

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG# 71B-2-8 Building Date: 1870s, ca. 1915

Building Name: Harmon-Phelps House

Location: 8706 Maple Avenue, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Harmon-Phelps House is a two-story square hip-roof frame dwelling, built in two stages. The southerly two-bay section dates from the 1870s; the northerly two-bay section was added circa 1915, resulting in a full American Foursquare. The original building (the present southerly two-bay section) was probably a front-gabled, two-story "shotgun" type frame dwelling. The second bay of the east facade was originally a doorway; when the house was enlarged circa 1915, the opening was converted into a window. The house is now four bays by four bays, with entrance in the third bay of the main east facade. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash; in the newer section they have plain board surrounds with outer bead; those in the older section have plain board surrounds. The original siding is now covered with dark green rectangular shingle. The southerly half of the house rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing stone, the northerly half rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a basement.

Significance

The Harmon-Phelps House is an unusual example of a modest shotgun style dwelling which was subsequently doubled in size. It stands on one of the original lots platted for the town of Huntington, now Bowie. The town of Huntington was platted in 1870 around the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. The south part of the subject house was distinguished from other similar dwellings by the installation in its second-story front bedroom of a fine mantel, possibly taken from an older building. After the property was purchased by Clarence Phelps, circa 1915, an addition was built onto the north side of the house, changing the roofline of the house, doubling its size, and making it into a full American Foursquare, the popular style of the day. The resulting house is a noticeable and unusual landmark in the town of Bowie. It demonstrates the expansion of a small, modest town dwelling into the popular Foursquare design, and as such is an important and unique example of building evolution.

Acreage: 10,219 square feet

i:\hr\_eval\71b-2-8.sum

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. PG #71B-2-8

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name** (Indicate preferred name)

historic

and/ or common Harmon-Phelps House

**2. Location**

street & number 8706 Maple Avenue

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<u>X</u> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	___ military	___ other

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert and Mary Rapczynski

street & number 8706 Maple Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code: Maryland 20720

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Administration Building liber #6318

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive folio: 47

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1992 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state X county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation, M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. # 71B-2-8

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements that exist today.**

The Harmon-Phelps House is a two-story square (circa 30 by 30 feet) hip-roof frame dwelling which stands on a group of the original lots of the town of Huntington, facing east onto Maple Avenue. The house was built in two stages. The southerly two-bay section dates from the 1870s; the northerly two-bay section was added circa 1915, resulting in a full American Four-square, the popular style of the day.

The original building (two bays by two bays, the present southerly section) was probably a front-gabled, two-story "shotgun" type frame dwelling (similar to several other houses built in the 1870s and still standing on neighboring lots). Interior framing (visible during renovation work late in 1986) indicates that the second bay of the east facade was originally a doorway; when the house was enlarged circa 1915, this opening was converted into a window. The house is now four bays by four bays, with entrance in the third bay of the east facade through a door with a single-pane transom and narrow molded surround.

Across the east facade is a one-story hip-roof porch supported by four Tuscan columns on brick bases. The porch is accessible by two concrete steps between the third and fourth columns, and has a poured concrete floor. Windows are wood frame double hung sash, with two lights over two lights. Windows in the newer (northerly) section have plain board surrounds with outer bead; those in the older (southerly) section have plain board surrounds. All window surrounds are painted white. The second-story windows on the southerly (older) section, are shorter than those in the northerly section.

The original siding is now covered with dark green rectangular shingle. There are places in the southerly section where German siding can be observed beneath the covering shingle; some plain horizontal board can be observed beneath the shingle on the west elevation. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and is painted white, as are the corner boards. The shallow pyramidal roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle. There are two chimneys: one nearly centered in the south plane of the roof, and another near the west (rear) in the north plane. There is no basement under the southerly half of the house; it rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing stone. The northerly half of the building rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a basement.

There is a rear entrance in the third bay (old section) of the west elevation. This rear elevation is sheltered by a one-story shed-roof porch supported by turned posts.

Interior of the house consist of four spaces. The present entrance leads into a stair hall in the northeast quadrant, part of the circa 1915 expansion. A two-run staircase with square paneled newel rises along the north exterior wall, then turns 90 degrees and continues along the west interior wall to a second-story stairhall space. This handsome staircase is closed string with turned balusters. Trim around doors and windows in most of the first story is typical of the early twentieth century: convex framed molding with bull's-eye cornerblocks. A set of pocket doors divides the stairhall from the living

room in the southeast space. The staircase and all trim are painted dark brown. In the northwest space (the current dining room) a large cabinet has been installed, moved from its original location in the older section of the house. In the interior of this cabinet the words "Millard Schafer, Bowie MD" are written; Schafer was a local builder associated with several other early twentieth-century buildings in the Bowie area.

There is an enclosed rear staircase in the southwest (kitchen) space (this was the staircase of the original building). This two-run staircase begins along the west (exterior) wall, then turns 90 degrees and rises along the south wall.

The chimney of the original dwelling served fireplaces (later stoves) in the west interior wall of the front room of both first and second stories. In this second-story bedroom, the stove opening was adorned with a large and fine wooden mantel, possibly reused from an earlier building. The firebox is framed by fluted pilasters, which support a broken panelled frieze. Each of the two outside projecting panels has an applied composition round-arch decoration depicting an overflowing urn framed by an oval projecting bead. The central projecting panel has a lozenge-shaped decoration depicting a female figure surrounded by flowers. The spaces in between the projecting panels are adorned with applied composition swags. Behind this mantel several items (letters, postcards, newspaper clippings) dateable to the early 1880s have been discovered during recent renovations.

The building stands on a group of the original lots platted in 1870 for the Town of Huntington (now Bowie). It fronts on Maple Avenue and, like the other dwellings on this street, it is set back a short distance from the street; flowering plants border the front porch. There is a partial driveway to the south of the house, paved only part way toward a modern two-bay front-gabled garage in the southwest corner of the rear yard. A second accessory building (a small front-gabled storage shed) is located in the northerly part of the rear yard.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Survey No. P.G.# 71B-2-8

Period	Areas of Significance-check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	1870's - 1915	Builder/Architect	Millard Schafer
check: Applicable Criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
and/or			
Applicable Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input type="checkbox"/> local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Harmon-Phelps House is an unusual example of a modest shotgun style dwelling which was doubled in size to become a full Foursquare, the popular style of the day. It stands on a group of original lots platted for the town of Huntington (now Bowie) and is today a noticeable landmark in this small railroad community.

The town of Huntington (Bowie) grew up around the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. Construction of the line began 1868, and in the following year Ben H. Plumb, a land speculator and developer, purchased 250 acres of farmland through which the railroad was being constructed. At the point where a spur line to Washington, D.C., joined with the B & P R R, Plumb surveyed and platted a town of approximately one square mile, with numbered streets running east and west, and tree-named avenues running north and south, forming a grid over the diagonal railroad line.<sup>1</sup> In 1870, he published a *Prospectus of Huntington*, which described the new town, and offered for sale building lots, each of 2,500 square feet. Two carpenters, brought for the purpose, began building dwellings on lots already purchased. Several stores were constructed, lots were reserved for school and churches, two parks were laid out, and the railroad company began construction of depot, round house and machine shops.<sup>2</sup> The Depot itself was from the beginning known as Bowie Station, after members of the family who had backed the construction of the railroad line; the town, originally named Huntington, soon came to be known as Bowie as well. As might be expected, the railroad was the biggest employer: there were two conductors, two engineers, a baggage master and a brakeman, as well as all the other professionals essential to a small town.<sup>3</sup>

The south part of the subject house was one of the early dwellings built in the town; it stands on Lot 69 in Square 7 of the original 1870 plat. Plumb sold Lots 68 through 74 in 1870, and they were resold, unimproved, to Joseph Snodgrass in 1874. It was during Snodgrass' ownership that the original

<sup>1</sup>Plat of Huntington City, J. C. Lang, 1870, Library of Congress.

<sup>2</sup>*Prospectus of Huntington*, 1870.

<sup>3</sup>Census for Prince George's County, 14<sup>th</sup> Enumeration District, 1880

frame house was constructed.<sup>4</sup> It was probably a two-bay wide front-gable "shotgun" plan dwelling, similar to the two houses immediately south of Ninth Street on the same side of Maple Avenue. The Snodgrass house was distinguished from the other similar dwellings by the installation in its second-story front bedroom of a fine wood mantel with fluted pilasters and applied decorative panels, possibly transported from an older building. Joseph Snodgrass, who lived in the District of Columbia, apparently built the house as an investment; during the 1880s he rented this small dwelling to Fred Moulton, a young carpenter who lived in the house with his wife, and three young daughters.<sup>5</sup>

It is not known how long Moulton lived in the Snodgrass house. (During recent repairs, the current owners discovered several items lodged behind the ornate second-story mantel; they are marked with Fred Moulton's name, and date from the early 1880s). The property was sold in 1884, and again in 1891, and continued to be used as a rental property. It was circa 1915, after the property was purchased by Clarence Phelps, that the addition was built onto the north side of the house, changing the roofline of the house, doubling its size, and making it into the popular Colonial Revival Foursquare which was the popular style of the day.<sup>6</sup> The north extension added a handsome entry hall, with a period staircase which rose to the second-story sitting room and bedroom. The original boxed staircase was retained as a rear stair from the kitchen. Although the enlarged building was now a single-family home, no attempt was made to cover the variation in the two different foundation materials (stone and concrete), or in the varying window sizes.

It is likely that the new construction which enlarged the house was done by local builder Millard Schafer. Schafer can be credited with the construction of several buildings in the Bowie area during these years, most notably St. James Chapel in 1906, Spafield in 1909, Cedar Hill in 1916, the Boyden House in 1917 and Boxlee in 1923.<sup>7</sup> Schafer's name can be seen pencilled on an interior board in the cabinet. This cabinet was built into the first-story southwest (kitchen) space, apparently at the time the house was enlarged; in the interior renovations of the last decade, the present owners moved it into the present dining room.

From 1918, this enlarged dwelling was the family home of railroad employee Grover Harmon.<sup>8</sup> It remained the Harmon family home after the death of Grover Harmon, and was subsequently the home of his daughter, Cora Harmon Phelps, until her death in 1985. The house was sold out of her estate to the present owners in 1986.<sup>9</sup>

The Harmon house is a noticeable and unusual landmark in the town of Bowie. It demonstrates the expansion of a small, modest town dwelling into the popular Foursquare house form and as such is an important and unique example of building evolution.

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<sup>4</sup>Prince George's County Deed HB #4:155, HB#9:2; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1871, 1874, 1888-97

<sup>5</sup>Census for Prince George's County, 14<sup>th</sup> Enumeration District, 1880; Prince George's County Tax Assessment, 1888.

<sup>6</sup>Prince George's County Deed #90:64; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1915.

<sup>7</sup> See Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms #70-21, 70-39, 71A-8, 71A-34 and 71B-2-6.

<sup>8</sup>Prince George's County Deed #129:423.

<sup>9</sup>Prince George's County Estate file #33201; Prince George's County Will CMH #22:260; Prince George's County Deed #6318:47.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #71B-2-8

cf. notes, Item #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10,219 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Laurel, Section I

Tax map 29, Block 7, lots 67-70  
Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission, C/O MNCPPG date September 1987/February 2000

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive telephone (301) 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

'2'

P. 4

WILLIAM T. HUBBERT  
5373 / 083  
4.80A. P.213

SANDY HILL

R-R

P 319  
4066/939  
2.80A  
P 30

R-55

BUCKETTOWN RD.

PARCEL - A  
HUNTINGTON  
2TH LOCAL PARK

P.187 P.31

WILLIAM PERKINS, ETAL  
5323 / 358  
8.40 A.  
P. 309

7496

9.54 A.

LEE R. PRESTWOOD  
3297/392  
2.00 A.  
P. 65

M.E.

CRUMP

6313 / 808  
3.74 A.  
P. 67

71B-2-8

Seventh

Eighth

CHapel Ave.

4684

MD. 197

72  
AVE.

R-R

ASCENSION CHURCH  
PATRICK A. O'BOYLE  
37/385, 2083/484  
11.81A.  
P. 275

564

124008

9646

AMTRAK

5258 / 62  
7.23 A.  
P.104

C-C

R-55

SEVERN RD.

SHOWALTER

2.72 A.

KEVIN P. RYAN

855/403  
1.82 A.  
P. 87

1.07 A.  
P. 107

I-1

NEW JERSEY STEEL CORP.  
5545/680  
8.43 A.  
P. 17

NANCY BROWN  
4182 / 813  
5.10 A.  
P. 215

PG: 71B-2-8

O-S

1.34 A.

P.115

P.116

9296

9736 2

1.31A P.149

JOHN H. KELLER

P.152 1.93A. P.153

KLINE SUB

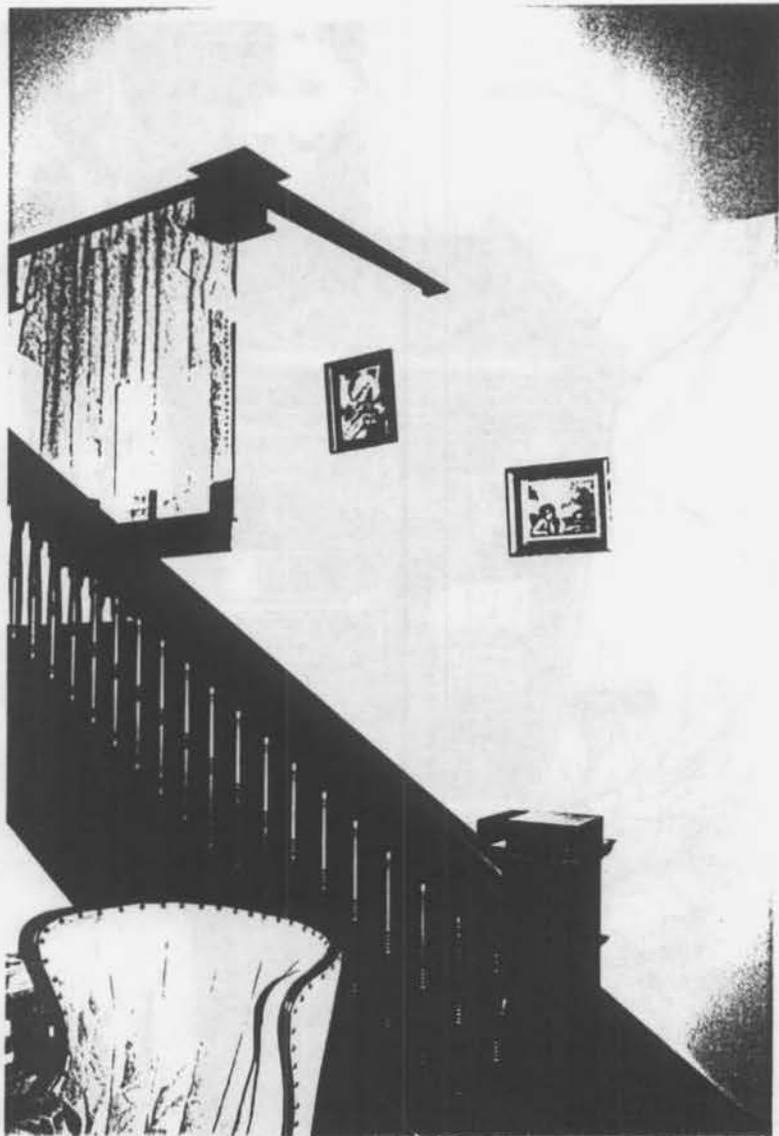
R-R



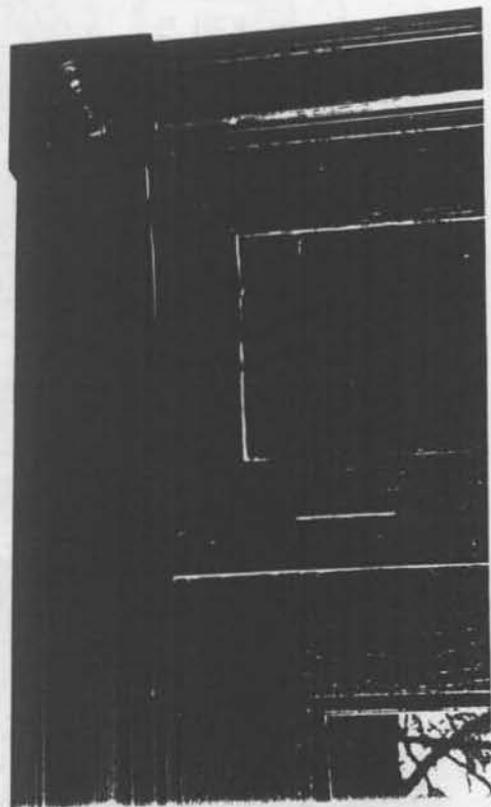
*East facade*



*West (rear) elevation*



*Stair*



*Molding*

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-2-8 Building Date: 1870's, ca. 1915

Building Name: Harmon-Phelps House

Location: 8706 Maple Avenue, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Unoccupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

The Harmon-Phelps House is a two-story square hip-roof frame dwelling, built in two stages. The southerly two-bay section dates from the 1870's; the northerly two-bay section was added circa 1915, resulting in a full four-square "Classic Box". The original building (the present southerly two-bay section) was probably a front-gabled, two-story "shotgun" type frame dwelling. The second bay of the east facade was originally a doorway; when the house was enlarged circa 1915, this opening was converted into a window. The house is now four bays by four bays, with entrance in the third bay of the main east facade. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash; in the newer section they have plain board surrounds with outer bead; those in the older section have plain board surrounds. The original siding is now covered with dark green rectangular shingle. The southerly half of the house rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing stone; the northerly half rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a basement.

Significance

The Harmon-Phelps House is an unusual example of a modest shotgun style dwelling which was doubled in size to become a full Foursquare "Classic Box", the popular style of the day. It stands on one of the original lots platted for the town of Huntington, now Bowie. The town of Huntington was platted in 1870 around the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. The south part of the subject house was one of the early dwellings built in the town. It was built in the 1870's, probably a two-bay wide front-gable shotgun dwelling. This house was distinguished from the other similar dwellings by the installation in its second-story front bedroom of a fine Federal style mantel with fluted pilasters and applied decorative panels, possibly transported from an older building. After the property was purchased by Clarence Phelps, circa 1915, an addition was built onto the north side of the house, changing the roofline of the house, doubling its size, and making it into the popular Colonial Revival Foursquare which was the popular style of the day. The Harmon house is a noticeable and unusual landmark in the town of Bowie. It demonstrates the expansion of a small, modest town dwelling into the popular Foursquare design, and as such is an important and unique example of building evolution.

Acreage: 10,000 square feet

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Harmon-Phelps House

### 2. Location

street & number 8706 Maple Avenue  not for publicationcity, town Bowie  vicinity of  congressional district 5state Maryland  county Prince George's

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert Rapczynski

street &amp; number 8710 Maple Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code Maryland 20715

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #6318

street &amp; number Main Street folio 47

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-8

<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Harmon-Phelps House is a two-story square (circa 30 by 30 feet) hip-roof frame dwelling which stands on one of the original lots of the town of Huntington, facing east onto Maple Avenue. The house was built in two stages. The southerly two-bay section dates from the 1870's; the northerly two-bay section was added circa 1915, resulting in a full four-square "Classic Box", the popular style of the day.

The original building (two bays by two bays, the present southerly section) was probably a front-gabled, two-story "shotgun" type frame dwelling (similar to several other houses built in the 1870's and still standing on neighboring lots). Interior framing (visible during renovation work late in 1986) indicates that the second bay of the east facade was originally a doorway; when the house was enlarged circa 1915, this opening was converted into a window. The house is now four bays by four bays, with entrance in the third bay of the main east facade; through a door with a single-pane transom and narrow molded surround.

Across the main east facade is a one-story hip-roof porch supported by four Tuscan columns on brick bases. The porch is accessible by two concrete steps between the third and fourth columns, and has a poured concrete floor. Windows are wood frame double hung sash, with two lights over two lights. Windows in the newer (northerly) section have plain board surrounds with outer bead; those in the older (southerly) section have plain board surrounds. All window surrounds are painted white. The second story windows on the southerly (older) section, are shorter than those in the northerly section.

The original siding is now covered with dark green rectangular shingle. The original siding of the southerly section could not be observed; it is plain horizontal board in the northerly section. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and is painted white, as are the corner boards. The shallow pyramidal roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle. There are two chimneys: one nearly centered in the south plane of the roof, and another near the west (rear) in the north plane. There is no basement under the southerly half of the house; it rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing stone. The northerly half of the building rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a basement.

There is a rear entrance in the third bay (old section) of the west facade. This rear facade is sheltered by a one-story shed-roof porch supported by turned posts. There are new 6/6 windows in the south and west facades.

Interior of the house consists of four spaces. The present entrance leads into a stairhall in the northeast quadrant. A two-run staircase with square panelled newel rises along the north exterior wall, then turns 90° and continues along the west interior wall to a second-story stairhall space. There is an enclosed rear staircase in the southwest (kitchen)-space (this was the staircase of the original building). This two-run staircase rises along the west (exterior) wall, and turns 90° along the south wall.

The chimney of the original dwelling serves fireplaces in the west (interior) wall of the front (southeast) room of both first and second stories. In this second-story bedroom, the fireplace is adorned with a large and fine wooden mantel, which may be from the Federal period. The firebox is framed by fluted pilasters, which support a broken panelled frieze. The two outside projecting panels have applied (composition) oval panels depicting dancing women framed by an oval projecting bead. The central projecting panel has a similar applied panel; unlike the outside panels, however, this central panel is oriented horizontally. The spaces in between the projecting panels are adorned with applied composition swags. Behind this mantel, which may have been removed from a Federal style house and built into this one, several items (letters, postcards, newspaper clippings) dateable to the early 1880's have been discovered during recent renovations.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-8

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1870's, ca. 1915      **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Harmon-Phelps House is an unusual example of a modest shotgun style dwelling which was doubled in size to become a full Foursquare "Classic Box", the popular style of the day. It stands on one of the original lots platted for the town of Huntington (now Bowie) and is today a noticeable landmark in this small railroad community.

The town of Huntington (Bowie) grew up around the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. Construction of the line began in 1868, and in the following year Ben H. Plumb, a land speculator and developer, purchased 250 acres of farmland through which the railroad was being constructed. At the point where a spur line to Washington, D.C. joined with the B&P.R.R., Plumb surveyed and platted a town of approximately one square mile, with numbered streets running east and west, and tree-named avenues running north and south, forming a grid over the diagonal railroad line.<sup>1</sup> In 1870, he published a Prospectus of Huntington, which described the new town, and offered for sale building lots, each of 2,500 square feet. Two carpenters, brought for the purpose, began building dwellings on lots already purchased. Several stores were constructed, lots were reserved for school and churches, two parks were laid out, and the railroad company began construction of depot, round house and machine shops.<sup>2</sup> The Depot itself was from the beginning known as Bowie Station, after members of the family who had backed the construction of the railroad line; the town, originally named Huntington, soon came to be known as Bowie as well. As might be expected, the railroad was the biggest employer: there were two conductors, two engineers, a baggage master and a brakeman, as well as all the other professionals essential to a small town.<sup>3</sup>

The south part of the subject house was one of the early dwellings built in the town; it stands on Lot 69 in Square 7 of the original 1870 plat. Plumb sold Lots 68 through 74 in 1870, and they were resold, unimproved, to Joseph Snodgrass in 1874. It was during Snodgrass' ownership

that the original frame house was constructed.<sup>4</sup> It was probably a two-bay wide front-gable shotgun plan dwelling, similar to the two houses immediately south of Ninth Street on the same side of Maple Avenue. The Snodgrass house was distinguished from the other similar dwellings by the installation in its second-story front bedroom of a fine Federal style mantel with fluted pilasters and applied decorative panels, possibly transported from an older building. Joseph Snodgrass, who lived in the District of Columbia, apparently built the house as an investment; during the 1880's he rented this small dwelling to Fred Moulton, a young carpenter who lived in the house with his wife, and three young daughters.<sup>5</sup>

It is not known how long Moulton lived in the Snodgrass house. (During recent repairs, the current owners discovered several items lodged behind the ornate second-story mantel; they are marked with Fred Moulton's name, and date from the early 1880's). The property was sold in 1884, and again in 1891, and continued to be used as a rental property. It was circa 1915, after the property was purchased by Clarence Phelps, that the addition was built onto the north side of the house, changing the roofline of the house, doubling its size, and making it into the popular Colonial Revival Foursquare which was the popular style of the day.<sup>6</sup> The north extension added a handsome open entry hall, with a period staircase which rose to second-story sitting room and bedrooms. The original boxed staircase was retained as a rear stair from the kitchen. Although the enlarged building was now a single-family home, no attempt was made to cover the variation in the two different foundation materials (stone and concrete), and in the varying window sizes. From 1918, this enlarged dwelling was the family home of railroad employee, Grover Harmon.<sup>7</sup>

This handsome dwelling remained the Harmon family home after the death of Grover Harmon, and remained the home of his daughter, Cora Harmon Phelps, until her death in 1985. The house was sold out of her estate in 1986, and the new owners have undertaken restoration work.<sup>8</sup>

The Harmon house is a noticeable and unusual landmark in the town of Bowie. It demonstrates the expansion of a small, modest town dwelling into the popular Foursquare design, and as such is an important and unique example of building evolution.

#### Notes

- 1 Plat of Huntington City, J. C. Lang, 1870, Library of Congress.
- 2 Prospectus of Huntington, 1870.
- 3 Census for Prince George's County, 14th Enumeration District, 1880.
- 4 Prince George's County Deed HB #4:155, HB #9:2; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1871, 1874, 1888-97.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-8

Section 8 Page 3

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5 Census for Prince George's County, 14th Enumeration District, 1880;  
Prince George's County Tax Assessment, 1888.

6 Prince George's County Deeds #90:64; Prince George's County Tax Assess-  
ments, 1915.

7 Prince George's County Deed #129:423.

8 Prince George's County Estate File #33201; Prince George's County Will  
CMH #22:260; Prince George's County Deed #6318:47.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-8

cf. notes, Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10,000 sq. ft.Quadrangle name Laurel, Section ITax map 29, Block 7, lot 68/69  
Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commission, c/o MNCPPG date September 1987street & number Main Street, Room 4010 telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

'2'

WILLIAM T. HUBBERT  
5373 / 083  
4-80A. P.213

NDY HILL

R-R

P 319  
4066/939  
2.80A  
P 30

R-55

KETTOWN RD.

PARCEL - A  
HUNTINGTON  
LOCAL PARK

7496

WILLIAM PERKINS, ETAL  
5323 / 358  
8.40 A.  
P.309

LEE R. PRESTWOOD  
3297/392  
2.00 A.  
P.65

M.E. CRUMP  
6313/808  
3.74 A.  
P.67

718-2-8

4684

MD. 197

72

R-R

ASCENSION CHURCH  
PATRICK A. O'BOYLE  
37/385, 2083/484  
11.81A.  
P.275

564

124008

9646

8896

C-C

C-C

R-55

1162

HAM-SEVERN RD.

SHOWALTER  
2.72 A.  
P.95

KEVIN T. RYAN  
855/403  
1.82 A.  
P.87

AMTRAK RR

I-1

NEW JERSEY STEEL CORP.  
5545/680  
1.25 A.  
P.110

NANCY BROWN  
4182/813  
5.10 A.  
P.215

PG 718-2-8

O-S

1.34 A.  
P.115  
P.116

9296

97362

1.31A P.149  
JOHN H. KELLER

1.93A  
P.153

R-R

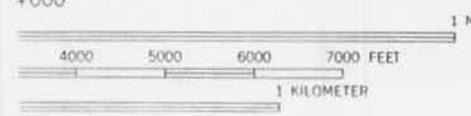
KLINE SUB

# LAUREL

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
PATUXENT WILDLIFE  
RESEARCH CENTER



MJ NE 5 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95 47°30' 345 346 INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1978 347 2.1 MI. TO MD. 450 3480000 E 76°45' 39



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

U.S. Route State Route

AL 20 FEET  
L DATUM OF 1929



P. G. #71B-2-8  
Harmon-Phelps House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
October 1986  
East elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #71B-2-8  
Harmon - Phelps House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
October 1986  
West elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #71B-2-8  
Harmon-Phelps House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
October 1986  
Southwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #71B-2-8

Harmon-Phelps House

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

December 1986

Mantel detail

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #71B-2-8  
Harmon-Phelps House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1986  
Mantel  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #71B-2-8  
Harmon-Phelps House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
October 1986  
Northeast 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.