PG-80-11

Form No 10-306 (Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 2 0 1980
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Battersea (prior to 1793)

AND/OR COMMON Harmony Hall (since 1793)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 10511 Livingston Road State Road #224

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Oxon Hill, MD __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Prince Georges CODE 149

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
X STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)* National Capital Region, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER 1100 Ohio Drive, SW

CITY, TOWN Washington ___ VICINITY OF STATE DC 20242

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Prince Georges County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 14735 Main Street

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro STATE Maryland 20870

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Building Survey

DATE 1934 X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

CITY, TOWN First St. SE Between East Capitol and Independence, STATE Washington, DC 20540

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Harmony Hall is a two-and-one-half-story Georgian country house of red brick set in Flemish bond. Over 65 acres surround the house and provide a wooded setting. There is a marvelous open vista from Harmony Hall to Broad Creek and the Potomac River which enhances the architectural ambiance of the house. Crossing this open space to the river is an English ha-ha, built to keep stock from wandering up to the house. Likewise there is an open lawn from the east elevation of the house to Livingston Road with a gravel driveway. These open vistas give the house its historic setting and contribute to the beauty and charm of the site.

Before 1793 the house and surrounding acres were named "Battersea". According to tradition the center house standing today originally had side wings for which there still exist partially buried foundations. The west elevation of the house facing the Potomac River remains much as it appeared in 1723 with a simple gabled roof and seven vertical bays, six of which contain shuttered windows on the first and second floors. The seventh and central bay contains a Georgian styled door with triangular pediment, entabulature, and pilasters at each side. Above the door on the second floor is a shuttered window. Railed divided steps built in 1930 lead to the door.

Originally, the east front of the house lacked the two dormer windows, and the central brick pediment with large bull's eye window, and the double front doors that appear today. Henry Chandlee Forman in his Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland states that the bull's eye window, the foliated dormers, the cornice and the double doors on the front were all added in the late eighteenth century. Charles W. Collins who owned and restored the house in the 1930's states in a typed manuscript owned by the National Park Service that the pediment with bull's eye cornice and the two dormer windows "appear to have been added about 1768 which was the year that Broad Creek Church was enlarged.... As a part of this remodeling of Harmony Hall, the road front door was changed from a single six panel door into a larger and higher double door. The bricks used at this time in refashioning the doorway and in the bull's eye cornice were hand-made but smaller and redder than the original bricks. The early workmanship and design is apparent. The house orginally had three windows in the north, and four in the south end, but these were closed up probably at the time of the above mentioned changes. The river front to the west stands today as it was originally built, except for the steps which I added in 1930." National Park Service historical architects have questioned the date of the bull's eye window and two dormers. Their age cannot be resolved until there is further investigation of the fabric of the building.

All four sides of the house have a molded brick course forming a water table at the basement level. The east and west elevations each have basement windows six on a side. There is a stringcourse of molded brick between the first and second stories on the east and west side as well as a wood cornice at the roof line containing fretwork in a Greek key pattern. Both north and south ends of the house have brick chimneys. Two small attic windows remain on each side. The roof is covered with composition shingles which replaced a slate roof. The house is known to once have had a "seal ridge tin" roof which replaced the original which was probably wood shingles. A non-historic, gabled brick entrance to the basement is at the west end of the north wall.

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A story-and-a-half brick pantry wing was added to the south end in 1930. The south wall of this new addition never received a covering of red brick over its end wall of hollow clay tiles. The pantry wing is connected by a covered passage to a larger kitchen also built in 1930.

The interior of the house contains some very fine woodwork dating from the earliest period. An exceptionally fine staircase is the chief adornment of the entrance hallway. The landing of the staircase has saddles on the rails. The dining room contains a huge cupboard set into the wall with two sets of doors and a rounded arch molding. Rooms contain ornamental cornices with much fretwork design and also much wood paneling and wainscoting. Four mantels with classical Georgian moldings frame the end fireplaces, two to each floor.

The first and second floors of the main house contain two rooms separated by the traditional central hall. Closets and bath have been added on the second floor. The attic follows the same arrangement modified with added closets and bath. The basement is divided into recreation room, hallway, and three storage rooms all of modern design. Interior floorboards are doweled together with black walnut pegs cut by hand and set at intervals.

A number of outbuildings surround the house. These are all of early 20th century construction and are classified as non-historic.

OUTBUILDINGS

1. Servant's Quarters #1 - One and one 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.

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

3. 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.

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4. Smokehouse - A one story small clapboard building with pyramidal roof. It is painted white and fits into the "plantation street" motif.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

8. 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.

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Want Water or Lyles House

Located at the edge of a tributary of Broad Creek to the northwest of Harmony Hall are the ruins of the house Want Water. Of the story-and-one-half rectangular building with frame sides, brick ends and gambrel roof, only the two brick walls with end chimneys and fieldstone foundations remain. The standing brick end walls are set in Flemish bond with window and door openings flanking the sides of the chimney at each end. Some rotting floor joists remain on the fieldstone foundation. The house was standing in the 1930's when it was recorded by the Historic American Building Survey. The HABS drawings and photographs indicate rich interior paneling which has since disappeared. There were three dormer windows on each side of the gambrel roof. The deed for Want Water was patented by Colonel Thomas Addison on October 16, 1708. Colonel Thomas Addison was the only son of Colonel John Addison, a privy councillor of Lord Baltimore. The house appears to date from the first half of the eighteenth century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
_1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Harmony Hall is an early eighteenth century Georgian house with Potomac River frontage. Architecturally it ranks with the early Potomac River plantation houses and is an early 18th century house of Maryland. Its original interior woodwork is basically intact. In the 1930's Harmony Hall was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The tract of land on which the house is located was patented on October 27, 1662, under the name of "Battersea" by Humphrey Haggett, a lawyer who practiced in the county court. A residence has been on the site from that time to the present. According to local tradition the present house was constructed in 1723, the same year in which the nearby brick building of St. John's parish, Broad Creek was built by the same contractor.

The connection with St. John's parish, Broad Creek continued throughout the eighteenth century. Rev. Joseph Messenger was installed as rector of Broad Creek Church in 1781. During a portion of his ministry he occupied "Battersea" as the rectory.

The name Harmony Hall was given to the place in 1793 by Mrs. Walter Dulany Addison who was Elizabeth Hesselius, daughter of the famous colonial portrait painter. As a bride she lived there with her husband for a year in 1792-1793, along with her brother-in-law John Addison and his new wife. The two brothers Walter Dulany and John Addison rented the brick mansion of "Battersea" for a year from Dennis Magruder while their own estate Oxon Hill Manor was rented out. So harmonious was the experience of the two couples living together that Mrs. Walter Dulany Addison named the place "Harmony Hall." This name and the romantic story surrounding it outlived the legal name of "Battersea," and the house has been known as Harmony Hall ever since.

In the 1920's "Harmony Hall" was purchased by Charles W. Collins who restored the then-deteriorated building, built the additions, and the outbuildings. On November 4, 1966, Mr. Collins' widow, Sue Spenser Collins, sold the house, out-buildings and 65.7 acres of the property to the National Park Service, retaining a life occupancy. The Park Service bought the property as part of a proposed parkway to Fort Washington which never fully materialized.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See enclosed continuation sheet.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21 ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	325650	4290390
B	18	326050	4290400
C	18	326420	4290140
D	18	325820	4290150

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the east by Livingston Road and on the west by the Broad Creek extension of the Potomac River. On the southeast the property is abutted by Harmony Hall Elementary School. On the north it is bounded by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. (See enclosed small sketch map of boundaries dated 1972).

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

STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	Maryland	CODE	COUNTY Prince Georges County	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Edmund J. Fitzgerald, Staff Historian; Gary Scott, Historian

ORGANIZATION
National Capital Region, National Park Service

DATE
November 16, 1979

STREET & NUMBER
1100 Ohio Drive, SW

TELEPHONE
(202)426-6660

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
DC 20242

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ✓ NO ___ NONE ___

1-23-80
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ✓ Local

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources DATE 2-11-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/6/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE 6-2-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Keeper of the National Register

GPO 899-214

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Major Bibliographical References

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Collins, Charles W., "Harmony Hall or Battersea," unpublished manuscript, 1936, National Capital Region, National Park Service.

Forman, Henry Chandlee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland 1934.

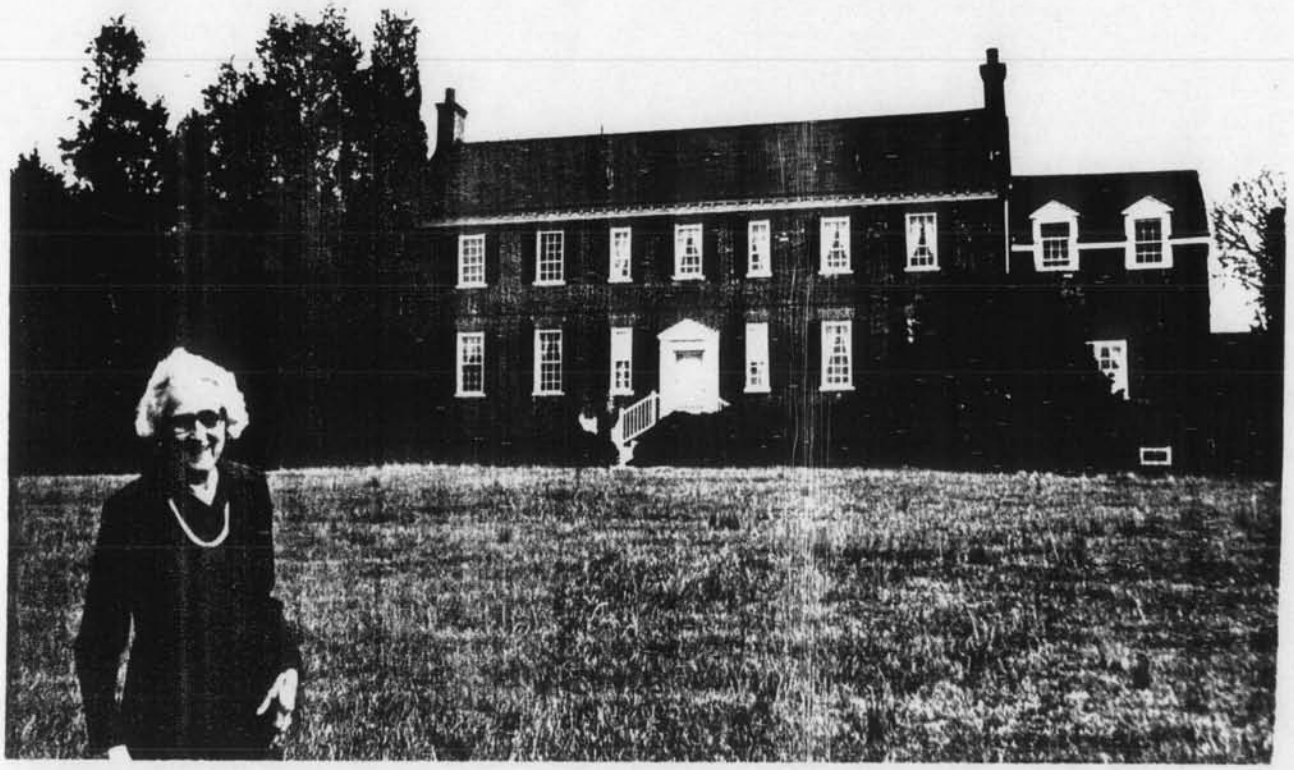
Historic American Buildings Survey, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Murray, Elizabeth Hesselius, One Hundred Years Ago, or The Life and Times of the Rev. Walter Dulany Addison, 1769 - 1848. Philadelphia, 1895.

Oxon Hill Manor, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Washington, 1972

Records of Charles County, La Plata, Maryland

Records of Prince Georges County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland



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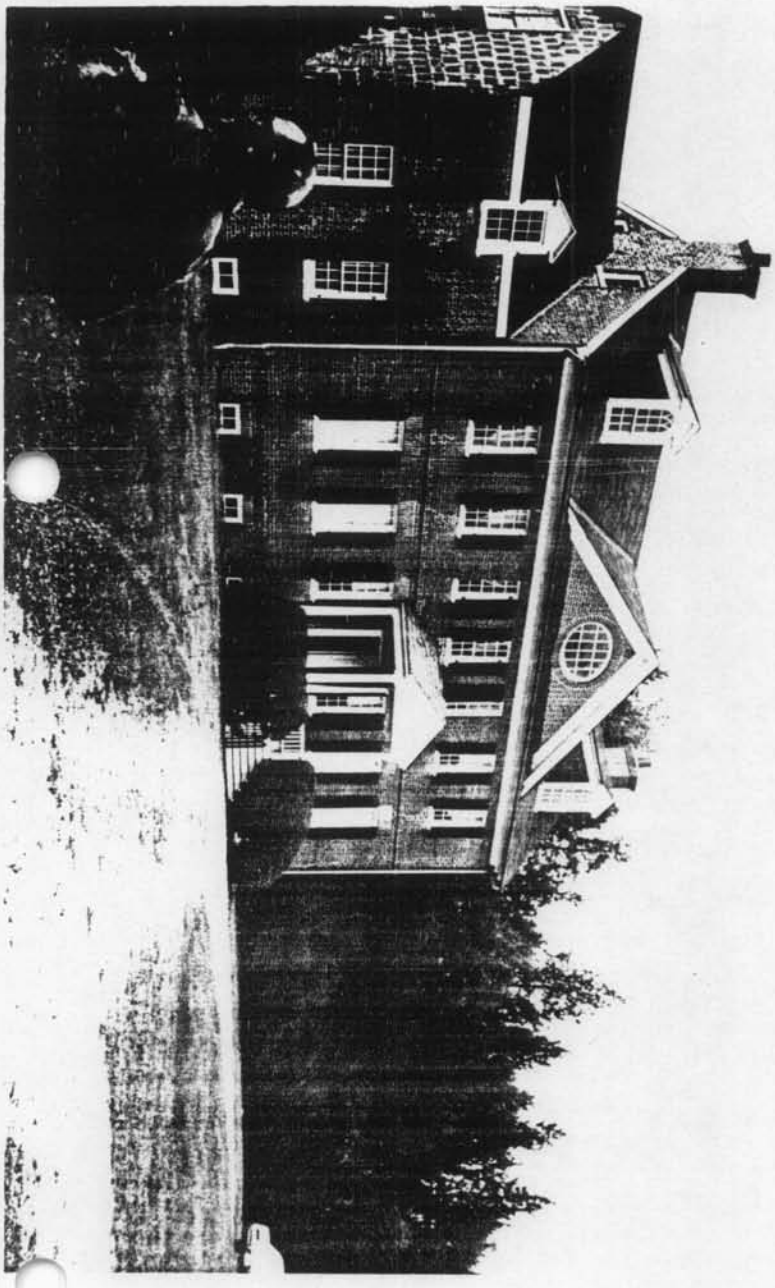
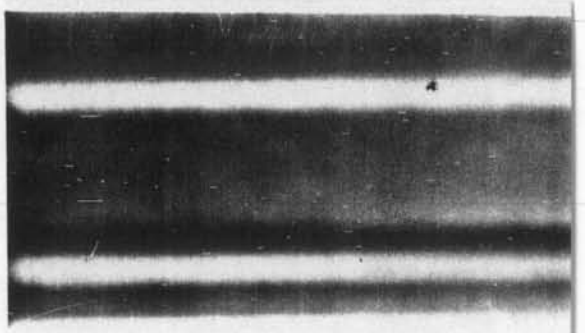
Harmony Hall FEB 2 0 1980
Prince Georges County, Maryland
Gary Scott, Photographer, 1977
National Capital Region/ NPS 2/2
River view, facing east
Mrs. Charles Collins, life tenent





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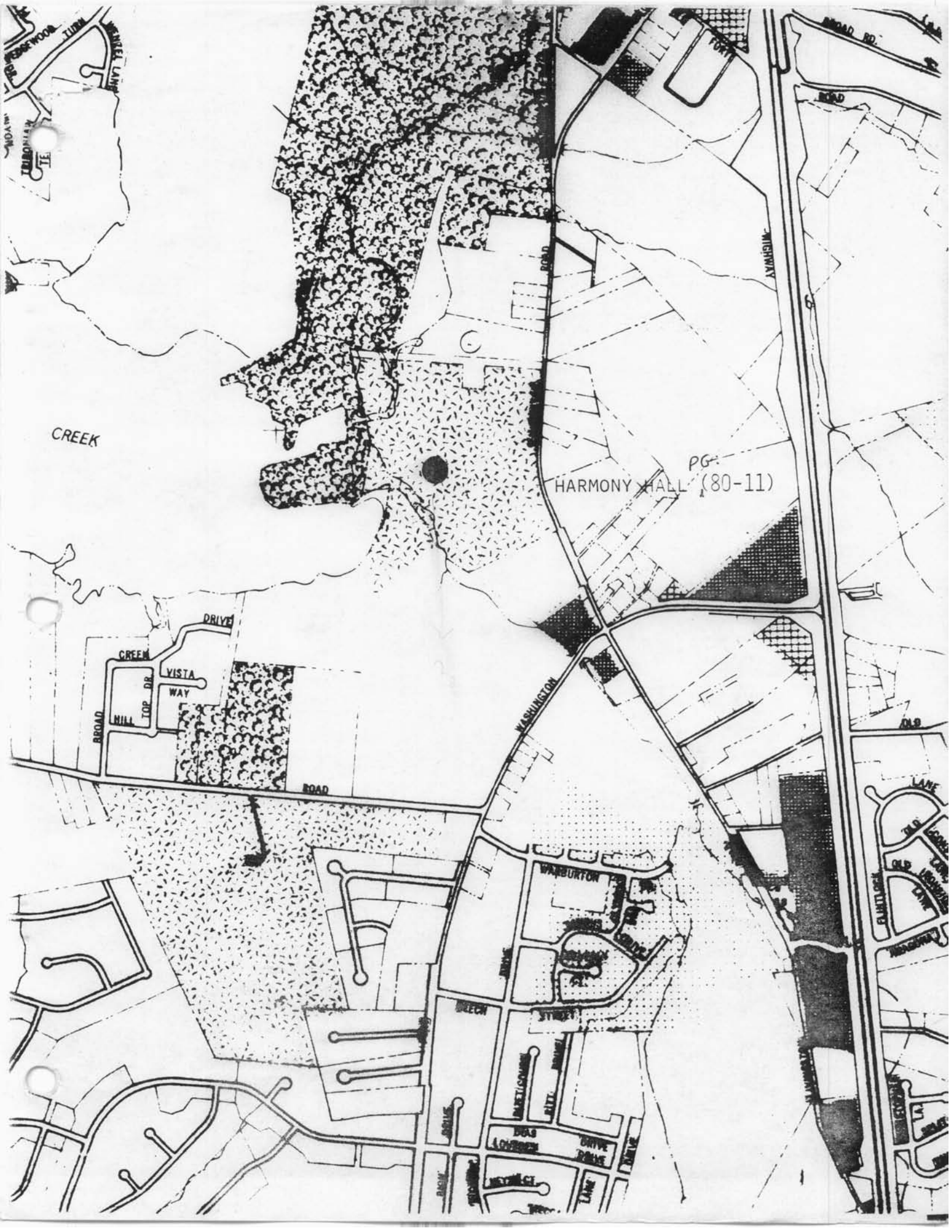
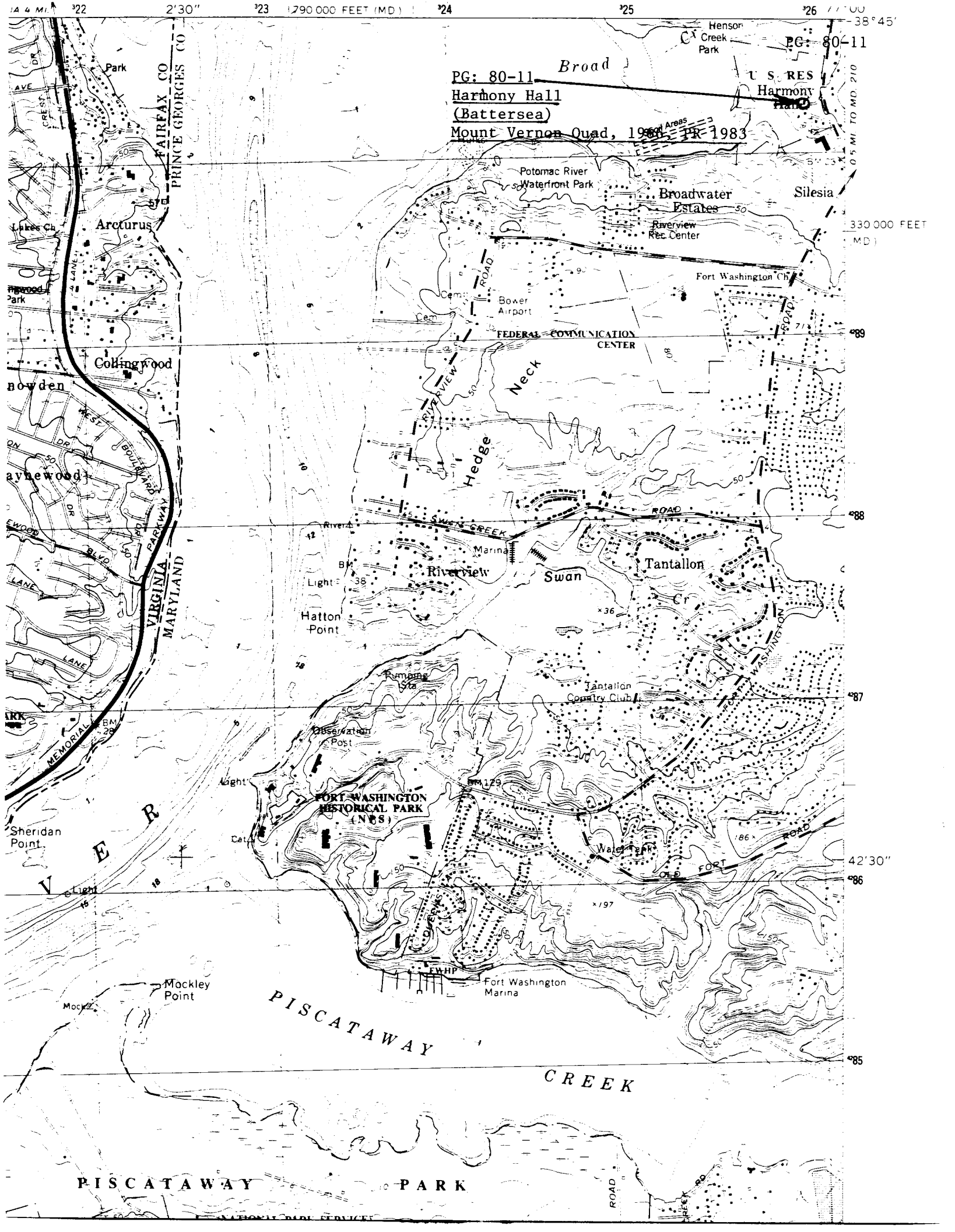
Harmony Hall
Prince Georges County, Maryland
Gary Scott, Photographer, 1977
National Capital Region/ NPS
Road view, camera facing west

FEB 2 0 1980

1/2


CREEK
HARMONY HALL
PG.
(80-11)
WASHINGTON
ROAD
HIGHWAY
BROAD RD.
ROAD
DRIVE
CREEK
VISTA
WAY
TOP DR.
HILL
BROAD
ROAD
WARBURTON
DRIVE
BEECH
STREET
DRIVE
DRIVE
DRIVE
LANE
OLD
LANE
FLINTLOCK
OLD
LANE


PG: 80-11
Harmony Hall
(Battersea)
Mount Vernon Quad, 1966, PR 1983
PG: 80-11
Broad
Henson Creek Park
U S RES
Harmony Hall
Potomac River Waterfront Park
Broadwater Estates
Silesia
Riverview Rec Center
Fort Washington Ch
Bower Airport
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION CENTER
Hedge Neck
Arcturus
Collingwood
FAIRFAX CO
PRINCE GEORGES CO
VIRGINIA
MARYLAND
Riverview
Marina
Swan Cr
Tantallon
Hatton Point
Pumping Sta
Tantallon Country Club
Observation Post
FORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL PARK (NPS)
Sheridan Point
Water Tank
OLD FORT ROAD
FORT WASHINGTON
Fort Washington Marina
Mockley Point
PISCATAWAY CREEK
PISCATAWAY PARK
MEMORIAL PARKWAY
2'30"
790 000 FEET (MD)
330 000 FEET (MD)
38°45'
42'30"

NAME HARMONY HALL (Battersea) PG:80-11

LOCATION LIVINGSTON Rd OXON HILL, Md (BROAD CREEK)

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 MOWYER