

---

National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2018



Harmony Hall  
National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

---

## **Table of Contents**

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

---

## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

###### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

*National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)).* Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

*Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003.* Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998.* Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

*Management Policies 2006.* 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

*Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28.* As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

**Connect People to Parks.** Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

**Advance the Education Mission.** Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

**Preserve America’s Special Places.** Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

*3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*

*4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*

*5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

#### Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

#### **Inventory Unit Description:**

Harmony Hall (Reservation 404M) is located in Prince George's County, Maryland at 10511 Livingston Road, Fort Washington. The 65-acre property is approximately 11 miles south of the United States Capitol and approximately four miles north of Fort Washington Park. Harmony Hall is bordered to the north by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's treatment facility and neighboring private property owners. The property is bordered to the south by the Harmony Hall Regional Center and private property owners. Broad Creek borders the property to the west and Livingston Road makes up the eastern border.

Harmony Hall was listed on the National Register on June 6, 1980. The nomination lists the area of significance as architecture and the period of significance as 1700-1799. The period of significance determined by the National Register nomination corresponds with the construction of Harmony Hall. This CLI suggests the site has two periods of significance, 1708 to 1786 and 1929 to 1962. The earlier period encompasses the building of the Harmony Hall and Want Water manor houses and their roles in the tobacco trade. The later period comprises Charles Wallace Collins' restoration of Harmony Hall and the transformation of the landscape in the twentieth century.

Harmony Hall is significant for its role in exploration and settlement along the Potomac River in Prince George's County. Battersea, the historic name of the patent on which Harmony Hall is located, was a 500-acre land tract patented in 1662. It was the first patent issued in the Broad Creek area.

Harmony Hall is significant for its association with the agricultural history of Prince George's County

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

and the state of Maryland. During the 1700s, Prince George's County became the leading tobacco producing county in Maryland. Harmony Hall and Want Water were both tobacco plantations owned by two major landowners of the period. Want Water further participated in tobacco commerce with the establishment of a tobacco inspection warehouse on the property in 1748.

Harmony Hall is also significant for its association with Charles Wallace Collins, who purchased the property in 1929. Collins had an influential career in federal service and private sector, but it was the articles and books he published expressing his views on race relations and states' rights that had the greatest impact on American politics. As the owner of Harmony Hall, he created a landscape which included elements of the Colonial Revival style and the plantations of his native Alabama

Harmony Hall is significant for architecture. Harmony Hall is representative of Prince George's County's eighteenth century Georgian plantation houses. The seven bay structure laid in Flemish bond retains much of its character and is representative of the construction methods and building styles of the eighteenth century. Harmony Hall is also significant for its Colonial Revival landscape (1929-1962). Want Water is also significant for its architecture. The house was likely constructed in the early 1700s and is an example of early Tidewater buildings. Today, only the Flemish bond brick end walls and chimneys remain.

This CLI finds that the Harmony Hall cultural landscape retains integrity to the later period of significance, 1929 to 1962, and is in fair condition. Documentation of the landscape during the earlier period of significance does not provide enough information to determine its features. This lack of information, as well as the alteration of the site over time, makes determining integrity to the earlier period difficult.

While there have been changes to the property and the loss of some features over time, it still invokes the historic significance of the 1929-1962 landscape through the integrity of all seven aspects.

Site Plan



Harmony Hall site plan (NCR CLP 2018)

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

**Inventory Unit Name:** Harmony Hall

**Property Level:** Landscape

**CLI Identification Number:** 600091

**Parent Landscape:** 600091

**Park Information**

**Park Name and Alpha Code:** National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall -NACE

**Park Organization Code:** 3562

**Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:** National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall - NACE

**Park Administrative Unit:** National Capital Parks-East

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Incomplete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This cultural landscape inventory was originally researched and written by Frances McMillen, Landscape Historian, Cultural Landscapes Program, National Capital Region. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory. Research and editorial assistance was provided by Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, Martha Temkin, Regional Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, James Rosenstock, Park Ranger, and Eola Dance, Cultural Resources Specialist.

The current version of this document reflects the CLI Update conducted in fiscal year 2018 and changes made by NCR CLI Coordinator Daniel Weldon .

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	08/20/2012
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	09/20/2012

### National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland concurred with the findings of the Harmony Hall Cultural Landscape Inventory on 9/29/2012, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

### Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H4217 (NCR-NACE/RM)

August 9, 2012

Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, National Capital Parks - East

Subject: Statement of Concurrence. Harmony Hall Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Alexcy Romero, Superintendent of National Capital Parks - East, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Harmony Hall, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

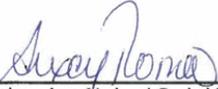
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

**Good:** indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Fair:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

**Poor:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Harmony Hall is hereby approved and accepted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, National Capital Parks – East

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*NACE Superintendent concurrence (August 2012).*



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

July 12, 2012

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, State of Maryland, Historic Preservation Office

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Harmony Hall Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, J. Rodney Little, Maryland, State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Harmony Hall CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on July 12, 2012.

J. Rodney Little  
Maryland  
State Historic Preservation Officer

9-20-12

Date

---

*Concurrence memo for FY2012 signed by the Maryland SHPO on 9/20/2012.*

Harmony Hall  
National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

To: Chief, Cultural Resources National Capital Region  
From: Superintendent, Piscataway Parks – Fort Washington, Oxon Hill,  
Piscataway, Harmony Hall, Fort Foote  
Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory Statement of Concurrence-  
Condition Reassessment for Harmony Hall

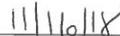
I, Christine Smith, Superintendent of Piscataway Parks, concur with the condition update for the Harmony Hall.\*

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: POOR

The cultural landscape inventory condition update for Harmony Hall is hereby approved and accepted.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, NACE PISC



\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\* In FY 2017 the National Capital Region updated its condition assessment process for the Cultural Landscape Inventory to provide a more comprehensive condition assessment. For the Harmony Hall CLI, this involved a collaborative on-site documentation of contributing resources, and a recording of visible deficiencies to the standards of FMSS with NACE staff from facilities, resource management, and park leadership; the NCRO CLI Coordinator. This documentation process led to the generation of proactive preservation treatment recommendations and generated related work orders in FMSS to provide guidance on improving the condition. Previous condition assessment updates were limited in scope and only provided a cursory condition assessment for the CLI. Therefore, this assessment should not be considered as a part of a continuum of assessments previously done under this title

---

*Superintendent Concurrence FY 2018 (NCR CLP 2018).*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:**

Other

**Revision Date:** 09/30/2018

**Revision Narrative:**

During the 2018 fiscal year, a reevaluation of the previously approved Cultural Landscape Inventory was completed by NCR Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator Daniel Weldon. The reevaluation included a site visit to the Harmony Hall cultural landscape with Mike Commisso, Acting Chief of Resources, Chantae Moore, H.O.P.E.Crew Leader (FY 2018), and Superintendent Christine Smith on April 20th, 2018. The site visit conformed to the standards established by the Washington Support Office Cultural Landscape Program and included the documentation of all contributing resources, a recording of visible deficiencies. This documentation process led to the generation of proactive preservation treatment recommendations and generated related work orders in FMSS. The documentation of the

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

existing condition of resources, treatment recommendations, modifications to existing GIS data, and work orders are included in an appendix at the end of the document.

Updates were made to all required fields in the document as needed. Photographs from the site visit replaced the previously embedded existing condition photos. Additional photographs from the site visit are included in an appendix at the end of the document.

Updates to the document included revisions to the chronology, the addition of tobacco culture discussion to the history narrative and the summary of recent events, modifications and recording of the existing conditions in the A+E section, a recording of the condition and impairments, and the creation of the condition appendix.

After discussion with park cultural resource staff, a condition of 'Poor' was assigned to the cultural landscape in FY 2018.

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Harmony Hall is located in Prince George's County, Maryland at 10511 Livingston Road, Fort Washington. The 65-acre property is approximately 11 miles south of the United States Capitol and approximately four miles north of Fort Washington. Harmony Hall is bordered to the north by private property owners and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) treatment facility. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) owns the tidal marsh adjacent to the WSSC facility. The property is bordered to the south by the Harmony Hall Regional Center, private property owners, and tidal marsh owned by the MNCPPC. Broad Creek borders the property to the west and Livingston Road makes up the site's eastern border.

### State and County:

**State:** MD

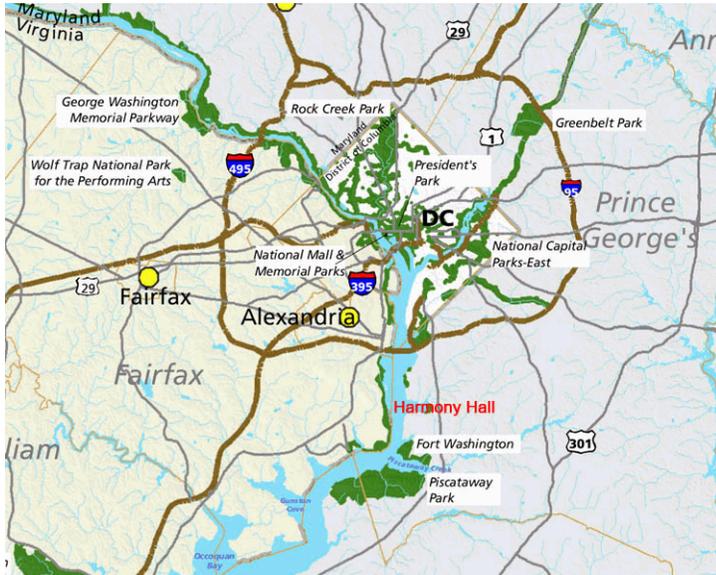
**County:** Prince George's County

**Size (Acres):** 65.00

**Boundary Coordinates:**

<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-77.0051975371
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.7490594670
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-77.0009456710
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.7488440180
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-77.0012445280
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.7463610000
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-77.0055211703
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.7462336140

**Location Map:**



*Location Map: Harmony Hall*

**Management Information**

**General Management Information**

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 08/20/2012

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

Harmony Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The management category is Must be Preserved and Maintained because of its listing on the National Register. The management category date is the date the CLI was first approved by the superintendent.

**Maintenance Location Code:** 3100

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** No Access Currently

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The historic buildings and grounds are currently closed to the public, but walk-in access to the grounds is provided via the adjacent Harmony Hall Regional Center parking lot.

**Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** No

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Harmony Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 6, 1980. The National Register lists Harmony Hall as significant in the field of architecture and the dates of significance as 1700 to 1799.

The National Register nomination documents some of the site's landscape features, but does not describe and list all contributing characteristics and features.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Other Names:</b>	Battersea
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	06/06/1980

### National Register Eligibility

<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Contributing/Individual:</b>	Individual
<b>National Register Classification:</b>	Site
<b>Significance Level:</b>	Local
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

**Period of Significance:**

<b>Time Period:</b>	CE 1708 - 1786
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Peopling Places
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Colonial Exploration and Settlement
<b>Facet:</b>	American Exploration and Settlement
<b>Time Period:</b>	CE 1708 - 1786
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Developing the American Economy
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Agriculture
<b>Facet:</b>	Plantation Agriculture
<b>Time Period:</b>	CE 1708 - 1786
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Architecture
<b>Facet:</b>	Georgian (1730-1780)
<b>Time Period:</b>	CE 1929 - 1962
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Landscape Architecture
<b>Facet:</b>	Colonial Revival Landscape Design

**Area of Significance:**

<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Exploration - Settlement
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Agriculture
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Architecture

**Statement of Significance:**

Harmony Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The nomination lists Harmony Hall as significant in the field of architecture and the property's period of significance is 1700 to 1799. This CLI proposes two periods of significance. The first, 1708 to 1786, includes the construction of the Harmony Hall and Want Water manor houses through Enoch Magruder's 1786 death. The National Register nomination lists the manor house at Want Water as a contributing feature. The second period, 1929 to 1962, encompasses Charles Wallace Collins redesign of the landscape and the restoration of Harmony Hall.

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Harmony Hall is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A: property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history for its association with exploration and settlement along the Potomac River in Prince George's County. Battersea, the historic name of the land on which Harmony Hall manor house is located, was a 500-acre tract patented in 1662. It was the first patent issued in the Broad Creek area. Want Water's patent was issued in 1706.

Harmony Hall is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with the agricultural history of Prince George's County. During the 1700s, Prince George's County became the leading tobacco producing county in Maryland. Want Water and Harmony Hall were both tobacco plantations owned by the Magruder and Lyles families, two major landowners of the period. Want Water further participated in tobacco commerce with the establishment of a state tobacco inspection warehouse on the property in 1748. The following year, a hand dug canal along Broad Creek was constructed to provide planters transporting their tobacco for inspection and storage easier access to the warehouse. Factors, representatives from British and Scottish export firms, then selected the crop for overseas export. The factors moved large quantities of tobacco along the Potomac and Patuxent rivers for export and imported goods including rum, fabric, nails, and sugar, which they traded with planters (Pearl, 16).

Harmony Hall is also eligible under Criterion B for its association with Charles Wallace Collins, a lawyer born in Alabama in 1879. Collins purchased Harmony Hall in 1929 and Want Water in 1930. Collins restored the manor house at Harmony Hall, operated a farm, and planted a small formal garden. Shortly after he purchased the house, he constructed outbuildings along one of the house's entrance drives reminiscent of a southern plantation.

Although influential in his banking and law career, Collins is significant for his writing on race relations and his impact on American politics in the twentieth century. He was vehemently opposed to racial integration and authored articles and books supporting states' rights and segregation. His 1947 book, "Whither Solid South? A Study in Politics and Race Relations," was widely circulated among southern democrats and influenced the "greatest third-party revolt since the Progressive Party candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912" (Reed, 83).

A short time after purchasing Harmony Hall, Collins transformed the grounds from the unmaintained condition in which he bought it to a landscape which included elements of the Colonial Revival style and the plantations of his native Alabama. Collins purchased Harmony Hall during a period when major restoration and reconstruction projects involving the interpretation of American history were taking place. The preservation and reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg and the establishment of Henry Ford's Greenfield Village were underway while Collins was purchasing and restoring Harmony Hall (Theobald 2002: 1). Some critics of the Colonial Revival believed the style was "an expression of an Anglo-white-gentrified and elite class who, traumatized by their displacement from power, employed colonial imagery to maintain status and 'Americanize' immigrants, African Americans, and other people of diverse origins" (Wilson 2006: 6). Following this analysis of the Colonial Revival, and given Collins beliefs, it would be fitting that he adopted it at Harmony Hall. He created a landscape of an idealized American past and reminiscent of the Alabama plantations of his youth.

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Harmony Hall is also eligible under criterion C: property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. The manor house at Harmony Hall is representative of Prince George's County's eighteenth century Georgian plantation houses. The seven bay structure laid in Flemish bond retains much of its character and is representative of the construction methods and building styles of the eighteenth century. Textual records and archeological evidence does not provide an exact date of Harmony Hall's construction, but suggests the house could have been built prior to 1718 or after 1769 (Sonderman, 55-56). The formal garden at Harmony Hall is representative of the Colonial Revival style with its herringbone patterned brick terrace, boxwood border, ha-ha, and open pasture to the west of the house.

Want Water, constructed c. 1708, was a one and a half-story, one-room deep, wood frame structure with a gambrel roof representative of colonial-era Tidewater dwellings. Want Water varied from other Tidewater houses of the period with its "substantial construction, fine details, and its center-hall plan" (Maryland-National Capital Planning Commission, 1993:34).

Harmony Hall is also eligible under criterion D: property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. In the early twentieth century, several American Indian artifacts, including numerous quartz Halifax points (c. 3,500 B.C., Late Archaic Period) and rhyolite Selby Bay side-notched points (c. 200-800B.C., Middle Woodland Period) were uncovered on the property and collected by a member of the Tilch family who resided at Harmony Hall immediately prior to Charles Collins (Email correspondence, September 24, 2007, Stephen Potter to James Rosenstock). Archeological investigations conducted in the 1980s yielded numerous artifacts beginning as early as the 1690s. Further archeological investigation could provide additional information on the history of the site, including land use and occupation by American Indians and free and enslaved residents.

### State Register Information

<b>Identification Number:</b>	PG: 80-11
<b>Name:</b>	Harmony Hall (Battersea)
<b>Identification Number:</b>	PG: 80-10
<b>Name:</b>	Wantwater (Lyles House)

### Chronology & Physical History

#### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Designed

**Other Use/Function**

Farm (Plantation)

Estate Landscape

**Other Type of Use or Function**

Historic

Historic

**Current and Historic Names:**

**Name**

Battersea

Harmony Hall

Want Water

**Type of Name**

Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
CE 1662	Platted	Battersea, or Battersey, a 500-acre tract, is surveyed for Humphrey Haggett (Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study (BCHD) 2002: 8; Sonderman 1993: 9).
CE 1668	Platted	A land patent for Battersea is issued to Richard Fowke, Humphrey Haggett`s widow`s new husband (Sonderman 1993: 9).
CE 1688	Purchased/Sold	Richard Fowke sells Battersea to Richard Iles and Phillip Mason (BCHD 2002: 8).
CE 1692	Land Transfer	Mason sells his half of Battersea (250 acres) to Thomas Lewis (BCHD 2002: 8).
CE 1696	Land Transfer	Thomas Lewis dies and leaves 100-acres of the southernmost corner of Battersea to his son, Richard (BCHD 2002: 10).
CE 1706	Platted	The 35-acre property Want Water, which bordered Battersea, is surveyed and patented to Thomas Addison (BCHD 2002: 12).
CE 1708	Built	The Want Water manor house is constructed ca. 1708 (Battersea-Harmony Hall National Register Nomination, 1980: 4; Broad Creek Historic District National Register Nomination, 2011: 6).

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

CE 1709	Purchased/Sold	Richard Lewis sells his 100 acres of Battersea to William Tyler (BCHD 2002: 13; Sonderman 1993: 11).
CE 1721	Land Transfer	William Tyler dies and leaves his "dwelling plantation" Battersea to his son William (Sonderman 1993: 11).
CE 1727	Land Transfer	Colonel Thomas Addison dies and his son John inherits Want Water (BCHD 2002: 14).
CE 1736	Purchased/Sold	John Addison sells the 35-acre Want Water tract to Humphrey Batts, a shipwright (BCHD 2002: 14).
CE 1749	Built	Humphrey Batts digs the Want Water, or Broad Creek, Canal (BCHD 2002: 17).
CE 1757	Land Transfer	Humphrey Batts dies and leaves Want Water, which at the time consisted of the manor house, outbuildings, and 35-acres of land, to his son-in-law, Richard Barnes (BCHD 2002:18).
CE 1761	Purchased/Sold	Enoch Magruder purchases Want Water from Richard Barnes (BCHD 2002: 18).
	Purchased/Sold	John Tyler, descendent of William Tyler, sells 100-acres of Battersea (BCHD 2002: 13).
CE 1761 - 1763	Purchased/Sold	John Tyler sells Battersea to James Marshall (Sonderman 1993: 13).
CE 1769	Purchased/Sold	Enoch Magruder purchases 100 acres of Battersea (BCHD 2002:19). Want Water and Battersea fall under the same owner for the first time.

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

CE 1769 - 1780	Built	The exact date of Harmony Hall's construction is not known, but it was likely built following Enoch Magruder's purchase of Battersea. There is a possibility William Tyler, who purchased the property in 1709, built the house between 1709 and 1718. In his 1721 will he leaves his "dwelling plantation" called Battersea to his wife (BCHD 2002: 13). Archeological evidence provides some support to the earlier construction date, but documentation indicating the absence of owner occupation of the property, additional archeological evidence, and analysis of the house by architectural historian Orlando Ridout, support the later period. The dwelling Tyler referred to in his will may be a 1690s earthfast structure uncovered by archeologists studying Harmony Hall in the 1980s (Sonderman 1993:55-56).
CE 1786	Land Transfer	Enoch Magruder dies and leaves portions of Want Water and Battersea to his daughter Sarah Lyles and her husband William (Sonderman 1993:15).
CE 1795	Land Transfer	William Lyles transfers his wife's property, Want Water, and part of Battersea, to himself (BCHD 2002:25).
CE 1815	Land Transfer	William Lyles dies and leaves Want Water and part of the Battersea acreage to his son Thomas C. Lyles (BCHD 2002:25).
CE 1850	Purchased/Sold	The Lyles family sells Harmony Hall and 40-acres of land to William Edelen (BCHD 2002:27).
CE 1867	Purchased/Sold	Elizabeth and Francis Kerby, who farmed the land for William Edelen, occupied Harmony Hall beginning in 1860. Edelen defaulted on tax payments in 1860 and 1861. Because of this, the 40-acre Harmony Hall property was sold at a tax sale in 1867 and purchased by Elizabeth Kerby (BCHD 2002:27).
CE 1870	Purchased/Sold	Want Water is sold. At that time the property consisted of 158 acres with an "...ice house, granary, stable, corn house, carriage house, meat house and quarters..." (BCHD 2002:29).
CE 1876	Purchased/Sold	Harmony Hall is offered at a tax sale after the Kerbys default on tax payments. Upper Marlborough newspaper editor Ignatius S. Wilson purchases the property (BCHD 2002:29).

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

	Purchased/Sold	Want Water is sold to Nicholas Keyser (BCHD 2002:29).
CE 1878 - 1879	Purchased/Sold	Wilson sells Harmony Hall to his brother, George W. Wilson. In May 1879, George Wilson turned the property over to J.K. Roberts (BCHD 2002:29). The Kerbys continue to reside in the house during this period (BCHD 2002:29).
CE 1886	Purchased/Sold	J.K. Roberts sells Harmony Hall to Domenico Cristofani, a shoemaker from Washington. He lived at the house and used the cellar as a workshop where he made shoes (BCHD 2002:30).  At this time, Want Water and 60 acres to its north were owned by the family of John Jacob Sellner and another family of recent German immigrants (BCHD 2002:30).
CE 1892	Purchased/Sold	Robert Stein purchases Harmony Hall from Domenico Cristofani (BCHD 2002: 31; Sonderman 1993:19).
CE 1892 - 1894	Purchased/Sold	Robert Stein sells one-half of his interest in Harmony Hall to his brother Richard. By 1894, he sells the remaining half of the property to him (Sonderman 1993:19).
CE 1929	Purchased/Sold	Charles Collins purchases 41 acres of Harmony Hall property (BCHD 2002:33).
CE 1929 - 1932	Built	Collins begins erecting outbuildings to the southeast of Harmony Hall (MRCE Harmony Hall Photograph Collection).
	Purchased/Sold	Charles Collins acquires three 13.3-acre plots from the Sellner family, including Want Water (BCHD 2002:34).
CE 1932	Excavated	Collins has Broad Creek Canal dredged and extended for easy access from Piscataway House, a 1700s house Collins moved from Piscataway, Maryland to Broad Creek (BCHD 2002:34; HAHA 10700, HAHA 10702, MRCE).
CE 1932 - 1934	Planted	Collins adds a ha-ha, terraced lawn, boxwood, and cypress walk to the grounds (BCHD 2002:33).
CE 1935 - 1945	Built	An addition to the south wing of Harmony Hall is constructed (Reed:9).

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

CE 1936	Purchased/Sold	Collins purchases 140-acres of land, including a 107-acre farm next to Harmony Hall (Collins Papers).
CE 1937	Excavated	Collins has Slash (Clash) Creek dredged which adds 11-acres of land to his property (Collins Papers; BCHD 2002:33).
CE 1956	Land Transfer	Collins sells Piscataway House and 11.5 acres to Colonel and Mrs. George S. Brown (Reed, 71).
CE 1964	Land Transfer	Charles Collins dies and leaves Harmony Hall to his wife, Sue Spencer Collins (BCHD 2002: 35).
CE 1965	Land Transfer	Sue Spencer Collins sells the southernmost 10-acres of Harmony Hall property to the Prince George`s County Board of Education for an elementary school. The school operated on site from 1966 to 1981 (BCHD 2002: 37; Reed:93).
	Purchased/Sold	Sue Spencer Collins sells approximately 4-acres and a right-of-way to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Soon afterwards the WSSC builds a pumping station on the property (BCHD 2002: 37).
CE 1966	Purchased/Sold	Sue Spencer Collins sells the remaining 65.7 acres of Harmony Hall property, including Want Water, to the National Park Service. The conditions of the sale is "subject to Mrs. Collins tenancy for life in that portion of the property containing approximately two acres on which is located a two and one-half story brick colonial dwelling known as Harmony Hall, together with auxiliary buildings, and including the drives thereto from Livingston Road and with a right-of-way to Broad Creek" (BCHD 2002: 37; NCR Land Record 0540).
CE 1983	Land Transfer	Sue Spencer Collins dies (BCHD 2002: 38).
CE 1985	Land Transfer	The National Park Service leases the property to Battersea Driving Company, Ltd. for period of fifty-five years (ending on October 18, 2040) under the terms of the Historic Leasing Program (Reed: 94).

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

CE 1985 - 1987	Excavated	The National Park Service conducts archeological investigations near the house. The study is undertaken as part of the Section 106 process after the Battersea Driving Company determines it needs to install new utility infrastructure and build new structures as part of the property`s restoration and upgrade (BCHD 2002: 38).
CE 1987 - 1999	Built	<p>The Battersea Driving Company builds an addition to the south wing of Harmony Hall. A brick patio is constructed outside the addition. The tenants also erect a cinderblock stable to the south of the house, a fenced in horse corral east of Harmony Hall, and brick pathways crisscrossing the circular lawn at the center of the driveway.</p> <p>The Battersea Driving Company vacates Harmony Hall in 1999.</p>
CE 1998	Stabilized	The Want Water ruins are stabilized (Reed, 6)
CE 2009	Removed	A hazardous underground storage tank, a heating oil tank, was removed from the grounds of Harmony Hall. According to PEPC entry 24454, the tank was located near the southeast entrance of the historic mansion house (PEPC 24454).
CE 2012	Restored	The existing fence, along the southern boundary of the Harmony Hall property, was repaired with in-kind materials and preformed with volunteer labor. Repairs and replacements were conducted on existing t- posts, measuring approximately 6' tall, and included the replacement of approximately 150 feet of box wire fencing from the front of the property west along the boundary. Brush was removed from the fence as well (PEPC 43623).
	Rehabilitated	A picket visitor exclusion fence around the Want Water remains were repaired and replaced with in kind materials. The fence is non- historic. Volunteer labor was used to complete the project (PEPC 43705)

**Physical History:**

Early Inhabitants and European Exploration, 8,000 BC to 1661 AD

Beginning in the Archaic Period (c. 8,000 BC to 1,300 BC), early inhabitants of the Potomac Valley began to establish seasonal fishing sites and camps along the Potomac River in the vicinity of Harmony Hall. Over the course of the Middle Woodland period (c. 200 BC to 900 AD), longer term settlements were established followed by the founding of villages during the Late Woodland Period (c. 900 AD to 1608 AD (Bedell, 11-38). According to the 1993 report associated with the Regional Archeology Program's three-year study at Harmony Hall, "archeologists are familiar with several studies of this site which confirm its use by American Indians long before Europeans saw it" (Sonderman 1993:9). Further study is necessary to learn more about the American Indian occupation of Harmony Hall and Want Water.

When Europeans began heavily exploring North America in the latter half of the sixteenth century, the tidewater portion of Maryland was home to a number of Algonquian-speaking American Indian groups. With the exception of the tribes of the Patuxent River, the groups were part of the Conoy chiefdom. Their territory extended from "St. Mary's County, Maryland, at the mouth of the Potomac River, to Washington, D.C., and the falls, possibly including lands on the Virginia side of the Potomac River from opposite Washington to below Mount Vernon" (Potter: 19). Settlements belonging to the Nacotchtank and the Piscataways, two groups among the Conoy chiefdom, were located near Harmony Hall. A Nacotchtank village was located near the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers on the site of present day Bolling Air Force Base and the PEPCO power plant (Bushong: 12). The Piscataway, the largest and most politically powerful group of the Conoys, settled along the Piscataway Creek where it meets the Potomac River, a few miles south of Harmony Hall (Potter: 19-20).

In 1607, the English established Jamestown in Virginia and beginning the following year Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. While exploring the Potomac River, Smith encountered the Piscataway living in present day Prince George's County, Maryland. Shortly after Smith's explorations, the English began trading with the American Indians in the region. Smith's 1612 map of Virginia documents the Piscataway and numerous other American Indian settlements along the region's waterways.

Beginning in the 1630s, Europeans established settlements in Maryland. Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore, inherited the charter for the region from his father, George Calvert, in 1632 and became proprietor of the Maryland colony. The elder Calvert secured the Maryland grant from King Charles I after realizing the economic potential of the region as evidenced by Virginia's its profitable tobacco cultivation and successful beaver trade along the Potomac River. In addition to financial motives, Calvert, a convert to Catholicism, sought to establish a religiously tolerant colony which would provide a refuge for fellow Catholics (R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Historical Resource Study: Oxon Cove Park, Oxon Hill, Maryland, (HRS) 1993: 7).

The first permanent European settlement in Maryland was established at St. Mary's City in 1634. Following the establishment of the colony, European settlers moved away from St. Mary's City and began to settle in other parts of the colony. Plantations grew along the

Patuxent and Potomac Rivers and counties were established as settlements grew. As the English moved into present day Prince George's County, Cecil Calvert tried to maintain peace between the colonists and Indians living along the Potomac River. The Piscataways were frequent allies of the English in disputes with tribes hostile towards the newcomers. Calvert entered into an agreement with the Piscataways and designated land for the tribe (HRS: 7; Virta: 1).

The growth of European settlements in what would become Prince Georgia's County, as well as conflict between tribes and the colonists eventually led to the abandonment of the Nacotchtank settlement and the relocation of the Piscataways by the mid-1600s. The increase in land necessary for Maryland's expanding tobacco trade played a large role in the displacement of the tribe (Meringolo, "The Accokeek Foundation and Piscataway Park, CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship, Volume 5, Number 1, Winter 2008, accessed online at <http://crmjournal.cr.nps.gov>; Potter: 220-221; HRS: 8).

In the late 1600s, when land patents in the area around the future Harmony Hall were first being issued, "the inner coastal plain of the Potomac River basin, from Mattawoman Creek to the falls, was still home to groups of Piscataway, Mattawoman, and other Indians, and only sparsely settled with English plantations," but the populations were greatly reduced by this time (Sonderman: 58). No evidence of permanent indigenous occupation has been discovered at Harmony Hall, but a campsite was found by archeologists in the 1890s near the mouth of Broad Creek. Archeologists have not completely explored the site since that time (Reed: 15). In the early twentieth century several American Indian artifacts, including numerous quartz Halifax points (c. 3,500 B.C., Late Archaic Period) and rhyolite Selby Bay side-notched points (c. 200-800B.C., Middle Woodland Period) were uncovered and collected at Harmony Hall (Email correspondence, September 24, 2007, Stephen Potter to James Rosenstock).

Battersea and Broad Creek, 1662AD to 1760AD

Battersea

The tract of land where Harmony Hall would later be constructed remained uninhabited by Europeans for many decades. The property, located along the Potomac River at the mouth of Broad Creek approximately twelve miles south of Washington, DC, was the first land patent issued to a colonist in the area (Susan Pearl: "Broad Creek History," Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study, Upper Marlboro: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2002: 7). In 1662, Humphrey Haggett, a lawyer, had the land surveyed, but he never lived on the 500-acre property known as Battersea. By 1668 he had died and that year his land was patented to his widow's new husband, Richard Fowke. There is no evidence the couple lived on the property. Richard Fowke sold the property in 1688 to Phillip Mason and Richard Iles (Pearl: 8). The Deposition of 1745 indicated that between 1685 and 1695 that the plantation was occupied that farming was occurring in the cultural landscape (HSR: 28).

The land changed hands again in 1692 when Mason sold 250 acres to Thomas Lewis. It is believed that during the Lewis ownership the first dwelling was constructed on the property. An earthfast structure was discovered by archeologists during the 1980s east of the present day

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

house that likely dates to the Lewis period (Sonderman: 55; Pearl: 8). A deposition taken in 1745 in conjunction with a re-survey of the property provides some information on the land use during the Lewis ownership. The deposition stated that Thomas Lewis had a cornfield near the mouth of Slash (also referred to as Clash) Creek (Sonderman: 10). Lewis died in 1696 and his will indicates that his widow was living on the property. Lewis left the southernmost 100-acres of Battersea to his son Richard (Pearl: 10).

A review of Thomas Lewis's Probate Inventory of 1695 recorded that following details associated with livestock. According to the entry Lewis owned:

7 hogs that were at least 3 years old

7 hogs that were 2 years old

10 shouts [sic] and 17 sheep

1 horse

5 cows

9 [sic] cows

3 heifers at least 3 years old

3 heifers that were 2 years old

(HSR: 2007 30).

#### Broad Creek

At the time the Lewis ownership, the surrounding area, known as Broad Creek and in some documentation as Aire, was growing in population. By the 1690s nearly 1700 people lived in the vicinity of the future Harmony Hall. In 1696, Prince George's County was established in response to the growing settlement in the region (Landmarks of Prince George's County, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MDNCPPC): 5; HRS: 20).

The founding of Prince George's County followed the establishment of the Church of England as the official church in Maryland in 1692. Two churches were located within the boundaries of what would become Prince George's County, but neither church was located in the Broad Creek area. In 1694, members of Piscataway Parish, which included Broad Creek, purchased land where they built a wooden church which would become St. John's Episcopal Church, still in operation today (Pearl:10).

In 1706, the General Assembly passed the "Act for the Advancement of Trade" designating several towns in the colony. Five of the towns were to be established in Prince George's County. The towns were each river-port communities, three of which were established on the Patuxent River and one on the Western Branch of the Patuxent. Broad Creek was the only town on the Potomac at that time and trade was already well established. The Act stated the town would be located "at Broad Creek in Potomac River at south side of Broad Creek" (Pearl: 12). The village developed at the mouth of the Slash (Clash) Creek on a portion of Battersea land. The river landing at Broad Creek was known at the time, and referred to in the Act, as Thomas Lewis's Landing. Battersea's former owner had been dead for ten years suggesting the landing had been in use for at least ten years by the time Broad Creek was

established (Pearl: 8, 12; NR: 5).

The new towns were to be 100-acres in size and divided into 100 one-acre lots “with convenient streets and alleys, and with open spaces for erecting church, chapel, and market house, and any other necessary public buildings” (Pearl: 12). No plat for the town of Broad Creek has been discovered or information on the development of the one-acre lots (Pearl: 12).

#### Want Water

That same year the port town of Broad Creek was established, Want Water, “a small tract of land...along the northwest diagonal boundary of Battersea,” was patented to Thomas Addison, son of Colonel John Addison (Pearl: 12). Colonel Addison, who immigrated to Maryland around 1675, became a prominent member of the new Maryland government when the colony was established. He began to acquire property along the Potomac River in the 1680s. Addison operated a substantial tobacco plantation, one of largest and most successful in the colony (HRS: 20). Addison was a member of the Piscataway Parish and was elected to the parish vestry. The vestry selected the building site for the chapel and managed the affairs of the church (Pearl: 10). When Prince George’s County was established, Addison was appointed commander of the county militia (MDNCPPC, 5; HRS: 20).

Want Water, a 35-acre tract, was located along the south bank of Broad Creek. It is unclear if Thomas Addison built the manor house at Want Water. A range of construction dates, from 1690 to 1720, have been suggested by historians (Sonderman: 14). Some historians have settled on 1708, shortly after Addison acquired the land, as the date of construction, but believe the building was completed in the 1740s. The later date was determined because some of the building's details reflect workmanship of the later 1700s (Pearl: 14; Broad Creek Historic District National Register Nomination: 6). Addison died in 1727. In a study of Prince George’s County plantations, the authors’ suggest one of Thomas Addison’s properties, identified as “Great House” in an inventory of his estate, refers to Want Water (Antebellum Plantations in Prince George’s County, Maryland: A Historic Context and Research Guide, 2009: 93).

Battersea’s ownership changed hands shortly after the formal establishment of Broad Creek. In 1709, Richard Lewis sold the 100-acres of the Battersea tract he inherited from his father, which included, “tenements dwelling houses tobacco houses Barnes stables out houses... Orchards Gardens and fences,” to William Tyler, a carpenter (Marilyn Nickles Files, NACE; Pearl: 13). The property remained in the Tyler family for more than fifty years (Pearl: 13; Sonderman: 10). Following Tyler’s death in 1721, his widow remarried and there is little proof that she or her son lived at Battersea.

Tyler’s will and extensive property inventory indicates he may have been fairly prosperous. In addition to Battersea, he owned a mill, a plantation known as Clarkson Purchase, and additional land. Tyler’s will listed Battersea as his “dwelling plantation.” The 1993 archeological study of Harmony Hall conducted by the National Capital Region speculated, “what house constituted the dwelling at Battersea, the present brick structure Harmony Hall or the earlier post-in-the-ground structure?” (Sonderman: 11) According to the study, Tyler’s will and

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

inventory indicate he likely had the means to construct a house the size of Harmony Hall, but “the goods listed would not necessarily be inconsistent with those of a family living in a post-in-the-ground structure of the period” (Sonderman: 11, 13; Pearl: 13).

The probate inventory of William Tyler, Sr. recorded the following details associated with agriculture:

7 cows

4 cattle that were 2 years old

3 yearlings

2 old horses

18 ewes, 18 lambs, and 1 ram

24 sow and shotes [sic]

2 enslaved laborers

2 indentured white male servants

Household goods

A howe [sic] and iron chain

(HSR: 31).

Local tradition held for some time that the construction of Harmony Hall coincided with that of building a brick church at Broad Creek in 1723 to replace the wooden structure erected in 1707 (Pearl: 14). A metal sign affixed to Harmony Hall for many years stating the building was finished in 1723 contributed to this persistent belief. No written records are available to substantiate this claim and the 1993 NCR study of Harmony Hall suggests that a donation of pews by William Tyler in 1713 to the church, “transformed over time into a connection between the construction of the two brick buildings” (Sonderman: 11). Based on written documentation, it is likely the house was not constructed for another fifty or sixty years because the land passed through a series of owners who do not appear to have lived on the property. There is a possibility the house was built between 1709 and 1718 during William Tyler’s ownership (Sonderman: 55). Tyler drafted a will in 1718 and left his “dwelling plantation called Battersea” to his wife (Sonderman: 55). Wills belonging to his heirs do not mention Battersea and the Tyler family sold the property in 1761.

Though there is little indication the Tyler family lived at Battersea, the family was still connected to the area. Mary Tyler, William Tyler’s oldest daughter married Humphrey Batts who purchased the neighboring 35-acre Want Water property from the Addison family in 1736 (Pearl: 14). It is unclear whether Batts, a shipwright who married Tyler in 1727, built the Want Water house. If he did not construct it, he likely finished or enlarged the structure. “Study of its particularly fine interior decorative moldings, and comparison with other firmly dated buildings, strongly suggests finishing in the 1740s. Whether it was begun or merely finished by the Batts family after 1736, it was certainly the dwelling place of the shipwright’s family” (Pearl: 14).

In 1736, John Addison, the eldest son of Thomas Addison, sold the 35-acre property at Want Water to a shipbuilder named Humphrey Batts, who was married to Mary Tyler, the daughter of the elder William Tyler.<sup>74</sup> Batts built or completed the house at Want Water and began

building ships on the property.<sup>75</sup> In 1746, he advertised for sale “a new Schooner, of about 36 tons, well built for the West-India or Coasting-Trade.”<sup>76</sup> During the middle of the eighteenth century, the growing commercial port at Broad Creek was a node in the circuits of an Atlantic economy -- the famous “triangle trade” that connected Africa, Europe, and the Americas -- and also engaged in some global trade, thanks to ships of the British East India Company that brought goods from India and China. Batts and his neighbors at Broad Creek actively participated in these networks, growing and selling tobacco, constructing ships, buying goods and African slaves. Batts purchased slaves, probably from West Africa, and sold ships that traveled to the West Indies, or perhaps even Europe and Africa (HSR: 27).

#### Tobacco

It should be noted that there is great uncertainty regarding the agricultural character of Harmony Hall during this period due to a lack of records. However, this plantation was physically located within the region associated with the Tidewater Tobacco Culture. Therefore, the context of this region is presented to describe the likely character of the cultural landscape. Additional research, both archival and archeological, are needed to determine with any certainty the crops grown and the land uses associated with the cultural landscape.

“There is no plant in the world that requires richer land, or more manure than tobacco. It will grow on poorer fields, but will not yield crops that are sufficiently profitable to pay the expenses of the Negroes,” states the anonymous author of the Colonial Era American Husbandry pamphlet (Kulikoff: 45; Weldon: 37). The tobacco cycle lasted a total of fifteen months from the time of planting to the moment of embarkation to foreign markets. This long period led to an overlap in the crops on a tobacco growing site, and helps explain the dominating nature associated with the crop’s production. The tobacco crop was planted in a series of raised beds during the month of January. Fertilizer in the form of either animal manure or wood ash was used to enrich the fields. After fertilization, a protective layer of branches and bramble were placed on top of the seedlings to ensure protection from frost. Planters actively planted ten times the amount of tobacco they expected to produce, as they were aware that the elements and other factors could decimate various portions of the planted crop (Breen: 47; Weldon 38).

Surviving seedlings were moved from the beds in late April to a larger field, ensuring that the plant received ample space to develop into an ideal specimen. This phase in the cycle is known as transplanting. The ideal conditions for transfer depended on geographic location and the occurrence of the last seasonal frost. In some instances, transplanting was not done until May or June.

As spring gave way to summer, the attention of the planter, overseers, and slaves focused on weeding and inspecting the individual plants in the field. A process known as topping was the next phase in the cycle. Workers actively removed the tops of the plants, preventing the tobacco from blooming and therefore concentrating the plants energies in producing a more fully flavored leaf (Breen: 47; Weldon 38). Thomas Jefferson noted in a paper entitled “On Tobacco Culture” that each planter had a version of what an ideal specimen was, shaped by his experience in the field. “After eight to twelve leaves had appeared on each plant - the number depends upon” the fertility of the earth - the planter ordered his laborers to begin topping

(Breen : 48; Weldon 37).”

Harvesting occurred in September, when the plants in the field were removed at the discretion of the planter. This final step in the cycle had to be timed to transpire prior to first seasonal frost of fall, yet not before the plants have reached maturity. An indication of full maturity is the exhibition of wilting. Writings surviving from the Colonial Era prove that little rhyme or reason informed the planter as to when harvesting was appropriate, with each planter prescribing to his own method (Breen: 48; Weldon: 38). A gentleman by the name of Tatham waited to begin harvesting until after the tobacco, “appeared grey.” Richard Henry Lee, on the other hand, stated that once, “spots appear on the leaves,” the best specimen of the tobacco plant would be obtained (Breen: 48; Weldon: 38).

The process of caring for tobacco was the task of an enslaved population. The introduction of slaves into the tobacco culture production system began in mass around 1700 with the depletion and noted unreliability of the white indentured servant force (Kulikof: 65; Weldon: 54). According to Colonial Era practices, a single male worker, whether white or enslaved, could manage three acres of land in tobacco and turn a profit (Kulikof: 65; Weldon: 54). This roughly translates into each worker being responsible for the production of 900 pounds of tobacco. Under ideal growing conditions however, the amount could increase to as much as 1300 pounds of tobacco (MacFarland: 1; Weldon : 54). At the age of ten, both enslaved women and men would be made part of the labor force responsible for the care of the tobacco plants during the labor intensive process( Kulikfo: 65; Weldon: 54).

According to the HSR, a significant slave population lived and worked in the tobacco fields, houses, workshops, and stores in and around the Harmony Hall and Want Water properties. They created kinship and social networks, worshipped, and communicated the stories and traditions made in their experiences in an Atlantic world (HSR: 36). To house this population, structures were constructed. At the time of the FY 2018 update, the location of these slave dwellings have not been determined and warrant future archeological research in the cultural landscape.

From the fields, the plants were then placed in the drying barns. The time in the drying barn was marked by a constant monitoring of heat and humidity to ensure that the final product was palatable to be sent to markets. After desired water content was achieved, slaves stripped the leaves from the stems and then packaged the leaves into hogshead, in a process known as prizing. The hogsheads were then stored in warehouses where they cured further. Hogsheads are wooden barrels with an appearance similar to wine casks. The process was completed upon the transportation of the hogsheads of cured tobacco from the warehouse to awaiting ships. The ships, typically loaded in late March and early May, were the responsibility of the merchants and bound for either England or the Continent (Breen: 49; Weldon: 38).

The process of curing the harvested tobacco occurred in a structure that during the Colonial Era was called a tobacco house, but is known today as a tobacco barn. The structures were traditionally a width of twenty feet with a length of forty feet with specimen examples upwards

of one hundred feet (Riduot: 184; Weldon: 43). The structures were divided into five foot bays with exposed rafters and post and beams that allowed the tobacco plants to be hung in order to achieve the desired water content consistency. An earthen dirt floor ran the length of the structure allowing the use of small heap fires, used to regulate the humidity and temperature consistency of the space. Further regulatory methods consisted of the use of a series of doors and windows that could be opened to encourage air circulation through a cross ventilation (Riduot: 184; Weldon: 43).

The mercantilist British state of the eighteenth century regulated trade of its overseas colonies with customs taxes and various controls over production, carriage, exports, and imports. The Navigation Acts (1651, 1660, 1663), passed by the English Parliament to regulate the trade of British merchants, required goods in the colonies to be carried on British ships. It also stipulated that goods not produced in Britain, such as tobacco, could only be shipped to metropolitan or colonial ports. This brand of economic protectionism -- enacted to benefit the British state and economy in an effort to exclude competitors from colonial trade and to nurture economic dependency between Britain and its colonies -- was a major grievance of the colonists during the American Revolution. However, as the citizens of a new American nation at Broad Creek -- who were effectively “shut out” of an Atlantic economy dominated by British naval power and economic protectionism -- would discover during the 1770s, this uneven system had its benefits (HSR: 34).

In 1747, the General Assembly of Maryland passed “An Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco [and] for preventing Frauds in his Majesty’s Customs” (Pearl: 16). Maryland’s tobacco act followed Virginia’s institution of a tobacco warehouse inspection system in 1730 to insure the quality of tobacco produced in the region. Virginia’s law greatly increased profits for tobacco producers, which had a detrimental effect on Maryland’s tobacco prices (Schweitzer: 551). Once the Maryland law went into effect, the gap between the two state’s tobacco prices closed and Maryland prices rose after decades of stagnation (Schweitzer: 552).

The Maryland Act established tobacco warehouses throughout the state and tobacco inspectors were selected by local parish vestries. Prince George’s County had seven inspection stations, including one at Broad Creek. Humphrey Batts’ land was selected for the site of an inspection station and a tobacco inspection warehouse was erected on his property in 1478 (Pearl: 16).

At Broad Creek, the tobacco crop was subject to British customs taxes and, after 1747, to inspection for quality. The regulation of tobacco quality in Maryland was motivated by competition with Virginia, where tobacco had been inspected since 1730.<sup>78</sup> Humphrey Batts, a shrewd entrepreneur, successfully petitioned to build the inspections warehouse on his property and Broad Creek, and the St. John’s parish vestry elected the local inspectors, who were paid an annual salary by the colony.<sup>79</sup> In his 1953 classic, *Tobacco Coast*, Arthur Pierce Middleton described the voyage of tobacco from field to port:

So soon the planters cured and prized their crops, they had the hogsheads [of tobacco] rolled down to the nearest landing, carried by sloop or flat to the most convenient warehouse, and delivered to the inspector. The hogsheads were stored in the warehouses (HSR: 34).

Tobacco was transported by land and water to the inspection warehouses by planters where it was evaluated. Factors, representatives from British and Scottish export firms, then selected the crop for overseas export. The factors moved large quantities of tobacco along the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers for export and imported goods including rum, fabric, nails, and sugar, which they traded with planters (Pearl: 16). The volume of tobacco exports grew considerably after the establishment of the inspection stations. Tobacco production rose from an average of 30,000 hogsheads per year to 100,000 hogsheads in 1775 (Pearl: 16).

In Prince George's County, tobacco became the primary export and served as currency to settle land, court and business transactions. During the eighteenth century, Prince George's County became the leading producer of tobacco in Maryland (HRS: 8; Virta: 1-2). To keep up with the growing demand for tobacco and the year-round attention the crop required, planters increasingly depended on slave labor. In Prince George's County half the households owned slaves by 1750. The average planter owned one to two slaves, but the wealthier planters owned between a dozen and several hundred slaves (Meringolo: 2). Humphrey Batts owned six slaves and Want Water's previous owner, Thomas Addison, owned seventy-seven enslaved people. If the property referred to as the "Great House" in his inventory is Want Water, twenty-three enslaved people resided there (Reed: 36; Antebellum Plantations in Prince George's County, Maryland: A Historic Context and Research Guide, 2009: 82, 93).

After the construction of the tobacco inspection warehouse, Batts cut a channel along Broad Creek to provide small boats with easier access to the warehouse. Batts applied to the Prince George's County Court for compensation for the construction of the channel in 1749. Batts' petition provides information on the operations and facilities at Broad Creek. "Your petitioner has Erected and Completed a Warehouse Agreeable for the Inspecting Tobacco at Broad Creek with a warf and Crane but in order to make the same for Importation has been obliged to Cut a Channel upwards of one hundred yards to be more Convenient and Commodius to said Ware House..." (Pearl: 17).

In addition to the warehouse and channel at Broad Creek, Batts constructed a storehouse on his property that was available for rent. "A New well-built Store-House, 24 feet in Length, with a good Shed-Room to the same, situated near Broad Creek in Prince George's County, not more than 30 Yards from a good Landing, and near the Inspecting-House and Country Road" (Pearl: 17). Batt's storehouse and construction of the channel indicates Broad Creek was a busy commercial port. Prince George's County records identify twelve licenses issued for tavern operation at Broad Creek between 1737 and 1772. As Susan Pearl points out in her study of Broad Creek, "the existence of this number of taverns indicates the growth and activity of the bustling Broad Creek port town" (Pearl: 18).

Harmony Hall, 1761AD to 1928AD

Enoch Magruder

Batts died in 1757 and left Want Water, which then consisted of the house and 35 acres of

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

land, to his son-in-law Richard Barnes. In 1761, Barnes sold Want Water to Enoch Magruder, a merchant, business man and extensive landowner (Pearl: 18). Two years after Magruder's purchase of Want Water he had the property resurveyed and discovered that the original land tract was only 26  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres. The survey also revealed 20 acres of unpatented land between Want Water and a tract known as Little Hall. Because of the resurvey Magruder now owned 46  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land known as Want Water Enlarged. The purchase included "a modest 12-by-8-foot dwelling" (Pearl: 19). No additional information on the small dwelling is provided.

Over the course of the 1760s, Magruder expanded his land holdings in the Broad Creek area. He bought land north of Want Water along Broad Creek and to the south along Slash (Clash) Creek, as well as property along the Piscataway Road, the main thoroughfare in the area, south and east of Battersea. Magruder also owned several large plantations in other parts of Prince George's County (Pearl: 18). He owned a warehouse at the western corner of the Battersea tract, but the date of its construction is not known. A deed issued to Magruder in 1769 states that he had a store or stone house near the Battersea property (Sonderman: 13). Also in 1769, he purchased 100 acres of Battersea, where Harmony Hall would be constructed. The land adjoined and included some of the town of Broad Creek (Pearl: 19).

Records indicate Enoch Magruder and his family resided at Broad Creek beginning the early 1760s. It may have been their primary residence, though Magruder also may have lived at his family's plantation, Norway, around the time he purchased Want Water (Pearl: 19). Magruder may have constructed the brick manor house (Harmony Hall) after 1769 but there is "no clear documentary record for the construction date of the building" (Sonderman: 14). Where Magruder lived is unclear because of the large number of land holdings he acquired. In addition to Battersea, Want Water, and Norway he may have resided at another of his plantations, Mount Lubentia. Documentation indicates he may have lived at Broad Creek in the 1760s and 1770s when two of his other properties were rented (Pearl: 19; Sonderman: 14). Magruder's purchase of Battersea was the beginning of a period of stability in the property's ownership. The Magruder family owned Battersea well into the nineteenth century. Though the property had stable ownership for many years, further research is necessary to determine the land use and occupation during this time (Sonderman: 13).

The Broad Creek area continued to grow, as indicated by the need during the 1760s to enlarge St. John's Church. The initial plans called for an addition to the existing church building, but in 1766 it was decided to take down the original building and construct a new structure. The new church was completed in 1768. Enoch Magruder was involved in much of the planning and financing of the new church building (Pearl: 21).

In December 1774, the Continental Congress put an end to the import of British goods and exports of American goods to Britain ended in September 1775. Trade continued in the Chesapeake port towns until the beginning of the Revolutionary War. With the start of the war, much of Prince George's tobacco crop went unsold. Following the conflict, the British factorage system came to an end, as did the inspector and warehouse system, and a dependable tobacco trade. Many of the warehouses eventually closed and much of the area's trade switched to Baltimore. Heavy siltation clogged the Chesapeake Bay tributaries which also

contributed to the decline of trade at the Potomac port towns. Farming in the area switched from tobacco to “edible crops” and fishing (Pearl: 22-23; Broad Creek National Register Nomination 2011: 11).

During the 1770s, the Ellicott Brothers, in nearby Howard County, Maryland, encouraged local farmers to grow wheat and other grains instead of tobacco, which quickly robbed the soil of its nutrients and caused many Maryland farmers to search for more fertile soil on the western frontier. Charles Carroll, a Catholic “founding father” from Maryland, was a convert to their methods. While the influence of the brothers at Broad Creek is unclear, these changes were typical of broader agricultural and economic trends experienced by Chesapeake farmers at the end of the eighteenth century. The Ellicott Brothers also initiated another innovation, the dredging of local water ways to remove silt from the bottom of rivers and harbors. At Broad Creek, local waterways were undergoing profound environmental change, making them more difficult to navigate. Despite the development of dredging, changes on the land put the community at an economic disadvantage relative to the growing port city of Baltimore or other towns connected to the commercial networks of the interior and the coast by train. By the end of the eighteenth century, local planters had begun to look for reliable and profitable markets. Many began to diversify their agricultural production, while others, such as Enoch Magruder, began commercial fishing ventures (HSR: 39).

In 1776, a federal census was conducted to determine the number and location of men capable of fighting in the Revolutionary Army. The information collected indicates the wealth of the Magruder family during the period. The census lists 118 enslaved people owned by Magruder. “Twenty-six African-Americans are listed by name as also members of the Magruder household... in stark contrast to most of the other names listed in proximity to this family, the Magruder household takes up an entire page, a testament to their prosperity by this period” (Sonderman: 14-15; 1776 census, copy located in Harmony Hall files, NACE). Enoch Magruder is listed among both Saint John’s and Prince George’s Parishes residents, so it is unclear at which property he resided. It is also unclear on which of Magruder’s properties the enslaved people resided and the number of people at each plantation (Sonderman: 14).

Documents located in the Archives of Maryland indicate Enoch Magruder, like other area plantation owners, transitioned from growing tobacco to fishing. In 1778, Magruder was operating a fishery at Broad Creek (Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Maryland, April 1, 1778 through October 26, 1779, Volume 21, 92-93). Enoch Magruder died in 1786 and the inventory of his property lists three commercial fishing net and ropes (Pearl: 23).

At the time of his death, Enoch Magruder may not have been living at Battersea. He left the houses at Want Water and Battersea to his daughter, Sarah. She and her husband, Colonel William Lyles, resided at Want Water. It is unclear who lived, if anyone, at Battersea manor house after Magruder’s death. The house may have served as the rectory for St. John’s Church from 1785 to 1791 (Broad Creek Historic District National Register Nomination 2011: 12; Pearl: 23). Meek Magruder, Enoch Magruder’s widow, may have resided at the house.

When Enoch Magruder died in 1786, for instance, he left to his wife Meek “four negro men

namely Lander Peter Will commonly called Billy and Tom also three negro women Lucy Phillis and Beck also one negro girl named Rachel one mulatto boy named Jess ("96- PG Will T1:238; HSR 36).

Meek Magruder is listed, along with eleven slaves, in the 1790 census as the only white member of her household, but it is unclear on which of the Magruder properties they resided (Pearl: 23; Sonderman: 16). Many of the enslaved people documented in the census presumably were those identified in Magruder's 1785 will. The will stated, "I give unto my loving wife Meek Magruder four negro men namely Lander Peter Will commonly called Billy and Tom also three negro women Lucy Phillis and Beck also one negro Girl named Rachel one mulatto Boy named Jess" (Charles Collins Papers, University of Maryland).

Assuming the names on census records and the inventory of Magruder's estate refer to the same people, the records reveal that a number of the people were enslaved at Battersea for many years. The 1776 census of Prince George's County lists several people of the same names as those in Magruder's will, including Lander, Will, Peter, Lucy, Phillis, Tom and Beck (1776 census, copy located in Harmony Hall files, NACE). The 1786 inventory of Magruder's property lists thirteen people and only one name, a man named Will, matches those on the 1776 census and Magruder's 1785 will (Last Will and Testament of Enoch Magruder, Collins Papers, University of Maryland; An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of Enoch Magruder Late of Prince George's County... 1786, Gunston Hall Plantation Probate Inventory Database, <http://www.gunstonhall.org/library/probate/MGRDRE86.PDF>). The 1776 census listing for Enoch Magruder's daughter, Sarah Lyles, and her husband William, records seven enslaved men, six women and twelve children. The enslaved people ranged in age from one to 60 (Harmony Hall files, NACE).

The family of Colonel William Lyles, who served as a major in the county militia during the Revolutionary War, would later have more slaves than any other family in the Broad Creek area. The Piscataway District had the largest number of slaves in the region and by 1790, Prince George's County had the largest slave population in the state (Pearl: 28; Reed: 36). According to the 1790 census, William Lyles owned 93 slaves and was one of the largest slave holders in Prince George's County (Pearl: 28).

Records suggest Dennis Magruder, Sarah's brother, managed Battersea for her. In 1792, he advertised the brick house for rent in a local paper. "Dennis Magruder will rent his dwelling house on Broad Creek in Maryland within five miles of Alexandria; the house is 56 feet long, two stories high, with good cellars, nursery, kitchen, carriage house and stable" (Pearl: 23-24). The records give some indication of the operations at Battersea and the structures found on the property.

#### Battersea Becomes Harmony Hall

The American Revolution disrupted and destabilized the "tobacco coast" by depriving it of its British and European markets and the British merchant ships that carried its goods. For those who lived at Broad Creek, the political revolution was also an economic revolution, one from

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

which they would never fully recover. With the decline of tobacco as a cash crop in the Chesapeake region, the Magruder and Lyles families began to diversify their agricultural production by increasing the planting of orchards and grains and raising livestock. William Lyles' son Dennis Magruder Lyles operated a fishery near Harmony Hall on a site called Tent Landing.<sup>124</sup> The decline of tobacco, the economic lifeblood of the Broad Creek community, also brought changes to Broad Creek. Long-time residents and their heirs left the community.

Sojourners came and went. Political life, too, was in flux; in 1800, the hundreds of Hynson, Piscataway, and King George residents were consolidated into a single electoral district, number five, called Piscataway.<sup>125</sup> Whereas the eighteenth century saw considerable economic growth and prosperity at Broad Creek, the nineteenth century was a period of change and uncertainty (HSR: 45).

Walter Dulany Addison, descendent of Thomas Addison the patentee of Want Water, rented the Battersea manor house in 1792. He became rector of the church at Broad Creek (St. John's). In June 1792, Addison married Elizabeth Hesselius, daughter of the painter John Hesselius, (1728-1778). Also that year, Addison's brother John married and the two couples lived in the brick house together. Legend has it they are responsible for giving the name Harmony Hall to the brick manor house. In her biography of Walter Dulany Addison, his granddaughter wrote, "The two families lived in great happiness together, and from this fact my grandmother Hesselius called the place Harmony Hall..." (Pearl: 24). The Addisons lived at the house for only a year, but following their occupation the name remained.

The Magruder family owned Harmony Hall well into the 1800s, but a complete picture of the occupation and use of the land during this period remains unclear. Dennis Magruder resided at Norway and the Lyles continued to live at Want Water, where they raised several children. According to a biographical sketch of William Lyles' daughter, Mary M. Coombs, the family raised horses at Want Water (Mary M. Coombs, Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 5490-008884, [www.msa.md.gov](http://www.msa.md.gov)). Further research is necessary to learn more about the horse operation at the property. Horse breeding and racing in the area dated to the colonial era, so there is strong likelihood the Lyles were involved in some capacity (NR: 21).

After William Lyles' 1815 death, his sons Dennis and Thomas resided at Want Water and Harmony Hall. Thomas C. Lyles lived at Want Water and acquired 180 acres of the Want Water, Battersea, and adjacent lands, as well as 30 acres of marsh, during his occupation of the house. Dennis M. Lyles inherited 40 acres of land and Harmony Hall from his father. He lived there for several years and operated a fishery southwest of the confluence of Broad Creek and the Potomac River (Pearl: 25).

Harmony Hall went through a number of occupants and owners following the 1828 death of Dennis Lyles. The family rented the house for several years to the Prince George's County constable (Pearl: 25). The constable died in 1836 and it is unclear who resided at the house following his death. The Lyles sold Harmony Hall and 40 acres of land in 1850 to William J. Edelen, who grew crops on the property, but did not reside in the house (Pearl: 27). Edelen hired Francis and Elizabeth Kerby to farm the land and the couple lived in Harmony Hall. When

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Edelen defaulted on tax payments, Elizabeth Kerby purchased the house at a tax sale in 1867 (Pearl: 27). The Kerbys later defaulted as well, and the property was again sold at a tax sale in 1876. Members of the Kerby family appear to have resided in the house after it was sold in 1876 and again in 1879 (Pearl: 29).

Thomas C. Lyles died in 1845 and his family continued to live at Want Water for another twenty years. His widow, and later his sons, resided in the house and continued to grow tobacco and raise livestock on the 180 acre property. The Lyles brothers attempted to sell 158 acres of the property in the 1860s, but the buyer defaulted on the mortgage. In 1870, the property, then known as Broad Creek Farm, was successfully sold (Pearl: 27, 29). The deed for the site may provide information on the structures present during the historic period and the land use. The property was described as:

"Property of 158 acres, called the Broad Creek House...three miles from the Alexandria Ferry...improved by a mansion house, large and old fashioned, 12 to 14 rooms with full cellar with spring in it...ice house, granary, stable, corn house, carriage house, meat house and quarters...newly built tenement house one mile from dwelling...situated on the head of Broad Creek, a branch of the Potomac, sail boats and tugs can come within 300 yards...public road and landing on the place" (Prince George's County Equity #573, quoted in Pearl: 29).

Following the sale, Want Water went through several short term owners during the 1870s. In the 1880s, the family of John Jacob Sellner, recent German immigrants, purchased the house and 60 acres to the north of the property (Pearl: 30).

The community of Broad Creek began to decline in the mid-1800s. The arrival of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Prince George's County in 1835 introduced new methods of trade to the region, but southwestern Prince George's County was bypassed. This exclusion left the area to continue to depend on the Potomac River for trade and the local roads for transportation (Pearl: 26). Several small farms operated in the area and the creek itself continued to play a part in the local economy. The creek was dredged for gravel and several fisheries operated along the Broad Creek estuary. Herring, catfish, shad, eel, and some sturgeon were transported from the fisheries to markets in Alexandria and Washington. A brickmaking kiln was also in operation along the estuary (Pearl: 30).

#### Silesia

A number of the businesses and farms in Broad Creek were owned by German immigrants, like the Sellners, who came to the area after the Civil War. In 1892, Harmony Hall was purchased by Robert Stein, who immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1875 (Pearl: 30-31). Stein was fluent in several languages and joined the U.S. Geological Survey as a translator in 1885 (NACE Harmony Hall files). The following year he earned a degree in medicine at Georgetown University. Stein accompanied Admiral Richard Peary on his expedition to Greenland in 1897 (Pearl: 32). Two years later he led his own exploration of Greenland, where he studied the indigenous people's languages and conducted geological research (NACE Harmony Hall files). Stein lived in Washington and visited Harmony Hall on

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

the weekends. Shortly after his purchase of Harmony Hall, Stein sold half of the property to his brother Richard. Two years later Robert sold his remaining land to his brother (Sonderman: 19).

Beginning in the early 1890s the Stein brothers began to purchase hundreds of acres of land in the Broad Creek area. Also during this time, Robert Stein encouraged several family members to immigrate to Maryland from Germany. His sisters Selma Stein Adler and Anna Stein Tilch moved from Prussia with their families and lived at Harmony Hall. Extended family continued to arrive through the early 1900s and soon the area was populated by new residents with the last names of Stein, Tilch, Adler, Walzels, and Rudsits (Pearl: 31). The German presence in the area was further solidified when Robert Stein successfully petitioned to change the community's name to Silesia, in honor of his birthplace, Silesia, Prussia. By 1902 an official post office was established with the area's new name (Pearl: 31). Richard Stein opened a grocery store in 1903 on the site of a former tavern and members of the Tilch family resided in a house built next door. The store is still in operation and run by members of the family (Pearl: 31). Members of the Stein family resided at Harmony Hall until 1929 when the property was sold to Charles Wallace Collins (Pearl: 33; Sonderman: 19).

#### The Collins Era 1929AD to 1964AD

Charles Wallace Collins was born in 1879 in Hale County, Alabama, where he was raised on a cotton plantation. Collins moved to Washington after studying law in Birmingham, Semitic languages and archeology at the University of Chicago, and politics and economics at Harvard (Lowndes: 15). He started his long federal career in 1911 at the Library of Congress in the Legislative Reference Service. Collins served as legal advisor of the House and Senate from 1919 to 1920 and became Librarian of the Supreme Court and Law Librarian for Congress from 1920 to 1921 (Reed: 61). During the 1920s he served as general counsel for the Bureau of the Budget (1921-1923); general counsel in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (1923-1925); and deputy comptroller of the currency (1923-1927).

Collins retired from the federal service in 1927. Following his government career, he worked as general counsel to Bank of America and Transamerica and special counsel for the American Bankers Association, before retiring in the 1940s (Pearl: 32; Reed: 61). In 1947, he published "Whither Solid South? A Study in Politics and Race Relations." The book was widely circulated among southern democrats and influenced the "greatest third-party revolt since the Progressive Party candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912" (Reed: 83). Collins book became "both manifesto and blueprint for the states' rights—soon nicknamed the 'Dixiecrat'—Revolt" for the defection of southern democrats from the party following President Truman's promise to end segregation by the federal government and the adoption of a civil rights platform in the 1948 presidential campaign (Lowndes: 11, 27; Reed: 77-79).

When Collins purchased Harmony Hall in 1929 he had already restored two eighteenth century houses in Georgetown (3328 O Street and 1310 34th Street). In letter to the National Trust for Historic Preservation written in 1952, Collins remarked on his work in Georgetown, "I was one of the pioneers in the restoration of Georgetown" (Collins Papers, University of Maryland).

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Collins refurbished his Georgetown homes during a transitional period in the neighborhood. During the 1920s, many long established families were moving to newly developed neighborhoods in Washington, leaving behind some of Georgetown's most prominent properties. Newcomers purchased the neighborhood's historic estates and houses and restored the properties, often removing architectural features or replacing them in an attempt to create a colonial appearance (Barsoum in Wilson 2006: 181-185). The transformation of Georgetown was taking place at a time when the Colonial Revival style "soared" in popularity nationwide (Theobald 2002: 5). Its influence was apparent everywhere from the construction of modest Colonial Revival single family homes to John D. Rockefeller's restoration of Williamsburg. At Harmony Hall, Collins incorporated Colonial Revival elements in landscape and attempted to strengthen the property's ties with early American history, most notably its associations with George Washington.

Charles Collins had been looking for a rural property on which to establish an estate "modeled on his memory of plantations of the deep South," when he found Harmony Hall in 1928 (Pearl: 33; Collins Papers). He later referred to himself again as a preservation pioneer and wrote, "In a long and eventful career, my restoration of Harmony Hall has been one of my most satisfying experiences" (Collins Papers; Reed: 64). Harmony Hall was in poor condition at the time of Collins' purchase in 1929. According to Collins, the Steins had used the house as part of their farm operations. Meat and corn had been stored in the house's third story and the parlor was a fish drying room. The house's foundation had been damaged by rats who built a series of runways through it. Despite the rats and the agricultural use of the building, the extensive paneling and woodwork throughout the house was in good condition (Pearl: 33; Collins Papers). The restoration of Harmony Hall began in 1929 and it was two years before Collins could move into the house.

While the restoration was underway, Collins married Sue Spencer, a fellow Alabama native (Pearl: 33; Reed: 62). They introduced electricity, running water, and later heat to Harmony Hall. For ten years they used the house's original fireplaces to heat the house—which required a full-time employee to keep them burning (Pearl: 33; Collins Papers). The couple made improvements to the landscape, including constructing a ha-ha across a pasture to the west of the house, laying a brick terrace outside the west entrance, planting English boxwood at the east and west entrances and a cypress walk on the property. Collins dredged Slash (or Clash) Creek which reclaimed 11 acres of land. He built two bridges across the creek and a boat house and pier on the waterfront (Pearl: 33; Collins Papers).

In writing about the restoration of Harmony Hall, Collins stated that the property was "originally beautifully landscaped with boating facilities on Slash Creek" (Collins Papers). How it was landscaped is unclear, as is the source of Collins' information on the historic appearance of the grounds. Collins also reported that "erosion gulleys (sic) ran all over the meadow. One near the house was thirty feet wide and twenty feet deep. It was filled with the debris from off the place – old tires, shoes, automobile parts, stumps and wire fences" (Collins Papers). Among Collins' papers was an undated landscape plan drawn by the architects D.M. Turner and T.S. McClelland, as well as a few unsigned sketches. The Turner and McClelland plan was much more elaborate than what was realized at Harmony Hall and included a formal flower garden

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

bordering a north wing addition. Adjacent to a south wing addition is a drying yard and vegetable garden. Double rows of trees line the driveway to the house and what appears to be a hedge frames the circular drive, the gardens, and drying yard. The unsigned sketches of the site included the formal garden to the northwest of the house included in the Turner and McClelland plan, as well as north and south elevation additions to Harmony Hall (Collins Papers).

Within a few years of acquiring Harmony Hall, Collins purchased the adjacent property that contained Want Water. Some years earlier the Sellners had partitioned their land into five 13.3 acre parcels. Collins purchased three parcels and planned to restore Want Water, which was already in deteriorated condition (Pearl: 34).

In addition to purchasing Want Water during this period, Collins acquired a mid-eighteenth century house from Piscataway that was threatened with demolition. Collins disassembled the house, numbered the components, and reassembled it on one of the Sellner parcels. In an effort to provide the house, known as Piscataway House, with better access to the water Collins had the eighteenth century canal dug by Humphrey Batts dredged and extended. Collins added a kitchen wing to the house and later constructed a carriage house and a separate garage with an apartment. For many years he rented the house, and sold the property and 11.5 acres in 1956 (Pearl: 34).

In restoring both Harmony Hall and Piscataway House, Collins made use of building materials from nearby eighteenth century houses. He kept a partial record of the materials used and where they originated. In a note entitled, "parts of 18th Century dwellings used in the restoration of Harmony Hall and Piscataway House," Collins listed "Frankland, Cherry Hill, Marshall house, old Masonic lodge, St. Mary's old school house, Piscataway House," and an "old frame 18 century house in Piscataway" (Collins Papers). Collins recorded he used lumber from Cherry Hill for the paneling in Piscataway House's basement; bricks from Marshall House to make repairs to Harmony Hall; and pine floors from the Masonic lodge were also used at Harmony Hall.

#### George Washington Memorial Parkway

In 1930, Congress passed the Capper Crampton Act which allowed for the acquisition of land for the development of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, as well as parks, parkways and playgrounds in the Washington region. The Act reinforced previous park development legislation, the Comprehensive Development of the Park and Playground System of the National Capital bill, passed in 1924. The earlier law created the National Capital Park Commission to acquire land suitable for parkways and recreation.

The Act authorized an appropriation of \$13,500,000 to acquire land for the parkway. The Act also authorized the acquisition of land for other projects, including Fort Drive, a parkway linking the Civil War defenses of Washington which had been under consideration for nearly thirty years, and the extension of the Anacostia park system along the valley of the Anacostia River. The act ultimately led to the creation of numerous parks within the National Capital Region,

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

some of which, including Harmony Hall, were located on land intended for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. It also led to the establishment of several parks administered by the states of Maryland and Virginia.

In 1934, Collins began corresponding with Frederic A. Delano, chairman of the National Park and Planning Commission, the successor to the National Capital Park Commission, over the proposed extension of the parkway. When conceived in the late 1920s, the parkway was to travel along both the Virginia and Maryland sides of the Potomac River to Great Falls where a bridge would link the two segments. In Maryland, the parkway's planned route began in Fort Washington and would cross Broad Creek via a causeway (Mackintosh: 407; Collins Papers; Reed: 88). Several Prince George's County landowners affected by the proposed parkway, including Collins, spoke out against the road. Collins wrote an extensive letter to Delano outlining the historic, natural and scenic resources that would be affected by the causeway. "It would destroy the beauty of Broad Creek as a landscape feature, whereas by leaving it as it is it can be made to serve as a water view from the proposed memorial parkway road" (Collins to Delano, January 22, 1934, Collins Papers). Collins felt the causeway would "make an unsightly appearance both from the Maryland and the Virginia shore and would not lend itself to any compensating landscape treatment" (Collins to Delano, January 22, 1934, Collins Papers).

In his letter to Delano, Collins included his suggestion for an alternative route, "...I suggest the commission give consideration to a plan which would avoid all of these objectionable features... This can be done by utilizing the old Piscataway-Alexandria road which came around the north side of Broad Creek and in front of old Broad Creek Church to the south" (Collins to Delano, January 22, 1934, Collins Papers). He argued that preserving Broad Creek would be a more fitting tribute to Washington.

"The preservation of the entire landscape of Broad Creek in the form in which George Washington knew it would be a fitting contribution to this memorial to him... The use of the roads over which he traveled and from which he viewed the scene of the church, and such other buildings and landscape which remain from today from his time, would also be a fitting and appropriate contribution" (Collins to Delano, January 22, 1934, Collins Papers).

Ultimately the Prince George's County section of the parkway was not completed, though the planning and acquisition of land continued through the mid-1960s. "At the end, with insufficient local support to counter persistent local opposition, it had degenerated to something that its weary proponents were no longer willing to fight for. More fundamentally, however, its failure was due to its relative uselessness" (Mackintosh: 422). It was determined useless because, unlike the Virginia segment of the parkway which had become a major commuter route to Washington, the Prince George's County route would not be heavily traveled by those heading to and from work in the city. Several properties which are now units of the National Park Service, including Fort Washington, Oxon Hill Farm and Harmony Hall, were all acquired as part of the parkway effort.

Charles Collins, Historian

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Collins mention of Washington in his letter to Delano reflected his interest in the historic significance of Harmony Hall and its ties to colonial America. Collins hired or consulted with genealogists and researchers to determine the history of the site. He also corresponded with Washington Star columnist John Clagett Proctor who reported on Washington and regional history for many years. Collins used the information uncovered by the researchers to assemble a history he used for talks and in documentation of the property by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), who photographed and completed measured drawings of the interiors, decorative features and the building elevations in 1935 (Pearl: 34; Reed: 67; Collins Papers; HABS No. 10-8). Want Water was also documented by HABS that year (Collins Papers; HABS MD, 17-BROCK, 2-1).

Though much of the background on Harmony Hall and Want Water included in Collins' histories of the houses came from reliable sources, some of the information he included was more local lore than fact. "As an amateur historian, Collins possessed extensive but flawed knowledge of Broad Creek, knowledge that also was shaped by his ambitions for Harmony Hall. He wrongly believed, for instance, the local tradition that Harmony Hall was built in 1723, and he exaggerated the presence of George Washington on the property" (Pearl: 68). Collins claimed Washington had visited Harmony Hall and Want Water—a claim that had some historical backing, but he greatly exaggerated (Reed: 67-68). In the history of Want Water he prepared for HABS, Collins wrote:

"Colonel William Lyles was an intimate friend of George Washington, there being ample documentary evidence of this fact in Washington's writings. It is reasonable to conjecture that Washington, whose barge frequently passed the very door of Want Water on those Sabaths (sic) when he worshipped at Broad Creek Church, upon occasion stopped for dinner with his friends at Want Water" (HABS MD, 17-BROCK).

A relationship did exist between Washington and Lyles. Some of the documentary evidence of their relationship is found among the president's papers, as are references to Broad Creek made by Washington in his diary. In 1773 and 1774, Washington mentioned Broad Creek in his diary and in 1791 Lyles wrote to Washington regarding money he owed the president (The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition, ed. Theodore J. Crackel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2008).

In the history of Harmony Hall Collins submitted to HABS, he wrote that the Magruder family socialized with Washington at Mount Vernon and the president attended Broad Creek Church. There may be some truth to Collins' claims, and Washington's purported ties to the area has become part of local tradition, but further research is necessary to determine the relationship between Washington and the Magruders, as well as his visits to the area. Acknowledging it was "according to local tradition," in the history Collins wrote for HABS he stated that Washington often stopped at Harmony Hall for dinner following church services (HABS MD No 10). In another history Collins wrote, Washington also stopped at Want Water following his visits to Broad Creek Church (Collins Papers). Based on Collins history of the house, he was able to convince the Society of Colonial Dames of Maryland that Harmony Hall was constructed in 1723. The organization presented Collins with a plaque for the house with the

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

1723 date of construction. It hung on the west elevation of the property for many years (Reed: 68; Sonderman: 11). He also wrote to the State Roads Commission to request a historical marker placed by his property, but further research is necessary to determine if one was ever installed (Collins Papers; Reed: 72).

Even though Collins had a great interest in the history of Harmony Hall, and he preserved some of the historic features of the property, his improvements also damaged the site's ties to its past. As stated in the 1993 archeological report on Harmony Hall, "While retaining some of the finer features of this early dwelling, he also engaged in massive construction activities which destroyed much of the archeological record surrounding the main structure, as well as reconfigured aspects of the exterior and interior of the mansion. He did, however, record some of the features as he found them and attempted to save what he felt was 'original' or, perhaps more accurately, aesthetically pleasing to him about the dwelling" (Sonderman: 19).

An example of his damage to the archeological record is found in an undated memo Collins wrote at the time he built the brick terrace to the west of the house. He described his discovery of remnants of an old structure on the site,

"...discovered the remains of a small stone building about three feet below the ground level. It was 12 feet by 18 feet with a fireplace at the east end and the door facing the water. The walls were built of round cobblestones and mortar and the floor was laid with slabs of red sandstone each two feet square and four inches thick and perfectly squared and finished on the sides and top...entire outline of the walls was intact..."(Collins Papers)

Collins closed the memo, "It was necessary for me to have the entire remnants removed in order to complete the work of grading and this memorandum is for the purpose of preserving a record of the incident" (Collins Papers). While restoring Harmony Hall, Collins also discovered stone foundations of long destroyed former wings extending from the north and south elevations of the house (Pearl: 33).

Collins stabilized Want Water in 1938 and planned to restore the property or move the house and attach it to Harmony Hall (Pearl: 35; Collins Papers). Collins consulted with Ward Brown, a local architect known for the Nuns of the Battlefield Memorial (1924) located in northwest Washington, who drew up plans for the move and addition to Harmony Hall (Collins Papers; Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C., National Register Nomination). Several people expressed interest in purchasing the house, and according to Collins, several museums were also interested in the property, particularly the interior wood paneling (Collins Papers; Reed: 70). Want Water was never restored. In a 1952 letter to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Collins wrote, "I acquired this property for the purpose of restoration, in particular to preserve the beautiful paneling which is still intact. But World War II came along and the project was temporarily abandoned" (Collins Papers; Reed: 70).

Collins continued to work on Harmony Hall into the 1940s, including adding a two-story wing to the south elevation of the house (Pearl: 35). Beginning shortly after acquiring the property, a number of outbuildings were constructed on the southeast side of the property along the

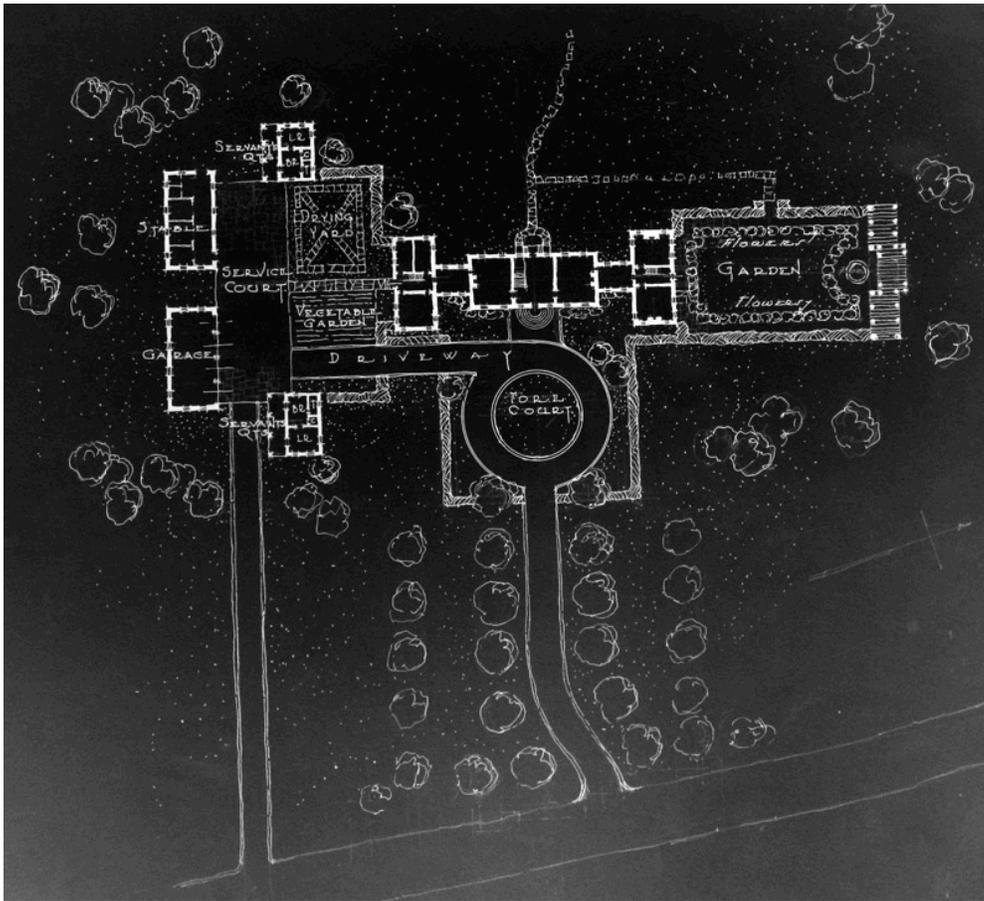
## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

driveway (Reed: 69). In 1947, Collins had a five room two-story house constructed south of the mansion where he kept an office (Pearl: 35).

While Charles and Sue Collins worked on the house, they established a farm on their property. Charles Collins also planned to reforest 7 to 10 acres some of the property (Collins Papers). In the early 1930s, Collins ordered hundreds of Scotch pines and reported in correspondence with the Department of Agriculture concerning an insect damaging his trees that he had "...two or three thousand young cedars on the borders of the grounds" (Collins Papers). They raised livestock on the farm including Aberdeen Angus cattle and Yorkshire boars (Reed: 74; Collins Papers). During WWII, Collins reported the farm as 210 acres. In a letter appealing the military drafting one of his farm employees, he reported he was growing 80 acres of corn, 10 acres of Kaffir corn, 20 acres of Russian giant sunflower, 20 acres of alfalfa, 40 acres for pasture and the rest as woodland. He also reported the farm raised 300 hogs a year and had 300 to 400 hens and chickens (Collins Papers).



*Harmony Hall garden plan, N.D. (Collins Papers).*

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*Want Water Canal. Want Water visible to the right (MRCE HAHA 10697).*

#### National Park Service Acquisition and Management, 1964 to 2007

Charles Collins died in 1962. Shortly after Collins' death Harmony Hall and Want Water began to decline. During the 1960s, Want Water collapsed leaving only the north and south elevation walls and chimneys. In 1965, Sue Spencer Collins sold several acres of their land. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) purchased four acres and a right of way not far from Want Water. Within a short time following the purchase, the WSSC constructed a pumping station on the site. Mrs. Collins also sold the southernmost ten acres of property to the Prince George's County Board of Education. A year later, the Harmony Hall Elementary School opened. The school closed in 1981 and the building was converted into a regional arts center (Pearl: 37).

In 1966, Sue Spencer Collins sold the remaining 65.7 acre Harmony Hall property to the National Park Service with the agreement that she could reside in the house until her death. The terms of the agreement stated, "Subject to an estate for life in the said Sue Spencer Collins in that portion of the property containing approximately 2 acres on which is located a 2.5 story brick colonial dwelling known as 'Harmony Hall,' together with auxiliary buildings, including the drives thereto..." (NCR Land Record 0540; Pearl: 37).

Mrs. Collins died in Alabama in 1983. Beginning in 1985, Harmony Hall was rented through the Historical Leasing Program to the Battersea Driving Company for a period of fifty-five years (Reed: 93-94). The company's owners, Frank Calhoun and Herman Carlton Huhn, lived at Harmony Hall and operated a horse farm and carriage driving school. The National Capital Region and Battersea's owners entered into an agreement in which Huhn and Calhoun would restore the house. The cost of the work would be amortized against the monthly rent until the work was completed (Reed: 98). When the restoration was complete, carriage driving students would board at Harmony Hall (Goska: 2).

The new tenants repaired several features of the house according to the terms of the lease, but they added some new features, including a new stable, rose garden and new pathways.

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Beginning in the early 1990s, National Capital Parks-East (NACE) became concerned that Huhn and Calhoun were moving too slowly completing the house repairs. The two parties attempted to negotiate a new schedule of repairs and the terms of the lease. Following a series of letters and meetings, relations became strained. Between 1992 and 1999, both parties attempted to resolve their differences, but disagreements between the two persisted. By the summer of 1996, restoration work that was supposed to be completed within five years of the commencement of the lease remained unfinished. Later that year NPS employees inspected the house and found several emergency repairs had been completed. During this time they also learned that the tenants had been removing bricks from Want Water for the construction of paths and a garden. Negotiations with the tenants continued until 1999 when NACE recommended terminating the lease. Calhoun and Huhn vacated the property and opened a new horse farm in Crozet, Virginia (Reed: 98-101).

Since the departure of Huhn and Calhoun, Harmony Hall has remained unoccupied. For many years the park service has discussed different uses of the property and developed several draft management or interpretive plans beginning as early as 1977 (Reed: 104; NACE records). Proposals for uses have included a conference center, music and cultural center and performance space, police sub-station, and office space. Other options discussed include selling the property, leasing it to a non-profit, offering the property to another agency, and a combination of sales and/or leases of the house and property (Planning for the Future of Harmony Hall, 2003, NACE Files). The Silesia Citizens Association, a neighborhood organization, in 2007 proposed turning the house into a visitor and educational center (Proposal for the Future of Harmony Hall, 2007, NACE Files). Currently, National Capital Parks-East is again discussing possible uses of the property.



*Harmony Hall, N.D. (NACE)*

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*Stable erected by the Battersea Driving Company (CLP 2011).*

2007 to 2018

After 2007, limited changes were enacted on the Harmony Hall cultural landscape. In 2009, a hazardous underground storage tank, a heating oil tank, was removed from the grounds of Harmony Hall. According to PEPC entry 24454, the tank was located near the southeast entrance of the historic mansion house (PEPC 24454). In 2012, the existing fence, along the southern boundary of the Harmony Hall property, was repaired with in kind materials and preformed with volunteer labor. Repairs and replacements were conducted on existing t posts, measuring approximately 6' tall, and included the replacement of approximately 150 feet of box wire fencing from the front of the property west along the boundary. Brush was removed from the fence as well (PEPC 43623).

The same year (2012) the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) completed an HSR for the treatment of Harmony Hall proper. In the document, an overall Period of Significance, identified as Period II (1769-1849) serve as the point to make decisions. The overall plan recommends stabilization with the preservation and restoration of elements that were present during this Period of Significance. However, rehabilitation will be performed to the structure in order to meet the needs of modern visitors and the National Park Service. At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Update, none of the recommended treatments have been performed on the structure. It will be the onus of future CLIs to document and record these changes should the plans go forward.

In 2012, a picket visitor exclusion fence around the Want Water remains were repaired and replaced with in kind materials. The fence is non historic, non- contributing, and can be easily removed in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes. Volunteer labor was used to complete the project (PEPC 43705).

In FY 2018, a FMSS/ Cultural Landscape site visit was conducted by NCR CLI Coordinator Daniel Weldon, Acting Chief of Resources Michael Commisso, and HOPE Crew Chantae Moore. The following observations were noted during the site visit: Cedar trees are encroaching on the historic meadow. Park staff commented that the field had not be cut in over

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

five years. The Collins Era Terrace system was located on the hillslope south of Harmony Hall. The Collins Era Buildings have declined to the point that they are archeological sites rather than structures. Vegetation in general needs to be removed in order to restore the integrity of such features as the ha-ha, which is in danger of being lost if structural repairs are not made soon. It should be noted that a CLR guiding treatment of the cultural landscape does not exist at this time.

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Harmony Hall cultural landscape by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1708-1786 and 1929-1962) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are comprised of landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually, and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the property are spatial organization, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, topography, and small-scale features. The buildings and structures, already documented through the List of Classified Structures (LCS), are described here in the context of the landscape setting. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Harmony Hall are spatial organization, topography, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, natural systems, and small scale features.

The spatial organization of Harmony Hall has largely remained unchanged since the later historic period (1929-1962). Though several of the outbuildings constructed during the period of significance are no longer extant, and tenants occupying the property in the late-twentieth century erected a stable

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

and horse corral, the historic organization of the landscape has not been altered in such a way as to impair the landscape's integrity. The site retains its historic spatial organization and has integrity.

The topography at Harmony Hall has not changed since the 1929-1962 period of significance. Charles W. Collins constructed a ha-ha during his ownership of Harmony Hall. The feature remains in place, though it is in need of stabilization. Harmony Hall has retains integrity of topography to its period of significance.

The remaining historic structures include Harmony Hall, Want Water, and the Charles W. Collins era bungalow. Several of the outbuildings erected by Collins are non-extant or in a state of collapse. During the late twentieth century occupation by the Battersea Driving Company a stable was constructed on the property. This feature is non-contributing, but does not diminish the cultural landscape's integrity. Despite the addition of the stable, and the loss of several outbuildings and the poor condition of the remaining structures, the buildings and structures retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site. Harmony Hall has integrity of buildings and structures.

Harmony Hall retains much of its historic circulation pattern, though there have been modifications to the historic circulation pattern. Two internal farm roads have been reduced to traces in some sections and the formal driveway entering the property from the northeast utilized during the Collins era has been removed. Despite the loss of these features, they are still readable on the landscape and contribute to the site's historic character. The park circulation pattern retains integrity.

Historic vegetation at Harmony Hall included agricultural crops, ornamental plantings, and woodlands. During the Collins period the fields to the west of manor house at Harmony Hall and east of Want Water were clear of vegetation. Ornamental planting included boxwood framing a terrace outside the western entrance of the house, an allee of trees to the southwest of the building, and rows of cedars along the southeast entrance drive and to the north and south of the house. Today, the pasture to the west of Harmony Hall is largely clear of vegetation, but the fields east of Want Water are now forested. Only a few of the Collins era boxwood remain, but cedars still extend to the north and south of the house. The allee southwest of the house is still in place. Though woodland has replaced previous open spaces and the historic vegetation is reduced, the vegetation contributes to the historic character and has integrity to the period of significance.

The natural systems and features at Harmony Hall, Broad Creek, Slash (Clash) Creek and the Want Water (Broad Creek) Canal, have remained largely unchanged since the later period of significance, though siltation and the shifting tidal flats at the mouth of the canal may have altered its width. The natural systems and features retain a high degree of integrity.

Historic views and vistas at Harmony Hall include the view of Broad Creek and the Potomac River from the house. Though vegetation in the western pasture and along Broad Creek partially obstructs the view when foliage is heavy, historic views from Harmony Hall are largely intact. Historic views to Harmony Hall from the creek and river to the west and from Livingston Road east of the house are also intact. Views and Vistas retain integrity.

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

#### Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. Though the acreage of the farm has fluctuated some since the period of significance, Harmony Hall remains in its historic location, as do its contributing landscape features.
2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Harmony Hall retains the layout and plan established during the historic period, which include the Collins era Colonial Revival landscape features. The circulation pattern retains much of its historic character. Harmony Hall retains integrity of design.
3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. Although Prince George's County has evolved from an agricultural to a residential landscape, Harmony Hall is buffered by the woodland bordering the site and the limited development of adjacent and neighboring properties. This helps retain the sense of the historic setting. The park's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the period of significance.
4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. Although there is loss of, or damage to, contributing landscape features, the material which remains from the period of significance retains integrity.
5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The contributing features at Harmony Hall invoke the periods in which they were created. Harmony Hall and Want Water exhibit workmanship from the period of significance and retain integrity.
6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Harmony Hall still invokes the feeling characteristic of the estate established by Charles W. Collins. The house, western pasture, and views towards the Potomac River and Broad Creek in particular, contribute to the historic feeling and maintain the integrity of feeling of the site.
7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Harmony Hall is associated with early exploration and settlement along the Potomac River in Prince George's County, Maryland. The property is also associated with Charles W. Collins, whose writing on race relations and states' rights greatly impacted American politics in the twentieth century. The landscape features, including the structures, vegetation, and views, provide tangible associations with the seventeenth century settlement of the property and Collins transformation of the grounds. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic period and retains integrity of association for the period of significance.

#### Conclusion

After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this CLI finds Harmony Hall retains integrity from the 1929 to 1962 period of significance.

<b>Aspects of Integrity:</b>	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

**Landscape Characteristic:**

**Buildings and Structures**

**HISTORIC**

**HARMONY HALL**

Harmony Hall is a two-and-a-half story Georgian central-passage plan brick house laid in Flemish bond. The gable roof structure has both river and road-side entrances. Both facades are seven-bays with central entrances. The door on the river, or west, elevation is bordered by fluted pilasters, a triangular pediment and entablature. The entrance on the east elevation is surrounded by a gable roof porch with four steps, a triangular pediment, and a six panel door. The east elevation roof has a brick pediment with a bull's eye window. Two gabled dormer windows with broken pediments are located on either side. Both elevations share the same window varieties. Except for bays three and five, windows on the second floor are nine over six sash windows. Bays three and five are six over four. On the first floor, all bays are nine over nine except the two windows flanking the front door which are six over six. Photographs taken prior to Collins' improvements to the house show the windows largely match those presently found at the house. The photographs reveal there are a few four over four sash windows on both elevations, but these are possibly replacement windows. A brick belt course separates the two floors. Chimneys are located at the end of the north and south elevations.

Textual records and archeological evidence do not provide an exact date of Harmony Hall's construction, but suggest the house could have been built prior to 1718 or after 1769 (Sonderman: 55-56). Harmony Hall is likely not the first structure built on Battersea. Documents related to the sale of Battersea from the eighteenth century note other structures on the property, but further research is necessary to learn more about these buildings. During archeological excavations of the site in the 1980s, the possible remains of an earthfast structure were uncovered that date to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries. The remains included post hole and post mold, as well as artifacts unearthed in a borrow pit dating to the period (Sonderman: 55). Documents related to the 1709 sale of Battersea acreage recorded the property included "tenements dwelling houses tobacco houses Barnes stables outhouses" (Nickles Files, NACE).

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Charles Collins found further evidence of structures possibly pre-dating Harmony Hall. When preparing to install a terrace, Collins uncovered, “a small stone building about three feet below the ground level. It was 12 feet by 18 feet with a fireplace at the east end and the door facing the water. The walls were built of round cobblestones and mortar and the floor was laid with slabs of red sandstone each two feet square and four inches thick and perfectly squared and finished on the sides and top” (Collins Papers). Collins went on to report, “It was necessary for me to have the entire remnants removed in order to complete the work of grading and this memorandum is for the purpose of preserving a record of the incident” (Collins Papers).

A Civil War era map of Broad Creek illustrates several structures in the Harmony Hall cultural landscape. This is the earliest depiction of the property discovered thus far and may provide a record of buildings on the site that were present during the earlier period of significance. Harmony Hall is not represented on the map. There may have been as many as seven buildings surrounding Want Water and are located adjacent to the canal, but some of the symbols found on the map may refer to other landscape features and not structures. These structures are represented by symbols of varying sizes, likely depicting single room outbuildings, barns, slave quarters and the multi-room manor house (Map of Area Near Broad Creek and Indian Queen Bluff, n.d., accessed at <http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/jpgs/cwbrcr.jpg>). Later maps from the nineteenth century and early twentieth century provide little detail on the buildings and structures at either Harmony Hall or Want Water.

Photographs beginning as early as 1929 and continuing through 1935 provide limited information on the buildings and structures at the site. Pictures taken prior to the improvements Collins made to the property document a single story, gable roof structure adjacent to the house on the northeast side of the property. An additional gable roof structure is located nearby that appears to be a story and a half in height. Another single story gable roof building is located to the southeast of the house along the entrance drive (Collins Papers; MRCE HAHA 10677). These buildings were removed during 1930s as they do not appear in photographs from the 1940s.

These early photographs provide information on the condition of Harmony Hall at the time Collins purchased it. The house was white and a shed roof porch on the house’s eastern elevation spanned three of the house’s seven bays. According to Collins, the house was covered in white concrete (note on material located on the back of photograph: MRCE, HAHA 10726). On the west elevation, a pediment, entablature and pilasters surround the entrance. No stairs lead to the entrance and from the door threshold there is a distance of several feet to the ground. In some early photographs shutters surround the windows on the east façade. Shutters are not found in photographs of the river side of the house. At the time of Collins’s purchase, a single story, one room brick addition is located on the south elevation. He removed this addition and constructed a one and a half story addition with a parapet wall in its place. In a 1935 HABS drawing the parapet wall is identified as temporary terra cotta, though it is unclear if this is the same wall as appears in photographs from the period (HABS, Maryland 10-8). The drawings also document a wooden shed-roof addition to the south elevation. There is also a single story, gable roof structure south of the manor house that housed a kitchen and servants’

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

dining room. Between the two buildings there is an enclosed area identified as a passage made of lattice and tar paper.

The HABS documentation also recorded the addition of wooden steps to the west entrance. They flank the north and south sides of the entrance and are surrounded by wood railings painted white and lattice work. Also by this time, as noted in the HABS drawings, two windows on the north and one window on the south elevation had been sealed in brick.

Charles Collins, as well as the book “Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland,” state that the bull’s eye and dormer windows on the east elevation were added in the late eighteenth century, but further research is needed to confirm this claim. The National Register Nomination noted that NPS historical architects doubted Collins’ claim the pediment and windows were added in 1768 (National Register Nomination; Charles Collins Papers).

On the north elevation there is a small brick gabled entrance to the basement added during the Collins period (National Register Nomination). It was not recorded in the HABS documentation. Further research is necessary to determine the date it was constructed.

In the 1930s, Collins erected a series of outbuildings in the cultural landscape south of Harmony Hall. These buildings were used as servants quarters, kitchens, a private study, and the day to day functions of the property. In previous iterations of the Harmony Hall CLI, the Collins Era Buildings were discussed in more detail at this portion of the text. Due to a loss of integrity, it was necessary to reclassify the structures as archeological resources. Please reference this portion of the text in order to learn about these features.

#### WANT WATER

The exact date of Want Water’s construction is unknown, but estimates of the house’s age range from the 1690s to the first two decades of the 1700s (HABS ND 17-BROCK, Addendum to HABS No. MD-10-7). The land was patented in 1708 to Thomas Addison and it is likely the house was erected shortly after his acquisition of the property. Because of the tobacco inspection warehouse nearby, the property likely included several buildings involved in that operation, as well as agricultural activities on the site. Humphrey Batts constructed a storehouse, but information on other structures erected during this period requires additional research. A 1772 land transaction referred to houses and buildings on the property, but did not provide specifics on what structures were present (Provincial Court Land Records, 1770-1774, Volume 726, pages 379-381, accessed online at [www.msa.md.gov](http://www.msa.md.gov)).

Want Water was a four-bay-by-two-bay, gambrel-roofed, one-and-a-half story structure. The house was a one room deep, center-hall plan building with a single room on either side of the hall. The front and rear elevations were wood frame with brick end walls laid in Flemish bond with a molded brick water table. The front and rear elevations both had three four-over-four sash gabled dormer windows. On the first floor the east and west elevations there were five

windows. On either side of the entrances narrow, six-over-six sash windows flanked the doors. The three remaining windows on either elevation were nine-over-nine lights. Entrances were located on the east and west elevations as well as the north. The east and west elevation entrances were located across from each other, but slightly off-center (HABS ND 17-BROCK, Addendum to HABS No. MD-10-7).

Drawings of Want Water created in 1924 and by HABS in 1935 differ in their documentation of the house. The earlier drawings document doors instead of windows in the north and south end walls. The 1924 drawings show a doorway at the northwest corner of the north end. The HABS drawings and photographs document the door, but also include doors on either side of the fireplace on the south wall. These are documented as windows in the 1924 drawings. The revision of the 1935 HABS documentation states that plaster found on the exterior south end wall indicates a single-story addition that was likely a kitchen. The addition, “would have necessitated doorways at the south end. It would appear that the south-end bays were windows, changed into doorways (when the kitchen was added), and back to windows again (when the kitchen was removed)” (HABS ND 17-BROCK, Addendum to HABS No. MD-10-7). The HABS addendum also states the house’s center-hall plan was atypical of the period, and because of its size, fine interior wood paneling and sturdy construction, it was not typical of other houses in the region during this period and likely belonged to a person of means (HABS ND 17-BROCK, Addendum to HABS No. MD-10-7).

#### CURRENT

During the Battersea Driving Company’s occupation of Harmony Hall, the property underwent some modifications. In 1987, an addition to the south elevation was constructed. The one-and-a-half story structure tapers back slightly from the Collins era addition, so it is not flush with the front façade. The east elevation has a gable roof porch with a pediment, pilasters and modified Tuscan order columns with rounded shafts. A single six-over-six gabled dormer window with pediment and a single six-over-six window are located to the south of the entrance. On the south elevation there are three symmetrical French doors with fanlights. A French door with fanlight is also found on the west elevation and is flanked by one six-over-six window to the north and south. Two six-over-six gabled dormer windows are located on the upper level. During FY 2018, structural deterioration was observed on both the east and west porches of the structure. The columns of the east elevation porch were deteriorating due to a combination of water and insect damage. Vegetation and the habitation of a ground hog under the west elevation porch were undermining the integrity of the feature. In general, paint was delaminating from the fascia of the structure. The gutter system on the west elevation of Harmony Hall was broken. Please reference the attached Existing Condition Appendix to view the issues.

At the time of the HABS documentation of Want Water, the house was already in a state of deterioration. In a 1938 letter Collins described the house as being “in a very bad state of repair” (Collins Papers). In correspondence Collins mentioned plans to restore the house or move the building and attach it to Harmony Hall. No restoration work was completed. By the

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

time Charles Collins died in 1964, the wood frame structure had collapsed and only the brick end walls remained. Today, only the brick end walls remain. During the Battersea Driving Company's lease of Harmony Hall the company owners removed bricks from Want Water and used them in the construction of walkways and a patio at Harmony Hall. The decline of the remains of Want Water continues with the integrity of the structure deteriorating further.

As stated previously, during the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, it was deemed necessary to reclassify the Collins Era Buildings. Of these features, only the bungalow retains enough integrity to be classified as a building. However, the building is in need of repair. The structure exhibits water damage along the roof line, the plaster is delaminating from the exterior, and the architectural ghosts of former porches and shutters are visible, recalling the former configuration of the structure.

The Battersea Company constructed an eight-bay cinderblock stable during their occupation located south of the house. The building is a single story horizontal structure with a gable roof and intersecting gable over the eastern elevation entrance. A bull's eye window is located over the eastern entrance. The building has three rounded arch entries located at the north elevation and the center of the east and west elevations. In FY 2018, some of the panels of the west elevation were broken, allowing vines and vegetation to encroach into the interior of the structure.

#### EVALUATION

The buildings and structures at Harmony Hall contribute to the historic character of the site and evoke both the eighteenth century and Collins era landscapes. The absence of the majority of the outbuildings lessen the historic agricultural character of the site. The loss of these buildings also diminishes the historic character of the property during the Collins era. Despite these losses, Harmony Hall retains integrity for its buildings and structures.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Harmony Hall
Feature Identification Number:	154387
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	12140
LCS Structure Name:	Harmony Hall
LCS Structure Number:	022A
Feature:	Want Water
Feature Identification Number:	154385
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	17238

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

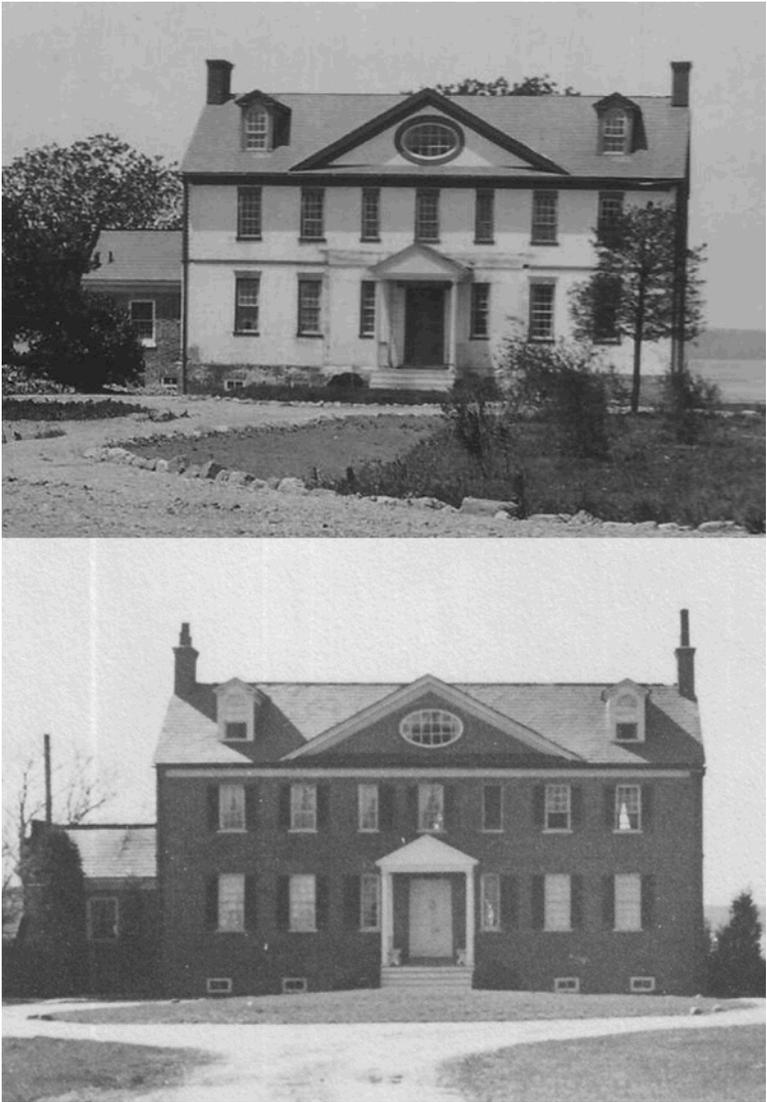
---

LCS Structure Name: Want Water  
LCS Structure Number: 022A-01  
Feature: Bungalow  
Feature Identification Number: 154389  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Horse Stable  
Feature Identification Number: 154391  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Harmony Hall  
National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*Harmony Hall before and after restoration, east elevation (Collins Papers)*

Harmony Hall  
National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*Harmony Hall, east elevation (NCR CLP 2018).*

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*View of the south and east elevation of Harmony Hall (NCR CLP 2018).*



*Battersea Riding Company Barn (NCR CLP 2018).*

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*The Bungalow (NCR CLP 2018).*

Harmony Hall  
National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*Want Water, top: 1930s (HAHA 10708), bottom: 2011 (CLP).*



*The remains of Want Water (NCR CLP 2018).*

### **Circulation**

#### Historic

The historic circulation system at Harmony Hall consisted of internal roads accessing the house, fields, Want Water, and Broad Creek. Maps, deeds, photographs, and other documents from the two periods of significance, 1708 to 1786 and 1929 to 1962, indicate that historically Harmony Hall and Want Water did not have extensive circulation systems. Additional research on the earlier period of significance may provide further information on circulation patterns and reveal the existence of other roads through the property. During the 1700s, the Piscataway Road was one of the major thoroughfares in the area and provided access to the property. The road dates to the eighteenth century and traveled between Piscataway, MD, Washington, and Bladensburg, MD. Presumably this is the road depicted on the 1794 Griffith map of Maryland

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

(Dennis Griffith, "Map of the State of Maryland..." 1795, Library of Congress). It is nearly the same alignment as a road identified as the Piscataway Road on nineteenth century maps.

Early maps do not provide information on the internal circulation of the property. There is limited documentation of roads accessing Want Water in Enoch Magruder's 1785 will. The will states, "...the Rode through the Gate to the main Rode which comes from Piscataway to Broad Creek Church then down by and with the main Rode to my line of Ballersey to the Gate" (Copy of Enoch Magruder's will located in the Collins Papers). The will does not provide information on Harmony Hall's circulation.

The 2011 Broad Creek Historic District National Register Nomination provided some information on the remains of the historic circulation system accessing Want Water. The nomination states, "purportedly, the remnants of a brick-paved roadway that bordered the creek area between Want Water and St. John's Episcopal Church have been uncovered"( Broad Creek Historic District National Register Nomination (BCHDNRN), 2011:6). The nomination notes that portions of a Want Water/Broad Creek Canal towpath are located to the west of the house. It also states that park service employees uncovered a brick roadway buried beneath 6 inches of ground in 2003 while completing stabilization work at Want Water (BCHDNRN, 2011:6, 21). The roadway "is comprised of 5x5" square, redbrick pavers and...of a 4" depth" (BCHDNRN 21). The Historic American Building Survey documented brick paving leading to the eastern entrance measuring 14.3' (HABS MD, 17-BROCK, 2-1). Further research is necessary to determine the significance of the brick roadways and the possible canal towpath.

A Civil War era map may offer some information on the circulation system at Harmony Hall during the earlier period of significance. A property that is likely Harmony Hall is accessed by a single straight road or driveway from the Piscataway Road. The manor house at Want Water does not appear to be depicted on the map. No other internal circulation routes are noted (Map of Area near Broad Creek and Indian Queen Bluff, n.d., accessed at <http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/jpgs/cwbrcr.jpg>).

During the Collins period, two drives, possibly three, accessed the property. One entered from the southeast, passed the servants' quarters and continued on to the garage and other buildings located south of the house. There, it terminated at a circular drive. A more formal drive to the house entered the property from the northeast. The slightly curved roadway also terminated at a circular drive in front of Harmony Hall. Internal circulation included a road extending from the southeastern entrance drive and continuing through the woods and pastures south of the house. This road may have exited the property, but it is unclear in photographs. Other roads included a drive heading north from the house which intersected with a road heading west across the pasture to Want Water. At Want Water a road traveled along the banks of the canal and continued on the southern edge of western pasture at Harmony Hall.

Current

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

The entrance driveway from the northeast of the property is now covered in vegetation, though a road trace is still visible. The driveway to the southeast is now the entrance to the property. During the Battersea Company's occupation a new driveway was constructed between the two historic entrances. It is also covered in vegetation. The circular drive is still in place at the entrance of the house. The Battersea Company also constructed brick pathways crisscrossing the section of lawn at the center of the circular driveway. The farm roads to the north and south of the house and the road heading west to Want Water are now traces. A path along the canal to Want Water may be a remnant of the historic road that led from Harmony Hall to Want Water or may be the remains of the canal towpath. Trails blazed by local horseback riders are located south of the entrance drive near the Collins era outbuilding ruins. Additional trails created by locals accessing the property on foot and by horse are found in the wooded area southeast of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission pumping station.

#### Evaluation

The circular driveway and the southeastern entrance drive are the most prominent features remaining from the Collins period. They retain their historic alignment and contribute to the historic character of the property. Though the other features of the circulation system are now road traces, they retain some historic character. The circulation system at Harmony Hall retains integrity.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Driveway

Feature Identification Number: 154393

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road Traces

Feature Identification Number: 154395

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trails

Feature Identification Number: 154407

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Battersea Company Era Patio and Walkways

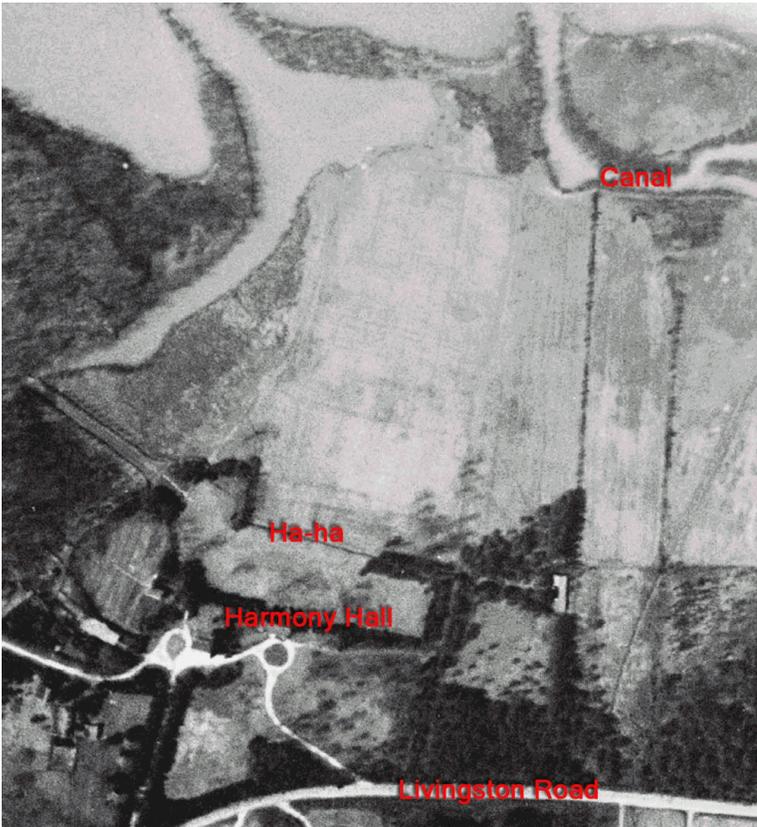
Feature Identification Number: 154429

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Charles Collins, formal entrance drive, early 1930s (Collins Papers).*



*Harmony Hall circulation, 1949 (NCR GIS).*



*Battersea Company era brick patio and walks (NACE).*



*The trail and historic terrace system located south of Harmony Hall on the slopes adjacent to Slash Creek. The network consists of stone walls, gutters, and stairs lining the pathway (NCR CLP 2018).*

## **Vegetation**

### **HISTORIC**

Information on the vegetation present at Harmony Hall prior to the Collins era is limited. Maps, wills, and other documents provide some specifics, but not a significant amount of information regarding agricultural production and the designed landscape.

Documents related to a 1709 sale of Battersea reported orchards and gardens were found on the property, but no other information is provided on the type or variety of vegetation (Marilyn Nickles files, NACE). Specific crops grown at Battersea were reported in a 1745 deposition regarding the property's boundaries. Then owner Thomas Lewis reportedly grew corn near the

confluence of Broad and Slash (Clash) Creeks (Sonderman 1993: 10).

Battersea operated as a plantation or tenant farm under successive owners. Further research is necessary to determine the crops grown. The Lyles family remained at Want Water until the mid-nineteenth century and grew tobacco on their 180 acres of land. Tobacco was the dominant crop in Maryland and Prince George's County eventually led the state in tobacco production. Enoch Magruder's 1786 property inventory indicates he had switched from tobacco farming to fishing. At the time of his death, Magruder owned "three old tobacco skows" along with hauling rope and three large nets, one of which is listed as new (Pearl, 23).

Charles Collins' correspondence and photographs of the property from the early 1930s through the mid-1940s provides information on the trees, seasonal flowers and crops he planted, as well as the condition of the land. At the time he bought the property, the landscape had been neglected and was severally eroded in places. Collins began raising livestock and growing produce shortly after acquiring the land. Presumably because of Want Water's condition and Collins' plans to restore the house in the future, his records do not include any references to the use or improvement of Want Water's landscape.

Collins transformed Harmony Hall's landscape from the unkempt condition in which he found it to his vision of a colonial era garden within a few years of purchasing the property. Collins cleared out the overgrown lawns and pastures surrounding the house, as well as a possible remnant orchard. He planted shrubs along the entrance drive to Harmony Hall and in the field east of the house. On the west side of the property, the pasture was clear of vegetation to the river (MRCE HAHA 10677). Outside the western entrance Collins laid out a semicircular arrangement of boxwood surrounded by seasonal flowers. The shrubs and flowers framed a brick terrace he installed adjacent to the entrance to the house. He also planted boxwood to the north and south of this arrangement and to either side of the eastern entrance of the house. Among Collins' papers were undated sketches and landscape plans that included a formal flower garden, drying yard and much of the property enclosed by what appears to be a hedge.

In the 1930s, Collins corresponded with state and federal forestry agencies concerning reforesting his land. In a letter to the department of agriculture in the fall of 1933, Collins asked for assistance with reforesting seven acres of land "on a slope leading down to tidewater... with a thin covering of humus upon which soy beans have been sowed for the last four years. This portion is clean of vegetation...The upper portion is...covered with field pines" (Collins Papers). In a letter to the State Department of Forestry Collins also wrote during that period, he stated he planned to reforest about ten acres and requested information on the methods for planting pines and cedars. Collins' papers also include copies of his correspondence with, and order submitted to, a state operated nursery. He selected seedlings the nursery indicated were intended for reforesting property, as well as varieties for planting on private property adjacent to public roads.

In September 1935, Collins received a letter from the State Department of Forestry

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

acknowledging his order of 500 Scotch pines and 1,000 loblolly pines. Loblolly, or shortleaf, pine (*Pinus taeda*) is commonly found in the Black Belt region of Alabama where Collins was raised. It is fitting that he chose evergreen trees in his effort to recreate a landscape reminiscent of his home state (<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org>; Owen 1921: 604, 607).

In a letter to the Department of Agriculture also written in September 1935, Collins stated he had two to three thousand young cedars “on the borders of the grounds” (Collins Papers). Photographs from the early 1930s show a long line of cedars stretching to the north and south of the house. To the south of Harmony Hall the trees continue past the outbuildings, shielding them from view. An aerial photograph of the property taken in 1960 shows the southeast driveway and the eastern edge of the property bordering Livingston Road are thick with trees and likely the cedar Collins referred to in his 1935 letter. Like the loblolly, or shortleaf, pine (*Pinus taeda*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) were found in the Black Belt of Alabama and again, Collins choice of cedar would have fit into his plan for a landscape inspired by his home state (Owen 1921: 604, 607).

Further research is necessary to determine how much of his reforestation plan Collins implemented, but correspondence and later inventories of the timber on his property indicate that he at least partially carried out his plans.

By World War II, Collins had established his farm and was growing wheat and rye. He was involved in the War Food Program and also sold timber from his property to support the war effort. Documentation associated with his involvement with both programs states that in 1944 and 1945 he was growing corn, rye, and alfalfa. Trees on his property included white, red and black oaks, tulip poplar, sweet gum, black gum, beech, elm, ash, sycamore, Virginia pine and shortleaf pine. In a statement appealing the draft into the military of one of his employees, Collins listed the crops grown and the acreage of the farm. “The farm is approximately 210 acres. Grows 80 acres of corn, 10 acres of Kaffir corn, 20 acres of Russian giant sunflower, 20 acres of alfalfa, 40 acres for pasture and the rest is woodland” (Collins Papers). Aerial photographs from 1949 and 1957 reveal that the pastures to the west of the house remained cleared. The photographs also show a clearing south of Harmony Hall with visible crop patterns. The area is screened by trees. The pictures also reveals the fields east of Want Water were cleared as well and trees surrounded the house.

The aerial photographs also provide some insight on the designed landscape. In 1949, trees line the southeastern entrance drive and along Livingston Road (NCR GIS; <http://www.historicaerials.com/>). The 1957 image reveals additional trees to the southeast of the circular entrance driveway and a line of trees to the north and south of the house. The photograph also shows trees lining the road east of Slash (Clash) Creek located between open land and a wooded area. The alignment of the trees suggests an allee. The variety of trees is difficult to determine. The photograph also reveals that the vegetation immediately surrounding Want Water has thinned by this time, but trees still line the bank of Broad Creek. (NCR GIS; <http://www.historicaerials.com/>)

## CURRENT

Vegetation from the Collins era that survives at Harmony Hall includes loblolly (or short leaf) pine (*Pinus taeda*), rows of red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) on the west side of the house to the north and south and boxwood, also to the north and south of western entrance to the house. The boxwood located at the eastern entrance to the house are non-extant. Several red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) bordering the western pasture may date to the Collins period, but this pasture was largely free of vegetation while Collins resided at the house. The fields surrounding Want Water, once cleared of vegetation, are now woodland. The clearing south of the house, visible in historic aerials, is also forested.

According to the 2002 Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study, a "cypress walk" was one of the improvements Collins stated he made to the property (BCHD 2002: 33). The design of the walk and its location is unclear. This feature may be the allee-like arrangement east of Slash (Clash) Creek visible in the 1957 aerial photograph. The presence of bald cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) was not indicated in earlier timber inventories, but Collins discussed planting cypress in correspondence with the Maryland forestry agency and may have ordered the trees from the state operated nursery. A copy of an order form in his records shows that he intended to order ten cypress trees. A small number of bald cypress have been reported on the grounds, but this needs to be confirmed. Because of storm damage, an assessment of the trees along the road trace east of Slash Creek was not possible. Further research is necessary to determine their variety and if this is the cypress walk Collins described.

During the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, the cypress walk, or allee, was confirmed in the cultural landscape. The feature consists of two parallel rows of cypress trees extending north from Slash Creek on either side of an avenue that is lined with short decorative fence. The specimens are evenly spaced and appear to be in good health with some saplings sprouting from the root system. The allee, due to the low elevation of the feature, is inundated daily with the tidal changes from the Potomac and the soil is muddy in nature. The exact specimen of cypress were not determined during the site visit. A second set of cypress trees form a row perpendicular to the allee along the bank of Slash Creek. Due to the height and dbh of these two sets of cypress trees, it is assumed that the trees were planted at the same time.

It was observed during the site visit that woody vegetation is encroaching and lessening the amount of open space associated with the western pasture. Maintenance staff confirmed that the pasture had not been mown in five years, which has allowed the prolific growth of cedar trees and other native shrubs. Clumps of bramble dot the cultural landscape, often indicative of the presence of landscape features.

While documenting the ha-ha, NCR and NACE staff discovered a remnant apple specimen on the northern terminus of the wall. It is speculated based on the size and growth pattern of the

tree, that it likely dates from the Collins Era. The tree is likely associated with the historic orchard that was referenced in papers associated with the plantation during the Collins ownership. Additional research is needed regarding the origins of the tree.

Collins planted a pine stand during his ownership of the plantation to the north and west of the house as a part of a reforestation effort. The pine stand is a discernable feature on the landscape as the vegetative composition is distinct from the deciduous growth surrounding the pine trees. The stand appears healthy, with the specimens growing tall with little to no listing. The park should continue to monitor the health of the trees. The reader is advised to take caution prior to entering the pine stand, as barbed wire was scattered throughout the trees and presents a safety hazard.

#### EVALUATION

Though some of the features of the Collins era landscape are no longer extant, the remaining elements, including the boxwood, cedar, pine, and the cleared pasture west of the house, evoke the historic landscape and retain some integrity.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Pine
Feature Identification Number:	154693
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Boxwood
Feature Identification Number:	154403
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Cedar
Feature Identification Number:	154405
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	West Pasture
Feature Identification Number:	154445
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	cypress walk
Feature Identification Number:	169207
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Cypress Row

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Feature Identification Number: 184331

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pine Stand

Feature Identification Number: 184333

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Apple Tree

Feature Identification Number: 184335

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Boxwood and cedars, west elevation, n.d. (MRCE HAHA 10744).*

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---



*West lawn of Harmony Hall (NCR CLP 2018).*



*View of the meadow. In recent years, woody vegetative growth has flourished (NCR CLP 2018).*

### **Views and Vistas**

#### Historic

Historic views at Harmony Hall included those to and from the house to the Potomac. The house's location, on a slight rise and set back roughly 300 yards from the shore of Broad Creek, likely provided travelers on the Potomac with a view of the building depending on the tree cover along the creek bank and to the west of the house. Photographs from the late 1920s or early 1930s show a clear view to the building from the west. Though the picture is taken at a distance from the house, it is unclear if the photograph was taken from the banks of Broad Creek. Historic pictures also reveal a clear view across the west pasture to Broad Creek and the Potomac River from the house.

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

When Harmony Hall was constructed, the Potomac River was a major transportation route and the western, or river front, entrance to the house was the formal entrance. When Charles Collins purchased the property in the 1920s, Livingston Road, on the east side of the house, was its primary access and a major road through the area. Collins created a formal entrance to the house from Livingston Road with large stone and wood gates, a meandering drive to the front door and a straight, tree lined driveway to service areas. Vehicles on Livingston Road had a “peek-a-boo” view of the house through the trees lining the street.

#### Current

The 1980 National Register Nomination for Harmony Hall described the view from the house as, “a marvelous open vista from Harmony Hall to Broad Creek and the Potomac River” (National Register Nomination, 2). At the time of the completion of the original CLI, the view has changed little from the time of the NR, with only a small number of trees are scattered to the west of the ha ha. Heavy foliage from the trees along the shore partially obstructed views to and from the house in the spring and summer. However, by FY 2018, members of the park maintenance staff revealed that mowing had not occurred in the pasture in approximately five years. This lack of mowing had allowed vegetation to grow along the river edge, as well as in the field proper. Tall grasses, woody vegetation, and cedar trees were all observed in the space, with the amount of open area reduced from the time of the original CLI. This growth in vegetation is impacting the integrity of the view to the Potomac River as it is obscuring the vantage of the viewer. Should these practices continue, the view will be lost.

The “peek-a-boo” view from Livingston Road remains intact though heavy foliage may obstruct the view during some months of the year.

#### Evaluation

Harmony Hall's historic views retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	View to the Potomac River
Feature Identification Number:	154381
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	View from the Potomac River
Feature Identification Number:	154383
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	View from Livingston Road
Feature Identification Number:	154691
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Collins era view to Broad Creek and Potomac River (MRCE HAHA-10692)*



*View to Broad Creek and Potomac River from Harmony Hall (CLP 2011).*



*View towards Broad Creek and the Potomac River from Harmony Hall (NCR CLP 2018).*

### **Archeological Sites**

In 1985, the National Capital Region's Regional Archeology Program began a three-year study of Harmony Hall. More than 30,000 artifacts dating from the 17th through the 19th centuries were uncovered which provided valuable information on the history and occupation of the property. Refuse pits, a brick kiln, evidence of the late 1600s to early 1700s structure, and an additional wing to the manor house were found during the study. Identification of contributing and non-contributing archeological sites is outside the scope of the CLI, but the Regional Archeology Program's study indicates the potential for contributing resources within the project area.

Beginning in the early 1930s, Collins erected several buildings to the southeast of the manor house. Some of these buildings were identified in the 1980 National Register Nomination as servants' quarters, a smokehouse, garage, bungalow, and several sheds. A barn or similar structure located in the same area as the buildings mentioned in the National Register nomination appears in photographs from the early Collins period. An aerial photograph from 1949 documents a large structure, possibly a barn, north of the ha-ha and northwest of Harmony Hall. Because of heavy vegetation in later aerial photographs it is unclear when the structure was removed. In his notes on the restoration of Harmony Hall, Collins mentions a well house on the property that was constructed out of material from a duplicate well house. Though in a state of disrepair, the National Register Nomination provided descriptions of the structures, but the well house is not among the structures described. Further research is necessary to determine if there were additional structures erected during the Collins era.

National Register nomination descriptions of Collins era outbuildings:

Servant's Quarters #1 – one-and-a-half story frame servant's cabin of board and batten with overhanging front porch supported by a pair of log posts. The ridge of the roof is pierced by a brick chimney which runs from the middle of the ridge line to the middle of the one room cabin. The building has windows on the other three sides.

Servant's Quarters #2 – Very similar in design to the Servant's Quarters #1, this cabin differs

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

in that it has four wooden posts supporting the front porch. Both cabins are located along the south gravel road into Harmony Hall from Livingston Road. They are the beginning of the “plantation street” style cluster of outbuildings.

Garage – This modern garage, built around 1930, has been carefully fitted into the historic scene and serves to complement the “plantation street” buildings nearby. It is located 50 yards south of Harmony Hall itself and fits into the whole complex unobtrusively.

Smokehouse – A one story small clapboard building with pyramidal roof. It is painted white and fits into the “plantation street” motif.

Bungalow – A two-story, concrete-block bungalow with metal roof and dormer on east side. Main entrance is at the north side through an enclosed gabled porch. The building was erected in the early twentieth century.

Shed – Located approximately 75 yards south of Harmony Hall, this small one room, one story frame shed has board and batten siding and a metal overhanging gabled roof. A metal flashing painted white covers the siding and the stone foundation up to a level of about three feet. This building was built around the turn of the 20th century.

Shed – This frame shed is located directly east of the garage (about 15 yards) and directly south of the main house (about 60 yards).

Log Shed – A building made of roughly hewn logs and planks about 29-25 feet high standing about 25 yards south of the entrance road to Harmony Hall. The bottom six feet of the building is open to the ground, giving it the appearance of being a building on stilts. The building looks precarious. It is separated from the rest of the plantation by a chain-link fence.

At the time of the initial completion of the Harmony Hall CLI, most of the outbuildings Collins constructed were noted as being in extreme disrepair or being no longer extant. The garage, smokehouse, servants’ quarters, and the sheds were no longer extant. One of the servants’ quarters was partial extant. A collapsed wood frame structure located southeast of the house is possibly one of the servants’ quarters or one of the sheds described in the National Register nomination. A structure located near this building may date to the Collins period, but further research is necessary. The building was a single story, vertical, shed roof structure that may have been used to house chickens. It was in poor condition. The bungalow housing Collins’ office was still extant, but was recorded as needing repair.

At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, the Collins Era Buildings had further decayed and declined into a state of ruin. The structures were not maintained and did not receive stabilization. As a result, extant walls and foundations walls are barely, if at all visible, in the cultural landscape today. Remnants of metal roofs are the only indicators of the former location of some of the previously documented structures. The forest canopy has encroached upon the

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

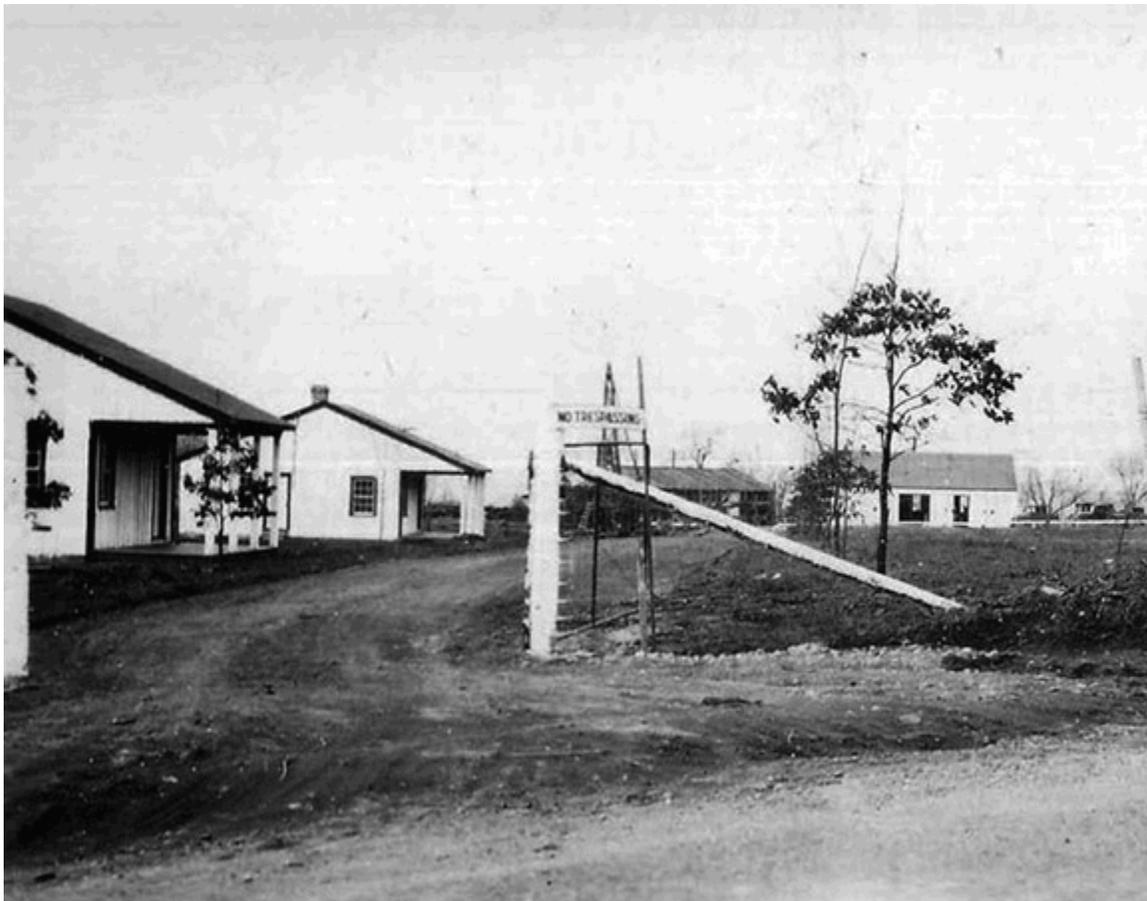
---

structures. The Collins Era Buildings have lost integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, setting, and in some instances location. Therefore, after discussion with park cultural resources staff, it has become necessary to reclassify the Collins Era Buildings to archeological sites. These features are contributing to the cultural landscape.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Former Collins Era Buildings  
Feature Identification Number: 184351  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Collins era outbuildings, 1930s (Collins Papers, University of Maryland).*



*Conditions of two Collins era outbuildings (CLP 2011).*



*The Collins Era Buildings at the time of the FY 2018 Site Visit. Due to the condition, the resources were reclassified (NCR CLP 2018).*

**Small Scale Features**

HISTORIC

Documentation of Harmony Hall from the 1708-1786 period of significance provides little, if

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

any, information on small scale features at the property. Enoch Magruder's 1785 will identifies a gate along one of the property's roads, but no description of the feature is provided and determining its location is difficult with the information provided. Photographs and textual records from the Collins period of significance (1929-1962) identify a limited number of small scale features which include fencing, gates, and paving.

Photographs from the Collins era reveal he installed what appears to be wire and post fencing bisecting the western pasture from north to south. Photographs also capture picket fencing on the property, but the location is difficult to determine. Collins erected formal entrance gates to Harmony Hall at both the northeast and southeast driveways. The wooden gates stand approximately 5' tall with stone pillars capped with spherical finials. The gates close at the center and are attached to wooden gate posts by metal strap hinges. Vertical iron poles with pointed tips spaced approximately 6 inches apart line the gates. Square wire fencing is located on either side of the gate. Photographs of the formal entrance drive from the early 1930s show large stones along the drive's borders. These do not appear in later Collins era photographs.

In the early 1930s, Collins installed a brick terrace outside the river front entrance. The terrace measured 24' by 5'5" and the brick was laid in a herringbone pattern. A center latching iron gate with decorative scrollwork is located at the western edge of the terrace. The gate is attached to brick piers measuring approximately 2.5' high. Additional brick paving was installed at the eastern entrance of the house between the driveway and the porch steps.

In the early 1930s, Charles Collins constructed a ha-ha wall across the length of the pasture west of the house. A ha-ha is a garden border, frequently a retaining wall, concealed in a trench and constructed to maintain views while preventing livestock from entering formal gardens. The ha-ha originated in France and was introduced to England in the eighteenth century. At Harmony Hall, the ha-ha kept sheep away from the small formal garden outside the western entrance of the house and preserved the view across the western pasture to Broad Creek and the Potomac River. The ha-ha is constructed of random dry rubble and is approximately 3' wide, 2' deep and 75 yards long.

Documentation of the small scale features at Want Water is limited to the Historic American Building Survey drawings and photographs. Like Harmony Hall, a brick terrace is located outside the river front entrance measuring 5.5' by 6' by 3¼' (HABS MD, 17-BROCK, 2-1).

#### Current

Fencing at Harmony Hall dating to the historic period includes square wire fencing along the eastern border of the property. The Collins era northeast entrance gate remains, but is in poor condition. One of the gate post finials is missing and the other is not attached to the post. At the southeast entrance one gate post remains and the finial is missing. The entrance is secured by a chain attached to metal posts. The brick terrace outside the western elevation is also in poor

## Harmony Hall

### National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

condition, but extant. The iron gate located at the edge of the terrace is extant.

During the Battersea Driving Company's occupation of Harmony Hall they constructed a corral with wooden post and rail fencing in the yard on the east side of the property. They also erected a wooden post and rail fence with square wire fencing to enclose a brick terrace (also referred to as a sculpture garden) they laid to the south of the house. Picket fencing that may date to the Collins era is located adjacent to the terrace. Want Water is enclosed with split rail fencing.

The condition of the fence lines throughout the cultural landscape varied in FY 2018. The post and rail fencing and those associated with the Battersea Driving Company occupancy of the property were the most intact, but were still exhibiting signs of failure due to the growth of vegetation along the course of the features. The decorative wire fencing, located on the exterior of the cypress allee, retains integrity of location, design, and materials, but does not form a continuous fence line as was originally intended. The fence is heavily rusted and the location within the tidal flood plain presents a risk to the loss of the feature. Other fences previously identified are largely reduced to remnants with posts and partial barriers intact.

At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, the brick terrace, or sculpture garden, located on the south elevation of Harmony Hall was inundated with grasses growing from the mortar joints of the feature. At this time the brick pavers were not visible, but with minimal removal efforts could once again be exposed. The Battersea Driving Company circle drive, previously documented as an intact stone outlined wheel, is reduced to the mound and a few prominent stones.

Also during the FY 2018, the Collins Era terrace, located to the south of Harmony Hall was rediscovered. The feature is visible in an aerial photograph dating to 1949 and a subsequent photograph from the 1960s. Lidar and aerial photographs indicate at least six levels defined the feature historically. However, the site visit could only ground truth the presence of four terrace levels. The feature consist of a series of well defined terraces, braced with dry-laid stacked stone retaining walls, typically a foot and a half in height. Each terrace level is relatively even with a slight slope to the south and the retaining wall. Remnants of brick edging is present in the terraces. A series of stone lined channels define the pathways. Bisecting the historic terrace feature is a stone stair path. The stairs are located at the transition of each of the terraces. The path aligns with the termination of the cypress allee. A combination of vinca and daffodils were observed in the feature at the time of the site visit.

The ha-ha retains integrity of location, but in some sections it has collapsed or vegetation is growing between the stones or along the trench bottom. Bramble and woody vegetation are currently obscuring the feature. In places along the course of the ha-ha, the wall has lost integrity of materials and workmanship due to complete collapse. Should the condition of the wall continue to decline, the ha-ha will be lost.

Evaluation

Though the remaining small scale features from the later period of significance are in need of repair, they retain some integrity and evoke the historic character of the site.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Entrance Gate  
Feature Identification Number: 154397  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Collins era terrace  
Feature Identification Number: 154431  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Iron terrace gate and brick piers.  
Feature Identification Number: 154435  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Battersea Driving Company Fencing  
Feature Identification Number: 154399  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Split Rail Fencing at Want Water  
Feature Identification Number: 154437  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Decorative Wire Fencing  
Feature Identification Number: 184337  
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Split Rail and Mesh Fencing  
Feature Identification Number: 184339  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature: Barbed Wire Fence  
Feature Identification Number: 184341

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – incompatible

Feature: Well

Feature Identification Number: 184343

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Chicken Pen

Feature Identification Number: 184345

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature: Pine Stand Gate

Feature Identification Number: 184357

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Post and Rail Fence

Feature Identification Number: 184359

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: ha-ha wall

Feature Identification Number: 184353

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Terrace on the south elevation

Feature Identification Number: 184363

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

*Entrance gate, 1930s (MRCE HAHA-10737-1).*



*Northeast entrance gate (CLP 2011).*



*Ha-ha wall at the time of the site visit. Vegetation is undermining the integrity of the structure (NCR CLP 2018).*



*Representative example of post and rail fencing in the cultural landscape. This particular fence line is located south of Harmony Hall (NCR CLP 2018).*

### **Natural Systems and Features**

#### Historic Condition

The Potomac River, Broad Creek, and Slash (or Clash) Creek are the primary natural systems in the area. The two bodies of water are tributaries of the Potomac River and are tidal in nature. As a result of the tidal nature of the site, marshes, with characteristic tidal vegetation have developed west of the creeks and serves as the transition to the Potomac River. The banks of Broad Creek make up the western borders of Harmony Hall and Want Water. In 1749, Humphrey Batts, the owner of Want Water, constructed a canal at the confluence of Broad and Slash Creek

#### Current

No further human modifications have occurred to the cultural landscape hydrological features since that time. However, the tidal flats at the mouth of the creek may have shifted over time and siltation may have occurred. The creeks are defined by riparian vegetation and serve as the habitat of water fowl.

Evaluation

Harmony Hall's natural systems retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

**Character-defining Features:**

- Feature: Broad Creek
- Feature Identification Number: 154425
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Slash (or Clash) Creek
- Feature Identification Number: 154427
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Marsh
- Feature Identification Number: 184329
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Slash Creek, looking west towards the Potomac River (NCR CLP 2018).*

## **Topography**

### Historic

Harmony Hall's topography is characterized by the gradual rise in the site's elevation from 2 to 40 feet above sea level. The bank of Broad Creek is the property's lowest point. The yard east of Harmony Hall is the property's highest point at 40 feet above sea level and Harmony Hall sits at 38 feet above sea level. Other topographic features include a shallow creek bed in the wooded area to the southeast of the house.

The topography was altered in the early 1930s when Charles Collins constructed a ha-ha across the length of the pasture west of the house.

#### Evaluation

The topography has not been altered since the period of significance.

#### **Spatial Organization**

##### Historic

Topographic and natural features determined much of the spatial organization of Harmony Hall. Harmony Hall, located 38 feet above sea level and one of the higher points on the property, served as the focal point and governed the location of other landscape features. Though there is little information on the spatial organization of the property during the earlier period of significance (1708-1786), it is likely some outbuildings were located near Harmony Hall to support the household and the operation of the plantation. A Civil War era map of the property may provide some information on the spatial organization during the earlier period of significance (Map of Area Near Broad Creek and Indian Queen Bluff, n.d., accessed at <http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/jpgs/cwbrcr.jpg>). The map depicts several structures located near the house as well as northeast of the building. Further research is necessary to determine if these buildings date to the eighteenth century.

Documentation of Want Water during the earlier period of significance makes note of other structures, but provides no information on the layout of the site. It can be assumed the canal and the tobacco inspection warehouse determined the location of buildings and other landscape features, but further research is necessary to identify where these structures were located.

In the 1930s and early 1940s, Charles Collins constructed several outbuildings adjacent to Harmony Hall and located south and east of the house. Some of these building supported the farm operations and were placed where access would be convenient. Others buildings identified in drawings as servants' quarters were built along the south side of the southeastern driveway.

Vegetation and circulation patterns created during the Collins era contributed to the spatial organization of the property. Rows of cedar trees extending to the north and south of the house separated the functions of the property. The eastern side of the property contained buildings related to the operation of the farm and household. The western elevation was the historic formal entrance to the house. There, Collins built a terrace and cleared the pasture to maintain river and creek views. The cedars served as a screen and kept the outbuildings and other structures on the eastern side of the house from view.

In the early 1930s, Collins added an additional entrance drive to the property. The new drive entered the property from the northeast and curved towards a circular drive at the eastern entrance of the house. Trees lined a driveway entering the property from the southeast and passing the outbuildings, again serving as a screen.

##### Current

The spatial organization at Harmony Hall has undergone some change since the Collins period (1929-1962). Most of the outbuildings Collins erected are non-extant and the area where they stood is now wooded. Several of the cedars Charles Collins planted to the north and south of the house remain. The Battersea Driving Company erected a stable, but it is located where Collins era outbuildings had stood, so it does not alter the historic spatial organization of the site. Want Water remains as it was at the time of Collins' died in 1964.

#### Evaluation

Although several features that contributed to the spatial organization of the site are non-extant, the defining feature, Harmony Hall, remains in place. With the exception of the Battersea Driving Company barn, nothing has been constructed in the place of the Collins era outbuildings to alter the historic organization of the site. Harmony Hall retains integrity of spatial organization.

#### Constructed Water Features

In 1749, Humphrey Batts, the owner of Want Water plantation, constructed a canal at the confluence of Broad and Slash Creeks in order to better serve his tobacco warehouse customers (Pearl 2002: 34). As a designated inspection point for the crop, farmers were required by law to have tobacco inspected prior to shipment in order to ensure quality and integrity of Maryland tobacco. The canal allowed for farmers to ship their tobacco on the Potomac to the warehouse at Want Water prior to the embarking to tobacco markets in Europe. The feature was likely constructed using slave labor. In 1932, Charles Collins initiated a restoration campaign in the Harmony Hall cultural landscape that including dredging and extending the canal to provide the Piscataway House with easier access to Broad Creek (Pearl 2002: 32). The canal at present measures approximately 22'-25' wide and 1000' long. Today the feature remains legible in the cultural landscape with the Potomac River and the tidal marshes forming the western edge of the feature. The canal is bound by Want Water on east or berm side of the feature.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Want Water Canal
Feature Identification Number:	184361
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	210940
LCS Structure Name:	Want Water; Canal
LCS Structure Number:	022A-04

#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Want Water Canal (NCR CLP 2018).*

**Condition**

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 08/20/2012

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The Condition Assessment Date refers to the date the park superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI. This determination takes into account both the landscape and the buildings situated therein. In order to raise the condition of the property to good the park should complete the following:

**Condition Assessment:** Poor

**Assessment Date:** 09/30/2018

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

During FY 2018, the cultural landscape received a Condition Assessment of 'Poor.'

'Poor' indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Problems identified include, but are not limited to:

The continued decline of contributing and non- contributing structures through deferred maintenance and improper moth balling techniques.

The encroachment of vegetation on significant views and vistas, as well as the inundation of significant landscape features.

Vandalism

Inappropriate maintenance of features

Measures that can be taken to improve/ maintain the condition of the cultural landscape include:

Routine monitoring of the condition of the buildings and structures located on the site.

Removing non- historic vegetation from the buildings and structures.

The engagement of regular mowing and removal of woody vegetation in the open fields, forest edges, and fence lines.

Removal of hazardous barbed wire from the pine stands.

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

A more in depth list of treatment recommendations can be found at the end of the document.

The previous evaluation of the cultural landscape was FAIR . This assessment occurred in FY 2012. During the previous assessment, problems identified included:

Structural deterioration to the outbuildings, entrance gate, ha-ha wall, terrace and Harmony Hall itself

The installation of a sewer pipe and the potential to disturb archeological material

Horse visitation on the property

**Impacts**

<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Structural Deterioration
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	<p>A few of the cultural landscape features are in need of varying degrees of stabilization or repair to prevent further deterioration. These include the bungalow, the entrance gates, ha-ha, terrace, and Harmony Hall proper. While Harmony Hall has a completed HSR and has received some stabilization measures, the other buildings have not received treatment. The removal of encroaching vegetation, the reconstruction of drainage features, the replacement of exterior finishes, and structural elements are necessary in order to retain the integrity of the structures.</p> <p>The ha-ha wall is in the processes of structural failure and losing what integrity remains. The inundation of bramble and woody vegetation is obscuring the feature. At the same time, the stacked stone course are collapsing, causing a loss of form.</p> <p>As stabilization efforts had not occurred to the Collins Era Buildings, these structures have declined into ruins.</p>
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Adjacent Lands
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Both Internal and External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	<p>In order to complete a sewer pipe upgrade project, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission will need to tunnel underneath the pasture west of Harmony Hall to reach their facility. The project has the potential to disturb archeological resources and the condition of the pasture(2012).</p>

While identified in 2012 as a potential threat, it is unclear in 2018 if this project has gone forward or if the threat remains. Due to this uncertainty, this remains as a potential threat to the integrity of the cultural landscape.

**Type of Impact:** Visitation

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Informal horse trails blazed throughout the property have the potential to damage vegetation, cause soil compaction, and alter the historic character of the landscape (2012).

While mentioned in earlier versions of this document, in 2018 the informal trails were a less noticeable problem in relation to other issues observed. However, the park should address the matter.

**Type of Impact:** Vandalism/Theft/Arson

**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External

**Impact Description:** During the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, a large scrape of earth, with a mechanical appearance, was observed at the Want Water ruins. After alerting the Acting Regional Archeologist, it was determined that this was one of three incidents at the site. It remains unclear at this time if archeological resources were disturbed or if an A.R.P.A. violation had occurred. However, such acts have the potential to divest the cultural landscape of archeological resources and impair the integrity of the resource.

**Type of Impact:** Deferred Maintenance

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, park staff stated that the western field had not been mown in at least five years. By postponing the cutting of the feature for this length of time, woody vegetation has encroached along the edges and is spreading into the field itself. This neglect has led to a release to succession to begin. As a result, saplings, including those of Eastern Red Cedars, are dotting the landscape, resulting in the loss of setting, design, materials, and feeling of the field. However, beyond the field, the loss of the open space impacts discussion regarding the integrity of the integral view from Harmony Hall to the Potomac River, as well as the discussion of the overall spatial arrangement of the cultural landscape.

<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Inappropriate Maintenance
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Beyond the deferred maintenance of the buildings and the west pasture, the lack of maintenance to the fence lines have allowed the features to decline. Vegetation is currently encroaching and consuming the historic fence lines, impacting the structural integrity of the features. In places the failure to maintain the fence lines have resulted in the presence of scattered fence posts with a few of the barrier members and an incomplete enclosure. North of Harmony Hall, a barbed wire fence associated with a Collins era barn is no longer intact. However, remnants of the barbed wire are scattered throughout the pine stand, creating a safety hazard to park staff.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	While documenting the terrace associated with Charles Collins on the hill slope south of Harmony Hall, large swaths of vinca minor, or common periwinkle, were observed. The plant is considered an invasive species.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Erosion
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Both Internal and External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Part of the shore of Slash Creek and Broad Creek are exhibiting signs of erosion, including the undercutting of the shoreline. The park should monitor the situation and working with the regional office develop a plan of action.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Inappropriate Maintenance
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, it was observed that most of the circulation network in the Harmony Hall cultural landscape, including pedestrian, vehicular, and equestrian, were in decline. The loss of form of the main drive due to the growth of grasses in the path was noted. The growth of vegetation along the edges of the openings have diminished the qualities of the trails leading to Want Water and along the southern slopes of the site. On the south bank of Slash Creek, opposite the cypress allee, evidence of a road bed or trail linking the two sides is

visible. The trail on the southern bank of the creek is within the park boundary and the study area of the cultural landscape. However, neither portion of this circulation path appear to have received recent improvements or maintenance.

## Treatment

### Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Rehabilitation  
**Approved Treatment Document:** Historic Structure Report  
**Document Date:** 08/25/2012

#### Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

No treatment recommendations were provided in this document for the cultural landscape of Harmony Hall. Recommendations were limited to that of the structure of Harmony Hall proper.

**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

### Approved Treatment Costs

**Cost Date:** 08/25/2012  
**Level of Estimate:** B - Preliminary Plans/HSR-CLR  
**Cost Estimator:** Denver Service Center

#### Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

The cost account for the recommended Baseline Work Recommendations and the approved Treatment Option #3, which recommends the rehabilitation of the house. This set of treatment recommendations did not extend out into the cultural landscape.

At this time, it is recommended that the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) be written for the cultural landscape in order to provide guidance regarding the overall treatment and resource management for Harmony Hall.

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

## Bibliography

- Citation Author:** Clements, James E.  
**Citation Title:** James E. Clements` Map of Washington City and Surrounding Country.  
**Year of Publication:** 1891  
**Citation Publisher:** Andrew B. Graham
- Citation Author:** Crackel, Theodore J.  
**Citation Title:** The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** University of Virginia Press, Rotunda  
**Citation Type:**  
**Citation Location:** <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/GEWN-01-01-02-0007-0005-0005>
- Citation Author:** Crackel, Theodore J.  
**Citation Title:** The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** University of Virginia Press, Rotunda  
**Citation Type:**  
**Citation Location:** <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/GEWN-01-03-02-0003-0010-0001>
- Citation Author:** Crackel, Theodore J.  
**Citation Title:** The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** University of Virginia Press, Rotunda  
**Citation Type:**  
**Citation Location:** <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/GEWN-05-09-02-0149>

- Citation Author:** Crackel, Theodore J.  
**Citation Title:** The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** University of Virginia Press, Rotunda  
**Citation Type:**  
**Citation Location:** <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/GEWN-05-15-02-0334>
- Citation Author:** Duhamel, Elizabeth  
**Citation Title:** Colonel Henry Darnall and His Family  
**Year of Publication:** 1924  
**Citation Publisher:** Records of the Columbia Historical Society
- Citation Author:** Earle, Alice Morse  
**Citation Title:** Old Time Gardens Newly Set Forth  
**Year of Publication:** 1901  
**Citation Publisher:** MacMillan
- Citation Author:** Earle, Alice Morse  
**Citation Title:** Old Time Gardens Newly Set Forth  
**Year of Publication:** 2005  
**Citation Publisher:** University Press of New England
- Citation Author:** Goska, David  
**Citation Title:** Care for a Carriage Drive?  
**Year of Publication:** 1989
- Citation Author:** Griffith, Dennis  
**Citation Title:** Map of the State of Maryland laid down from an actual survey of all the principal waters, public roads, and divisions of the counties therein; describing the situation of the cities, towns, villages, houses of worship and other public buildings, furnaces,  
**Year of Publication:** 1795

- Citation Title:** An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of Enoch Magruder late of Prince Georges County deceased...
- Year of Publication:** 1786
- Citation Author:** Historic American Building Survey
- Citation Title:** Oakleigh, House and Slave Quarters, 350 Oakleigh Place, Mobile, Mobile County, AL
- Citation Author:** Hopkins, Griffith Morgan
- Citation Title:** Atlas of fifteen miles around Washington, including the county of Montgomery, Maryland / compiled, drawn and published from actual surveys by G.M. Hopkins.
- Year of Publication:** 1878
- Citation Author:** Kornwolf, James D. and Georgiana Wallis Kornwolf
- Citation Title:** Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial North America, Volume II
- Year of Publication:** 2002
- Citation Publisher:** Johns Hopkins University Press
- Citation Author:** Lemmon, Sarah McCulloh
- Citation Title:** The Ideology of the `Dixiecrat` Movement
- Year of Publication:** 1951
- Citation Publisher:** Oxford University Press
- Citation Author:** Liu, Mimi
- Citation Title:** New Chapter in History, Preservation Starts for Fort Washington District
- Year of Publication:** 2012
- Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post
- Citation Author:** The Louis Berger Group/John Bedell et al.
- Citation Title:** Through the Great Valley and Into the Mountains Beyond: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Sandy Hook to Hancock (Mile Markers 59 to 123) Volume I
- Year of Publication:** 2009

- Citation Author:** Lowndes, Joseph E.  
**Citation Title:** From the New Deal to the New Right: Race and the Southern Origins of Modern Conservatism  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** Yale University
- Citation Author:** Mackintosh, Barry  
**Citation Title:** A Partially Fulfilled Dream: The George Washington Memorial Parkway in Maryland  
**Year of Publication:** 1996  
**Citation Publisher:** Maryland Historical Magazine
- Citation Author:** Maryland Gazette Collection, Archives of Maryland Online  
**Citation Title:** Maryland Gazette, April 23, 1761  
**Citation Type:**  
**Citation Location:** <http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4800/sc4872/001280/html/index.html>
- Citation Author:** Maryland Historical Trust  
**Citation Title:** Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Broad Creek Historic District National Register Eligibility Review Form  
**Year of Publication:** 2000
- Citation Author:** Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George`s County Planning Department  
**Citation Title:** Antebellum Plantations in Prince George`s County, Maryland  
**Year of Publication:** 2009  
**Citation Type:**  
**Citation Location:** <http://www.pgplanning.org/Resources/Publications/Studies.htm>
- Citation Author:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George`s County Planning Department  
**Citation Title:** Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study  
**Year of Publication:** 2002

**Citation Author:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,  
Prince George`s County Planning Department

**Citation Title:** Landmarks of Prince George`s County

**Year of Publication:** 1993

**Citation Publisher:** Johns Hopkins University Press

**Citation Author:** Murray, Elizabeth Hesselius

**Citation Title:** One Hundred Years Ago: The Life and Times of the Rev. Walter  
Dulany Addison, 1769-1848

**Year of Publication:** 1895

**Citation Publisher:** George W. Jacobs

**Citation Author:** National Park Service

**Citation Title:** Battersea National Register Nomination

**Year of Publication:** 1980

**Citation Author:** National Park Service

**Citation Title:** Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C. National Register  
Nomination

**Year of Publication:** 1978

**Citation Author:** Pleasants, J. Hall

**Citation Title:** Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Maryland, April 1,  
1778 through October 26, 1779, Volume 21

**Year of Publication:** 1930

**Citation Publisher:** Maryland State Archives

**Citation Author:** Pleasants, J. Hall

**Citation Title:** Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Maryland, January  
1, 1781 through December 31, 1781, Volume 47

**Year of Publication:** 1930

**Citation Publisher:** Maryland State Archives

- Citation Author:** Schweitzer, Mary McKinney  
**Citation Title:** Economic Regulation and the Colonial Economy: The Maryland Tobacco Inspection Act of 1747  
**Year of Publication:** 1980  
**Citation Publisher:** Journal of Economic History
- Citation Author:** Sonderman, Robert et al.  
**Citation Title:** Archeology at Harmony Hall: Exploring the Late Seventeenth-Century Frontier of Maryland  
**Year of Publication:** 1993  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, National Capital Region
- Citation Author:** U.S. Geological Survey  
**Citation Title:** Washington and vicinity, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia  
**Year of Publication:** 1917
- Citation Author:** Virta, Alan  
**Citation Title:** Prince Georges County: Over 300 Years of History  
**Year of Publication:** 1991  
**Citation Publisher:** <http://www.pghistory.org/>
- Citation Author:** Vlach, John Michael  
**Citation Title:** Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery  
**Year of Publication:** 1993  
**Citation Publisher:** University of North Carolina Press
- Citation Author:** Wilson, Richard Guy, et al  
**Citation Title:** Re-Creating the American Past: Essays on the Colonial Revival  
**Year of Publication:** 2006  
**Citation Publisher:** University of Virginia Press
- Citation Title:** A New and Accurate Map of Virginia and Maryland  
**Year of Publication:** 1747  
**Citation Publisher:** <http://epfl.mdch.org/u/?mcmc,32>

**Citation Title:** Map of N. Eastern Virginia and Vicinity of Washington  
**Year of Publication:** 1862  
**Citation Publisher:** <http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/jpgs/cwnevir.jpg>

**Citation Title:** Potomac River, River View to Oxon Creek, MD, Prince Georges County, MD  
**Year of Publication:** 1902  
**Citation Publisher:** [http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/historicals/search\\_attributes](http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/historicals/search_attributes)

**Citation Title:** Map of Area near Broad Creek and Indian Queen Bluff  
**Citation Publisher:** <http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/jpgs/cwbrcr.jpg>

**Citation Title:** Land Classification Map, Ft. Washington - Harmony Hall, Piscataway Park  
**Year of Publication:** 1983  
**Citation Number:** 838-80037

**Citation Title:** Survey for Charles W. Collins, Broad Creek Farm  
**Year of Publication:** 1929  
**Citation Number:** 851-84149

**Citation Title:** George Washington Memorial Parkway From Mt. Vernon and Fort Washington to the Great Falls of the Potomac  
**Year of Publication:** 1957  
**Citation Number:** 850-80322

**Citation Title:** Property Survey, Vicinity Collins Property, GWMP, Section 4, MD  
**Year of Publication:** 1964  
**Citation Number:** 851-84150

**Citation Title:** Survey of the Property of Charles W. Collins  
**Year of Publication:** 1964  
**Citation Number:** 851-84151C

**Citation Title:** Alternate Access Roads Vicinity of Harmony Hall  
**Year of Publication:** 1964  
**Citation Number:** 851-84153

- Citation Title:** George Washington Memorial Parkway From DC to Fort Washington
- Year of Publication:** 1965
- Citation Number:** 851-84164
- Citation Title:** Alternate One, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Prince George`s County, Maryland
- Year of Publication:** 1967
- Citation Number:** 851-84177
- Citation Title:** Battersea Driving Center, Harmony Hall, Maryland
- Year of Publication:** 1980
- Citation Number:** 851-84268
- Citation Title:** Broad Creek
- Citation Number:** 851-84101A
- Citation Author:** The Washington Post
- Citation Title:** Prince Georges County, with its Churches, Estates and Race Tracks, its Farms and History, is Bound Up with the Capital and Growing Fast
- Year of Publication:** 1938
- Citation Author:** The Washington Post, Times Herald
- Citation Title:** Charles W. Collins, 85; Law, Banking Expert
- Year of Publication:** 1964
- Citation Author:** The Washington Post, Times Herald
- Citation Title:** Well-Proportioned Harmony Hall Deeded for Historic Preservation
- Year of Publication:** 1971
- Citation Author:** The Washington Post
- Citation Title:** Stately Halls, Bawdy Tavern Up for Lease
- Year of Publication:** 1984

Harmony Hall

National Capital Parks-East - Harmony Hall

---

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post  
**Citation Title:** Areas Oldest House is Unearthed in Pr. Georges  
**Year of Publication:** 1986



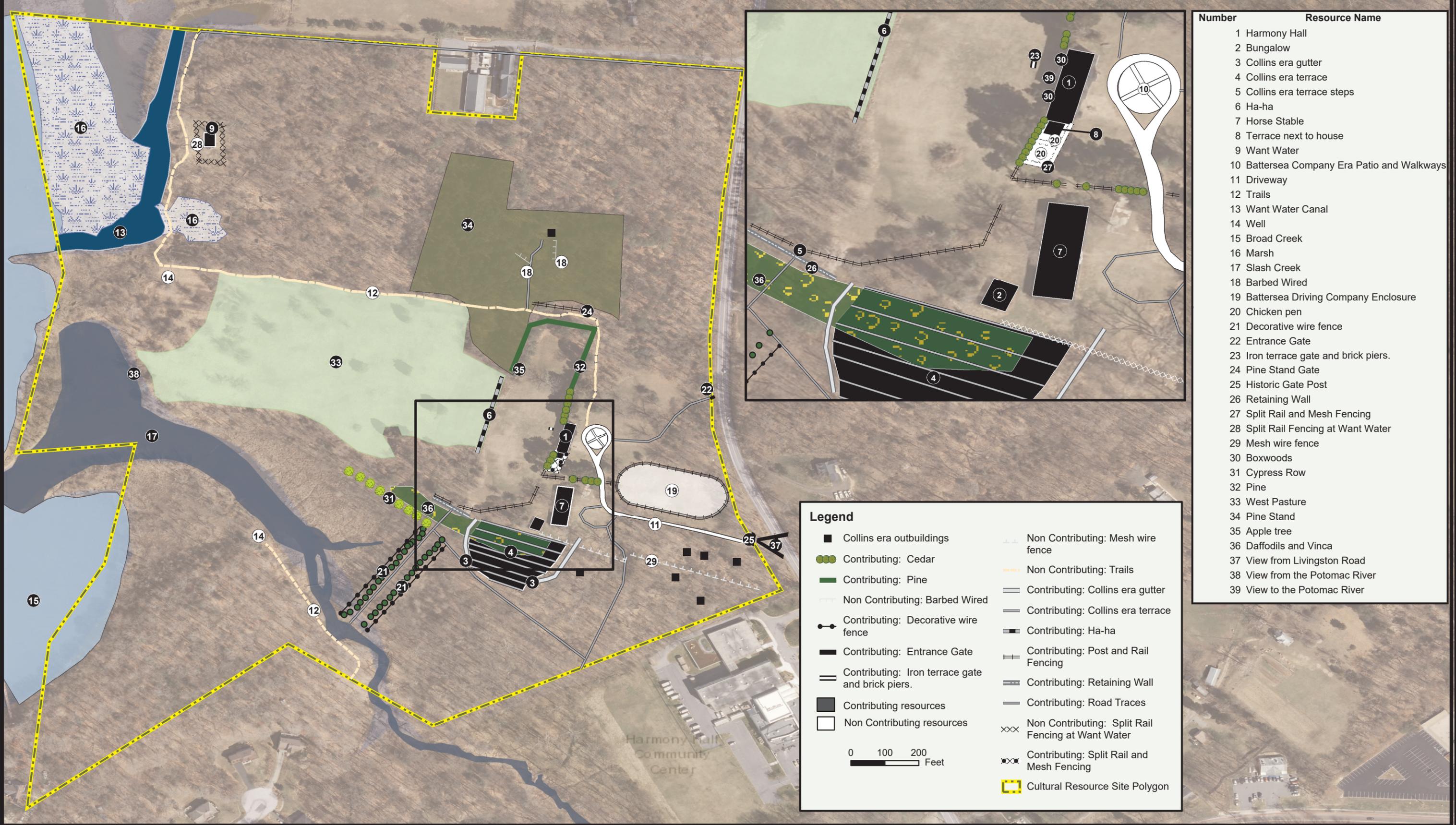
Harmony Hall  
NACE 2018



# National Capital Parks - East

## Harmony Hall: Existing Conditions Site Plan

### National Capital Region - Cultural Landscapes Program - Cultural Landscape Inventory



Number	Resource Name
1	Harmony Hall
2	Bungalow
3	Collins era gutter
4	Collins era terrace
5	Collins era terrace steps
6	Ha-ha
7	Horse Stable
8	Terrace next to house
9	Want Water
10	Battersea Company Era Patio and Walkways
11	Driveway
12	Trails
13	Want Water Canal
14	Well
15	Broad Creek
16	Marsh
17	Slash Creek
18	Barbed Wired
19	Battersea Driving Company Enclosure
20	Chicken pen
21	Decorative wire fence
22	Entrance Gate
23	Iron terrace gate and brick piers.
24	Pine Stand Gate
25	Historic Gate Post
26	Retaining Wall
27	Split Rail and Mesh Fencing
28	Split Rail Fencing at Want Water
29	Mesh wire fence
30	Boxwoods
31	Cypress Row
32	Pine
33	West Pasture
34	Pine Stand
35	Apple tree
36	Daffodils and Vinca
37	View from Livingston Road
38	View from the Potomac River
39	View to the Potomac River

**Legend**

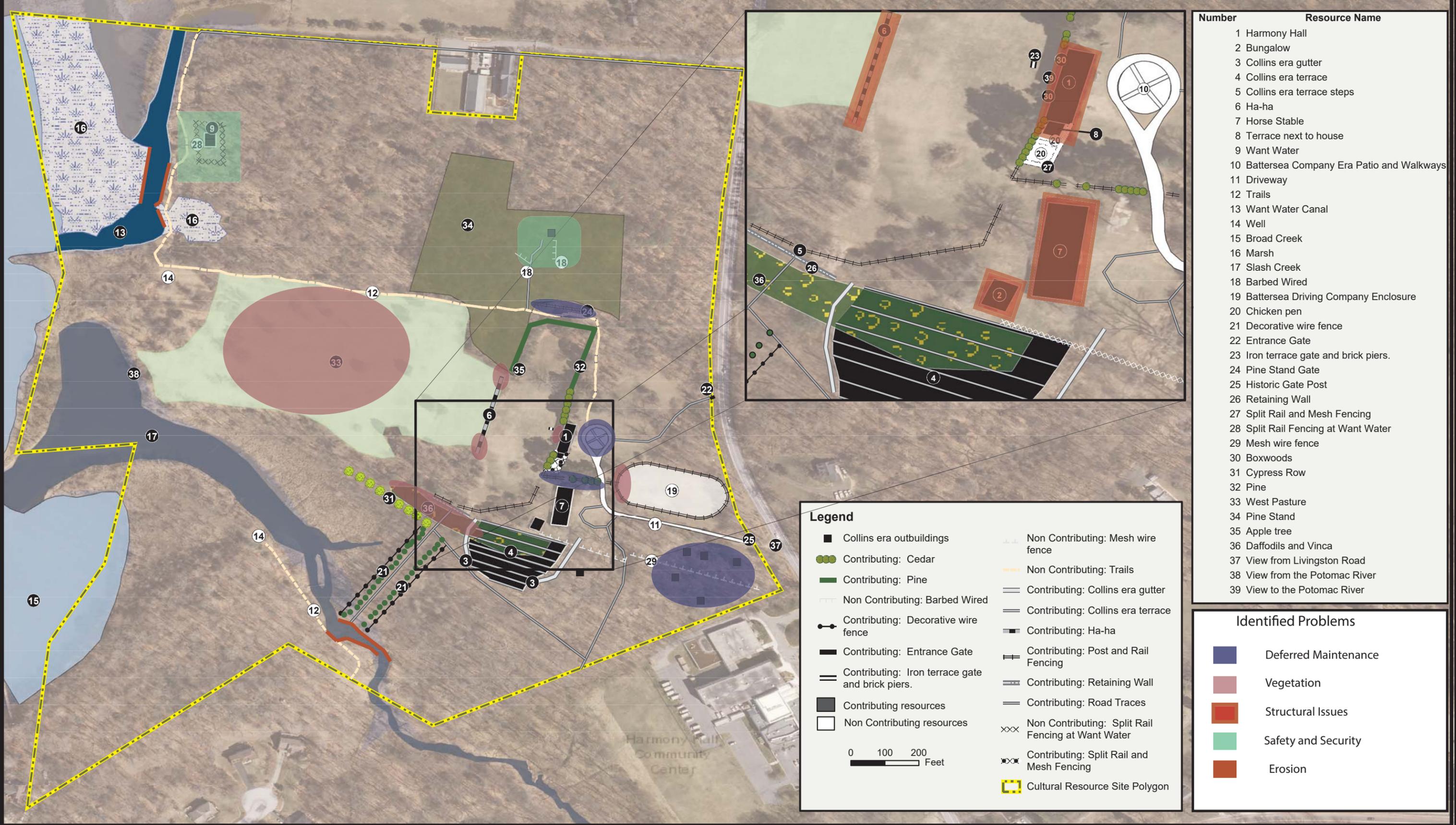
■ Collins era outbuildings	--- Non Contributing: Mesh wire fence
● Contributing: Cedar	--- Non Contributing: Trails
■ Contributing: Pine	--- Contributing: Collins era gutter
--- Non Contributing: Barbed Wired	--- Contributing: Collins era terrace
● Contributing: Decorative wire fence	■ Contributing: Ha-ha
■ Contributing: Entrance Gate	--- Contributing: Post and Rail Fencing
--- Contributing: Iron terrace gate and brick piers.	--- Contributing: Retaining Wall
■ Contributing resources	--- Contributing: Road Traces
□ Non Contributing resources	xxx Non Contributing: Split Rail Fencing at Want Water
	xxx Contributing: Split Rail and Mesh Fencing
	■ Cultural Resource Site Polygon

0 100 200 Feet

# National Capital Parks - East

## Harmony Hall: Existing Conditions Site Plan

### National Capital Region - Cultural Landscapes Program - Cultural Landscape Inventory



Number	Resource Name
1	Harmony Hall
2	Bungalow
3	Collins era gutter
4	Collins era terrace
5	Collins era terrace steps
6	Ha-ha
7	Horse Stable
8	Terrace next to house
9	Want Water
10	Battersea Company Era Patio and Walkways
11	Driveway
12	Trails
13	Want Water Canal
14	Well
15	Broad Creek
16	Marsh
17	Slash Creek
18	Barbed Wired
19	Battersea Driving Company Enclosure
20	Chicken pen
21	Decorative wire fence
22	Entrance Gate
23	Iron terrace gate and brick piers.
24	Pine Stand Gate
25	Historic Gate Post
26	Retaining Wall
27	Split Rail and Mesh Fencing
28	Split Rail Fencing at Want Water
29	Mesh wire fence
30	Boxwoods
31	Cypress Row
32	Pine
33	West Pasture
34	Pine Stand
35	Apple tree
36	Daffodils and Vinca
37	View from Livingston Road
38	View from the Potomac River
39	View to the Potomac River

**Legend**

■ Collins era outbuildings	--- Non Contributing: Mesh wire fence
● Contributing: Cedar	--- Non Contributing: Trails
■ Contributing: Pine	--- Contributing: Collins era gutter
--- Non Contributing: Barbed Wired	--- Contributing: Collins era terrace
● Contributing: Decorative wire fence	■ Contributing: Ha-ha
■ Contributing: Entrance Gate	--- Contributing: Post and Rail Fencing
--- Contributing: Iron terrace gate and brick piers.	--- Contributing: Retaining Wall
■ Contributing resources	--- Contributing: Road Traces
□ Non Contributing resources	xxx Non Contributing: Split Rail Fencing at Want Water
	xxx Contributing: Split Rail and Mesh Fencing
	■ Cultural Resource Site Polygon

0 100 200 Feet

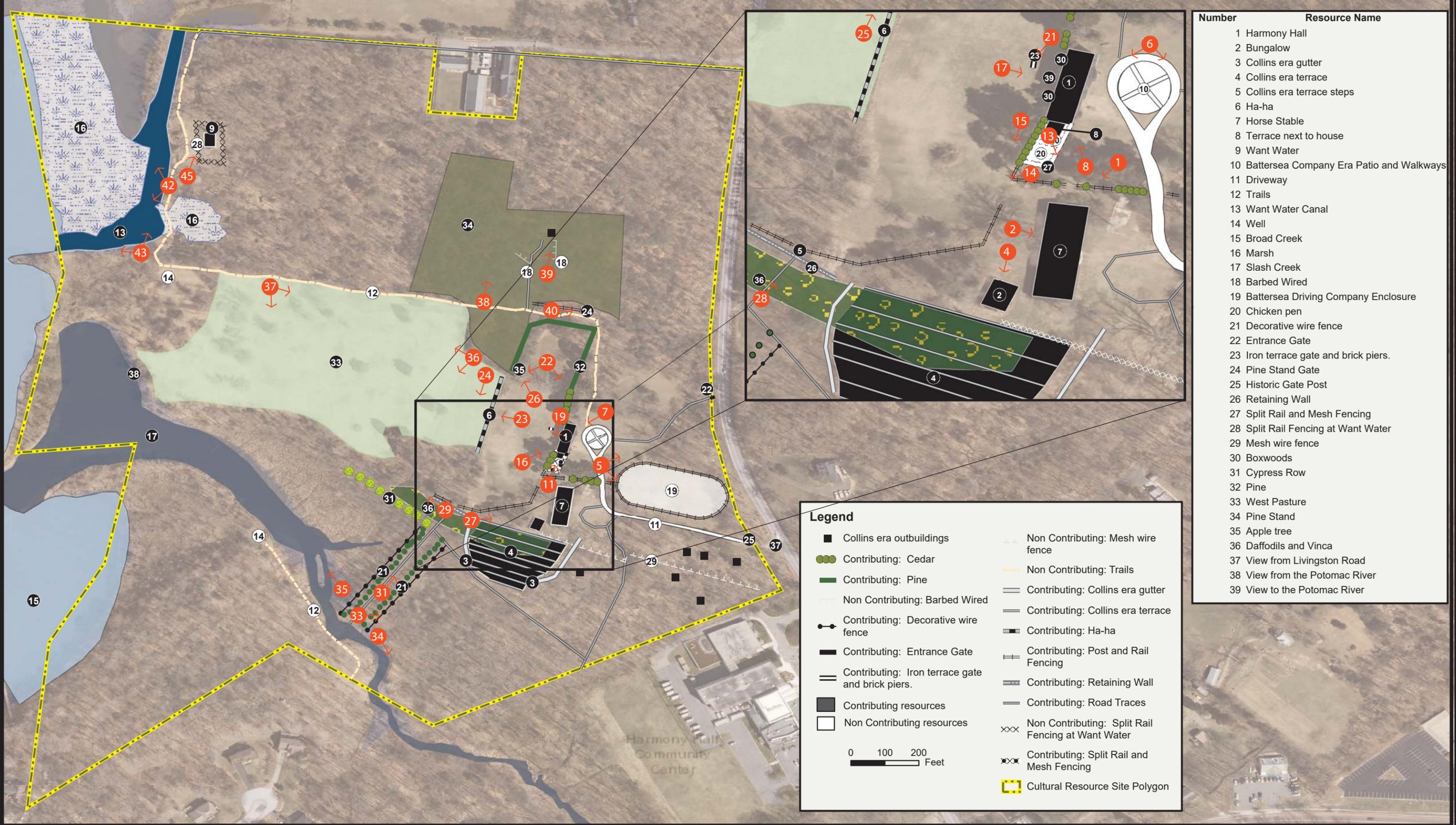
**Identified Problems**

■	Deferred Maintenance
■	Vegetation
■	Structural Issues
■	Safety and Security
■	Erosion

# National Capital Parks - East

## Harmony Hall: Existing Conditions Site Plan

### National Capital Region - Cultural Landscapes Program - Cultural Landscape Inventory



Number	Resource Name
1	Harmony Hall
2	Bungalow
3	Collins era gutter
4	Collins era terrace
5	Collins era terrace steps
6	Ha-ha
7	Horse Stable
8	Terrace next to house
9	Want Water
10	Battersea Company Era Patio and Walkways
11	Driveway
12	Trails
13	Want Water Canal
14	Well
15	Broad Creek
16	Marsh
17	Slash Creek
18	Barbed Wired
19	Battersea Driving Company Enclosure
20	Chicken pen
21	Decorative wire fence
22	Entrance Gate
23	Iron terrace gate and brick piers.
24	Pine Stand Gate
25	Historic Gate Post
26	Retaining Wall
27	Split Rail and Mesh Fencing
28	Split Rail Fencing at Want Water
29	Mesh wire fence
30	Boxwoods
31	Cypress Row
32	Pine
33	West Pasture
34	Pine Stand
35	Apple tree
36	Daffodils and Vinca
37	View from Livingston Road
38	View from the Potomac River
39	View to the Potomac River

**Legend**

■ Collins era outbuildings	--- Non Contributing: Mesh wire fence
● Contributing: Cedar	--- Non Contributing: Trails
■ Contributing: Pine	--- Contributing: Collins era gutter
--- Non Contributing: Barbed Wired	--- Contributing: Collins era terrace
● Contributing: Decorative wire fence	■ Contributing: Ha-ha
■ Contributing: Entrance Gate	--- Contributing: Post and Rail Fencing
--- Contributing: Iron terrace gate and brick piers.	--- Contributing: Retaining Wall
■ Contributing resources	--- Contributing: Road Traces
□ Non Contributing resources	xxx Non Contributing: Split Rail Fencing at Want Water
	xxx Contributing: Split Rail and Mesh Fencing
	■ Cultural Resource Site Polygon

0 100 200 Feet

Cultural Landscape Name: Harmony Hall  
Park Unit: NACE  
Cultural Landscape Type : Vernacular  
Period of Significance: 1708-1786; 1929- 1962  
CLI Document ID: 600091  
FMSS Location ID:  
FMSS Location Type: 3100  
Notes:

The FMSS CLI site visit was conducted on April 20, 2018. The property was acquired in anticipation in the creation of a Maryland branch of the George Washington Memorial Parkway that never came to fruition. Harmony Hall is an example of a vernacular cultural landscape and represents the evolution of Maryland Tidewater agriculture over a period of three hundred years. The information as presented in this document reflects the observations and recommendations of NCR cultural landscape program staff.

## Problems and Recommendations

### Harmony Hall

#### FMSS actions:

#### Buildings and Structures

Create an Asset or Location for Want Water for future stabilization work

Create an Asset or Location for the ha-ha to capture stabilization work

Create an Asset or Location for the terrace/step and gutter system in the woods south and west of the main house.

#### Circulation

Create an Asset or Location for the Driveway

#### Small Scale Features

Create an Asset for Fences on the property

Create an Asset for the Entrance Gate

#### Vegetation

Make an overall Location for vegetation at Harmony Hall.

Create an Asset specifically for the mowed lawn

Create an Asset for the West Meadow

Create an Asset for the Pine Stand

## Problems and Recommendations:

### Buildings and Structures

#### Harmony Hall

#### Overall:

Paint is delaminating from the wooden surfaces of Harmony Hall. The existing paint should be removed and reapplied to these surfaces. Consult with Architectural Conserva-

---

tor.

Grasses should be trimmed away from the foundation of the structure.

Mildew was observed on the base of the building- working with the Architectural Conservator, the park should develop a treatment regimen to address the issue.

Water staining- working with the Architectural Conservator, the park should develop a treatment regimen to address the issue.

Repointing- Various repointing jobs are visible on the elevation of Harmony Hall. While this shows a history of care of the structure, future repointing of the building should be performed in such a manner that the mortar is behind the face of the brick, not on the face of the brick.

#### East Elevation:

Columns on the Addition- decay was noted on the columns of the southern addition porch entrance.

The extent of the decay should be evaluated and a plan formulated to address the matter. The Regional Historical Architect should be contacted to review the condition of the structural member.

Entry porch- lattice is missing from the southern side of the feature. This has allowed wood to be stored under the feature. The wood should be removed in order to prevent further structural decay and detrimental insect habitat (termites). An appropriate lattice should be reinstalled.

#### West Elevation:

Gutter- down spout of the gutter has detached from the house and is currently listing to the south. The feature should be reattached in order to once again complete the drainage system.

West entrance porch- paint is delaminating from the surface of the structure. Working with the Architectural Conservator, a plan for reapplication of the paint should be developed.

A plant is currently growing through the end cap of the porch and the decking of the porch. It is recommended that this plant be removed- down to the root system. The end cap should be reinstalled after this process is complete.

The base of the porch lattice shows signs of animal damage, likely groundhogs. An internal fencing system behind the lattice should be installed in order to keep the pest away from the porch.

Paint from the recently installed windows has melted from the sill and has stained on part of brick. It is recommended that the park work with the Architectural Conservator to address the issue.

#### Horse Stable

Vegetation in the form of ivy and other vines were observed growing along the western elevation of the structure. The vines appear to be compromising the integrity of the structure and are entering into the building from the soffit. The vines should be removed and routinely monitored for additional removals as needed.

Branches and limbs were noted on the roof the building. These should be removed.

Doors and moveable panels were open or missing from the structure. The building should be properly sealed and moth-balled in order to prevent elemental inundation until it can be determined how to use the structure.

#### Ha-Ha

Bramble and trees are currently impeding the structural integrity of the ha-ha. The vegetation should be removed and the wall should be restacked where necessary. The feature should routinely have vegetation removed in order to retain the integrity of the feature. The removal of the vegetation will improve the visual relationship of Harmony Hall to the West Pasture.

The ha-ha is also exhibiting structural collapse. Stones have dislodged from their respective course. The stones should be restacked (dry laid).

### Terrace System

The terrace system south of Harmony Hall is in fair condition. Vegetation is currently growing in between the stones. Some of the stones in the walls are falling down and the wall is partially collapsing. The stones in the terrace should be restacked (dry laid) and vegetation should be removed from the feature. Vegetation and branches should be removed from the gutter to prevent further damage to the structure. The brick edging of the flower beds should be uncovered from the vegetation.

### Want Water

The structure has deteriorated since the last documentation. Stabilization efforts, including the bracing of the structure are needed in order to ensure survival. Repointing and the capping of exposed horizontal surfaces is necessary. Once the bracing is introduced, trees that are growing to the north of the South wall can be removed. Foundation stabilization will be needed. This matter deserves further study. Security measures around the ruins should be improved to protect both the ruin and visitors to the site. The existing split rail fence is not adequate and is falling down.

### Circulation

#### Main Drive

The form of the main drive is deteriorating and changing from a grass to a gravel surface. Gravel should be reinstalled on the surface to redefine the space and retain the integrity of the feature.

#### General Trail Conditions

Down trees and limbs should be removed from the trail system. Due to the size of some of the specimens, it may be necessary to have someone with chainsaw training address the matter.

Bramble and debris adjacent to the trails should be removed in order to improve the condition of the trail system.

The trails should be reevaluated to see if they meet current accessibility standards regarding width, materials, and signs.

#### Trail to Want Water

The trail to Want Water is ill defined along the northern edge of the West Pasture. The edge condition of the path includes piles of debris and bramble. It is recommended that the path be mown routinely and vegetative debris be removed from the site and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

The gravel portion of the trail to Want Water is eroding into the marsh. A different material treatment should be applied to the pathway. However, it should be noted that this is beyond the scope of the CLI Update.

### Constructed Water Features

#### Want Water Canal

During the FY 2018 site visit, erosion was noted at the curve of the Want Water Canal. It is recommended that efforts be made to stabilize the feature from further deterioration. Additional consultation is needed.

### Natural Systems and Features

#### Slash Creek

Erosion was noted at the former trail crossing of Slash Creek. Soil retention measures should be introduced to impede the loss of the shore line. This should stabilize the edge until it is determined how or if the trail will be used at the site. This condition should be monitored to ensure that it does not progress.

### Marshlands

The condition of the marshlands should be monitored. What limited litter was observed in these spaces should be routinely removed.

### Small Scale Features

#### Barbed Wire Fence

A barbed wire fence was observed in the pine stand around the Collins era archeological site. As it is low to the ground and not highly visible, it is recommended that the fencing be removed to prevent the feature from being a safety hazard.

#### Rail Fence

Several rail fences were observed throughout the site, including north and adjacent to Harmony Hall and leading to the trail to Want Water at the West Pasture. Missing posts and rails, as well as loose rails, were observed. It is recommended that the missing posts be reinstalled and the rails be placed in their proper slots in order to retain the feature.

#### Rail and Mesh Fence

Several combination rail and mesh fences were observed in the cultural landscape, including south of Harmony Hall and around the horse barn. The wire mesh is missing from portions of the fence system. It is recommended that the wire mesh be reinstalled where missing.

#### Collins Era Terrace

Currently the Collins Era Terrace, which is located south of Harmony Hall, is covered in grasses. Traces of the formal stone circle walk and surrounding beds are barely legible. It is recommended that the grasses be removed.

#### Iron gate and brick piers

Thick grasses are currently encroaching on the base of the gate and brick piers. If allowed to continue to grow, this will succeed into bramble. The grasses should be cut back in order to maintain the character of the feature.

#### Gates throughout the cultural landscape

Several gates throughout the cultural landscape are detached from their respected post. These features should be reattached in order to provide proper site security and delineate the spaces of the cultural landscape.

### Vegetation

#### Bramble

Several patches of bramble were observed along historic fence lines, the ha-ha, and certain patches of trees. It is recommended that the bramble be removed in order to improve the character of the cultural landscape and the integrity of the features.

#### Vines

Vines were observed along portions of the historic fence lines. These should be removed in order to prevent further damage to the fence lines and to retain the character of the feature.

#### Vinca

The trail and terrace system is currently inundated with vinca. While this is a remnant historic planting,

it is best to remove this species from the cultural landscape as it is not maintained and is out competing the native plant species.

#### West Pasture

According to park staff, the west pasture has not been mown in four years. Woody vegetation and cedars are starting to colonize the space. This is leading to the loss of the historically open character of the space. The pasture should be mown at least twice a season (once in spring and once in fall) in order to impede the spread of unwanted vegetation and to retain the integrity of the feature.

#### Cypress Allee

Other tree species are currently growing in the center of the cypress allee on the southern approach trail to Harmony Hall, obscuring the design intent of the feature. The trees in the center of the allee should be removed in order to restore the character and intent of the landscape feature.

#### Boxwoods

The boxwoods on the western elevation of the house have small trees growing in the middle of the shrubs and have not received proper treatment. It is recommended that the trees be removed from the box woods. Where gaps in the form are obvious, new boxwoods should be planted. The existing boxwoods should receive attention with a targeted cutback regimen to restore the shrubs to an ideal healthy form.

#### Collins Era Terrace Shrub

A shrub, located on the Collins Era Terrace, at the south east corner of the house, is currently growing in an unkempt manner. It is recommended that routine pruning occur in order to shape the feature in a more ideal form.

#### Views and Vistas

##### View to the Potomac River from Harmony Hall

The growth of vegetation along the riparian buffer and in the West Pasture is obscuring the view from Harmony Hall to the Potomac River and vice versa. Working with the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, a management plan for the riparian buffer condition within this view-shed should be established in order to retain the integrity of the feature. Woody growth in the pasture should be removed in order to maintain a clear middle and foreground of the view.

##### View from Livingston Road

Tree limbs should be removed in order to restore the view to Harmony Hall. A few trees may need to be removed in order to reestablish the view to the main house.



1. Battersea Driving Company Barn  
Direction: Southwest



2. Battersea Driving Company Barn  
Direction: East



3. Bungalow/ Charles Collins Office  
Direction: Southwest



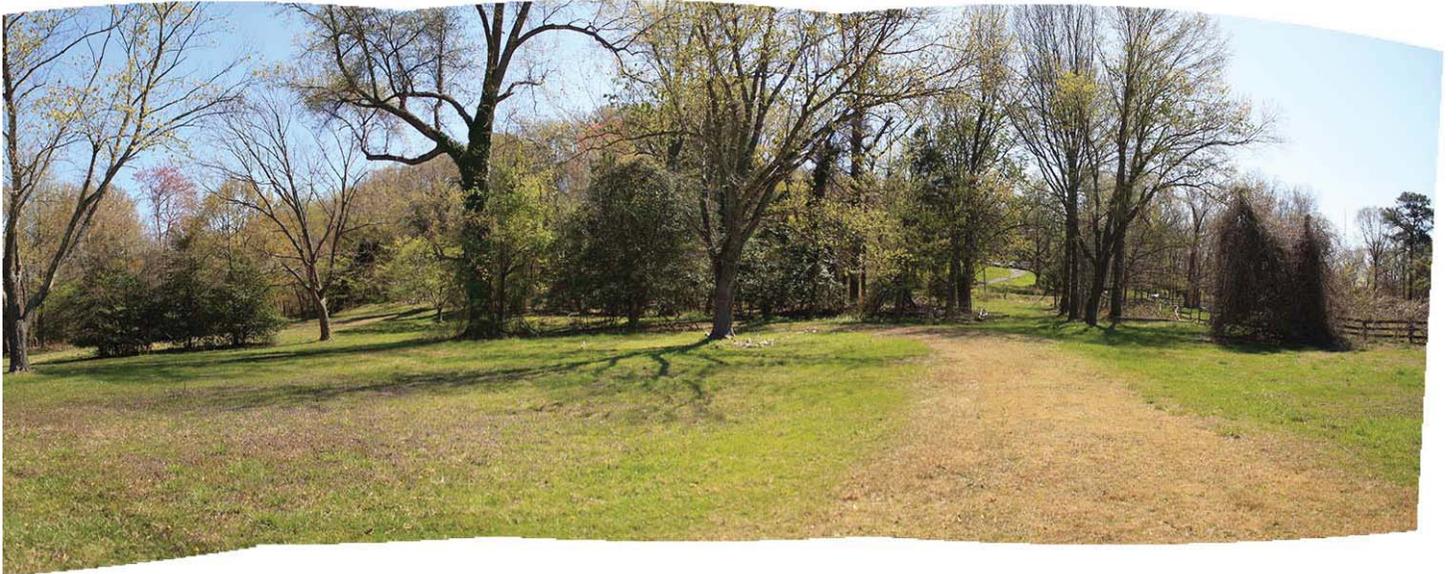
4. Bungalow/ Charles Collins Office  
Direction: Southeast



5. Battersea Driving Company Enclosure Panorama  
Direction: East



6. Entrance Drive Panorama  
Direction: West and North





7. Harmony Hall East Elevation  
Direction: West



8. Harmony Hall, with Terrace  
Direction: West and North



9. Harmony Hall  
Direction: West and North



10. Harmony Hall corner condition  
Direction: North



11. Terrace condition. Grass growing in brick mortar joints  
Direction: North



12. Terrace condition.  
Direction: East



13. Terrace and fence. View towards the stable.  
Direction: South



14. Fence south of Harmony Hall  
Direction: Southwest



15. Fence surrounding the terrace  
Direction: Southeast



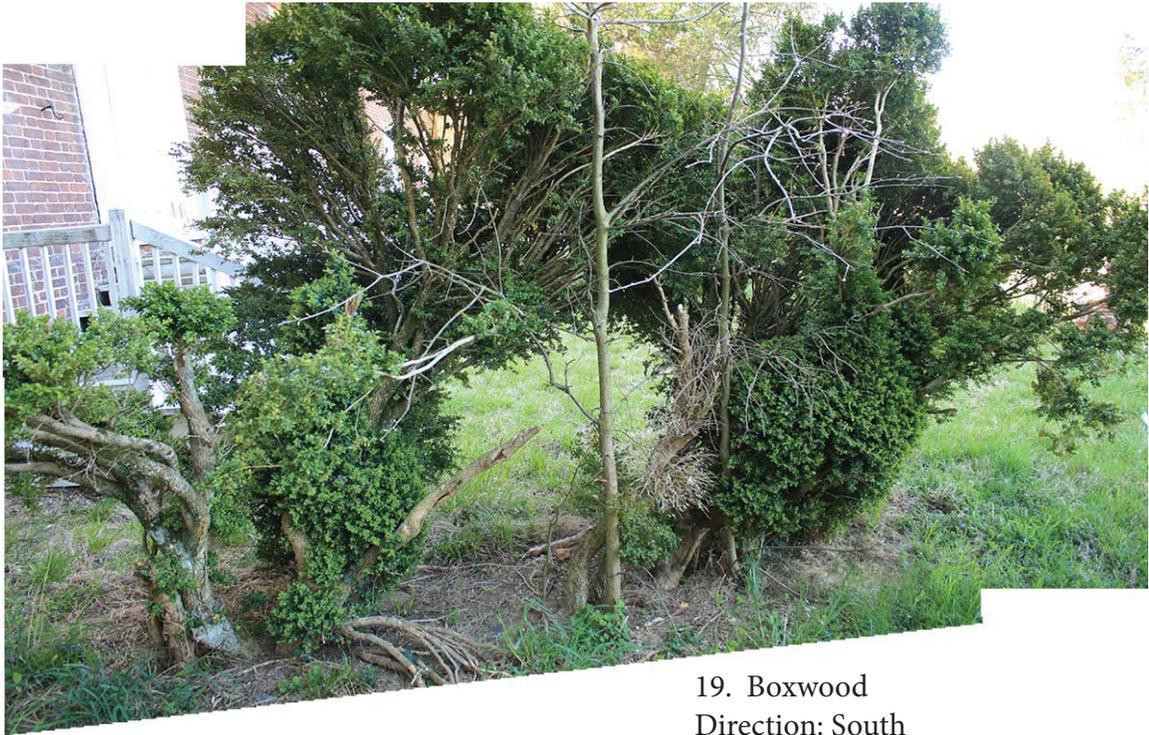
16. West elevation gutter system.  
Direction: Northwest



17. West porch  
Direction: West



18. Close up of the west porch  
Direction: West



19. Boxwood  
Direction: South



20. West Lawn Panorama  
Direction: Northeast



21. Brick Piers and Iron Gate  
Direction: Southwest





22. West Lawn Panorama  
Direction: Southeast



23. View towards the Potomac River from Harmony Hall  
Direction: West





24. Harmony Hall ha- ha wall  
Direction: South



25. Harmony Hall ha- ha  
wall  
Direction: North



26. Remnant Apple tree  
Direction: Northwest



27. Trail and Collins Era  
Terrace  
Direction: East



28. Collins Era Terrace  
Direction: North



29. Terrace Step Panorama  
Direction: Northwest



30. Retaining Wall  
Direction: North



31. Cypress Allee  
Direction: North



32. Cypress Alley  
Direction: North



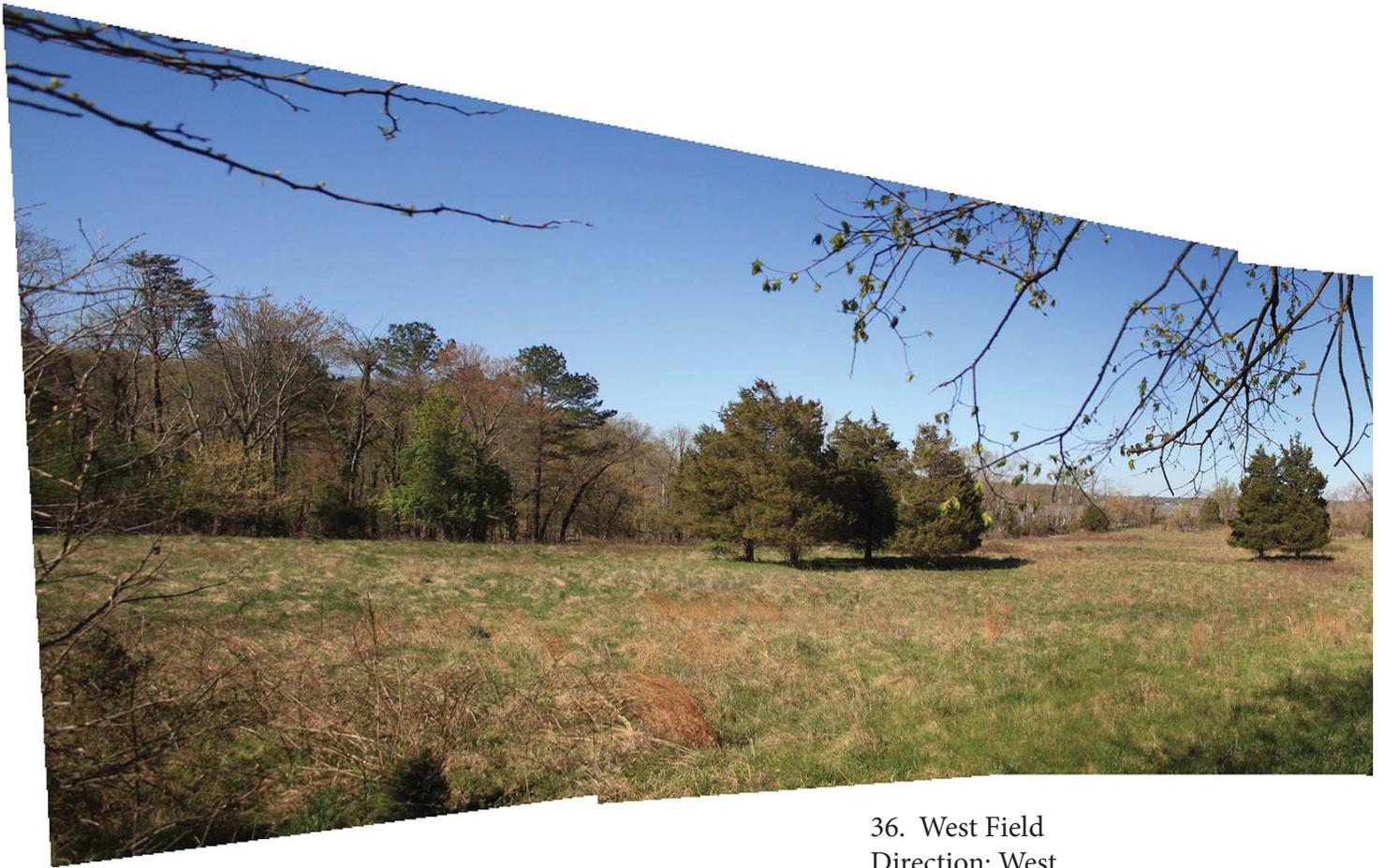
33. Decorative Fence  
Direction: East



34. Slash Creek  
Direction: South and East



35. Slash Creek  
Direction: South and West

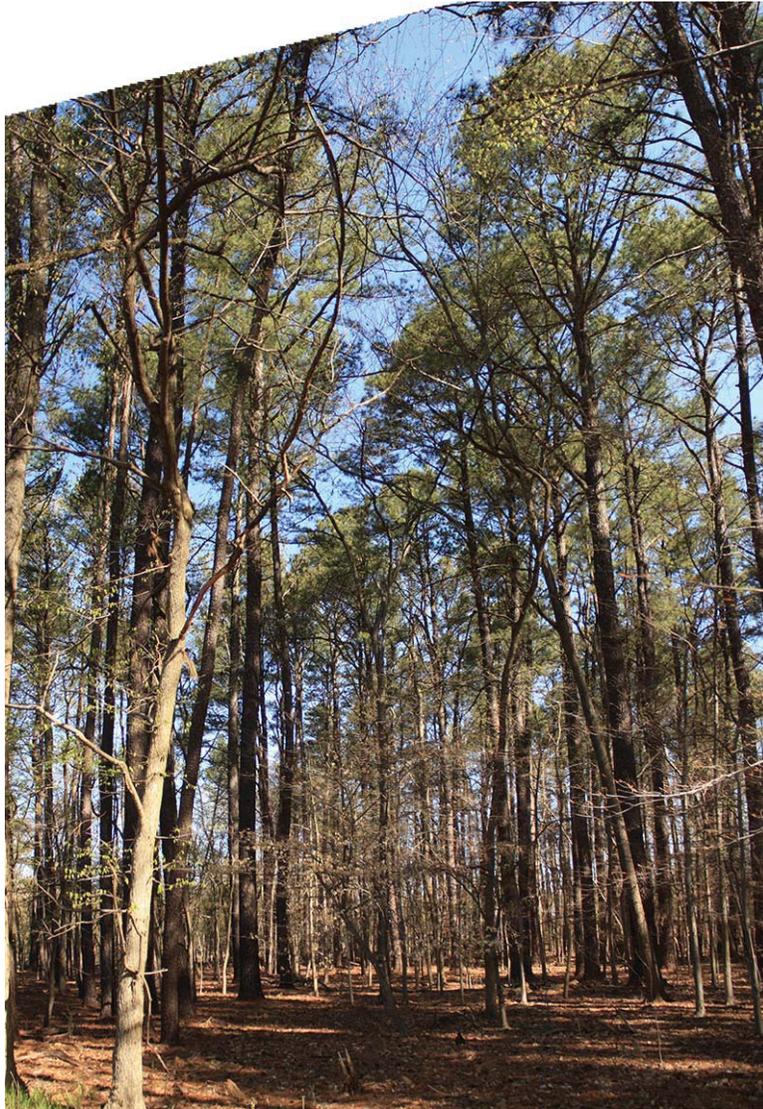


36. West Field  
Direction: West



37. West Field  
Direction: South





38. Pine Stand  
Direction: North



39. Remains of the Collins Era Buildings  
Direction: North



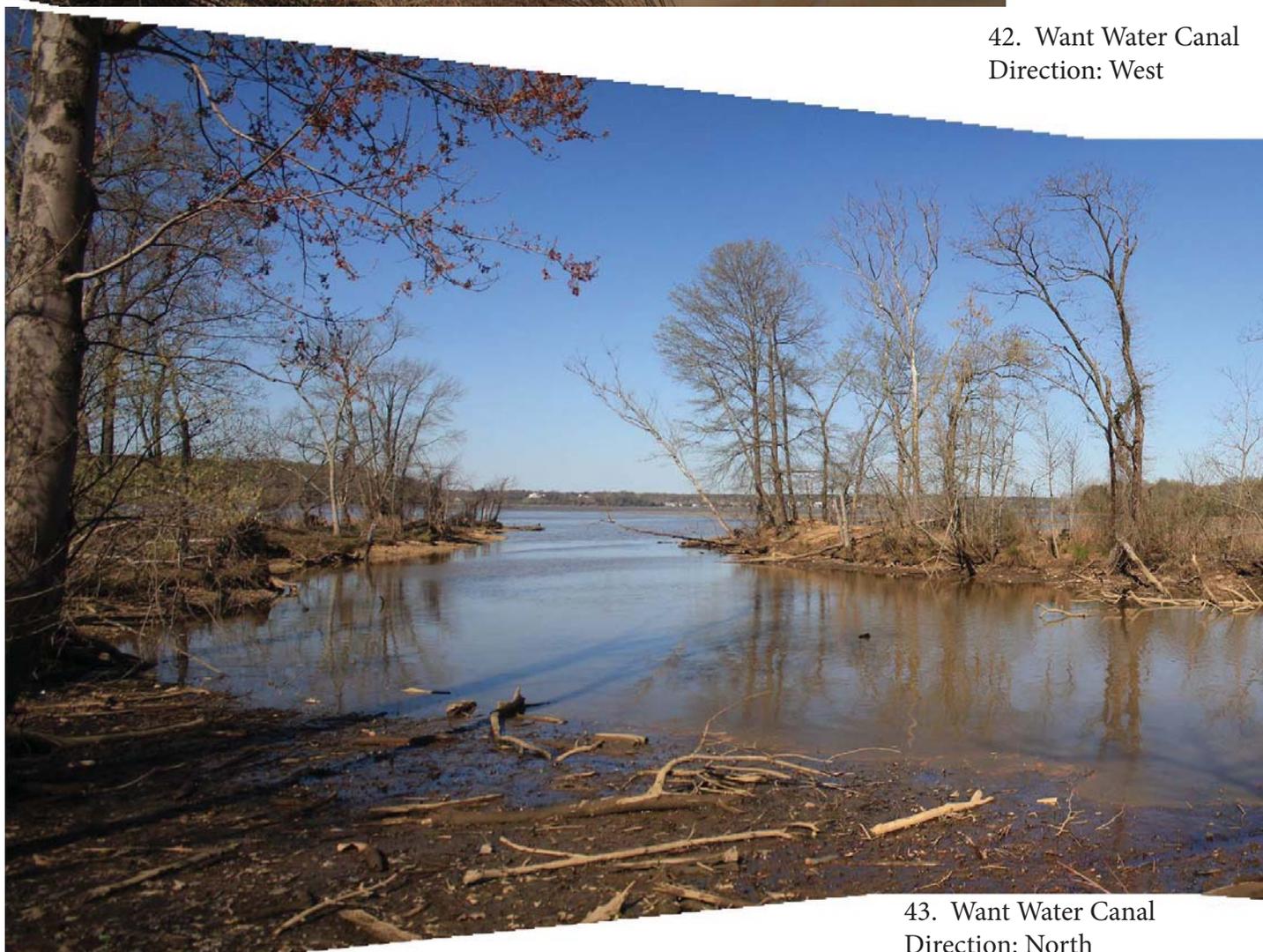
40. Pine Stand Gate  
Direction: East



41. Northern edge of the field  
Direction: North



42. Want Water Canal  
Direction: West



43. Want Water Canal  
Direction: North





44. Want Water  
Direction: North



45. Want Water  
Direction: North