovation, she was given a personal tour by Mrs. Hughes.

She agreed that her fellow

Eastern Shoremen from Caroline County, will leave the posterity public rooms, which under the guidance of the Gallery Committee of the society, will remain so rather than reflect the whims and wishes of subsequent tenants, who by law, are limited to eight years of residency.

WHENEVER PEOPLE travel, there are often "small world" stories. It happened in County Cork, Ireland, for Salisburians Henry H. Hanna and his wife, Dara, and R. Theo Loughery and his wife, Clare, who were visiting their recently purchased cottage in Kinsale a few weeks ago.

Someone mentioned a visitor from Salisbury was in town. In time, they saw Meg Webb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Webb. A student in London, she was on a trip to Ireland.

Then, last spring, when the Hannas and Lougherys were in Kinsale, they knew that Judge Alfred T. Truitt and his wife, Clara May, were touring Ireland by bus. Acting on a hunch, they were on hand when a tour bus arrived. Sure enough, out stepped the judge and his lady.

Hanna, a realtor here, said the bus stopped for only about 10 minutes, so their reunion was brief. The Hannas and Lougherys plan to use their cottage as a vacation retreat in the years ahead, he said.