

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Mt. Ephraim
2. Planning Area/Site Number 12/1
3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 5  
H-3
4. Address Mt. Ephraim Road, Dickerson
5. Classification Summary  
 Category building  
 Ownership private  
 Public Acquisition n.a.  
 Status occupied  
 Accessible no  
 Present use private residence  
 Previous Survey Recording M-NCPCC Federal      State x County x Local       
 (Title and date: Historic Sites Survey 1976 )
6. Date 1868
7. Original Owner Ephraim G. Harris
8. Apparent Condition  
 a. good  
 b. altered  
 c. original site
9. **Description:** This two & a half story L-shaped brick structure faces east on Mt. Ephraim Rd. Built upon fieldstone foundations with timber framing, the house is constructed of locally fired brick laid up in common bond. This simple structure once had a center cross gable, bracketed front porch with shed roof, & Victorian interior & exterior details. The wooden paneled front door is flanked by four light sidelights. The hipped roof is covered by slate roofing. Wooden lintels surmount the six-over-six light double hung windows. There are three chimneys which serve this house.  
 There is a brick outbuilding to the NW of the house, which may have been used as a summer kitchen.
10. **Significance:** This house is important as an example of the building skills of William T. Hilton & as the remainder of the crossroads complex once known as Mt. Ephraim, situated on 13 acres deeded to Ephraim G. Harris in 1868. Harris capitalized on the Civil War trade, **operating a general merchandising store at the intersection.** In 1868 he decided to construct a residence reflective of his new-found affluence, and contracted with William T. Hilton & Sons, local carpenters, to build it. Most of the materials used were obtained locally (clay, slate, and timber). In 1888, Mt. Ephraim consisted of the house & outbuildings, brick store, restaurant, 2 frame dwellings, & blacksmith shop & stable. Only the house & its "summer kitchen" remain.
11. Date researched and researcher Fall 1978 Mark Walston  
 Candy Reed - Architectural Description
12. Compiler Eileen McGuckian
13. Date Compiled 1/79
14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage 5.27 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **Mt. Ephraim**

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER **23720 Mt. Ephraim Road**

CITY, TOWN

**Dickerson**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**8**

STATE

**Maryland**

COUNTY

**Montgomery**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **Frederick Gutheim**

Telephone #: **972-8375**

STREET & NUMBER

**23720 Mt. Ephraim Road**

CITY, TOWN

**Dickerson**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**Maryland 20753**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC **Montgomery County Courthouse**

Liber #: **638**

Folio #: **168**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

**Rockville**

STATE

**Maryland 20850**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

**M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites**

DATE

**1976**

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

**Park Historian's Office**

CITY, TOWN

**Rockville**

STATE

**Maryland 20855**

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story L-shaped brick structure faces east on Mt. Ephraim Road. Built upon fieldstone foundations with timber framing, the house is constructed of locally fired brick laid up in common bond. This simple structure once had a center cross gable, bracketed front one-story porch with shed roof, and Victorian interior and exterior details. The wooden paneled front door is flanked by four light side-lights. The hipped roof is covered by slate roofing. Wooden lintels surmount the six-over-six light double hung windows. There are three chimneys which serve this house.

The house originally had a central hallway flanked by two rooms, with heavy trim, ceiling plaster work, stair brackets and mantels. A third west (rear) ell room made this an L-plan house. A two story porch is located on the southwest corner of the house. The stairway is constructed of a curved chestnut railing and cedar newell post. The present owners modified the north and west rooms to accomodate their needs as well as the effects of poor management of the property.

The present owners extensively renovated the house in 1941-2. They employed the services of three prominent architects, Julian Berla, Wilhelm von Moltke, and Vernon de Mars; the garden was laid out by Daniel Kiley. At this juncture the earlier architectural character was lost.



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.  
 Equity Records of Montgomery County, Md.  
 Orphan's Court Records of Montgomery County, Md.  
 Montgomery County Sentinel, December 29, 1876.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.27 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
Maryland	Montgomery
STATE	COUNTY
Maryland	Frederick

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mark Walston

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

October 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

## Mt. Ephraim

The restaurant appears to have been basically a saloon, as evidenced by the inventoried stock of the restaurant, consisting of glasses, bottles, demijohns and 177 gallons of whiskey.<sup>4</sup> Harris was post-master and farmer as well as storekeeper.

The 15 acres, and the various buildings thereon, were offered up by Ephraim Harris' family at a Trustee's Sale, on September 7, 1889. The land was purchased by Ida J. Dronenburg. The Dronenbergs continued to operate the store for awhile, but the business was moved to nearby Dickerson. A fire occurred in the main house in 1909, attested to by charred boards in the attic.

The house and property then passed through a number of owners until 1919, when Mt. Ephraim and 5.72 acres were sold to Francois P. Darrieulat, President Theodore Roosevelt's fencing master, and coach of several college teams and U.S. Olympic fencing teams.<sup>6</sup> Darrieulat was the friend and fencing companion of Gordon Strong, owner of the adjacent property and Sugarloaf Mountain; Strong acquired a mortgage on the property and arranged its sale to Darrieulat.

Frederick and Polly Gutheim purchased the property from Darrieulat's estate in 1941. At that time, the front porch and many of the interior design details were removed during the course of remodeling the house, but were preserved in the form of recorded architectural drawings. During 1954-55, when the Gutheims lived in Washington, D.C., Mt. Ephraim was occupied by John Andrew Rice, a classical scholar, founder and one-time president of Black Mountain College, and a distinguished writer of short stories and books.

The present owner, Frederick Gutheim, is noted for his authorship of two major works of local interest, The Potomac (1949) and Worthy of the Nation. The History of Planning for the National Capital (1976). He is an internationally-known planning and historic preservation consultant and was professor of History and American Civilization at George Washington University serving as the first director of GWU's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation (1975-1978).

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., EBP 5/266 (June 15, 1868).
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, December 29, 1876.
3. Rental Appraisal of Ephraim Harris' lands, RWC 18/168, Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment JA 4/226.
4. Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, Personal Estate Inventory of Ephraim Harris, RWC 18/148.
5. Land Records, Op. Cit., JA 17/133 (February 26, 1890).
6. Ibid., 278/487.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME  
COMMON:  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Mt. Ephraim

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Dickerson  
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
Frederick Gutheim  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Dickerson STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Montgomery County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Rockville STATE: Maryland  
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None  
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruined	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrecognized
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story brick structure with a two story rear el. The main facade of five bays has a center entrance with transom lights separated from the doorway by square fluted columns. Lintels over the doorway and windows have a suppressed egee arch profile. Around the recessed door panels and panels beneath the transom lights are heavy mouldings.

Above the stone foundation, the house is laid up in common bond. The roof is hipped.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

M:12-1

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-colonial       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscapes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> </ul> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
|---|--|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. POLYGRAPHIC OR PHOTOGRAMMETRIC SURVEYS

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 7/25/73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature

6  
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S  
C  
A  
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N  
S



NAME MT. EPHRAIM (HARRIS HOUSE)

M: (2-1)

LOCATION MT. EPHRAIM Rd. + HARRIS Rd. MT. EPHRAIM, Md. (DICKERSON)

FACADE S. E.

PHOTO TAKEN 7/25/73 MIDWYER

C 34



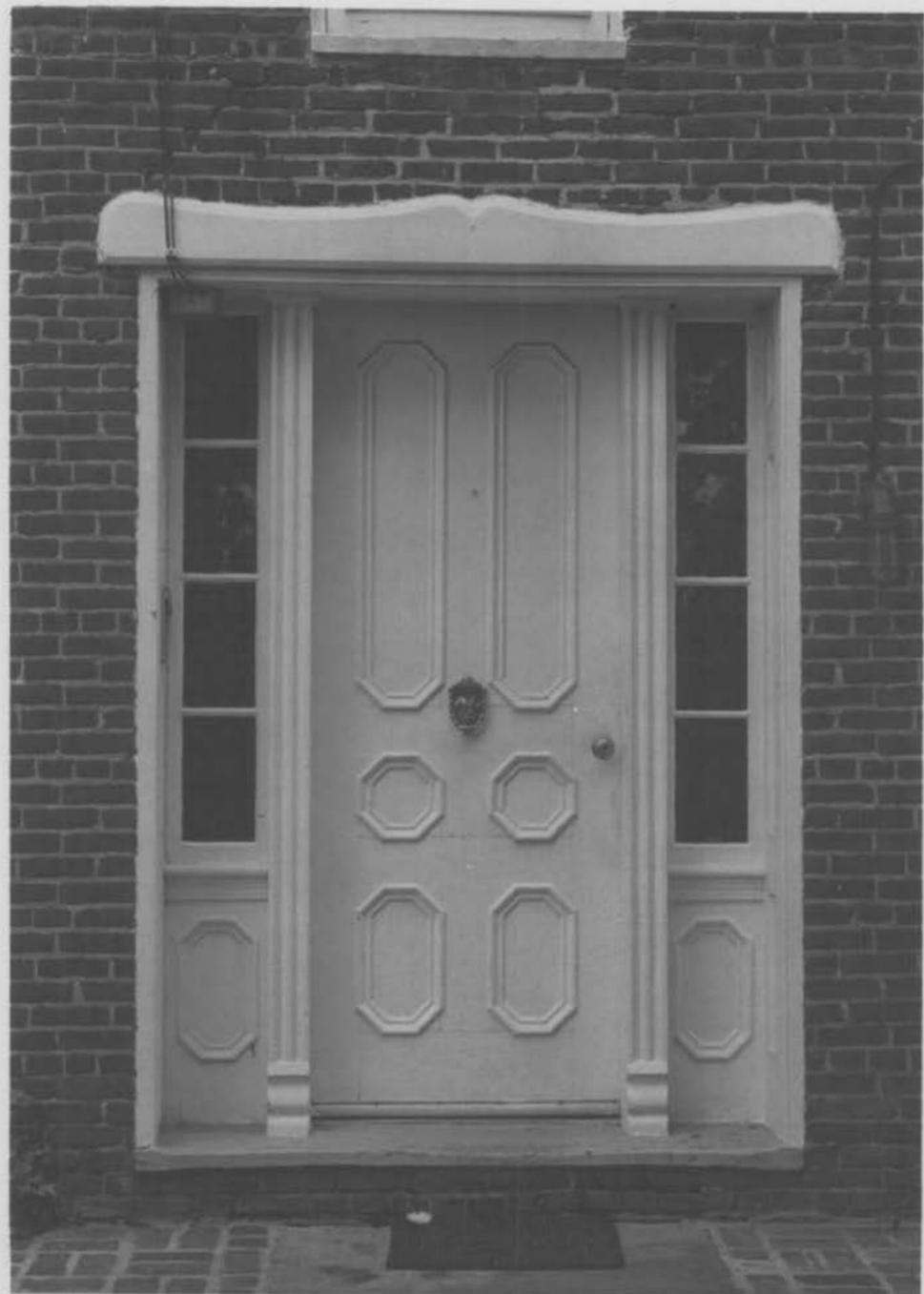
NAME MT. EPHRAIM

M: 12-1

LOCATION MT. EPHRAIM Rd. & HARRIS Rd. DICKERSON, Md.

FACADE S.E.

PHOTO TAKEN 7/25/73 M. DWYER



NAME MT. EPHRAIM (HARRIS HOUSE)

M: 12-1

LOCATION MT. EPHRAIM Rd. & HARRIS Rd. MT. EPHRAIM, Md.

FACADE S. (FRONT DOOR)

PHOTO TAKEN 7/25/73 M. DWYER

34  
✓



NAME MT. EPHRAIM (HARRIS HOUSE)

M: 12-1

LOCATION MT. EPHRAIM Rd. & HARRIS Rd. MT. EPHRAIM, Md.

(DICKERSON)

GRADE S. (FRONT DOOR)

PHOTO TAKEN 7/25/73 M. DWYER

C 35