Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR305 **Site Name:** Harmony Hall

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late 17th-mid 18th century house site; Mid-18th century standing Georgian mansion

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11 SCS soil & sediment code PoB,BaB,WoA,

Latitude 38.7526 Longitude -76.9942 Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation m Site slope 0-10 Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

Floodplain	☐	High terrace	☐
Hilltop/bluff	☑	Rockshelter/ cave	☐
Interior flat	☐	Hillslope	☐
Upland flat	☐	Unknown	☐
Ridgetop	☐	Other	☐
Terrace	☑		
Low terrace	☐		

Ownership

Private	☐
Federal	☑
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Broad Creek

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☐
Estuary/tidal river	☑	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 15 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720	Y	ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780	Y	Post 1930	Y
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown historic context			
				Unknown context			

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American	Y	Unknown	
Anglo-American	Y	Other	
Hispanic			

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component	☑	Misc. ceremonial	☐
Village	☐	Rock art	☐
Hamlet	☐	Shell midden	☐
Base camp	☐	STU/lithic scatter	☑
Rockshelter/cave	☐	Quarry/extraction	☐
Earthen mound	☐	Fish weir	☐
Cairn	☐	Production area	☐
Burial area	☐	Unknown	☐
Other context	☐		

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic	☑	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☑
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☑
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☑
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☑	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☑
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☑	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☑
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☑
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☑		
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples		Soil samples taken	N
Flotation samples taken	N	Other samples taken	

Historic context samples		Soil samples taken	N
Flotation samples taken	N	Other samples taken	Faunal analysis by Henry M. Miller; Pipe stem analysis by Stephen R. Potter

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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek		Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**	
Creamware		Pearlware			
Stoneware					
English Brown					
Eng Dry-bodied					
Nottingham					
Rhenish					
Wt Salt-glazed					

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone	180	Other fired clay	
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	20	Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)	1	Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	☐
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	
		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐		
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☐	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☑	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☑	Sandstone	☐		

☑ **Dated features present at site**

Numerous features containing diagnostic historic artifacts

Historic Artifacts

Tobacco related	623		
Pottery (all)	543	Activity item(s)	35
Glass (all)	466	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	1505	Faunal material	☑
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	644
Arms	3	Floral material	☐
Clothing	9	Misc.	705
Personal items	10	Other ☐	

Historic Features

Const feature	☑	Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Foundation	☑	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☑	Trash pit/dump	☑	Railroad bed	☐
Hearth/chimney	☑	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Postholes/molds	☑	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐	Road/walkway	☑	Wheel pit	☐
				Unknown	☐
				Other	☐

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 2:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 3:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 5:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 6:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 8:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 9:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability

☐ **Additional radiocarbon results available**

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

☑ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Harmony Hall (18PR305) is a late 17th-mid 18th century house site near Fort Washington in Prince George's County, Maryland. Harmony Hall is a National Register of Historic Places property operated as one of the National Capital Parks and consists of a standing mid/late 18th century Georgian manor house and 66 acres of surrounding grounds and outbuildings. Local lore, and an iron plaque date the construction of the Harmony Hall manor house to the early 18th century, but architectural assessments place it later. The site is situated along the east bank of the Potomac River, just south of a major tributary stream. Soils at the site are of the Piccowaxen-Liverpool complex.

Harmony Hall was leased in 1985 to a private firm under the provisions of the National Park Service's Historic Leasing Program. This program is designed to lease historic properties not open for public interpretation to preservation-minded individuals or entities. As a result of this leasing agreement, new construction and utilities installations were planned by the lessees to improve and rehabilitate the property. The proposed renovations at Harmony Hall necessitated the undertaking of archeological investigations in order to fulfill compliance obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA. Phase III-level work was conducted from 1985 to 1987.

Archival background research was an integral part of the research strategy at 18PR305. The present Harmony Hall tract is part of an original 500 acre tract named Battersea, surveyed and recorded for Humphrey Haggett in 1662. By the time the patent was granted six years later, the owner was Richard Fowke, who had married Haggett's widow. In 1688, Fowke divided the property in half, selling one portion to Philip Mason and the other to Richard Iles. The tract sold to Mason contained the land upon which Harmony Hall now stands.

Shortly after acquiring the property, Philip Mason sold it to Thomas Lewis in 1692. Four years later, Lewis willed 100 acres to his son Richard. This 100 acre tract included the house in which Richard's mother was living, and also incorporated the future site of Harmony Hall. In 1709, Richard Lewis sold the 100 acres of land containing his parent's home to a carpenter named William Tyler. With Tyler's death in 1721, his "dwelling plantation called Battersea" was willed to his wife Elizabeth, and upon her death to his son William. Following a succession of owners, none of whom appeared to have lived on the property, Enoch Magruder purchased the tract in 1769. Though the Harmony Hall manor house may have been built before the elder William Tyler's death in 1721, the architectural details suggest that it is more likely to have been built during the Magruder ownership.

The original Battersea property, including the Harmony Hall tract was further subdivided and passed on to many different owners in the intervening years. Eventually, the National Park Service acquired the present Harmony Hall tract in 1963 as part of a right-of-way for a proposed, but never constructed, George Washington Memorial Parkway on the Maryland side of the Potomac River. The only two standing "historic" buildings on the property are the aforementioned manor house and a probable early 18th century brick and frame structure known locally as "Want Water". Want Water was a ruin by 1985, when archeology was first conducted on the property.

The major focus of the compliance excavations was to take place south of the extant Harmony Hall manor house, where the construction of a barn and stable complex was proposed. Additional archeological work was scheduled in areas where the destruction of a 1930s-era kitchen wing and the subsequent construction of a new wing were to take place. The excavations in the latter two areas led to unanticipated discoveries.

The site was investigated primarily through the excavation of a large number of 1.524 X 1.524 meter (5 X 5 ft) formal excavation units. All units, throughout the site, were excavated following natural or cultural zones of deposition and soils were hand screened through wire mesh. To check for potential bias in the recovery of very small artifacts, samples of soil from many units were water-screened through fine window screen. Unit soil stratum elevations and horizontal controls were measured from the southeast datum corner of each unit, unless circumstances dictated establishing other reference points. All squares not containing features were excavated to subsoil. Black-and-white photographs and color slides were taken of profiles and features, and at least one plan view and one cross-section were drawn for each excavation unit.

The first phase of the archeological investigations focused on testing the area to be affected by the construction of the barn and stable complex. In this area, six 1.524 X 1.524 meter units were excavated to sterile subsoil. These six excavation units were selected as a 4% sample from a population of 140 possible 1.524 X 1.524 meter units laid out in a grid across the entire site. The grid was oriented along the long axis of the manor house and tied to its southeast corner as a site datum. Placement of the units in the barn and stable complex area was accomplished using a table of random numbers to select locations. Units were relocated when random placements situated excavation units under existing structures.

The second phase of the compliance project centered on the excavation of units chosen subjectively near the manor house, based on a series of soil probe cores taken along grid coordinates across the site. Through this technique, and by the excavation of the units within the barn impact area, researchers were able to determine that much of the area surrounding the main block of the house had been cultivated. The soil probe technique provided for a quick and simple method to locate subsurface anomalies and determine the gross stratigraphy of the site. As a result, excavation units were placed in those areas where the soil probe encountered unusual soil conditions or anomalies. It was in these locations that many of the project's most significant discoveries were made, the most noteworthy being a 17th century component through which service lines were originally proposed to be installed. Additional units were then opened up alongside the original test squares to follow features. A total of 28 1.524 X 1.524 meter test units were excavated in this area along with 3 large linear trenches of varying size.

The third section of the project focused on the south end of the manor house where excavations took place prior to the proposed destruction and replacement of a 20th century addition with a new wing addition. During this phase, the archeological investigations were designed to provide clearance for the excavation of footings for the new wing. In addition, it was hoped that archeological excavations would determine if the main house had an earlier wing addition dating to the 18th century. A total of 11 contiguous test units of varying size and shape (initially 1.524 X 0.762 m, but later expanded) and one nearby 1.524 X 1.524 meter unit was excavated in this area and did indeed lead to the identification of an 18th century kitchen wing dependency to the Harmony Hall Manor House.

Two final 1.524 X 1.524 meter test units were excavated adjacent to the external walls of Harmony Hall. These were placed in a futile attempt to locate the original builder's trench which would have aided in determining the date of construction for the manor house. No trench was found and the area around the base of the structure was found to have been heavily disturbed in the 1930s by the installation of drains and utilities.

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While a number of features associated with late 19th and early 20th century improvements at the property were encountered, the features of primary "historic" and interpretive value are those discovered which are associated with the 17th and 18th century occupations of 18PR305. These are discussed below, along with a description of the artifacts encountered during the excavation of four of the most significant features. The full site report does not provide a complete inventory of all artifacts recovered throughout the site, but does provide tallies for Features 14, 22, 17, and 48 (see below).

Feature 14 was identified through soil probing/coring and a 1.524 X 1.524 meter test unit was placed over the core hole. Additional units were eventually opened up, revealing the feature to be a dark soil stain interpreted as a shallow basin-shaped refuse pit. It was most likely filled very quickly due to the lack of stratification of the fill. A small quantity of faunal material combined with a ceramic assemblage of primarily tablewares, suggests that the pit fill originated from the parlor of a nearby dwelling house. The temporal date provided by the ceramic and glass assemblage and the stratigraphy of the feature indicate that the trash pit was filled in the 1720s or 1730s.

Artifact encountered in the Feature 14 refuse pit include 1 activity item (a snaffle bit), 114 architectural artifacts , 1 clothing-related object (scissors), 134 kitchen-related artifacts, 26 tobacco-related artifacts, 25 miscellaneous objects, and 1 prehistoric item (a fragment of chert debitage). The architectural artifacts were 9 pieces of brick, 2 fragments of mortar, 3 pieces of roofing slate, 78 hand-wrought nails, and 22 unidentified nails. Kitchen remains consisted of 105 ceramic sherds (69 delftware, 9 Staffordshire slipware, 6 Buckley, 4 unidentified earthenware, 8 white salt-glazed stoneware, 2 miscellaneous stoneware, 3 Rockingham, and 4 redware), 24 free-blown bottle fragments, 1 animal bone, and 4 pieces of oyster shell. The tobacco-related artifacts were 10 kaolin pipe bowls, 14 kaolin pipe stems, and 2 kaolin pipe bowl/stem fragments. The miscellaneous objects were 3 unidentified flat pieces of glass, 4 pieces of cupric metal, 3 fragments of charcoal, and 15 fragments of slag.

Feature 17 was located east of the manor house and a large block of excavation units was eventually opened up to expose the feature, along with additional features subsequently exposed in the area. Although the entire feature was not exposed, in plan view it appears to have been rectangular in shape. Cross-sectional profiles revealed that the exposed section of Feature 17 is a shallow, basin-shaped depression with an undulating floor cut less than 30 cm into the subsoil. Feature 17 is most likely the remains of a borrow pit for the mining of clay. The clay would have been used to construct and periodically repair a chimney on a nearby earthfast structure. The undulating, basin-shaped nature of the floor of Feature 17 suggests that a particular clay lens was being removed and the excavators were following the natural stratigraphy. The feature contains the domestic refuse of the aforementioned earthfast structure and their date of production clusters tightly around a late 17th to early 18th century timeframe. Ceramics from this midden include North Devon gravel-tempered earthenware, a variety of black-glazed earthenwares, Staffordshire slipware, monochrome blue and polychrome delftware, and Rhenish grey (Westerwald) stoneware. Other archeological remains from the earthfast house include animal bones, a wrought iron strap hinge, a portion of a set of hearth tongs, a hand-wrought tobacco hoe, scissors, gunflints, and drawn glass beads of Dutch make.

A pit feature (Feature 63) and a hearth area (Feature 64) were also encountered within the borrow pit. Feature 63 is probably an area that either was dug deeper as the excavators followed the clay source or was dug for the burial of trash during the mining of the clay. It does not appear to be a cellar. Feature 17 is likely to be the remains of a chimney fall and debris from a hearth. A number of stones were found suggestive of a stone-lined hearth platform and based on evidence from the excavation of a posthole and mold feature next to Feature 17 (discussed below), it would appear that the hearth originated from an earthfast structure adjacent to Feature 17.

In an area just off the southwest corner of Feature 17, a large posthole (Feature 41) and postmold (Feature 41A) were discovered. The posthole was rectangular in shape and its nature and orientation with respect to the postmold suggest that this feature represents the northeast corner of a late 17th century post-in-the-ground structure that is oriented with the long axis of the house running northeast to southwest, toward and under the extant brick house. The physical characteristics of the posthole and mold indicate that the construction technique employed was most likely the reverse assembly procedure. It is unlikely that any other remains of this structure exist due to construction of the Harmony Hall manor house atop the site.

The artifacts recovered from the borrow pit area (Feature 17) included 33 activity items, 1,106 architectural remains, 5 clothing artifacts (a hand-wrought belt buckle, another metal buckle, and 3 straight pins), 1 furniture object (a brass tack), 1,364 kitchen-related artifacts, 9 personal objects (a possible brass jewelry box hinge and 8 glass beads), 467 tobacco-related artifacts, 3 arms objects (gunflints), 598 miscellaneous objects, and 175 prehistoric objects. The activity items were 3 pieces of lamp glass, 1 piece of metal strap, a set of fireplace tongs, 21 container/bucket fragments, a hand-wrought hardware ring, a piece of non-electrical wire, 4 unidentified metal hardware pieces, and a hand-wrought tobacco hoe. The architectural assemblage contained 117 brick fragments, 13 pieces of mortar, 153 fragments of daub, 3 pieces of plaster, 64 pieces of architectural stone, 7 burned timbers, 9 pieces of roofing slate, 4 pieces of window glass, 3 pieces of window lead, 5 wire nails, 2 cut nails, 2 machine-made nails, 331 hand-wrought nails, 387 unidentified nails, 4 hinge pieces, a lock tumbler and escutcheon. The kitchen-related items were 300 ceramic sherds (97 delftware, 28 Buckley, 22 North Devon, 4 Staffordshire slipware, 1 creamware, 4 pearlware, 2 porcelain, 6 whiteware, 4 miscellaneous earthenware, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware, 21 other salt-glazed stoneware, 34 English Brown, 22 Rhenish Westerwald, 1 miscellaneous stoneware, 1 Rockingham, 4 yelloware, 48 redware), 16 glass tableware fragments, 242 free-blown bottle glass shards, 48 other bottle glass fragments, 268 animal bones, 10 burned animal bones, 4 clam shells, 143 oyster shell fragments, 331 pieces of other shell, a tin ladle, and a piece of nut shell. The tobacco-related items were 117 kaolin pipe bowls, 254 kaolin pipe stems, 57 kaolin stem and bit fragments, 4 kaolin pipe mouthpieces, a kaolin pipe heel, 32 kaolin bowl and stem sections, a strike-a-light, and a residue sample from the interior of a pipe. The 598 miscellaneous objects were 18 unidentified flat glass fragments, 28 other glass fragments, 2 cupric metal objects, 133 pieces of ferric metal, 2 fragments of lead, 22 pieces of stone, 326 fragments of charcoal, 12 pieces of burned wood, 9 unidentified pieces of wood, 7 samples of fired soil, 28 pieces of coal, 3 pieces of slag, a soil sample from the interior of a glass bottle, and 7 unknown objects. The prehistoric remains encountered near Feature 17 were a quartz point, a chert biface, a quartz core, 2 basalt cores, 13 chert flakes/debitage fragments, 95 quartz flakes/debitage fragments, 13 quartzite flakes/debitage fragments, 7 other flakes/debitage fragments, 10 pieces of chert shatter, 13 pieces of quartz shatter, 5 pieces of quartzite shatter, and 14 pieces of fire-cracked rock.

Towards the close of the excavations at Harmony Hall, a feature (Feature 24) was encountered which is believed to be the remains of a brick clamp. It is most likely associated with the construction of the Harmony Hall manor house. The feature consisted primarily of burned soils subjected to intense heat. The degree to which the soils had been burned, the presence of poorly-fired brick fragments (with no mortar), and the regular shape of the burned area (with 2 straight sides at a right angle to each other) suggests the possibility of a brick clamp. The outline of a partially fired brick was exposed within the eastern portion of the clamp. The feature was rectangular and measured roughly 4.27 X 7.62 meters (14 X 25 ft) in size. Only a small number of non-diagnostic artifacts were recovered in the vicinity of Feature 24, so it could not be adequately dated.

Within the remains of the probable brick clamp an ephemeral stain was encountered which initially appeared to originate at the same level as the brick clamp. As the "footprint" of the brick clamp was defined, the stain became more clear, forming an oval shaped feature (Feature 22) approximately 1.37 meters (4.5 ft) in diameter. As Feature 22 was bisected and excavated, it became clear that it was characterized by 3 distinct semi-concentretic bands of soils forming a

basin-shaped pit. Soils within this apparent refuse pit have clearly been thermally altered by the heat of the brick clamp above. A number of diagnostic sherds as well as datable pipe stem and bowl fragments within the pit suggest a date of use during the early 18th century. The artifacts likely represent refuse from the late 17th to early 18th century earthfast structure. More importantly, they provide a firm date (about 1724) before which the brick clamp (Feature 24) could not have been constructed.

Artifacts encountered during the excavation of the Feature 22 refuse pit included 227 architectural artifacts, 3 clothing remains (1 bone button, 1 metal button, and a glass button), 304 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 personal item (a red glass bead), 115 tobacco-related artifacts, 66 miscellaneous items, and 24 prehistoric objects. The architectural remains were 63 pieces of brick, 5 fragments of mortar, 24 pieces of daub, a piece of plaster, 13 fragments of window glass, a cut nail, 12 hand-wrought nails, and 108 unidentified nails. The kitchen assemblage contained 116 ceramic sherds (62 delftware, 1 Buckley, 4 creamware, 3 pearlware, 2 porcelain, 10 whiteware, 4 miscellaneous earthenware, 7 salt-glazed stoneware, 8 English Brown, 3 Rhenish Westerwald, 1 miscellaneous stoneware, 4 yellowware, and 7 redware), 46 fragments of kitchen glass (9 tableware, 14 free-blown bottle shards, 1 blown-in-mold bottle shard, and 22 other bottle fragments), 93 animal bones, 31 pieces of oyster shell, 17 pieces of other shell, and 1 peach pit. The tobacco-related artifacts were 51 kaolin pie bowls, 46 kaolin stems, 3 kaolin mouthpieces, 1 kaolin pipe bowl and stem section, and 14 full kaolin pipes. Miscellaneous objects include 2 unidentified flat glass fragments, 7 other glass pieces, 3 cupric metal objects, 3 pieces of ferric metal, a piece of unidentified sheet metal, a piece of lead, 2 fragments of stone, 30 pieces of charcoal, 3 clinkers, and 14 pieces of coal. And finally, the prehistoric objects were 1 quartz scraper, 2 chert cores, 2 quartz cores, 4 chert flakes/debitage fragments, 6 quartz flakes/debitage fragments, 1 quartzite flake/debitage fragment, 1 other flake/debitage fragment, a hammerstone, and 6 fragments of fire-cracked rock.

Excavation at the south end of the manor house, in preparation for the construction of a new kitchen addition revealed evidence of considerable construction disturbance from the 1930s. However, the remnant of a builder's trench and dry-laid cobble stone foundation for what was probably a brick-and-frame kitchen dependency or wing (Feature 48) was encountered. Fragments of brick and a possible chimney location were also identified. Adjacent to the eastern limit of the cobble stone foundation were the remains of a posthole and mold (Feature 51). These were probably the remains of an upright for scaffolding used in the original construction or subsequent repair of the chimney. Based on the artifact types recovered, the remains likely represent an 18th century kitchen dependency to one of the main houses (either the late 17th- early 18th century earthfast house or the standing brick manor house). The presence of pearlware sherds and a fragment of scroll brick identical to those on the belt course of the Harmony Hall manor house in the vicinity of the chimney, suggest the latter. However, this could be evidence of a chimney repair at a date later than the original construction of the kitchen dependency as well.

Artifacts encountered in and around Feature 48 include 1 activity item (an iron tool), 58 architectural objects, 48 kitchen-related artifacts, 15 tobacco-related items, 16 miscellaneous objects, and 1 prehistoric artifact (a quartz flake). The architectural artifacts were 18 pieces of brick, 9 fragments of mortar, 1 piece of daub, 1 tile, 5 pieces of window glass, 1 cut nail, 3 hand-wrought nails, and 20 unidentified nails. The kitchen-related objects were 22 ceramic sherds (5 delftware, 1 North Devon, 1 Staffordshire slipware, 2 creamware, 2 pearlware, 2 whiteware, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware, 1 other salt-glazed stoneware, 1 English Brown, and 6 redware), 2 free-blown bottle glass fragments, 7 other bottle fragments, 4 animal bones, 9 oyster shell fragments, and 4 other pieces of shell. The tobacco-related artifacts were 3 kaolin pipe bowls, 11 kaolin pipe stems, and 1 kaolin pipe bowl and stem section. And finally, the miscellaneous objects are a piece of unidentified flat glass, 8 pieces of ferric metal, and 7 fragments of charcoal.

Based on the historical documentation and the archeological evidence, the following interpretation describes the events surrounding the occupations of the Harmony Hall (Battersea) property during the late 17th to the third quarter of the 18th century. In 1692, Thomas Lewis acquired a portion of the original Battersea patent from Philip Mason. Shortly after acquiring the tract, it appears that Lewis constructed an earthfast house on the property. This supposition is supported by the archeological evidence from Feature 17, the borrow pit associated with the probable remains of an earthfast house (Features 41 and 41A a posthole and postmold). The artifacts recovered from Feature 17 all cluster tightly around the late 17th to early 18th century. The historical documentation also supports this conjecture, as four years later Lewis willed 100 acres to his son Richard. The acreage that Richard Lewis inherited included the house in which his mother was living.

At the time of Thomas Lewis' probate inventory, his estate was valued at £50.10s, placing him in an intermediate group of planters whose living standards were between those of the middling and rich. The earthfast structure and the domestic debris of the Lewis occupation found in the archeological record are typical of this economic class.

In 1709, Richard Lewis sold the 100 acres of land containing his parents' home to a carpenter named William Tyler. It is possible that William Tyler constructed the extant, brick Georgian manor house now known as Harmony Hall. The will drafted by William Tyler in 1718 and executed upon his death in 1721, left his "dwelling plantation called Battersea" to his wife Elizabeth, a mill to one daughter, and his other plantation called "Clarkson Purchase" to another daughter. If Harmony Hall and the "dwelling plantation called Battersea" are one and the same, this places the time of construction for Harmony Hall between 1709 and 1718. Tyler's will seems to indicate that he was a man of some means, capable of affording the cost of constructing the brick manor house. However, an early 18th century date of construction for the structure is not supported by the opinions of architectural historians who have examined Harmony Hall. His dwelling plantation could, alternatively, have been the earthfast structure that appears to have already been present at the time he acquired the property.

The archeological evidence helps to tighten the date range for the possible construction of Harmony Hall. As Harmony Hall was built following the filling of the borrow pit (Feature 17) and over the remains of the probable earthfast structure (Features 41 and 41a), the date of construction for the manor house post-dates the destruction of that building. The lack of key diagnostic ware types from the mid 18th century combined with documentation indicating the absence of owner occupation of the property during that period, and the mean age of diagnostics in Feature 22 (below the brick clamp from which Harmony Hall was fired) suggest that the brick manor house was not built until later. It was most likely built after 1769, when Enoch Magruder acquired the tract. This is more in line with the interpretation of the architectural elements of the structure.

Excavations at 18PR305 have provided invaluable data regarding the late 17th century occupation of Prince George's County by middling planters. Analytical research on the extant collections is likely to be quite fruitful. While many of the proposed modern improvements appear to have been undertaken, much of the site, including unexcavated portions of features identified in the 1980s, may remain intact. In addition, a substantial prehistoric component appears to be present, but was not addressed at all in the full site report. While soil probing was conducted across site in the search for historic features, our understanding of the prehistory at 18PR305 might benefit from a systematic survey (such as STPs) across the site to locate concentrations of prehistoric materials and possible features to be investigated further. The site should be considered a significant resource and additional work is warranted should an opportunity present itself.

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR305 **Site Name:** Harmony Hall

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐
Historic ☑
Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Late 17th-mid 18th century house site; Mid-18th century standing Georgian mansion

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006737