

Harris Graves
CH-179
Mt. Victoria
Private

1814-1837

The Harris Family graves are located on a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River Valley near the former home known as Mt. Tirzah (CH-81). Containing six tablets, the most prominent stone marks the burial place of Gwinn Harris (1780-1837), President of the Executive Council of Maryland. The inscription asserted that Harris acted “correct in his principles, just in his transactions, and human in his feelings”. The cemetery is typical of the many isolated family cemeteries scattered throughout Charles County.

CH-179
Harris Graves
Thompkinsville
Private

19th century

Buried here are members of the Harris family whose home, Mt. Tirzah
(Burrough Hall), stood nearby.

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-179

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Harris Graves are located on top of a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River Valley in Cobb Neck. Nearby are the ruins of the 18th century Harris Family home, Mt. Tirzah, (CH-81). The site was likely approached from Mill Run Road to the north. Heavily overgrown in weeds and brambles, currently only a few stones are visible. The largest appears to be a slab marking the burial site of Gwinn Harris who died in 1837. In 1983, Anita Wood of the Charles County Historical Society visited the site and transcribed six stones. The stones range in date from 1814-1837.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-179

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1814-1837	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1814-1837		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Harris Cemetery is significant in its association with the prominent Harris family of Charles County who established nearby Mt. Tirzah(CH-81) just before the American Revolution. The home is believed to have been built by Col. Thomas Harris, III. Among his children were Gwinn, who in 1780 was President of the Executive Council of Maryland; Dr. Morgan Harris, builder of nearby Waverly, (CH-30), who married Ann Morson, daughter of the Governor of the Island of Antigua in the West Indies; Thomas, IV author of an important legal work known as "Harris and McHenry,"; and Joseph, a prominent figure in Southern Maryland during the early 19th century. Mt. Tirzah was destroyed by fire in 1969. Prior to its destruction, many of the historic portraits and furnishings in the home belonging to the Harris family were donated to the Maryland Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-179

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 33.48

Acreage of historical setting 1000+

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Harris Cemetery is believed to stand on what is now Lot No. 1 of the Mt. Tirzah Cemetery found on Charles County Property Tax Map 83, Parcel 109.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey Hardy

organization Charles County Planning Dept.

date 2/7/2002

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telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

~~138~~
CH-179

HARRIS CEMETERY AT "MT. TIRZAH"

Route 257, Tompkinsville

6 tombstones

Transcribed September 28, 1983 by Anita Wood

HARRIS

In memory of Anne Harris, wife of Thomas Harris who departed this life on the 10th of December 1814, aged 70 years, 7 months and 19 days

In memory of Elizabeth Harris daughter of Thomas and Ann who departed this life on the 22nd April 1818 aged 46 years and 10 months

Sacred to the memory of Gwinn Harris who was born on the 27th of April 1780 and after long and useful service in the navy of the United States, died on the 12th of August 1837. Whilst President of the executive council of his native state having won for himself in both stations as he did in the varied scenes of life. The respect, confidence and affection of all with whom he acted correct in his principles, just in his transactions and human in his feelings his heart was the seat of manly virtue, disinterested and generous he never knew "a joy but friendship might divide"

Harris, son of Morgan and Ann L., who departed this life on the 21st August 1817, age 2 years 8 months

In memory of John Harris son of Thomas and Eleanor who departed this life on the 18th March 1831 age 34 years 7 months and 10 days

In memory of Thomas Harris who departed this life on the 22nd February 1815 age 73 years 6 months and 22 days



CH- 179 Charles County, MD
Name: HARRIS GRAVES
Location: MT. VICTORIA
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH N



~~CP 03402~~
~~MR. [unclear] CRAP~~

44-179

HARRIS GRAVES

CHARLES CO, MD

C. CURREY

4/2001

MD SHPO Looking for MV 1 of 1