

'Anneslie' may be razed

The fate of Anneslie, one of Baltimore's last remaining Italianate mansion houses, remains uncertain after a sale of the Harrison-Birckhead house at 529 Dunkirk road.

Anneslie, built about 1855 according to the Peale Museum, brought \$104,000 with three of its original 129 acres still intact.

But unless an "angel" who falls in love with the seven-bedroom house turns up, the old home will probably be razed, says Chase, Fitzgerald, Davis, Roland, the real estate firm that handled the sale.

The buyer was Philip Bank, of Keystone Builders, who has three new homes going up near the mansion and has variances that will permit developing Anneslie's last 3 acres as 19, 50-foot homesites.

Fate undecided

At this time, no one has decided what will happen to the old house, the Roland Park realty firm reported. The new owner would sacrifice about four lots if the mansion is preserved, but Anneslie—which has at least one bathroom dating from the Civil War period—needs

at least a \$40,000 fix up.

The Anneslie tract was developed as one of Baltimore's more remote middle class suburban properties about 1922 by the Chas. H. Steffey firm. It took its name from the mansion, which in turn was named for Anne Harrison, wife of the first owner, Frederick Harrison, a civil engineer of the mid-Nineteenth Century.

The property has never been lived in by anyone but descendants of the original family and for three generations has been the residence

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of the Lennox Birkhead family.

It is a Birkhead family tradition that Anneslie was designed by the same architect who designed the Jencks-Gladden mansion, fronting on Baltimore's Mount Vernon square and Washington Monument.

Was the rage

He was John Rudolph Niernsee, who also designed the South Carolina State House, the Camden station, Johns Hopkins Hospital and "Alexandroffsky," Ross Winans' palatial West Baltimore house which, with "Guilford," was probably the most elaborate of all Baltimore suburban mansions. Survivors of the lifestyle include "Cylburn House," off Green Spring avenue, "Mercy Villa" off Bellona road and the mansion house in Clifton Park.

Anneslie has its own music room and one of the widest hallways in a Baltimore resi-

dence. It includes the obligatory "tower" of mid-Victorian mansions. The Italianate crocketed style, typified by "Wyman Villa," razed by the Johns Hopkins University, was usually called a "villa" by builders and owners and was the rage in the wealthy homebuilding movement in the 1850's.

Homes in the new Anneslie section will cost about \$40-

000. W. Burton Guy is sales representative for the new homebuilding by Keystone company.

W. Burton Guy entered a listing for the old mansion at \$55,000, including half an acre and an outbuilding identified as the "old slave quarters." Realty spokesmen said the structure would probably require about \$40,000 in repairs.