



*Front Elevation and Ground Plan of Wye Hall*

was a dwelling on Wye Island that Paca and his family had periodically used as their home since the early 1770s, but now that he had more leisure Paca decided to build a new house. He had become enormously wealthy by 1790, due in part to his law career, but more particularly to his fortuitous marriages. He owned over one hundred slaves, he had accumulated a vast quantity of expensive furniture and silver plate, and the property he held in Pennsylvania and Maryland established him as one of the largest landowners in the state. In addition Paca was a cultured man who had long cultivated a taste for the finest in English architecture and landscape gardening. His political career had been built on his leadership of the popular party, and no one had been more fervent in support of the American cause during the War for Independence. He considered separation from Britain a political necessity, but his respect for English culture was never diminished. Thus, when Paca de-