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Cultural Landscape Report
Harmony Hall

April 2025

Resource Stewardship and Science
Division of Cultural Resources, National Capital Region

Cultural Landscape Report, Parts I and II

National Capital Parks-East

Harmony Hall

Fort Washington, MD

April 2025

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Cultural Landscape Report
Harmony Hall

Prince George's County, MD



April 2025

Prepared by:
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Land Acknowledgment

The land addressed through this study is a portion of the ancestral homeland of the Piscataway peoples. The Piscataway trace their history in the region as far back as 10,000 years ago as a confederacy that extended between the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay to the Potomac River and all land from the southern tip of St. Mary's County, Maryland, north to include Baltimore, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel counties to Washington, DC.[1] By the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the Piscataway were among several Algonquian-speaking Indigenous groups who lived in present-day southern Maryland.[2] A high concentration of Indigenous artifacts found at the study area, a prime location along Broad Creek, suggests that this location could have been a seasonal hunting or fishing camp or an even more substantial settlement.[3]

English settlers arrived in the Chesapeake region beginning in the early seventeenth century, and Piscataway leaders' initial attempts at accommodation were often met with settler violence and encroachment onto their lands. England established the colony of Maryland in 1632 and increasingly asserted control over Indigenous lands. This conflict prompted a treaty, the 1666 Articles of Peace and Amity, between Lord Baltimore (the crown-appointed colonial leader in Maryland) and Piscataway tribal leadership. The treaty established a Piscataway reservation, known as Piscataway Manor, in 1669. Piscataway tribal and colonial leaders agreed to subsequent treaties, and additional reservations were established; however, settlers consistently broke the treaties and seized Piscataway lands regardless of such agreements. The treaties and the violations of those treaties cumulatively took the Piscataway peoples' ancestral homelands away from them and gave them to English colonizers. Displaced and facing relentless encroachment and hostility from European colonizers, the Piscataway largely left southern Maryland in 1697 for the Virginia piedmont region.[4]

The Piscataway are still a living people associated with this site and the region. The Piscataway Indian Nation and Piscataway Conoy Tribe gained state recognition in Maryland in 2012 after a 30-year struggle for acknowledgement, led by Chief Turkey Tayac and his son Billy. NACE considers the Piscataway co-stewards

1 Piscataway Conoy Tribe, "History," *Piscataway Conoy Tribe*, accessed February 4, 2022, available at http://www.piscatawayconoytribe.com/history.
2 Julia A. King, Travis Hanson, Scott M. Strickland, *Piscataway Park: Ethnographic Overview & Assessment* (National Park Service, 2021), 38.
3 *Harmony Hall Cultural Landscape Inventory* (National Park Service, 2018), 26.
4 Piscataway Conoy Tribe, "History," *Piscataway Conoy Tribe*, accessed February 4, 2022, available at http://www.piscatawayconoytribe.com/history.

of park lands. In addition to southern Maryland, Piscataway peoples are also in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan. To continue the process of acknowledgement and protection of places important to associated tribes, this report recommends engaging with the Piscataway to identify significance, concerns, or potential future use of the Harmony Hall site. The report also recommends consulting with the tribes to determine appropriate future studies.

Executive Summary

The Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Harmony Hall provides a site history summary of existing conditions documented in August 2023 and December 2023, analysis and evaluation of landscape changes and historical significance, recommended treatment for the study area landscape under NPS management, and an example concept for development and use if a future partner is identified. The CLR provides NPS with the information necessary to rehabilitate and preserve the cultural landscape and builds upon previous planning documents including the 2022 Development Concept Plan (DCP).

The study area on Broad Creek in present-day Prince George's County, Maryland, has been used by humans since the Late Archaic Period. Indigenous groups including the Piscataway and Nacotchtank used the land for seasonal hunting, fishing, and potentially settlement. European settlers began encroaching on these lands in the seventeenth century, bringing violence and diseases that led to the decline of the Indigenous populations. As settlement progressed, the area became home to two significant plantations: Battersea and Want Water, which thrived in tobacco cultivation, largely through the labor of enslaved people. These plantations were owned by various families over time, with Enoch Magruder acquiring both properties in the 1760s and constructing a Georgian-style manor house at Battersea, later known as Harmony Hall. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, ownership of the properties changed frequently. After being sold to Robert Stein in 1892, the Stein family established a presence in the area, renaming it "Silesia" for their homeland in what was then Prussia.

In 1929, Charles W. Collins, a White supremacist, bought Harmony Hall and altered the landscape to reflect a colonial revival style, erasing much of its previous character. After his death in 1964, his widow sold the land to the National Park Service, which intended to incorporate it into the George Washington Memorial Parkway. However, the parkway project stalled, and the site was left to deteriorate. The NPS leased the property to a horseback riding school in the 1980s, but after ongoing repairs were not completed, the lease ended in 1999. By the twenty-first century, the site had become overgrown.

Harmony Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Although the nomination noted some outbuildings extant at that time and the Want Water manor house ruins, the statement of significance was based solely on the Harmony Hall manor house. Harmony Hall was listed as significant in the area

of Architecture (now Criterion C). This CLR proposes the landscape possesses additional significance under Criteria A for Commerce, 1748–98, Criterion B for the site's association with Charles Collins, 1929–64, and Criterion D for Archeology, and recommends 1708 to 1798 and 1929 to 1964 as the two periods of significance. The first period, 1708 to 1798, begins with the building of the Want Water manor house and concurrent development of a tobacco plantation on the tract, encompasses the development of Battersea (later Harmony Hall) as a tobacco plantation and residence, and ends with the last confirmed date that the official Broad Creek tobacco inspection warehouse at Want Water was in operation. The second period of significance, 1929 to 1964, remains largely as the CLI suggested to encompass Charles Collins's years of ownership but extends it to 1964 through the end of Collins's life.

The proposed treatment for the Harmony Hall landscape will disrupt the segregationist narratives of the Collins Era, reveal the site's erased Black history, and provide an inspirational framework for future partnership, community healing, and resilience within the tidal system. The treatment is presented in three parts: guidelines for protecting the historic character of the cultural landscape, initial treatment recommendations tailored to NPS management of the site before identifying a partnership, and an inspirational example of potential landscape treatment following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards with a local partner.

The partnership concept presents a long-term vision for the Harmony Hall landscape, incorporating both immediate stabilization needs and a long-term concept to support a potential appropriate future use and interpretation. The treatment represents one option based on a cultural landscape perspective with the understanding that an individual partner, funding, timing, and additional research will likely require phasing or adjusting the desired landscape condition. In particular, ongoing ethnographic research and future archeological investigations may reveal new significance, historic information, or descendent communities that may require reconsideration of landscape treatment to ensure their integration in site planning and design.

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Introduction

Chapter 1

Chapter title page: View of Harmony Hall, ca. early twentieth century, facing west (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Chapter 1: Introduction

The purpose of this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is to investigate, document, evaluate, and guide treatment and long-term management for the physical landscape of Harmony Hall. Harmony Hall is a 65-acre property on the eastern shore of Broad Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. It includes the historic sites of two Tidewater Tobacco Culture plantations, Battersea/Harmony Hall and Want Water, and is significant for its architectural design as well as its role in exploration and settlement along the Potomac River and the agricultural history of tobacco production in Prince George's County, Maryland, and for its association with prominent Dixiecrat Party author Charles Wallis Collins. The property was originally acquired by the National Park Service in 1966 via the Capper–Cramton Act (PL 71-284) for the construction of the unrealized George Washington Memorial Parkway- East. It is now managed by NPS National Capital Parks-East (NACE), an administrative unit responsible for a diverse collection of urban parks within Washington, DC, and Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Charles Counties in Maryland.[1]

RELATED PLANNING PROJECTS

This CLR is stipulated by a 2022 Development Concept Plan (DCP) for Harmony Hall. The DCP outlines potential changes within the Harmony Hall property that would improve visitor access and support outdoor learning and passive recreation.[2] The CLR clarifies program recommendations appropriate for the cultural landscape based on its historic character and significance and provides a concept design and guidelines for the implementation of treatment recommendations.

The CLR's site history, existing condition, and analysis build on documentation completed for the 2018 Harmony Hall Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI).[3] The CLR provides expanded research as well as updated conditions and evaluation for the Harmony Hall study area.

The CLR was prepared concurrently with an Ethnographic Overview and Assessment (EOA) and a Special History Study Part 2. The EOA will address pre-emancipation sites in the National Capital Region (NCR) through a cooperative agreement with George Mason University (GMU). It will focus on the built environment associated with pre-emancipated and post-emancipated history

beginning in 1748 and extending at least through 1930. The core of the EOA is a research database tracing kinship ties and descendants of persons enslaved at Harmony Hall and Want Water. A mapping component of the EOA will identify physical landscape features that could help interpret African American associations to the site. To date, the EOA has identified 75 enslaved individuals associated with the Harmony Hall property.

The Special History Study Part 2 will also be conducted by George Mason University. This project will produce a detailed genealogical study of enslaved individuals associated with the Harmony Hall property.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY BOUNDARIES

Harmony Hall (Reservation 404M) is located in Prince George's County, Maryland, at 10511 Livingston Road, Fort Washington. The 65-acre property is approximately 11 miles south of the United States Capitol and approximately 4 miles north of Fort Washington Park (Figure 1-1). Harmony Hall is bordered to the north by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) treatment facility and to the south by the Harmony Hall Regional Center and private property owners. The study area's western boundary is Broad Creek and its eastern boundary is Livingston Road.

To organize the information in this report, the Harmony Hall landscape is divided into four landscape character areas (LCAs) (Figure 1-2). The configuration of these LCAs is based on clusters of existing and historic site features, land use, and topography. The LCAs are:

- The **Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA** is situated in the eastern portion of the study area between Livingston Road and the ha-ha. It includes all features within the cleared area around the mansion, including Harmony Hall, the horse stable, the bungalow, entrance drives, fences, garden spaces, and ornamental plantings.
- The **West Pasture and Slash Creek LCA** includes the central portion of the study area historically occupied by the west pasture. It extends between the ha-ha and Broad Creek and incorporates portions of Slash (sometimes alternatively referred to as Clash) Creek.
- The **Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA** occupies the southern portion of the study area below the relatively clear areas surrounding Harmony Hall and within the West Pasture. This LCA is heavily wooded and includes the Collins Era terraces and outbuilding remnants, cypress allée, Slash Creek, marshes and swamps within the floodplain, and the woodlot on the south side of Slash Creek.
- The **Want Water and Pine Stand LCA** includes the wooded, northern portion of the study area from Livingston Road to Broad Creek. Its



Figure 1-1. Harmony Hall study area regional location (Quinn Evans, 2023).

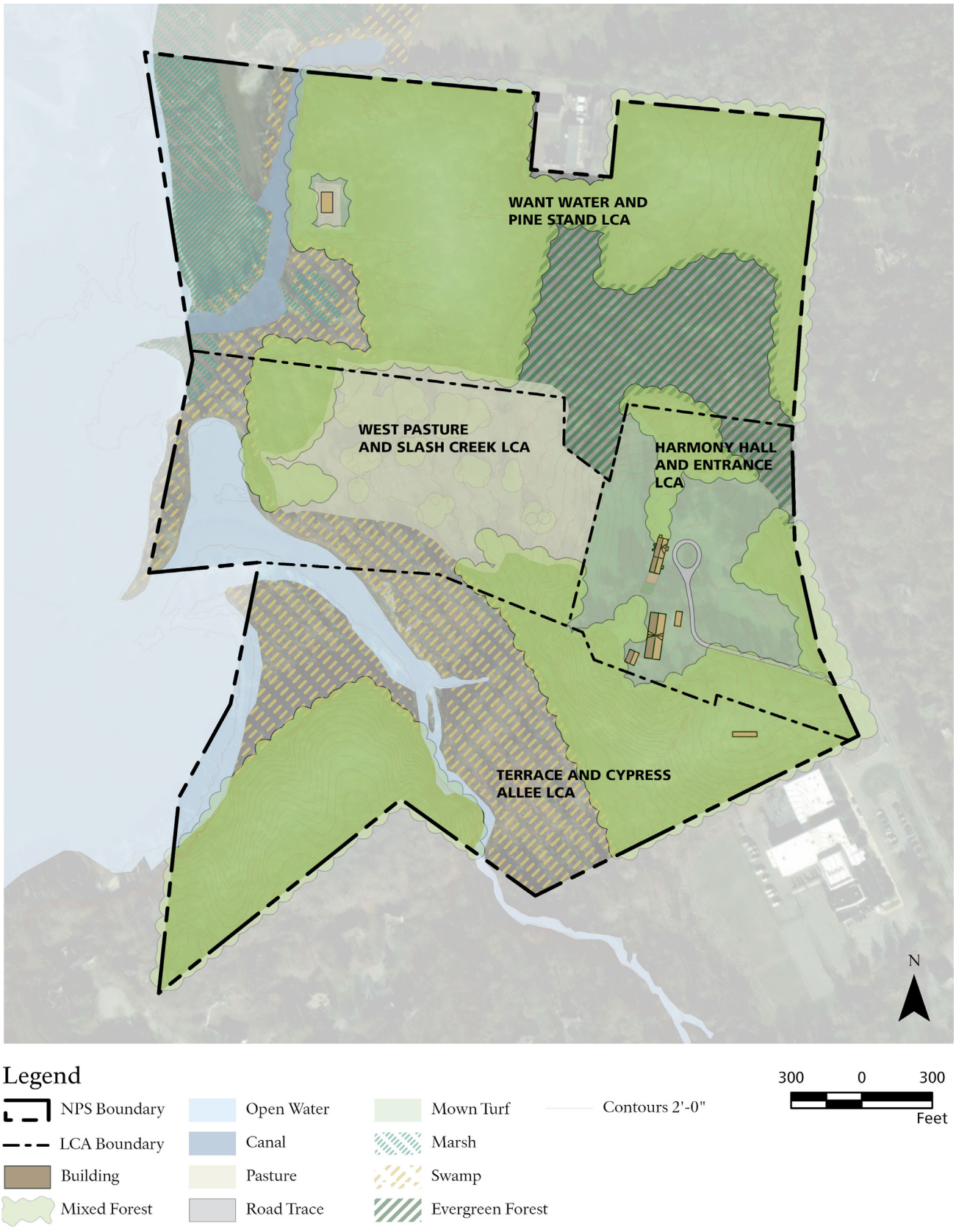


Figure 1-2. Harmony Hall CLR Landscape Character Areas (Quinn Evans, 2023).

southern boundary is the relatively open spaces associated with the west pasture and Harmony Hall. This LCA contains Want Water, the Want Water Canal, the pine stand, and remnants of Collins Era outbuildings as well as modern and historic circulation routes.

Landscape characteristics and features within each LCA are described in detail in Chapter 3.

SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLOGY

PROJECT GOALS

The goals of the Cultural Landscape Report are to:

1. Document changes to the landscape as it evolved from its early development through the present day using a combination of graphic illustrations and narrative.
2. Identify the period(s) of significance for the property and explain how the property meets National Register criteria and contributes to the areas of significance.
3. Document existing condition of the study area in narrative and graphic formats.
4. Analyze and evaluate the property's landscape characteristics and develop a list of contributing and non-contributing features.
5. Provide treatment guidance for the preferred condition and future management of the historic landscape, addressing critical management issues and considerations.
6. Correlate between cultural resource data and existing park Facility Management Software System (FMSS) data.

METHODOLOGY

A Cultural Landscape Report is the primary document used by the NPS to inform long-term management and treatment decisions for its historically significant landscapes. This CLR follows a cultural landscape approach adhering to federal standards and guidelines, including:

- *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques*
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*
- National Historic Preservation Act, 1966
- NPS Director's Order 28: Cultural Resources Management
- Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA), 1979
- Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment, and Management of Historic Landscapes
- Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS)
- Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ABAAG)

- Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

Project Team

Quinn Evans (QE), Washington, DC, provided historic landscape architectural services for this study, including development of the site history, existing condition documentation, and analysis related to the historic landscape. The historical landscape architect also developed treatment recommendations in Part 2 of this report.

QE's project team was supported by NPS staff including Daniel Weldon, NPS project manager and NACE Cultural Resources Program Manager; Julie McGilvray, NPS NCR, Preservation Services Program Manager; and Lara Hannon, NPS NACE Natural Resources Program Manager.

Project Kickoff

A remote project kickoff meeting was held on 7 July 2023 to introduce the project team, confirm the study area boundary, review the project scope of work and schedule, and establish a strategy for project startup and field investigations. Project team members met with representatives of the park and regional office at NACE headquarters to discuss research, field investigations, and issues and considerations associated with the cultural landscape on 28 August 2023.

Field Investigations

Quinn Evans team members conducted field investigations at Harmony Hall in August 2023 using a combination of photographs, annotated basemaps, and GPS data collection. To address the level of landscape change since the CLI and dense vegetation present in August, the team conducted additional field investigations in December 2023. Field investigation during leaf-off conditions ensured that the ground surface was documented to the greatest extent possible and extensively overgrown features were photographed when they were most visible.

Research

Harmony Hall has been the subject of numerous research efforts. The research undertaken for this CLR builds on the National Register of Historic Places nomination form, a historic structure report, archeological reports, a cultural landscape inventory, and a history study. To supplement this established body of knowledge and to ensure that previous efforts did not overlook information relevant to this project, the CLR research revisited archives consulted in these earlier projects. However, the research also looked to different collections to investigate new topics and probe previously unsolved research questions.

The historian for this project visited the National Capital Parks-East (NACE) archive in Washington, DC, to review materials mostly related to the National Park Service's management of the property since the 1960s. These materials shed light on the circumstances around NPS acquisition and more recent changes to the property. The historian reviewed the papers of Charles W. Collins held by the Hornbake Library at the University of Maryland in College Park. Materials in the Collins papers included correspondence, photographs, and drawings. These materials were invaluable in examining the degree of changes to the study area during the Collins period (1929–64). The research process also included consulting the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis for materials such as wills, probates, tax assessments, and tobacco inspection reports. The inspection reports helped develop a better timeline of the tobacco inspection station's operation at Want Water. This was a previously undeveloped topic in the study area's history.

Other primary sources included online newspaper databases, maps and photographs through a variety of online sources, and online deed research in Maryland land records through the Maryland State Archives. The historian also consulted secondary sources to contextualize the development of the landscape within regional and national history. Some of these secondary sources were reviewed at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

The historian attempted to consult the Prince George's County Historical Society archive in Greenbelt, Maryland, for any materials that might be relevant to the project. No specific records have been identified as no finding aid is available online. The limited operating hours of the historical society's archive and inability to establish communication, however, made a research visit not achievable. If future researchers successfully contact the historical society's archive, their collection may include useful materials.

Treatment Workshop and CLR Part 2

The project team developed Part 2 of the CLR from the information gathered during an in-person treatment workshop on 3 June 2024. Attendees included representatives of both NPS NCR and NACE, including the NACE Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, as well as natural resources, cultural resources, archeology, and interpretation personnel. The group confirmed overall study area guidelines and initial treatment for the study area before a partnership is established for site management and use.

SCOPE OF WORK

The CLR is organized into two parts. Part 1 contains documentation of the historic development of the study area landscape, evaluation of existing landscape condition, and analysis of integrity with identification of contributing features. Part 2 identifies an appropriate landscape treatment approach based on the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes* and provides guidance for treatment of historic landscape resources that is consistent with the landscape's significance, condition, and use.

- **Introduction:** The introduction provides the administrative context for the project. It includes a concise summary of relevant management information and historical data. The introduction also documents the project scope of work and methodology, study boundaries, summary of findings, and recommendations for future study.
- **Site History:** The site history provides a narrative description, chronology, and graphic illustration of the cultural landscape's changes over time. The chapter also identifies the National Register significance of the property and describes the proposed periods of significance associated with the landscape (1708–98 and 1929–64). Two historic period plans document landscape condition during the proposed periods of significance.
- **Existing Condition and Analysis:** This chapter documents the existing condition of the study area and assesses its integrity using relevant landscape characteristics including natural systems and features, topography, land use, spatial organization and cluster arrangement, views, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, small-scale features, constructed water features, and archeology. A series of five drawings illustrate the existing landscape. The chapter also includes a table identifying all features that contribute to the historic character of the landscape.
- **Treatment Framework:** This chapter identifies key landscape treatment issues and concerns, provides a vision and goals for long-term landscape management, and confirms a preferred treatment approach based on the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes*.
- **Treatment Plan:** This chapter begins with a summary of the preferred treatment and presents overall study area landscape treatment guidelines by characteristics and initial treatment tasks by landscape character areas. Recommended treatment drawings illustrate the proposed landscape condition in each LCA.

- **Partnership Concept:** This chapter presents an option for future development of the site with a local partner. The concept is based on a cultural landscape perspective for a long-term vision of the Harmony Hall landscape following the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes* and incorporates both immediate stabilization needs and a potential appropriate future use and interpretation. Predecessor sites that interpret similar hidden or missing narratives in this chapter are intended to provide inspiration for a future partner.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

As far back as the Late Archaic Period (2500–1100 BCE), humans have used the location that would become the study area on Broad Creek in present-day Prince George's County, Maryland. Indigenous people used this location as a seasonal hunting or fishing camp or a potentially more substantial settlement, likely due to Broad Creek's direct access to the Potomac River.[4] Piscataway and Nacotchtank people lived in the vicinity of the study area, but what the people who used the study area called themselves is not known. As European settlement occurred throughout the present-day eastern United States in the seventeenth century, encroachment onto Indigenous lands and European-brought violence and diseases decimated the Piscataway and Nacotchtank, eventually causing many people to leave the area.[5]

The banks of Broad Creek provided an ideal location for commercial and agricultural ventures in colonial Maryland. The creek's direct access to the Potomac River was ideal for shipping agricultural products, and its bottomland soil provided the rich nutrients necessary to grow the colony's emerging cash crop—tobacco. Asserting control over the land, the English government issued land patents in the study area. The two patents that comprised the study area were named Battersea and Want Water.

Through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, both Battersea and Want Water became productive tobacco plantations under their various owners. Most of the land that comprises the study area was first surveyed in February 1662 and recorded in October with the name "Battersea" for lawyer Humphrey Haggett. Merchant Thomas Addison acquired the Want Water tract in 1706 and constructed a one-and-a-half-story, gambrel-roofed manor house in 1708. In 1736, shipbuilder Humphrey Batts acquired Want Water, on which the Maryland colonial government established a tobacco inspection station to monitor the quality of tobacco exports. Batts ordered the excavation of a 100-yard-long canal to better access the inspection station from the creek. Enslaved or indentured

laborers likely dug the canal. Battersea and Want Water were foundational tracts in the establishment of a new port town at Broad Creek, alternately named Aire or Broad Creek.

Although adjacent to one another, the two tracts remained separate entities until merchant and planter Enoch Magruder acquired both in the 1760s. Debate remains regarding when the manor house at Battersea (or Harmony Hall) was constructed, but most recent research has concluded that Magruder likely constructed the two-and-a-half-story, Georgian-style brick residence around 1769. Both the house and property became known as "Harmony Hall" in the 1790s.

Enslaved people would have been largely responsible for the economic success of the two plantations. They likely undertook most of the tobacco cultivation process. In addition, enslaved people probably played a large role in the two manor houses' construction. Where enslaved people lived in the study area has not been confirmed, but archeological investigation suggests the pasture west of the Harmony Hall manor house included quarters for indentured workers or enslaved people in the mid-eighteenth century. A parallel project in partnership with George Mason University to investigate the enslaved experience at Harmony Hall is currently underway and may shed light on this matter (refer to the Related Planning Projects section of this chapter).

Enoch Magruder died in 1786 and willed both Battersea and Want Water to his daughter Sarah, who had married William Lyles in 1776. The Lyles family owned both tracts through the early nineteenth century. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the study area included two manor houses, a variety of outbuildings, agricultural fields, small-scale features like fences, quarters for enslaved people, and the Aire/Broad Creek town site.

In the nineteenth century, ownership of both the Battersea/Harmony Hall and Want Water properties changed frequently, leading to the tracts being separated again after Enoch Magruder had combined them. Renters occupied the Harmony Hall manor house for several decades. Despite the transient nature of the two properties' ownership, however, the renters and owners maintained productive farms. The Site History in Chapter 2 provides a detailed account of this period of rapid turnover in ownership. In 1892, explorer and writer Robert Stein purchased Harmony Hall but soon sold the property to his brother, Richard. In addition to maintaining the farm at Harmony Hall, the Stein family established an enduring presence in the surrounding area, owning several businesses and convincing the state of Maryland to rename the area "Silesia" after their native home in Prussia.

Historic photographs suggest a largely open study area during this period, punctuated with what appear to be fields of fruit trees. The German Sellner family, meanwhile, owned Want Water in the mid- to late nineteenth century.

The Steins sold Harmony Hall to writer and career federal bureaucrat Charles W. Collins in 1929. Collins acquired Want Water from the Sellners in the same year. An avowed White supremacist who authored numerous writings supporting racial segregation, Collins reinterpreted the study area as a colonial revival-style landscape based on the pre-Civil War plantations of his native Alabama. Collins largely erased much of the landscape he inherited when he bought the property. In its place, Collins constructed new outbuildings, established circulation patterns, extended the Want Water Canal, installed an extensive terrace system, and planted a number of different trees, shrubs, and gardens. In addition, Collins undertook a restoration of the Harmony Hall manor house. During Collins's ownership (1929–64), the Want Water manor house deteriorated significantly.

After Collins's death, Sue Spencer Collins, his widow, subdivided the property and sold the portion comprising the CLR study area to the National Park Service. NPS acquired the property as part of a decades-old plan to incorporate it into the right-of-way for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The parkway project did not proceed as planned. Although NPS owned the 65.7-acre study area, Sue Collins was permitted to live in the house as long as she was alive. Following her death in 1983, NPS permitted the Battersea Company to operate a horseback riding and carriage driving school in the study area through a leasing program. Owners of the company agreed to undertake repairs to the manor house and property as part of the agreement. After over a decade of frustration with the slow pace of repairs, NPS ended its lease agreement with the Battersea Company in 1999.

By the twenty-first century, buildings and building ruins further deteriorated, and the landscape became more overgrown; nature gradually overtook a once heavily used site.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The CLR recommends 1708 to 1798 and 1929 to 1964 as the two periods of significance. The first period, 1708 to 1798, begins with the building of the Want Water manor house and concurrent development of a tobacco plantation on the tract, encompasses the development of Battersea (later Harmony Hall) as a tobacco plantation and residence, and ends with the last confirmed date that the official Broad Creek tobacco inspection warehouse at Want Water was in operation. This period of significance includes the study area's role in sustaining the system of enslaved labor. The second period of significance, 1929 to 1964, recognizes Charles Collins's transformation of the study area into a colonial revival-style designed landscape and his restoration of the Harmony Hall manor house. The second period also addresses Collins's activities as an author of numerous writings promoting a White supremacist ideology and as an intellectual founder of the Dixiecrat Party that opposed civil rights for African Americans. Harmony Hall's significance has been partly shaped by its painful history as a site of enslavement and as a setting for Charles Collins's career promoting a harmful ideology and his attempt to recreate a pre-Civil War plantation that romanticized such views.

Criterion A—Agriculture, 1708–98

The Harmony Hall study area is significant at the local level in the area of Agriculture for its prominent role in tobacco production. Tobacco became the dominant cash crop in eighteenth-century colonial Maryland and Prince George's County, and the study area included two productive tobacco plantations at Want Water and Battersea (Harmony Hall).

Criterion A—Commerce, 1748–98

The Harmony Hall study area is significant under Criterion A at the state level in the area of Commerce for its status as the site of an official Maryland tobacco inspection station, a successful shipbuilding business, a storehouse owned by Enoch Magruder, and a host of other businesses that spurred the growth of the town of Broad Creek/Aire, all of which were located in the study area.

Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins, 1929–64

The Harmony Hall study area is significant under Criterion B at the local level for its association with Charles Wallace Collins, who owned the property from 1929 until his death in 1964. Collins's role as an author and an intellectual founder of the Dixiecrat Party made him an influential voice in the entrenched forces against civil rights. This CLR recommends that Harmony Hall is significant under Criterion B for its association with Collins not as a celebration or endorsement

of his views or actions. Rather, this CLR establishes that Collins's central role in a pivotal period in mid-twentieth-century political discourse over civil rights is an important and problematic story that contributes to a fuller understanding of this history.

Criterion C—Architecture, 1769–1964

The Harmony Hall manor house and its surrounding landscape are significant under Criterion C at the local level as a property that embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The house is an excellent example of eighteenth-century Georgian-style plantation houses in Prince George's County, Maryland. The colonial revival landscape treatment Charles Collins executed in the 1930s was reflective of the style that was immensely popular at the time, consisting of formal allées, a brick terrace outlined by rows of English boxwoods, an open pasture west of the house, and a ha-ha that served both functional and ornamental purposes.

Criterion D—Archeology

Under Criterion D, the Harmony Hall study area possesses local significance in the area of Archeology: Prehistoric and Historic–Non-Aboriginal for its demonstrated potential to yield information about eighteenth through twentieth century farming and trade practices. The site also possesses significance under Criterion D at the local level for its demonstrated ability to provide important information about Indigenous occupation of the Washington, DC, region from the Late Archaic to Late Woodland Periods.

TREATMENT SUMMARY

Rehabilitation is the most appropriate treatment approach for the Harmony Hall cultural landscape and is the selected approach for guidelines and treatment recommendations presented in Chapter 5. This approach provides an umbrella that preserves contributing features and aspects while allowing for modifications and new additions to the landscape to support interpretation, partner use, and visitor access. Under this approach, features that are not compatible with the historic character of the property may be removed.

New elements that are compatible with historic conditions may be added to address future needs, such as new recreational trails and a boat launch, interpretive elements to reveal hidden stories within the landscape, and modification of existing structures to support partner use. Design of these elements requires careful consideration to provide additions that complement the historic features without creating a false sense of history. The Section 106 process

will evaluate removal or modification of contributing features that are hazardous to visitor use or associated with problematic narratives to be reinterpreted at Harmony Hall.

The preferred treatment for Harmony Hall anticipates management during a period that NPS may be in search of a partner or preparing the site for a partner. Treatment is focused on the following topics:

- Reestablish Tobacco Era landscape condition and interpretation
- Reinterpret Collins Era landscape condition and narratives
- Introduce recreational opportunities
- Provide flexibility for a future partner
- Plan for resilience and adaptation

Additional detail on the treatment's vision and goals is provided in Chapter 4.

The treatment concept builds on observations from the site history and analysis that indicate Tobacco Era development and features (1708–1798) were primarily clustered on the north side of the study area while Collins Era development (1929–1964) focused on the area around the Harmony Hall manor house and Livingston Road (Figure 5-1). Continued research through archeological investigations and ethnographic studies is critical to treatment implementation. This CLR anticipates that future studies may alter the proposed features or placement of elements within the recommended treatment and provides flexibility for the treatment to evolve in response to new information.

Reestablish Tobacco Era landscape condition and interpretation

The preferred treatment proposes reestablishing Tobacco Era spatial organization on the north side of the study area to center visitor understanding of the site's early use as a plantation and stories associated with enslaved laborers. Visitors will enter the study area along a new trail following the eighteenth-century route between Livingston Road and Want Water. Remaining features from the Tobacco Era including Want Water, Harmony Hall, and the study area's relationship to the Want Water Canal, the natural topography, and adjacent streams will be preserved, repaired, and interpreted. Missing features at Want Water and the Broad Creek/Aire town site will be represented and interpreted following guidance from future archeological investigations and ethnographic studies.

Reinterpret Collins Era landscape condition and narratives

By introducing the Tobacco Era first, the preferred treatment also provides a framework for visitors to understand Collins's romanticized interpretation of a pre-Civil War plantation as they move south through the study area. During the initial phase of development described in this chapter, the treatment concept preserves Collins Era features with limited modifications or improvements for new use. Recommendations re-establish broad-scale views critical to understanding the site's historic organization and utilize historic trail or road routes to improve circulation throughout the site. Ruins or remnants that pose a safety hazard to visitors may be evaluated for removal.

Introduce recreational opportunities

The preferred concept introduces limited, low-impact recreational uses such as hiking, non-motorized boating, and birdwatching. Recommendations propose a network of trails throughout the study area with accessible parking and trails connecting to key historic features and viewpoints. The concept also identifies two boat launch locations for kayaks and canoes. Although bike trails will not be established within the study area, the preferred treatment recommends working with Prince George's County to extend the Potomac Heritage Trail along Livingston Road and provides a trail connection to the adjacent Harmony Hall Regional Center.

Plan for resilience and adaptation

Recommendations for Harmony Hall's forests, wetlands, and meadows plan for adaptation to increased temperatures, extreme weather events, and brackish flooding. The concept recommends reestablishing and maintaining open areas, adjusting forest composition in response to climatic factors, and addressing invasive vegetation. In addition, it identifies future studies and interpretive opportunities for tidal wetland stabilization or restoration.

Provide flexibility for a future partner

The treatment concept provides a framework for adaptation and use of the site by an arts, community, education, or environmentally focused partner in the future. It identifies appropriate uses and studies necessary to support a variety of partner activities while continuing to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation. The concept also reestablishes historic development clusters and trail connections that will support a future partner's outdoor activities and site circulation while avoiding over-programming interpretive nodes. Finally, the concept proposes stabilizing contributing Collins Era features in the short term to allow for consideration of how to address and/or interpret those associated with problematic White supremacist narratives once a partner is identified.

ENDNOTES

1 National Park Service, *National Capital Parks - East Foundation Document Overview* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2019.

2 National Park Service, *Harmony Hall Development Concept Plan* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2022).

3 National Park Service, *Harmony Hall Cultural Landscape Inventory.*

4 Louis Berger, *Archeological Overview and Assessment of Harmony Hall Maryland* (National Park Service, 2015), 33, 55–65.

5 The Nacotchtank were an unaffiliated group within the Piscataway chiefdom and were incorporated within the larger chiefdom after their population declined significantly during the colonial period. The Nacotchtanks' living descendants are the Piscataway Conoy Tribe of southern Maryland and the Piscataway Indian Nation and Tayac Territory. The scope of this project did not allow for collaboration or consultation with these tribes.



SITE HISTORY

CHAPTER 2

Chapter title page: West-facing view of Harmony Hall manor house, front (east) lawn, and formal entrance drive, ca. 1930–31 (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Chapter 2: Site History

This chapter presents an overview of the physical evolution of the Harmony Hall landscape. It begins with a statement of significance describing the historical importance of the property followed by a chronological account of landscape conditions from the initial formation of the physical landscape to today. Changes to the landscape or its use are presented in the following time spans:

- Early inhabitants and European exploration, 8000 BCE–1661 CE
- Land patents at Broad Creek, 1662–1707
- The Tobacco Era: Want Water, Battersea, and the early years of Harmony Hall, 1708–1821
- Post-tobacco agricultural and transient residential use, 1821–1928
- The Collins Era, 1929–64
- NPS management, 1966–present

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

The National Register of Historic Places program was established in 1966 to identify and evaluate historically and architecturally significant US properties. National Register listing eligibility applies to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property can be found to have significance on a national, state, or local level and must meet one or more of the following criteria to be considered eligible for the National Register: (A) association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of US history; (B) association with the lives of persons significant in the past; (C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or (D) has yielded, or may yield, information important in pre-contact history or history.

NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTATION

The Harmony Hall study area encompasses 65 acres in Fort Washington, Maryland. Harmony Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Although the nomination noted (some) outbuildings extant at that time and the Want Water manor house ruins, the statement of significance was based solely on the Harmony Hall manor house. Harmony Hall was listed as significant in the area of Architecture. Listing at that time did not include criteria letters, but this area would now be considered for eligibility under Criterion C. As the nomination focused on the house, it did not address the significance of the surrounding landscape. The period of significance was 1700 to 1799, as nomination forms at that time stipulated periods of significance in 100-year increments.

The following sections identify the National Register Criteria, areas of significance, and period of significance recommended by this CLR. These dates and criteria build on the information presented in the 2018 CLI, with minor updates based on recent research and analysis.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 2018 Cultural Landscape Inventory suggested two periods of significance for the Harmony Hall study area—1708 to 1786 and 1929 to 1962. The first period included the construction of the Harmony Hall and Want Water manor houses and their role in the tobacco trade until property owner Enoch Magruder's death in 1786. The second period comprised Charles Wallace Collins's restoration of Harmony Hall and transformation of the landscape in the twentieth century.

This CLR recommends retaining these two suggested periods of significance with minor revisions, adjusting the proposed periods of significance to 1708 to 1798 and 1929 to 1964. The revised periods of significance aim to recognize that Harmony Hall's significance has been partly shaped by its painful history as a site of enslavement and as a setting for Charles Collins's career promoting a harmful ideology and his attempt to recreate a pre-Civil War plantation that romanticized such views.

This first period of significance, 1708 to 1798, recognizes the study area's contribution to the Prince George's County's tobacco economy in the eighteenth century. This period includes the study area's role in sustaining the system of enslaved labor and acknowledges enslaved workers' centrality to the operation of the study area's two plantations. It begins with the building of the Want Water manor house and concurrent development of a tobacco plantation on the tract, encompasses the development of Battersea (later Harmony Hall) as a tobacco plantation and residence, and ends with the last confirmed date that the official

Broad Creek tobacco inspection warehouse at Want Water was in operation. The beginning date for the first period suggested in the CLI (1708) has been retained, and the CLR recommends a revision to the end date to 1798. The tobacco inspection warehouse was a key element in the economic success of both plantations and the surrounding community. Because the Maryland colonial government only constructed only a few official warehouses in optimal locations, local planters in the Broad Creek area relied on the warehouse built in the study area. The study area's importance in the tobacco industry, as demonstrated by the warehouse's continued operation and the property's continued use as a plantation, endured after Magruder's death.

The second period of significance, 1929 to 1964, encompasses Charles Collins's years of ownership. The period recognizes Collins's transformation of the study area into a colonial revival-style designed landscape and his renovation of the Harmony Hall manor house. It also includes the time period when Collins authored numerous writings—several journal articles and pamphlets, at least three books, and countless letters— promoting a White supremacist ideology and as an intellectual founder of the Dixiecrat Party that opposed civil rights for African Americans. The proposed start date of the period of significance (1929) is unchanged from the CLI. This CLR recommends extending the end date to 1964 through the end of Collins's life.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Criterion A—Agriculture, 1708–98

The Harmony Hall study area is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Agriculture for its prominent role in tobacco production. Tobacco became the dominant cash crop in eighteenth-century colonial Maryland and Prince George's County, and the study area included two productive tobacco plantations at Want Water and Battersea (Harmony Hall). Tobacco plantations were typically divided into fields for cultivation. As tobacco heavily depleted soil, field rotation strategies were necessary to both sustain production and the land. Want Water and Battersea included ancillary buildings related to the operation of the plantations, including tobacco houses and barns. The Maryland colonial government's decision to place an official tobacco inspection warehouse at Want Water in 1748 also suggests that the surrounding plantations, such as those at Want Water and Battersea, were valuable to the colony's greater tobacco economy. Although indentured servants may have provided labor in the two plantations' early years, enslaved labor sustained the two plantations for most of this period. The full extent of the enslaved experience at Want Water and Battersea/Harmony Hall is not yet known. The tobacco economy declined at the end of the eighteenth

century, and agricultural production shifted to other crops and fishing, a change reflected in agricultural output in the study area.

Criterion A—Commerce, 1748–98

The Harmony Hall study area is significant under Criterion A at the state level in the area of Commerce for its status as the site of an official Maryland tobacco inspection station, a successful shipbuilding business, a storehouse owned by Enoch Magruder, and a host of other businesses that spurred the growth of the town of Broad Creek/Aire, all of which were located in the study area. Concerned about the quality and profitability of tobacco grown in the colony, Maryland's colonial general assembly passed the "Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco" in 1747 to establish tobacco inspection warehouses that would scrutinize the quality of tobacco exports. The colonial government selected the Want Water tract as a site for an inspection warehouse due to its location on Broad Creek and close proximity to the Potomac River. The Broad Creek Warehouse was completed in 1748. Planters or their representatives brought hogsheads of tobacco to the inspection warehouse where they would be inspected before being permitted for sale to foreign markets. To encourage easier access from Broad Creek to the inspection station, Want Water owner Humphrey Batts ordered the digging of a canal, which was likely carried out by enslaved or indentured laborers. At the same time, Humphrey Batts maintained a shipbuilding business at Want Water. Later, property owner Enoch Magruder operated a storehouse or warehouse at the western edge of the study area (part of the Broad Creek/Aire town site). These commercial enterprises, and others like them, cumulatively established a successful commercial port at Broad Creek that became a node in the transatlantic economy linking the Americas with Europe and Africa and brought goods to and from India and China via the ships of the British East India Company. The inspection warehouse was in operation at least until 1798, according to records in the Maryland State Archives. The warehouse closed at some point between 1798 and 1818, and the building was demolished at an unknown date. Other commercial buildings in the study area were also razed as the town declined in the first half of the nineteenth century. The canal, extended in the 1930s by Charles Collins, remains as an extant feature of the study area's once-successful commercial use.

Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins, 1929–64

The Harmony Hall study area is significant under Criterion B at the local level for its association with Charles Wallace Collins, who owned the property from 1929 until his death in 1964. A lawyer who served in a number of roles in the federal government, Collins was also an avowed segregationist who authored numerous influential writings on race relations in the 1940s and was, in the words of one

historian, the "chief ideologist" of the Dixiecrat Party that broke away from the Democratic Party over its embrace of civil rights. His writings defending racial segregation included at least three influential books, several pamphlets and journal articles, and countless letters. Harmony Hall qualifies for listing under Criterion B because it was the center of Collins's productive life as an influential author, as he produced the bulk of his White supremacist writings while on the property—mostly in his office in the extant bungalow southwest of the manor house. Further, his views on race and romanticized embrace of the pre-Civil War South seem to have influenced his redesign of the landscape at Harmony Hall. Soon after acquiring the property, Collins transformed the unkempt agricultural landscape into an idealized prewar plantation, influenced by the colonial revival style popular at that time and the plantations of his own native Alabama. The outbuildings, circulation, plantings, and other features Collins implemented reflected these influences. Collins, like many other colonial revival enthusiasts at the time, embraced and invoked colonial imagery as a White reaction against an increasingly diverse US society in the early twentieth century.

This CLR recommends that Harmony Hall is significant under Criterion B for its association with Collins not as a celebration or endorsement of his views or actions. Rather, this CLR establishes that Collins's central role in a pivotal period in mid-twentieth-century political discourse over civil rights is an important and problematic story that contributes to a fuller understanding of this history. Assessing the complexities of the history of US race relations requires understanding the powerful voices that opposed change.

Criterion C—Architecture, 1769–1964

The Harmony Hall manor house and its surrounding landscape are significant under Criterion C at the local level as a property that embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The house is an excellent example of eighteenth-century Georgian-style plantation houses in Prince George's County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half-story house displays the Georgian emphasis on symmetry in its seven-bay-wide front (east) and rear (west) façades: bays of window openings flank a centered door and a broad pediment projects from the center of the side gable roof's east slope. The house's brick walls laid in Flemish bond are similarly characteristic of late eighteenth-century construction methods and building styles. Although the construction date of the house has been long debated, a timeline of known residential use of the study area and the Georgian style implemented in the house's construction suggest that it was likely built circa 1769 during Enoch Magruder's ownership.

The colonial revival landscape treatment Charles Collins executed in the 1930s was reflective of the style that was immensely popular at the time. Although any specific stylistic influences are not known, Collins's redesign of the landscape included several features common in colonial revival-style gardens: formal allées, a brick terrace outlined by rows of English boxwoods, an open pasture west of the house, and a ha-ha that served both functional and ornamental purposes.

The study area also included the Want Water manor house, constructed circa 1708. Although now a ruin, Want Water was a one- and-a-half-story, frame building with two brick end walls. Its gambrel roof was reflective of colonial-era Tidewater residential architecture, but the house departed from convention in its superior construction techniques and interior decorative moldings. It served as the manor house that dominated the Want Water plantation.

Criterion D—Archeology

Under Criterion D, the Harmony Hall study area possesses local significance in the area of Archeology: Prehistoric and Historic—Non-Aboriginal for the data it has yielded. The archeology at Harmony Hall pertains to the period of Indigenous use but has also yielded information regarding the identified periods of significance. Two substantial archeological projects undertaken at Harmony Hall in the 1980s and 2010s have provided valuable information about Indigenous use of the study area. These studies have indicated that significant integrity exists and further studies have the potential to yield more information about all periods of occupation in the study area. Artifacts found near Want Water, for instance, suggest the site could have been a seasonal hunting or fishing camp or an even more substantial settlement.

SITE HISTORY

EARLY INHABITANTS AND EUROPEAN EXPLORATION, 8000 BCE–1661 CE

The Harmony Hall study area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, a sandy and gravelly physiographic zone that extends from present-day Maryland to Florida. The study area sits on the eastern banks of Broad Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. The Potomac River has existed in its current location for approximately 2 million years and was shaped over time by rapid down-cutting, a geological process by which a river carves out a canyon or valley, cutting down into the earth and eroding away rock.[1] The down-cutting ceased in approximately 6000 BCE. Also around 6000 BCE, the lower Potomac River became a tidal estuary that included a combination of seawater and fresh water and featured tides that could change water levels and currents. The Potomac tidal estuary supported diverse plant and animal species. Historic land use caused siltation of the estuary and water rise from the early eighteenth century. Broad Creek would not have been tidal in Archaic Periods but would have become a tidal estuary in the Late Woodland Period (circa 900–1608 CE). Slash (or Clash) Creek, meanwhile, would have been a small, free-flowing stream.[2] The origins of "Slash" and "Clash" as names for the creek have not been found in research to date.

The forests in the study area and the surrounding region have also undergone significant change in the past 11,000 years. Around 8400 BCE, these forests primarily consisted of birch, pine, and alder. After this point, however, birch declined, and hemlock and oak increased due mostly to warmer conditions. Oaks surged and became the dominant trees, while pine and hemlock nearly vanished around 4000 BCE. Hickory also became prominent in nearby forests by around 3800 BCE. By the Late Woodland Period, pine resurged, mostly due to the spread of agriculture as pine trees thrived in agricultural fields that had been left fallow.[3]

For millennia, the Atlantic Coastal Plain provided access to estuarine resources like fish, shellfish, and marshes of edible plants. Oak–hickory forests offered nut-bearing trees that supported populations of turkeys, deer, and other game animals. Waterways free of rocks and falls in the study area also provided easier travel and protection from ocean storms.[4]

Humans have lived in the Chesapeake Bay region since at least 10,000 BCE. The earliest evidence for occupation in the Harmony Hall study area is the Late Archaic Period (2500–1100 BCE). Early human inhabitants of the Potomac Valley established seasonal camping and fishing sites near the Harmony Hall study area. Indigenous people established longer-term settlements in the Middle Woodland Period (circa 200 BCE–900 CE) and permanent villages during the Late Woodland Period (circa 900–1608 CE).[5] Indigenous peoples living along the Potomac River began cultivating maize around 800 CE.[6]

Research to date does not identify what early human inhabitants of the study area called themselves. The people who lived in the area by the Late Woodland Period called themselves the Piscataway or Nacotchtank (or Anacostan). Although the Nacotchtank do not survive as a modern tribe, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe of southern Maryland and the Piscataway Indian Nation and Tayac Territory are among their living descendants.[7] The Piscataways trace their history in the region as far back as 10,000 years ago as a confederacy that extended between the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay to the Potomac River and all land from the southern tip of St. Mary's County, Maryland, north to include Baltimore, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel counties to Washington, DC.[8] The Nacotchtank were an unaffiliated group living in the boundaries of the Piscataway chiefdom.[9]

By the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the Nacotchtank and the Piscataway were among several Algonquian-speaking Indigenous groups who had emerged in present-day southern Maryland.[10] The Nacotchtank and the Piscataway settled in areas nearest to the study area. A documented Nacotchtank site was located near the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers at the site of present-day Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling and a PEPCO power plant. The Piscataway, meanwhile, were concentrated along current Piscataway Creek at its merging with the Potomac River a few miles south of Harmony Hall.[11] The Piscataway controlled much of the north bank of the Potomac River.[12]

By the sixteenth century, Indigenous people in southern Maryland began practicing a version of slash-and-burn agriculture to clear land for planting beans, corn, and squash. They largely subsisted on game, fish, and wild plants.[13] They also cultivated tobacco, although for ritual or spiritual purposes and not recreational consumption.[14] The Piscataway typically lived in villages or towns composed of small houses covered with bark or rush mats. The Piscataway likely organized their houses cooperatively by age and sex within families in order to produce food and other life necessities. Many such town sites were palisaded, and houses were surrounded by a ring of upright posts cut from sapling trees.

Archeological investigation of the study area has uncovered artifacts that offer clues about Indigenous use. An archeological site near where the Want Water house was later constructed uncovered Indigenous artifacts that include pottery, fire-cracked rock, and a pestle. Construction of the Want Water Canal likely disturbed the site. Indigenous artifacts were particularly concentrated along the Want Water Canal bank. A Halifax point discovered in this area indicates occupation dating to at least the Late Archaic Period, around 3800 BCE. The high concentration of Indigenous artifacts on a prime location along the water suggests the site could have been a seasonal hunting or fishing camp or an even more substantial settlement. William Dinwiddie of the Smithsonian Institution prepared a map in the late nineteenth century that attempted to represent graphically the work of amateur archeologists in the Washington region. Dinwiddie noted an "Indian Village" along Broad Creek's south bank (Figure 2-1). The small stream running north into Broad Creek appears to be Slash Creek, placing the site just west of the current study area or straddling its western boundary. Likewise, Augustine Hermann captured a settlement on what appears to be Broad Creek that he designated Kysikamkout (Figure 2-2). The map associated with English explorer Captain John Smith, who explored the Chesapeake region on a 1608 voyage, curiously did not indicate a settlement on the site despite documenting a number of Indigenous sites in the present-day national capital region. The

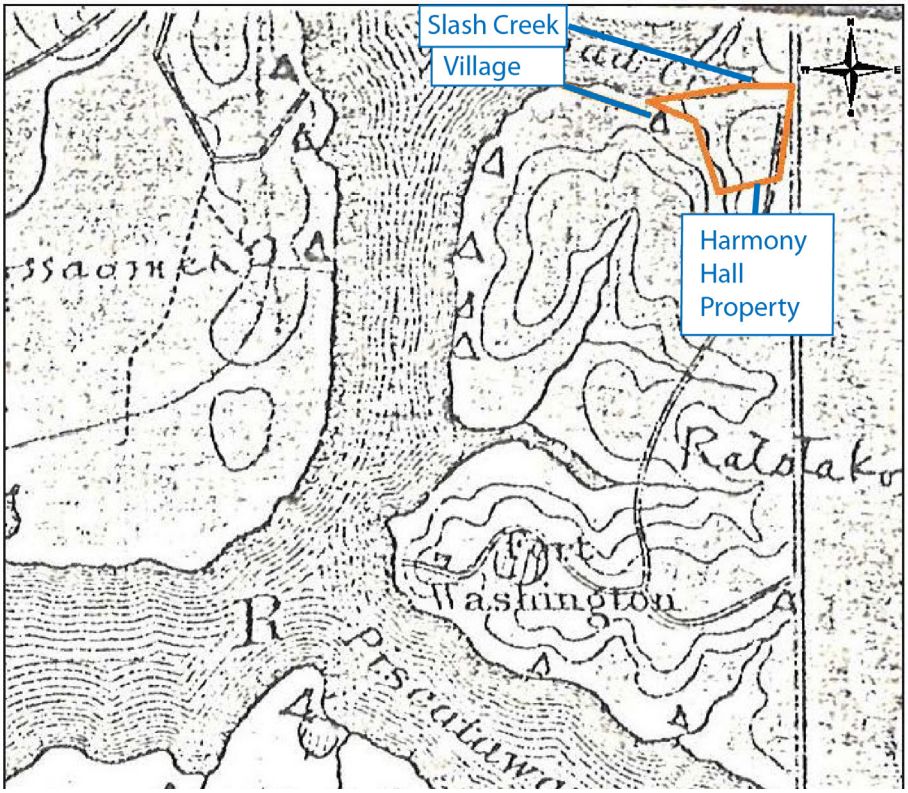


Figure 2-1. William Dinwiddie prepared a map in the late nineteenth century on which he noted Indigenous settlements (United States Coast Guard Survey, 1885–88; orange boundary is from original report).



Figure 2-2. Augustine Herman's map of settlements in Virginia and Maryland places an Indigenous settlement named Kysikamkout on what appears to be Broad Creek, 1673 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).

Archeological Overview and Assessment produced by Louis Berger in 2015 speculates that this settlement likely belonged to the Piscataway.[15]

A site south of Slash Creek, near where Dinwiddie's map marked a settlement, uncovered a smaller collection of Indigenous artifacts even with its proximity to the water. Despite its ideal settlement location, the accompanying archeological report determined that this site would have only been used periodically as a camp site. A third archeological site between the Harmony Hall manor house and Broad Creek also contained Indigenous artifacts, with the highest concentration near the southern boundary of the archeological site near Slash Creek. The artifacts included two cobble tools—a hammerstone battered on one or both ends as if used as a hammer and a "nutting stone" with pits worn in one or more surfaces as if used as an anvil (perhaps used to break hard nuts such as hickory). The artifacts' appearance, the archeological report concludes, suggests occupation in the Late and Terminal Archaic Periods.[16]

The earliest documented European presence in the present-day Washington, DC, region was Captain John Smith and those who traveled with him on his 1608 mission around the Chesapeake Bay. Smith's crew explored the Potomac River as far north as just beyond Great Falls to a point approximately near what is today called Blockhouse Point in Montgomery County, Maryland, to scout for resources like gold and other precious metals for the Virginia Company.[17] Following Smith's trip, European settlers began arriving in the region in significant numbers. European settlers were initially cooperative with the Piscataway and other Indigenous groups.[18]

England increasingly asserted control over the land encompassing present-day Maryland. The rapid, English crown-approved settlement caused Indigenous populations to decline significantly due to displacement and death from European-brought diseases and violence. In 1632, King Charles I gave to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, the authority to establish the colony of Maryland and issue proprietary grants. Eager to take advantage of the opportunity, European colonists arrived in Maryland in 1634 led by Leonard Calvert, whom Lord Baltimore appointed the proprietary governor of the new colony. Calvert met with Piscataway leader, or tayac, Wannas that same year to request permission to settle in the area. Their first settlement was St. Mary's City, located approximately 50 miles southeast of the study area's southern terminus. As the population increased more communities were established.[19]

In 1636, Wannas's brother Kittamaquund allegedly killed him and succeeded him in his position as tayac. The new tayac proved even more accommodating

to English settlers. Many histories of Prince George's County, however, paint romanticized pictures of civil and mutually productive relations between the Europeans and the Piscataway that gloss over the harsh realities of life under colonial rule.[20]

Indeed, Kittamaquund's relationship with the English settlers masked deep internal divisions among the Piscataway, many of whom did not trust the new settlers or recognize Kittamaquund as their legitimate leader. Moreover, despite the tayac's cooperation, the Maryland colonial government passed a series of laws during the late 1640s that regulated interactions between Indigenous populations and English settlers. An effort to extend colonial rule, the new regulations tightly controlled Indigenous travel and their ability to sell their own land. The 1649 Act Concerning Purchasing Land from the Indians, for instance, annulled individual land purchases directly from Indigenous people.[21]

The population of colonists increased substantially throughout the seventeenth century and prompted the creation of new counties. Their initial Maryland settlement spread into Calvert and Charles Counties, established in 1654 and 1658, respectively. The ever tighter colonial control and settler encroachment onto Indigenous lands increased conflict.[22]

LAND PATENTS AT BROAD CREEK, 1662–1707

Battersea

European settlement expanded through present-day Maryland in the 1650s and 1660s. Settlers interested in farming looked to areas adjoining bodies of water for more convenient shipping and navigation. As such, the area along Broad Creek, then in Charles County, was a logical location for cultivating the colony's soon-dominant cash crop—tobacco.[23] Those looking to establish tobacco farms also preferred bottomlands near rivers or creeks for the richer soil needed to grow tobacco.[24] Later Harmony Hall owner Charles Collins speculated based on his own research that Charles County Court lawyer Humphrey Haggett used land in the study area for agriculture as early as 1661. Collins wrote that county records he consulted indicated that Haggett entered a brand for his livestock at the court of Charles County in 1661, suggesting he used the land before he formally requested a patent.[25] Most of the land that comprises the study area (including the existing Harmony Hall manor house) was first surveyed in February 1662 and recorded in October with the name "Battersea" for Haggett. The rectangular 500-acre tract extended northeast along Broad Creek and contained much of what is now the Broad Creek Historic District (Figure 2-3). Its boundaries were three oak trees and one hickory tree at the mouth of Slash Creek.[26]

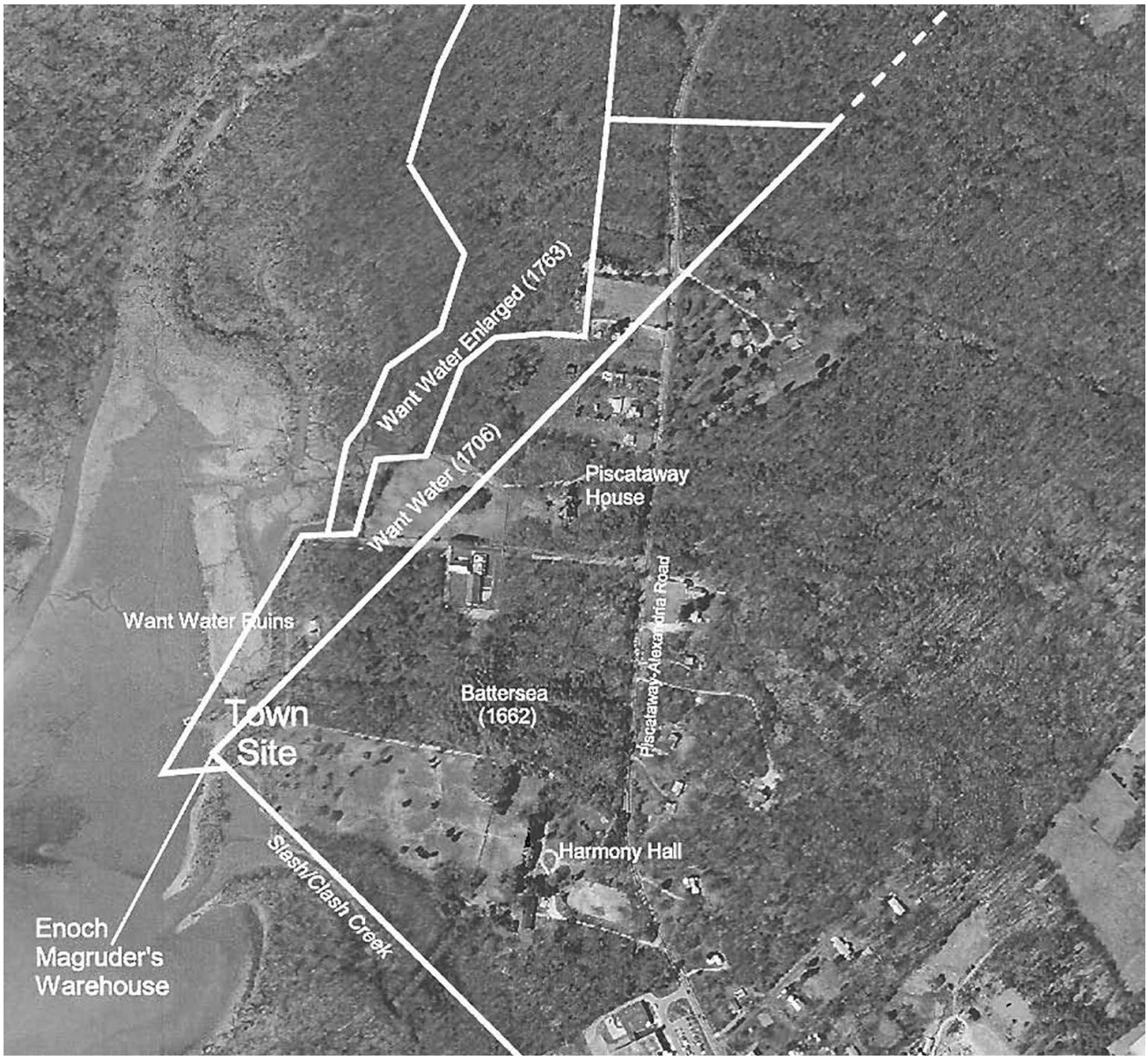


Figure 2-3. Late twentieth-century aerial photograph with overlay of eighteenth-century features. Note the town site of Broad Creek/ Aire, Enoch Magruder's warehouse/storehouse, and patent boundaries (Photograph and overlay from Susan Pearl, "Broad Creek History," *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*).

The first landowner to construct a residence at Battersea has been long debated. Haggett died in March 1663, only five months after the land patent was recorded. In the 1930s, Charles Collins excavated remnants of a small stone building when constructing a ha-ha in the pasture west of the present-day Harmony Hall manor house. Collins wrote:

> [T]here was discovered the remains of a small stone building about three feet below the ground level. It was 12 feet by 18 feet with a fireplace at the east end and the door facing the water. The walls were built of round cobblestone and mortar and the floor was laid with slabs of red sandstone each two feet square and four inches thick and perfectly squared and finished on the sides and top, the whole floor fitted perfectly together on a level without any cracks. The slabs were unfinished underneath and showed that they had been split off there being occasional chisel marks taking off the rougher parts. The floor was laid

> upon a native clay and gravel mixture which was very hard and solid. Twenty of the slabs were in perfect condition and the entire outline of the walls was intact but some of the slabs had disappeared.[27]

Collins speculated that these remnants were of a building in which Haggett lived. He did not provide evidence of his theory, and the fact that Haggett died so soon after the land purchase was recorded (and before the official patent was granted) makes it unlikely that this would have been his home. It is just as likely that a later owner constructed the building. Collins was not a trained archeologist, and any archeological work undertaken by Collins was not a professional survey and does not meet current standards. Collins removed all remains of the building, and archeological investigation has not been conducted in the location he identified to confirm its existence. Susan Pearl, a historian with expertise in Prince George's County's development, and authors of the 2012 *Harmony Hall: Historic Structure Report* (HSR), 2018 *Harmony Hall: Cultural Landscape Inventory* (CLI), and other secondary sources concur that it is unlikely Haggett ever lived at Battersea.[28]

In 1668, five years after Haggett's death, his land was patented to his widow's new husband, Richard Fowke.[29] No evidence has been found to suggest the Fowkes lived at Battersea. In 1688, Fowke divided the Battersea tract in half and sold one portion to Philip Mason and the other to Richard Iles.[30] The CLR study area was included in Mason's western half.[31] Mason sold his 250-acre tract to Thomas Lewis in 1692. Existing secondary studies of Harmony Hall conclude that Lewis built an earthfast house on his property just southeast of the existing Harmony Hall house soon after his purchase.[32] Archeological investigation of the CLR study area in 1985–87 discovered evidence of this earthfast structure.[33] Further evidence of habitation on the site is found in Thomas Lewis's 1696 will, which notes that his widow Catherine was living on the property. Catherine Lewis likely lived in the earthfast home.[34]

The Maryland colony's general assembly, meanwhile, established Prince George's County in 1696. European colonization in present-day Maryland and Virginia introduced diseases, encroachment, and forced removal. Such European-driven forces extinguished much of the Nacotchtank population. Those Nacotchtank who survived were incorporated into the greater Piscataway people and lost their original identity and descendancy.[35] Many Piscataways fled Maryland in the second half of the seventeenth century rather than live under colonial rule.[36]

Facing encroachment and hostility from European settlers, the Piscataway largely left the study area and adjacent areas in 1697 for the Virginia piedmont region. In 1699, they returned briefly to Maryland at Conoy (now Heater's) Island, approximately 55 miles northwest of the study area. By this point, European disease, encroachment, and forced removal caused the Piscataway population to

decrease significantly. Archeologists estimate that the Piscataway numbered 1,000 to 2,500 just prior to European contact but totaled only 150 by the 1690s. The Piscataway central chiefs and their councils convinced most of their people to move to Pennsylvania after 1712.[37]

In addition to its residential use, Battersea appears to have become a tobacco plantation by at least the Lewis period, as indicated in a 1709 deed of sale. The deed lists land use, buildings and structures, and small-scale features that were on the site during the Lewis period (1692–1709) and offers the clearest record to that point of the CLR study area landscape's condition. The deed notes the presence of "tenements, dwelling houses, tobacco houses, barns, stables, out houses… orchards, gardens and fences."[38] The tenements and dwelling houses may have been used by indentured workers or enslaved persons. The deed did not provide a further description of these features nor their location on the site.

Although the exact form of the orchards and gardens at Battersea during this period are not known, colonial-era orchards typically fell into two categories—the formal walled gardens of wealthy landowners and the less-formal farm orchards of working farmers. The colonial-era orchards of landed gentry reflected eighteenth-century European elites' taste for horticulture. Prominent land owners in colonial North America, like their European counterparts, developed walled gardens close to the manor house that enclosed fruit trees densely planted in formal arrangements and pruned to various hedge and espaliered forms. These orchards typically featured apricots, nectarines, and a wide array of fine European fruits. Farm orchards, by contrast, lacked the formal geometry. On these orchards, farmers cleared land and sowed apple seeds over a few acres to establish a largely irregular orchard of 250 to 300 apple trees. As Lewis was both a member of the landed gentry and owner of land cultivated for farming, it is difficult to determine to which category the Battersea orchards belonged.[39]

Similarly, the exact form of the gardens has not been determined. Gardens of the colonial gentry class were generally formal and symmetrical in arrangement. The garden at Gunston Hall, George Mason's Virginia estate, for instance, was arranged around a central allée lined with low box hedges with flanking planting beds. Gardens were typically located close to the manor house.[40]

Based on the larger pattern in colonial Maryland, much of the labor in Battersea's early years would have come from indentured workers consistent with other plantations in colonial Maryland. In order to expand tobacco production, planters sought more and cheaper labor; enslaved Africans comprised approximately one-third of laborers in tobacco fields by 1700. After 1700 and by 1740, this



Figure 2-4. Architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe's 1798 water color captures a typical scene on an eighteenth-century plantation: two enslaved women are shown clearing an agricultural field in the Chesapeake region while an on overseer or a gentry enslaver watches over their work (Benjamin Henry Latrobe, "An overseer doing his duty near Fredericksburg, Virginia," ca. 1798, watercolor on paper, 10 x 7 in, Maryland Historical Society).

labor was forced on Africans enslaved and brought in substantial numbers to the Chesapeake region. From 1700 to 1739, the time at which the forced importation of enslaved Africans peaked, Chesapeake planters enslaved approximately 54,000 Africans. By the late eighteenth century, enslaved African American labor largely supplanted indentured workers (Figure 2-4).[41]

Tobacco cultivation would have required land use for both seeding and planting processes at Battersea. Around January, tobacco seeds were planted in small seed beds typically not larger than a quarter acre. This labor was undertaken at first by planters, White indentured workers, and some White servants. Indentured workers, and later enslaved persons, would treat the beds with animal manure and cover them with branches to protect from potential frost damage. In addition to the seed beds, the Battersea plantation would have also required extensive fields.[42] Around April, the tobacco seedlings would be transferred to large fields. Thomas Jefferson wrote that tobacco leaves were supposed to grow to be "as large as a dollar."[43]

The planter and indentured workers or enslaved people worked all summer as the crop ripened in the fields. Each plant required individual, consistent attention. This work included frequent weeding and a process called topping, in which the plant's top was removed to prevent the tobacco from flowering and instead redirect the plant's energy into the leaves. Typically in September (but based on individual planter preferences), enslaved people would cut the tobacco and cure it.[44]

Tobacco planters typically followed one of two land-use patterns—the English husbandry method and the 20-year rotation.[45] As tobacco heavily depleted the land, strategies were necessary to both sustain production and the land. The first



Figure 2-5. Photograph of a typical tobacco barn, Calvert County, Maryland, 1936 Photograph by E. H. Pickering (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

method, based on agricultural methods used on English estates, involved the refertilization of land through animal manure that added nutrients back into the soil. The process required penning livestock on portions of the tobacco fields when they were not in use. Constant tilling of manure into the soil was required.[46] The 20-year rotation, meanwhile, employed a cyclical pattern of growing. This process involved rotating fields rather than fertilizing them. On new land (ideal for growing tobacco), planters and indentured workers and/or enslaved people cleared several acres and planted tobacco until the soil's nutrients were exhausted. Tobacco typically exhausted soil and depleted the land of most nutrients within three years. They then moved on to another piece of land for tobacco cultivation and left the old parcel fallow. By 20 years, "old field pine" and other new vegetation grew on the fallow land and signaled to the planter that enough fertility had been restored for tobacco cultivation to resume.[47]

When the planters and laborers harvested the tobacco, they placed the plants in tobacco houses or barns for drying barns, where tobacco plants hung on drying racks (Figure 2-5). There are no surviving details about the Battersea tobacco houses mentioned in the 1709 deed, but these structures were typically 20'–24' wide and 30'–60' long. They usually had an earthen dirt floor that ran the length of the structure and allowed for small fires to regulate the humidity and temperature of the interior space. Tobacco houses were typically divided into 5' bays with exposed rafters and post and beams to permit tobacco plants to be hung to achieve the desired water consistency (Figure 2-6). Doors and windows were also common to provide optimal air circulation.[48] The deed also mentions other barns, although their function is not known.[49] Tobacco houses once dominated the landscape in Maryland and Virginia. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax revealed that Prince George's County at that time had more tobacco houses (829) than dwelling houses (759).[50]

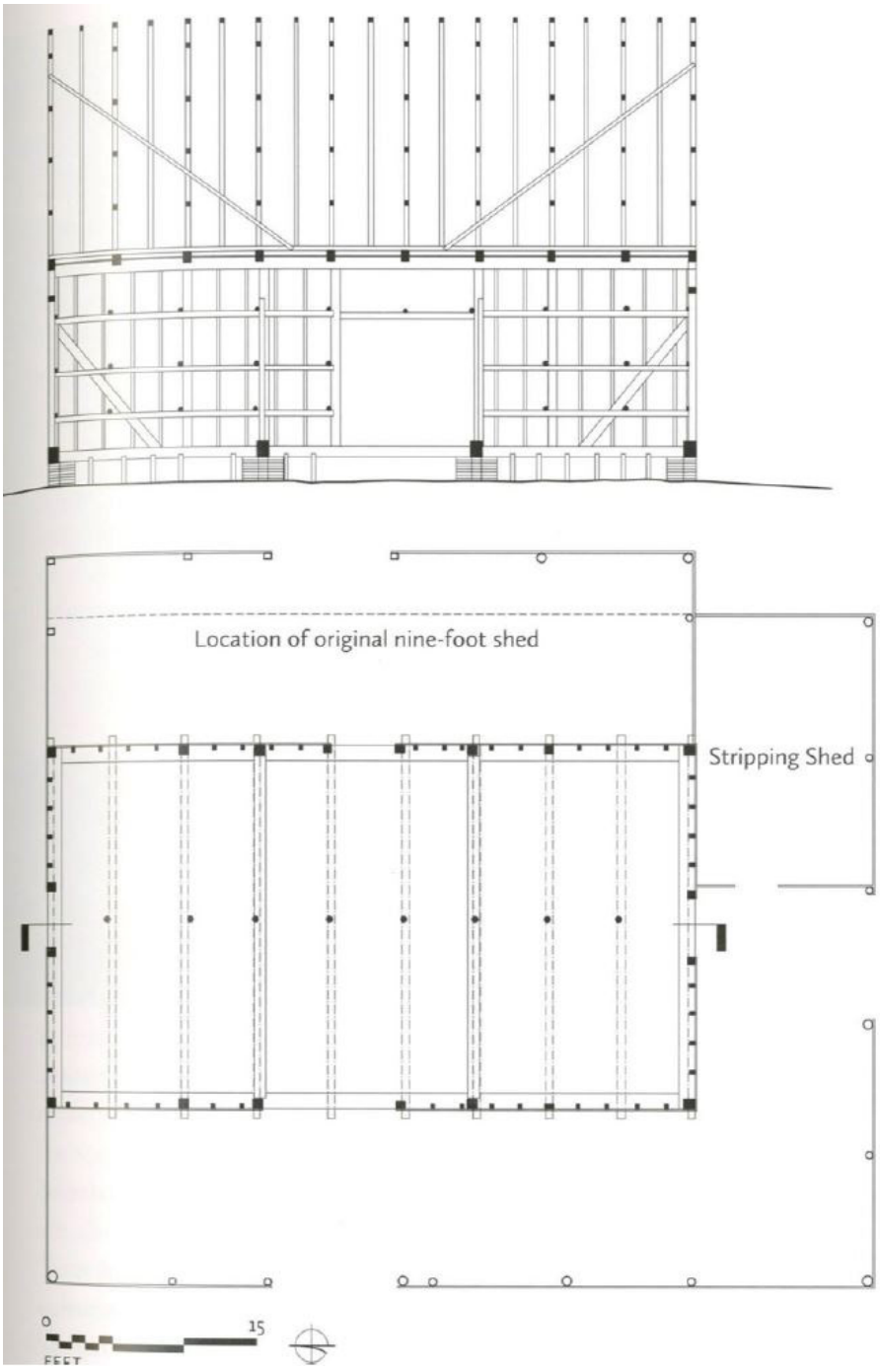


Figure 2-6. Plan and section of a tobacco house in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The drawings capture the tobacco house's division into a series of 5' hanging bays for curing tobacco (From Orlando Ridout V, "Agricultural Buildings").

The 1709 Battersea deed also helps identify further agricultural land use at Battersea. The deed's mention of orchards and gardens indicates that more crops than tobacco were grown. The stables provide evidence of livestock on the property, a conclusion confirmed in an inventory included in Thomas Lewis's 1696 will and a 1993 archeological report based on the 1985–87 investigations. Lewis's estate included 24 swine, 17 sheep, 14 cattle, and 1 adult horse.[51] The archeological report authors argue that swine and cattle were likely used for meat, while the sheep were kept for wool. The report authors speculate that sheep

raising and wool spinning increased substantially at Battersea between 1680 and 1710.[52] The Battersea plantation's ability to spin wool into cloth would have diversified its output. As historian Allan Kulikoff writes, few southern Maryland planters either owned sheep or equipment like spinning wheels from the 1680s through the 1710s. By the 1740s, approximately half of the families in Prince George's County had either sheep or wool-processing equipment.[53]

Further clues about agricultural use of the Battersea property were included in depositions taken in 1745 for a land commission assessing Battersea's boundaries, which documented recollections of early farmers in the area. They were able to specifically recall farming occurring at Battersea between 1685 and 1695. A local farmer named John Lanham remembered Thomas Lewis maintaining a cornfield at the mouth of Slash Creek. He noted that a hickory tree shaded the cornfield. The tree was likely the hickory referenced as a boundary marker in the 1662 patent.[54] Curiously, the townsite for Broad Creek/Aire that developed around the same time (discussed below) is also reported to have been at this same location. If the farmer's recollection is accurate, it is not clear how the cornfield and townsite would have co-existed in such proximity.

Upon his death in 1696, Thomas Lewis left 100 acres of the southernmost corner of Battersea to his son, Richard.[55]

Want Water

Immediately bordering Battersea to the northwest was another tract of land patented as Wharton's Rest. In 1706, a 35-acre tract that was originally part of Wharton's Rest was resurveyed with the name Want Water for Thomas Addison. He was the son of John Addison, a prominent community leader in Charles County who served the Council of Maryland (1692–93) as judge of the Charles County Court and captain of the Charles County militia.[56] Thomas Addison was a merchant, plantation owner, land speculator, and enslaver. The Want Water tract comprised land along Broad Creek's south bank, providing Addison with valuable commercial exposure in the developing port community (discussed below).[57]

The Port Town of Broad Creek/Aire

Battersea and Want Water were foundational tracts in the establishment of a new community at Broad Creek.[58] From the 1660s through the mid-1690s, European settlers established a port at Broad Creek for shipping tobacco from their nearby farms. Indeed, tobacco became the key cash crop in the colony. A Maryland settler in this period described tobacco as "our meat, drinke, cloathing and monies."[59] Maryland historian Robert Brugger writes that settlers taking part in this emerging Atlantic economy, "eagerly sought patents on lands that faced onto the rivers and

creeks of the western shore, thus accommodating the annual visits of tobacco vessels."[60] Due to its direct access to the Potomac River, Broad Creek was ideally suited as a port in the tobacco economy. The area surrounding Broad Creek soon developed into a thriving tobacco trade and commercial port town that was part of a vast transatlantic trade economy.[61]

The emerging community was further enhanced with the establishment of an Anglican church in the Broad Creek area. The English Parliament established the Church of England as the official church of Maryland in 1692, and, in 1694, members of the Piscataway Parish of the Church of England, which included all of the Broad Creek area, established St. John's Church on land the parishioners acquired north of Want Water on Piscataway (now Livingston) Road. They completed construction of a wooden church on the site in 1696. The parish remains active but has since moved to a new building. As Charles County's population increased, the Maryland colony's general assembly established a new county—Prince George's County—in 1696.[62]

As a result of these developments, this emerging community became a small commercial village at Broad Creak, specifically around the southwest corner of Richard Lewis's 100 acres of Battersea at the mouth of Slash Creek (Figure 2-3).[63] The 1696 deed transferring the 100-acre tract to Richard Lewis stated that the land being conveyed included "any part thereof being erected and made a Town."[64] In 1706, the Maryland general assembly passed an "Act for the Advancement of Trade" that established more towns in the colony. Five of these new towns, each to be 100 acres in size, were located in Prince George's County. These five river port towns were Nottingham, Milltown, Marlborough, and Queen Anne on the Patuxent River and the new port town called Aire at Broad Creek. The legislation established a port "at Broad Creek in the Potomac River at the south side of said creek at Thomas Lewis's Landing."[65] Historian Susan Pearl argues that the port town was more commonly referred to as Broad Creek rather than Aire.[66]

The colonial government appointed commissioners to purchase the land, which would have included portions of Battersea and Wharton's Rest to the northwest. The town was planned to be divided into 100 one-acre lots with convenient streets and alleys and open spaces for building a church, market house, and other public buildings. No plat for the port town has been discovered, and it is unlikely the town's 100 acres were ever fully developed.[67] No evidence, for instance, suggests a church or public buildings were constructed on the town site. According to Susan Pearl, warehouses and a landing were built.[68] In 1716, the Prince George's County Court ordered that stocks and a whipping post be erected in the town at Broad



Figure 2-7. West-facing view of the Want Water manor house in October 1935 (by that point in poor condition). Photograph by Albert S. Burns (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

Creek.[69] Such sources indicate that the town likely occupied a small footprint and that warehouses were the only buildings confirmed to have been on the town site. The size and extent of the town are unknown, and much of the original site may now be within Broad Creek. The authors of the 2015 archeological report speculate that a nucleated town may have never been built as planned, but it instead developed into the sprawling, rural town center embodied in the Broad Creek Historic District.[70]

THE TOBACCO ERA: WANT WATER, BATTERSEA, AND THE EARLY YEARS OF HARMONY HALL, 1708–1821

Want Water's Residential and Commercial Use (1708–57)

In 1708, Want Water owner Thomas Addison constructed a manor house on the Want Water tract. The house at some point also became known as Want Water. It was the first known building constructed on the Want Water property. Want Water was built as a one-and-a-half-story manor house on a brick foundation and was sheltered by a gambrel roof (Figure 2-7). The frame building terminated at its north and south ends at brick end walls laid in Flemish bond. Its east and west elevations were clad in wood siding, while the north and south elevations featured exposed brick. Both its east and west elevations were four bays wide and asymmetrically composed with slightly off-center doors on each elevation. Its two side elevations were each two bays wide. Gabled dormers lit by four-over-four, double-hung sash wood windows extended from the front and rear roof slopes. Five similar windows lit the east and west elevations. Narrower six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows flanked the east and west doors. Its interior plan was composed of a center hall plan with a single room flanking the center hall. It is likely that enslaved people played a role in the construction of the house. Indeed,

gentry enslavers often forced enslaved people to labor in the construction of manor houses, from hauling materials to fashioning finish joinery.[71]

The house's construction was central to Want Water's concurrent development as a tobacco plantation. As a wealthy Prince George's County tobacco planter, Addison and his family illustrate the increasing reliance on enslaved labor over the course of the eighteenth century. Thomas Addison's father John enslaved five African men. Thomas Addison at one time enslaved 77 people. A study of Prince George's County plantations suggests that one of Thomas Addison's properties identified as "Great House" in a 1727 inventory of his estate refers to Want Water. If this conclusion is accurate, 23 enslaved people resided there. It is not clear how many enslaved people may have lived in the house or lived in quarters elsewhere on the property.[72]

Although the location of quarters for enslaved persons at Want Water is not known, historians such as Edward Chappell have identified patterns in colonial and pre-Civil War plantations in the Chesapeake region. The location of these quarters depended upon the nature of the enslaved laborers' work. Enslaved domestic workers often resided in ancillary spaces either in manor houses (in attics or basements) or in outbuildings like kitchens. Enslavers put field hands who assisted in agricultural or other outdoor work in separate housing, typically a few hundred feet from the manor house. On plantations, this housing was often placed in close proximity to the agricultural fields. Tobacco's rapid soil depletion required shifting fields, prompting enslavers to build enslaved quarters with little care for quality construction or materials so that they could be moved. The ephemeral construction of enslaved quarters also meant that few such structures stood for a long time after their intended use.[73]

Humphrey Batts, a shipbuilder in Broad Creek, purchased the 35-acre Want Water tract from the Addison family in 1736. Batts would have known the Broad Creek/Aire area well by this point. In 1727, he married Mary Tyler, daughter of Battersea owner William Tyler (discussed below). Humphrey and Mary lived in the Want Water manor house.[74] Batts soon began building ships on his new property.[75] In 1746, he advertised for sale "a new Schooner, of about 36 tons, well built for the West-India or Coasting-Trade."[76] As a shipbuilder, Batts was already acclimated with the transatlantic economy of the eighteenth century. By the mid-eighteenth century, the emerging Broad Creek commercial port became a node in the transatlantic economy that linked the Americas with Europe and Africa and brought goods to and from India and China via the ships of the British East India Company. Batts and others in the Broad Creek/Aire community grew and sold tobacco, built ships, and bought goods and enslaved persons from Africa

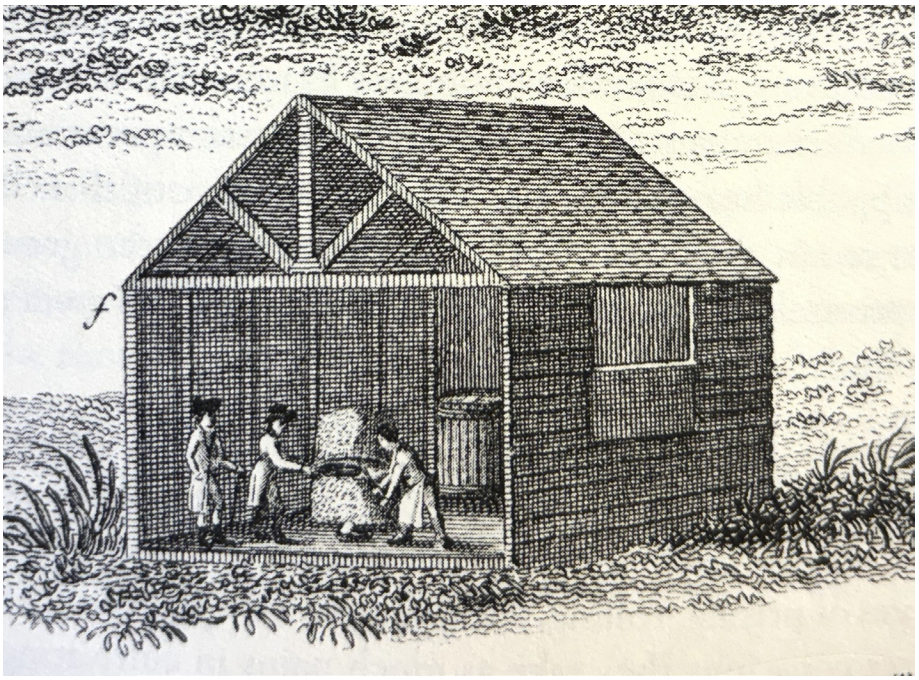


Figure 2-8. This ca. 1800 illustration captures the interior and exterior of a typical public tobacco inspection warehouse (from William Tatham, *An Historical and Practical Essay on the Culture of Tobacco*).



Figure 2-9. This Latrobe watercolor captures enslaved people directing a long-bottomed boat through the James River transporting goods. Enslaved people may have steered a similar boat through Broad Creek to the tobacco inspection warehouse (Benjamin Henry Latrobe, "Three Slaves Steering a Bateau," 1798, watercolor on paper, Library of Virginia).

as part of a triangular trade system in which tobacco sustained enslavement and trafficking.[77]

In the next decade, Batts assumed an even greater role in this economy as a central figure in Broad Creek tobacco industry. In 1747, the Maryland colony's general assembly passed the Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco, which established tobacco inspection warehouses to control the quality of tobacco exports. Up to this point, enslavers sold tobacco directly to factors (or representatives of British export firms) who would then select crops for export across the Atlantic. The factors also managed company stores in these port towns and established trade with local planters. They managed the export of tobacco and import of products like fabric, nails, sugar, and rum that enslavers and their families needed. However, decades of overproduction and sagging demand resulted in lower prices and complaints from export firms about the declining quality of the tobacco prompted the general assembly to act.[78] The tobacco inspection warehouse added a new

step in the export process. Instead of being sold directly to factories, the tobacco would have to first pass inspection at a warehouse. The warehouses would be constructed on private land and inspectors elected by the local vestry were assigned to the warehouse and paid rent to the landowner (in this case, Batts).[79] Enslavers, and indentured or enslaved laborers on their farm, would bring the tobacco to the warehouse in hogsheads (large barrels used for the storage and transport of tobacco), and salaried inspectors would unpack them, weigh, inspect for bad tobacco, repack the tobacco, and burn anything they deemed unfit for export (Figure 2-8). If the crop passed inspection, it would be stored in hogsheads at the warehouse. Factors would then select the tobacco for export and flat boats (or scows) would it take out to the larger ships.[80] Enslaved people may have been responsible for the transportation of the tobacco to and from the inspection station (Figure 2-9). The warehouse inspection system, at least at first, successfully reversed economic misfortunes in the eighteenth century's second half. Rising tobacco prices drove Prince George's County enslavers into prosperity in the 1750s through the 1770s. An economic boom in England occurring at the same time only increased the demand for tobacco.[81]

The Maryland general assembly identified one such site for an inspection station would be in Prince George's County "at Broad Creek, on the Land of Humphrey Batts."[82] The Broad Creek Warehouse, as Maryland tobacco inspection account records named it, was completed on the Want Water tract in 1748.[83] This naming convention was typical in Chesapeake-area inspection stations, as they were sited for convenience on particular estuaries.[84] Other Prince George's County inspection stations were located at Bladensburg, Queen Anne, Upper Marlboro, Nottingham, and Piscataway.[85] Although other tobacco inspection warehouses were constructed nearby, Batts had the official Broad Creek inspection warehouse.[86] In 1786, Zachariah Wade was the inspector at the Broad Creek Warehouse.[87] That same year, Wade petitioned the Prince George's County Court to hire someone to reshingle "the shed of said warehouse" and installed new doors with strong hinges.[88]

Although the precise inspection procedure at the Broad Creek tobacco inspection warehouse is not known, the procedure at the Piscataway tobacco inspection warehouse a few miles south of Broad Creek is better documented and provides a comparable example. British ships pulled into Piscataway Creek's broad estuary, and flat boats (or scows) carried products to and from the ships along the creek's narrower and shallower areas from and to the warehouses.[89] Historian Susan Pearl speculates that the process would have been similar at Broad Creek: flat boats would have plied Broad Creek and Slash Creek to meet British ships in Broad Creek's wide estuary.[90] In addition to direct access to water, the public inspection

warehouse site required specific infrastructure, including a pier or wharf, a large scale to weigh the tobacco hogsheads, a warehouse for inspecting and then storing inspected tobacco, and an outdoor space to burn poor-quality tobacco.[91]

The warehouse system sustained the Broad Creek economy for several decades as it concentrated the tobacco marketing process at the warehouse. Indeed, Maryland tobacco prices rose consistently from 1747 until the end of the American Revolution.[92]

To improve access to his inspection warehouse, in 1749, Humphrey Batts ordered the excavation of a canal, approximately 100 yards (or 300') long, between his tobacco warehouse and the Broad Creek estuary, where large merchant ships anchored. Enslaved or indentured laborers likely dug the canal. The canal was the first shipping canal in the Chesapeake region and one of the first in the 13 colonies of the present-day United States.[93] The exact location of the Broad Creek Warehouse has not been identified, but knowing that it would have sat at the canal's northern terminus helps approximate its location. In November 1749, Batts petitioned the Prince George's County Court for compensation for his digging the canal:

> Your Petitioner has Erected and Completed a Warehouse Agreable [sic] for Inspecting Tobacco at Broad Creek with a warf and Crane but in order to make the same for Importation has been obliged to Cut a Channel upwards of one hundred yards to be more Convenient and Commodius to said Ware House therefore as the same has been of Great Expence [sic] & Trouble humbly hopes your Worships will be pleased to allow Your Petitioner for Such Trouble & Expence [sic]…[94]

According to the 2011 Broad Creek Historic District National Register Nomination, a path along the canal to Want Water may be a remnant of a road that led from Harmony Hall to Want Water or may be the remains of a canal towpath. Neither the full path of this road nor its construction date are known. The nomination states, "purportedly, the remnants of a brick-paved roadway that bordered the creek area between Want Water and St. John's Episcopal Church have been uncovered."[95] The nomination also notes that National Park Service employees uncovered the brick remnants buried beneath 6" of ground in 2003 while completing stabilization work at Want Water. The roadway, the nomination describes, "is comprised of 5x5" square, redbrick pavers and…of a 4" depth."[96] The Historic American Building Survey documented brick paving leading to the Want Water manor house's eastern entrance measuring 14.3'.[97]

Batts also constructed a storehouse somewhere on his property by 1749. He advertised the storehouse for rent that year in the *Maryland Gazette*: "A New well-

built Store-House, 24 feet in Length, with a good Shed-Room to the same, situated near Broad Creek in Prince George's County, not more than 30 Yards from a good Landing, and near the Inspecting-House and Country Road."[98] In addition to the house, warehouse, and storehouse, the landscape likely would have included other buildings and structures to support Batts's various business ventures. Their exact location on the site at this time is not known.

By 1750, the Batts household included six enslaved persons.[99] It is not clear what role the enslaved persons played in Batts's enterprises. They may have worked at the inspection warehouse or perhaps assisted with constructing ships. Research to date has also not determined whether the enslaved persons at Want Water lived in separate quarters on the property or in the manor house. Batts's household was, of course, not unique as the plantation gentry in Prince George's County relied increasingly on enslaved labor by the mid-seventeenth century.[100]

As chattel slavery became increasingly widespread in the Chesapeake region by the mid-eighteenth century, cross-plantation networks developed concurrently in areas like Broad Creek. What historian Allan Kulikoff refers to as "slave society" spread among neighboring plantations into a single network. Enslavers often separated enslaved families and sold and transferred enslaved people. As a result, enslaved people typically had relatives on nearby plantations and naturally retained ties of affection after their separation. Further, White enslavers built numerous roads and paths that connected their farms and villages, and enslaved people frequently used these byways to visit friends and family or to escape the plantations.[101]

Batts died in 1757 and willed the 35-acre Want Water tract to his son-in-law, Richard Barnes.[102] It is not known whether Barnes lived in the Want Water house in the four years he owned Want Water as his father-in-law had.

Battersea in the Tyler Period (1709–61)

Richard Lewis sold the Battersea tract, which included his parents' home, to carpenter William Tyler in 1709. In addition to his profession, Tyler was substantially involved in establishment of St. John's Church.[103] As the new owner of Battersea, Tyler would have acquired the property's "tenements, dwelling houses, tobacco houses, barns, stables, out houses. . .orchards, gardens and fences."[104] The property would have also included the earthfast house that Thomas Lewis constructed. Such deed records portray a fully realized tobacco plantation at Battersea in the early eighteenth century. The 1721 inventory associated with Tyler, Sr.'s will also indicates that wool production may have also continued as part of the farm's output, as sheep accounted for 47% of the

total livestock inventory that year.[105] Enslaved people likely sheared the sheep at Battersea, as was the case at other gentry estates like George Washington's Mount Vernon.[106] Sheep grazed during the day but were typically held in pens at night to protect them from wolves.[107] Thus, farms with livestock like Battersea would have required land for grazing and a pen. Although the sheep in colonial Maryland had some English longwool blood, none of the contemporary identifiable English breeds would have been present in these sheep. Indeed, until the late eighteenth century, there were no distinct breeds in England. As breeding techniques improved in England through the eighteenth century, the older, "unimproved types" were brought to North America.[108]

The Battersea plantation's development occurred despite inconsistent conditions in Prince George's County's tobacco economy. A series of economic depressions occurred throughout the first half of the 1700s. An upswing in prices and demand that lasted for several years inevitably ended with periods of falling prices caused by enslavers' overproduction and sagging demand due to European wars. They responded by investing even more in enslaved labor to cut costs.[109] Tyler's 1721 inventory listed two enslaved Africans in the household, an the rest of the workforce that farmed the plantation may have been indentured. Reflective of the greater trend in the area, however, the enslaved population increased steadily under subsequent Battersea owners.[110]

Although a manor house that would have been occupied by the landowner was apparently not present from 1721 through the rest of the Tyler family's ownership, evidence suggests others lived on the property at this time. The 2015 archeological report noted several colonial-era artifacts in the field west of the present-day Harmony Hall house centered on comparatively high ground in its center. The artifacts included stoneware, earthenware, and hand-wrought nails. The report proposes that the artifacts are evidence of a short-lived tenant or enslaved people's occupation in this area in the mid-1700s.[111] The 1721 probate inventory of William Tyler's estate included "one negro man" and "one negro woman."[112] Although the Tyler family did not live at Battersea at this time, either indentured workers or enslaved persons likely would have continued farming the land. The Tyler family may have constructed these potential quarters for indentured or enslaved workers, or the quarters may have been the "tenements" and "dwelling houses" mentioned in Thomas Lewis's will.[113]

The property at this time may have also included a mill. William Tyler's will left a mill at Broad Creek to his daughter Mary (who married Humphrey Batts). Research to date has not determined the exact location of the mill, but its

presence on the Battersea tract suggests that it would have been sited in the study area. Tyler's family role in its operation is not known.[114]

Mills of the colonial era were typically gristmills that produced flour. Although sawmills that cut logs into lumber were built in the mid-Atlantic by the late 1600s, pit-sawing (typically carried out by enslaved people) remained more common until the Civil War.[115] Therefore, the mill at Battersea was more likely a gristmill than a sawmill. Gristmills were early manufacturing plants of colonial Maryland.[116] In addition to the mill building itself (typically built of wood or stone), essential features included a water source for power, a waterwheel, gearing to transfer power from the wheel to the milling machinery, and the millstone. Waterwheels before the late nineteenth century were typically wooden, often oak. Mills were operated by hydraulic force, which was generated by the downward motion of water striking the paddles of a vertical waterwheel. As they served a singular purpose, mills were typically only a single room in volume.[117]

William Tyler died in 1721 and his will left his "dwelling plantation called Battersea" to his wife Elizabeth, who then willed it to their son, William Tyler, Jr., upon her death.[118] Archeological investigation suggests the earthfast house that Thomas Lewis likely built burned shortly after Tyler's death. Although some historians and local lore suggest that the present-day Harmony Hall mansion was constructed in 1723 during William Tyler, Jr.'s ownership, the 2012 HSR argues that Tyler, Sr.'s inventory shows that the family was of modest means and that Tyler, Jr., would likely not have been able to construct such a large home.[119] Elizabeth Tyler remarried and moved elsewhere with her second husband, Henry Massey. As William Tyler, Jr., died in 1755 with his mother still alive, he never became legal owner of the property.[120] At the time of his death, Tyler was living in Charles County and not at Battersea. Thus, one can logically conclude that the Tylers did not live in the study area at this time. William Tyler, Jr., would presumably not have been built a new house on the site after the earthfast structure burned if neither he nor his mother were living there.[121] Upon Elizabeth Tyler's death, her grandson John Tyler, son of William Tyler, Jr., became the owner of Battersea.

Transitional Ownership of Battersea (1761–69)

In 1761, James Marshall acquired 100 acres of the Battersea tract from John Tyler. A two-year ownership dispute, however, resulted in William Eilbeck, a magistrate of Charles County, holding the property from 1761 to 1763. An individual named James Rogers sued Marshall claiming that Battersea was his inheritance and requesting the property be returned to him.[122] Marshall emerged from the case

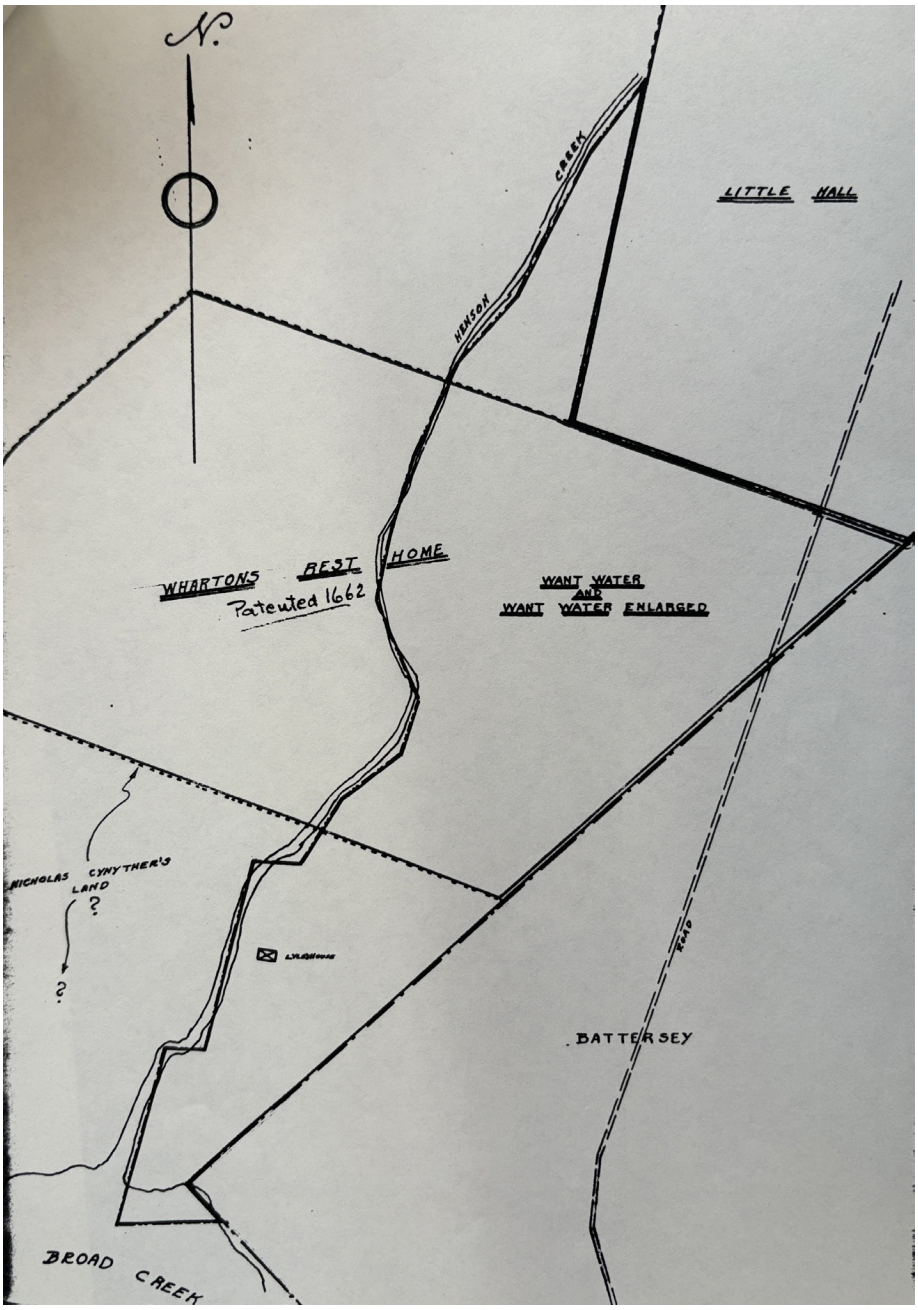


Figure 2-10. Map showing eighteenth-century land patents, undated (National Capital Parks-East).

victorious. Marshall did not live at Battersea during his brief ownership (1763–69).

Magruder Acquisition of Want Water (1761–1821)

In 1761, merchant, planter, extensive landholder, and enslaver Enoch Magruder purchased Want Water from Richard Barnes. Magruder also acquired properties known as Norway in present-day Largo and Mount Lubentia in present-day Upper Marlboro, both in Prince George's County. The tract would have included the Broad Creek Warehouse, Batts's store, Want Water house, and the canal. Two years later, Magruder resurveyed the land and discovered that the original tract

was only 26.75 acres. The resurvey also discovered that 20 acres of unpatented land lay between Want Water and a tract known as Little Hall to the north (Figure 2-10). With the resurvey, Magruder acquired the 20 acres, which became known as Want Water Enlarged. The Want Water property now included 46.75 acres. Susan Pearl speculates that the change in acreage may have been a result of changes in Broad Creek's shore over more than half a century since the tract was first surveyed in 1706.[123] The 20-acre addition included "a modest 12-by-8-foot dwelling," as well as one apple tree and 300 fence logs.[124] Pearl writes that Magruder likely lived at the Want Water house as he would have wanted to monitor his business operations.[125] The 2012 HSR, however, states that Enoch Magruder lived at Mount Lubentia before he purchased Battersea in 1769. Evidence for this latter conclusion was not provided in the HSR.[126]

By 1769, Enoch Magruder built a storehouse (alternatively referred to as a warehouse) at the northeast corner of Slash Creek's confluence with Broad Creek (Figure 2-3) on the Want Water property.[127] The storehouse was situated near the southern end of the Want Water tract—the location of Lewis's cornfield. If the cornfield and storehouse were indeed in the same location, the site would have ceased use as a cornfield for the storehouse construction. The storehouse would have also been within the Broad Creek/Aire town site if it still existed at this point. The storehouse's exact construction date is not known, but mention of the building in a 1769 deed places it at least before this date. The deed describes the store as sitting at "the place where the beginning tree of the whole tract [Battersea] formerly stood."[128] An overlay of the boundaries of the Battersea and Want Water tracts and the location of the store was included in the 2002 *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study* (Figure 2-3).

Magruder Acquisition of Battersea and Construction of Manor House (1769–1820)

In a further expansion of his landholdings, Enoch Magruder purchased Battersea from James Marshall in 1769.[129] The construction date of the manor house now known as Harmony Hall has long been a source of debate, but the 2012 HSR and 2018 CLI agree that Magruder likely constructed the house circa 1769.[130] The archeological report based on 1985–87 investigations stated that Harmony Hall would have been built after the filling of an adjacent burrow pit over the remains of the burned earthfast structure, which was located just southeast of the current manor house.[131] Furthermore, Battersea was not occupied by its owners for a long gap in the 1720s through the 1760s as neither Elizabeth Tyler nor her son William Tyler, Jr., lived there.[132] In addition, the house was constructed in the Georgian style popular in England and English colonies in North America beginning in the mid-eighteenth century.[133] Because the style incorporated the Palladianism of the



Figure 2-11. In this 1790s watercolor, architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe depicts the siting of a Georgian manor house at a higher elevation that would have a vantage point to view the river and establish dominance over the landscape below. This same idea may have influenced the placing of the Harmony Hall manor house at a higher elevation (Benjamin Henry Latrobe, "York River Looking Northwest to up to West Point," 1796–98, watercolor on paper, 10.5 x 7 in, Maryland Historical Society).

Italian Renaissance, the Battersea house's front façade and rear elevation were symmetrically composed with window bays flanking centered entrances.

Enslaved laborers likely played a significant role in the house's construction. As previously noted with regards to the Want Water manor house, gentry enslavers often forced enslaved workers into the construction of manor houses. For instance, enslaved laborers probably made the bricks necessary for the house's construction and hauled them onto the site.[134]

The house was placed atop a slope overlooking the Potomac River. Landowners of the gentry class often placed their estates' manor houses at high points overlooking the nearby waterways and agricultural production on their farm as a display of dominance and power over the landscape (Figure 2-11).[135] Both Magruder and Tyler before him likely took topography into account when choosing the site of their houses. The Battersea manor house sits today 38' above sea level, while the bank at Broad Creek is at 2' above sea level. The yard east of the house is even higher at 40' above sea level.[136] A higher location for the house would have also been important if the town of Broad Creek/Aire was indeed in the location it is approximated—between the house and Broad Creek. A higher elevation would have offered views of the creek and Potomac River unobstructed by the town buildings more immediately west. Decorative treatment of the house also emphasized the importance of views from the river and townsite: the house's west elevation is fitted with a cornice featuring a dentil course and an ornamental door surround composed of a pediment and pilasters. Neither of these features were included on the east elevation.



Figure 2-12. Dennis Griffith, map of Maryland, 1795. By this point, a north–south road named Piscataway Road ran through the study area (circled in red) (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).

The manor house's location was also close to a road that developed by the late eighteenth century (Figure 2-12). Enoch Magruder's will notes a road accessing Want Water as "…the Rode through the Gate to the main Rode which comes from Piscataway to Broad Creek Church then down by and with the main Rode to my line of Battersey to the Gate."[137] The route describes what became known as Piscataway (now Livingston) Road. Details about internal circulation at Battersea and Want Water have not been found in research to date. Early maps do not show circulation at the site.

Magruder's grand Georgian-style house communicated wealth and status at a time when the colonial tobacco economy thrived. The end of the American Revolution, however, profoundly disrupted trade with Britain and brought an end to the factorage system that managed exports and imports and maintained relationships with British firms. As a result, the inspection warehouse system and tobacco's

status as a dependable crop ended. Baltimore emerged as the Chesapeake area's dominant port city and eclipsed smaller port towns like Broad Creek. In addition, siltation increasingly clogged river tributaries like Broad Creek. As the market shifted to Baltimore, most of the tobacco warehouses were shuttered and sold.[138] At the same time, tobacco's exhaustion of the land reached a critical point in the late 1770s, despite planters' efforts at land use patterns.[139]

As historian Charles Reed argues, Broad Creek reached its commercial and economic peak as a maritime and agricultural community in the eighteenth century. After this peak passed, local planters looked for more reliable markets. By the end of the eighteenth century, some Prince George's County farmers began diversifying their agricultural production. For instance, Enoch Magruder was among those who embraced commercial fishing.[140]

At the same time, the physical state of land exhausted by tobacco necessitated agricultural shifts. Many planters in the Chesapeake region shifted to grain production. The anonymous author of the 1776 work *American Husbandry* declared, "Exhaust the lands in these colonies as much as you will with tobacco, you will leave it in order for grain, which is a matter of great consequence to the settlers."[141] Perhaps responding to these economic shifts, Magruder's 1786 property inventory suggests he may have reduced tobacco farming for fishing. At this time, he owned hauling rope and three large nets, one of which was listed as new.[142]

Enoch Magruder died in 1786 and willed both Battersea and Want Water to his daughter Sarah, who had married William Lyles in 1776.[143] Sarah and William were living at Want Water at the time of Magruder's death. Battersea and Want Water remained under Lyles family ownership until the mid-nineteenth century. William Lyles was a prominent landowner and a founder of the Farmers Bank of Alexandria.[144] At the time Sarah's will was prepared in 1828, the Want Water property included a meat house, storehouse, and a detached kitchen.[145]

While Sarah and William owned Battersea, her brother, Dennis Magruder, managed the property for her and lived at the Battersea mansion (as well as at the other family property, Mt. Lubentia). In 1792, Dennis Magruder listed the house for rent in a Georgetown newspaper. The newspaper listing stated that the house was accompanied by "good cellars, nursery, kitchen, carriage house and stable."[146] The listing provides additional clues about buildings and structures that were on site at the time. The nursery, kitchen, carriage house, and stable would have been separate buildings.[147]

The Battersea plantation's enslaved laborers would have used most of these buildings on a daily basis. As with earlier periods, however, it is not clear how the enslavement of Africans was reflected in the cultural landscape. The 1776 census of Prince George's County lists enslaved persons in the Magruder household named Lander, Will, Peter, Lucy, Phillis, Tom, and Beck.[148] Magruder's 1785 will repeats several of these names. In his will, Enoch Magruder left to his wife Meek "four negro men namely Lander Peter Will commenly called Billy and Tom also three negro women Lucy fillis and beck also one negro girl named Rachel one malatto boy named Jess."[149] The 1786 probate inventory of Enoch Magruder's estate lists 13 enslaved persons, but only the name Will matches the 1776 and the 1785 will.[150] The 1790 federal census listed Meek Magruder as the only White member of the household and 11 enslaved persons as part of the Magruder household.

It is not clear whether any of the enslaved persons in the Magruder household resided in the Battersea house, in quarters on the property, or on the other properties the Magruders owned. These enslaved people may have lived in the quarters the 2015 archeological report documented immediately west of the Harmony Hall house. The 1798 federal direct tax listed 25 enslaved persons in the William and Sarah Lyles household. Only 13 were either above age 12 or below age 50.[151] The family of Colonel William Lyles enslaved more people than any other family in the Broad Creek area, according to Susan Pearl. By 1790, Prince George's County had the largest population of enslaved people in the state.[152]

In addition to managing Battersea, Dennis Magruder served as proprietor of the Broad Creek tobacco inspection warehouse by 1787.[153] A 1791 inspection report noted rent paid to Magruder.[154] Although the broader tobacco economy was declining, the Broad Creek Warehouse remained in operation through at least the rest of the eighteenth century. In 1791, Richard Stonestreet, Giles Dyer, and James Hawkins were inspectors at the Broad Creek Warehouse. In 1790, Dyer requested repairs to the warehouse, including "raising the floor with skids one and one half feet, repairing the doors and making sills to the same a small matter of weather boarding" and requested a "room 12 feet by 10 feet for the use of transferred tobacco."[155]

Dennis Magruder's newspaper listing to rent the Battersea manor house was answered by Elizabeth (Hesselius) Addison and her new husband Walter D. Addison. In 1792–93, Elizabeth and Walter Addison and Walter's brother John Addison and his new wife lived at the Battersea house while their own estates were rented out. According to an often-repeated story, the couples had such a harmonious experience living together in the house that Elizabeth named it

Harmony Hall. Up to this point, both the tract and the mansion had been named Battersea. The name Harmony Hall persisted into the nineteenth century and was included in legal records by 1850.[156]

William Lyles died in 1815 and willed the Want Water tract and a portion of the Battersea tract to his son Thomas G. Lyles upon Sarah's death.[157] Thomas G. Lyles inherited the tracts when Sarah Magruder Lyles died in 1820. One of their other sons, Dennis Magruder Lyles, inherited both the Harmony Hall manor house and 40 acres of Battersea.[158] It was at this time that Battersea and Want Water were separated for the first time since 1786.

By around 1800, the Broad Creek Warehouse apparently suffered from the Maryland tobacco economy's decline. Tobacco inspection records held by the Maryland State Archives document the warehouse's existence up to 1798.[159] Inspection records for the period 1799–1818 are not in the archives' collection and have yet to be found. By the time the available inspection records resume in 1818, all of the previous Prince George's County warehouses such as those at Piscataway and Bladensburg are referenced, but the Broad Creek Warehouse is not included and does not appear in any inspection records through 1840.[160] Therefore, this CLR concludes that the Broad Creek Warehouse was shuttered at some point between 1798 and 1818. It is not clear whether the building was also demolished around this time or remained on the site after its original use ended.

Historic Period Plan—Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Historic Plan HPP-1 illustrates the Harmony Hall study area during the Tobacco Era (1708–98). The plan captures the study area when it served as the site of two manor houses, outbuildings and quarters for enslaved people or tenant workers, a townsite, and two plantations. The period begins with the construction of the Want Water manor house and ends at the last-known date of the Broad Creek tobacco inspection warehouse's existence at Want Water. A number of changes occurred on the site during this period, including a ca.-1690s earthfast dwelling at Battersea burning in the 1720s; the digging of the Want Water Canal in 1749; and construction of the Harmony Hall manor house (circa 1769), the inspection warehouse (1748), and other buildings associated with both the town and the two plantations.

The plan's depiction of the cluster of buildings and the townsite shows the degree to which the development and use of the site focused on Broad Creek and the canal's original extent. Most human activity on the site would have been located on the banks of Broad Creek. The landscape at this time emphasized the site's

relationship to the Potomac River and the supporting commercial townsite and agricultural use.

Due to insufficient visual records (e.g., maps and plans) dating to the period, the plan relies on textual records (e.g., wills or probate records), nineteenth-century maps, or later archeological investigations to make conjectural estimates of where certain features may have been located. For instance, maps delineating the original length of the canal have not been found, but documentary records note that Humphrey Batts dug the canal 100 yards north from Broad Creek. The plan illustrates the best estimate of where the canal would have originally terminated. Similarly, a 2015 archeological investigation by Louis Berger revealed evidence of dwellings west of the Harmony Hall manor house that the archeologists speculate housed enslaved people or tenant workers on the Battersea plantation in the mid-eighteenth century. Little is also known of circulation on site at the time other than a few references in deed records and on-site investigation. An 1860s map (included in the next section of the site history) includes drives to the two manor houses that may have existed in the Tobacco Era. The plan also speculates that a building south of the Want Water manor house found on the 1860s map may have been the tobacco inspection warehouse, based on the fact that documentary records note that it was at the northern terminus of the canal original's length.

Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Tobacco Era 1708–1798
Historic Period Plan

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Map of Area near Broad Creek and Indian Queen Bluff, ca. 1860s.
3. Simon J Martenet, Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861.
4. Griffith Morgan Hopkins, Jr., Atlas of fifteen miles around Washington, including the County of Prince George, Maryland, 1878.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- CLR Boundary
- Building
- Want Water Canal
- Open Water
- Tidal Flats
- Potential Agricultural Fields
- Unknown Vegetative Cover
- Road
- Road (Approximate Location)
- Trail
- Fence
- Individual Tree

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Draft Version 1
3. Contour Interval= 2'-0" (2021)

N 0 105 210 420 Feet

Drawing HPP-01

18th century Want Water property included a meat house, storehouse, and a detatched kitchen (Prince George's County Wills, Liber TT 1).

Want Water Drive

Want Water Manor House

Potential Tobacco Inspection Warehouse location at northern terminus of canal (Prince George's County Wills, Liber TT 1).

The original canal was only 100 yards long and likely connected to the existing creek (Prince George's County Court Records, Liber LL)

Research to date has not indicated where agricultural fields were located during this period.

Enslaved quarters and tenement dwellings likely moved with field rotation/layout

Piscataway Road

Broad Creek

Location of Potential Battersea Dwellings 1662 (Sonderman, et al., 1993)

Aproximate location of Enoch Magruder Warehouse in Broad Creek Aire T ownsite (Pearl, 2002).

Approximate location of Broad Creek/Aire Townsite Some features are likely in Broad Creek. The actual size and scope of the area is uncertain.

Harmony Hall Manor House

Location of 1700s Earthfast Dwelling (Sonderman et al., 1993)

Slash Creek

Approximate location of Drive (NOAA, 1860)

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POST-TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND TRANSIENT RESIDENTIAL USE, 1821–1928

Rapidly Changing Ownership (1821–91)

The collapse of the booming tobacco economy that sustained the Broad Creek community and the farms at Battersea and Want Water through the eighteenth century shaped economic conditions into the nineteenth century. According to historian Susan Pearl, the Broad Creek/Aire community began to decline by the nineteenth century. Although the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was laid through Prince George's County in 1835, the railroad bypassed the county's southwestern region. The exclusion left the Broad Creek/Aire community out of what became the dominant method of commercial transportation and forced its planters and merchants to depend on the Potomac River and local roads. As an economic alternative, several fisheries opened around the Broad Creek estuary by mid-century. The fisheries transported herring, shad, catfish, eel, and some sturgeon to markets in Alexandria and Washington, DC. In addition, the creek was dredged for gravel, and a brickmaking kiln operated along the estuary around this time.[161] The Broad Creek/Aire townsite was at some point abandoned and its buildings demolished, but research to date has not determined when this occurred. Other nearby towns built around tobacco inspection warehouses, such as Queen Anne Town and Nottingham, also gradually disappeared. Their town structure transitioned over time to, as Susan Pearl writes, "a loose collection of farms."[162]

While the Broad Creek community gradually vanished from the landscape, Battersea and Want Water remained productive farms owned by the Lyles family until 1850. Dennis M. Lyles lived at Harmony Hall until his death in 1828, when his wife Ariana Lyles assumed ownership. In 1850, Ariana Lyles and relatives Thomas Marshall and Sarah Marshall, both descendants of William and Sarah Magruder Lyles, sold 40 acres of land, referred to in a deed as Harmony Hall for the first time, to William J. Edelen.[163] Under Edelen's ownership, the farm at Harmony Hall included livestock holdings of 4 horses, 6 cows, 2 oxen, 3 "other cattle," 6 sheep, and 18 pigs. In 1850, the farm produced 33 bushels of wheat, 350 bushels of corn, 288 bushels of oats, 2600 pounds of tobacco, 6 pounds of wool, and 150 pounds of butter.[164] These descriptions suggest that the site included a dairy or barn for milking as well as a tobacco house. Corn and wheat fields would have also been on site at this time.

The Lyles family retained ownership of Want Water, marking the termination of the combined family ownership of the two properties since Enoch Magruder acquired both. Rebecca, widow of Thomas C. Lyles, lived at Want Water after his death in 1845, while her adult sons, John S. and Thomas C., Jr., farmed the property. At this time, the Want Water property amounted to approximately

180 acres, including the original Want Water tract, a portion of the Battersea tract, and adjacent land.[165] The Want Water acreage differs from that recorded in the 1850 agricultural census, which enumerated 190 "improved" acres and 60 "unimproved" acres. Livestock included 7 horses, 4 cows, 3 oxen, and 3 "other cattle." The farm produced 140 bushels of wheat, 800 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of potatoes, and 150 pounds of butter. The census recorded 0 pounds of tobacco.[166]

As early as 1860–61, Edelen ceased paying taxes on the Harmony Hall property. A 40-acre tract that included Harmony Hall was sold at public auction in 1867 to Francis A. and Elizabeth G. Kerby (sometimes alternatively referred to as Kirby). The Kerbys had been living at Harmony Hall and farming the land for Edelen since 1860. The 1860 agricultural census for Harmony Hall identifies 45 "improved" acres of land. The farm's livestock holdings included three horses and three cows, but the farm's crop production was not enumerated. Agricultural census records for the Want Water tract identified 150 acres as "improved" and sixty acres as "unimproved." The farm's livestock featured five horses and two cows. The farm produced 250 bushels of oats and 7000 pounds of tobacco.[167] This record shows that Want Water briefly resumed cultivating tobacco after the 1850s agricultural census recorded 0 pounds of tobacco.

The Lyles family, meanwhile, maintained a farm on the Want Water property, known as Broad Creek Farm by the mid-nineteenth century, that relied increasingly on raising livestock rather than on tobacco. Following Rebecca Lyles's death in 1860, her two sons inherited the property and agreed to sell it. The sons executed a deed for 158 acres, and Thomas Lyles held a mortgage on the sale. The purchaser, however, defaulted on the mortgage, and the case went to the county's chancery court. In June 1870, by order of the chancery court, Lyles sold the 158-acre tract. The 1870 deed provides an updated record of buildings and structures on the Want Water property at this time, including an "ice house, granary, stable, corn house, carriage house, meat house and quarters."[168] The presence of these buildings captures a vastly different agricultural landscape than that of the eighteenth-century at Want Water—structures for tobacco cultivation were replaced with a corn house and granary. The deed also described the property as sitting at the head of Broad Creek" and that "sail boats and tugs can come within 300 yards."[169]

The buildings and structures mentioned in the 1870 Want Water deed are likely some of those found on a Civil War-era map that documented that tract (Figure 2-13). The map shows as many as six buildings, structures, or landscape features surrounding the Want Water manor house. The symbols on the map vary in size,

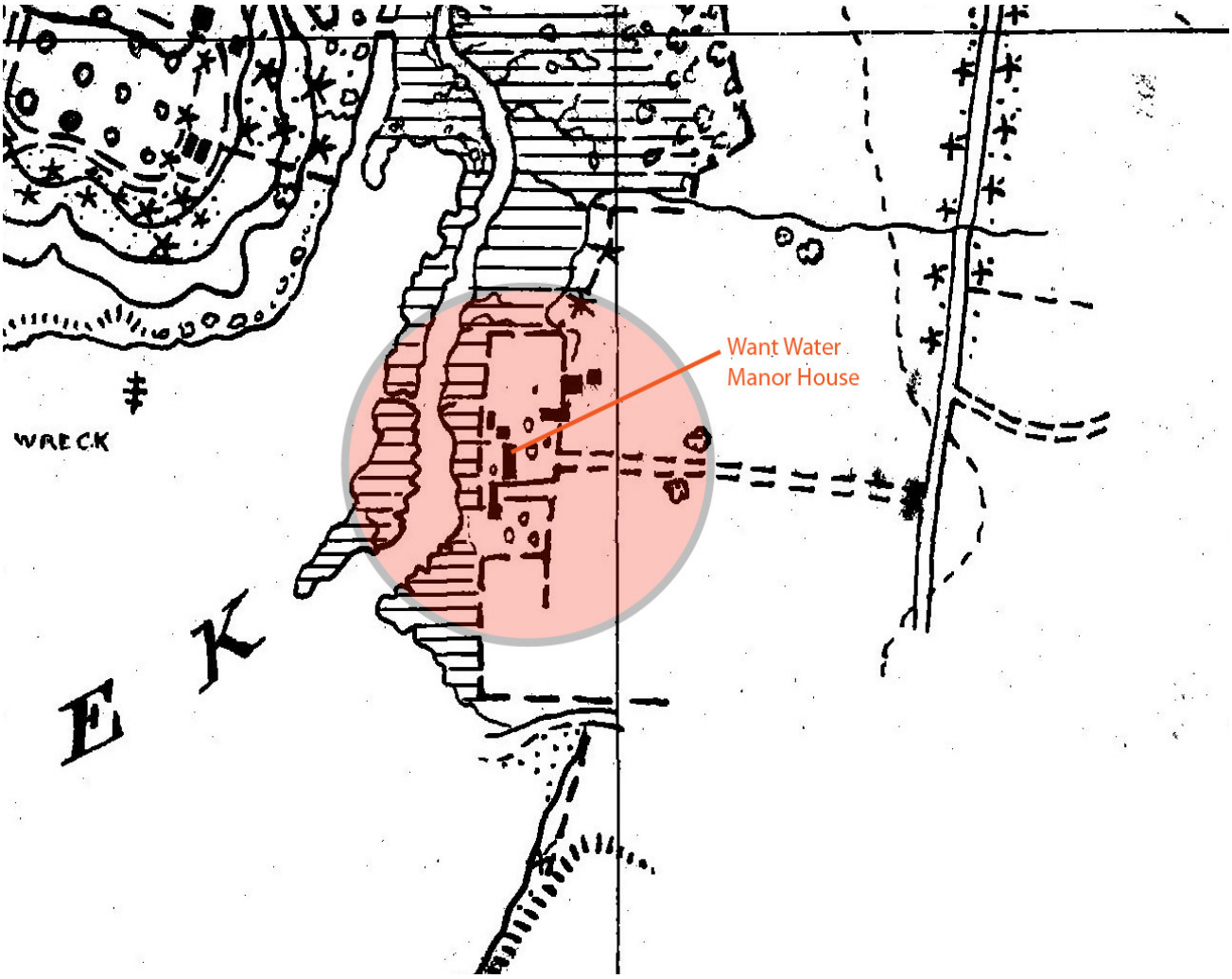


Figure 2-13. This ca. 1860s map provides valuable information on site conditions on the Want Water tract (circled in red). The manor house, outbuildings, and some suggestions of vegetation are noted on the map (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

making it difficult to determine their function. Because the map was printed during the war and before the Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution abolished slavery, it is possible that some of the features represented on the map were quarters for enslaved persons. The map shows a path (represented by dashed lines) leading from Piscataway Road to the Want Water house. The map also appears to document vegetation on the site. Small circles, either in clusters or isolated, are shown in various locations on the property, and irregularly shaped figures flank the path from the road to the house. Without a key, the mapmaker's intention in these two distinct shapes is not known. The irregularly shaped figures may represent mature canopy trees and the circles smaller trees or shrubs. The map shows the canal still intact but connected to a creek that continued north. Research does not suggest that Batts's original 100-yard-long canal connected to a creek, suggesting that this connection was established sometime between the canal's construction and the 1860s when the map was prepared.

What eighteenth-century buildings and structures aside from Harmony Hall and Want Water survived into the nineteenth century is not clear. The earliest map

that graphically depicts structures is from the 1860s and only includes the Want Water property (Figure 2-13). The rectangular building captured south of the Want Water manor house may have been the tobacco inspection warehouse or may be in the general area where the warehouse once stood. The 1870 Want Water deed did not mention any of the tobacco-related buildings and structures, which were likely demolished in the decades after tobacco cultivation declined. The fate of William Tyler's mill is not known, and without an exact known location it is difficult to determine when it was demolished. Research to date has also not confirmed whether the stables, outhouses, orchards, gardens, and fences mentioned in the 1709 Battersea deed survived into the nineteenth century. The tragedy of American slavery would have continued to shape the landscape through 1865, even though the 1870 sale record did not mention quarters for enslaved people. Land use in the study area would have also changed by the mid-nineteenth century to accommodate new agricultural production. Research to date has not indicated where agricultural fields were located during this period.

Although Harmony Hall still operated as a working farm in the second half of the nineteenth century, owners of the property changed rapidly in the 1860s through the 1880s due to what seems to have been a series of financial issues.[170] The 1870 federal census places Francis and Elizabeth Kerby in Alexandria, Virginia, despite owning Harmony Hall.[171] It is not clear why they retained ownership of the property despite not living there. The Kerbys, however, did not pay taxes on the Harmony Hall property, and, in 1876, it was sold at public auction to Ignatius Wilson.[172] Wilson sold Harmony Hall to George W. Wilson only a year later.[173]

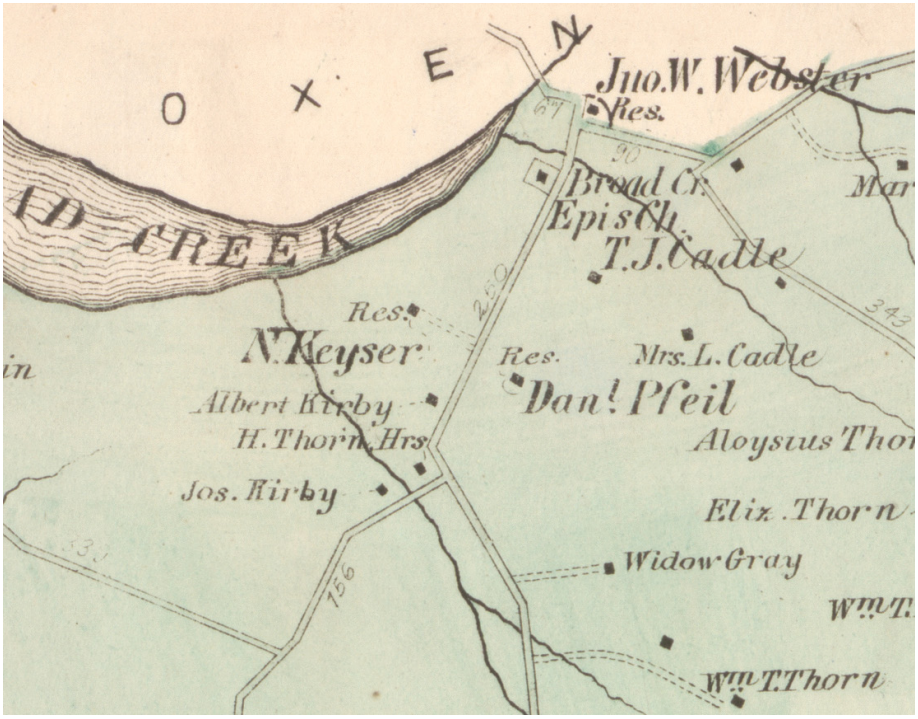


Figure 2-14. Occupants of Harmony Hall and Want Water are identified here in Griffith Morgan Hopkins, Jr., *Atlas of fifteen miles around Washington, including the County of Prince George, Maryland*, 1878—Albert Kirby at Harmony Hall and Nicholas Keyser at Want Water (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).

Wilson was the editor and publisher of the *Marlboro Gazette* newspaper. Nicholas Keyser purchased 60 acres of the Want Water tract in 1876.[174] An 1878 atlas by Griffith Morgan Hopkins, Jr., of Prince George's County labeled the Want Water property with Keyser's name (Figure 2-14). The Hopkins atlas identified Albert Kirby as living at Harmony Hall. It is likely that Albert Kirby (or possibly spelled Kerby) was related to Francis and Elizabeth, but research to date has not provided confirmation. If they were related it is not clear why Albert Kirby lived at the house despite the fact that Francis and Elizabeth no longer owned the property. In 1879, George W. Wilson sold Harmony Hall to Nicholas C. Stephen and Joseph K. Roberts. Roberts was also a newspaper editor and publisher who established the *Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser* in 1882.[175]

John Jacob Sellner, a German immigrant, acquired 60 acres of the Want Water tract, including the manor house, in 1886. The same year, Roberts's and Stephen's heirs sold the Harmony Hall property to Domenico Cristofani.[176] Cristofani had immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1868.[177] Several secondary histories of Harmony Hall have identified Cristofani as a shoemaker.[178] These histories cite a late 1950s column titled "Broad Creek Ripples" by Helen O'Leary that was printed in the *Prince George's Journal* as the source of this information. O'Leary's column stated that Cristofani used the house's cellar as a workshop for shoe production.[179] Her column, however, did not provide a source for this information. Moreover, census records, city directories, and newspapers instead indicate that Cristofani was a grocer and owned a store with his brother Felix in Southeast Washington, DC. In 1888, Washington's *Evening Star* placed their store, known as D. Cristofani & Bro., at 100 1/2 C Street SE.[180] An 1896 Washington city directory identified Cristofani as a grocer with a business at this location. Census records also listed 100 1/2 C Street SE as Cristofani's home address.[181] It is possible that he lived above the store on days he worked and stayed at Harmony Hall during his days off in 1886–92. Cristofani sold Harmony Hall to Robert Stein in March 1892.[182] It is not clear why Cristofani sold the property, but his marriage to Barbara Lounce just a few months later in August 1892 could have influenced his decision to sell.[183]

Stein Ownership and Silesia (1892–1928)

Upon his acquisition of Harmony Hall in 1892, Robert Stein initiated a period of his family's ownership that lasted 37 years. Stein was born in 1857 in Rengersdorf, Silesia, Prussia (now part of Poland). He studied for the priesthood in Heidelberg, Germany, for three years but immigrated to the United States in 1875 to continue his education at Georgetown College. Stein received his medical degree, but whether he ever practiced medicine is not known.[184]

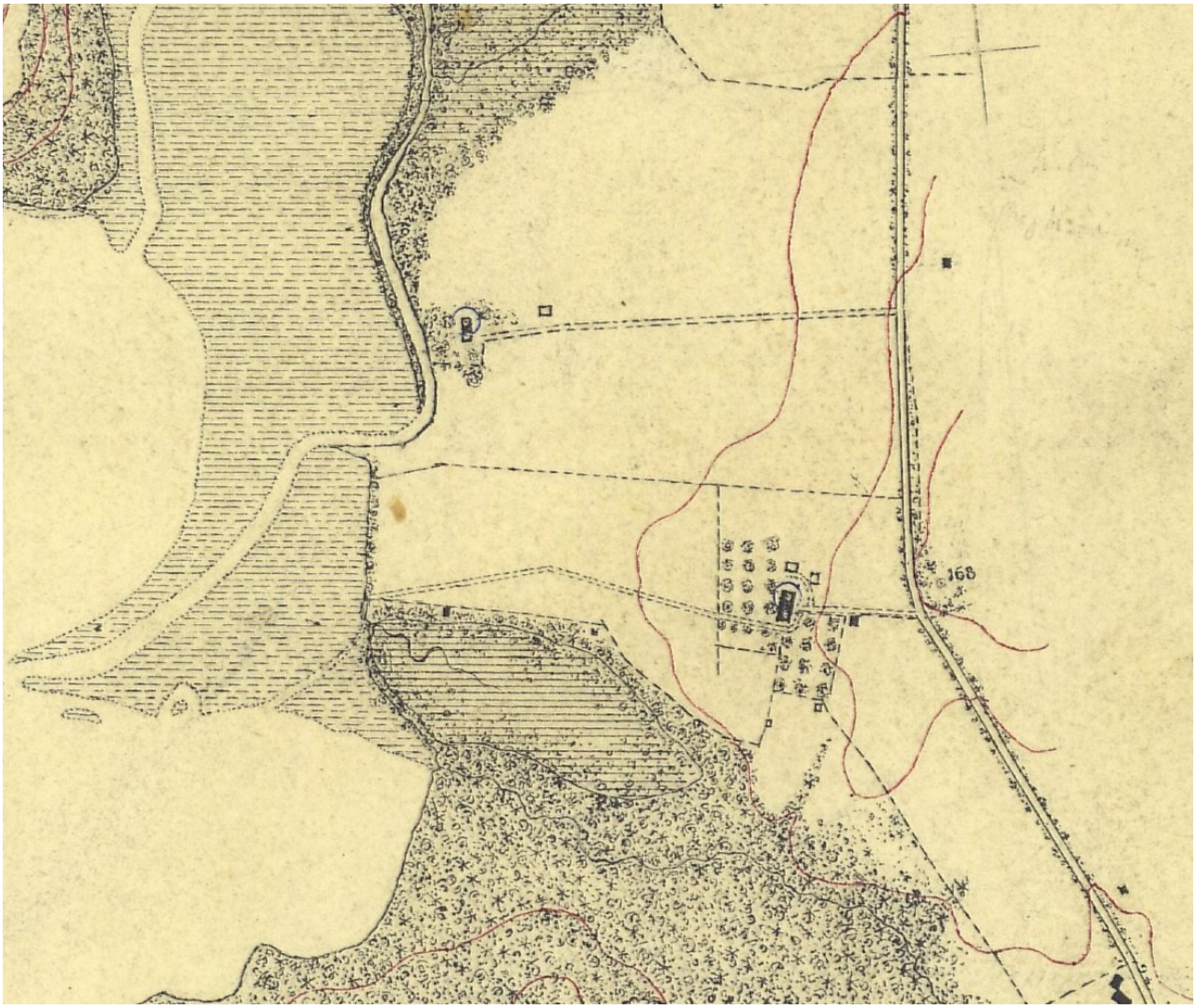


Figure 2-15. This 1902 USCGS map captures site conditions at the Harmony Hall and Want Water tracts during the Stein and Sellner periods, respectively. Trees depicted east and west of the Harmony Hall manor house were likely fruit trees captured in photographs during the Stein period (US Coast and Geodetic Survey).

Later in 1892, Robert Stein sold one-half of his interest in Harmony Hall to his brother, Richard. By 1894, Robert Stein sold the remaining half of his Harmony Hall ownership to Richard. Harmony Hall was one parcel of many Stein and his family acquired in the Broad Creek area in the 1890s. They purchased several hundred acres and convinced many family members to immigrate to the area from Prussia. Stein successfully petitioned the state of Maryland to rename the community around Broad Creek as "Silesia" in honor of their homeland. An official Silesia post office opened in 1902. Robert and Richard's sisters Selma Stein Adler and Anna Stein Tilch brought their families from Prussia, and more family followed in subsequent decades. At one point, Selma, Anna, and their families lived with Richard at Harmony Hall, and other family members resided with Richard at the mansion throughout the next few decades. Robert, meanwhile, retained his residence in Washington, DC. The Steins, Adlers, and Tilches farmed the land surrounding Harmony Hall and eventually built their own houses on the extensive Stein family land holdings.[185] The Silesia community grew to include

a school, several stores, and numerous residences.[186] Richard Stein further established his presence in the area by opening a grocery and feed store in 1903 on the site of a former tavern. Members of the Tilch family built a house adjacent to the store.[187]

During the 1890s and 1900s, Robert Stein became a distinguished linguist and Arctic explorer. He worked for the US Geological Survey as a clerk/stenographer and translator of scientific literature in languages that included German, Danish, Dutch, Swedish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Russian. As early as 1893, Stein developed a fascination with the Arctic and developed a number of proposals for its systematic study. In August 1897, Stein accompanied explorer Admiral Robert E. Peary's seventh expedition to Greenland.[188] Robert Stein died in 1917.

Richard Stein, meanwhile, maintained the Harmony Hall property as a working farm. In addition to what appear to be fruit trees in historic photographs and maps, Stein also grew corn at Harmony Hall. Investigations for this CLR discovered extant apple trees west of the house. According to later owner Charles W. Collins, Stein, who he described as a "bachelor farmer," stored meat, corn, and dried fish in the house. Stein washed fresh vegetables in the dining room, where a large hole was cut in the floor to allow mud to fall into the basement.[189] Richard Stein at some point purchased property east of Harmony Hall, on the other side of Piscataway (now Livingston) Road. He built two houses on this property for members of his family.[190]

The study area's development in the Stein period is captured in a 1902 map, photographs of the Harmony Hall tract during this period, and a 1927 aerial photograph. Together, these sources corroborate land use and features on the property. The 1902 map, prepared by the US Coast and Geodetic Survey (USCGS), depicts the Harmony Hall manor house amid formal rows of plantings, which may represent agricultural fields, to the west and southeast (Figure 2-15). Formal rows of trees southeast of the house appear to be captured in Stein-era photographs. One earlier photograph (Figure 2-16), perhaps dating to the early twentieth century, seems to show the trees soon after planting, while a later photograph (Figure 2-17) likely taken circa 1929, shows them in a more mature state. The photograph affirms land use and vegetation suggested in the 1902 map. Both show the rows of trees southeast of the house. These trees may have been fruit trees, as many Silesia residents engaged in truck farming (growing produce and selling it in trucks at markets).[191] The circa 1929 photograph shows the smaller (possibly fruit) trees left of the house and a taller ornamental tree right of the house (Figure 2-17). Grass east of the rows of trees appears to be overgrown, while the lawn north of the house seem to have been mown. Another



Figure 2-16. This photograph, likely taken in the early 1900s from across Livingston Road looking west, shows the Harmony Hall property early in the Stein period. The photograph shows outbuildings surrounding the manor house, fruit trees southeast of the house, and an overall open character on the site (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-17. This ca. 1929 photograph, likely taken by Charles Collins, finds more matured fruit trees southeast of the house, tall grass, and an additional building constructed northwest of the manor house (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-18. Oblique view of rear (west) façade of Harmony Hall manor house, ca. 1929, showing overgrown conditions adjacent to the house (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).



Figure 2-19. Oblique view of Harmony Hall manor house, front (east) facade, ca. 1929. This view captures trees southeast of the house as well as random debris, including possibly stacked barrels, in the yard (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

circa-1929 photograph of the grounds west of the manor house suggests that it was overgrown with vegetation, although the photograph does not provide sufficient clarity for observing specific vegetation (Figure 2-18). The 1902 map captures a forested area east and south of Slash Creek and trees along the study area's boundary with Piscataway Road, which by then had become known as Livingston Road.[192] Circa-1929 photographs seem to show scattered undefined debris northeast and southeast of the house (Figure 2-19). The images suggest the debris may have included stacked barrels and miscellaneous farm equipment. In 1922, Richard Stein offered a portion of his property for use as a community baseball field, according to the *Prince George's Enquirer*.[193] It is not clear where this occurred or how long Stein's property served this purpose. The 1927 aerial



Figure 2-20. 1927 aerial photograph of the study area captures cultivated fields west and southeast of the Harmony Hall manor house and on three sides of the Want Water manor house (National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 328).

shows cultivated fields southeast and west of the Harmony Hall manor house (Figure 2-20).

The Stein-era photographs also provide valuable evidence of the Harmony Hall manor house's development. By this time, a wood shed porch supported by square posts was added to the front façade (Figure 2-21). The exterior walls were parged with concrete and painted white.[194] By 1929, a single-story, one-room brick addition of an unknown function extended from the south elevations. Research to date has not determined who parged the brick walls or built the shed porch nor when the alterations were implemented. The map also suggests that at least two buildings were sited on the path/drive that extends east–west along Slash Creek. These buildings' functions are not known.

The 1902 map and 1927 aerial provide information about circulation on the site at this time (Figure 2-15). A path is shown traveling east–west from Piscataway (Livingston) Road to the house; from this path's western terminus, a path leads slightly south and then west to Slash Creek. Near the first path's western terminus



Figure 2-21. Harmony Hall manor house, front (east) façade, ca. 1929. This image shows the house as it appeared in the Stein period, with a shed front porch and its exterior brick walls parged with white concrete (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

Figure 2-22. This detail of the 1927 aerial photograph records the cluster of outbuildings around the Harmony Hall manor house (yellow, pink blue, and red). Individual uses of these buildings are not known. The previous figures showing a ground-level perspective during the Stein period also captures these buildings. Note also the Want Water manor house at the image's top left. (National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 328).

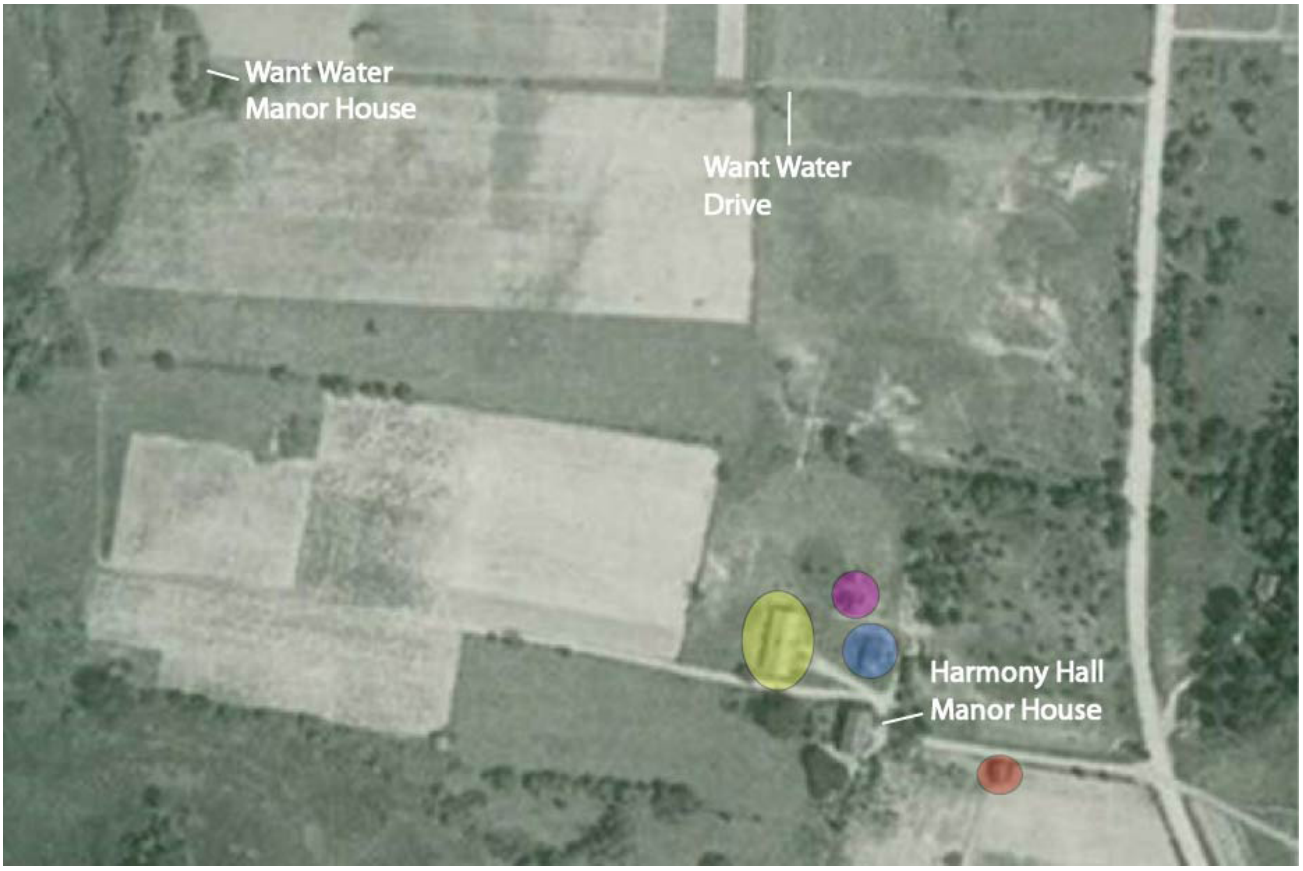




Figure 2-23. Detail of 1927 aerial photograph. The aerial shows an outbuilding (red) southeast of the west field and a possible farmstead (blue) southwest of the west field. The 1902 map captures both of these buildings. An outbuilding that may have been a dwelling (yellow) is shown in the north-center of the west field. An outbuilding (pink), also captured in the 1902 map, is shown east of the Want Water manor house (National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 328).

a curved path bends to the north to end at the canal. This circulation is affirmed in the early Stein photograph of the site.

The earlier Stein photograph records a small, rectangular, side-gabled building midway along the path/drive between Livingston Road and the house (Figure 2-16 and Figure 2-22). Half of the building features exterior cladding, and the other half appears to have been left open, perhaps for storage and easy retrieval of farm equipment. Two outbuildings along the curved path or drive are also captured in this photograph: one sat north of the manor house, and the other sited to the northwest. The two buildings were roughly square in shape and both were covered by front-gable roofs, but one was larger than the other. It is not clear what purpose they served. The ca.-1929 photograph and the 1927 aerial both show the northwest building as a a broad, rectangular, side-gabled building (Figure 2-17 and Figure 2-20, Figure 2-22). Another outbuilding was sited north of the outbuilding immediately north of the manor house (highlighted in pink in Figure 2-22). The 1902 map captures a small building or structure south of the southeast rows of fruit trees and another farther south of these trees. The map and 1927 aerial finds a building with an undetermined purpose at the southeast corner of the cultivated field west of the house (Figure 2-23). These two sources also show what might have been a farmstead at this field's southwest corner. The 1927 aerial appears to show a building at the north-center of this field (Figure 2-23). This may have

been a surviving dwelling from the nineteenth century, given its proximity to the agricultural field. It is also possible that it was a farm-related outbuilding.

The 1902 map and 1927 aerial also provide details about the Want Water tract. Despite the property's continued productivity as a farm (including truck farming) under the Sellner family's ownership, the map curiously does not suggest agricultural fields at Want Water. The map, instead, suggests ambiguous vegetation surrounding the Want Water manor house. The 1927 aerial does, however, capture cultivated fields extending through most of the property and surrounding the manor house to the north, south, and east (Figure 2-20). A long drive is captured in the same location as the path in the 1860s map, leading from Livingston (then Piscataway) Road to the house. The map and aerial also find one outbuilding, sited east of the house along the path/drive (Figure 2-23). The six outbuildings from the 1860s map appear to have been demolished by this time.

Recollections by Richard Stein's niece Frieda Tilch Robey of Silesia recorded in 1985 provide further details about the study area during the Stein ownership. Robey remembered a drive extending from the house's front door to Livingston Road. This would have been the drive captured in the 1902 map and Stein-era photographs. Robey recalled a wood porch extending from the house's south wall that led from the kitchen to a privy. She also noted that a first-floor room left of the front door was a kitchen/dining room with a gravity-fed water supply that was piped from across Livingston Road, as, according to Robey, the property did not include a well.[195]

Post-Civil War African American Communities Near Broad Creek

In the decades after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, many formerly enslaved people remained in the area near Harmony Hall. Given the cross-plantation networks that enslaved people established through the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, these friend and family connections among African American served as the basis for building communities in the decades after the Civil War, including small farms and villages in the Broad Creek area.[196]

One such Black family was the Hattons of Oxon Hill, Maryland (approximately 4.5 miles north of the study area). Henry Hatton had been free as early as 1840 when his enslaver died. Henry worked as a blacksmith, and he and his wife Martha and the their family lived on a 21-acre tract the outskirts of the territory that now comprises Oxon Hill Farm. The Hatton family are considered the first to establish a primary school for the freedmen in southern Maryland. The school was originally named Colored School No. 1 in District 6 and later became known as the Riverview School.[197]

An area named Chapel Hill developed about 0.75 mile north of the study area in the late nineteenth century as a rural African American village at the crossroads of Old Fort Road and Livingston Road. The village emerged around a schoolhouse and a Methodist meetinghouse. In 1868, the federal Freedmen's Bureau, established by Congress in 1865 to direct the construction, establishment, and maintenance of schools and hospitals for former enslaved persons, built a schoolhouse at the intersection of Old Fort Road and Livingston Road. Historic maps indicate that this school was likely the Fort Foote School. By the following year, a Bureau field agent named John Butler reported on the school's success and noted that Mary A. Davinger, the first teacher, had 57 students who regularly attended. Despite early success, attendance suddenly dropped the following year and tuition fees could not be collected from the local residents because parents needed their children to help them sharecrop on local farms. Many children could not attend school until after the harvest. The school remained open, however, despite these challenges.[198]

Racial terror, meanwhile, still haunted African Americans. Particularly in the decades after Reconstruction (ca. 1865–77) ended, White violence against Black people increased significantly. In the Broad Creek area, a Black man named Thomas Juricks was lynched in 1869. Unknown White perpetrators left Juricks to hang from a tree for two hours before a coroner's jury cut him down and declared him dead "from hanging by unknown persons." Juricks's body was then moved a short distance near a public road leading from Broad Creek to Piscataway. His body was buried at this location to serve as a warning to nearby communities. Although a grand jury was called to investigate the lynching, no one was brought to trial for Juricks' murder. The *Evening Star* declared that "the circumstances of this case justify, as fully as any could, the action of the community."[199]

To educate the growing Black student population in Chapel Hill, two Rosenwald Schools were constructed in the village in 1922–23 and 1925–26.[200] Philanthropist Julius Rosenwald founded these schools in 15 states as part of a Progressive Era effort to educate African American students.[201]

The Fort Foote school closed in 1943 and was later demolished. In that year, the new Sojourner Truth School opened in Oxon Hill, taking in all of the children from the African-American schools like Fort Foote and the Chapel Hill Rosenwald schools. Sojourner Truth School closed following the 1954 US Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* that declared school segregation unconstitutional.[202]

THE COLLINS ERA, 1929–64

Charles Collins's Acquisition of Harmony Hall

Richard Stein sold Harmony Hall, by that point comprising 41 acres, to Charles Wallace Collins in March 1929. The reason for the sale is not known.[203] The Stein and Tilch families, including Richard, remained in the Silesia community long after selling Harmony Hall.[204]

Charles Collins was born in 1879 in Marion County, Alabama, the heart of the Alabama Black Belt and the heart of the state's cotton plantation economy. Collins was an attorney, writer, and librarian who held a number of federal government positions. He was an authority on banking law and counseled leading US financial institutions in his private law practice. Over the course of his federal service, Collins served as director of the Economic Section of the Legislative Reference Service at the Library of Congress, Librarian of the Supreme Court, Deputy Comptroller of the Currency, and General Counsel for the Bureau of the Budget. He retired from federal service in 1927 to focus on his private law practice and writing books on law and politics.[205] As of 1929 when he purchased Harmony Hall, Collins was living in Washington, DC's Georgetown neighborhood at 1310 34th Street NW.[206]

In addition to his professional career, Collins was a politically active White supremacist. Although a long-time member of the Democratic Party, Collins became intensely critical of his party's gradual and extremely cautious embrace of civil rights by the 1940s. The national Democratic Party underwent a significant transition in the twentieth century's first half from defending segregation policies at the beginning of the century to passing substantial civil rights reforms in the 1960s. In the 1930s, much of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal was built on accommodation to southern segregationist Democrats: conservative Democrats voted for the president's new federal programs in exchange for progressive Democrats maintaining the status quo on segregation, excluding African Americans from benefitting from certain New Deal programs, and not passing anti-lynching laws. This tenuous agreement, however, proved particularly untenable after World War II, as both Black and White Americans questioned how a nation that had just fought against hatred abroad (i.e., Nazism) during the war could perpetuate a system of discrimination at home. Collins published his thoughts on his party's shift in a treatise titled *Whither Solid South?: A Study in Politics and Race Relations* in 1947. This intraparty fight became particularly pronounced in 1948 when the Democratic Party adopted a pro-civil rights platform plank for the first time in US history. The party embraced civil rights as President Harry Truman ran for reelection, and the president himself made an important policy change when he desegregated the US army in 1948. Southern

Democrats like Collins revolted and refused to endorse Truman's reelection. They formed their own party, known as the States' Rights Democratic Party (nicknamed the Dixiecrat Party), to run candidates in that year's election, such as pro-segregation US senator Strom Thurmond for president.[207] Historian Sarah McCulloh Lemmon described Collins as the "chief ideologist of the party" due to his extensive writing on the subject.[208]

In the months after the 1954 US Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* declared the racial segregation of public schools unconstitutional, Collins wrote of his opposition to the decision.[209] Research to date has not determined the full extent of Collins's argument against school integration nor whether he took additional actions to show his disapproval. Despite or because of his racist views that saw African Americans as having inferior status, Collins at one time employed at least one Black man and one Black woman at Harmony Hall. [210]

Meanwhile, at Harmony Hall, Collins oversaw a massive renovation of the house and redesign of the landscape. As Harmony Hall's new owner, Collins conducted extensive research on the property. His papers at the University of Maryland include copies of deed records and probate inventories of the Magruder and Lyles families as well as other primary sources on the property. He delivered public remarks on and wrote histories of Harmony Hall based on his research.[211] Historian Susan Pearl writes, "As an amateur historian, Collins possessed extensive but flawed knowledge of Broad Creek, knowledge that also was shaped by his ambitions for Harmony Hall. He wrongly believed, for instance, the local tradition that Harmony Hall was built in 1723, and he exaggerated the potential presence of George Washington on the property."[212] As stated earlier in this report, historians have long questioned the local lore that Harmony Hall was built in the 1720s. Collins also stated that George Washington visited Harmony Hall and Want Water, a seemingly speculative claim based on Washington's acquaintance with William Lyles.[213] In 1934, Collins wrote the history section of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation of Harmony Hall and included a discussion of this relationship:

> Colonel William Lyles was an intimate friend of George Washington, there being ample documentary evidence of this fact in Washington's writings. It is reasonable to conjecture that Washington, whose barge frequently passed the very door of Want Water on those Sabaths (sic) when he worshipped at Broad Creek Church, upon occasion stopped for dinner with his friends at Want Water.[214]

The president's papers did note a relationship with Lyles, and his diary made references to Broad Creek in 1773 and 1774. In 1791, Lyles wrote to Washington regarding money he owed the president.[215] Specific incidents of visits to Harmony Hall or Want Water, however, were not noted. Collins also stated in his HABS

history that the Magruders socialized with Washington at Mount Vernon and that the president attended Broad Creek Church. However, Collins seems to have based this claim more on local oral tradition than any documentary record. He acknowledged in his HABS history that based on "reasonable conjecture" Washington would have stopped at Harmony Hall for dinner after church services.[216] Collins's writings convinced the Society of Colonial Dames of Maryland that Harmony Hall was built in 1723, leading the organization to provide him with a plaque for the house with this construction date. It hung on the west exterior wall for many years.[217] Collins also requested that the State Roads Commission place a historical marker on his property, but it is not clear whether the commission obliged.[218]

Colonial Revival Landscape Architecture

Despite Collins's extensive research on the property, the physical changes he implemented reflected more of a romanticized vision of a pre-Civil War Alabama plantation than the property's actual developmental history or local context. As Collins grew up in the heart of the Alabama Black Belt and the heart of the state's cotton plantation system, he sought to recreate at Harmony Hall the plantations he associated with his home state while erasing much of the landscape he acquired.[219] Collins, however, was not alone in his admiration for pre-Civil War buildings and landscapes, a phenomenon that became known as the colonial revival.

Colonial revival is the term used to describe buildings, landscapes, furniture, and decorative arts, as well as a host of other artistic media, that reference a storied American past. In high demand since the late nineteenth century and continuing well into the twenty-first century, the style builds on Americans' long-standing fascination with their early history. Architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson argues that the colonial revival is best understood as an attitude that mines the past for references, forms, and motifs in order to recreate them in contemporary construction. Wilson calls the style the United States' "most popular and characteristic expression."[220]

The "colonial" that the revival refers to is itself vague but generally encompasses the period from initial European settlement in North America to the end of what has been termed the Federal period (1780–1820) and into the Greek and Roman architectural revivals of the 1820s through the 1860s. Beginning in the early twentieth century, Americans built scores of houses and churches based on these colonial prototypes. An increasingly industrialized and urbanized United States provoked a nostalgia for a past many Americans saw as simpler. Federal, state, and local governments adopted the style for courthouses, post offices, and

other public buildings in appeals to nostalgia and continuity with the past. Sources included pre-Civil War plantation houses, homes of famous Americans like George Washington, or noted public buildings like Independence Hall.[221]

Colonial revival landscape architecture also reflected a romanticized interpretation of the past. Landscape architects and designers created compact, symmetrical gardens of perennial plants and flowering trees in close proximity to houses. They blended formal elements such as parterres, allées, and cruciform plans with informal kitchen gardens, creating a style both organized and relaxed. Planting plans were often highly detailed to create year-round interest and vertical dimensionality, with low-maintenance ground cover, canopy trees, and flowering shrubs that were typically organized to frame important views. Axial paths accessed geometric beds enclosed by low walls. Common features included boxwood hedges, pergolas, fountains, and precisely laid brick walkways. The introduction of antique elements or rusticated materials also often provided a sense of history and permanence. Colonial revival-style landscape designs were implemented primarily in public parks, institutional grounds, and residential designs.[222]

In the 1920s and 1930s, the restoration/reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, provided an important test case for colonial revival-style landscape architecture at a large scale. The project, sponsored by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., fostered a sense of stability and connection to the past, particularly in the 1930s as the Great Depression upended American life. The project encompassed the restoration or reconstruction of Williamsburg's colonial-era buildings, while some 400 later buildings were demolished. In the decades to come, Americans in large numbers built imitations of the houses at Colonial Williamsburg.[223]

The redesigned landscape at Colonial Williamsburg also proved influential, largely due to the work of Arthur A. Shurcliff, the project's chief landscape architect. With scant record of Williamsburg's original colonial gardens available, Shurcliff studied records of as many Tidewater Virginia colonial gardens as he could find and records of seventeenth-century English gardens in North Carolina.[224] Most of Shurcliff's Williamsburg gardens were composed of axial, symmetrical parterres laid out in fence-enclosed spaces. He primarily employed post-and-rail and picket fences for private gardens, as they were determined to be the most common fence types in colonial Virginia. Narrow walks typically provided circulation and delineated the gardens' strict rectilinear geometry. Shurcliff embellished formal hardscape elements with annual and perennial flowers, edging boxwood, and a variety of trees that included sycamores and hollies.[225]



Figure 2-24. View of colonial revival-style landscape treatment of the idealized rural escape Alice and Henry Ferguson established at Hard Bargain Farm in Accokeek, Maryland (Alice Ferguson Foundation).

The enthusiasm for colonial- and Federal-period design was concurrent with a growing nostalgia for rural living from the 1890s through the 1940s, which developed among Americans as a reaction to the rapid urbanization of the nineteenth century. Country living became particularly fashionable among wealthier citizens. As some Americans amassed large fortunes in the early twentieth century, they built secondary homes on country estates. While some preferred formal designs, others sought a more rustic, naturalistic approach for their homes and gardens. Mass-circulation publications disseminated ideas about country living by the most prominent landscape architects and gardeners of the day. Such magazines and books emphasized the picturesque qualities of long driveways, walled enclosures, ponds and other water features, and wooded buffers. Country houses were often designed with terraces and verandas to view the gardens and to take in the surrounding landscape.[226]

A local example of this phenomenon would have been found approximately five miles southwest of Harmony Hall at Hard Bargain Farm. In 1922, Washingtonians Alice L. L. and Henry G. Ferguson purchased a 138-acre farm they found to be unkempt in Accokeek, a remote and rural area in Prince George's County. Alice was an artist trained in painting at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC, and Henry was a scientist for the US Geological Survey. Named "Hard Bargain" by an earlier owner, the farm became a full-time project for Alice, who devoted herself to the land and its history.[227] Alice Ferguson, like Collins, researched the history of her property and conducted archeological excavations. Her numerous excavations included Indigenous settlements in what is now Piscataway Park. Ferguson was an amateur enthusiast who employed subpar methodology and harmful, racist treatment of human remains, the legacy of which persists today.

Alice Ferguson redesigned Hard Bargain Farm according to the preferred aesthetics for country living of the day while also maintaining the property as a working farm. In 1924, she oversaw the construction of a new house, a modest, colonial revival-style building, that replaced the existing farmhouse. Alice devoted attention to improving the landscape, clearing it of existing buildings and landscape features and establishing a new romanticized agricultural landscape (Figure 2-24). East of the house, Ferguson built five one-room outbuildings, which included Henry Ferguson's office and four sheds. The barnyard area included a large hay barn, a milking house, a corn crib, a granary, and various other structures. Ferguson also built a garage, a log cabin, and a small cottage on the grounds. She introduced a new entrance road, established formal gardens organized by species, built a terrace overlooking the gardens, and decorated the grounds with garden sculptures.[228]

Collins's acquisition, substantial alteration, and operation of Harmony Hall appears to be part of this context of Washingtonians like the Fergusons creating idyllic agricultural estates in rural areas outside the city in the 1920s and 1930s. For Collins, the plantation landscape of a dominating manor house, winding formal drives, formal gardens, and a collection of agricultural buildings and servants' quarters created a version of rural life he idealized from his youth in Alabama. Collins's views on race may have added a layer of influence on his transformation of the landscape. Richard Guy Wilson explains that for some the colonial revival offered a xenophobic escape from an increasingly more diverse United States in the early twentieth century. These colonial revival enthusiasts saw it as "an expression of an Anglo-white-gentrified and elite class who, traumatized by their displacement from power, employed colonial imagery to maintain status and 'Americanize' immigrants, African Americans, and other people of diverse origins."[229]

Alterations to Harmony Hall, 1929–39

Amid this context of the colonial revival, Charles Collins set out to transform the Stein landscape into a romanticized Alabama plantation. Photographs likely taken around time of Collins's acquisition in 1929 provide a useful marker by which to compare his changes (Figure 2-16, Figure 2-17, Figure 2-18, Figure 2-19, and Figure 2-21). The photographs capture the house and its immediate surroundings at that time. The house's shed porch and exterior white concrete are evident on the exterior. The grass appears overgrown and what are believed to be fruit trees southeast of the house have matured since the earlier photograph was taken (Figure 2-16). Images from the Stein period also show the landscape as eroded in some locations. The outbuilding shown in the earlier Stein photograph southeast of the house was removed by this point. Northeast of the house, a felled tree trunk

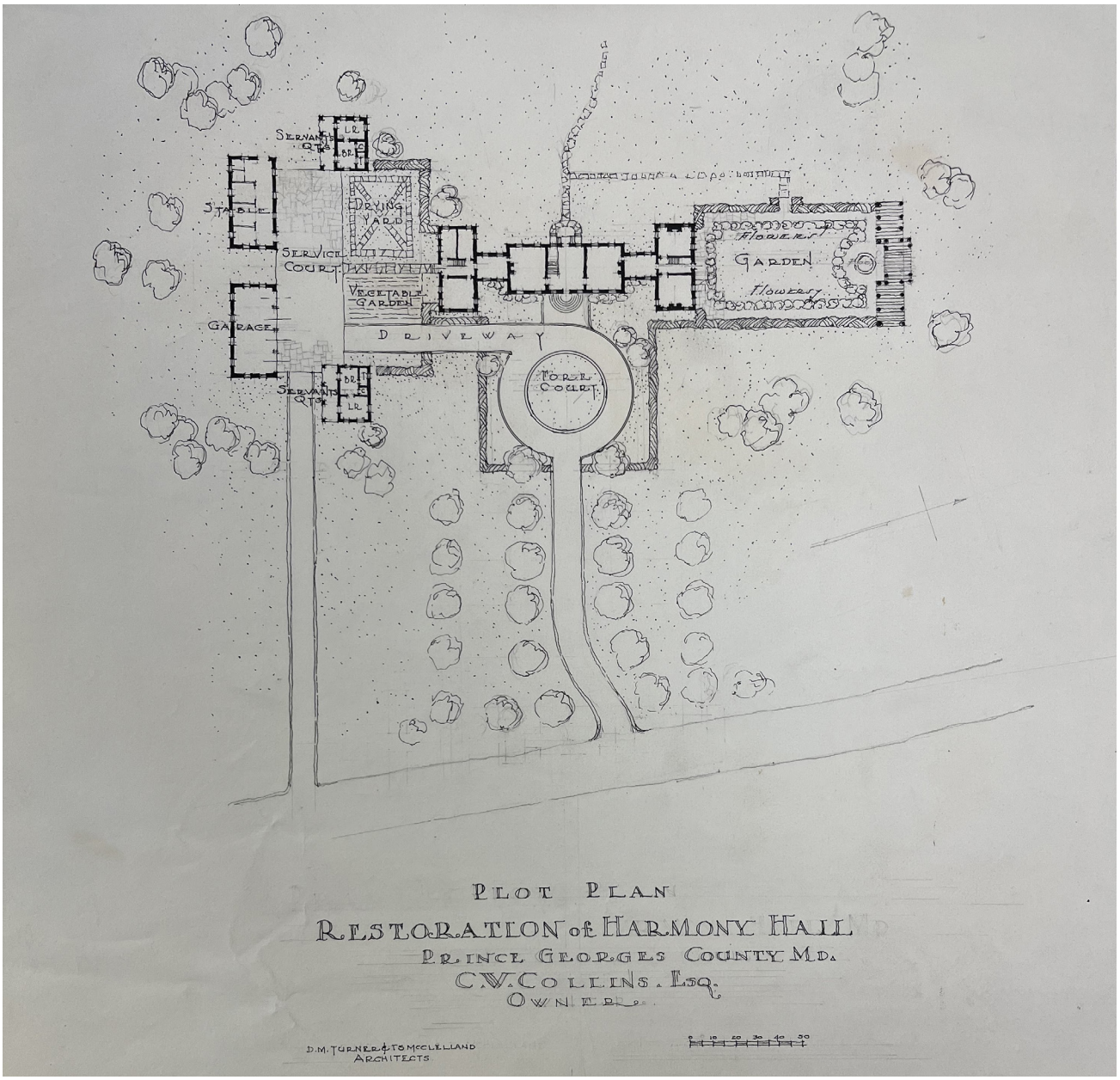


Figure 2-25. Undated "plot plan," likely ca. 1929–30, by D. M. Turner and T. S. McClelland. The drawing shows a vastly different treatment of the landscape from what was implemented (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

and what appears to be farm equipment are scattered around the lawn. Collins described the property as "awfully messy."[230] Collins reported that "erosion gulleys (sic) ran all over the meadow [west pasture]. One near the house was thirty feet wide and twenty feet deep. It was filled with the debris from off the place—old tires, shoes, automobile parts, stumps and wire fences."[231] The circa 1929 photographs show the two buildings northeast of the house were extant but also captures what is immediately abutting the house to the north. It had a side-gable roof crowned with a cupola.

As Collins conceived of his changes to the property, undated plans found in the Charles Collins Papers at the University of Maryland capture two distinctly

different proposals. Collins hired architects D. M. Turner and T. S. McClelland to prepare the two plans, both of which they labeled "plot plans." One of the two drawings may date to as early as 1929 or 1930, as it differs immensely from what Collins executed (Figure 2-25). The manor house is shown with north and south wings connected via hyphens. These are perhaps the unbuilt additions depicted in sketches in the Charles Collins Papers at the University of Maryland. Adjacent to the north wing was a formal flower garden, and a vegetable garden and drying yard are south of the south wing. What appears to be a stone path between these two spaces leads south to a service court surrounded by new outbuildings that include a garage, two servants' quarters, and a stable. These buildings were constructed but not in the locations this drawing suggests. A formal circular drive labeled a "forecourt" is shown in front of the house, the location of the circular drive Collins actually laid. Much of the area immediately surrounding the house, including the gardens, appears to be enclosed in hedges.

The other of the two plans more closely matches what was executed, suggesting it was either drawn before Collins began implementing changes on the property and was partially carried out to plan or was prepared at some point while the work

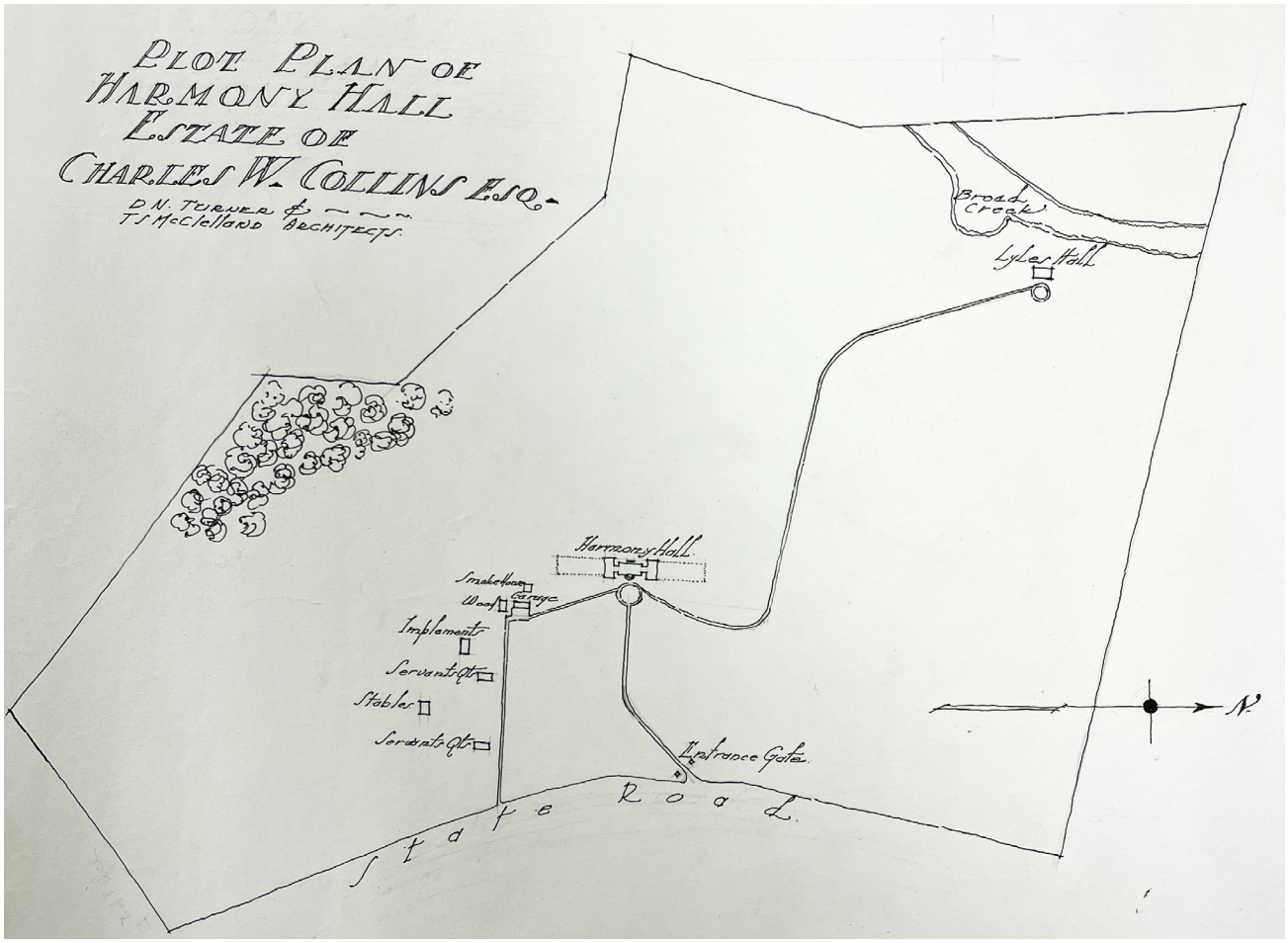


Figure 2-26. Undated "plot plan," likely ca. 1929–30, also by D. M. Turner and T. S. McClelland. The placement of buildings and drives in this plan more closely resembles what Collins implemented at Harmony Hall than the other Turner/McClelland drawing (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

was already underway to reflect existing conditions along with future unbuilt work (Figure 2-26). This plan is simpler than the other drawing and provides locations for new outbuildings along a drive (what Collins called a "plantation street") that extended southwest from the manor to Livingston Road. Building locations in the drawing largely align with what was constructed, except one building along the plantation street labeled "Implements" that does not appear to have been constructed in the location the drawing indicates. Circulation in the drawing includes the plantation street, a circular drive fronting the manor house, a main formal drive from the circular drive northwest to Livingston Road, and a drive from the circular drive to the Want Water manor house. The Harmony Hall manor house is shown with north and south wings with hyphens as in the more elaborate drawing. Extending from each wing is a walled enclosure, perhaps the locations of planned gardens. The drawing was likely prepared early in Collins's ownership, as it notes the location of some of the first buildings Collins constructed and the circulation system before the south circular drive was established in front of the garage. However, the drawing departs from as-built condition in its treatment of the manor house's additions and inclusion of the building labeled "Implements."

Beginning in 1929, Collins oversaw a substantial transformation over the landscape. Historic photographs circa 1930 suggest that some of Collins's earliest projects included demolishing the outbuildings that surrounded the manor house during the Stein period (and perhaps earlier) and clearing the east lawn of most of the Stein-era fruit trees and the ornamental tree seen in the Stein-era photographs. His approach mirrored Alice Ferguson at Hard Bargain Farm in erasing the existing landscape in favor of a romanticized interpretation of the country estate. Indeed, two photographs from what appears to be early in the Collins period show a more austere landscape when compared to that of the Stein era (Figure 2-27 and Figure 2-28). With the field of fruit trees largely cleared, these photographs suggest Collins tilled this area for planting. Collins cleared vegetation immediately west of the house to establish a more open lawn (Figure 2-29) and cleared most of the land farther west for a mostly open pasture. The photographs from early in the Collins period also show unobstructed views from Harmony Hall to Livingston Road, indicating that most of the trees previously lining the property's boundary with the road had been cleared. Amid this demolition and reshaping the landscape, Collins initially retained one building aside from the manor houses that predated his ownership—a single-story building that may have been either an earlier dwelling or a farm-related outbuilding situated at the north-center of the field west of the manor house (Figure 2-23). The 1939 aerial suggests he demolished this building by then.

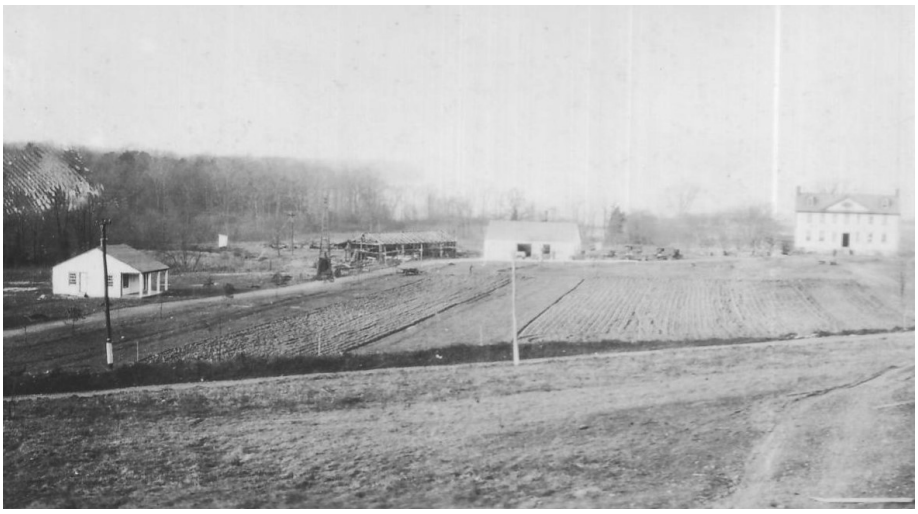


Figure 2-27. Photograph taken early in the Collins period showing his early interventions—largely clearing the vegetation and buildings of the Stein landscape. Photograph looking west from other side of Livingston Road (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-28. A photograph taken likely at the same time as the previous figure but farther north on Livingston Road, looking west toward Harmony Hall and showing a more austere landscape. The image captures the property cleared of the Stein landscape but before Collins implemented much of his vision (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-29. This photograph of the lawn west of the house shows it cleared of the Stein-era vegetation. It was likely taken around the same time as the previous two photographs (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Circa-1930 photographs also show Collins's earliest change to the study area's circulation in the establishment of what he termed a "plantation street" that would access new outbuildings he would construct southeast of the manor house.[232] Photographs show that the plantation street was at first a dirt path (Figure 2-30). Collins also retained the east–west path from the manor house to Slash Creek that was previously captured in the 1860s and 1902 maps.

Collins constructed outbuildings along the plantation street largely between 1929 and 1932 (Figure 2-30). An undated photograph suggests that the garage, built 50 yards southeast of the manor house, was either the first or one of the first outbuildings he built (Figure 2-31). The garage featured long, rectangular massing under a side-gable roof and four garage door openings and one pedestrian door opening along its front façade (Figure 2-32).[233] Southeast of the garage, Collins built two buildings he termed "servant's quarters." The two buildings were practically identical in design: each was one-and-a-half stories tall, of frame construction, sheltered by a low-itched side-gable roof, clad with board and batten, and fronted by a full-width shed porch supported by squared posts (Figure 2-30 and Figure 2-33). A one-story, square, pyramidal-roofed smokehouse



Figure 2-30. Ca. early 1930s view of Charles Collins's plantation street that featured servants' quarters, agricultural buildings, and a garage along a curved drive. The Harmony Hall manor house can be seen at far right of image (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

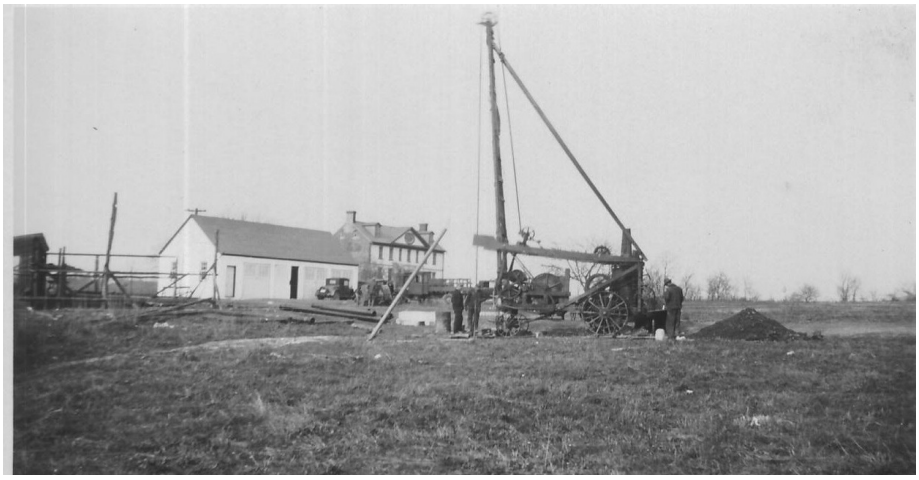


Figure 2-31. Ca. 1930–31 image of the Harmony Hall property shows the garage as one of the first buildings Collins constructed on the property (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-32. Garage, facing west, ca. 1930–31 (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-33. Ca. 1930–31 view of one of the servants' quarters along the plantation street under construction (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-34. View of buildings Collins constructed near the manor house. The smokehouse (right, foreground), garage (center, background), and unknown agricultural building (left, foreground). The unknown building was demolished by 1939 (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

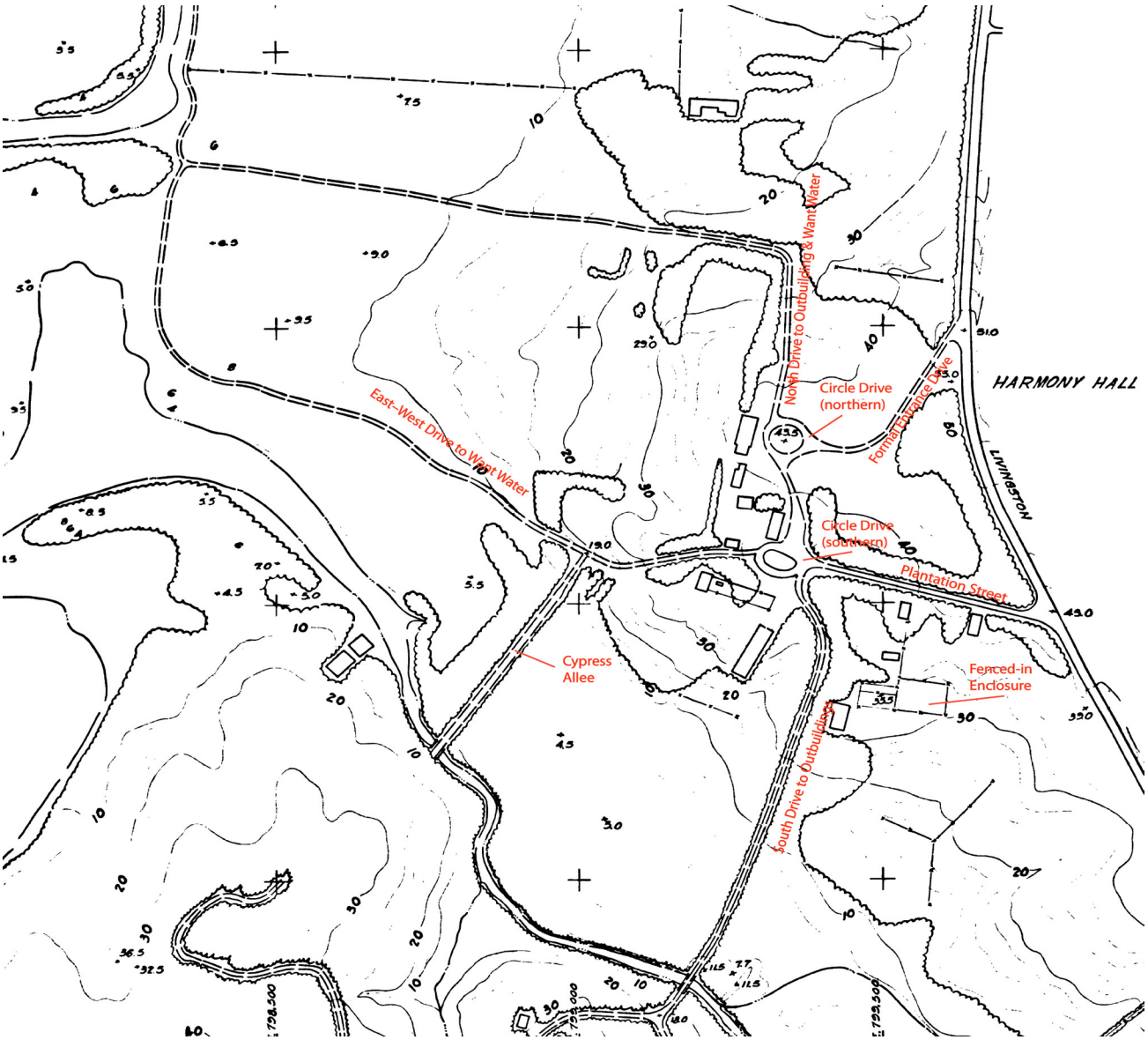


Figure 2-35. Map of Harmony Hall property, 1939 (cuts off Want Water to the north). The map captures buildings and circulation system on site. Key circulation features are labeled (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

covered with clapboard siding was built between the garage and the manor house (Figure 2-34). Although Collins employed laborers on his farm, it is not clear whether they lived in the servants' quarters. The 1940 census only lists Collins and his wife, Sue Spencer Collins, in the household.[234] At least one of the workers on Collins's property, a White man named John Everett Robey, lived in Piscataway, Maryland, with his parents.[235] Dorothy Hall, a Black woman, and Ernest Jackson, a Black man, also worked on Collins's property in 1931.[236] It is possible Jackson and/or Hall lived in the servants' quarters. Newspaper articles list their home as Broad Creek, Maryland. Although their roles on the property are not known, newspaper articles note that Hall, Jackson, and Robey were driving a delivery truck for Collins into Washington, DC, in April 1931.[237] Additionally, historic photographs from this period show several laborers working on his land, and some may have lived in the quarters at one point.

The cluster of buildings Collins built around the manor house was reminiscent of the pre-Civil War Alabama plantation he idealized. On such a characteristic plantation, the manor house, or "big house," served as the nucleus around which were several outbuildings with particular functions—smokehouses, stables, quarters for the enslaved laborers who sustained the plantation, an office, and a separate kitchen (detached from the house).[238] Collins attempted to implement such an arrangement at Harmony Hall.

Collins reconfigured the site's circulation by establishing a circular drive fronting the manor house that served as a hub from which other paths or drives (as shown in the undated Turner/McCleland drawings) extended. Circulation is captured in a 1939 map (Figure 2-35) and a 1938 aerial photograph (Figure 2-36). One such drive extended north from the circular drive and then turned west across the pasture to Want Water to meet a drive that traveled north–south along Broad Creek (Figure 2-37). A drive led from this east–west drive north to an outbuilding Collins constructed. The north–south drive appears to have connected to the east–west road along Slash Creek in the 1902 map. Prior to Collins's acquisition, primary access to the Harmony Hall manor house was from an east–west drive extending from Piscataway/Livingston Road to the manor house, roughly in line with the house's centered front door and dating at least to the 1860s. Collins

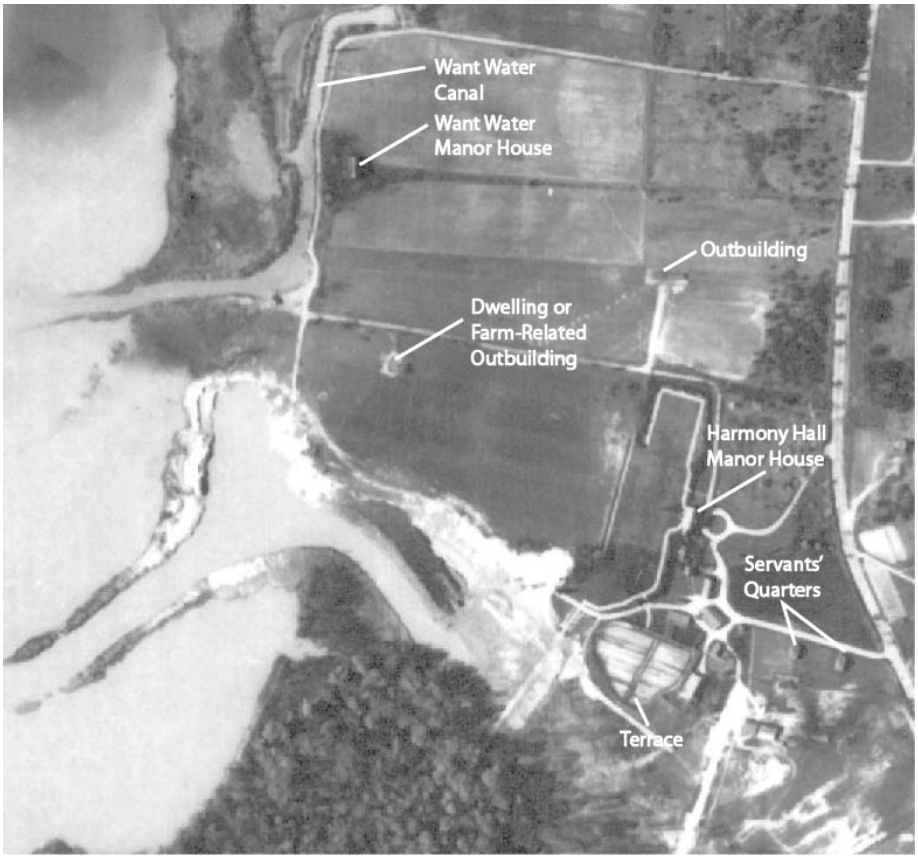


Figure 2-36. Aerial photograph of study area, 1938 (M-NCPPC).

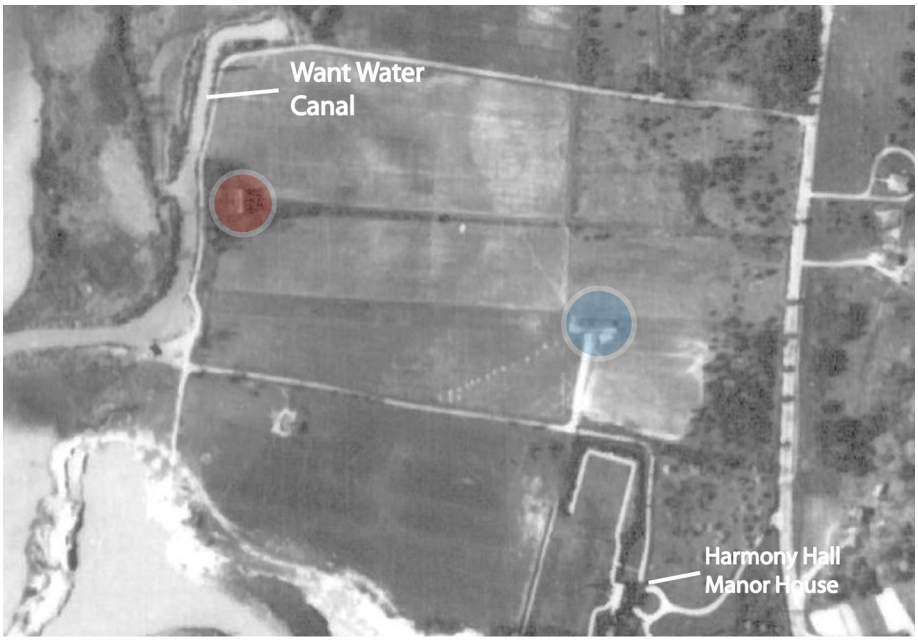


Figure 2-37. This 1938 aerial photograph captures several key details of the Collins Era. Note the drive running from the Harmony Hall manor house to Want Water, the drive from this drive to a north outbuilding (circled in blue), and Collins's extended canal. While much of the site appears to have been cleared, vegetation is shown surrounding the Want Water manor house (circled in red) (M-NCPPC).



Figure 2-38. This view, taken a few years after previous photographs, captures the formal entrance drive lined with rocks and trees Collins planted along the drive (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).



Figure 2-39. A long rectangular building with an undetermined function was built bordering the terrace system (National Capital Parks-East).



Figure 2-40. An outbuilding that now consists only of brick piers and a metal drain pipe may have served an irrigation purpose or held a well (National Capital Parks-East).



Figure 2-41. This building ruin shown here in 2023 may have served as a chicken coop (Quinn Evans).

removed the former access drive's straight path to Livingston Road and redirected it to the northeast. This drive served as Collins's formal entrance to the estate (Figure 2-38).

The north outbuilding was among the many Collins constructed throughout the 1930s. Individual dates for particular buildings are not known. Other new buildings were focused farther south of those clustered around the manor house. Southwest of the plantation street was an elongated rectangular building, its broad sides facing east and west (Figure 2-39). Its function is also not known. The 1939 aerial photograph suggests that a small outbuilding was located southwest of this elongated rectangular building, sitting at the southern end of the terrace system Collins built (discussed further below) (Figure 2-40). Building remnants found at this location during investigations for this CLR found brick piers and a metal drain pipe within a clay pipe. It is possible that this structure served some kind of



Figure 2-42. Two Collins Era outbuildings are captured here in 1939—the possible chicken coop (circled in red) and a frame shed to the southwest (circled in blue) (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-43. Ornamental gates were placed at the ends of the formal entrance drive and plantation street where they met Livingston Road (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

irrigation purpose for the garden Collins planted on his terrace system or housed a well.

North of this building and the terrace system was a one-and-a-half-story building at some point named "the bungalow" that Collins used as an office.[239] The building was constructed of concrete-block walls sheltered by a steeply pitched front-gable roof. A gabled dormer projected from the roof's east slope. Farther south and east of the terrace system, Collins built a rectangular building with an unknown function. The 1939 map of the property suggested a fenced-in area was there at that time, perhaps used for holding livestock, but did not indicate a building (Figure 2-35). The map denotes a rectangular enclosure that appears to be similar in dimensions to a rectangular building ruin currently in this location.



Figure 2-44. This early 1930s view of the lawn and formal entrance drive fronting the manor house captures the shrubs and trees Collins planted (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

It is a one-story rectangular building sheltered by a shed roof that rests on a brick and concrete-block foundation and is covered with stucco (Figure 2-41 and Figure 2-42). It is possible that it was originally a fenced-in enclosure or a walled structure without a roof used for livestock that was later roofed. This building's function is not confirmed but existing wire mesh covering window openings further suggests a livestock-related function. The building was at some point wired for electricity. Collins mentioned in a 1946 letter having a "heated baby chick house."[240] It is possible that the building was a chicken coop that was electrified to provide heat. It was perhaps an unroofed structure originally, meriting such a depiction in the 1939 map. Southwest of the possible chicken coop was a frame shed (Figure 2-42).

The formal (northeast) drive from Livingston Road to the north circular drive was fitted with an ornamental gate near its terminus at the road. Collins noted that its design was copied from "an old place in England."[241] The wooden gates were approximately 5' tall and flanked on either side by two stone pillars capped by spherical finials (Figure 2-43). Metal strap hinges connected the gates to the pillars, and vertical iron poles with pointed tips approximately 6" apart lined the gates. The early Collins landscape also appears to have included wire-and-post fencing along Livingston Road and bisecting the west pasture from north to south.

In addition to clearing out much of the Stein-era vegetation near the house, Collins planted ornamental trees along the plantation street and trees and shrubs along the formal entrance drive. The trees and shrubs are shown freshly planted in early photographs (Figure 2-44).

The 1939 map and late 1930s aerial photographs capture the paths he cut to the new southern outbuildings (Figure 2-35). An additional, southern circular drive



Figure 2-45. Ca. 1930s north-facing view of Want Water Canal after Charles Collins dredged and extended it north and then to the east. Note Want Water manor house at right (National Capital Parks East-Archive).



Figure 2-46. View of Collins Era canal terminus with Piscataway House on the right of the image, ca. early 1930s (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

was at some point placed southeast of the garage. Early photographs show that the circular drive fronting the house was built first. It connected to the circular drive fronting the manor house via a short south-leading drive. Emanating from this additional circular drive were the plantation street, a long drive through the woods and pastures south of the manor house to access the southern outbuildings, and the drive from the Harmony Hall manor house to Slash Creek.

In 1932, Collins dredged and extended the 1749 Want Water Canal to make it more navigable by boat (Figure 2-45). He explained in a letter that the canal had been fully usable by boat up to 1920 or 1922 but had not since been maintained and became filled with mud.[242] Collins extended it to the north and east, cutting inland to access Piscataway House. **T**he canal terminated intentionally into a boat launch (Figure 2-46). A note Collins wrote on the back of a photograph of the



Figure 2-47. Locations of boathouse (red circle) and bridge (blue circle), 1939 (National Capital Parks East-Archive).

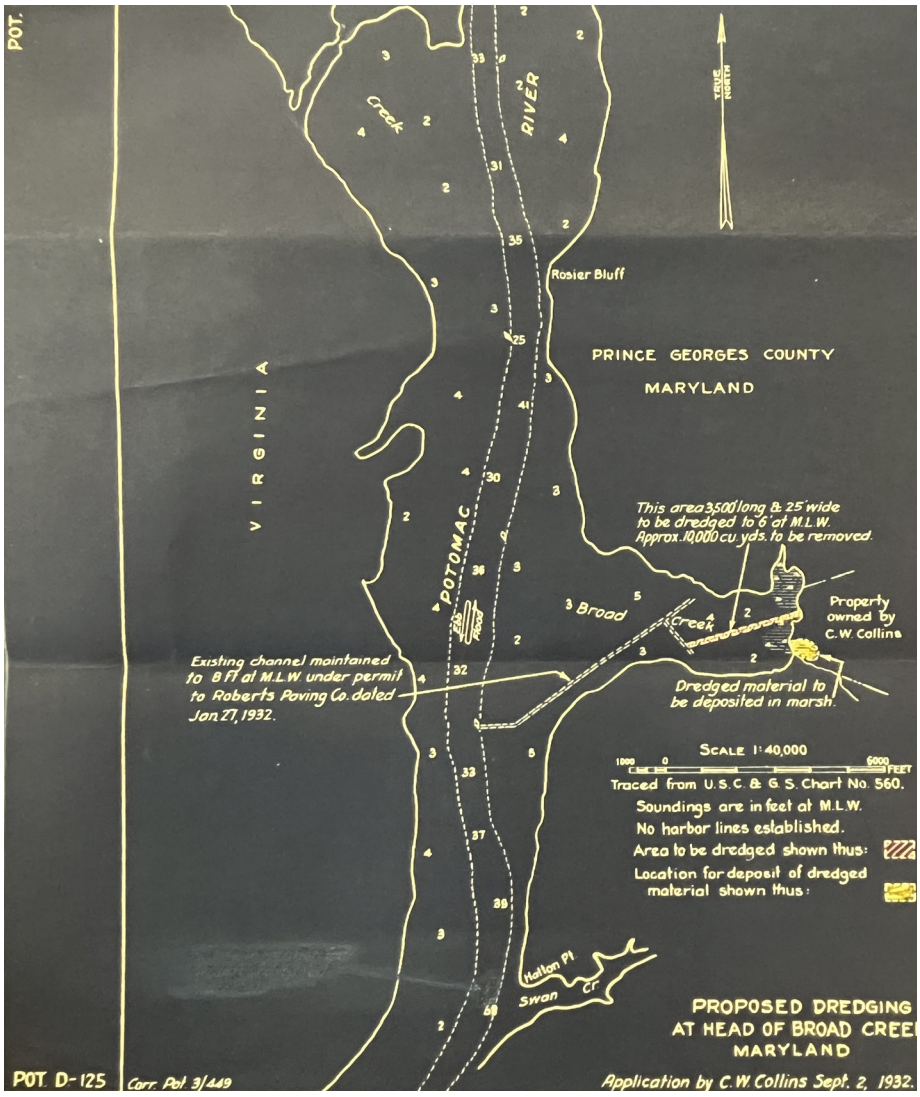


Figure 2-48. Collins's application for dredging a channel through the Broad Creek estuary, 1932. Dredge was to be placed near Slash Creek (Charles W. Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

boat launch states, “Here is the boat landing for Piscataway house with the house shown in the background. The water is about fifty feet wide and ten feet deep. It will be very pretty in the summer as there are some nice trees along the stream. One of my canoes can be seen on the beach which is pure sand and gravel.”[243] The canal currently measures approximately 22’–25’ wide and 1,000’ long. In addition, he reclaimed 11 acres of land by dredging Slash Creek and built two bridges across it.[244] After Collins dredged Slash Creek, he built a boathouse south of the creek and a bridge (Figure 2-47).

Collins's 1932 application references an existing channel "maintained at 8' at MLW under permit to Roberts Paving Co. dated Jan. 27, 1932" (Figure 2-48). This channel passes through the Broad Creek estuary and connects to the main channel of the Potomac River. The application proposes a 3,500'-long extension connecting this channel to the historic Want Water Canal. Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of dredge were deposited in the marsh near the terminus of Slash Creek.

Collins soon extended his landholdings beyond the 41-acre Harmony Hall tract. From 1929 through 1932, he acquired three 13.3-acre parcels owned by the John Jacob Sellner family immediately north of the Harmony Hall property.[245] One of these tracts included the Want Water manor house. On another of these tracts, north of Want Water but outside the study area, Collins relocated a mid-eighteenth-century frame house from the village of Piscataway after learning it was to be demolished. In 1932–33, he had the house disassembled and reassembled on his property. He built a new kitchen wing onto the house. Collins named the house “Piscataway House” and rented the house to tenants for the next two decades.[246]

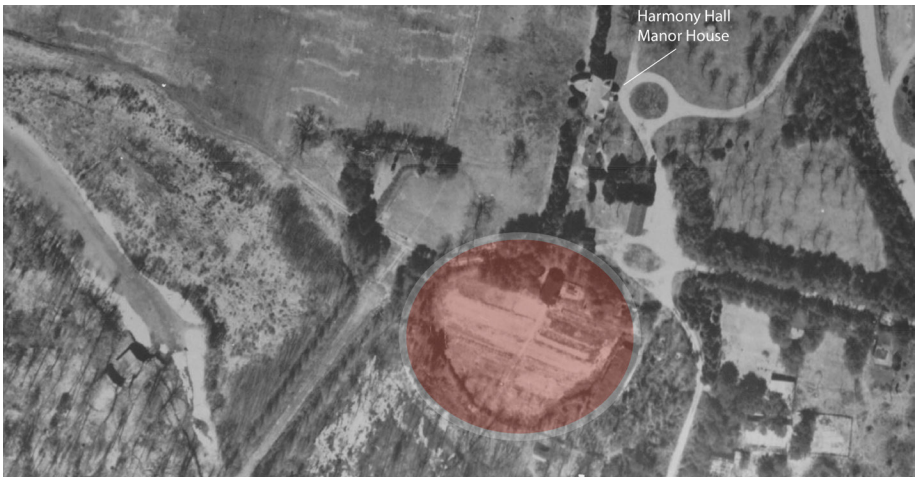


Figure 2-49. The terrace system Collins established is shown in this 1939 aerial (denoted with the red circle) (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Collins made further landscape enhancements in 1932 through 1934. On the hill slope south of the Harmony Hall manor house, Collins constructed a stone terrace system consisting of stone walls, gutters, and stairs. The terrace system is captured in the 1939 aerial (Figure 2-49). At some point in the early 1930s, Collins installed a brick terrace outside the house's rear (west) entrance. Photographs taken before Collins's interventions show mostly areas of mown grass abutting the house to the west. The terrace measured 24' by 5'5" and the brick was laid in a herringbone pattern. Collins built a ha-ha in the west pasture during this period (Figure 2-50). A ha-ha is a garden border, typically a retaining wall, that is hidden in a trench in order to maintain views while keeping livestock out of



Figure 2-50. Collins built a ha-ha across the west pasture to prevent sheep from entering the lawn adjacent to the house (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-51. Collins established an allée lined with cypress trees. Looking north across the allée (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

formal gardens. The ha-ha originated in France and was adopted in England in the eighteenth century. Collins oriented his ha-ha north–south, keeping livestock, mostly sheep, at the west pasture's western end and away from the small formal garden in the Harmony Hall manor house's west lawn. The ha-ha was built of random dry rubble and approximately 3' wide, 2' deep and 75 yards long. Concealing the dry-rubble wall within the trench maintained the view from the house across the western pasture to Broad Creek and the Potomac River.[247] Also at some point during this period, Collins established a cypress-lined allée through the wooded areas south of the Harmony Hall manor house that terminated at the bridge across Slash Creek (Figure 2-51).

Collins further enhanced the landscape with substantial changes to vegetation. Early photographs suggest he may have retained some of the fruit trees from the Stein period (Figure 2-52). For the grounds immediately west of the house, Collins planted English boxwood in two diagonal rows projecting from the rear (west) entrance (Figure 2-53). The opening between the two rows framed a vista from the house to Broad Creek and the Potomac River. Collins embellished the boxwood's outer edge with seasonal flowers. At some point after this, Collins



Figure 2-52. This photograph taken early in the Collins Era appears to show some of the fruit trees from the Stein period intact (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-53. At some point after he cleared the west lawn adjoining the house of the existing trees and other vegetation, Collins planted English boxwoods in two rows forming a bell shape. This photograph shows Collins in front of the west door to the house (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).



Figure 2-54. Collins planted shrubs in the lawn fronting the manor house. Also note the house with its white concrete covering removed (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).



Figure 2-55. Collins initially lined the formal entrance drive with rocks as shown here. The rocks were removed by 1934. View facing northeast toward Livingston Road (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

built a bell-shaped brick terrace that fit within the western boundary established the boxwoods. An undated photograph confirms that the boxwood predated the terrace. He also planted shrubs along the formal northwest drive and in the field east of the house (Figure 2-54). Collins lined the drives with rocks at some point early on but removed them by 1934 when the Historic American Buildings Survey documented the house (Figure 2-55 and Figure 2-56). Likewise, by 1934, Collins seems to have removed many of the shrubs in the front lawn and along the formal drive and planted more ornamental trees (Figure 2-56).

As part of this work, Collins attempted to reforest the site. In 1933, he requested assistance from the US Department of Agriculture in reforesting seven acres of his property "on a slope leading down to tidewater…with a thin covering of humus upon which soy beans have been sowed for the last four years. This portion is clean of vegetation…The upper portion is…covered with field pines."[248] In a letter around the same time to the State Department of Forestry, Collins stated his plan to reforest approximately 10 acres with pines and cedars.[249] Collins received

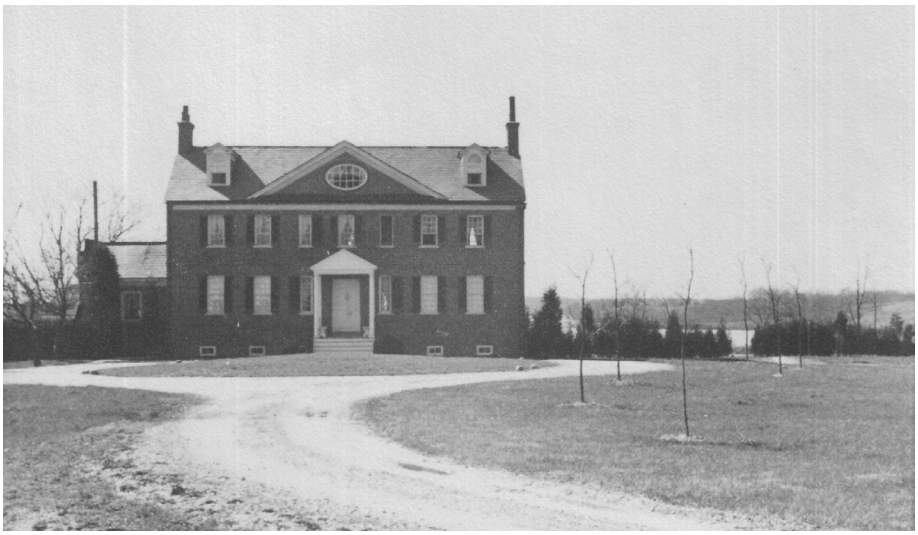


Figure 2-56. This likely mid-1930s view captures the rocks lining the drive removed and trees replacing the earlier shrubs (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-57. Shown in this undated photograph are gas pumps, a shed, and what appears to be a doghouse. A post and wire fence forms an enclosure around the doghouse (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

a letter from the state Department of Forestry in September 1935 acknowledged his order of 500 Scotch pines and 1,000 loblolly pines.[250] Loblolly, or shortleaf, pine (*Pinus taeda*) is commonly found in Collins's native Black Belt region of Alabama. His choice of evergreen trees was, therefore, likely part of his effort to create a landscape reminiscent of home.[251] Collins wrote in September 1935 that he had two to three thousand young cedars "on the borders of the grounds."[252] Photographs from the mid- to late 1930s capture lines of cedars extending north and south of the manor house (Figure 2-56). Pine (*Pinus taeda*) and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) were also found in Alabama's Black Belt. Cedar was also a logical choice for landscape inspired by his home state.[253]

Collins concurrently oversaw a renovation and expansion of the Harmony Hall manor house.[254] Historic photographs show that one of Collins's first improvements was the removal of the front shed porch and replacement with a single-bay, pedimented porch supported by thin Tuscan columns. Collins argued



Figure 2-58. Front (east) façade, Harmony Hall manor house, after Collins Era changes. Among other alterations, he removed the white concrete from the exterior and replaced the shed porch with a new single-bay, pedimented porch. Photograph likely circa mid–late 1930s or 1940s (National Capital Park-East Archive).

that the project was a restoration but seemed to implement changes with little actual knowledge of the house's original design. During the project, Collins discovered stone foundations of long-demolished former wings that would have extended from the house's north and south elevations.[255] Collins removed the one-story south addition that had been added by the Stein period and constructed a single-story, side-gable-roofed brick pantry wing to the house's south façade. A photograph taken in the early 1930s captures the house at this stage in the project (Figure 2-52). The wing terminated to the south at a parapet wall that a 1934 HABS drawing identified as temporary terra cotta.[256] It is not clear whether this terra cotta wall is the same wall captured in photographs from this period.

An undated photograph captures the area immediately surrounding the Harmony Hall manor house at a moment of transition. The house is shorn of its white concrete and the new front porch installed, bringing it closer to the Georgian style, but the southern addition Collins constructed was not yet built. South of the house, however, is a single-story gabled shed adjacent to a doghouse. A small perimeter surrounding these two structures is enclosed by a post and wire fence. The photograph also captures two gas pumps southeast of this cluster (Figure 2-57).

By the time of the 1934 HABS documentation, Collins removed the white concrete from the house's brick walls (Figure 2-58). On the rear (west) façade, Collins added a new staircase composed of two quarter-turn stairs that descend from a top wood landing on brick piers (Figure 2-59). The staircase was accessed via a wood banister of thin balusters and handrails. South of the new pantry wing, Collins built a single-story, side-gable-roofed building to house a kitchen and servants' dining room (Figure 2-60). It was built of frame construction covered with plaster. He connected the wing and kitchen/dining room structure with a



Figure 2-59. On the rear (west) façade, Collins added double quarter-turn stairs and a bell-shaped brick terrace lined with English boxwood. Photograph likely circa mid–late 1930s or 1940s (National Capital Park-East Archive).

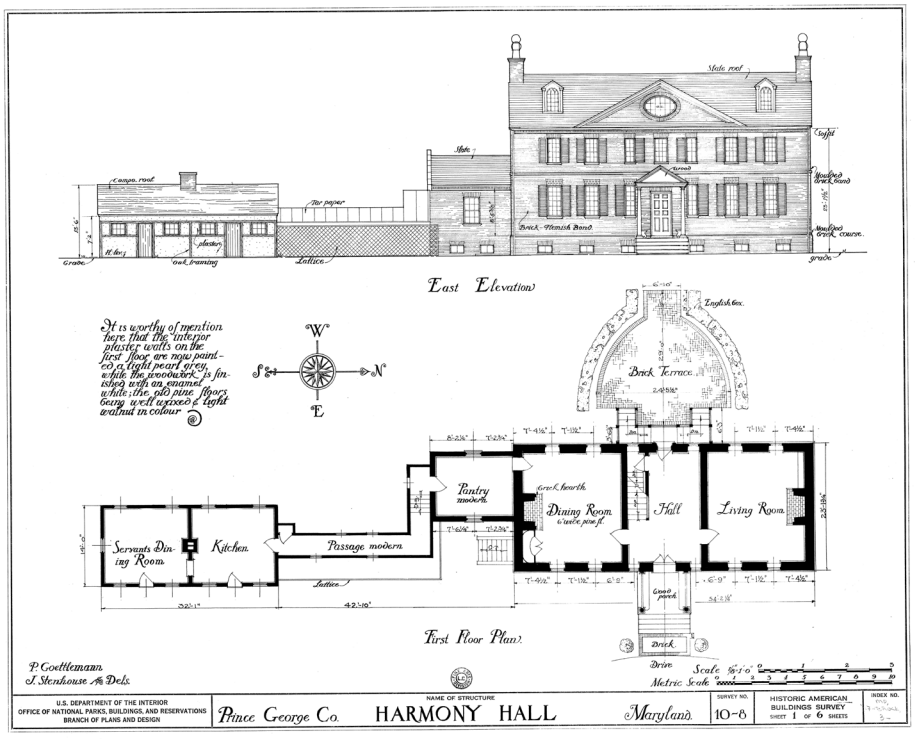


Figure 2-60. 1934 Historic American Buildings Survey documentation of Harmony Hall. Plan and front (east) elevation drawings. Note Collins south pantry addition and kitchen/dining room building connected by passageway, as well as bell-shaped brick terrace patio extending from the house's west entrance. Drawing by Paul Goettelmann and John W. Stenhouse (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

covered passageway with a shed, tar-paper roof and walls of latticework. Also by this point, two windows on the north façade and one window on the south façade were sealed with brick, as noted in the HABS drawings.[257] It is not clear when the windows were sealed.

Collins also undertook a renovation of the manor house interior. Collins argued that he restored the house to its original condition.[258] However, as key details about the house's original interior and exterior are still not known, it is more likely that Collins relied liberally on speculation for some of the changes he

made. Collins, for instance, adhered to the theory that Harmony Hall was built in the 1720s, a theory repeated in Henry Chandlee Forman's 1934 book *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*.[259] Based on this conclusion, Collins asserted that the pediment projecting from the roof's front slope, the bull's-eye window that lights it, and the front dormers were added in the late eighteenth century. National Park Service historical architects doubted Collins' claim that the pediment and windows were added in 1768.[260] Moreover, Collins's theory is especially unlikely if the house was not built until the 1760s. On the house's interior, Collins replaced interior finishes and made upgrades like adding running water and electricity.[261] Although Collins was critical of Stein's use of the house for agricultural purposes, such as cutting a large hole in the dining room floor, he complimented his predecessor's maintenance of the house's historic floors, wood paneling, stairs, and hardware.[262]

At the time of Collins's acquisition, he found the Want Water manor house to be "in a very bad state of repair (Figure 2-61)."[263] Drawings of the house prepared in 1924 and by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1935 differ slightly in documentation. The 1924 drawings show doors instead of windows lighting the north and south walls and show a doorway at the northwest corner of the north wall (Figure 2-62). The HABS drawings, however, show the door but also include doors (and not windows) flanking the fireplace on the south wall (Figure 2-63). An addendum to the HABS documentation notes that plaster on the exterior south wall suggests a single-story addition that likely served as a kitchen. Having a kitchen in his location, the addendum states, would have required doors at the south end. " It would appear," the report continues, "that the south-end bays were windows, changed into doorways (when the kitchen was added), and back



Figure 2-61. Photograph of the Want Water manor house in October 1935. Photograph by Albert S. Burns (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

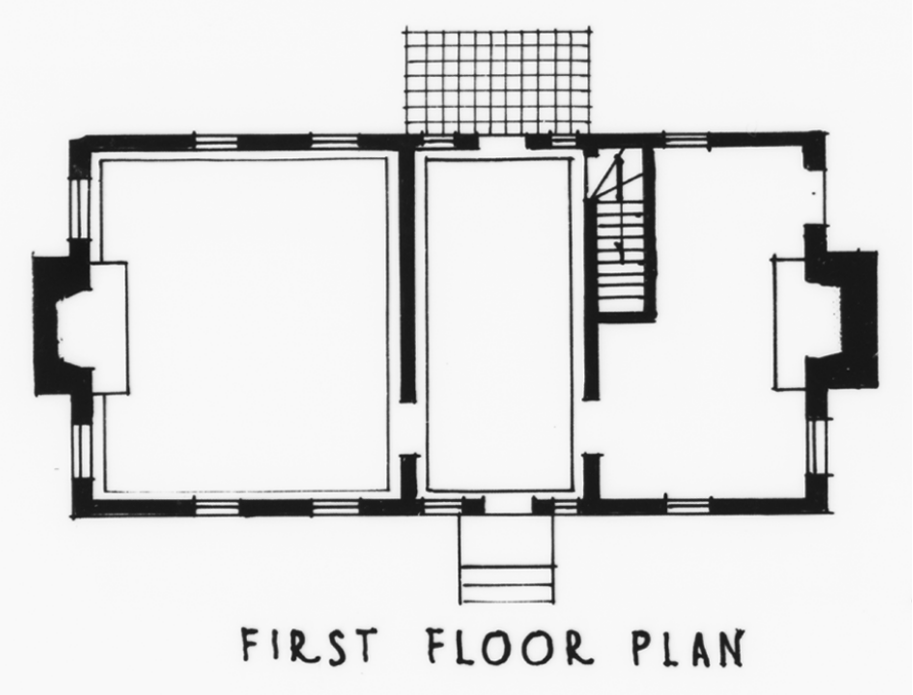


Figure 2-62. First-floor plan, Want Water manor house, 1924. Drawing by Albert P. Erb (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

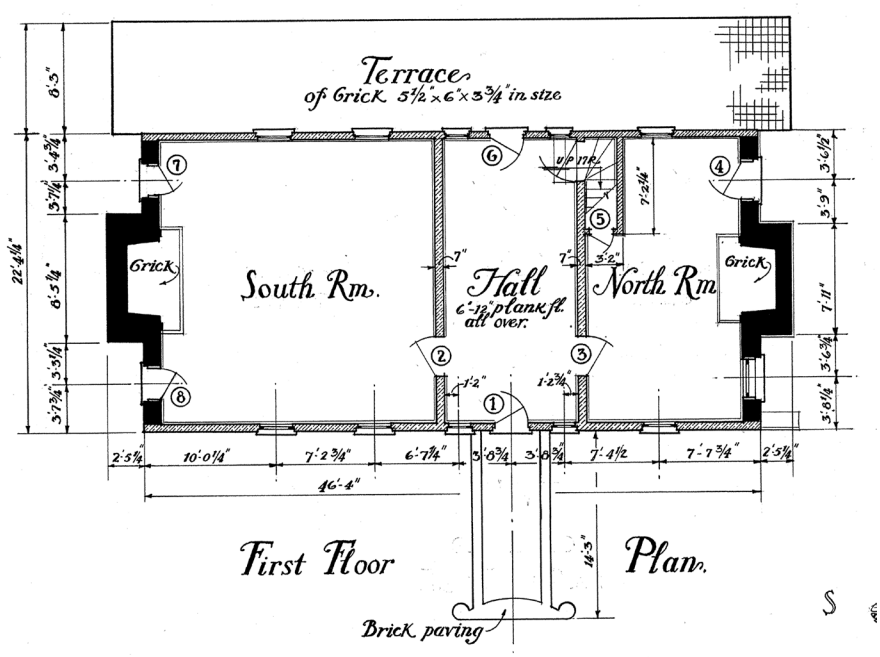


Figure 2-63. First-floor plan, Want Water manor house, 1935. Drawing by Volney Chase and John W. Stenhouse (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

to windows again (when the kitchen was removed)."[264] In 1938, Collins stabilized the house and considered restoring it or moving it to attach to Harmony Hall.[265] No such projects were ever undertaken, and the building further deteriorated throughout Collins's ownership. Likewise, neither historic photographs, maps, nor Collins's papers indicate that he attempted to improve the landscape surrounding Want Water.

Collins's immense personal and financial investment in the property made him a fierce opponent of outside projects that might adversely affect it. In 1934, Collins fought efforts to bring the planned George Washington Memorial Parkway through the Broad Creek area. The project was rooted in congressional legislation known as the Capper–Cramton Act passed in 1930 that allowed for land acquisition and development of the parkway, as well as other parks, parkways, and playgrounds, in the Washington, DC, region. The legislation reinforced earlier park development legislation, named the Comprehensive Development of the Park and Playground System of the National Capital, passed in 1924. The Capper–Cramton Act appropriated $13,500,000 to acquire land for the parkway. The act led to the creation of several parkways in the Washington region.

In January 1934, Collins wrote to Frederic A. Delano, chair of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (forerunner to the National Capital Planning Commission), the federal government's planning agency for the national capital region, over the proposed new route for the parkway. As planned in the 1920s, the parkway was to travel along both the Virginia and Maryland sides of the Potomac River to Great Falls, Maryland, at which point a bridge was to link the two segments. In Maryland, the planned route would began in Fort Washington and cross Broad Creek via a causeway.[266] Collins wrote to Delano that the proposed route would "destroy the beauty of Broad Creek as a landscape feature, whereas by leaving it as it is it can be made to serve as a water view from the proposed memorial parkway road."[267] The causeway, Collins stated, would "make an unsightly appearance both from the Maryland and the Virginia shore and would not lend itself to any compensating landscape treatment."[268] Instead, Collins proposed that the commission use Livingston Road north of Harmony Hall. He wrote that preserving Broad Creek would be a more appropriate tribute to Washington than a parkway built in his name.[269] The commission ultimately did not complete the Prince George's County section of the parkway, although planning and land acquisition continued through the mid-1960s. Persistent opposition from landowners like Collins and a determination that a Prince George's County segment would not be used to the same degree as the Virginia segment ultimately ended the project.[270]

In October 1936, Collins requested excavation and filling work to be undertaken on his property. "The material to be dug will be gravel bed on the place. This is to be loaded on trucks and dumped as foundations for two short roadways."[271] It is not clear where these roadways were built.

Within just a few years in the early 1930s, Collins transformed the unkempt landscape at Harmony Hall into his vision of a colonial-era landscape.[272] The



Figure 2-64. 1949 aerial photograph showing study area and surrounding areas. Note the full path of the extended Want Water Canal (Historicaerials.com).

1939 map and aerial photograph capture Collins's changes to the study area to that point. Collins concurrently established a productive farm and, by the late 1930s, was growing wheat and rye. Collins grew the crops on "several fields rather irregular in shape and size," according to an individual named Arthur Lovell whom Collins contacted regarding mowing. "Each of the several fields, which in the aggregate total approximately 61 acres, more or less."[273]

While the work at Harmony Hall was underway, Collins divorced his first wife Corinne and married Sue Spencer, a fellow Alabama native. Collins and Spencer married in 1933.[274]

Alterations to Harmony Hall, 1940–65

After a period of rapid change to the landscape in the 1930s, the study area remained largely consistent from the 1940s through the 1960s. During World War II, Collins was involved in the War Food Program and sold timber from his property to support the war effort.[275] His farm, meanwhile, remained in operation.

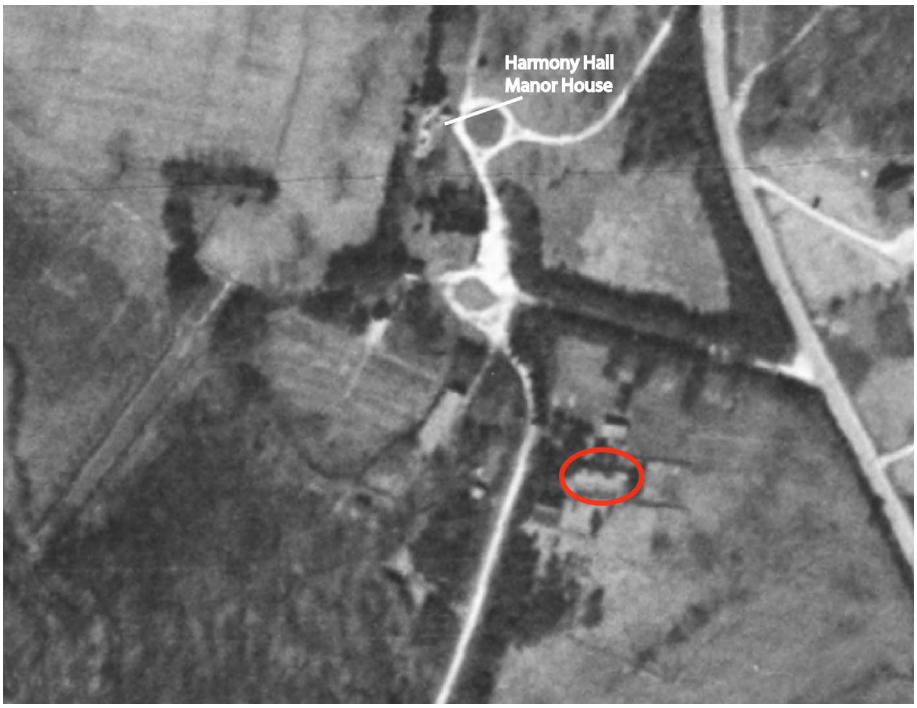


Figure 2-65. The 1949 aerial photograph indicates that the possible chicken coop was likely roofed by this point (Historicaerials.com).

Collins listed the crops grown and the acreage: "The farm is approximately 210 acres. Grows 80 acres of corn, 10 acres of Kaffir corn, 20 acres of Russian giant sunflower, 20 acres of alfalfa, 40 acres for pasture and the rest is woodland."[276]

A 1944 woodland examination of the site noted white oaks, red and black oaks, tulip poplar, sweet gum, black gum, beech, elm, ash, sycamore, Virginia pine, and shortleaf pine. Scattered oaks and poplars were on the west end. One acre was fenced for a hog pasture.[277] In the 1940s through the 1960s, the woods and pastures south of the house became more heavily wooded. Throughout the last two decades of Collins's ownership of the study area, landscape conditions remained fairly consistent. An aerial photograph from 1949 shows that the west pasture remained cleared (Figure 2-64). The 1949 photograph captures the fields east of the Want Water manor house as also cleared. The 1949 aerial photograph shows that the unknown outbuilding that may have been a chicken coop had been roofed by that point (Figure 2-65). If it was originally just a walled or fenced-in enclosure, the aerial photograph suggests that by this point a roofed rectangular structure with a similar footprint was in this location.[278]

By 1965, trees that had been planted in the east lawn in the 1930s had matured (Figure 2-66). The 1965 aerial photograph shows the plantation street and the property's eastern border with Livingston Road as thick with trees, likely the cedar Collins referred to in his 1935 letter.[279] Also by 1965, the fenced-in enclosure adjacent to the possible chicken coop was removed (Figure 2-67). The area adjoining the possible chicken coop instead became mown grass. The unknown

building between the possible chicken coop and the servants' quarters was demolished by 1965. The small water structure southeast of the terrace system from the 1939 aerial is not readable in the 1965 aerial, suggesting it may have been demolished. However, masonry posts surrounding a vertical steel pipe embedded with concrete in a larger circular clay drain pipe still exist in this area today. Either the 1965 aerial does not capture the structure or it was already taken down to its foundation posts by this point.

Also during this period, Collins added a second floor to the Harmony Hall manor house's south addition. Added in 1941, the extra floor raised the addition to one-and-a-half-stories in height, with the new story expressed on the exterior by wall dormers on the east façade and west elevation.



Figure 2-66. This 1965 aerial photograph shows that the Collins plantings had matured and the circulation system he established was still intact (M-NCPPC).



Figure 2-67. By 1965, the fenced-in enclosure adjacent to the possible chicken coop was removed. Also note that the trees along the plantation street and in the east lawn had matured (M-NCPPC).

Collins continued expanding his landholdings; by 1949, he owned 222 acres, including a full mile along Broad Creek.[280] Charles and Sue Collins were the last private owners of the study area. Charles Collins died on December 14, 1964, and left Harmony Hall to Sue. Soon after becoming sole owner of Harmony Hall, Sue Spencer Collins sold several acres of the land, including four acres and a right-of-way not far from Want Water to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) in 1965. The WSSC built a pumping station on the site and laid a water line across the pasture west of the Harmony Hall manor house soon after the sale. Collins sold the southernmost ten acres of the property to the Prince George's County Board of Education. The board of education built the Harmony Hall Elementary School on the site in 1966 to accommodate the increasing nearby school-age population. Harmony Hall Elementary School opened in 1966, but budget cuts and decreased enrollment caused the board of education to close the school in 1981. The building was enlarged and opened a few years later as a regional arts center.[281]

Historic Period Plan—Collins Era (1929–64)

Historic Plan HPP-2 illustrates the Harmony Hall study area during the Charles Collins Era (1929–64). The plan reflects the degree to which Collins transformed the landscape by implementing his romanticized vision of a colonial revival-style Alabama pre-Civil War plantation. Collins achieved much of this transformation by the end of the 1930s, and the site remained essentially in this condition until his death in 1964.

The plan captures the study area's shift from the Tobacco Era orientation toward Broad Creek to the increased focus around the Harmony Hall manor house and toward Livingston Road. Some of these changes occurred gradually as the Broad Creek/Aire townsite declined and eventually vanished, the tobacco economy collapsed, the Want Water property fell into disrepair, and the many nineteenth-century Harmony Hall occupants focused on maintaining the grounds immediately surrounding the manor house. Much of what is represented in HPP-2, however, reflects a designed landscape Charles Collins executed by supplanting most of the landscape that existed in 1929 and constructing new buildings, laying new circulation routes, planting new vegetation, and creating new ornamental spaces such as the terraces and cypress allée. The shift in orientation toward the manor house and Livingston Road is reflected in where he focused most of his intervention in the landscape: the cluster of agricultural outbuildings constructed south of the manor house, the plantation street lined with buildings laid from the manor house to Livingston Road, and the introduction of roads extending from the manor house.

Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Collins Era 1929–1964
Historic Period Plan

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. 1927 Aerial.
3. 1938 Aerial.
4. U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Potomac River, Mattawoman Creek to Georgetown, 1936.
5. Maddox & Hopkins, Oxon Run to Piscataway Creek, 1939.
6. 1949 Aerial.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- CLR Boundary
- Building
- Open Water
- Want Water Canal
- Tidal Flats
- Canopy (1949)
- Pine Stand
- Mown Lawn or Other Low Vegetative Cover
- Agricultural Field (1938)
- Bridge
- Road
- Brick Terrace
- Trail
- Fence
- Terraces
- Retaining Wall
- Gate
- Cypress Tree
- Apple Tree
- Steps

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Draft Version 1
3. Contour Interval= 2'-0" (2021)

N 0 105 210 420 Feet

Drawing HPP-02

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Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Collins Era
1938 Aerial Photograph

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Potomac River, Mattawoman Creek to Georgetown, 1936.
3. Maddox & Hopkins, Oxon Run to Piscataway Creek, 1939.
4. 1938 Aerial.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

CLR Boundary

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Draft Version 1

N 0 105 210 420 Feet

Drawing HPP-03

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Evidence for the location of landscape features includes historic aerials, photographs, maps, plans, and textual records. On-site investigation conducted for this CLR also informed understanding of the site during this period.

NPS MANAGEMENT, 1966–PRESENT

Harmony Hall After Collins (1966–84)

With most of the property sold off by 1965, Sue Spencer Collins, in November 1966, sold the remaining 65.71 acres of the property, including the manor house, Want Water manor house ruins, and outbuildings, to the National Park Service while retaining a life occupancy agreement—she would be able to live at Harmony Hall for the remainder of her life (Figure 2-68).[282] Although 1930s efforts to extend the George Washington Memorial Parkway through Prince George's County slowed over subsequent decades, planning efforts continued into the 1960s and NPS officials remained interested in acquiring properties that were part of the planned route. NPS acquired Harmony Hall, as well as Fort Washington and Oxon Hill Farm, for the parkway project. When the parkway extension project finally ceased, these properties became units of the National Service.[283]

A 1977 aerial photograph captures several changes to the study area in the first decade after NPS acquisition that mostly relate to its diminished use (Figure 2-70). The circulation system Collins established deteriorated significantly due to infrequent use. The 1977 aerial shows that drives that had been clearly defined twelve years earlier were barely discernible. Grass had grown over and obscured drives to the southern outbuildings, the drive east–west along Slash Creek, and the north drive to the outbuilding and Want Water. The north circular drive itself was maintained, indicating some degree of intentionality in what drives were retained (Figure 2-70). The southern circular drive also become unrecognizable in the landscape (Figure 2-71). The circular patch of grass at its center eroded, and the circular form disappeared. The formal entrance drive seems to have remained intact. Its path, however, is not as clearly readable in 1977 aerial as the plantation street drive, indicating that this had become the primary entrance from Livingston Road. Areas surrounding key sites in the Collins Era also became overgrown with vegetation. As late as 1965, the area surrounding the outbuildings south of the plantation street included a large open space within wooded borders. By 1977, this area, too, had become wooded. The terrace system west of these outbuildings also appears to have become overgrown with vegetation. The 1977 aerial is the last photo in research found to date to show the boathouse Collins constructed on the south bank of Slash Creek. By the time an aerial photograph was taken in 1980, the area around the boathouse was overgrown, making it difficult to discern whether the building was still extant during this period. The building was at some

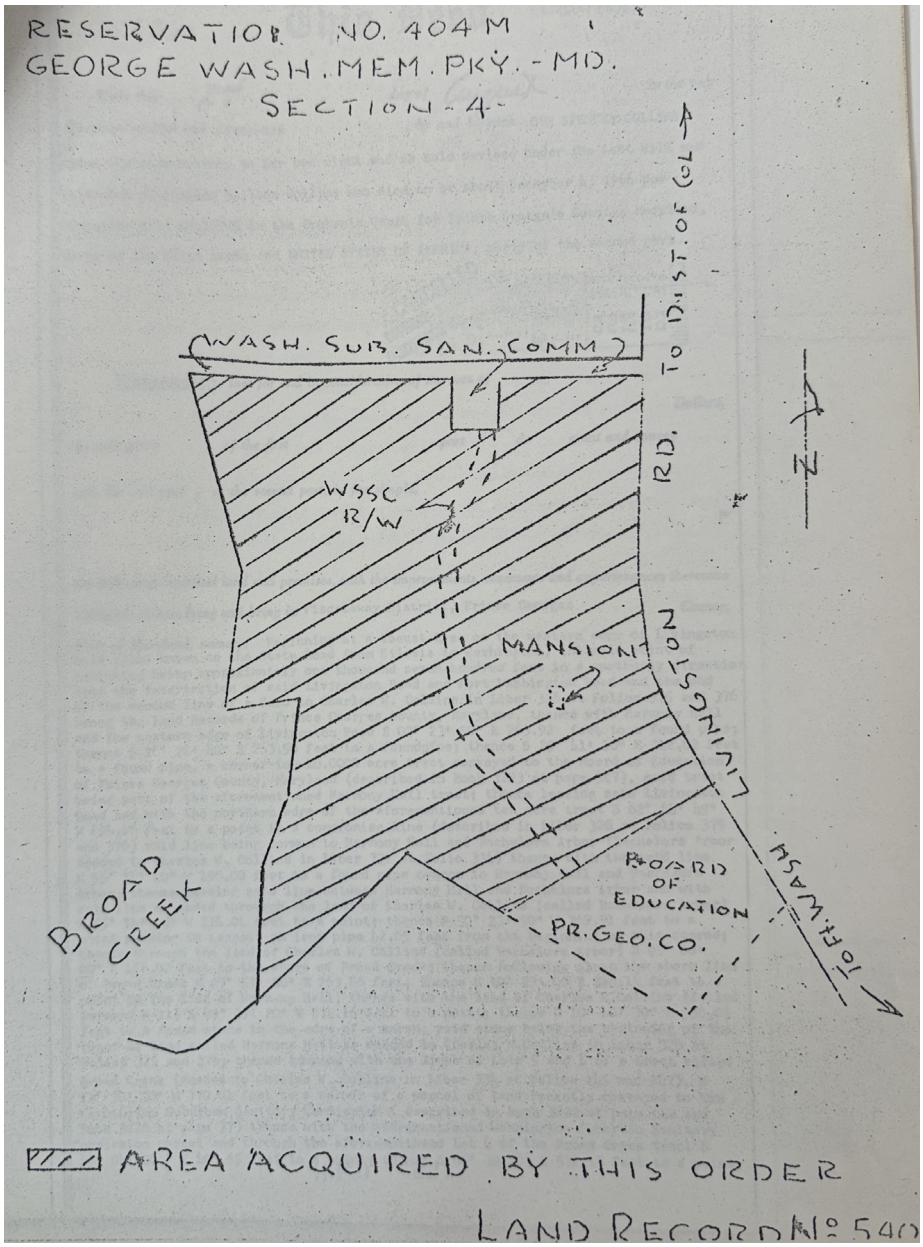


Figure 2-68. This undated map, likely from the mid-1960s, shows the portions of the property Sue Spencer Collins sold to the WSSC and the Prince George's County Board of Education. The large section hatched with horizontal lines captures the land sold to the National Park Service (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-69. 1977 aerial photograph showing site more overgrown since Collins's death (M-NCPPC).



Figure 2-70. This late 1970s photograph indicates that the north circle drive was still in heavy use while other Collins Era circulation deteriorated (National Capital Parks-East Archive).



Figure 2-71. The south circle drive became indiscernible by 1977 (M-NCPPC).

point demolished. The 2015 *Archeological Overview and Assessment* identified the boathouse remains but provided only limited description of the discovery.

The Want Water manor house, meanwhile, physically declined further. The house was still intact at the time of NPS acquisition. NPS allowed tenants to live in the house at some point in the 1960s. The agency later concluded that permitting this use worsened the house's continued physical decline.[284] The roof began to leak, causing compounding damage to the house. The house eventually collapsed, leaving only the north and south brick end walls and chimneys.[285] The area immediately surrounding Want Water became even more heavily wooded than in 1965.

Collins Era outbuildings also declined by the 1970s. The servants' quarters south of the plantation street also deteriorated significantly and were "unsuited for occupancy," an NPS staff member wrote.[286] The long building (see Figure 2-39) immediately east of the terrace system appears to have been razed by 1977. As the site became increasingly overgrown with vegetation, it is difficult to determine when outbuildings were demolished. The shed (see Figure 2-42) southwest of the possible chicken coop collapsed at some point, leaving a pile of wood planks. Although this condition was observed in 2023, it is not clear when the shed originally collapsed.

By 1977, although Sue Spencer Collins was still alive, NPS interpretive specialists envisioned future potential uses for Harmony Hall. A preferred use for the site

among the interpretive specialists was as an outdoor musical performance center for Baroque and colonial American music. The specialists recommended against converting the manor house into a house museum due to the existing surplus of similar museums.[287]

In 1983, a team with NPS Historic Resource Services inspected the Harmony Hall manor house and found leaks from the second-story bathroom that had destroyed the living room ceiling. The team also found that exterior gutters and downspouts needed replacement. A lack of downspouts on the 1930s addition had rotted window sills.[288] Photographs from either the late 1970s or 1980s show vegetation growing around the smokehouse and the bungalow in a deteriorated condition (Figure 2-73 and Figure 2-72).

Conditions on the site worsened through the rest of the decade. Buildings declined further and the circulation on site increasingly vanished. A 1984 aerial photograph reveals that the area near the southern outbuildings, the west pasture, and the terrace system became even further overgrown (Figure 2-74 and Figure 2-75). The canal remained intact, although siltation and the shifting tidal flats at its mouth altered its width over time.[289]



Figure 2-72. The bungalow deteriorated by the 1970s–early 1980s. View looking southwest (NPS Museum Resource Center).



Figure 2-73. Circa late 1970s–early 1980s photograph showing the smokehouse crowded with vegetation. The building, like other Collins outbuildings, was in poor condition by this point. View looking east (NPS Museum Resource Center).



Figure 2-74. As shown in this 1984 aerial photograph, the study area became even further overgrown as the decades passed since Charles Collins's death (M-NCPPC).



Figure 2-75. The overgrown condition of the west pasture is captured in this early 1980s photograph (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

The Battersea Company at Harmony Hall (1985–99)

In 1985–86, NPS cleared much of the west pasture that had become overgrown since Charles Collins's death (Figure 2-76).[290] The agency also removed the covered walkway between the house and the kitchen/dining room building to its south.[291]

Following the death of Sue Collins in 1983, NPS initiated an agreement through its Historic Leasing Program to lease the Harmony Hall property. A new program at that time, it was established to "offer the NPS an opportunity to provide both contemporary use and preservation for historic buildings that otherwise would be neglected due to budget or staff shortages."[292] In October 1985, NPS began a 55-year lease with Frank L. Calhoun and Herman Carlton Huhn of the Battersea Company, Ltd. Under the agreement, Calhoun and Hun were to use the manor house as a residence and operate a Morgan horse breeding farm and carriage driving school on the property. The tenants agreed to provide restoration and preservation maintenance in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, a set of standards drafted to guide treatment of historic properties. Funds used in maintenance of the property would be amortized against future rental charges.[293]

Between 1985 and 1990, the Battersea Company implemented several changes to the study area. Calhoun and Huhn built a new stable west of the Collins Era garage. Constructing the stable necessitated razing a Collins Era outbuilding (Figure 2-57). The stable was built as a one-story, eight-bay-wide concrete-block stable west of the garage. It was composed of long, horizontal massing with a



Figure 2-76. This 1993 aerial photograph shows the site after NPS cleared the west pasture (M-NCPPC).

single-bay gabled projection that extended above the roofline on the east façade. The stable was sheltered by a side-gable roof while the projection is covered by a front-gable roof. The east projection was illuminated by a bulls-eye window. Additional fenestration included three round-arched entries on the east façade and west and north elevations.

Battersea Company also demolished Collins's kitchen/dining room building south of the house. In its place, they constructed a new a one-and-a-half-story addition to the south addition's south elevation in 1987 (Figure 2-77). The addition was sheltered by a side-gable roof and rested on a concrete-block foundation. Its brick walls were laid in Flemish bond to match the rest of the house. Matching the Collins Era addition, a gabled wall dormer pierced the front (east) roofline. The new addition's front façade was two bays wide and featured a single-bay pedimented entry porch fronting the northernmost bay. Mirroring the main block porch, Tuscan columns supported the southern addition's porch roof.

A horse corral built of post and rail fencing was installed in the lawn southeast of the house (Figure 2-78). Likely during this period, an iron gate flanked by brick piers was placed at the western edge of the west patio adjoining the manor house. Photographs as late as the early 1980s do not show the gate/piers in place yet, confirming it was not a Collins Era feature.

South of the new addition, Calhoun and Huhn built a terrace patio that NPS records from the 1990s refer to as a sculpture garden (Figure 2-79). It was composed of a central circular fishpond surrounded by a brick path from which paths of brick pavers radiate out to another circular brick path. Enclosing the



Figure 2-77. As part of their lease agreement with NPS, the Battersea Company agreed to implement repairs to the property. This work included building a south addition adjoining the Collins pantry wing. Photograph circa early 1990s (National Capital Parks East Archive).

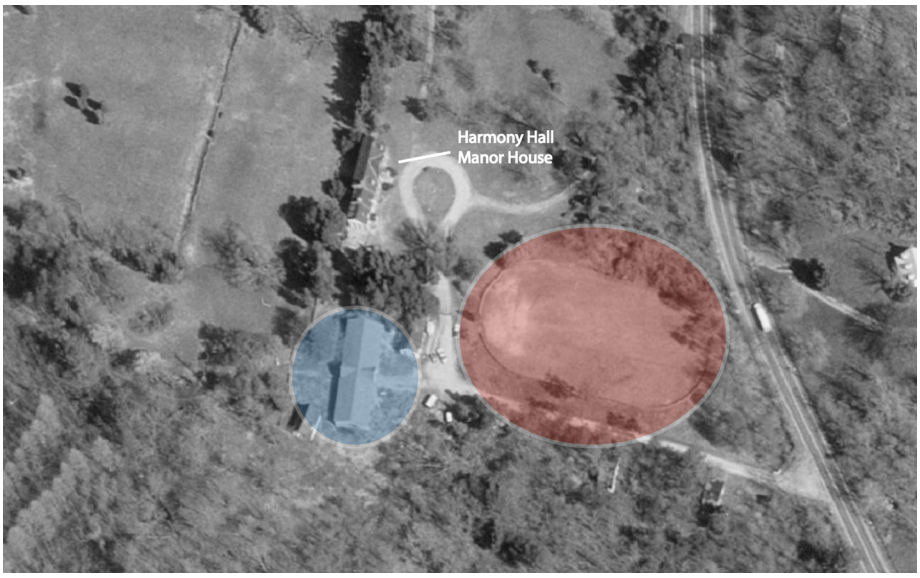


Figure 2-78. The Battersea Company demolished the Collins Era garage and built a concrete-block stable (circled in blue). They added a corral for horseback riding (circled in red) (M-NCPPC).



Figure 2-79. Terrace patio installed by the Battersea Company south of the 1987 addition. Photograph circa early 1990s (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

terrace was a wood post-and-rail fence. The terrace was ornamented with statues.[294] The Battersea Company apparently used removed bricks from the Want Water ruins to construct the paths and terrace.[295] The Battersea Company also installed brick pathways that crisscrossed the lawn section at the center of the circular drive fronting Harmony Hall (Figure 2-80). The ruinous Want Water manor house continued to deteriorate as NPS cited budgetary constraints and the "relative inaccessibility of the site" as major obstacles in stabilizing the ruins (Figure 2-81).[296]

After this period of activity, the Battersea Company's completion of repairs on the property seems to have slowed considerably in the first half of the 1990s, at least partly due to the company's financial instability. Between 1992 and 1999, NPS and the Battersea Company attempted to renegotiate the terms of the lease and a schedule for repairs. Correspondence that became heated at times revealed



Figure 2-80. Brick pathways placed in the north circular drive. Photograph circa early 1990s (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

NPS's frustration with Calhoun and Huhn's slow progress. National Capital Parks-East superintendent Gentry Davis wrote to Calhoun and Huhn in July 1992 stating that they had not submitted plans for the restoration of the Harmony Hall manor house. He reminded them that their lease agreement stipulated that this work needed to be completed within five years of the lease's execution, which would have been 1990. Calhoun and Huhn also at some point agreed to stabilize the Want Water ruins but, as of summer 1992, had not followed through on this promise.[297] NPS continued to pressure Calhoun and Huhn throughout 1994 and 1995 to make repairs to Harmony Hall, including repairs to windows, the porches, and the roof.[298] Calhoun and Huhn completed several of these repairs by autumn 1996, but more work remained outstanding. It was also during this time that NPS learned that the tenants had been removing bricks from Want Water for building the paths and terrace. Negotiation with Calhoun and Huhn continued until 1999 when NACE suggested terminating the lease. Calhoun and Huhn vacated the property that year and opened a new horse farm in Crozet, Virginia.[299]

An undated scope of work presumably from the 1990s requested preservation services for a number of features at Harmony Hall, including restoring the ha-ha, renovating the bungalow, and removing the smokehouse, garage, and one of the servants' quarters. The document also detailed repairs needed to be undertaken at the manor house, such as restoring the front porches and west stairs, replacing



Figure 2-81. The Want Water manor house deteriorated significantly by the 1980s, reduced to the two brick end walls and floor. This 1991 view, facing south, shows the north exterior wall in the foreground and south interior wall in the background. Photograph by Jack Boucher (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

gutters and downspouts, repairing chimneys.[300] In 1998, NPS stabilized the Want Water ruins with metal braces and capping on the gambrel ends.[301] The Collins Era garage was demolished between 1995 and 1998.[302] Research to date has not determined whether NPS or the Battersea Company razed the structure.

A Managed Ruin (2000–Present)

After the Battersea Company left Harmony Hall, the property that had been in use consistently for centuries was left without an occupant or a use. In the twenty-first century, NPS officials struggled to find a long-term purpose for the 65 acres. Nature, meanwhile, began to gradually overtake the landscape. Vegetation obscured Collins's designed landscape of allées, terraces, and drives as well as previously cleared areas like the west pasture became overgrown.

In 2001, NPS National Capital Parks-East staff drafted the *Harmony Hall: Site Management Plan*. The plan stated that the Harmony Hall manor house's historic significance provided NPS "the opportunity to interpret the house and property for the public."[303] The document stated that the agency's primary goals were to "preserve" the manor house, other buildings on the property, and archeological

remains and develop strategies for interpretation for the site. The plan suggested that the Harmony Hall manor house and Want Water manor house ruins should be opened to the public for interpretation pertaining to Broad Creek and colonial Maryland. Other proposed options included use of Harmony Hall as a conference center and US Park Police substation. The document also suggested offering the property to another agency. "From time to time, the NPS concludes that the property has little to do with the goals of the organization and would be better managed by another agency" such as the General Services Administration (GSA), the plan stated. Beyond transferring it to another federal or state agency, the plan also mentioned the options of leasing the site again under the Historic Leasing Program or selling it to a person or organization with the means to maintain it. Ultimately, National Capital Parks-East staff recommended two preferred options: (1) NPS and potential partners would continue to preserve, manage, and interpret the property, or (2) NPS would develop the site and extant buildings as a conference center. Of the former, the plan states, "There would be an audience for those who like to visit sites representing colonial life. The site could supplement the existing colonial sites in the area. This could include tours from the river view."[304]

As part of the *Site Management Plan*, National Capital Parks-East developed an action plan that included restoring the Harmony Hall manor house "to as close to its 18th century appearance as possible."[305] The building additions, the plan stated, "should have an income-producing occupant and the main portion [the circa 1769 main block] should be open to interpretation in the period or periods of significance."[306] The plan's suggested periods of significance included the colonial period, the Stein period, and the Collins period. In justifying including the Stein period, the plan states incorrectly that Robert Stein lived in the house from the time of his purchase until 1929 and builds a case based on Stein's professional accomplishments. However, as Stein did not live in the house and only owned the property for two years, this period of significance would not be merited based on association with him.[307]

By 2005, the servants' quarters along the plantation street collapsed and NPS removed them from the site. In June of that year, National Capital Parks-East superintendent Gayle Hazelwood wrote a letter to the Maryland Historical Trust to address their removal, writing that they were "beyond repair," an "eye sore," and a "health hazard."[308] "They are, in fact[,] no longer structures and could more accurately be called ruins," Hazelwood added.[309] NPS removed the decaying wood of the collapsed buildings and converted the area surrounding them to woods to blend in with the rest of the woods south of the old plantation street.[310]



Figure 2-82. In the 2010s the west pasture became more overgrown, as shown in this 2020 aerial photograph (M-NCPPC).

Through the 2000s and 2010s, vegetation gradually covered the formal entrance drive and the drive north to the outbuilding that then cut west to Want Water, although a road trace remained visible and allée delineated the former drive. The southeast drive (Collin's plantation street) became the primary entrance to the property. An allée also continued to denote the former drive that ran east–west from the south circular drive during the Collins Era, along Slash Creek, and then curved north to Want Water. Aerial photographs show that the west pasture became increasingly overgrown with vegetation through the 2010s (Figure 2-82).

The two manor houses, meanwhile, deteriorated further. A 2018 investigation at Harmony Hall found structural deterioration in both the east and west porches caused primarily by insect and water damage. Vegetation had undermined the integrity of the west staircase. The gutter system on the west exterior wall was broken.[311] Want Water remained in a ruinous state in danger of collapse and vegetation grew through and around the old house. The 2011 Broad Creek historic district nomination referenced a stabilization project undertaken on the Want Water ruins in 2003, but documentation on this work has not been found in research to date.

In the 2020s, NPS staff continued their search for a long-term use for the property. The agency removed the Battersea Company-era horse corral circa 2020. NPS prepared a Development Concept Plan for the study area in March 2022 to explore ideas for future development and uses for the Harmony Hall park area. NPS intended the concept plan to develop a management approach for the property's future that brought opportunities for learning and recreation,

minimized impacts on existing natural and cultural resources, conveyed the entire history of Harmony Hall, respected the site's ecological setting and complex historical setting, and that would be realistic in terms of what NPS could provide and maintain.[312] This CLR developed as a result of the Development Concept Plan process.

As buildings and building ruins and remnants deteriorated and the landscape became more overgrown, nature gradually overtook a once heavily used site that at different times had been a thriving tobacco plantation, site of one of Prince George's County's official tobacco inspection warehouses, a more diversified farm in the nineteenth century, a colonial revival-style designed landscape, and a horse farm and carriage driving school. The Harmony Hall study area remains an important cultural landscape without a clear public use or interpretive focus.

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LANDSCAPE EXISTING CONDITION AND ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 3

Chapter title page: Harmony Hall manor house east façade, 2023 (QE).

Chapter 3: Landscape Existing Condition and Analysis

This chapter documents the existing condition of the Harmony Hall study area and provides an analysis of integrity for the cultural landscape. The resources within the study area are documented through a process that adheres to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Evaluation of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.[1]

This cultural landscape methodology organizes understanding of the landscape by characteristic. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that collectively create historic character and aid in understanding cultural importance. The landscape characteristics used to describe the Harmony Hall cultural landscape are:

Natural Systems and Features are those natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the study area, including geology, hydrology, soils, water bodies, climate, and ecological communities.

Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface, both natural and human-made.

Spatial Organization is the arrangement of elements that define and create space through the ground, vertical, and overhead planes, including the arrangement of topography, buildings, and vegetation. Within the study area, spatial organization is closely related to *Cluster Arrangement,* the location and pattern of buildings and structures in the landscape and associated outdoor spaces.

Circulation consists of the features and materials that allow for systems of movement throughout the study area.

Views are groupings of features that create or allow a range of vision. Views can be natural or designed and controlled.

Vegetation is the indigenous or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, herbaceous plants, and lawns within the study area.

Buildings and Structures are three-dimensional built features, including Harmony Hall, the bungalow, stables, fences, and others located within the study area. These features create mass and scale and contribute to character through their style and appearance.

Constructed Water Features are built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions.

Small-Scale Features are human-scaled landscape elements that provide specific functions within the study area, such as signs and picnic tables.

Archeological Sites are locations containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic land use.

The analysis identifies those qualities and features that retain integrity and contribute to the significance of the property. Evaluation of integrity compares the current landscape condition to the condition present during the two periods of significance:

- Tobacco Era: 1708–1798
- Collins Era: 1929–1964

See Chapter 2 for a full discussion of the various areas of significance and dates associated within the study area landscape.

The cultural landscape is further organized into four landscape character areas (LCAs) for the purpose of this report. The LCAs are described in detail in Chapter 1. Five plan drawings illustrating existing landscape condition are included within this chapter:

- EC-1: Overall Study Area Existing Condition Plan
- EC-2: Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA Existing Condition Plan
- EC-3: Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA Existing Condition Plan
- EC-4: Want Water and Pine Stand LCA Existing Condition Plan
- EC-5: West Pasture and Slash Creek LCA Existing Condition Plan

Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Overall Site Plan
Existing Condition

National Park Service
National Capital Region



Sources
1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By
Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Building
- Open Water
- Canal
- Meadow
- Mown Turf
- Tidal Marsh
- Tidal Swamp
- Road
- Pine Stand
- Mixed Forest
- Garden Bed
- Brick Paving
- Collins Era Terrace
- Post and Rail Fence
- Fence Remnant
- Retaining Wall
- Gate
- Road Trace
- Unauthorized Trail
- Trail Remnant
- Cypress Tree
- Individual Canopy Tree
- Apple Tree
- Boxwood
- Ruin
- Depression
- Steps
- Post

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2'-0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 105 210 420 Feet

Drawing EC-01

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Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA
Existing Condition

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By
Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Building
- Open Water
- Meadow
- Mown Turf
- Tidal Swamp
- Road
- Pine Stand
- Mixed Forest
- Garden Bed
- Brick Paving
- Collins Era Terrace
- Post and Rail Fence
- Metal Post and Wire Fence Remnant
- Decorative Wire Fence Remnant
- Retaining Wall
- Gate
- Trail Remnant
- Road Trace
- Cypress Tree
- Individual Canopy Tree
- Boxwood
- Ruin or Collapsed Wall
- Depression
- Steps
- Post

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 50 100 200 Feet

Drawing EC-02

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Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA
Existing Condition

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Building
- Open Water
- Canal
- Meadow
- Mown Turf
- Tidal Swamp
- Road
- Pine Stand
- Mixed Forest
- Garden Bed
- Brick Paving
- Collins Era Terrace
- Post and Rail Fence
- Metal Post and Wire Fence Remnant
- Decorative Wire Fence Remnant
- Retaining Wall
- Gate
- Road Trace
- Cypress Tree
- Individual Canopy Tree
- Apple Tree
- Boxwood
- Ruin
- Depression
- Steps
- Post

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N

0 65 130 260

Feet

Drawing EC-03

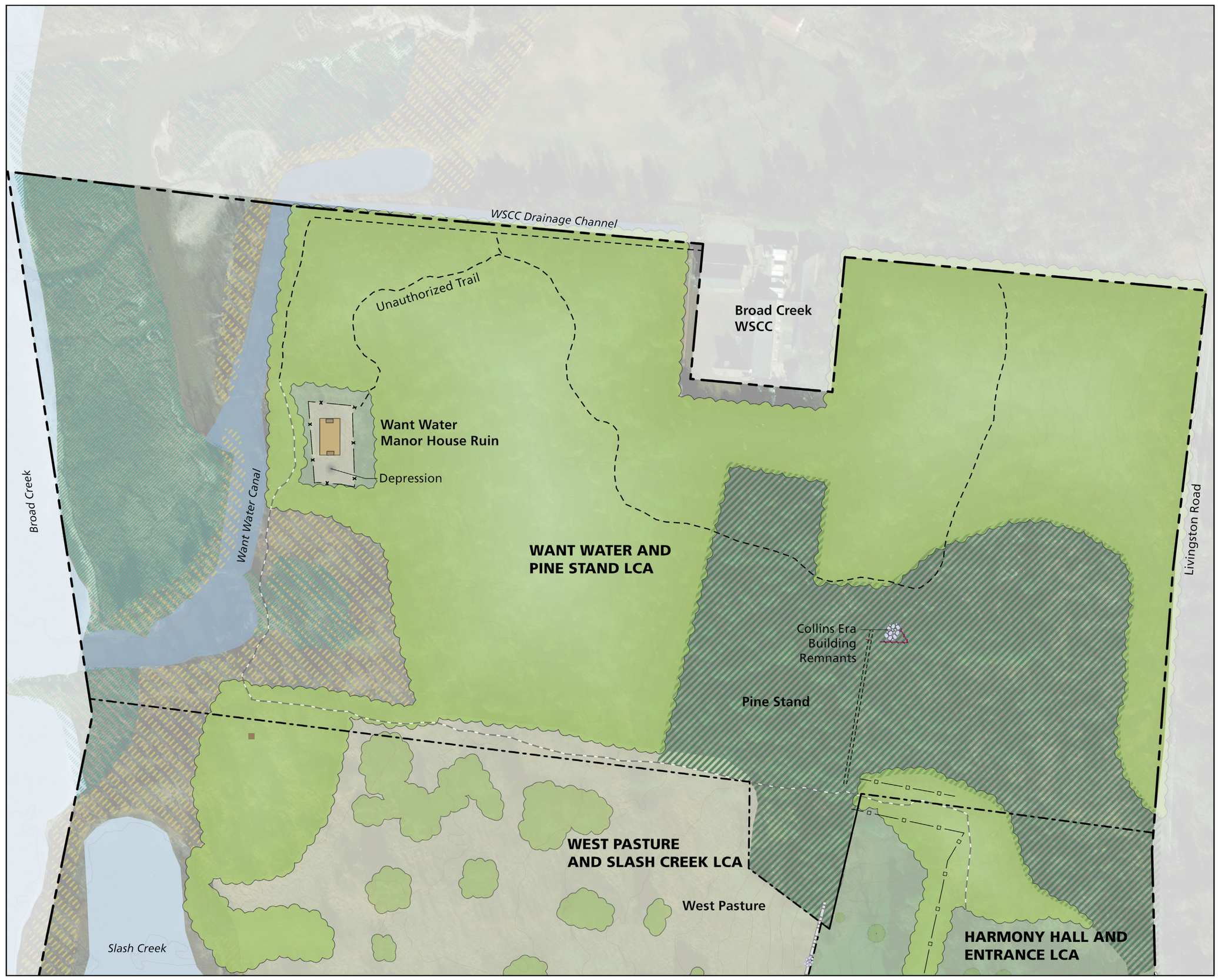
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Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Want Water and Pine Stand LCA
Existing Condition

National Park Service
National Capital Region



Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Building
- Open Water
- Canal
- Meadow
- Mown Turf
- Tidal Marsh
- Tidal Swamp
- Pine Stand
- Mixed Forest
- Post and Rail Fence
- Decorative Wire Fence Remnant
- Split Rail Fence Remnant
- Retaining Wall
- Unauthorized Trail
- Trail Remnant
- Individual Canopy Tree
- Ruin
- Post

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 62.5 125 250 Feet

Drawing EC-04

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Broad Creek

Want Water Canal

WANT WATER AND PINE STAND LCA

WEST PASTURE AND SLASH CREEK LCA

Ha-Ha

HARMONY HALL AND ENTRANCE LCA

Slash Creek

TERRACE AND CYPRESS ALLÉE LCA

Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

West Pasture and Slash Creek LCA
Existing Condition

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Building
- Open Water
- Meadow
- Mown Turf
- Tidal Marsh
- Tidal Swamp
- Pine Stand
- Mixed Forest
- Collins Era Terrace
- Wire and Post Fence Remnant
- Post and Rail Fence
- Retaining Wall
- Trail Remnant
- Road Trace
- Cypress Tree
- Individual Tree
- Ruin or Collapsed Wall
- Post

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 50 100 200 Feet

Drawing EC-05

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SUMMARY OF INTEGRITY

Integrity is the ability of the cultural landscape to convey its significance, or how well the physical features of the landscape relate to its historic significance. To be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a property must be shown to have significance under at least one of the four criteria and must also retain a degree of its historic integrity. The National Register of Historic Places defines seven aspects or qualities that make up integrity: location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association.

The Harmony Hall study area retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, and association for the Tobacco Era period of significance (1708–1798). It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association from the Collins Era period of significance (1929–1964). As the majority of features and aspects established during Tobacco Era are missing or extensively deteriorated, the landscape more clearly reflects the Collins Era.

The cultural landscape's integrity is impacted by extensive successional growth throughout the study area as well as loss or deterioration of many of the buildings, structures, land uses, and small-scale features that defined the character of the landscape during the period of significance, particularly the Tobacco Era. Vegetation changes within the study area are reversible, and historic spatial relationships may be reestablished by removing non-contributing woody vegetation.

Location

Location is the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or the landscape where the historic event occurred. The cultural landscape retains integrity of location for both periods of significance. Features that contribute to the Tobacco Era (including Harmony Hall, Want Water, Livingston Road, a portion of canal, Broad Creek, Slash Creek, and tidal marshes) are retained in their historic locations. However, remaining Tobacco Era features are disconnected from their context; the whole landscape is not present in its historic location. Features that contribute to the Collins Era (including but not limited to Harmony Hall, Want Water, outbuilding remnants/ruins, Livingston Road, internal circulation routes, west pasture, limited domestic/ornamental vegetation, fencelines, the Want Water Canal, Broad Creek, Slash Creek, and tidal marshes) are retained in historic locations and also maintain much of their historic context and spatial relationships.

Design

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. During both periods of significance, the study area developed as a vernacular landscape, emerging in its current configuration through agricultural practices, commercial development, and domestic use. The study area retains integrity of design for only the Collins Era period of significance (1929–1964).

Individual features from the Tobacco Era are retained within the study area, but the property no longer represents the original design of the two Battersea and Want Water plantations and the Broad Creek/Aire townsite. At the scale of the landscape, design is no longer apparent.

The cultural landscape does retain ample extant circulation patterns, buildings and building remains, and vegetation patterns to convey the design of the Collins Era colonial revival landscape. These include:

- A cluster of development around the Harmony Hall manor house, including the relationship of the house to outbuilding ruins/remnants, terraces, the plantation street, northeast entry driveway, and various road traces.
- The layout of the west pasture and ha-ha.
- Views from the Harmony Hall manor house to Broad Creek/Potomac River and Livingston Road.
- A cluster of development around Want Water, including building ruins, the Want Water Canal, road traces, and visual connections to Broad Creek/Potomac River.

Understanding of the Collins Era landscape design is impacted by Battersea Driving Company additions and extensive vegetation encroachment. These changes are typically reversible.

Setting

Setting is the physical environment of the landscape. The cultural landscape retains integrity of setting for both periods of significance. During both the Tobacco Era and Collins Era, the study area was situated in a low-density, agricultural setting typical of Prince George's County, Maryland. Although surrounding land use and development have changed, the study area is buffered from visual impacts of modern development by woodland, protecting its environmental setting. The cultural landscape also retains its direct relationship

with the Potomac River, Broad Creek, Slash Creek, and tidal wetlands. Natural and manipulated topography established during the period of significance is also still present.

Feeling

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. Feeling results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character.

The study area no longer conveys the feeling characteristic of an eighteenth-century tobacco plantation and small commercial port due to the cession of agricultural and commercial practices, woodland encroachment due to lack of maintenance to support agricultural character, and loss of ancillary buildings and structures that supported historic uses. It does not retain integrity of feeling for the Tobacco Era.

The landscape continues to evoke a colonial revival estate established during the Collins Era and retains integrity of feeling for this period of significance. Broad-scale landscape patterns and major features, including the Harmony Hall manor house, pine stand, west pasture, views to the Potomac River and Livingston Road, and Want Water ruins, continue to convey Charles Collins's interpretation of a pre-Civil War plantation.

Materials and Workmanship

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a distinct period of time in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. Within the study area, materials are related to the aspect of workmanship, the physical evidence of the craft of a particular culture or people during any given period in history. The study area retains integrity of materials and workmanship for both periods of significance.

Remaining features from the Tobacco Era, while limited, are substantially composed of their original materials. The main block of the Harmony Hall manor house is retained from the eighteenth century. Later modifications to the house have been removed, and it is clad in its original brick. The Want Water manor house has integrity as a ruin. Although much of the original building has deteriorated, what remains is original.

Original Collins Era materials are retained at the Harmony Hall manor house, outbuilding ruins, the ha-ha, the terraces, and select ornamental plantings including tree allées, fencerows, and boxwoods on the house's west façade.

Overall, the contributing features at Harmony Hall that retain their original materials also retain the aspect of workmanship, as they continue to invoke the periods in which they were constructed or established. Workmanship is impacted by those features that exhibit extensive loss, deterioration, and damage of original materials.

Association

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a cultural landscape. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic period for which it is significant and retains integrity of association for both periods of significance. The landscape features, including the structures, vegetation, and views, provide tangible associations with the seventeenth-century settlement of the property and Charles Collins's twentieth-century transformation of the grounds.

Harmony Hall continues to be associated with early exploration and settlement along the Potomac River in Prince George's County, Maryland. It is a local example of eighteenth-century tobacco plantations and commercial operations.

The property is also associated with Charles W. Collins, whose writing on race relations and states' rights greatly impacted American politics in the twentieth century. This CLR recognizes that Collins's central role in a pivotal period in mid-twentieth-century political discourse over civil rights is an important though problematic story that contributes to a fuller understanding of this history.

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

Table 3.1, Evaluated Inventory of Landscape Features: Harmony Hall, contains a list of contributing and non-contributing features and aspects in the Harmony Hall study area organized by landscape characteristic.

Features that contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape include significant individual elements of the physical characteristics remaining from the Harmony Hall cultural landscape's periods of significance, 1708–98 and 1929–64. Non-contributing features are recent additions (constructed or emerging after 1964) that do not embody the historic character of the landscape. Examples include recently developed trails, site furnishings and signs, and buildings. Non-contributing features may be considered compatible when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and do not impact the historic integrity of the property. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, by virtue of their existence, can lessen the historic character.

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Natural Systems and Features					
Geology and soils	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins, Criterion D—Archeology **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The underlying geology and soils of the study area contributed to the creation of valleys, floodplains, and mix of field and forests that supported Indigenous communities, early Euroamerican settlement patterns, the production and sale of tobacco, and later agricultural use. Existing geology and soils reflect the conditions that supported historic use and contribute to the character of the cultural landscape.	N/A
Slash (or Clash) Creek	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154427	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins, Criterion D—Archeology **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Slash Creek and its associated stream valley retain their historic relationship to both Tobacco Era features (such as the Harmony Hall manor house and Want Water manor house ruin) and Collins Era features (including outbuilding remnants, road traces, and vegetation features). The stream and its floodplain are consistent with the historic condition of the landscape.	
Broad Creek	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154425	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins, Criterion D—Archeology **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Broad Creek's relationship to the Potomac River provided convenient shipping and navigation and supported the cultivation of tobacco, a tobacco inspection warehouse, and the development of the port town of Broad Creek/Aire. The creek retains its historic relationships to existing Tobacco Era and Collins Era features.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
Tidal marsh	CLI Feature Identification Number: 184329	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins, Criterion D—Archeology **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Marshes and mudflats have occupied the floodplain of Potomac estuaries such as Broad Creek and Slash Creek since their formation. Although the locations of these features has shifted with siltation, drainage patterns, and sea level rise, they reflect the natural condition of the landscape that supported its use for agriculture and commerce during the periods of significance.	
Topography					
Natural river terraces	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Major site features took advantage of the natural terracing above Broad Creek to support agricultural and commercial operations during the periods of significance. Harmony Hall manor house was sited on a high point on the river terrace above the Potomac River consistent with Georgian design principals, and Want Water was established within the floodplain for access to the river. The river terraces retain their relationship to historic features and contribute to the character of the cultural landscape.	N/A
Collins Era terraces	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154431	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** In the early 1930s, Collins constructed a series of earthen terraces, sometimes braced with dry-laid stacked stone retaining walls, along a steep slope south of the Harmony Hall manor house. The features are impacted by erosion and damage to the stone retaining walls, as well as extensive Japanese stiltgrass and vinca growth that obscures their visibility in the landscape. The topography of the terraces remains evident in the landscape and contributes to its historic character.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Grading associated with ha-ha and west pasture	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Collins Era topographic manipulation included the introduction of a ha-ha wall and associated grading to establish a gently sloping west pasture between the Harmony Hall manor house and Broad Creek. The topography associated with these features is retained in the landscape although heavily obscured by successional vegetation overtaking the west pasture.	
Land Use					
Public access	N/A	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** Public access to the property on foot is authorized. NPS contracts regular mowing around the mansion, entrance drive, stables, and bungalow, although mown areas are not consistent with the historic extent of lawn around Harmony Hall.	N/A
Unauthorized use	N/A	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** Unauthorized mowing and trail building is occurring in the northern portions of the study area, particularly between Want Water and the Broad Creek WSSC facility.	
Residential	N/A	N/A	Missing	Battersea/Harmony Hall, Want Water, and the Broad Creek/Aire townsite incorporated residential uses throughout the periods of significance. The existing manor house is no longer used as a home, and all other dwellings including those occupied by people enslaved on the plantations, the Want Water manor house, and any houses within the Broad Creek/Aire town site are no longer extant as buildings within the study area.	N/A
Agricultural	N/A	N/A	Missing	Tobacco dominated agricultural production within the study area during the eighteenth century, although a cornfield,orchard, gardens, and livestock (wool production) are also documented within the landscape. Agricultural use continued through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; most recently, Collins grew wheat and rye within the property. This land use does not continue on the site today.	N/A
Commercial	N/A	N/A	Missing	During the Tobacco Era (1708–1798), the study area landscape supported commercial operations related to tobacco (including the tobacco inspection warehouse), shipbuilding, a storehouse, commercial fishing, and a possible mill. Commercial land use does not occur on the site today.	N/A

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
Spatial Organization					
Location of Harmony Hall manor house on high point with views to the Potomac River and Livingston Road	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Consistent with its intentional siting and use during the period of significance, Harmony Hall manor house is on the high point above the Potomac River and retains its important spatial relationships to Livingston Road to the east, the river to the west, and lower elevation portions of the site within the floodplain.	N/A
Relationship of Want Water manor house ruins to canal and Broad Creek	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Despite loss of much of the manor house and outbuildings associated with this cluster of development during the period of significance, Want Water retains its historic spatial relationships to adjacent waterbodies that influenced its placement and development.	N/A
Collins Era spatial organization around Harmony Hall manor house	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The cluster of buildings, building ruins, structures, circulation routes, ornamental vegetation patterns, and human-made topographic features near Livingston Road is consistent with organization of this space during the Collins Era. Historic spatial patterns are impacted by loss of built features present during the period of significance and vegetation encroachment.	N/A
Views					
View A. View from Harmony Hall west toward the Potomac River	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154381	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** This view is partially obscured by successional vegetation within the west pasture and along the bank of Broad Creek, particularly during leaf-on. During leaf-off, the visual relationship between Harmony Hall manor house, the west pasture, and the Potomac River are present. Impacts to the view from vegetation are reversible.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
View B. View from west pasture/Potomac River to Harmony Hall	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154383	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Similar to View A (from the opposite direction), the visual connection between the east bank of Broad Creek and Harmony Hall manor house is retained during leaf-off. The house and other historic features, such as the ha-ha, are obscured by successional vegetation during the west pasture during leaf-on, but this condition is reversible.	
View C. View from Harmony Hall toward Livingston Road	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Limited views between Harmony Hall and Livingston Road are retained where woodland vegetation has been removed or thinned. These views are particularly apparent near the two entrance driveways.	
View D. View from Livingston Road toward Harmony Hall	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154691	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** A peek-a-boo view between Harmony Hall and Livingston Road persists through breaks within the dense woodland vegetation along the road. The view is more prominent during leaf-off. Vegetative growth impacts the historic condition of the view.	
View E. View toward Want Water manor house	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Despite the loss of much of the original Want Water manor house, this view continues to illustrate vegetation and spatial relationships consistent with the Collins Era. The view no longer represents conditions present during the Tobacco Era, when agriculture and commerce at Want Water were supported by buildings, vegetation, and land use now missing from the landscape.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
View F. View of Broad Creek from Want Water	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The historical visual relationship of the Want Water manor house, the Want Water Canal, and Broad Creek is retained from the period of significance, although partially obscured by vegetation along the shoreline.	
View G. View northeast along cypress allée	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Historic visual relationships are retained between Slash Creek, the baldcypress-lined allée route, and the terraces in the background. The view has been modified as tidal swamp vegetation within the floodplain matured and invasive species encroached on the terraces.	
Circulation					
Roads					
Livingston Road	N/A	Outside of NPS property	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Livingston Road (formerly known as Piscataway Road) dates to the eighteenth century, when it connected between Piscataway, MD, and Bladensburg, MD. The existing roadway retains its historic alignment and continues to provide access to the Harmony Hall study area.	
Northeast entrance driveway	CLI Feature Identification Number: Type of 154393	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The northeast entrance driveway was established in the early 1930s during Charles Collins's extensive redevelopment of the Harmony Hall property. The road is heavily overgrown, but the road grading and some of its surface materials are still visible. It contributes to the historic character of the property.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Southeast entrance driveway (Collins Era plantation street)	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154393	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The southeast entrance driveway was constructed during the early 1930s and was known by Charles Collins as the plantation street. The road occupies its historic location and continues to serve as the access road to Harmony Hall.	
Circle drive	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154393	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The circle drive is one of two circular features established as part of the overall system of roads added by Charles Collins in the 1930s. The feature is retained in the landscape as an overgrown gravel driveway. Perpendicular pathways criss-crossing the center circle after the end of the period of significance have been removed, although four large boulders continue to mark the perimeter of the circle.	
Trails					
Trail from Harmony Hall to Want Water	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154407	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Portions of this bare earth trail follow Collins Era routes along an east–west alignment between Harmony Hall and Broad Creek and along the north–south route of the Want Water Canal towpath. The trail is heavily overgrown and in some locations is no longer discernible in the landscape.	
Unauthorized trails	N/A	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** Two unauthorized trails were identified in the northern portion of the study area during 2023 field investigations. The trails are not being maintained by NPS. One segment of mown trail may follow the historic canal towpath along Want Water Canal. Other unauthorized trail segments have no relationship to historic routes.	
Road Traces					
Cypress allée road trace	CLI Feature Identification Number: Type of 154395	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The road trace is primarily visible due to its relationship to baldcypress lining both sides of the alignment. Its location is retained from the Collins Era road established between the terraces and Slash Creek in the early 1930s. Erosion consistent with a former bridge location was observed on the banks of Slash Creek at the road trace terminus. The road grade is heavily overgrown and punctuated by numerous cypress knees.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
Road trace south of Slash Creek	CLI Feature Identification Number: Type of 154395	N/A	Undetermined	**Context:** Unknown **Period(s) of Significance:** Unknown **Evaluation:** A road grade beginning at the site of a missing bridge across the Slash Creek extends uphill to the southeast. No road surface material was identified during field investigations. Although the road trace is spatially related to Collins Era features, historic research has not identified a construction date for the route.	
Road trace south to Collins Era outbuildings	CLI Feature Identification Number: Type of 154395	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** A deep ditch was identified along the alignment of a road trace extending south on the east side of the Collins Era terraces. The road grade is now substantially overgrown but continues to occupy the historic location of a route visible in a 1938 aerial photograph.	
Road trace north to Collins Era outbuilding remnant in pine stand	CLI Feature Identification Number: Type of 154395	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** An overgrown road trace extends north from the trail to Want Water into the pine stand. Remnants of the road trace are most clearly visible in relation to the north–south road ditch and terminate at fence and outbuilding remnants in the location of a Collins Era outbuilding.	
Circle drive (south)	N/A	N/A	Missing	The circulation system established by Collins in the 1930s incorporated two circle drives, one associated with each driveway from Livingston Road. The north circle drive, which is still extant, is located immediately east of the Harmony Hall manor house. The south circle drive was east of the garage. It fell out of use within the Collins Era and was gradually erased, a condition worsened with landscape changes established by the Battersea Driving Company.	N/A
Drive to Harmony Hall	N/A	N/A	Missing	A drive connecting Harmony Hall manor house and Piscataway Road (now Livingston Road) was likely present during the Tobacco Era. The location of this missing route is unknown.	N/A
Drive to Want Water	N/A	N/A	Missing	Historic property descriptions and an 1860s map of Want Water document an east–west route connecting between Livingston Road and the Want Water manor house. There is no remaining evidence of this route in the landscape.	N/A

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
West pasture drive to Want Water	N/A	N/A	Missing	A 1938 aerial photograph illustrates a northeast-southwest drive connecting between the cypress allée and Want Water along the south and west sides of the west pasture. There is no remaining evidence of this route in the landscape.	N/A
Patios and Walkways					
Raised brick patio on south side of Harmony Hall manor house	CLI Feature Identification Number: 184363	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** The Battersea Driving Company added a raised brick patio, or sculpture garden, on the south elevation of Harmony Hall in the 1980s. By 2023, only portions of the decorative brick were visible from under grass and moss growth, and the central water feature was missing.	
Brick patio remnant on west side of Harmony Hall manor house	Portions may be associated with CLI Feature Identification Number: 154429	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Collins installed a brick terrace outside the riverfront entrance. During 2018 CLI field investigations, the terrace measured 24′ by 5′5″ and the brick was laid in a herringbone pattern. By 2023, the terrace was covered in grass and only small remnants remained visible. The gate associated with the Battersea Driving Company occupancy is at the edge of the terrace.	
Stone step south of bungalow	N/A	N/A	Undetermined	A stone step partially buried in an area of mown turf evidences a former north–south route between the bungalow and Collins Era terraces. The date of this step and associated route are not known.	N/A
Vegetation					
Mixed forest	N/A	N/A	Portions contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Mixed forest vegetation in the southeast corner of the study area and south of Slash Creek is consistent with forest cover visible on the 1938 aerial photograph taken during the Collins Era. These forest locations are considered contributing. Other mixed forest vegetation throughout the site, particularly the northern half of the study area and around Collins Era buildings, is successional vegetation that has expanded since the end of the period of significance and does not contribute to the historic character of the landscape. Upland mesic forests are native to Maryland and likely occupied the study area's river terraces before clearing for tobacco fields and during periods of field rotation when portions of the site were left fallow.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
Pine stand	CLI Feature Identification Number: 184333	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** In the 1930s, Charles Collins planted a stand of pine north of the Harmony Hall manor house reminiscent of forests in his native Alabama. Pines are retained in this general location, although vegetation composition along the edges of the stand are changing due to forest succession, temperature and precipitation change, and pests.	
Tidal swamp	N/A	N/A	Portions contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins; Criterion D—Archeology **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Swamp vegetation communities occupied tidal zones throughout the period of significance, although siltation and shifting floodplain locations may have altered the extent of the swamp over time. Tidal swamps also supported Indigenous communities for thousands of years before contact with Euroamerican explorers and settlers.	
Tidal marsh	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins; Criterion D—Archeology **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Marsh vegetation communities occupied tidal flats throughout the period of significance, although siltation and shifting tidal flats may have altered the location of this vegetation. Tidal marshes also supported Indigenous communities for thousands of years before contact with Euroamerican explorers and settlers.	
Meadow	N/A	N/A	Portions contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Charles Collins established a meadow between the ha-ha and Broad Creek in the early 1930s. The meadow was grazed by sheep. The west pasture has become periodically overgrown since the end of the period of significance and is currently encroached upon by successional shrubs and small trees. Remnant meadow vegetation persists in the interior of the west pasture.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Mown turf	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Existing mown turf in open areas around the Harmony Hall manor house, bungalow, and entry driveways is consistent with the open character of the landscape visible in Collins Era photographs. However, maintenance does not follow guidance on historic turf locations or patterns. As forest conditions surrounding the buildings and structures change, mowing patterns may be adjusted in ways that no longer represent the historic character.	
Baldcypress along allée to Slash Creek	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Rows of baldcypress trees lining both sides of a Collins Era road to Slash Creek are visible in 1930s photographs of the route and retained in the landscape today. A second line of baldcypress trees extending west from the allée is less visible in the landscape than in 2018 CLI documentation of the site.	
Boxwoods framing west entrance of Harmony Hall manor house	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Collins planted English boxwoods to frame the west entrance of the Harmony Hall manor house during the early 1930s. The boxwoods are overgrown with invasive vines and young trees.	
Rows of oak, holly, and eastern redcedar north and south of the manor house	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Allée-like rows of oaks, holly, and eastern redcedar are aligned east–west to the northeast and southeast of the Harmony Hall manor house. The trees are retained from Collins's 1930s ornamental planting efforts, which focused on orthogonal arrangements along circulation routes and building entrances, and contribute to the historic landscape.	
Lines of eastern redcedar extending north and south from the manor house	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** In a 1935 letter, Collins described planting thousands of eastern redcedar within the Harmony Hall property. Rows of eastern redcedar in fencelines extending north and south of the manor house are likely retained from this extensive 1930s planting program. The trees contribute to the historic character of the landscape.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Remnant apple tree	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** An apple tree was located by the 2018 CLI team near the ha-ha wall and was again noted during 2023 field investigations. The tree is likely a descendant or remnant of orchard trees planted by Collins in the 1930s or may predate Collins.	N/A
Ornamental vegetation on Collins Era terraces	N/A	N/A	Missing	Ornamental vegetation planted on the Collins Era terraces has been overtaken by non-native invasive species, particularly Japanese stiltgrass and vinca. It is possible that vinca was one of the ornamental species used on the terraces or elsewhere in the site.	N/A
Buildings and Structures					
Buildings					
Harmony Hall manor house (Battersea)	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154387 IDLCS Number: 12140 LCS Structure Number: 022A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins; Criterion C—Architecture **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The Harmony Hall manor house is a two-and-a-half-story, Georgian-style house constructed in the mid-eighteenth century. Extant on the site today are the house's main block, a 1930s–40s addition, and a 1987 addition. Both the main block and 1987 addition are fronted by a one-bay-wide, pedimented porch on the front (east) façade. A double quarter-turn staircase on the west façade dates to the 1930s. The manor house is in overall fair condition. The house's original brick walls are intact except for a section at the northeast corner where an inadequate downspout has allowed rainwater to erode mortar. The two east porches and double half-turn west staircase have fared particularly poorly. They include several instances of rotting and cracked wood in columns and stair banisters, railings, and treads.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Horse stable	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154391	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** The horse stable was constructed by the Battersea Driving Company in the late 1980s immediately south of the Harmony Hall manor house. The horse stable is single-story concrete block structure defined by its long massing. The stable is sheltered by a cross-gable roof, with its two front-facing gables piercing the roofline in the center of the east and west façades. The stable is in good condition. Some of the doors on the west façade are either broken or have been replaced.	
Former Tobacco Era buildings	N/A	N/A	Missing	Numerous buildings now missing from the landscape would have been present to support agricultural and commercial operations at the two plantations. Known buildings included tenements, dwelling houses, tobacco houses, barns, stables, and outhouses at Battersea; the town of Broad Creek/Aire; a tobacco inspection warehouse; and an earthfast structure near the current location of the Harmony Hall manor house. The CLR study area may have also included a mill. There are no remaining above-ground features associated with these buildings and structures.	N/A
Former Collins Era buildings	N/A	N/A	Missing	Early 1930s outbuildings including servant's quarters #1 and #2,the smokehouse, a log shed, and various other structures became deteriorated and were eventually demolished after the end of the period of significance. Scattered building materials within the woods south of the Harmony Hall manor house may be associated with these missing features.	N/A
Fences					
Post and rail fence	CLI Feature Identification Number: 184359	N/A	Undetermined	**Context:** Unknown **Period(s) of Significance:** Unknown **Evaluation:** Post and rail fences throughout the study area exhibit wear and deterioration and frequently exist only as posts spaced at regular intervals within the forest. It is not known if fences with clear spatial relationships to Collins Era features date to the period of significance, for example: fence remnants and posts along the top and bottom of the Collins Era terraces or fences extending north and south of the manor house.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
Split rail fence	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154437	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** Split rail fence encircling the Want Water manor house ruins is an interpretive feature added after the period of significance and does not contribute to the historic character of the landscape.	
Tobacco Era fences and gates	N/A	N/A	Missing	Fences and gates were likely present during the Tobacco Era to support agricultural and commercial operations. The locations and descriptions of these features have not been identified through historic research.	N/A
Collins Era fences, gates, and decorative boulders	N/A	N/A	Missing	Fences dating to the Collins Era, including a post and wire fence bisecting the west pasture, an enclosure adjacent to the chicken coop, and a picket fence, are not retained in the existing landscape. Also missing are large boulders lining the edges of the entrance driveways, although existing large stones within the circle drive mimic this pattern.	N/A
Small-Scale Features					
Signs					
Signs	N/A	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** NPS signs are posted at the entrance and at the Want Water ruins. No trespassing signs are also located in the pine stand. The features were placed after the end of the period of significance and do not contribute to the historic character of the property.	
Site Furnishings					
Picnic tables	N/A	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** Two wooden and metal picnic tables are on the site. The picnic tables were placed after the end of the period of significance and do not contribute to the historic character of the property.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Hinged wooden storage chest	N/A	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** This storage chest was placed near the stables by the Battersea Driving Company after the end of the period of significance.	
Constructed Water Features					
Want Water Canal	CLI Feature Identification Number: 184361 IDLCS Number: 210940 LCS Structure Number: 022A-04	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The existing Want Water Canal follows the 100-yard 1749 canal cut by Humphrey Batts and the 1930s extension added by Charles Collins. The feature is impacted by siltation and shifting tidal flats, which have altered the width of the canal.	
Archeological Sites					
Harmony Hall, Site No. 18PR305	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins; Criterion D—Archeology **Period(s) of Significance:** See below **Evaluation:** The entire study area is classified as an archeological site containing features associated with the past 6,000 years. Archeological features including those associated with occupation and use of the site by Indigenous peoples (4000 BCE–1607 CE), the Tobacco Era (1708–98), and the Collins Era (1929–64) contribute to the Harmony Hall cultural landscape.	N/A
Ruins					
Bungalow	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154389	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Charles Collins added the one-and-a-half-story bungalow to the study area landscape in the 1930s for use as his office. The building is constructed of concrete block walls sheltered by a steeply pitched front-gable roof. The building is in poor condition and overgrown by invasive vegetation.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

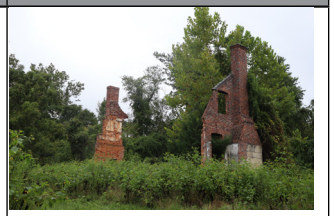
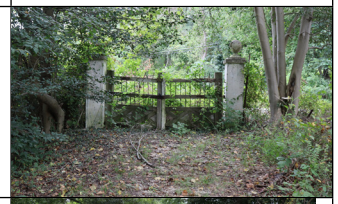
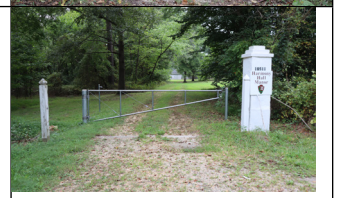
Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
Want Water manor house (Lyles House)	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154385 IDLCS Number: 17238 LCS Structure Number: 022A-01	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion A—Agriculture; Criterion A—Commerce; Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1708–1798 (Tobacco Era); 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The Want Water manor house now survives as a ruin of the eighteenth-century residence. As originally built in 1708, the manor house was a one-and-a-half story structure with a gambrel roof. In 2023, only the two north and south brick end walls with their exterior chimneys and the brick foundation and floor remained in place. Vegetation has grown through the floor and around the ruins. The Want Water manor house ruins are in poor condition and appear dangerously close to collapse.	
Collins outbuilding (possible chicken coop)	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** This building ruin is composed of a single-story concrete block and brick structure with long, rectangular massing. It is sheltered by a shed roof covered with corrugated metal and features exposed rafter tails. Although the building ruin's original function is not confirmed, its design suggests a livestock-related function consistent with Collins's 1946 description of a heated baby chick house.	
Ha-ha	CLI Feature Identification Number: 184353	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** In the early 1930s, Collins added a ha-ha between the west pasture and manor house to separate sheep from the small formal garden outside the western entrance of the house and preserve the view across the pasture to Broad Creek and the Potomac River. The ha-ha is constructed of random dry rubble extending approximately 75 yards and varying in height from 1' to 4'. Segments of the ha-ha have deteriorated or collapsed, and trees and shrubs are growing from the wall.	
Stone retaining wall	May be included with CLI Feature Identification Number: 154431	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Two stone retaining walls are incorporated into the 1930s Collins Era terrace system along the natural slope of the river terrace above Slash Creek. The walls are constructed of dry-laid stacked stone with a maximum height of 1.5'. Two short sets of stone stairs aligned with the cypress allée are embedded in the walls. The features are deteriorated and overgrown with vinca.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	**Other Resource Inventory**	**FMSS Data** (Location /Asset records)	**Evaluation Status**	**Evaluation Narrative**	**Existing Condition Graphic Reference**
Remnants					
Collapsed shed	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Southeast of the possible Collins Era chicken coop are remains of a collapsed shed with one partially standing wall. The shed remnants are primarily a pile of building materials including wood beams, flat wood planks, wire mesh, and corrugated metal. Tree branches have fallen on the pile of building materials, and bindweed and other vegetation have grown through and around it.	
Masonry posts	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Historic photographs place a building in the location of a small cluster of masonry posts. One post features a clay drain pipe and another has a steel pipe placed vertically in its center. As the structure sat at the southern edge of the terrace system, it may have provided irrigation. Bindweed, tree branches, and vines significantly impact the ruins.	
Concrete pad	N/A	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** The remains of an early 1930s garage are immediately northeast of the stable. The garage ruins consist of a single concrete slab measuring 30 x 45'. Vegetation is growing through cracks in the concrete slab.	
Decorative wire fencing	CLI Feature Identification Number: 184337	N/A	Undetermined	**Context:** Unknown **Period(s) of Significance:** Unknown **Evaluation:** Decorative fences within the study area are typically found in short segments. Two decorative wire fences relate specifically to Collins Era features within the study area. Short fences line both sides of the cypress allée route, with portions of the fence disrupted by cypress knees. Another fence is situated near remnants of a Collins Era outbuilding in the pine stand. Although they have spatial relationships to Collins Era features, historic research conducted for this project has not identified if these segments date to the period of significance.	

TABLE 3.1: EVALUATED INVENTORY OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES: HARMONY HALL

Feature Name	Other Resource Inventory	FMSS Data (Location /Asset records)	Evaluation Status	Evaluation Narrative	Existing Condition Graphic Reference
Chicken pen	N/A	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** A small wooden enclosure and fence is situated south of the raised brick patio near the Harmony Hall manor house. This feature, which appears to be a chicken pen, is associated with the Battersea Driving Company and is in poor condition. The chicken pen was constructed after the period of significance and is noncontributing.	
Northeast entrance gate	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154397	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** Collins erected formal entrance gates to Harmony Hall during the early 1930s. Today, a 5' tall wooden gate framed by stone pillars marks the northeast entrance driveway along Livingston Road. The gates exhibit wear, damage, and several lost wooden members.	
Southeast entrance gate	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154397	N/A	Contributing	**Context:** Criterion B—Association with Charles Collins **Period(s) of Significance:** 1929–1964 (Collins Era) **Evaluation:** One of the Collins Era stone pillars is still extant at the entrance to the southeast entrance driveway, known during the period of significance as the plantation street. The southeast entrance gate finial is missing, and a modern swing gate is positioned between this pillar and two wooden posts. The stone pillar is contributing, but the modern gate and posts do not contribute to the historic character of the landscape.	
Iron gate and brick piers	CLI Feature Identification Number: 154435	N/A	Non-contributing	**Context:** N/A **Period(s) of Significance:** N/A **Evaluation:** A center latching iron gate with decorative scroll work is located at the western edge of a Collins Era patio that is now partially buried within the turf. The gate is attached to brick piers measuring approximately 2.5' high. It was added by the Battersea Driving Company after the end of the period of significance.	
Metal post and wire fence	N/A	N/A	Undetermined	**Context:** Unknown **Period(s) of Significance:** Unknown **Evaluation:** Metal post and wire fence is visible in several locations within the study area with varying condition. Along property boundaries, the fence is relatively intact. Adjacent to the Collins Era terraces and near the bungalow, the fence is deteriorated and consists in some locations of only posts and collapsed wire segments. Research conducted for this project has not identified if fence segments with spatial relationships to Collins Era features date to the period of significance.	

OVERALL STUDY AREA EXISTING CONDITION AND ANALYSIS

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Broad Creek and Slash Creek were critical to the development of both Battersea (later Harmony Hall) and Want Water during the Tobacco Era. The two plantations, as well as the Broad Creek/Aire Townsite, were situated to take advantage of the navigable waterways that connected to ports along the Potomac River and beyond. Tobacco inspection, shipbuilding, and the small commercial center present within the study area during this period are a direct result of the confluence of these two waterbodies along the eastern shore of the Potomac. At the same time, prime agricultural soils supported tobacco production in the nearby landscape.

Collins Era (1929–64)

Although changes to the Harmony Hall landscape conducted by Charles Collins focused on his interpretation of an idealized Alabama plantation rather than the logistics of Tidewater tobacco production, the site's natural systems and features were largely maintained through this period of substantial development. By the mid-1930s, Collins cleared fields that had lain fallow during the earlier Stein ownership and began growing wheat and rye, taking advantage of the prime agricultural soils.[2] He also dredged Slash Creek to return it to a navigable state.[3]

After 1964

No major modifications to the study area's underlying geology, soils, and waterbodies have occurred since the end of this period of significance (1964). Minor modifications include increased sedimentation within both Broad Creek and Slash Creek, which now limits the navigability of the creeks by watercraft, and ongoing sea level rise.

Existing Condition

Geology

Harmony Hall is located within the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province, which stretches from the Fall Line (extending roughly northeast–southwest near Richmond, VA) east to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The terrain within this province is relatively flat and underlain by deep, wedge-shaped sedimentary rocks and deposits more than 2,400 m (7,900') thick laid beginning in the Cretaceous period (approximately 100 million years ago). These include sandstones, clay beds, gravel deposits, and silts that form a thick mantle over the underlying metamorphic bedrock.[4]

The eastern edge of the study area is situated on one of a series of rising river terraces that extend from the floodplain at the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, forming a bowl around Washington, DC. Small streams cut steep-sided ravines through the terraces.[5]

Soils

Upland terraces within the study area, including the eastern edge of the study area near Harmony Hall and higher elevation locations south of Slash Creek, are characterized by Piccowaxen-Liverpool Complex soils, Beltsville silt loam, and Woodstown sandy loam, all of which are some of the best agricultural soils in eastern Maryland.[6] The soils around Want Water are mapped as Swedesboro-Galestown Complex; however, shovel testing for the site's 2015 *Archeological Overview and Assessment* revealed gravelly soils more closely matching the description of another type shown on local soil maps, Grosstown gravelly silt loam. These are also considered prime agricultural soils.[7] Frequently inundated areas along Broad Creek and Slash Creek include Widewater and Issue soils, tidally flooded Nanticoke and Mannington Soils, and Elkton silt loam. These soils are typical of tidal marshes and alluvial floodplains and are not prime farmland.[8]

Waterbodies

Harmony Hall is situated at the head of Broad Creek, an arm of the Potomac River currently dominated by mudflats (Figure 3-1).

A small freshwater stream known as Slash Creek or Clash Creek cuts northwest through the southern portion of the property, isolating approximately 11 acres on its opposite bank from the majority of the study area.[9] The creek depth is relatively shallow and varies with the tide. Slash Creek's streambanks become increasingly incised toward the eastern edge of the study area (Figure 3-2). Erosion along the creek may also result from the construction and demolition of structures accessing the creek, including the location of a removed bridge (Figure 3-3) and boathouse.

Due to the proximity of the study area to Broad Creek and Slash Creek, a substantial portion of the property is within the FEMA 100-year floodplain (refer to Natural Systems and Features Analysis in Figure 3-4). Tidal swamps and marshes occupy these lowland areas on the western side of the study area.

A sea level rise of an increase of 19 cm (~3.5") is predicted by 2030. Rising sea levels will affect tidal freshwater sections of the Potomac River, including Broad Creek and Slash Creek, and may effect the shape or configuration of these waterways.[10]



Figure 3-1. View from West Pasture toward Broad Creek (Quinn Evans, December 2023).



Figure 3-2. Slash Creek, looking east toward confluence with Broad Creek. Low tide conditions emphasize undercutting of the creek banks (Quinn Evans, December 2023).



Figure 3-3. Erosion along Slash Creek may identify the location of a former bridge crossing (Quinn Evans, December 2023).

Ecological Communities

The Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province, which includes the Harmony Hall study area, consists of forests and wetlands that have been substantially altered by a long history of clearing, agriculture, logging, and other anthropogenic disturbances. Ecological communities within the study area are distributed based on their relationship to Broad and Slash Creeks. Wetlands along these creeks are a mix of freshwater tidal mixed high marsh, freshwater tidal swamp, red maple/lizard's tail swamp, and coastal plain streamside forest typical of tidally flooded deciduous forests and shrublands in lower river floodplains and edges of estuaries of the North Atlantic Coastal Plain. Higher-elevation areas along the eastern side of the study area are dominated by successional meadow/grassland or mixed deciduous forest, with remnant cultural vegetation such as lawn and planted pine forest in select locations.[11]

The National Capital Region Invasive Plant Management Team has identified over 60 invasive species within NACE properties, and the project team identified extensive invasive exotic plant species during August and December 2023 field investigations. Commonly observed species included vinca (*Vinca minor*), Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), kudzu (*Pueraria montana*), Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), and English ivy (*Hedera helix*), among others. Refer to the Vegetation section of this chapter for more information on vegetation communities.

No federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species are known to occur within the study area. Due to the low level of human involvement within the Harmony Hall property and its position as a transition zone including both tidal wetlands and upland forests, the site likely provides critical habitat for wildlife populations within the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

Climate

Prince George's County, Maryland, experiences all four seasons. Winters are cold with an average temperature of average temperature of 38.2°F, and summers are hot and humid summers with an average temperature of 77.7°F. Precipitation occurs throughout the year but is more common in the summer. Occasional extreme weather events such as tropical storms and hurricanes lead to flooding in the study area and are often accompanied by heavy winds that damage vegetation communities.[12]

A number of environmental factors within the region are experiencing change, principally temperatures and precipitation. Temperatures are increasing earlier

in the year and remaining warmer later, resulting in a longer growing season. This increased growing time will likely decrease the diversity of native plants and increase the opportunity for exotic invasive vegetation and pests, and it may also decouple the relationship between plant flowering and pollinator activity. Weather data also indicates an increase in precipitation in the region over the last 30 years. Combined with expanding impervious surfaces resulting from new development, this change in precipitation has led to an increase in stormwater discharge volume and quantity, and therefore increased sediment and nutrients in waterways and impacts to stream-dwelling species.[13]

In addition, the mid-Atlantic region of the United States is experiencing twice the global mean rate of relative sea level rise over the past century (3-4 mm/year or ~1/8") and is predicted to increase a further 19 cm (~3.5") by 2030. Rising sea levels directly affect tidal freshwater sections of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers (and therefore Broad Creek and Slash Creek within the study area) and will likely result in more frequent inundation, possible displacement of resources, and a higher risk of storm damage at Harmony Hall.[14]

Analysis

Natural systems and features within the study area are illustrated on Figure 3-4.

Contributing natural systems and features

Harmony Hall's natural systems were a primary influence on development of the site during both the Tobacco Era and later Collins Era and are retained from the period of significance. Contributing features include:

- Geology and soils
- Slash (or Clash) Creek
- Broad Creek
- Tidal swamp and marsh

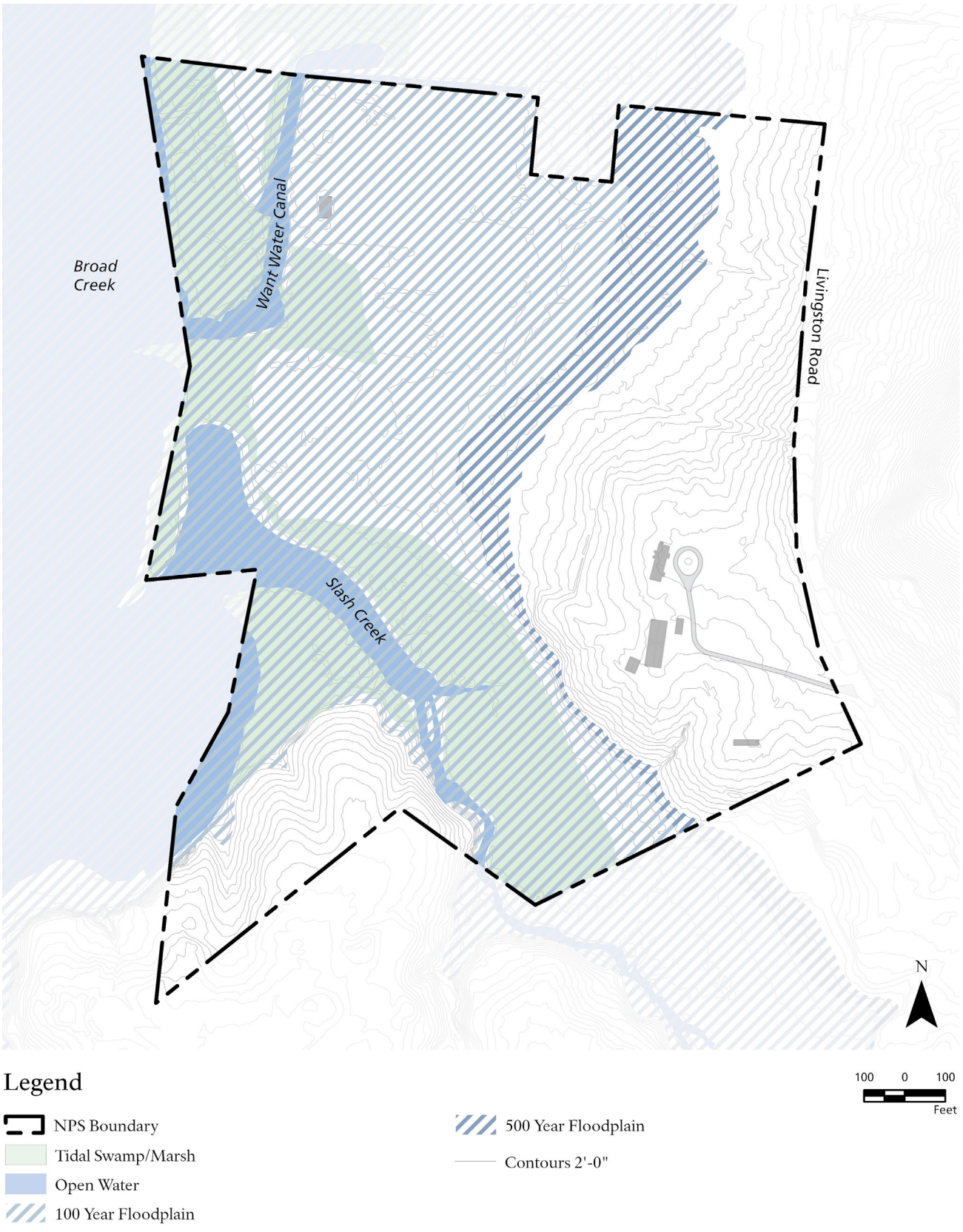


Figure 3-4. Natural systems and features analysis

TOPOGRAPHY

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Development during the Tobacco Era responded directly to topographic conditions within the study area. Want Water and the Broad Creek/Aire townsite were situated within the floodplain with direct access to waterways that supported tobacco cultivation, sale, and transport. Harmony Hall, meanwhile, was constructed on a high point of the natural river terrace to take advantage of views and wind patterns and to enforce hierarchal Georgian design principals.

Collins Era (1929–64)

During the Collins Era the natural site topography was accentuated through the construction of stepped terraces on the steep slope south of Harmony Hall manor house. West of the manor house, a ha-ha wall was constructed to preserve views from the high point toward the river while creating a natural barrier within the pasture. Collins added access points to waterbodies from Slash Creek and the extended Want Water Canal, utilizing dredge from the two features to support nearby earthmoving activities.

After 1964

Changes to the topography since the end of the period of significance have been minor and reflect construction of adjacent facilities or new uses within the study area landscape. In 1965, an underground water line was constructed through the floodplain along Slash Creek, the west pasture, and the pine stand to connect to the WSCC Broad Creek Pumping station. Minor modifications to topography by the Battersea Driving Company included grading associated with new buildings as well as a corral north of the southeast entrance driveway. Lack of maintenance and increased precipitation contribute to the erosion of human-made topographic features including the ha-ha and Collins Era terraces as well as streambanks and steep slopes.

Existing Condition

Topography within the Harmony Hall study area is defined by the site's relationship to Broad Creek and its associated floodplain. The bank of Broad Creek is the low point of the study area at approximately 2' above sea level, and the western half of the study area is situated within low-lying tidal marshes and swamps in the creek's floodplain. Existing slopes are illustrated on Figure 3-5.

The study area's gently rolling landscape rises to the east, encompassing a low river terrace approximately 40' above sea level. Harmony Hall is situated near the high point of the terrace at 38' above sea level, maximizing the mansion's views toward the Potomac River. Slopes along the river terrace edge average 0–5%, much of which has been modified by human-made topographic features including the Collins Era terraces and ha-ha.

Slash Creek carves a narrow valley though the southeastern portion of the study area. The creek's streambanks become increasingly incised toward the eastern edge of the study area (Figure 3-5). Erosion along Slash Creek may also result from the construction and demolition of structures accessing the creek, including the location of a removed bridge (Figure 3-3) and boathouse. There is an incised channel caused by erosion east of the Collins Era terrace (Figure 3-6). Slope analysis indicates an 8.3% to 12% slope along stream banks with some areas between 12% and 25% (Figure 3-5).

Collins Era Terraces

South of the bungalow, a series of seven earthen terraces constructed in the early 1930s navigates a rise of approximately 22' between the floodplain along Slash Creek and the lawn surrounding the mansion (Figure 3-6, Figure 3-7, and Figure 3-8). The terraces average 20' wide and 2–2.5' high. Erosion and extensive herbaceous vegetative growth largely obscure the stepped topography of the terraces, particularly during leaf-on. A gutter, stone and brick flower bed edging, and formal stone circle walk identified in previous site surveys were not discernible during 2023 field investigations. Western portions of the terrace system are reinforced with dry-laid stone walls, which are described in detail in the Buildings and Structures section of this chapter.

Ha-ha and West Pasture Grading

In the early 1930s, Charles Collins constructed a ha-ha extending 75 yards north–south between the west lawn of Harmony Hall and the west pasture. A ha-ha is a sunken or recessed landscape feature, frequently incorporating a retaining wall, that creates a vertical barrier to contain livestock while maintaining long views across a landscape. At Harmony Hall, the ha-ha separated sheep from formal plantings around the mansion while maintaining the view to Broad Creek and the Potomac River. It is composed of an approximately 3' wide, 2' deep rubble retaining wall (described in detail in the Buildings and Structures section of this chapter) paired with a trench (Figure 3-78). From the ha-ha, the west pasture descends toward Broad Creek at a gradual slope ranging from 0–5%.The slope is not uniform but rather is steeper closer to ha-ha wall and very flat closer to Potomac.

Analysis

Contributing Topography

The following topographic features are retained from the period(s) of significance and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape:

- Natural river terrace
- Collins Era terraces
- Grading associated with ha-ha

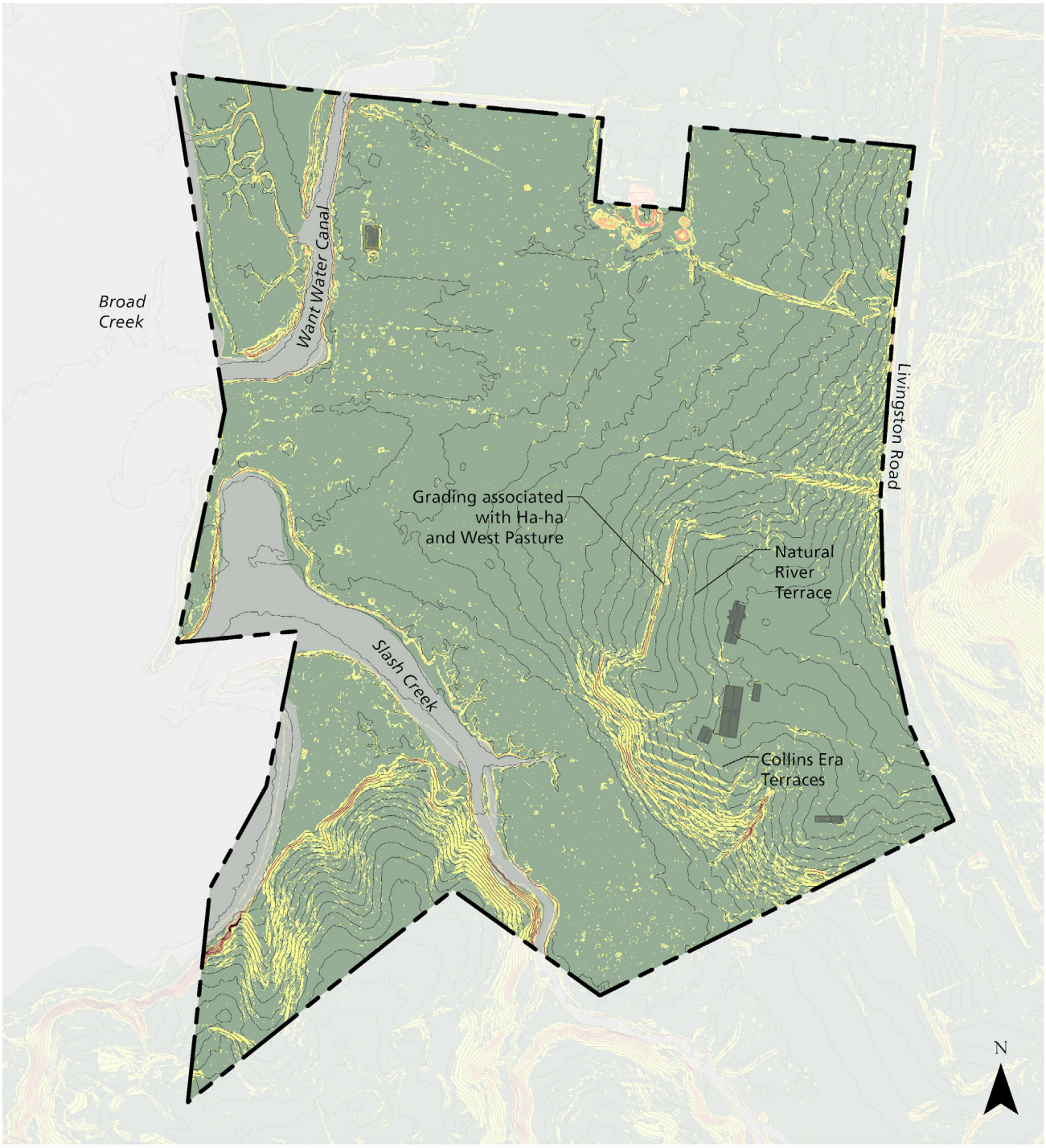


Figure 3-5. Existing topography



Figure 3-6. Incised channel caused by erosion east of the Collins Era terraces (Quinn Evans, December 2023).



Figure 3-7. The earthen Collins Era terraces are most visible during leaf-off (Quinn Evans, December 2023).



Figure 3-8. Collins Era terraces overgrown with vinca and Japanese stiltgrass during leaf-on (Quinn Evans, August 2023).

LAND USE

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

The study area's historical land uses included the agricultural production of tobacco, commercial trade of that product, and residential use. The land was used not just for the production but also for the sale of tobacco, including shipbuilding, the housing and enslavement of people, a tobacco inspection warehouse, and Want Water Canal, which provided for the movement of tobacco in and out of the Broad Creek estuary. The port town of Aire/Broad Creek was a node in the transatlantic economy, a triangular trade that exchanged European capital, enslaved African laborers, and American land and resources.

Collins Era (1929–64)

During the Collins Era the residential and agricultural land use continued but shifted to fit Collins's idealized conceptions of a southern plantation. Physical manifestations included a massive restoration of the house and the design and development of the landscape to fit his vision of the colonial era. Limited agricultural use continued on the property, with a shift to wheat and rye. Collins also planted a pine stand.

After 1964

After Charles Collins's death, portions of the landscape were sold, including four acres and a right-of-way to Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) for a pumping station and ten acres for to Prince George's County Board of Education for an elementary school that was later converted into a regional arts center. These changes reflect broader changes in landscape use as the area became more populated, which necessitated improvements to public infrastructure. The National Park Service acquired the remaining acreage of Harmony Hall as part of the long-term efforts to extend the George Washington Parkway. Residential use briefly continued on the site because the sale included a life occupancy agreement for the remainder of Sue Spencer Collins's life. A proposed section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway that would have extended the road into Maryland did not materialize. Following the death of Sue Collins, NPS initiated an agreement through its Historic Leasing Program to lease the Harmony Hall property. In 1985 Frank L. Calhoun and Herman Carlton Huhn of the Battersea Driving Company, Ltd., leased the property for use of the manor house as a residence and to operate a Morgan horse breeding farm and carriage driving school. The site has remained vacant since the Battersea Driving Company's occupation ended in 1999. Note this equestrian use occurred after the period of significance and is no longer present, and it is not a contributing or missing use from the historic period.

Existing Condition

Harmony Hall is situated in an area of low-density suburban residential and commercial development in western Prince George's County, Maryland. Public access to the property is only authorized on foot, and the site is gated at all entrances. Dense successional woodland along Livingston Road blocks views into the property and likely reduces public interest in the site. NPS contracts regular mowing around the mansion, entrance drive, stables, and bungalow, although mown areas are not consistent with the historic extent of lawn around Harmony Hall (Figure 3-9).

Adjacent properties include both public and private land uses. The WSSC Water's Broad Creek Pumping Station is immediately north of the study area. The pumping station is separated from NPS property by a brick and metal picket fence and is partially visible from the pine stand and trail to Want Water. A mown drainage channel connects from the pumping station to the historic Want Water Canal (Figure 3-10). Immediately south of the study area is the Harmony Hall Regional Center, a community center operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The center includes an art gallery, concert hall, fitness room, meeting rooms, a multipurpose room, playground, and a preschool room. A wire fence separates the regional center and NPS properties.

Despite limited visibility and signage identifying the Harmony Hall property, several unauthorized uses were documented during 2023 field investigations. Unauthorized trails are being cleared on the north side of the property. A mown trail extends west from the WSSC property along the drainage channel and canal to Want Water (Figure 3-11). A bare earth trail also winds through the pine stand and successional forest from the WSSC access road to Want Water (Figure 3-12).

Analysis

Contributing Land Uses

Existing land uses within the study area do not reflect the agricultural, commercial, and domestic uses associated with the historic landscape during the period of significance and do not contribute to the site's historic character. Recreational land use present during the Battersea Driving Company occupation is not representative of either historic or existing land use.



Figure 3-9. Mowing around the manor house, stables, and bungalow creates spatial patterns inconsistent with the historic landscape condition. Here, mowing around a fallen tree creates a forested space that was not present during the periods of significance (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-10. WSSC Broad Creek Pumping Station drainage channel (Quinn Evans, December 2023).



Figure 3-11. Unauthorized mown trail from WSSC Broad Creek Pumping Station to Want Water (Quinn Evans, December 2023).



Figure 3-12. Unauthorized bare earth trail through pine stand (Quinn Evans, 2023).

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION AND CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT

Overall Landscape

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Spatial organization during this era was driven by tobacco commerce, and site development was clustered around the confluence of Broad and Slash Creeks, where the tobacco inspection warehouse and Broad Creek/Aire townsite served as critical elements of the small port town.

Collins Era (1929–64)

Collins's dramatic changes to the study area beginning in 1929 resulted in a full reorganization of the landscape, from a layout that was oriented toward Broad Creek and the Potomac River to an organization centered around the Harmony Hall manor and circulation routes connecting to Livingston Road.

After 1964

Diminished use of the Harmony Hall property resulted in a rapid recolonization of the landscape by successional forest as well as deterioration of the pattern of buildings, structures, and circulation features established in the 1930s. By the late 1970s, a number of internal circulation routes had become grown over and were barely discernible within the landscape.

Existing Condition

Spatial organization within the study area today is primarily defined by the site's vegetation patterns and relationship to adjacent waterbodies. Openings in the dense successional forest and tidal swamp create two clusters of development centered around Harmony Hall and Want Water. Both clusters have important spatial connections to waterbodies—Harmony Hall because of its relatively high

topographical position, enabling a visual connection to Broad Creek and the Potomac River, and Want Water because of its proximity and visual connection to the Want Water Canal and Broad Creek.

Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA

The Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA is situated in the eastern portion of the study area between Livingston Road and the ha-ha. This character area occupies a terrace rising 40' above the surrounding floodplain, affording the manor house expansive views to the Potomac River to the west and Livingston Road to the east, and establishing it as a focal point within the broader landscape.

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

A smaller node of development likely surrounded the Harmony Hall manor house during this period, although less is known about outbuildings and circulation routes for this portion of the site. The placement of Battersea (later Harmony Hall) within the landscape exemplifies eighteenth-century Georgian design principles: the manor house is oriented north–south on a high point within the landscape, with windows and doors facing the river to the west and the road to the east. From this high point, the house overlooked the surrounding tobacco fields, town, and outbuildings.

Collins Era (1929–64)

To realize his vision of an idealized Alabama plantation landscape, Collins constructed a series of outbuildings along a plantation street, one of two east–west routes extending between Livingston Road and Harmony Hall. He also expanded the manor house itself and established adjacent outdoor spaces emphasizing views from the manor house toward the Potomac River.

After 1964

The plantation street outbuildings were deemed "unsuited for occupancy" by the 1980s, and many collapsed or were demolished.[15] New buildings, roads, and outdoor spaces were also constructed during the 1980s by the Battersea Driving Company, further altering the Collins Era spatial organization. These additions included an addition to the south side of Harmony Hall, the horse stables, a patio/sculpture garden, and a corral, all clustered near the manor house.

Existing Condition

The Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA now includes all features within the cleared area around the manor house, including Harmony Hall, the horse stable, the bungalow, entrance drives, fences, garden spaces, and ornamental plantings. Within the character area, many features including the manor house, horse stable,

bungalow, and fences and remnant fencelines are oriented north–south along the high point of the terrace, spatially separating the east lawn from the west lawn.

Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA

The Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA occupies the southern portion of the study area below the relatively clear areas surrounding Harmony Hall and within the west pasture. The character area includes the slope between the river terrace occupied by Harmony Hall and the floodplain.

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Given the sloping terrain, this area would have been less suitable for agriculture during the Tobacco Era period than other portions of the study area. The mouth of Slash Creek may have been used for transportation of agricultural goods.

Collins Era (1929–64)

Part of Collin's changes to the site included constructing terraces and retaining walls to navigate the slope from the river terrace to the floodplain, and adding a cypress-lined allée connected to a bridge across Slash Creek.

After 1964

As with much of the site, rapid recolonization of the landscape by successional vegetation has obscured the definition and patterns created in the spatial organization of the landscape by features such as the cypress allée and terraces.

Existing Condition

Today, the Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA is heavily wooded and includes the Collins Era terraces and outbuilding remnants, the cypress allée, Slash Creek, marshes and swamps within the floodplain, and the woodlot on the south side of Slash Creek. Although many of the historic features within the LCA are obscured by dense vegetation, the cypress allée remains a visually prominent connection between the Collins Era terraces and Slash Creek.

Want Water and Pine Stand LCA

The Want Water and Pine Stand LCA includes the wooded, northern portion of the study area between Livingston Road to Broad Creek. Its southern boundary is the relatively open spaces associated with the west pasture and Harmony Hall.

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Eighteenth-century site development was clustered around the confluence of Broad Creek, where the tobacco inspection warehouse and Broad Creek/Aire townsite served as critical elements of the small port town.

Collins Era (1929–64)

Collins's landscape retained a small cluster of buildings and an extended canal at Want Water, which were typically visible from the manor house. However, inconsistencies in maintenance and the addition of a pine stand north of Harmony Hall in the late 1940s resulted in modifications to the study area's pattern of open space over the course of this period.

After 1964

After 1964, diminished use of the Harmony Hall property resulted in a rapid recolonization of the landscape by successional forest and accompanying deterioration of this LCA's spatial patterns.

Existing Condition

The existing Want Water and Pine Stand LCA contains Want Water, the Want Water Canal, the pine stand, and remnants of Collins Era outbuildings as well as modern and historic circulation routes. The character area occupies the floodplain and is dominated by dense successional forest and remnant pine stand, which visually separates the location from the rest of the study area, including views of Harmony Hall. Want Water is situated in a small clearing on the west end of the character area, with limited visual connections to the north–south-aligned Want Water Canal. Circulation routes within the character area are typically so overgrown as to no longer influence spatial organization.

West Pasture LCA

The West Pasture LCA includes the central portion of the study area historically occupied by the west pasture. It extends between the ha-ha and Broad Creek and incorporates portions of Slash Creek. This character area incorporates the slope of the river terrace between Harmony Hall and Broad Creek.

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Tobacco fields occupied arable portions of the landscape and were frequently rotated. Enslaved workers' living quarters were ephemeral and changed along with the field locations. Continued agricultural use throughout the period suggests that the landscape was relatively open, with a high level of visibility between buildings and the river.

Collins Era (1929–64)

New circulation routes extended around the west pasture, where Collins grazed sheep on the west side of a ha-ha. The design maintained broad views between the manor house and the Potomac River through pasture or planted fields.

After 1964

Diminished use of the Harmony Hall property resulted in a rapid recolonization of the landscape by successional vegetation obscuring the view and spatial organization of the west pasture established in the Collins Era.

Existing Condition

Today, the LCA is primarily defined by meadow and vineland/shrubland vegetation that creates a relatively open space within the historic pasture, although early successional trees have begun to encroach on its historic extent and enclose the space.

Analysis

Figure 3-13 highlights patterns of spatial organization visible in 1708–98, 1929–64, and 2024, permitting comparison of the approximate extent of field openings over time.

Contributing Spatial Organization

Although the existing landscape more clearly reflects the Collins Era than the Tobacco Era, aspects of the spatial organization of both eras are retained in the landscape. Limited spatial arrangements retained in the existing landscape from the Tobacco Era include the relationships between the Harmony Hall manor house, ruins of the Want Water manor house, Livingston Road, Broad Creek, and Slash Creek.

Today, the study area retains Collins Era spatial organization through its orientation to Livingston Road, which reinforces the development patterns established during the early 1930s. Existing entry drives to the property follow Collins Era routes, and a number of the buildings, structures, and topographic features constructed during this period remain on the landscape and communicate historic spatial relationships (primarily as ruins).

The historic spatial organization is impacted by extensive vegetation encroachment, which obscures relationships between the two manor houses, former agricultural fields, and Broad and Slash Creeks. In addition, unauthorized mowing around fallen trees and other obstacles is creating spatial patterns that do not reflect the historic condition.

The following features and aspects contribute to the historic character of the landscape:

- Location of Harmony Hall manor house on high point of site with views to the river and road
- Relationship of Want Water manor house ruins to canal and Broad Creek
- Cluster of buildings, building ruins, structures, circulation routes, ornamental vegetation patterns, and human-made topographic features near Livingston Road, consistent with Collins Era spatial organization

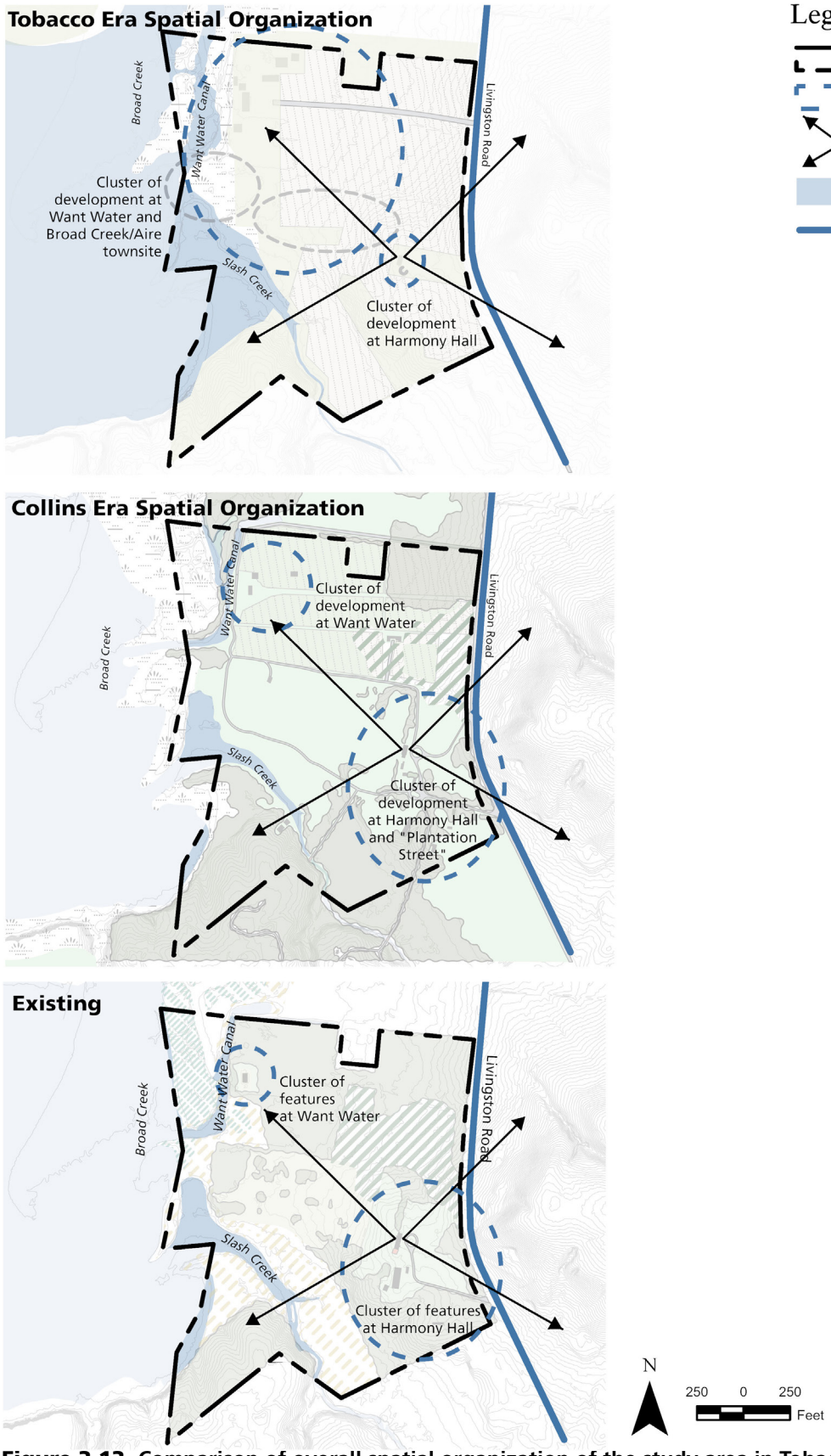


Figure 3-13. Comparison of overall spatial organization of the study area in Tobacco Era, Collins Era, and 2023. Features and aspects critical to the site's spatial organization are identified in blue.

VIEWS

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Historic views at Harmony Hall during the Tobacco Era included those to and from the Harmony Hall manor house and Broad Creek and the Potomac River. The manor house is situated on a rise above the river banks, creating a broad vista from its west side toward the river and providing views from river travelers to the building. The manor house also likely had a visual connection with Piscataway Road (Livingston Road) during this period. Want Water's proximity to Broad Creek would have supported views between the house, Broad Creek/Aire townsite, and the river.

Collins Era (1929–1964)

Charles Collins's extensive colonial revival modifications to the landscape enhanced the broad views between the Harmony Hall manor house and the Potomac River through the creation of the west pasture and ha-ha. The landscape also retained filtered views between the manor house and the road. Despite significant changes to the buildings and land uses present at Want Water and the Broad Creek/Aire townsite, these areas retained a visual connection to Broad Creek and the Potomac River.

After 1964

Changes to the study area's views after the end of the period of significance result from an expansion of woody vegetation and the loss of historic features within the viewsheds. In 1980, the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Harmony Hall described the view west from the house as "a marvelous open vista from Harmony Hall to Broad Creek and the Potomac River."[16] Infrequent mowing has allowed vineland/shrubland and early successional trees to obscure this view, particularly during leaf-on. A similar pattern is observed for other historic views. In addition, loss of buildings, structures, small-scale features, and circulation routes that anchor historic views diminishes the integrity of these views in the existing landscape.

Existing Condition

Views at Harmony Hall are primarily defined by vegetation and topography and are oriented in relation to the primary structures of Harmony Hall and Want Water. The views present today affect the ability of future visitors to visualize historic conditions and understand the relationship of the landscape to its use for tobacco production, commercial enterprise, and redevelopment into a colonial revival interpretation of a pre-Civil War plantation.

Figure 3-14 through Figure 3-20 present a series of comparison views within the study area, noting similarities and changes between the periods of significance and today. The views are located within the landscape on Figure 3-21. Comparative imagery dates to the Collins Era (1929–64), as imagery from the Tobacco Era (1708–98) is not available. Aspects of these views that would have been present during the earlier period are noted where applicable.

View A. View from Harmony Hall facing west toward the Potomac River (Figure 3-15)

This ca. 1930s view (top) documents the ha-ha in the foreground, sheep grazing in the west pasture, Slash Creek to the left, and the Potomac River and distant shore of Virginia in the background. A similar view (middle) from August 2023 is during leaf-on. The view of Slash Creek, the Potomac River, and the Virginia shore are heavily obscured by successional vegetation occupying the west pasture. The same vantage point in December 2023 taken during leaf-off shows visual connections between the manor house and Potomac River are present but partially obscured. The view retains integrity for the Collins Era but will continue to be impacted by successional growth. The placement of Harmony Hall manor house on the site's high point, surrounded by relatively low-height tobacco fields, suggests that this viewshed was also important during the Tobacco Era. During that period, the view would have included the Broad Creek/Aire townsite, a cluster of development associated with Want Water, and dwellings occupied by people enslaved on the plantations. Although those features are now missing, the view retains critical connections to the Potomac River and Broad Creek and retains integrity for this period. Vegetation along the banks of Broad Creek and Slash Creek also blocks views of modern development on the west bank of the Potomac River.

View B. View from West Pasture to Harmony Hall (Figure 3-16)

This view (top) is from the west pasture facing east toward Harmony Hall, ca. 1930s. The west pasture is in the foreground and terminates at the ha-ha. Harmony Hall, the lawn, and ornamental plantings are visible in the background. The sloping hillside beyond Livingston Road can be seen in the far distance. A similar view (bottom) from December 2023 shows successional vegetation has overgrown the west pasture and obscures everything but the rooftop of Harmony Hall. Although the view is no longer consistent with its historic condition during the Collins Era, vegetation changes can be reversed to improve the integrity of the view. During the Tobacco Era, this view would likely have included portions of the Broad Creek/Aire townsite, dwellings occupied by people enslaved on the plantations, and broad tobacco fields as well as the manor house. The view no longer retains integrity for this period.







Figure 3-14. View A. View from Harmony Hall facing west toward the Potomac River.

Top. This ca. 1930s view. (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Middle. Similar view, August 2023 (Quinn Evans).

Bottom. Similar view, December 2023 (Quinn Evans).

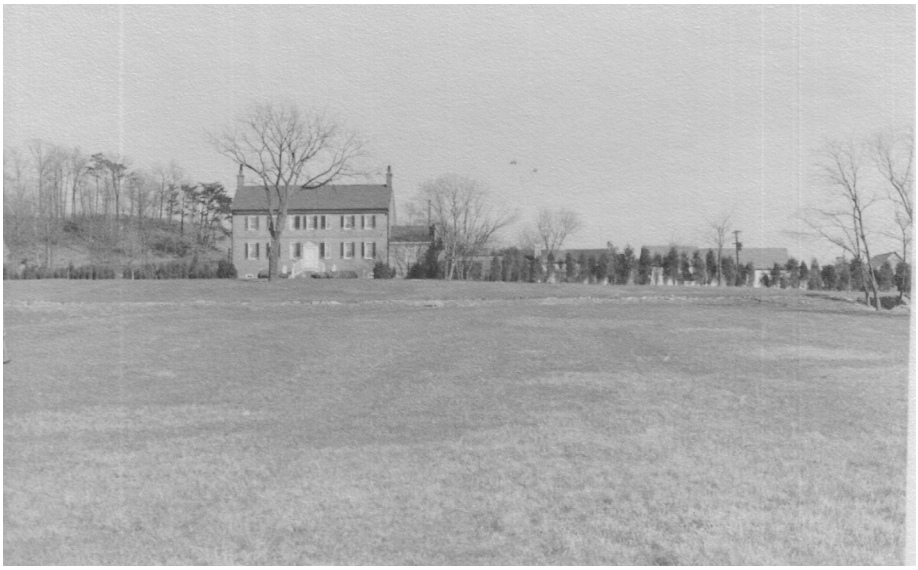




Figure 3-15. View B. View from west pasture to Harmony Hall.

Top. View from west pasture facing east toward Harmony Hall, ca. 1930s (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Bottom. Similar view, December 2023 (Quinn Evans).

View C. View from Harmony Hall manor house to Livingston Road (Figure 3-17)

This view (top) is toward Livingston Road from the north circle drive on the east side of the manor house, ca. early 1930s. Livingston Road is clearly visible, as well as a neighboring house on the hillside behind road. A similar view (middle) from August 2023 shows vegetation heavily obscuring the visual connection between the manor house and Livingston Road, although filtered moments of visual connection persist between the trees. A similar view (bottom) from December 2023 shows a partially screened view exists between the manor house and Livingston Road during leaf-off. Drivers experience periodic glimpses of the house. Vegetation encroachment impacting this view is reversible, and Collins Era historic spatial relationships between the manor house, road, and driveways are retained. Although a visual connection was present between Harmony Hall and Livingston Road (Piscataway Road) during the Tobacco Era, the features that defined the eighteenth century view are unknown and it does not reflect Tobacco Era conditions.

View D. View toward Harmony Hall from Livingston Road (Figure 3-18)

The view (top) toward Harmony Hall is from the southeast entrance drive, facing west, ca. early 1930s. In the foreground, servants' quarters line the Collins Era plantation street. In the background from left to right are a structure of unknown use, the garage, and the Harmony Hall manor. A similar view (middle) from August 2023 shows leaf-on conditions no longer represent the character of the Collins Era landscape due to the loss of 1930s structures, the addition of the Battersea Driving Company stable, and mature trees that now obscure relationships between historic features. A similar view (bottom) from December 2023 with leaf-off conditions illustrates that historic spatial relationships between the manor house and entry driveway (plantation street) are retained in the view. Vegetation encroachment impacting these conditions is reversible. A visual connection was likely present between Harmony Hall and Livingston Road (Piscataway Road) during the Tobacco Era; however, the locations of the original driveway and other features near the manor house are unknown. This view is not reflective of Tobacco Era conditions.



Figure 3-16. View C. View from Harmony Hall manor house to Livingston Road.

Top. View toward Livingston Road from north circle drive on the east side of the manor house, ca. early 1930s (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Middle. Similar view, August 2023 (Quinn Evans).

Bottom. Similar view, December 2023 (Quinn Evans).

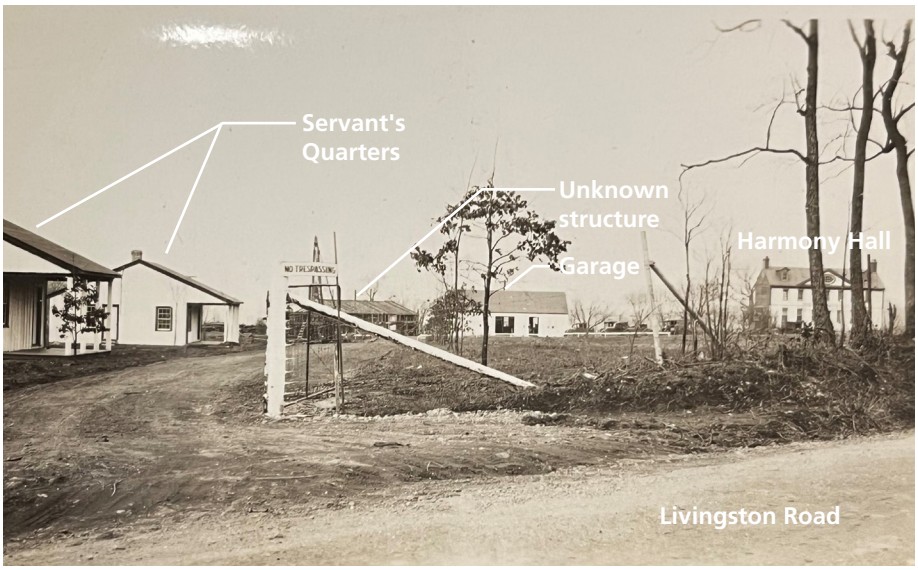






Figure 3-17. View D. View toward Harmony Hall from Livingston Road.

Top. View toward Harmony Hall from the southeast entrance drive, facing west, ca. early 1930s (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

Middle. Similar view, August 2023 (Quinn Evans).

Bottom. Leaf-off conditions in December, 2023 (Quinn Evans)





Figure 3-18. View E. View of Want Water manor (ruins).

Top. View of Want Water facing northeast, ca. 1930s (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Bottom. Similar view of Want Water manor house ruin, August 2023 (Quinn Evans).

View E. View of Want Water manor (ruins) (Figure 3-19)

A comparison of views of Want Water, facing northeast, illustrates the substantial loss of the structure between the 1930s and 2023. The view continues to communicate the massing of Want Water manor and the vegetation condition present during the Collins Era. However, continued deterioration of the Want Water ruins will impact the integrity of the view. Although a comparative image is not available for the Tobacco Era, the view is likely no longer representative of the landscape condition from 1708–1798 due to the loss of portions of the original Want Water manor house structure, outbuildings, and surrounding agricultural and commercial land use and features.

View F. View of Broad Creek from Want Water (Figure 3-20)

In a 1930s image of the Collins Era canal, Want Water is clearly visible on the right side of the frame. In contrast, an August 2023 image illustrates a partially obscured visual connection between Want Water and the canal. During the Tobacco Era, numerous features associated with agricultural and commercial land uses would likely have been visible in this area; today, only the ruin of Want Water remains. The historical visual relationship of the Want Water manor house, the Want Water Canal, and Broad Creek is retained from the Collins Era period of significance, although partially obscured by vegetation along the shoreline.

View G. View northeast along cypress allée (Figure 3-21)

This view extends from the southern end of cypress allée toward Harmony Hall manor house, stone steps, and terraces, all of which are visible in the ca. 1930s image (top). A similar view (bottom) from December 2023 shows cypress trees have matured and continue to frame the location of the road trace, although the road grade is now obscured by tidal swamp vegetation and cypress knees. Successional understory vegetation also obscures the view of the terraces, stone steps, and manor house. However, modifications to vegetation since the end of the period of significance are reversible. This view retains integrity for the Collins Era. It is not associated with the Tobacco Era.





Figure 3-19. View F. View of Broad Creek from Want Water.

Top. View of Collins Era canal with Want Water on the right of the image, ca. early 1930s (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

Bottom. View from Want Water toward the canal, August 2023 (Quinn Evans).



Figure 3-20. View G. View northeast along cypress allée.

Top. View from southern end of cypress allée towards Harmony Hall manor house, stone steps, and terraces ca. 1930s (Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland).

Bottom. Similar view, December 2023 (Quinn Evans).



Legend

NPS Boundary

Significant View

View A: View from Harmony Hall facing west towards the Potomac River.
View B: View from West Pasture facing east toward Harmony Hall.
View C: View from Harmony Hall manor house to Livingston Road.
View D: View toward Harmony Hall from Livingston Road.
View E: View of Want Water manor (ruins).
View F. View of Broad Creek from Want Water.
View G: View northeast along Cypress Allée.

Figure 3-21. Views analysis

Analysis

Contributing Views

Within the existing landscape, dense vegetation has obscured significant visual connections throughout the site. However, adjacent modern land use is also screened from view by vegetation, protecting the integrity of the site's setting.

All six views presented in Figure 3-14 through Figure 3-20 contribute to the historic character of the landscape. Views A, B, C, D, F and G are all obscured to varying degrees by vegetation. While comparative imagery is not available for the Tobacco era, the loss of features associated with eighteenth-century agricultural and commercial use impacts the integrity of views A, B, F, G. View E of Want Water continues to lose integrity as the structure further deteriorates. Further detail on Evaluation for each view is included in Table 3.1: Evaluated Inventory of Landscape Features: Harmony Hall.

CIRCULATION

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Extant (contributing) and missing circulation features dating from 1708–98 are illustrated on Figure 3-32.

Livingston Road dates to the eighteenth century and was constructed to connect Piscataway, Fort Washington, and Bladensburg, MD. Limited circulation was undoubtedly present within the study area to support operations at Battersea (Harmony Hall), Want Water, and the Broad Creek/Air Townsite during this period, but no remnants of these internal routes are present within the existing landscape. It is likely that circulation routes were clustered near Broad Creek to serve the port and tobacco inspection warehouse along its banks. Known routes include a historic drive connecting Piscataway Road and Want Water documented on an 1860s map of the property and a brick roadway uncovered while NPS staff undertook stabilization work at Want Water in 2003.[17]

A connection between Piscataway Road and Harmony Hall was likely present during this period. Entrances on the building's east façade are oriented to Livingston Road (Piscataway Road), and a Civil War-era map identifies a single straight road or driveway connecting to the mansion.[18] The precise alignment of the historic route is unknown.

Collins Era (1929–64)

Extant (contributing) and missing circulation features dating from 1929–64 are illustrated on Figure 3-32.

During the 1930s, Charles Collins established a new circulation network within the study area that clustered around the Harmony Hall mansion and outbuildings rather than the site's earlier development at Want Water and the bank of Broad Creek. The circulation system included two east–west routes extending from Livingston Road toward the Harmony Hall manor house, terminating in two circle drives. A network of north–south routes connected to outbuildings near the manor house, and a series of loop trails extended to Broad Creek and Want Water. Collins also constructed a patio on the west side of the manor house, facing the river.

After 1964

By 1977 the circulation system Collins established deteriorated significantly due to infrequent use. Circulation patterns continued to change during the Battersea Company occupancy, and most of the existing circulation features reflect Battersea's use of the property. During this period (1985–99), the company installed brick patios along the south and west elevations of the house, brick pathways that crisscrossed the center of the circle drive, and a large horse corral on the lawn between the northeast and southeast drives. Historic routes that are still prominent within the landscape, such as the two entrance driveways, are those that were modified for use by the Battersea Company.

Existing Condition

Existing circulation within the study area consists of roads, trails, road traces, and patios. As NPS does not maintain roads or trails within the study area, these features are typically visible as a raised roadbed, minor change in surface material, and absence of mature vegetation.

Roads

Livingston Road is a two-lane asphalt-paved highway extending north–south along the eastern boundary of the study area (Figure 3-22). It is not owned or managed by NPS.

Two single-lane gravel-paved driveways provide access to the study area from Livingston Road. The northeast entrance driveway follows a curving route from an entrance gate northeast of Harmony Hall to a circular turnaround immediately east of the mansion. The road is heavily overgrown and is primarily visible as a topographic feature, although gravel is still evident below the ground cover (Figure 3-23).

Another gravel driveway extends from an entrance gate southwest of Harmony Hall toward the horse stable before turning north and connecting the circular

turnaround. Historically known as the plantation street, the southeast entrance driveway now functions as the primary entrance to the study area. It is paved in pea gravel and substantially overgrown with grass (Figure 3-24).

The circle drive immediately east of Harmony Hall is a single-lane circular turnaround encircling a raised oval measuring approximately 58' north–south and 50' east–west. Similar to the two entrance drives, it is paved in pea gravel but overgrown with grass and is primarily visible as a topographic feature (Figure 3-25). The interior of the circle is marked by five small boulders aligned with the axes of the two connecting entrance drives. Grass has grown over the Battersea Drive Company walkways that previously crisscrossed the interior of the circle.



Figure 3-22. Livingston Road facing south (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-23. View of northeast entrance driveway from circle drive facing east (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-24. Southeast entrance driveway (plantation street) facing west (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-25. Circle drive and boulders (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Trails

A bare earth trail connects between Harmony Hall and Want Water. The trail extends along the fenceline north of the mansion and turns west at the pine stand, then continues in a roughly straight path to the Want Water Canal, where it once again turns north and parallels the canal to the northern boundary of the study area. Portions of the trail near Harmony Hall are visible in the landscape as a rough grade, although fallen trees and dense herbaceous vegetation limit pedestrian movement and mowing along the route (Figure 3-26). North of the west pasture, the trail becomes completely overgrown with early successional trees and is impassible (Figure 3-27). A segment of the route between Want Water and the northern study area boundary is mown.



Figure 3-26. Trail to Want Water near Harmony Hall manor house (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-27. Trail to Want Water near Want Water manor house ruin (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-28. Cypress allée (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Unknown individuals are currently maintaining two trails on the north side of the property. A mown route extends along the WSSC drainage on the study area's northern boundary, then turns south along the canal to access Want Water (Figure 3-11). Another bare earth trail connects through the successional forest and pine stand from the WSSC access road to Want Water (Figure 3-12). Maintenance along this route includes clearing fallen trees; footprints were clearly visible in leaf cover during field investigations, and pedestrian activity is regular enough to discourage herbaceous vegetation growth.

Road Traces

Remnants of several historic routes are perceptible in the landscape as road grades. These features are not maintained as trail or road routes and are rapidly deteriorating and becoming overgrown with vegetation.

A road trace extends southwest through the center of the cypress allée, connecting the Collins Era terraces to Slash Creek. Cypress knees and tidal flooding occur within the road trace (Figure 3-28). On the south side of Slash Creek, another road grade extends southeast and up the hill along the streambank (Figure 3-29).

Two other road traces are present near the Collins Era terraces: a north–south route connecting Collins Era outbuilding remnants to Harmony Hall and a route extending west from the terraces. The route extending west from the terraces is reinforced by two dry-laid stone retaining walls, discussed in detail in the Buildings and Structures section of this chapter. Both road traces are heavily overgrown and difficult to distinguish in the landscape. A deep ditch parallels the north–south route. Another road trace extends north through the pine stand to a Collins Era outbuilding remnant on the north side of the property. The feature is relatively flat and most discernible by a shallow ditch along the east side of the grade (Figure 3-29).

Patios and Walkways

A raised brick patio terrace designed to incorporate a series of concentric walkways occupies a small space on the south side of the Harmony Hall mansion. The outline of brick walkways is visible, but vegetation is growing in the mortar joints (Figure 3-30). The original central fountain and any associated ornamental plantings are missing. Remnants of a small brick patio are also present near the west (river) entrance to Harmony Hall. The patio is extensively overgrown with grass and only small remnants were visible during 2023 field investigations.

A single partially buried stone step evidences a missing walkway between the bungalow and Collins Era terraces (Figure 3-31).



Figure 3-29. Road grade south of Slash Creek (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-30. North–south route through Pine Stand to Collins Era outbuilding remnant (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-31. Brick patio (sculpture garden) south of Harmony Hall manor house (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Analysis

Contributing Circulation Features

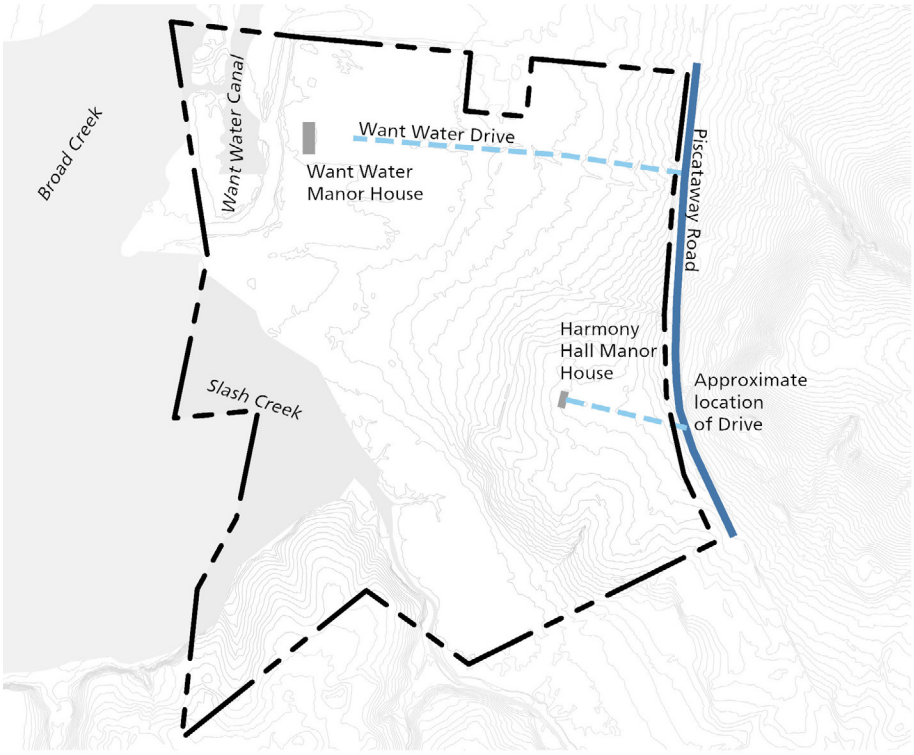
Existing contributing and non-contributing circulation features are illustrated on Figure 3-33.

The single circulation feature retained from the Tobacco Era period of significance (1708–98) is Livingston Road, known during the period as Piscataway Road. The road retains its historic alignment and continues to access the study area. The segment of trail immediately east of the Want Water Canal may also follow portions of the Want Water Canal towpath established during this period, although physical evidence of the surface and route is no longer visible on the landscape.

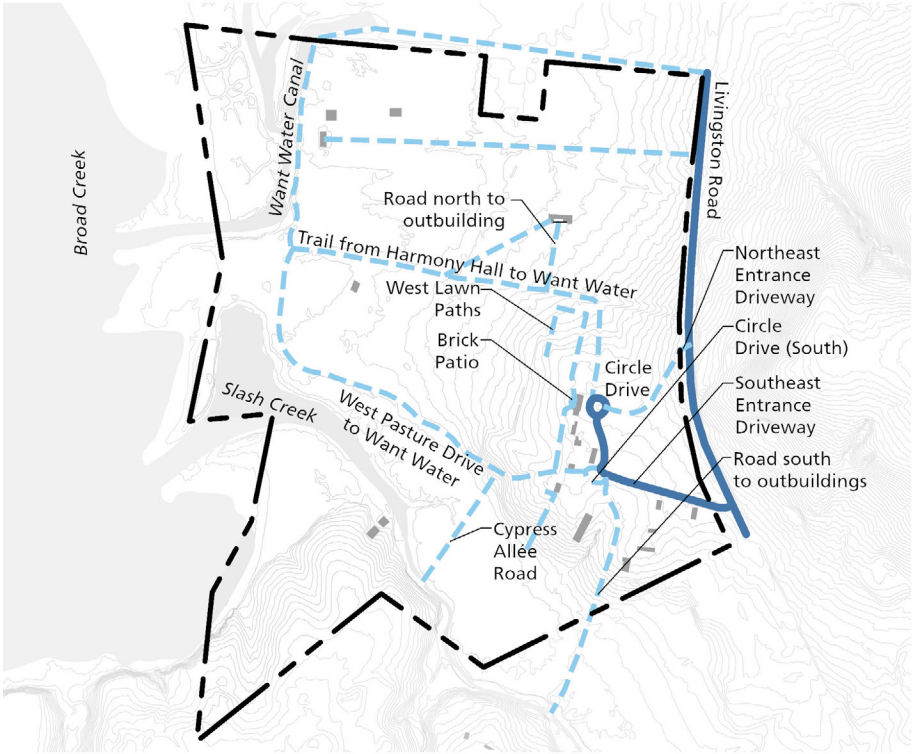
Existing circulation features retained from the Collins Era include the plantation street (southeast entrance driveway), northeastern entrance driveway, circle drive, and road traces associated with the cypress allée, Slash Creek bridge, terraces, and outbuildings. The historic plantation street currently serves as the study area's primary access route. The trail to Want Water also maintains a drive to Want Water and a portion of the canal towpath established during this period. Other roads, road traces, and patio surfaces dating to the Collins Era are overgrown and are difficult to discern in the landscape. The south circle and drive to Want Water through the west pasture are no longer present. A stone step south of the bungalow suggests a north–south route connecting the bungalow and Collins Era terraces, but historic research has not identified the construction date and contributing status of this feature. Similarly, research has not identified a date associated with the road trace south of Slash Creek.

The following circulation features are retained from the periods of significance and contribute to the historic character of the landscape:

- Livingston (Piscataway) Road
- Southeast entrance drive (plantation street)
- Northeast entrance drive
- Circle drive
- Cypress allée road trace
- Road trace connecting cypress allée and outbuildings
- Road trace connecting Harmony Hall and outbuildings (south)
- Road trace connecting Harmony Hall and outbuilding (north)
- Trail to Want Water



Tobacco Era Circulation



Collins Era Circulation



Figure 3-32. Comparison of extant (contributing) circulation routes and missing routes from the Tobacco Era period of significance (1708–98) and Collins Era period of significance (1929–64).

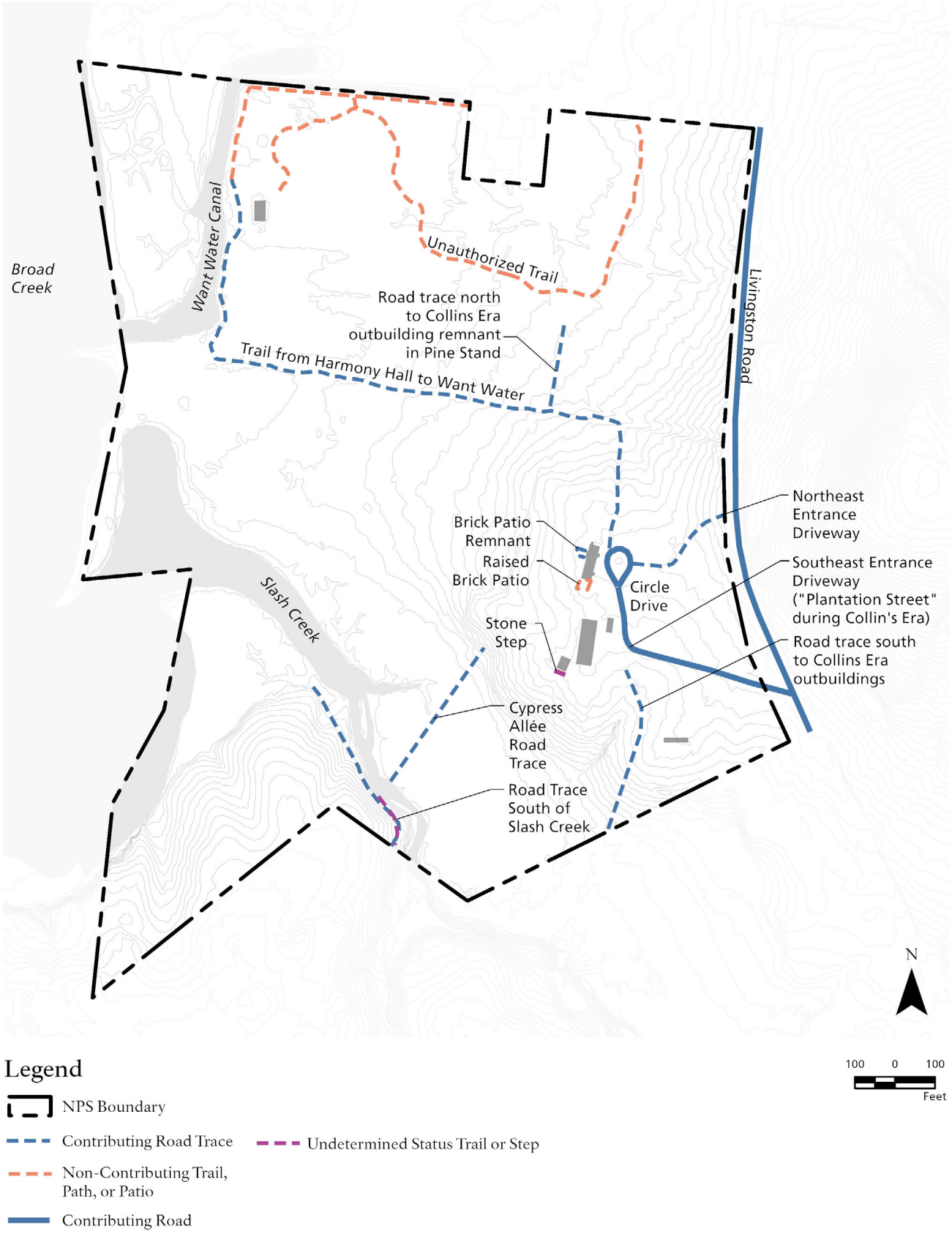


Figure 3-33. Existing contributing and non-contributing circulation routes

VEGETATION

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Extant (contributing) and missing vegetation dating from 1708–98 is illustrated on Figure 3-46. During this period, vegetation within the study area was likely dominated by agricultural fields. As tobacco quickly exhausted the soil (typically within three years), fields would have been periodically occupied by livestock or left fallow for a 20-year rotation to restore fertility to the soil. Within this study area, the landscape was likely a patchwork of active fields and early successional meadow or vine/shrubland. Similar to patterns on the existing landscape, marsh and swamp communities would have occupied tidal flats during this period, although siltation and shifting tidal flats may have altered the location of these areas.

Specific vegetation at Battersea/Harmony Hall and Want Water is identified in several documents from the Tobacco Era. A 1709 deed of sale describes tobacco houses, barns, orchards, and gardens, suggesting that both tobacco and other crops were grown at this time.[19] Although the exact form of the orchards and gardens at Battersea during this period are not known, colonial-era orchards typically fell into two categories—the formal walled gardens of wealthy landowners and the less-formal farm orchards of working farmers. Prominent landowners in colonial North America, like their European counterparts, developed walled gardens close to the manor house that enclosed fruit trees densely planted in formal arrangements and pruned to various hedge and espaliered forms featuring apricots, nectarines, and a wide array of fine European fruits. Farm orchards, by contrast, lacked formal geometry. In these orchards, farmers cleared land and sowed apple seeds over a few acres to establish a largely irregular orchard of 250 to 300 apple trees.[20] As Lewis was both a member of the landed gentry and owner of land cultivated for farming, it is difficult to determine to which category the Battersea orchards belonged. Depositions taken in 1745 describe a cornfield at the mouth of Slash Creek, and a hickory is referenced as a boundary marker in the 1662 land patent.[21]

Collins Era (1929–64)

Extant (contributing) and missing vegetation dating from 1929–64 is illustrated on Figure 3-46. From 1929 through the 1930s, Charles Collins undertook an extensive transformation of what he described as the "awfully messy" Harmony Hall property to formal vegetation patterns representative of a colonial revival plantation landscape.[22] He cleared areas east and west of the manor house to create open lawns and established an extensive pasture west of the house to Broad Creek. Trees and shrubs highlighted the entrance drives, and English boxwoods

framed the west entrance to the house. South of the manor house, Collins added ornamental plantings along the newly established terraces and bald cypress along the allée between the terraces and Slash Creek. Collins maintained irregularly shaped wheat and rye fields in the northwestern portion of the study area and a small orchard. North of the Harmony Hall manor house, he planted a stand of scotch and loblolly pine reminiscent of forests common in his native Alabama and established thousands of eastern redcedar along the perimeter of the property and fencelines north and south of the house.[23]

After 1964

Since the end of the period of significance, lack of maintenance and natural forest succession has returned much of the property to the forest. In the 1980s, the Battersea Driving Company added flowers and flowering shrubs within a small "sculpture garden" on the south side of the Harmony Hall manor house but made relatively few other intentional modifications to the site's vegetation. Infrequent mowing within the west pasture has allowed this area to become colonized by early successional vegetation. The current mowing regime is creating vegetation patterns that do not reflect historic patterns.

Existing Condition

Harmony Hall is situated on low terraces and tidal wetlands along Broad and Slash Creeks, and its vegetation is a combination of natural and semi-natural communities encroaching upon remnant openings formed by mown turf and designed vegetation at Harmony Hall and Want Water.

Existing vegetation documentation and analysis builds on the 2018 Vegetation Mapping Inventory Project conducted for all NPS National Capital Parks-East (NACE) parks. Invasive plant species are common throughout the cultural landscape and are discussed in detail in the Overall Study Area Natural Systems and Features section of this chapter.

Mixed Forests

Successional forest makes up most of the forest vegetation within the Harmony Hall study area. These vegetation communities, identified by the 2018 Vegetation Mapping Inventory Project of National Capital Parks-East as successional mixed deciduous forest and successional tuliptree forest (tuliptree–oak species forest), are typical of areas where clearcutting, cropping, or other severe disturbance has taken place. The forests occupy both low areas within the floodplain and higher elevation areas on the slopes and river terraces (Figure 3-34). Typical species include tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipfera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), box-elder (*Acer negundo*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*),



Figure 3-34. Successional mixed forest at the Collins Era terraces (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-35. Mesic mixed hardwood forest south of Slash Creek (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-36. Pine stand (Quinn Evans, 2023).

oak species (*Quercus* spp.), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), elm species (*Ulmus* spp.), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Non-native invasive species are common in the understory. Northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) occurs frequently on the edges of open areas surrounding the Harmony Hall manor house.

A relatively small mesic mixed hardwood forest occupies slopes in the southwestern portion of the study area on the south side of Slash Creek (Figure 3-35). The forest canopy is typified by tuliptree, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), oak species, sweetgum, and red maple, with a limited understory composed of native species such as spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), and greenbriers (*Smilax* spp.).Mixed forest makes up approximately 39.50 acres.

Pine Stand

The pine stand comprises a remnant planted evergreen forest and successional Virginia pine forest in the approximate location of a pine forest planted by Collins in 1935 immediately north of Harmony Hall (Figure 3-36). The interior of the pine stand is dominated by Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) with small American beech and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) in the understory. Successional forest species including red maple, small sweetgum, elm species, and ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) encroach on the pine stand's edges. In locations where ash trees have succumbed to emerald ash borer, forest openings are overtaken by Japanese stiltgrass. The area of the pine stand is approximately 3.95 acres.

Tidal Swamp

Tidal swamps occupy the floodplain along Slash Creek and narrow margins along Broad Creek to the north (Figure 3-37). Communities identified by the 2018 Vegetation Mapping Inventory Project of National Capital Parks-East include red maple/lizard's tail swamp, freshwater tidal swamp, and coastal plain streamside forest. Trees within these communities, such as red maple, green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), sweetgum, black gum, sycamore, and tuliptree, are adapted to tidal flooding. Understory plant species include a variety of native and non-native shrubs and herbs. Noted in the field were pawpaw, northern spicebush, American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), American holly, poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and greenbriers. The area of the tidal swamp is approximately 11.65 acres.

Tidal Marsh

Freshwater tidal mixed high marsh is documented along the western edges of the site in the most tidally affected areas along Slash Creek and Broad Creek (Figure 3-38). The marsh comprises a dense mix of herbs, grasses, rushes, and sedges. Characteristic species are highly variable and often include jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), green arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), Solomon's seals (*Polygonum* spp.), river bulrush (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*), and narrowleaf cattails (*Typha angustifolia*).The area of the tidal marsh is approximately 3.20 acres.

Meadow

The west pasture is currently occupied by a mix of successional meadow/grassland and successional vine/shrubland (Figure 3-39). Herbaceous species and small shrubs noted during field investigations include currants (*Ribes* spp.), goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*), Chinese bush-clover (*Sericea lespedeza*), and raspberry (*Rubus* spp.). Volunteer eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), sweetgum, black locust, and red maple are rapidly encroaching on cleared spaces within the meadow. Non-native invasive species are common; species identified during field investigations included princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*), Japanese knotweed, kudzu, and porcelainberry. The area of meadow vegetation is approximately 6.71 acres.

Mown Turf

Mown turf occupies open areas surrounding the Harmony Hall manor house, stable, bungalow, ha-ha, and entry driveways, as well as a trail extending from the WSSC property to Want Water (Figure 3-11). NPS contracts mowing within the Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA (including around the manor house, stables, bungalow, and entrance drives). Unauthorized mowing by an unknown party is occurring along the northern portions of the study area between the Broad Creek WSSC and Want Water. The trail from Harmony Hall down to Want Water is no longer able to be maintained through mowing due to dense successional vegetative growth. Mowing occurs around fallen trees and successional vegetation without guidance related to the historic condition, and therefore spatial patterns are gradually being impacted by this activity. The area of mown turf vegetation is approximately 5.6 acres.



Figure 3-37. Tidal swamp vegetation along Slash Creek (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-38. Tidal marsh vegetation near the cypress allée (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-39. Successional meadow vegetation within the west pasture (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Ornamental or Domestic Plantings

Parallel lines of bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) flank a historic road route extending from the base of the Collins Era terraces to Slash Creek (Figure 3-41). The allée is tidally flooded, and cypress knees are encroaching into the space of the historic road route (Figure 3-42). Non-native invasive vegetation partially obscures the historic spatial relationship between the cypress allée and related Collins Era features.

Large boxwoods (*Buxus* spp.) are situated north and south of the stairs on the west side of the Harmony Hall manor house. The boxwoods are overgrown and grown through with oak and greenbrier (Figure 3-43). On the west side of the manor house, rows of eastern redcedar extend north and south from the boxwoods (Figure 3-44). Successional vegetation is encroaching on the fencelines, and the cedars are being enveloped by the surrounding forest north of the manor house. A remnant apple tree (*Malus* spp.) is situated along the edge of the ha-ha.

On the east side of the Harmony Hall manor house, east–west rows of trees form allée-like spaces to the north and south of the building. The northern rows of trees include red maple, southern red oak, and American holly. South of the manor house are two rows of eastern redcedar (Figure 3-45). An informal row of red maple, southern red oak, honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), and eastern redcedar lines the southeast entry driveway. A single crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) grows within the raised brick terrace constructed by the Battersea Driving Company south of Harmony Hall.



Figure 3-40. Mown turf southwest of the Harmony Hall manor house (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-41. Cypress allée facing southwest toward Slash Creek (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-42. Baldcypress knees within the cypress allée (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-43. Boxwood overgrown with small oaks and greenbrier on the western facade of the Harmony Hall manor house (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-44. Rows of eastern redcedar southeast of the Harmony Hall manor house (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-45. Eastern redcedar fencerow extending north from the Harmony Hall manor house (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Analysis

Contributing Vegetation

Existing contributing and non-contributing vegetation is illustrated on Figure 3-47. Vegetation at Harmony Hall no longer reflects the agricultural fields, gardens, and orchards present during of the Tobacco Era. Swamp, marsh, and successional forest vegetation is likely similar to conditions within the study area, although the locations of these vegetation patterns have shifted. Instead, individual plants and vegetation patterns are primarily reflective of the Collins Era and include:

- Boxwoods framing the west entrance of the Harmony Hall manor house
- Bald cypress along allée to Slash Creek
- Open lawn surrounding Harmony Hall manor house
- Rows of oak, holly, and eastern redcedar north and south of the manor house
- Lines of eastern redcedar extending north and south from the manor house
- Meadow vegetation within the west pasture
- Pine stand
- Remnant apple tree
- Mixed hardwood forest south of Slash Creek
- Tidal swamp
- Tidal marsh



Figure 3-46. Comparison of extant (contributing) and missing from the Tobacco Era period of significance (1708–98) and Collins Era period of significance (1929–64).

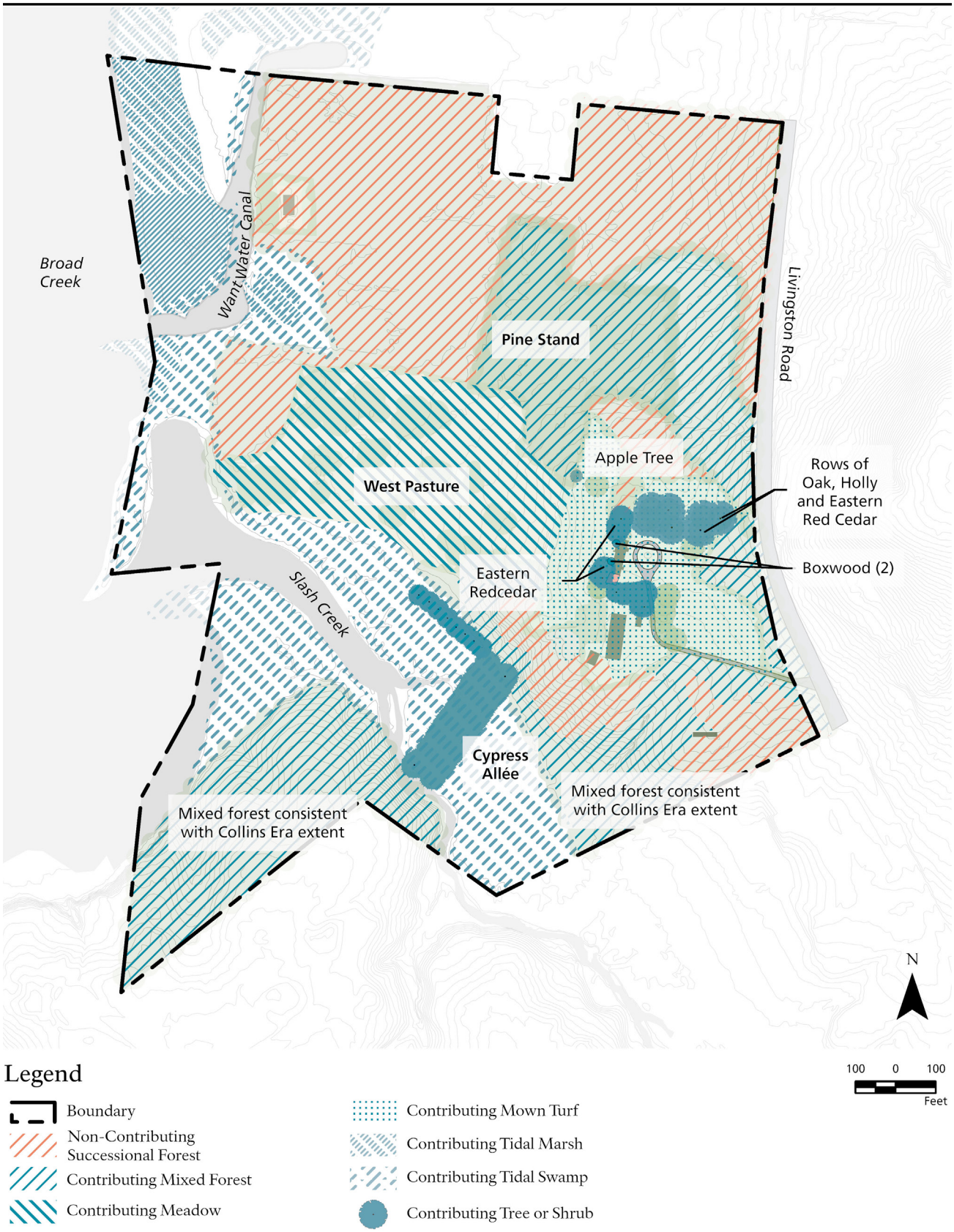


Figure 3-47. Existing contributing and non-contributing vegetation.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

During this period, numerous buildings now missing from the landscape would have been present to support agricultural and commercial operations at the two plantations. Known buildings and structures now missing from the landscape are described below but do not comprise a comprehensive list.

A 1709 deed of sale indicates that by this time, "tenements, dwelling houses, tobacco houses, barns, stables, [and] out houses" occupied the landscape at Battersea.[24] Enoch Magruder's 1785 will identifies a gate along one of the property's roads, although its location is undetermined.[25] The CLR study area at this time may have also included a mill.[26] The Broad Creek/Aire town was established as a port in the 1660s through mid-1690s near the confluence of Broad Creek and Slash Creek. Although Broad Creek/Aire never developed into the 100-acre town as planned by the Maryland General Assembly, a small commercial village and shipbuilding company operated by Humphrey Batts developed in this location.[27] A tobacco inspection warehouse was added on the nearby Want Water tract in 1748.[28] By the 1760s, the Want Water property also included a storehouse, warehouse, and other support structures.[29] Quarters for tenants or enslaved persons may have been located in what is now the west pasture.[30] Enoch Magruder likely constructed the Harmony Hall manor house ca. 1769, shortly after his acquisition of the property.[31] Archeological investigations have identified an earlier earthfast structure near the existing house location.[32] Magruder also constructed a storehouse at the Broad Creek/Aire townsite.[33]

Collins Era (1929–64)

Similar to the Tobacco Era, small collections of outbuildings are documented in the vicinity of Want Water and Harmony Hall throughout the nineteenth century as the properties continued to support agricultural production throughout a series of rapid ownership changes.

Charles Collins undertook extensive alterations to the property after he acquired it in 1929. Shortly after purchasing Harmony Hall, Collins demolished many of the outbuildings that surrounded the manor house during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and added a series of outbuildings along the newly established plantation street that now forms the property's southeast entrance driveway. The outbuildings were intended to evoke the character of a pre-Civil War Alabama plantation, with individual buildings serving particular functions such as smokehouses, stables, quarters for laborers, an office (the bungalow), and separate kitchens.[34] A garage was constructed 50 yards southeast of the manor

house, and another structure of undetermined use was added north of the manor house in what is now the pine stand. Bridges and a boathouse were added along Slash Creek in the early 1930s, and the ha-ha was added between the manor house and the west pasture, separating these spaces while retaining the view to the Potomac River. At the same time, Collins oversaw a restoration and expansion of the Harmony Hall manor house, including replacement of the earlier one-story south addition with a new brick pantry wing, addition of a kitchen and dining room connected to the house by a covered walkway, removal of white concrete parging from the brick, and addition of a new exterior staircase. Collins noted that Want Water was in a state of disrepair at the time of his purchase.

Photographs from the Collins Era identify fences, rock edges, and entrance gates within the Harmony Hall landscape. Fences included a post and wire fence bisecting the west pasture, an enclosure adjacent to the chicken coop, a picket fence, and wire fencing within the pine stand. Large boulders lined the edges of the entrance driveways, and gates restricted access to the property from Livingston Road at both the northeast and southeast entrance driveways.

After 1964

Lack of use and maintenance following Collins's death led to the deterioration of many of the site's structures during the second half of the twentieth century. By the 1970s, many of the site's outbuildings were declared "unsuited for occupancy" by NPS NACE and were demolished or allowed to collapse.[35] The servants' quarters Collins constructed were finally removed in 2005. During the Battersea Driving Company lease, the covered walkway between the kitchen/dining room building was removed, and later the entire structure was demolished. A new one-and-a-half-story addition was constructed on the south side of the manor house in the late 1980s. The stable was also built to support the new use, necessitating removal of the Collins Era garage.

It is likely that many of the fences and gates present during the period of significance deteriorated due to diminished use and maintenance during this time frame. A number of new features were also added to the landscape during Battersea Driving Company occupation of the property from 1985 to 1999. These included a post and rail horse corral southeast of the house, an iron gate along the west patio, and fences associated with the patio and chicken coop on the south side of the house. It is not known if fences with clear spatial relationships to Collins Era features, for example the fences along the top and bottom of the Collins Era terraces or along the cypress allée, date to the period of significance or were installed by the Battersea Driving Company.

As of 2018, many of the Collins Era buildings and structures had deteriorated significantly, prompting the Cultural Landscape Inventory to reclassify them as archeological features. The National Register of Historic Places nomination form lists several buildings and structures that are no longer extant. Two servants' quarters were located on the Collins Era plantation street. Each had a side-gable roof, board-and-batten cladding, and an inset porch sheltered by the building's roof. A garage built by Collins was situated approximately 50 yards south of the Harmony Hall manor house. The elongated building was sheltered by a side-gable roof, stucco covering the exterior walls, and featured four large garage-door openings. Near the garage was a smokehouse, a small clapboard-clad building with a pyramidal roof. Located approximately 75 yards south of Harmony Hall was a one-room shed covered with board-and-batten siding and sheltered by a metal gabled roof. An additional shed was approximately 15 yards east of the garage and about 60 yards south of the house. A building of roughly hewn logs and planks about 25–29' high was sited 50 yards south of the southern entrance road to the property. All of these buildings deteriorated by the late twentieth century and were demolished by 2023.

Existing Condition

The existing buildings and structures in the study area reflect the site's eighteenth-century use as a tobacco plantation, its mid-twentieth-century use in cultivating a colonial revival-style romanticized plantation, and as the site of a horse riding school in the late twentieth century. The eighteenth-century Harmony Hall manor house and Want Water manor house ruin were both residences of wealthy landowners, enslavers, and principal players in the Broad Creek economy.[36] Today, Harmony Hall has survived in poor condition after several modifications and additions, and Want Water exists only as a ruin of two standing gambrel-end walls and a floor. The 1980s horse stable, the most recent building on site, appears to be in good condition. A bungalow near Harmony Hall and an undetermined rectangular building called the Collins outbuilding ruin in this CLR both are believed to date to the 1930s–40s and are both classified as ruins. A collapsed shed, concrete pad, and a series of masonry posts appear to be all that remains of buildings that likely date to the 1930s–40s.

Buildings and structures are described below in their respective categories. Note that for the purposes of the National Register of Historic Places, ruins and remnants are classified as archeological features and are discussed in the Archeology section of this chapter.

Buildings

Harmony Hall Manor House

The Harmony Hall manor house is a two-and-a-half-story, Georgian-style house constructed in the mid-eighteenth century (Figure 3-48). The exact construction date of the house is unknown, but most recent research and investigative efforts concur that the house was likely constructed ca. 1769. Additions were constructed in the 1930s–40s and in 1987. Characteristic of Georgian-style architecture, the main block's front (east) façade is symmetrically composed with seven bays, while the additions are both two bays wide (Figure 3-48). The rear (west) elevation is similar in composition to the front façade (Figure 3-49). Each mass (i.e., the main block and the additions) is sheltered by its own side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A broad pediment and two flanking gabled dormers project from the front (east) slope of the main block's roof. Each addition features one narrow gabled wall dormer on its front (east) façade and two narrow gabled wall dormers on its rear (west) elevation. The main block rests on a brick foundation, while the 1930s addition has a concrete foundation, and the 1987 addition has a concrete-block foundation. All of the masses feature brick walls laid in Flemish bond. Wood siding clads the 1987 addition's south gable end and the dormers.

Most of the main block's first two floors are lit by nine-over-six double-hung sash wood windows. Similar windows light the 1930s addition. The exception to this fenestration pattern is found in the two bays immediately flanking the main block's centered front entrance, which feature six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows on the first floor and six-over-four double-hung sash wood windows on the second floor. Louvered screens have replaced the bottom sashes of some windows. A wood ox-eye window lights the main block's broad pediment, while the flanking dormers have arched upper sashes with a foliated pattern. The bottom sashes are also filled with louvered screens. Arched window openings on the 1987 addition's south elevation are filled with plywood sheets (Figure 3-50).

The main block and 1987 addition are each fronted by a one-bay-wide pedimented porch. The main block porch is centered in the front (east) façade, and the addition porch is off-center in the northernmost bay. Both porches have pedimented roofs fitted with simple entablatures and supported by thin Tuscan columns and pilasters. The main block porch has a wood floor resting on a brick foundation, and the addition porch has a brick floor and foundation. A double quarter-turn staircase accesses the main block's rear (west) entrance. The wooden staircase rests on a brick foundation and features wood banisters and hand rails. Previous window openings on the north façade have been sealed with brick (Figure 3-52).

Decorative features include jack arches crowning window openings, a classical surround featuring a pediment and pilasters on the main block's east door, a dentil course below the roofline on the east façade, and gable end returns in the dormers.

The manor house is in overall poor condition. The house's brick walls are intact except for a section at the northeast corner where an inadequate downspout has allowed rainwater to erode mortar. The two east porches and double quarter-turn west staircase have fared particularly poorly (Figure 3-53 and Figure 3-52). They include several instances of rotting and cracked wood in columns and stair banisters, railings, and treads. The interior is rapidly declining (Figure 3-54, Figure 3-55, and Figure 3-56). Vegetation is growing through the structure. Floors and stairs are not stable, particularly on the second floor. Lead paint is deteriorating throughout the interior.



Figure 3-48. East façade of Harmony Hall manor house, facing west (Quinn Evans, August 2023).



Figure 3-49. West façade of Harmony Hall manor house, facing east (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-50. South façade of Harmony Hall manor house, facing northwest (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-51. North and east façades, facing southwest (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-52. Double half-turn staircase, Harmony Hall manor house west (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-53. Deteriorated stairs on east porch, Harmony Hall manor house façade west (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-54. Interior of Harmony Hall. Humidity damage and paint peeling are evident throughout the house (NACE).



Figure 3-55. Interior of Harmony Hall. Large portions of paint are peeling from walls and mantel (NACE).



Figure 3-56. Interior of Harmony Hall showing a partially collapsed ceiling (NACE).

Horse Stable

Constructed by the Battersea Driving Company in the late 1980s, the horse stable is a single-story concrete block structure defined by its long massing. The stable is sheltered by a cross-gable roof, with its two front-facing gables piercing the roofline in the center of the east façade and west elevation (Figure 3-57 and Figure 3-58). Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The stable's concrete block walls are left exposed. The east façade and west elevation are nine bays wide and symmetrically composed. The front-facing gables on the east façade and west elevation each denote a segmental arched opening. A similar opening is found on both the north and south elevations (Figure 3-59). Brick archivolts crown the arched openings. On the east façade and west elevation, the center arched opening is flanked on either side by four openings covered by different variations of wood plank doors, many of which are divided into separately operable upper and lower halves. The two openings that immediately flank the east arched opening are shorter but feature a similar operable covering. The doors swing open on metal strap hinges. Other fenestration includes a small square opening above the arched opening on both the north and south façades. Oval window openings light the upper level of the front-facing gables on the east and west façades. An ox-eye window fills the east opening, while the west opening is not filled.

The stable is in good condition. Some of the doors on the west façade are either broken or have been replaced.

Structures

Post and Rail Fence

Post and rail fencing within the study area consists of wooden posts placed vertically into the ground at regular intervals with horizontal rails attached or notched into the posts (Figure 3-60). The number of rails varies from four to five. Some fences incorporate wire mesh spanning between the posts. Post and rail fencing is clustered around Harmony Hall and the Collins Era terraces and is typically weathered and in poor condition. Frequently, portions of the boards have collapsed and only posts remain, for example: the line of wooden posts north of the set of terraces (Figure 3-60) and wooden posts extending from southwest corner of Harmony Hall.

Split Rail Fence

Split rail fencing consists of rough-hewn triangular-shaped rails that are placed horizontally between upright wooden posts. A split rail fence surrounds the ruins of Want Water (Figure 3-61). The fence is partially collapsed and in poor condition.



Figure 3-57. Horse stable, east façade, looking west (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-58. Horse stable, west façade, looking southeast (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-59. Horse stable, north façade, looking south (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-60. Post and rail fence on north edge of mown lawn at Harmony Hall, facing north (Quinn Evans, 2023).

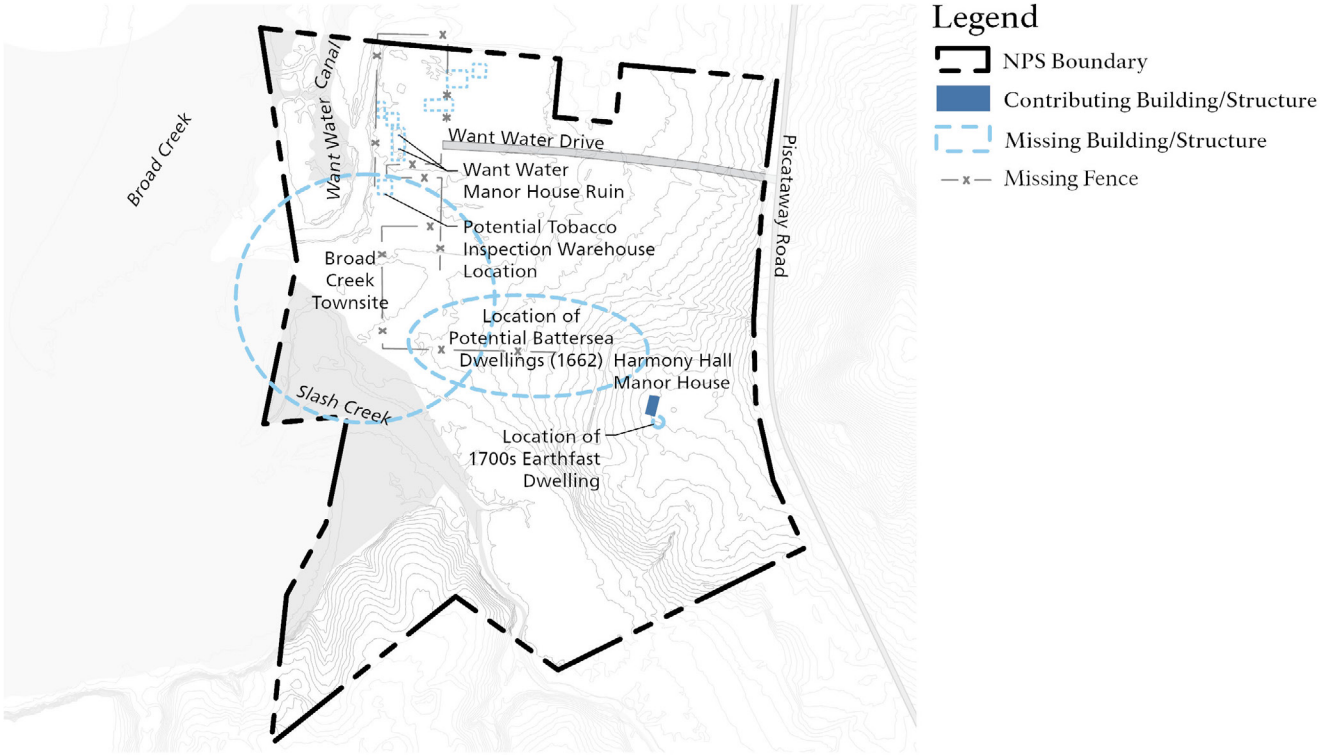


Figure 3-61. Stacked split rail fence surrounding Want Water manor house ruins (Quinn Evans, 2023).

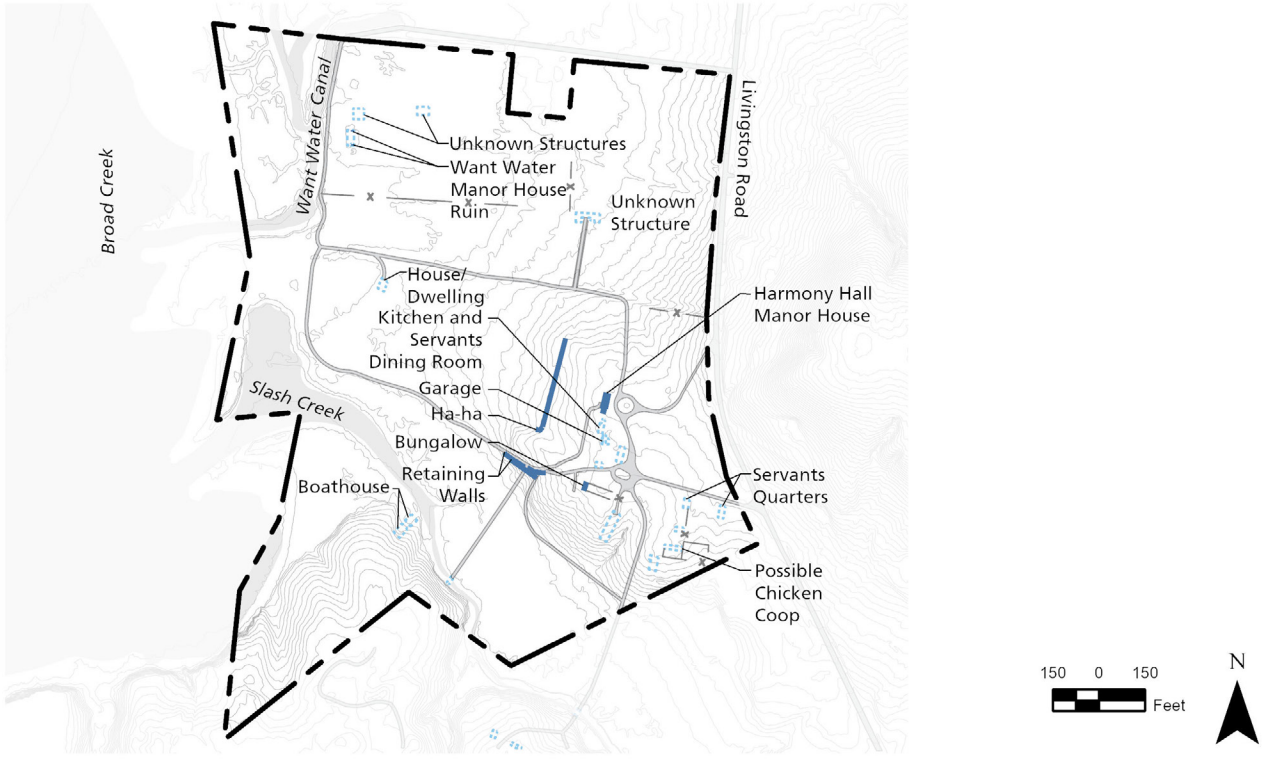
Analysis

The Harmony Hall manor house is the only surviving building from the Tobacco Era. The manor house is also reflective of the Collins Era, when it was repurposed as part of Collins's interpretation of a pre-Civil War plantation.

Due to the ephemeral materials used for fencing, fences from either the Tobacco Era or the Collins Era are also not retained in the existing landscape. Also missing are large boulders lining the edges of the entrance driveways, although existing large stones within the circle drive mimic this pattern. Due to the level of deterioration and removal that has occurred since the end of the period of significance, any remaining remnants of building and structures dating to the periods of significance are further discussed in the Archeological Features section of this chapter.



Tobacco Era Buildings and Structures



Collins Era Buildings and Structures

Figure 3-62. Comparison of extant (contributing) and missing buildings and structures from the Tobacco Era period of significance (1708–98) and Collins Era period of significance (1929–64).

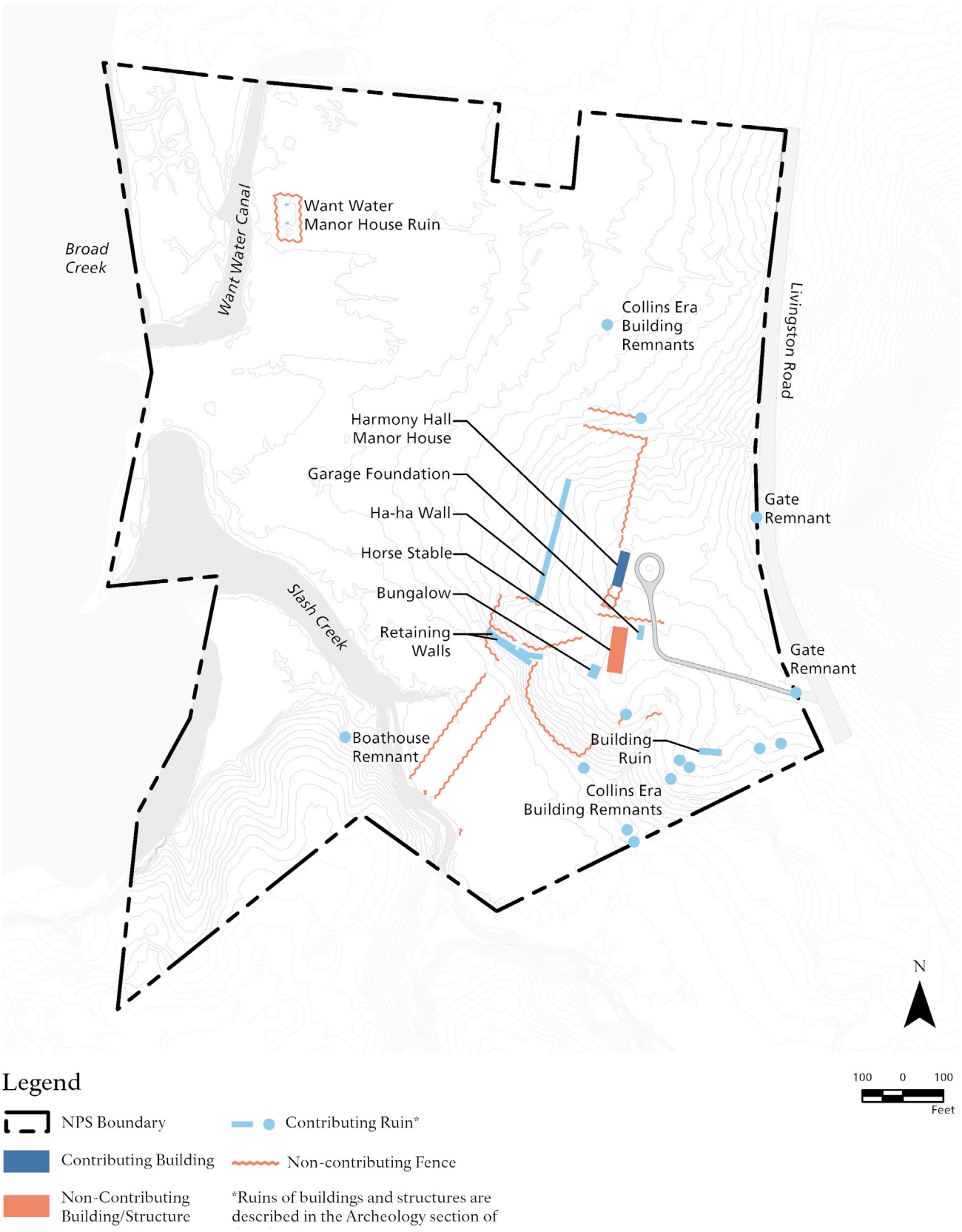


Figure 3-63. Existing contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures.

Contributing Buildings and Structures

Buildings and structures within the study area contributing to the historic character of the landscape include:

- Harmony Hall manor house (building)

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

Existing Condition

Small-scale features within the study area include non-contributing signs and site furnishings. There are no modern interpretive features associated with the property.

Signs

Two NPS signs identify Harmony Hall at the southeast entrance gate. A simple identifier attached to the stone pillar gives the name of the site. Another metal sign attached to a wood post outside of the gate provides use regulations and contact information (Figure 3-64). No trespassing signs within the pine stand demarcate the property near its northern boundary (Figure 3-65).

Site Furnishings

Two wooden and metal picnic tables occupy mown areas near Harmony Hall. One is overturned. A hinged wooden storage chest near the stables was likely associated with Battersea Driving Company site use.

Analysis

There are no contributing small-scale features within the study area.



Figure 3-64. Harmony Hall manor sign and park rules signage at southeast entrance gate (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-65. No trespassing signage in the pine stand (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-66. Signage in front of Want Water (Quinn Evans, 2023).

CONSTRUCTED WATER FEATURES

Historic Condition

Tobacco Era (1708–98)

Portions of the existing canal date to 1749, when Humphrey Batts cut Want Water Canal to improve access between his tobacco inspection warehouse and the Broad Creek estuary, where large merchant ships anchored. Enslaved laborers likely constructed the canal. The original canal was approximately 100 yards (or 300') long and connected Broad Creek up to the tobacco inspection warehouse at Want Water.

Collins Era (1929–64)

In 1932 Collins dredged a channel east through the Broad Creek estuary to the site of the Tobacco Era canal and then extended the canal north, cutting inland to access Piscataway House, where the terminus was used as a recreational boat launch. A description of the canal associated with a ca. 1930s image describes the dimensions at the boat landing as approximately 50' wide and 10' deep. The note further describes the view: "Here is the boat landing for Piscataway house with the house shown in the background..It will be very pretty in the summer as there are some nice trees along the stream. One of my canoes can be seen on the beach which is pure sand and gravel."[37] Georeferencing the historic 1860s map with the Collins Era map indicates that the Collins channel overlapped the Tobacco Era canal in the final 100 yards of the eastern portion.

After 1964 and Contributing Constructed Water Features

The Want Water Canal continues to occupy the eastern alignment of the historic canal established in 1749 and the northern 1930s extension (Figure 3-69). Minor variations in the alignment of the eighteenth-century and twentieth-century canals illustrated on this diagram are attributed to changes in tidal flats in the nearly two centuries between their construction as well as inaccuracies in historic mapping. Both canal building efforts were related to an existing stream channel extending north from Broad Creek, which is likely to have shifted over time. Collins's placement of dredge materials also altered the shoreline near the mouth of Slash Creek and required extension of the 1930s canal west into Broad Creek.

Existing Condition

The Want Water Canal is an approximately 22' to 25' wide and 1000' long shallow earthen prism extending north–south between the tidal mudflats along Broad Creek and Want Water (Figure 3-68). Along the north boundary of the study area, the canal joins a ditch providing drainage for the Broad Creek WSSC. The canal's northern terminus is outside of the study area at a gravel boat launch just north of the Broad Creek WSSC ditch.

Analysis

Contributing Constructed Water Features

Constructed water features retained from the periods of significance that contribute to the historic character of the landscape include:

- Want Water Canal



Figure 3-67. Ditch leading from Broad Creek WSSC to Want Water Canal, 2023 (Quinn Evans).



Figure 3-68. Want Water Canal, 2023 (Quinn Evans).

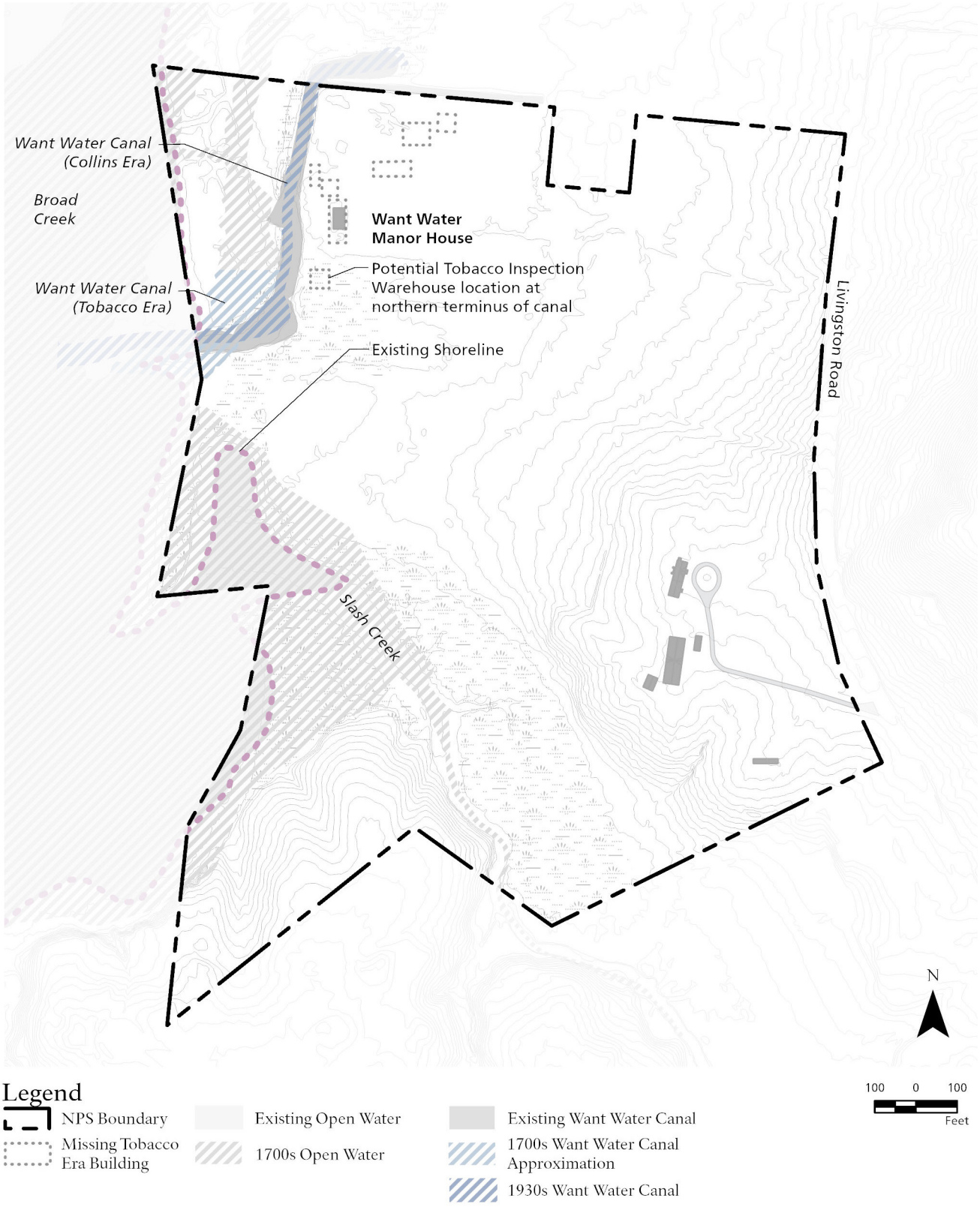


Figure 3-69. Constructed water features analysis.

ARCHEOLOGY

Archeological Sites

NPS has conducted two archeological investigations within the study area since its acquisition in 1966. Prehistoric and historic artifacts uncovered in these investigations establish a pattern of habitation as far back as the Late Archaic Period (4000–2000 BCE). The entire site is categorized as one archeological site (Harmony Hall, Site No. 18PR305). Per *National Register Bulletin 15*, unless individual features are determined to be individually significant they should otherwise be evaluated as part of a single site.[38]

In 1985–87, archeologists and volunteers with the National Park Service's Regional Archeology Program undertook excavations at Harmony Hall. They published their findings in a 1993 report.[39] The work was undertaken in anticipation of the demolition of the Collins Era pantry wing and construction of a new wing and stables south of the house. As such, the archeological investigations focused on areas adjacent to the Harmony Hall manor house and around the site of the existing stables.

Investigations uncovered a number of important discoveries that contribute to a better understanding of the study area's use over time. Archeologists found numerous artifacts dating to the Late Archaic Period east of the manor house that suggest a prehistoric site that was disturbed by Collins Era dredging activities. A combination of locally manufactured ceramic wares and imported wares were discovered around the manor house. The archeologists attributed the variation in ceramic assemblages to both changes in the ceramic trade and the improving economic status of Harmony Hall's owners in the eighteenth century. The authors also noted the absence of mid-eighteenth-century ceramic types, supporting the conclusions of other more recent researchers that the Harmony Hall manor house was constructed after 1769 after a long gap in occupation of the mansion site. The archeologists did not investigate other areas in the study area, such as those around Want Water. Although it does not state so explicitly, the Regional Archeology Program's report indicates the potential for resources within the project area to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Due to the thorough investigation of areas around the manor house in 1985–87, subsequent investigations undertaken by Louis Berger for NPS in the mid-2010s were able to focus on areas elsewhere in the study area. The Louis Berger findings were published in a 2015 report. Per their findings, prehistoric artifacts were concentrated in three locations: west and northwest of the Want Water ruins, along the north shore of Slash Creek, and around the Harmony Hall manor house. The findings provide important evidence of prehistoric Indigenous use during

both the Archaic and Woodland Periods. The investigation determined that this concentration should be considered potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D.

Archeological resources in the study area include a number of Collins Era outbuildings/structures that have deteriorated significantly from a lack of use over the past half century. The Louis Berger investigations uncovered brick fragments and numerous nails near Want Water. These may have been remnants of the buildings and structures that once stood near the manor house. Southeast of the Harmony Hall manor house and near the terrace system is a large scatter of eighteenth-century bricks through which trees are growing. The 1985–87 investigations identified a trash-filled sheet midden and a hearth-like locus southeast of the earthfast structure. The midden included artifacts associated with the earthfast structure. Investigation for this CLR found a substantial collection of metal cans likely dating to the 1980s–90s and building materials east of the terrace system.[40]

Due to material deterioration, the 2018 CLI determined that the Want Water manor house and remnants of Collins Era outbuildings/structures should be classified as ruins. The CLR agrees with this conclusion. The buildings and structures have declined so severely that they are either structurally unsound or unreadable from their original design and construction.

Above-Ground Ruins and Remnants of Buildings and Structures

Historic condition of the following features is discussed in the Buildings and Structures section of this chapter.

Existing Condition—Ruins

Bungalow

The bungalow is a one-and-a-half-story building ruin constructed in the 1930s that at one point served as an office. The building is constructed of concrete block walls under a front-gable roof, from which a gabled dormer projects on the east slope. The roof is moderately pitched and covered with metal sheets. The three-bay-wide north façade is symmetrically composed with a centered door opening lined with wood trim and capped by a wood lintel (Figure 3-70). The opening includes two doors. The south elevation has a similar composition. Whereas on the north façade the doors open to a single room, the doors on the south elevation lead to separate rooms (Figure 3-71). Both the north façade and south elevation include two window openings on the first story and two openings in the upper half stories in the gable ends. The first-story openings are covered with wood sheets. The two upper-story openings on the north façade are filled with six-over-

six double-hung sash wood windows, and one opening on the south façade has a similar window. The other upper-story opening on that façade and the opening in the dormer likely would have had similar sash windows, but they are no longer extant. The east and west elevations have much less fenestration by comparison. A small rectangular window opening pierces the east elevation, but the window is missing. The west elevation features a single door opening filled with a wood door that is falling off of its hinges. As late as 1980 when the National Register nomination was completed, a gabled porch extended from the north façade. The porch is no longer extant, but ghost marks indicate the location of the former appendage.

The bungalow is in poor condition. As a roof still covers most of the structure and its form is still readable, it could still be classified as a building. Due to its quickly declining condition, however, the bungalow will likely soon become a ruin. Significant invasive vegetation now surrounds the building and, in some cases, is growing on the building itself. Although they are more readable during leaf-off, in warmer months much of the south and east elevations are obscured by vegetation. The plaster that covered the concrete block walls has delaminated from much of the exterior. Several windows are missing, and glass panes are missing from one extant window. Bargeboards in the north gable end have broken off. Cracks are apparent in mortar joints above the north door. Pieces of the metal roof have also broken.

Want Water Manor House

The Want Water manor house now survives as a ruin of the eighteenth-century residence. As originally built in 1708, the manor house was one-and-a-half stories in height, its massing shaped by its gambrel roof (Figure 3-72). The frame house featured north and south brick end walls and exterior chimneys and rested on a brick foundation. The four-bay-wide east façade and west elevation were asymmetrically composed with off-center doors, while the two side elevations were each two bays wide. Fenestration included four-over-four double-hung sash wood windows in gabled dormers that pierced the house's east and west roof slopes. Five such windows lit the east and west façades. Flanking the east and west doors were narrower six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows.

The manor house today, however, stands as a ruin consisting of only the two north and south brick end walls with their exterior chimneys and the brick foundation and floor (Figure 3-73). Only the south wall retains its gambrel form, as many of the bricks have broken away from the north wall. The fenestration pattern on the south wall remains readable but without windows or doors in the openings. Vegetation has grown through the floor and around the ruins. Trees are growing



Figure 3-70. Bungalow, north façade, facing south (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-71. Bungalow, south and east façades (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-72. Want Water manor house ruins, view of extant brick end walls, facing northeast (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-73. Want Water manor house ruins, view of extant brick end walls, facing southeast (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-74. Northern brick end wall at Want Water manor house. This view faces northeast and captures what would have been the interior side of the brick wall and chimney (Quinn Evans, 2023).

close to the south wall, with branches extending through window and door openings. Remains of the fireplace opening are visible in the north wall, but bricks have fallen away, making it difficult to discern its original form or any ornamental articulation (Figure 3-74).

The Want Water manor house ruins are in poor condition and appear dangerously close to collapse.

Collins Outbuilding Ruin

An outbuilding ruin identified in field investigations is composed of a single story with long, rectangular massing (Figure 3-75 and Figure 3-76). Measuring 60' in length by 12'-4" in width, the outbuilding ruin's long walls run east–west. It is sheltered by a shed roof covered with corrugated meal and features exposed rafter tails. The outbuilding rests on a concrete-block and brick foundation. Walls are constructed of brick and concrete block and covered by a stucco finish. Although both brick and concrete block were identified in the walls' construction, the stucco obscures a clear reading of building chronology (i.e., which portions of the outbuilding were constructed when).

Fenestration includes short window openings (approximately 3' x 2') and taller openings filled with wire mesh. Wood double-hung sash window frames fill the tall openings. The north façade features two short window openings and five tall window openings, and the south elevation has one short window opening (Figure 3-75 and Figure 3-76, respectively). The east elevation includes a short window opening and a door opening, while the west elevation has a door opening with a ramped brick threshold and a significantly deteriorated paneled wood door.

The interior plan is composed of two smaller end rooms flanking a long center room. The tall windows light the center room, while the two doors each access an end room.

The outbuilding ruin's original function is not known. The mesh covering the window openings suggests the building ruin could have served as a chicken coop, but the presence of sash windows and the fact that the outbuilding has been wired for electricity suggest potential human habitation. Collins at one point, however, noted having an electrified chicken coop. The outbuilding ruin's plan also does not provide decisive clues about building use.

Both the east and south walls are partially collapsed, and the roof is collapsed. Trees and vegetation are growing on the outbuilding ruin's exterior. The outbuilding ruin is in poor condition.



Figure 3-75. Building ruin, view of east and north façades, looking southwest (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-76. Building ruin, view of south and west façades, looking northeast (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-77. View of ha-ha wall with Harmony Hall in background, facing east (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Ha-Ha

The ha-ha is constructed of random dry rubble and forms an L as it bends at its south end (Figure 3-77). Charles Collins constructed the ha-ha in the 1930s to keep sheep out of the lawn immediately west of the manor house. The ha-ha is approximately 75 yards long and varies in height from 1' to 4'. The 1' area reflects wall collapse due to vegetation outgrowth. The wall is approximately 2 1/2–3' midway along its length.

A broad section in the middle of its length is substantially intact (Figure 3-78). However, areas of collapse and significant vegetation impact the structure particularly at its southern end (Figure 3-79). Some sections of the ha-ha are overgrown with vines, vinca, and trees. Some of the worst impacts are caused by redcedar, sweet gum, holly, catalpa, and ribes. Moving south along the ha-ha, more large, woody plants are found in the wall. The far north end features more collapse caused by a box-elder.

Due to areas of collapse and vegetation, the ha-ha is in poor condition and will require reconstruction in its most impacted areas.

Stone Retaining Walls

South of the Harmony Hall manor house, Collins Era dry-laid, stacked stone retaining walls are set within the terrace system, lining each terrace and an east–west path south of the terraces (Figure 3-80 and Figure 3-81). The retaining walls are typically 1-1/2' in height but can be as low as 4" in some areas. Stone stairs running north–south bisect the terrace system and align with the cypress allée's north termination.

Existing Condition—Remains

Collapsed Shed

The remains of a collapsed shed consist of a pile of building materials with one partially standing wall (Figure 3-82). The building materials include wood beams, flat wood planks, wire mesh, and corrugated metal. The metal is likely a remnant of the collapsed structure's roof, while the beams supported the structure. The planks, which are covered with wire mesh, likely comprised the walls. A partially standing wall of wood planks covered with mesh provides the only sense of a once-extant structure.

Tree branches have fallen on the pile of building materials, and bindweed and other vegetation have grown through and around it. The shed is in poor condition.



Figure 3-78. Largely intact middle section of ha-ha, facing east (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-79. Collapsed section of ha-ha near southern end, facing north (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-80. Two sets of stairs are located in the middle of the stone retaining walls these align with the axis of the cypress allée (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-81. Retaining wall(s) west of Collins Era terraces (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-82. Collapsed shed, looking north (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-83. Collapsed shed, looking west (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Masonry Posts

All that remains of an undetermined structure south of the Collins Era terraces is a collection of masonry posts that are likely remnants of its foundation (Figure 3-84 and Figure 3-85). The posts consist of mortared brick partially parged with concrete but without caps. Some of the concrete has broken away to reveal the bricks. The posts are approximately 8' apart and equally spaced to form a rectangle. Each post is 2' x 2' in width and approximately 3' in height. One post features a clay drain pipe, and another has a steel pipe vertically placed in its center (Figure 3-85). In the center of the arrangement of masonry posts is a vertical steel pipe embedded with concrete in a larger circular clay drain pipe. The clay drain pipe is 2' high and 6" in diameter. A small metal artifact consisting of metal plates with two hand-forged nails rests on one of the posts.

Historic photographs place a building at this location. As it sat the southern edge of the terrace system, it may have served a maintenance purpose. The existence of pipes suggest it may have provided an irrigation function for the terraces. Bindweed, tree branches, and vines significantly impact the structure. The masonry posts are in poor condition.

Concrete Slab (Collins Era Garage)

The remains of a Collins Era garage consist of a single concrete slab measuring 30' x 45' (Figure 3-86). The slab served as the foundation of the garage Collins built in the early 1930s. Vegetation is growing through cracks in the concrete slab.

Building Depressions

Roughly rectangular building depressions were noted on the south side of Slash Creek west of the cypress allée and immediately south of the Want Water manor house ruin. The building depression along Slash Creek is in the historic location of the Collins Era boathouse, and the depression associated with Want Water may mark the previous location of an outbuilding.

Remnants

Fence remnants including wooden posts, T-shaped steel post and wire, split rail with metal mesh, decorative wire, and barbed wire fencing are present throughout the study area.

Post and Rail Fence Remnants

Wooden posts extend from southwest corner of Harmony Hall from a former post and rail fence.



Figure 3-84. View of masonry posts (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-85. Masonry post that incorporating a steel pipe projecting from its center (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-86. Concrete slab that once served as foundation to a 1930s garage. View looking southwest, with stable in background (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-87. Decorative wire fencing near the northwest edge of the cypress allée (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-88. Barbed wire and wire mesh fencing remnants are found throughout the study area (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-89. Chicken coop and fencing located on the edge of the decorative garden south of Harmony Hall (Quinn Evans, 2023).

Decorative Wire Fence Remnants

Short, decorative wire fencing lines both sides of the cypress allée (Figure 3-87). The fence has been displaced by tree growth in some locations, and portions are collapsed or obscured by tidal swamp vegetation. A section of decorative wire fence is also present within the pine stand near the location of a Collins Era outbuilding and road trace.

Chicken Pen

A small wooden enclosure and fence is situated south of the raised brick patio near the Harmony Hall manor house (Figure 3-89). This feature, which appears to be a chicken pen, is heavily overgrown with trees and vines and is in poor condition.

Gates

Formal gates installed during the Collins Era restrict site access at both the northeast and southeast driveways. The northeast entrance gate is a wooden feature standing approximately 5' tall between two stone pillars capped with spherical finials (Figure 3-90). The gate closes at the center and is attached to wooden gate posts by metal strap hinges. Vertical metal rods with pointed tips extend through the top two rails of the gate. Wooden members of the gate are deteriorating, and it is missing several decorative wooden panels.

The southeast entrance driveway (plantation street) is accessed through a modern metal swing gate positioned between a Collins Era stone pillar and two wooden posts (Figure 3-91). The gate and stone pillar are in good condition, although the pillar is missing a finial matching those at the northeast entrance gate. The southern wood post exhibits minor deterioration.

A center latching iron gate with decorative scrollwork is situated outside of the western (river) façade of Harmony Hall (Figure 3-92). The gate is attached to 3' tall square brick piers. The metal gate is displaced, and the piers have minor mortar loss, staining, and at least one missing brick.

Metal Post and Wire Fence Remnants

These fences consist of T-shaped steel posts strung with wire mesh or individual barbed wire strands. Metal post and wire fence remnants are located throughout the study area. A portion of a T-shaped steel post and wire fence extends from the southeast corner of the bungalow southeast toward the east boundary of the study area at the north end of the terraces (Figure 3-93). Metal post and wire fence also



Figure 3-90. Northeast entrance gate to Harmony Hall (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-91. Southeast entrance gate to Harmony Hall (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-92. Battersea Driving Company metal gate with brick piers (Quinn Evans, 2023).



Figure 3-93. T-shaped steel post and wire fence separating terrace from Harmony Hall Entrance LCA (Quinn Evans, 2023).

demarcates the boundary between the study area and the regional center property to the south.

Analysis

Archeological Sites

Archeological features including those associated with occupation and use of the site by Indigenous peoples (4000 BCE–1607 CE), the Tobacco Era (1708–98), and the Collins Era (1929–64) contribute to the Harmony Hall cultural landscape. A full discussion of the archeological resources within the study area is presented in the detailed archeological surveys that have been conducted for Harmony Hall and is beyond the scope of this CLR. Given the variety of land uses within the park landscape over the past 11,000 years, archeological sites have the potential to yield additional important information about the Harmony Hall landscape and the people living within the landscape before, during, and after the Tobacco and Collins Eras.

Above-Ground Ruins and Remnants of Buildings and Structures

Ruins of the Want Water manor house are retained from both the Tobacco Era and Collins Era periods of significance. All other above-ground ruins and remnants are primarily associated with the Collins Era. The most substantial of these ruins and remnants are the bungalow, ha-ha, stone retaining walls, outbuilding, concrete slab, collapsed shed, and entrance gate remnants, all of which are readily visible within the landscape and clearly correlated to documented Collins Era buildings. Portions of the Collins Era gates at the southeast entrance driveway and northeast entrance driveway are also retained from the period of significance. The northeast entrance gate remains in its original location, although missing adjacent post and

wire fence that extended along Livingston Road. The southeast gate has been removed except for one of the two stone pillars.

Although fence remnants within the study area appear to spatially relate to Collins Era spatial organization, historic documentation of these features is limited. Their contributing status is undetermined and may be clarified through further research related to the style and materiality of the features or additional historic documentation.

Above ground ruins and remnants of buildings and structures within the study area contributing to the historic character of the landscape include:

- Bungalow (ruin)
- Want Water manor house (ruin)
- Collins outbuilding (ruin)
- Ha-ha (ruin)
- Stone retaining walls (ruin)
- Collapsed shed (remnant)
- Masonry posts (remnant)
- Concrete slab (Collins Era garage foundation) (remnant)
- Boathouse (remnant)
- Northeast entrance gate (remnant)
- Stone pillar associated with southeast entrance gate (remnant)

ENDNOTES

1 Charles Birnbaum and Christine Capella Peters, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996).

2 Letter, Arthur Lovell to Charles W. Collins, July 25, 1938, Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland.

3 *Harmony Hall Cultural Landscape Inventory* (National Park Service, 2018), 41, 67.

4 Brianne M. Walsh, Simon Costanzo, William C. Dennison, J Patrick Campbell, Mark Lehman, Megan Nortrup, Mikailia Milton, and Stephen Syphax, *National Capital Parks-East Natural Resource Condition Assessment* (Fort Collins, Colorado: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, April 2016), 26.

5 Walsh et al., *National Capital Parks-East Natural Resource Condition Assessment*, 26.

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Preservation, 2008.

21 Patent Survey 6, page 226, Maryland State Archives.

22 Charles Collins, text on backside of photograph, photograph "HAHA-10725," National Capital Parks East-Archive.

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38 *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (National Park Service, 1997), 21.

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Treatment Approach

Chapter 4

Chapter title page: Want Water ruins, 2023 (QE).

CHAPTER 4: TREATMENT FRAMEWORK

Part 2 of this report presents the treatment plan for the Harmony Hall cultural landscape organized into three chapters. This chapter provides an organizational framework for the recommended treatment of the study area. Guidelines for protecting the historic character of the cultural landscape as well as initial treatment recommendations tailored to NPS management of the site before identifying a partnership are presented in Chapter 5. An example of potential landscape treatment following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards with a local partner is described in Chapter 6 as an inspirational option for future condition and interpretation.

The framework is divided into five sections:

1. Landscape Management Issues and Considerations lists topics related to managing and interpreting the study area cultural landscape.
2. Summary of Laws, Policies, and Regulations lists guidance applicable to the treatment of the study area landscape.
3. Recommended Treatment Approach describes the Secretary of the Interior's four approaches for treating historic properties and identifies rehabilitation as the most appropriate approach for the Harmony Hall cultural landscape.
4. A Vision for the desired future conditions of the study area is identified and Goals for achieving the vision are defined.
5. Future Research, Studies, and Planning summarizes recommended future research and investigations to support understanding of the historic landscape, protection of contributing features, and use by a partner.

In combination, these topics form the framework for the treatment guidelines and recommendations presented in Chapter 5 that aim to protect the historic character of Harmony Hall while supporting future use.

SUMMARY OF APPLICABLE LAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is legislation intended to preserve historic sites in the United States. Section 106 of NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) with a reasonable opportunity to comment. Section 110 of NHPA defines the responsibilities of

federal agencies in ensuring that historic properties are identified and protected, avoiding unnecessary damage to them in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs*. Of particular relevance to cultural landscapes is the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. Additional guidance is provided by the National Park Service through *Director's Order #28* and Chapter 5: Cultural Resource Management in NPS *Management Policies*, 2006.[1]

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970 authorized the creation of the Office of Environmental Quality to ensure federal departments conducting or supporting public works activities that affect the environment implement them according to legal policies. This placed responsibility on the Council on Environmental Quality.[2]

National Park Service floodplain management guidelines in accordance with Executive Order 11988 ("Floodplain Management") and Director's Order 77-2: Floodplain Management, apply to alterations made within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains.[3]

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires federal agencies consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species.[4]

The National Park Service Denver Service Center accessibility and universal design standards provide guidance for application to NPS projects to ensure they are compliant with the Architectural Barriers Act (1968), Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Telecommunications Act of 1996, Executive Order 13164, and applicable regulations.[5] The National Park Service provides additional guidance for application of accessibility standards to historic properties. *Preservation Brief 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible* provides guidance and examples for making historic properties accessible while balancing historic preservation concerns.[6]

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS AND ISSUES

Landscape management issues and considerations from Harmony Hall are drawn from the 2018 Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), 2022 Development Concept Plan (DCP), the CLR scope of work, and site observations.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN 2018 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

Updates to the 2018 CLI identified the following impacts to landscape features, and proposed stabilization measures.

- Harmony Hall and other structures require stabilization, including bracing of Want Water ruins.
    - While Harmony Hall has a completed HSR and has received some stabilization measures, the other buildings have not received treatment.
    - An HSR is in-progress for the Want Water ruins to address ongoing deterioration. Security measures around the ruins are also needed to protect both the ruin and visitors to the site.
- Collins Era outbuildings have deteriorated to ruins. The 2018 CLI reclassified these features as archeological sites.
- The ha-ha wall is collapsing and impacted by vegetative growth.
- The Collins Era terrace system is heavily overgrown and requires stabilization, vegetation removal, and stone restacking.
- Erosion is present along Slash Creek banks and Want Water Canal and should be addressed through repair and regular monitoring to impede additional shoreline loss.
- Views between the Harmony Hall manor house and Potomac and manor house and Livingston Road will require regular maintenance, particularly for vegetation.

ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS IDENTIFIED IN 2022 DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

The 2022 DCP re-envisions Harmony Hall as a natural park where improved public access to the site offers exciting opportunities to:

- Experience and connect with nature through varied habitats (woods, meadow, riparian, etc.).
- See and learn about the past, specifically local Prince George's County's history.
- Enjoy open space and water access.
- Adaptively reuse an historic building in a manner that is compatible with the site's history.

Through the DCP process, the community identified a desire for flexible outdoor space, partner use of buildings, and conservation and recreational use of the site. Based on this guidance, the Concept Plan:

- Supports interpretation and management of historic resources through the rehabilitation of Harmony Hall house and stabilization of Want Water.
- Presents short- and long-term options for the Harmony Hall house rehabilitation through a phased approach.
- Provides support space and public facility options, which introduce NPS partnership opportunities.
- Repurposes existing open space for programs, educational events, or informal recreation.
- Expands the trail system, parking, and signage.
- Manages recreation and events to avoid use conflicts with Harmony Hall's historic context.

The DCP recommended development of this cultural landscape report to guide overall treatment and long-term management of the Harmony Hall landscape. The CLR refines recommendations within the DCP, addressing the following specific topics:

- Evaluates and clarifies DCP recommendations to be consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties*.
- Clarifies what activities are appropriate within the cultural landscape.
- Compares trail surface options for accessible routes, parking, boat launch access, and other routes proposed by the DCP.
- Provides guidance for non-contributing buildings consistent with the character of the landscape.
- Provides guidelines and concept designs for implementation of DCP recommendations.

SYNTHESIZED CLR ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The following issues and considerations are synthesized from project scoping, the kickoff meeting, August and December 2023 field investigations, and the June 3, 2024, treatment workshop.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

- Erosion is impacting the following locations:
  - Slash Creek near the cypress allée and at the mouth of the creek,
  - Want Water Canal, particularly where the canal curves to the east.
- Future planning and studies are necessary to prevent loss of wetlands within the study area to erosion and species resilience. The CLR identifies considerations and character recommendations for development of these

recommendations in a manner that will protect the cultural landscape. Wetlands-specific planning is not included in the scope of this document.

LAND USE

- Flexible recommendations are needed to accommodate a future in-park partner. In particular, NPS desires guidance on what activities are appropriate within the cultural landscape and the appropriate scale for events at the property.
- NPS does not mow the area surrounding Want Water. At the time of field investigations, unsanctioned mowing was occurring along a trail connecting WSSC and Want Water.
- The CLR considers if a fence is needed along the property boundary. Trespassing has not been a significant issue at the site but may increase with improved site visibility.

VIEWS

- Recommendations are needed to reestablish the view between Harmony Hall and the Potomac River, a high priority for NPS and the public. Reestablishment of the view must be balanced with an understanding of how development on the opposite side of the river may impact historic character within the study area.
- The Broad Creek Historic District limits new development adjacent to the site, which also protects significant views at Harmony Hall.
- The property is not currently visible from Livingston Road. Public comments expressed a desire for a filtered view between the road and the house.

CIRCULATION

- Circulation features visible during development of the 2018 CLI have become overgrown. The trail to Want Water, stone features associated with the terraces, and road grades associated with the terraces/cypress allée are difficult to discern in the landscape.
- CLR recommendations will refine DCP recommendations for development of both pedestrian and vehicular routes within the site, accommodating the following needs:
    - A trail connection to the Harmony Hall Regional Center
    - Recreational facilities such as hiking trails and a boat launch
    - An accessible route between Harmony Hall and Want Water
    - Entry sequences and identity
    - Visitor and staff parking locations
- Recommendations are needed to connect the study area to the Potomac Heritage Trail. A bicycle trail within the property boundary is not desired.

VEGETATION

- Invasive species of concern include vinca, stilt grass, multiflora rose, porcelain berry, kudzu, and Japanese knotweed, among others. Guidance is desired for invasive species management throughout the site.

    - Guidelines are desired to identify how treatment of invasive species in the pine stand/north woods will relate to vegetation management by adjacent property owners (WSSC).
- Forest communities
    - Recommendations are needed for forest resilience to future environmental conditions and ash tree dieback.
    - Recommendations are desired for deer management.
    - The pine stand is a contributing feature but is currently experiencing low regeneration. It was last cut in the 1990s. Guidance is needed to ensure a sustainable long-term strategy for this vegetation community.
- West pasture/meadow management
    - NPS desires to rehabilitate the West Pasture to a meadow, allowing visitors to engage with views toward the Potomac.
    - A Meadow Management Plan is needed for the west pasture, including options for prescribed fire, mowing, and wildlife management.
- Cypress allée
    - Increased flooding is occurring within the cypress allée.
    - Guidance is needed for vegetation suited to increasingly saturated and brackish conditions.
- Guidance is desired for period-appropriate ornamental or specimen plantings near the house:
    - Management of boxwoods adjacent to the house, which are in decline.
    - Potential interpretive garden at the Collins Era terraces.
    - Orchard trees to the northwest of the house.
    - Eastern redcedar fenceline north of the house.
    - Mature trees to the east of the house.
    - Annual hazard tree monitoring and management.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- The HSR will continue to serve as the primary management document for the Harmony Hall manor house. No changes to this plan are desired.
- Monitoring and maintenance guidance is needed for the Harmony Hall manor house, addressing:
    - Regular monitoring (annual/quarterly)
    - Emergency stabilization
    - Structural assessment
- Guidance is desired for non-contributing buildings consistent with the character of the cultural landscape. The CLR evaluates DCP recommendations and proposes a strategy aligned with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation, including potential removal of non-contributing features that impact historic integrity.

- The property's fences are typically in poor condition. Guidance is needed for fence types and locations appropriate to the cultural landscape.

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

- Guidance is desired for wayfinding, interpretive signs, and identify markers. NPS notes that development of a wayside/interpretive plan is dependent on a programmatic partner for the site. The CLR provides guidelines and best management practices (BMPs) for wayside placement and content.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

- Additional study is needed to explore the property's potential national significance. The CLR identifies topics requiring additional study relating to:
    - Archeological evaluation efforts to assess the National Register eligibility of archeological sites at Harmony Hall.
    - Archeological evidence of a tidal port. The townsite may have become inundated as the shoreline shifted over time.
    - Archeological potential of Want Water Canal
    - Collins's erasure of Black history and the role of these narratives in the civil rights movement
    - Indigenous history
- Stabilization and interpretation guidance is needed for Want Water.
    - A concurrent HSR is addressing stabilization of the existing ruins.
    - The CLR identifies appropriate strategies for interpreting missing portions of the structure.
- The ha-ha is impacted by collapse and vegetative growth. Recommendations are needed for repair and/or reconstruction of the feature.

TREATMENT VISION AND GOALS

LANDSCAPE TREATMENT VISION

Rehabilitate the Harmony Hall landscape to disrupt the segregationist narratives of the Collins Era, reveal the site's erased Black history, and provide an inspirational framework for future partnership, community healing, and resilience within the tidal system.

LANDSCAPE TREATMENT GOALS

Goals for treatment of the cultural landscape are to:

- Rehabilitate contributing features based on the site's significance, future interpretation, and visitor safety needs using a three-pronged approach:
    - Preserve and repair contributing features associated with the Tobacco Era.
    - Identify hazardous features that should be removed to improve visitor safety. Initiate Section 106 consultation to assess the effects of removal of any contributing features.
- Enhance the ability of the landscape to share hidden stories (e.g., people enslaved at the plantation, Collins-Era narrative clarification.)
- Identify an appropriate strategy for removing or modifying incompatible non-contributing features.
- Enhance ecological communities and resilience.
- Identify opportunities to interpret natural systems and features.
- Identify appropriate recreational uses, including water access for small boats and accessible trail(s).
- Clarify site connections to the adjacent neighborhood and other local/regional amenities.
- Provide phased recommendations for implementation following establishment of a partnership at the property.
- Improve accessibility throughout the study area.
- Create sense of entry and site identity.

REHABILITATION (SELECTED APPROACH)

Rehabilitation allows repairs, alterations, and additions necessary to enable a compatible use for a property as long as the portions or features that convey the historical, cultural, or architectural values are preserved.

Rehabilitation is the most appropriate treatment approach for the Harmony Hall cultural landscape and is the selected approach for guidelines and treatment recommendations presented in Chapter 5. This approach provides an umbrella that preserves contributing features and aspects while allowing for modifications and new additions to the landscape to support interpretation, partner use, and

visitor access. Under this approach, features that are not compatible with the historic character of the property may be removed.

New elements that are compatible with historic conditions may be added to address future needs, such as new recreational trails and a boat launch, interpretive elements to reveal hidden stories within the landscape, and modification of existing structures to support partner use. Design of these elements requires careful consideration to provide additions that complement the historic features without creating a false sense of history. The Section 106 process will evaluate removal or modification of contributing features that are hazardous to visitor use or associated with problematic narratives to be reinterpreted at Harmony Hall.

PRESERVATION

Preservation is the act of sustaining the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. This approach is most appropriate for properties that have a high level of integrity and often includes presence of features or conditions from multiple time periods. Although preservation is an appropriate approach for treatment of the study area landscape, preservation limits the ability to make changes to accommodate new uses including those recommended by a future partner.

RESTORATION

Restoration is the process of depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period in time. Elements that relate to earlier or later periods are removed in order to clearly represent one time period. A high level of documentation is necessary to ensure that the site accurately represents the historic period. Because the study area possess two periods of significance, restoration is not the most appropriate treatment approach for the landscape. Adequate documentation is not available to accurately restore either period of significance. In addition, restoration to one period may necessitate removal of contributing features from the other, negating the interpretation of features associated with the first period of significance by the second.

RECONSTRUCTION

Reconstruction is the act of using new construction to depict a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object as it appeared at a specific period of time in its historic location. This approach is used only in cases where the highest level of significance applies and detailed documentation exists regarding the historic conditions of the property. Reconstruction is not the most appropriate treatment approach for the project area. Given the study area's two periods of significance,

it is not desirable to reconstruct the landscape to highlight one over the other. Individual features may be reconstructed within the study area under the umbrella of a rehabilitation approach.

STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation of cultural landscapes are as follows:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in a such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.[7]

FUTURE RESEARCH, STUDIES, AND PLANNING

Additional research, studies, planning, and design are recommended to inform and successfully implement the CLR treatment tasks.

- Conduct an assessment of current and predicted stream, wetland, and stormwater conditions.
- Develop a long-term plan for the preferred level of wetland stabilization or reestablishment.
- Develop a stream conservation plan for monitoring, maintenance, and treatment.
- Engage with associated Indigenous communities to identify significance, concerns, or potential future use of the Harmony Hall site. Based on consultation with associated tribes and nations, conduct ethnographic studies, archeology, or other documentation as appropriate.
- Develop a Vegetation Management and Monitoring Plan specific for cyclic specimen tree stewardship.
- Conduct a structural assessment to identify immediate stabilization needs for the Harmony Hall manor house.
- Create a sign and wayfinding plan.
- Conduct future research to explore the property's potential national significance. Future research will address deeper study of the canal, similar sites in the Chesapeake region, and underwater archeology. Potential national significance may be related to the following topics:
    - Archeological evidence of a tidal port. The townsite may have become inundated as the shoreline shifted over time.
    - Archeological potential of Want Water Canal
    - Collins's erasure of Black history and the role of these narratives in the civil rights movement
    - Indigenous history
- Work with regional archeologists to develop a GIS-based field assessment method for above-grade archeological remnants and ruins.
- Conduct archival research and archeological investigations to support interpretation of missing buildings and structures.
- Develop an archeological potential map for the Harmony Hall site to guide future investigations and placement of new elements within the landscape.

Endnotes

1 National Park Service, "Director's Order #28,"accessed May 2021, https://www.nps.gov/policy/dorders/dorder28.html; and National Park Service, *Management Policies* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2006).

2 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, https://ceq.doe.gov/laws-regulations/laws.html; and USLegal, Environmental Quality and Improvement Act, https://environmentallaw.uslegal.com/federal-laws/environmental-quality-andimprovement- act/; and https://ceq.doe.gov/laws-regulations/laws.html.

3 Executive Order 11988--Floodplain management, 42 FR 26951, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117, https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/ codification/executive-order/11988.html; and National Park Service, "Director's Order #77-2: Floodplain Management," https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_77-2.pdf.

4 United States Environmental Protection Agency, Laws and Regulations, *Summary of the Endangered Species Act*, https://www.epa.gov/ lawsregulations/summary-endangered-species-act.

5 National Park Service, *Denver Service Center Workflows, Accessibility and Universal Design Standards*, https://www.nps.gov/dscw/dsaccessibility-universal-design.htm#laws.

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TREATMENT PLAN

CHAPTER 5

Chapter title page: Want Water, undated (NACE Archives).

Chapter 5: Treatment Plan

This chapter presents landscape treatment guidelines and recommendations for the overall Harmony Hall cultural landscape. The CLR applies an overall treatment approach of rehabilitation to the cultural landscape. This approach allows for modifications and new additions to the landscape to support interpretation, partner use, and visitor access while preserving contributing features and aspects.

The recommended landscape treatment is based on research and analysis of Part 1 of this CLR as well as predecessor documents including the 2012 *Harmony Hall Historic Structure Report* and 2018 *Cultural Landscape Inventory*, and guidance provided by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* and National Park Service *Director's Order 28: Cultural Resources Management Guidelines*.[1] The treatment guidelines and recommendations were developed in collaboration with representatives of National Capital Parks-East and National Park Service-Region 1 National Capital Region through a treatment workshop on June 3, 2024.

This chapter is divided into three sections:

1. The **Summary of Preferred Treatment** describes the selected long-term treatment concept for the cultural landscape.
2. **Overall Study Area Treatment Guidelines** provide broad-scale treatment guidance and treatment types applicable to the entire study area.
3. **Treatment Guidance by Character Area** identifies application of the treatment guidelines to each landscape character area (LCA) as well as specific treatment actions for features within the LCA.

Building on this framework of treatment guidelines and tasks, Chapter 6 provides an inspirational concept of how a future partner could occupy the site and enhance visitor experience while interpreting the site's historical significance.

SUMMARY OF PREFERRED TREATMENT

The preferred treatment for Harmony Hall anticipates management during a period that NPS may be in search of a partner or preparing the site for a partner. Treatment is focused on the following topics:

- Re-establish Tobacco Era landscape condition and interpretation
- Reinterpret Collins Era landscape condition and narratives
- Introduce low-impact recreational opportunities
- Provide flexibility for a future partner
- Plan for resilience and adaptation

Additional detail on the treatment's vision and goals is provided in Chapter 4.

The treatment concept builds on observations from the site history and analysis that indicate Tobacco Era development and features (1708–1798) were primarily clustered on the north side of the study area while Collins Era development (1929–1964) focused on the area around the Harmony Hall manor house and Livingston Road (Figure 5-1). Continued research informed through consultation with tribes, archeological investigations, and ethnographic studies is critical to determine appropriate strategies for implementation of the treatments. This CLR anticipates that future studies may alter the proposed features or placement of elements within the recommended treatment and provides flexibility for the treatment to evolve in response to new information.

Re-establish Tobacco Era landscape condition and interpretation

The preferred treatment proposes reestablishing Tobacco Era spatial organization on the north side of the study area to center visitor understanding of the site's early use as a plantation and stories associated with enslaved laborers. Visitors will enter the study area along a new trail following the eighteenth-century route between Livingston Road and Want Water. Remaining features from the Tobacco Era including Want Water, Harmony Hall, and the study area's relationship to the Want Water Canal, the natural topography, and adjacent streams will be preserved, repaired, and interpreted. Missing features at Want Water and the Broad Creek/ Aire town site will be represented and interpreted following guidance from future archeological investigations and ethnographic studies.

Reinterpret Collins Era landscape condition and narratives

By introducing the Tobacco Era first, the preferred treatment also provides a framework for visitors to understand Collins's romanticized interpretation of a pre-Civil War plantation as they move south through the study area. During the initial phase of development described in this chapter, the treatment

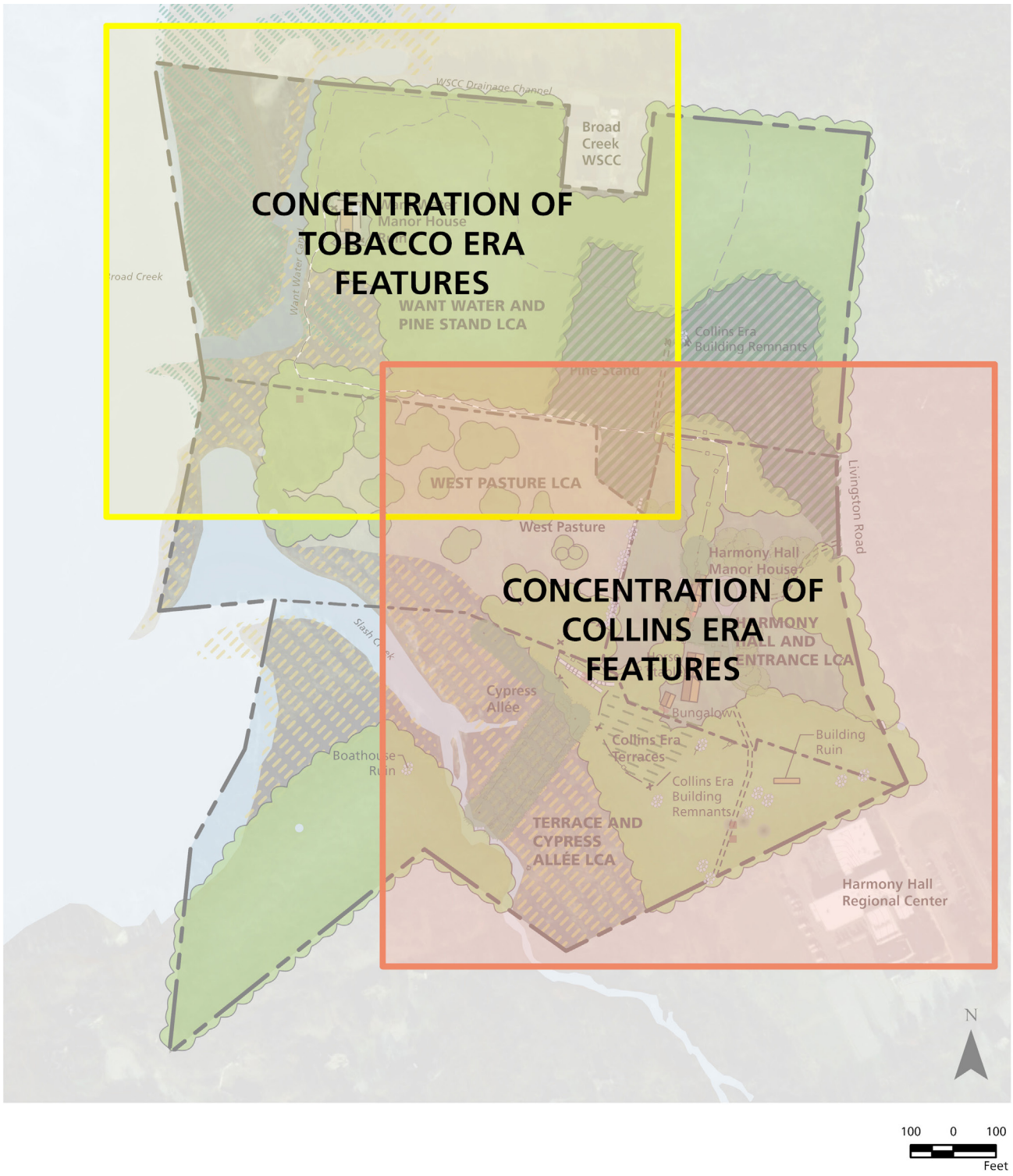


Figure 5-1. Distribution of Tobacco Era and Collins Era features within the cultural landscape.

concept preserves Collins Era features with limited modifications for new use. Recommendations re-establish broad-scale views critical to understanding the site's historic organization and utilize historic trail or road routes to improve circulation throughout the site. Ruins or remnants that pose a safety hazard to visitors may be evaluated for removal.

Introduce low-impact recreational opportunities

The preferred concept introduces limited, low-impact recreational uses such as hiking, non-motorized boating, and birdwatching. Recommendations propose a network of trails throughout the study area with accessible parking and trails connecting to key historic features and viewpoints. The concept also identifies two boat launch locations for kayaks and canoes. Although bike trails will not be established within the study area, the preferred treatment recommends working with Prince George's County to extend the Potomac Heritage Trail along Livingston Road and provide a trail connection to the adjacent Harmony Hall Regional Center.

Plan for resilience and adaptation

Recommendations for Harmony Hall's forests, wetlands, and meadows plan for adaptation to increased temperatures, extreme weather events, and brackish flooding. The concept recommends conducting a vulnerability assessment and provides guidance reestablishing and maintaining open areas, adjusting forest composition in response to climate factors, and addressing invasive vegetation. In addition, it identifies future studies and interpretive opportunities for tidal wetland stabilization or restoration.

Provide flexibility for a future partner

The treatment concept provides a framework for adaptation and use of the site by an arts, community, education, or environment-focused partner in the future. It identifies appropriate uses and studies necessary to support a variety of partner activities while continuing to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation. The concept also re-establishes historic development clusters and trail connections that will support a future partner's outdoor activities and site circulation while avoiding over-programming interpretive nodes. Finally, the concept proposes stabilizing contributing Collins Era features in the short term to allow for consideration of how to address and/or interpret those associated with problematic White supremacist narratives once a partner is identified.

Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Overall Site Plan
Recommended Treatment

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Building
- Historic Missing Building Interpretation
- Open Water
- Canal
- Native Grasses and Forbs
- Mown Turf
- Tidal Marsh
- Tidal Swamp
- Pine Stand
- Mixed Forest
- Brick Paving
- Collins Era Terrace
- Post and Rail Fence
- Safety Fence
- Boundary Fence
- Retaining Wall
- Gate
- Road Trace
- Trail
- Boardwalk or Puncheon
- Road
- Cypress Tree
- Individual Canopy Tree
- Apple Tree
- Boxwood
- Depression
- Steps
- Post
- Wayfinding
- Interpretive Node
- Evaluate Remnants for Removal

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2'-0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 105 210 420 Feet

Drawing RT-01

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OVERALL STUDY AREA HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER GUIDELINES

Landscape treatment guidelines are organized by landscape characteristic. Refer to Chapter 3 for the detailed existing condition of each landscape characteristic and an evaluation of integrity.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES GUIDELINES

- **Assess current and predicted stream, wetland, and stormwater conditions.**
    - Prepare a wetland delineation and Statement of Findings.
    - Identify predicted climate vulnerabilities, including critical erosion and flooding impacts based on current projections data.
    - Coordinate with existing and planned stormwater and stream restoration projects within the watershed.

- **Work with wetland specialists to prepare a feasibility for long-term wetland stabilization or reestablishment.**
    - Incorporate best management practices (BMPs) for wetland stabilization compatible with the historic character of the landscape.
    - Prioritize vegetated best management practices (Figure 5-2) to reestablish natural wetland vegetation and avoid creating a false sense of history.
    - In limited locations, consider utilizing offshore sills (Figure 5-3 through Figure 5-8) to interpret missing land mass at the Broad Creek/Aire Townsite. Refer to Archeological Sites Guidelines for recommendations related to known and unknown underwater archeological features.



Figure 5-2. Wetland or upland vegetation to control or prevent erosion (NC DEQ).

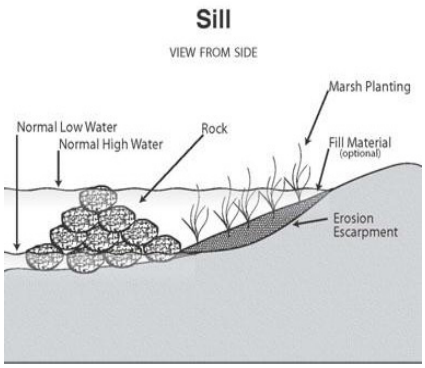


Figure 5-3. Offshore, shore-parallel rock structures designed to protect wetland vegetation by dissipating wave energy (NC DEQ).

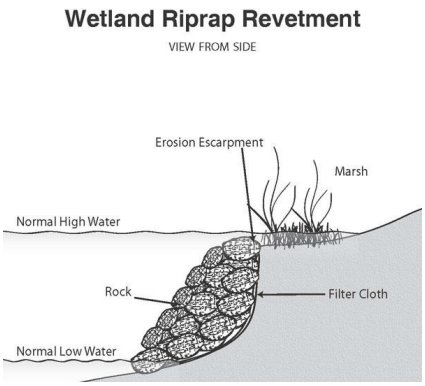


Figure 5-4. Shore-parallel, sloped rock structures to protect from erosion by absorbing wave energy and prevent wetland roots from becoming undermined (NC DEQ).

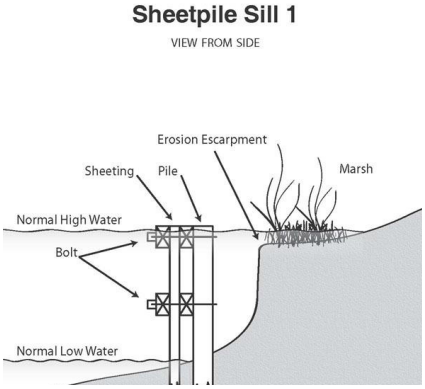


Figure 5-5. Offshore, shore-parallel wood structures designed to protect wetland vegetation by dissipating wave energy (NC DEQ).



Figure 5-6. Example of implemented rock sill with vegetation (NC DEQ).



Figure 5-7. Image of implemented wetland riprap revetment (NC DEQ).



Figure 5-8. Image of implemented sheetpile sill (NC DEQ).

- **Monitor and repair eroded streambanks within the study area.**
  - Annually monitor stream banks for erosion damage.
    - Consider establishing an IDIQ for natural resource monitoring within the study area. Include annual stabilization recommendations within the contract.
  - Stabilize eroded stream banks using BMPs compatible with the historic character of the landscape. Table 5.1 identifies criteria for the selection of an appropriate best management practice.
    - Vegetated stabilization: The BMPs in this category utilize new plantings, dormant woody vegetation, and degradable manufactured natural fiber products to stabilize and protect eroded stream banks.
    - Hard stabilization: Stone revetment structures or armament are appropriate for higher-flow streams and extensive bank cutting. This category also includes in-stream BMPs constructed of cut stone or native rock.
    - Extensive bank cutting: BMPs in this category address extensive bank destabilization due to erosion through bank armament, grade modification, vegetation, or a combination of multiple strategies.
    - High stream flow: Hard or vegetated stabilization BMPs in this category are appropriate to address erosion along steep, high volume, or high velocity streams.
    - Navigable waterway: BMPs in this category will not interrupt passage of small watercraft between boat launches and the Potomac River.
  - Stabilize known erosion locations of immediate concern, including:
    - Slash Creek near the cypress allée and confluence with Broad Creek.
    - Want Water Canal, particularly where the canal curves to the east.

- **Manage deer consistent with Deer Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for National Capital Parks-East.**[2]

TABLE 5.1: COMPATIBLE STREAMBANK STABILIZATION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

STABILIZATION BMP	VEGETATED STABILIZATION	HARD STABILIZATION	EXTENSIVE BANK CUTTING	HIGH STREAM FLOW	NAVIGABLE WATERWAY
Bank Stabilization Techniques					
Live cribwall (Figure 5-9)	x	x	x	x	x
Imbricated rip-rap (Figure 5-10)		x	x	x	x
Joint planting/ vegetated rip-rap (Figure 5-11)	x	x	x	x	x
Live stakes (Figure 5-12)	x		x		x
Soil lifts (Figure 5-13)	x		x		x
Vegetated geogrid (Figure 5-14)	x		x	x	x
Grade Control					
Cross vane (Figure 5-15)		x	x		
Step pool (Figure 5-16)		x	x		
In-Stream Flow Structures					
Log vanes (Figure 5-17)	x				

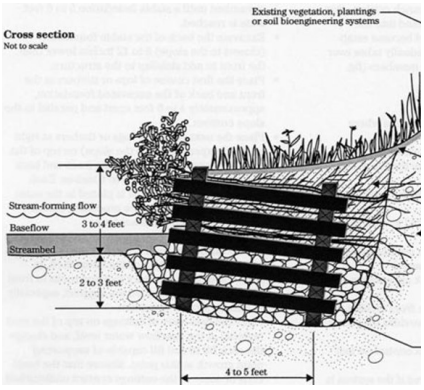


Figure 5-9. Live cribwalls are constructed of hollow, interlocking members filled with rock or soil. Live cuttings inserted through openings between the logs root within the fill, reinforcing the structure (VDOT/USDA).



Figure 5-10. Imbricated rip-rap consists of a neatly stacked stone wall designed to resist both the force of channelized water within the stream and the lateral force of the enveloped bank (Cedar Mountain Stone).

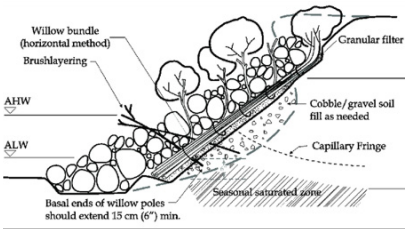


Figure 5-11. Joint planting/ vegetated rip-rap consist of a combination of rock and plant cuttings to stabilize a stream bank (VDOT/USDA).



Figure 5-12. Live stakes are long plant cuttings driven into the ground. After they root, the cuttings stabilize the bank and create a habitat buffer (Cuyahoga Valley Conservation District).



Figure 5-13. A vegetated soil lift consists of wrapping 'lifts' of soil in geotextile fabric to form an edge for the stream. Live stakes are planted between and through the top of the lifts (Streamhandbook.org)



Figure 5-14. Vegetated geogrids combine soil lifts and brush layering to reinforce a stream bank through both mechanical earth stabilization and vegetative cover (SierraScape).



Figure 5-15. Rock cross vanes are constructed to provide grade control and reduce bank erosion (Montgomery County, MD, "Stream Restoration Techniques").



Figure 5-16. A step-pool system maximizes the flow resistance and protects the bed sediment from erosion protecting the riverbed and bank slopes (Montgomery County, MD, "Stream Restoration Techniques").



Figure 5-17. A log vane is an in-stream structure that protects the bank by directing stream flow towards the center of the channel (Montgomery County, MD, "Stream Restoration Techniques").

TOPOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

- **Monitor and maintain the existing topography of the natural river terrace and protect grading associated with ha-ha from erosion.**
    - Monitor annually and as needed after storm events for erosion damage.
    - Develop a routine maintenance and monitoring schedule that is reasonable given staff and funding. Consider using a standard monitoring approach using a form approved by resource managers. An example format is described below.
        - Asset Location: Using updated site FMSS data, sort assets (features) by asset location (property) for monitoring purposes.
        - Asset: Using updated site FMSS data, list assets (features) individually.
        - Asset number: FMSS asset numbers should be assigned to all assets that do not currently have asset numbers assigned; assets associated with current asset numbers should be specifically described in record keeping strategies to avoid confusion among assets.
        - Sequence: Assign a season for monitoring to occur for each asset. Assets should also be inspected as needed after storm events.
        - Deficiencies: Note all damage or deterioration present at the time of monitoring.
        - Condition: Indicate the current condition of the feature (good, fair, or poor).
        - Date last checked: Following completion of the monitoring, update the form to indicate that the asset has been checked for future reference.
        - Last checked by: Provide initials of the staff or volunteer who last completed the monitoring.
    - Repair by establishing erosion-resistant ground surfaces using vegetation, riprap, or a combination of stabilization techniques.
        - Prioritize vegetative strategies.
        - Avoid utilizing retaining walls or rip-rap stabilization in visible locations that may create a false sense of history.

- **When changes to the existing topography are necessary to support new use within the study area:**
    - Utilize the native topography to inform site selection and design of new elements so that they are unobtrusive and blend with the surrounding landscape.
    - Do not place a new feature where it will require extensive grading or disrupt historic grades.

LAND USE GUIDELINES

- **Engage with associated Indigenous communities to identify significance, concerns, or potential future use of the Harmony Hall Site.**
    - Based on consultation with associated tribes and nations, conduct ethnographic studies, archeology, or other documentation as appropriate.

- **Work with future partner organization(s) to determine appropriate land use and ensure that it is aligned with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and supportive of the activities/needs of the partner organization.**
    - Encourage partnerships and uses that support public access, education, arts, recreation, or conservation. Partner organizations that support diverse representation in these fields are well-suited to the Harmony Hall site, particularly organizations that have experience interpreting the African American experience to the general public.
    - Encourage partnerships and uses that prioritize public access. Private land uses, for example materials storage or staff housing, would limit opportunities for the public to learn from this site.
    - Discourage land uses that would romanticize Collins or pre-Civil War plantation owners. For example, a wedding venue would not be respectful of the history of enslavement at this park.
    - Work closely with potential partner organizations to integrate new land uses while avoiding impacts to historic resources. For example, identify areas that retain no archeological potential that may be used for limited ground-disturbing activities such as tenting, community gardening, or small-scale agriculture. Refer to Archeological Sites Guidelines.
    - A list of potential partnership organizations is provided in Table 5.2. Chapter 6 describes an inspirational example of site development under a future partnership focused on community development and arts.

TABLE 5.2. POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

ARTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Harmony Hall Regional Center
The adjacent Harmony Hall Regional Center, which already offers educational, arts and culture, and recreational programs, could expand its offerings by using Harmony Hall as an outdoor classroom. Potential new programs could include nature walks, bird watching, stargazing, outdoor drawing or plein-air painting classes, and classes related to the park's resources, enhancing the center's existing activities with outdoor, nature-focused experiences.

Prince George's County African American Museum and Cultural Center
This organization began 1991 as the North Brentwood Historical Society. At that time, the society began an oral history project and exhibit that documented and celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the first municipality in Prince George's County incorporated by African Americans. In January 2007, the entity changed names to the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGAAMCC). PGAAMCC's mission is to celebrate and inspire the community through the cultivation, preservation, and presentation of the cultural and artistic contributions of African Americans in Prince George's County, Maryland and beyond. If the organization desired, a partnership between PGAAMCC and NPS could bring recognition to the history of the enslaved at Harmony Hall and the larger history of the civil rights struggle of African Americans in Broad Creek and Chapel Hill communities that neighbor the park. This organization would be well suited to help interpret African American history from the Tobacco Era to the civil rights struggle.

Prince George's County Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS-PGCM)
The Prince George's County, Maryland Chapter of AAHGS was organized in July 1994 and chartered 28 April 1995. As a nonprofit volunteer organization, the society's objectives are to promote Black history in Prince George's County, to encourage the historical and genealogical studies of African Americans currently residing in the county, and to support the goals and objectives of their national society. AAHGS-PGCM conducts activities such as: workshops, speaker forums, discussion groups, on-site research, a speakers bureau, exhibits, and networking. The society organizes an annual Juneteenth Seminar to encourage families to research their genealogy. Currently, this organization holds meetings at local libraries. If the organization desired, Harmony Hall might provide a more permanent location to continue its mission, which also counters the negative stereotypes that Collins perpetuated by expanding the body of knowledge associated with local Black history.

TABLE 5.2. POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Silesia Citizens Foundation

The Silesia Citizens Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes the Silesia community. The Silesia Citizens Foundation could be a potential partner to adaptively reuse the site's buildings for administrative or educational purposes.

Volunteer or Friends Group

A potential "Friends of Harmony Hall" volunteer group or a similar volunteer organization could play a key role in supporting various programs and services at Harmony Hall. Volunteers could be trained to assist with educational programs and take on projects such as establishing and maintaining a trail system, creating an informative garden, and conducting routine litter clean-ups. Additionally, the group could be responsible for establishing and maintaining a stabilized launch pad at the new water access point and managing a cart system at the new parking area to facilitate easier transport of canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards.

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Education Group

A food and agriculture education non-profit organization could partner with Harmony Hall to provide educational programming and potentially reuse the site's buildings for administrative or educational purposes. Programming could focus on food and agriculture that reflects the heritage of Southern Maryland, aiming to support a healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable food system. Potential programs might include a demonstration garden, talks on culturally and historically significant crops, farmer and gardener training, nutrition education, and arts and storytelling programs.

Alice Ferguson Foundation and Bridging the Watershed

The Alice Ferguson Foundation is actively involved in connecting people to the natural world, sustainable agricultural practices, and cultural heritage through education, stewardship, and advocacy. The Foundation operates a working farm and environmental center on 330 acres along the Potomac River. A key program, "Bridging the Watershed," already partners with NPS and local schools to offer students hands-on, curriculum-based outdoor education in national parks. This program could potentially serve as a model for how Harmony Hall could be used to engage local students with the natural environment of the park. The Foundation may also be a potential partner for adaptively reusing buildings at Harmony Hall for administrative or educational purposes.

TABLE 5.2. POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

The Conservancy of Broad Creek, Inc.
The Conservancy of Broad Creek, Inc., is a nonprofit organization focused on preserving the history and ecology of the Broad Creek area. It provides educational events related to local and Prince George's County history and collaborates with government and non-government agencies to preserve, educate, and conserve important resources. The Conservancy's expertise in educational programming and conservation efforts makes it a potential partner for NPS to offer educational talks, tours, or volunteer support for projects at Harmony Hall, highlighting the park's cultural and natural resources.

Accokeek Foundation
The Accokeek Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a passion for the natural and cultural heritage of Piscataway Park, with a strong focus on stewardship and sustainability. The Foundation currently partners with NPS to enhance the visitor experience at Piscataway Park and manage 200 acres of its land. Given their existing role, the Accokeek Foundation could be a potential partner in adaptively reusing buildings at Harmony Hall for administrative or educational purposes. Additionally, there is potential for expanding their partnership with the NPS to provide educational programs at Harmony Hall.

Soul Trak
Soul Trak Outdoors is a DC-based nonprofit organization that connects communities of color to outdoor spaces while also building a coalition of diverse outdoor leaders. The organization runs a variety of activities to serve hands-on, experiential programming. Their mission is threefold. 1) Connecting communities of color to one another using natural spaces and recreational outlets as unifying mechanisms. 2) Engage minorities to develop a representative community in the outdoors that reflects our nation. 3) Facilitate educational and skill-based instruction to expand understanding and interest for public lands. Harmony Hall could serve as an outdoor space or hub for Soul Trak programming or a similarly aligned organization.

Local Universities
Harmony Hall has the potential to serve as an outdoor classroom for local universities in Maryland, Virginia, and/or the District of Columbia. Students and professors from programs such as historic preservation, archeology, and ecology could partner with NPS in activities that benefit both academic research and NPS initiatives. These activities could include identifying and implementing preservation and rehabilitation efforts, conducting archeological and ecological research, and studying wildlife and habitats. Additionally, professors and students could engage in community outreach by offering educational programming about Harmony Hall's history and natural environment to visitors.

TABLE 5.2. POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIATED INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
Piscataway Indian Nation, Piscataway Conoy Tribe, and other affiliated bands Consultation with tribes and nations associated with the study area may expand understanding of its significance and could result in identifying a future use for the site associated with its historic or current Indigenous uses and meanings.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION GUIDELINES

- **Maintain open spatial organization at Harmony Hall and Want Water development clusters.**
    - Continue to maintain open lawn surrounding these development clusters. Refer to Vegetation guidelines.

- **Maintain visual buffers between the site and adjacent incompatible land uses to the north and south.**
    - Maintain 40' minimum width for forested buffer.
    - If forest die-back occurs along the north and south property boundaries, prioritize these areas for replanting to maintain the woodland/enclosed character. Refer to Vegetation guidelines.

- **When additions are necessary to support new uses within the study area, design these features to avoid intrusion on the site's historic spatial organization.**
    - Place new features within the native topography to minimize scale and visibility.
    - Design new features to be compatible with the size, scale, design, materials, color, and texture of the original design intent. Refer to Circulation, Buildings and Structures, and Small-Scale Features Guidelines.
    - Differentiate new additions from contributing features to avoid creating a false sense of history.

- **Rehabilitate the open condition of the west pasture.** Refer to West Pasture and Slash Creek LCA Treatment Task 57.

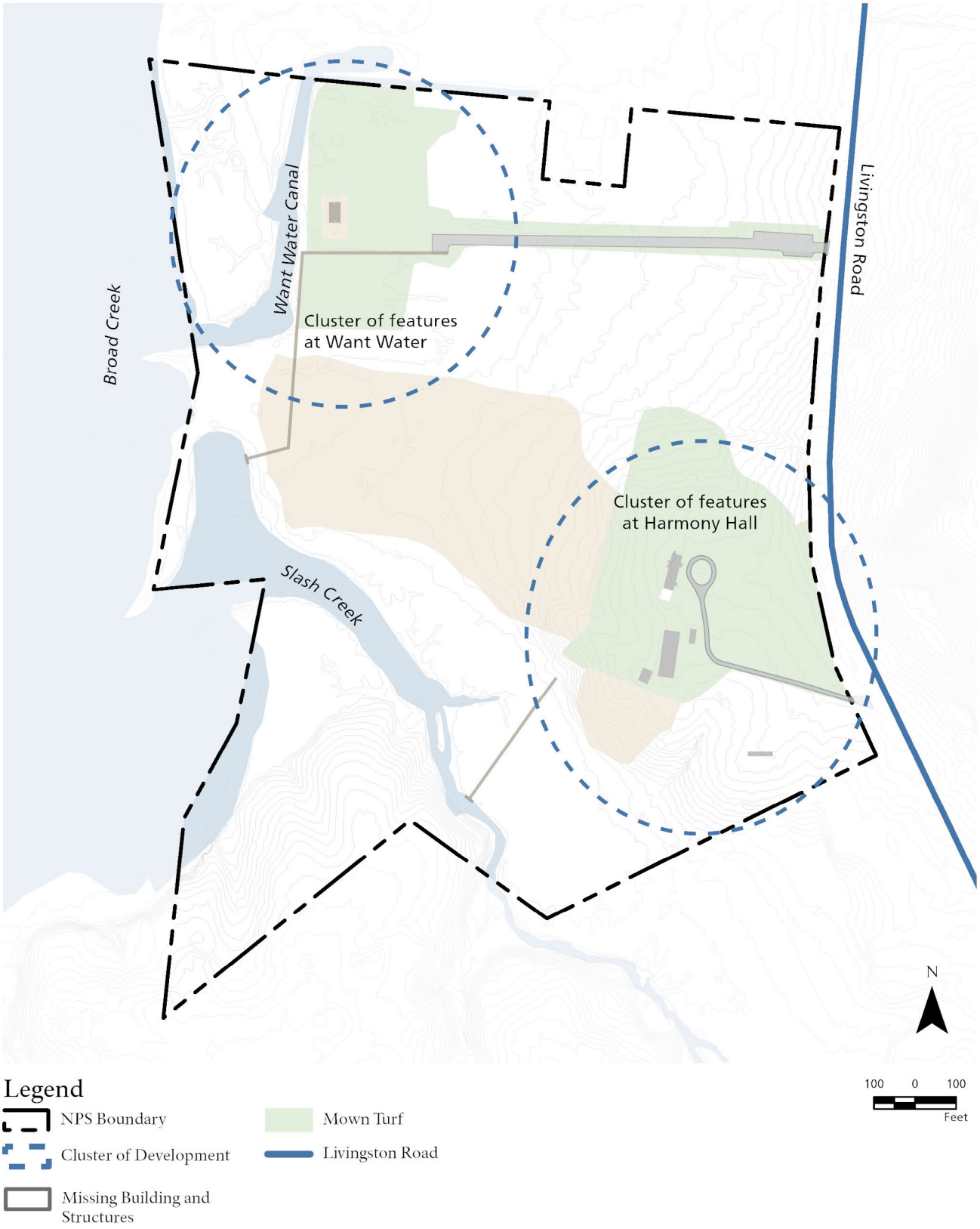


Figure 5-18. Proposed study area spatial organization

VIEWS GUIDELINES

- **Re-establish and protect key characteristics of contributing views.**
  - Views within the study area are primarily defined by vegetation and buildings and structures as described in the Views narrative and location diagram in Chapter 3.
  - The guidelines below are intended to provide general direction on protection of significant views. Rehabilitation of specific views is addressed in the individual treatment tasks in this chapter.
  - Contributing views and their key characteristics include:
    - *View A: View from Harmony Hall manor house west toward the Potomac River.* The historic viewshed extended across a broad field with views across the Potomac River to Virginia. During the Tobacco Era, the view would also have included the Broad Creek/Aire townsite, a cluster of development associated with Want Water, and dwellings occupied by people enslaved on the plantations. Rehabilitate the visual connection between the manor house and river by reestablishing a meadow in the location of the west pasture. Refer to Task 57.
    - *View B: View from west pasture/Potomac River toward Harmony Hall manor house*. Similar to View A which faces the opposite direction, this viewshed was historically defined by the Harmony Hall manor house located on a high point, with a broad field in the foreground. During the Collins Era, the ha-ha was established at the eastern end of the pasture. Tobacco Era buildings and structures may also have been present in the view during the eighteenth century. Rehabilitate the visual connection between the manor house and river by reestablishing a meadow in the west pasture and rehabilitating vegetation along the west facade of the manor house. Refer to Task 7, Task 9, and Task 57.
    - *View C: View from Harmony Hall manor house toward Livingston Road and View D: View from Livingston Road toward Harmony Hall manor house*. During the Collins Era, relatively limited vegetation between the manor house and road facilitated a visual connection between these features. Rehabilitate a filtered view between the manor house and the road by modifying non-contributing vegetation. Refer to Task 10.
    - *View E: View toward Want Water manor house.* Maintain a view of the manor house ruins framed by vegetation, as was present during the Collins Era. Refer to Task 44.
    - *View F: View of Broad Creek from Want Water manor house*. During the Collins Era, limited streambank vegetation facilitated a clear visual connection between these features. Rehabilitate the visual connection between Broad Creek and the Want Water manor house ruin by modifying non-contributing vegetation. Refer to Task 43.
    - *View G: View northeast along cypress allée*. At the time of its establishment in the 1930s, this location presented a linear view along a road framed by rows of baldcypress trees. Rehabilitate the view by removing vegetation within the allée. Consider reestablishing a circulation route in its historic location if desired by a partner organization. Refer to Task 26 and Task 27.

- **Avoid removing contributing features from within individual views.** Primary features and characteristics associated with each view are described above.

- **Avoid adding buildings, structures, circulation routes, and vegetation that will impact or obscure contributing viewsheds within the study area.**

- **Coordinate with adjacent landowners and agencies to limit development that may impact views**, including views from the study area across the Potomac River.

CIRCULATION GUIDELINES

- **Preserve contributing circulation routes.**
  - Remove large woody vegetation from contributing routes and maintain clear of obstacles.
  - Protect and maintain circulation systems using nondestructive methods. Do not use maintenance methods that destroy or obscure the circulation features (for example, practices and materials that are harsh, abrasive, or experimental). Do not replace or destroy circulation features and materials if repair is possible.
  - Prioritize adding new circulation along historic routes.

- **Remove and prevent addition of new unauthorized trails within the study area.**
  - Use natural barrier materials to discourage unauthorized trail use as new routes are constructed. Refer to Task 41.
  - Monitor the property for unauthorized use.
  - Cultivate personal relationships with adjacent neighborhoods and identify opportunities for the community to maintain a sense of ownership and pride through authorized volunteering.

- **Add a new site entrance along the historic road to Want Water.**
  - A new entrance on the north side of the study area will reorient the site experience to Tobacco Era resources. The proposed site organization will introduce visitors to the sites and stories associated with the people formerly enslaved at the eighteenth-century plantations before addressing the site's reinterpretation and White supremacist narratives associated with Charles Collins.
  - Incorporate a parking area, accessible parking spaces, a boat drop-off/turnaround, and trailhead into the entrance. Refer to Task 35 through Task 39.
  - Consider using rustic pavement to evoke the character of a bare earth road along the historic route (Figure 5-19).



Figure 5-19. Rustic pavement, Richmond National Battlefield Park (US Federal Highway Administration).

- **If necessary to support future partner use of the site, consider adding visitor parking and an accessible entrance to the study area near the Harmony Hall manor house.**
    - All three scenarios for parking presented in the 2022 DCP may be implemented to meet the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (Figure 5-20 through Figure 5-22). While the ultimate treatment for this area will be determined following selection of a partner, the CLR recommends the following to reduce impacts to contributing aspects and features and improve visitor understanding of the site's historic condition:
        - Consider distributing parking spaces between the southeast entrance drive and a small lot near the stables (similar to Option A). Smaller parking areas will be less visually prominent and more easily screened in the landscape than a large lot.
        - Consider removing the horse stables if not necessary to support partner operations and adding parking on or near the location of the structure (similar to Option A). The area around the horse stables is highly disturbed and has low archeological potential, and therefore adding parking in this location is less likely to disturb below-grade features. Removing the non-contributing structure will also support reestablishing historic spatial patterns in the vicinity of the manor house.
        - A large parking lot in the former location of the horse stables (Option C) is not preferred, as it will continue to disrupt historic spatial organization.
    - Chapter 6 presents an example plan for a community-focused partner incorporating the considerations above.

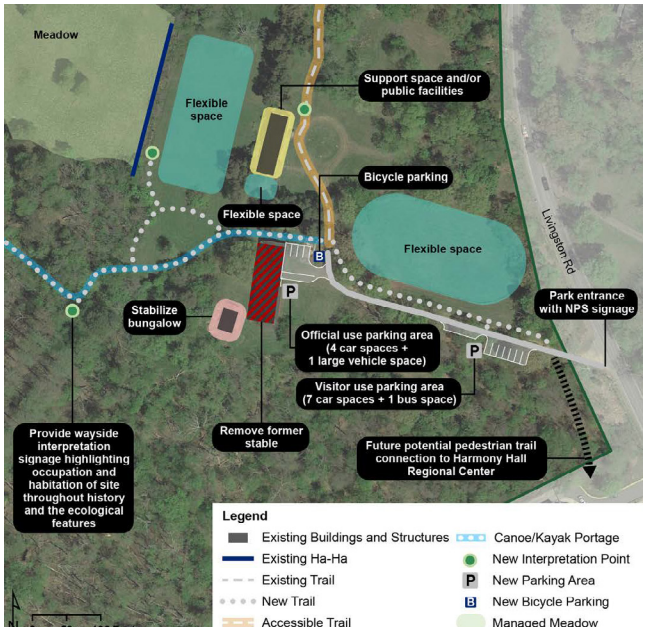


Figure 5-20. Option A removes the stable and adds an official use parking area extending from the bend in the south entrance drive and adjacent to the footprint of the former stable. This parking area includes four car spaces and one large vehicle space. A separate visitor use parking area with seven car spaces and one bus space is located on the south entrance drive near Livingston Road.

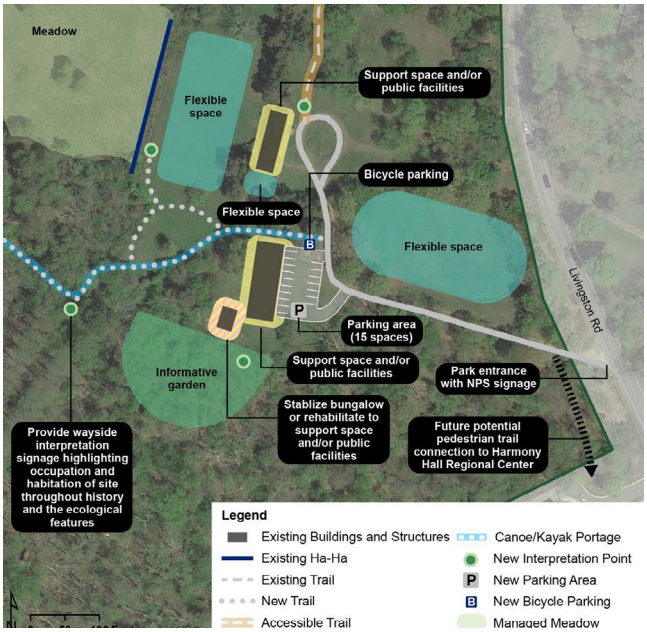


Figure 5-21. In Option B, the stable remains in place and a parking area of 15 spaces supports adaptive reuse of the horse stable.

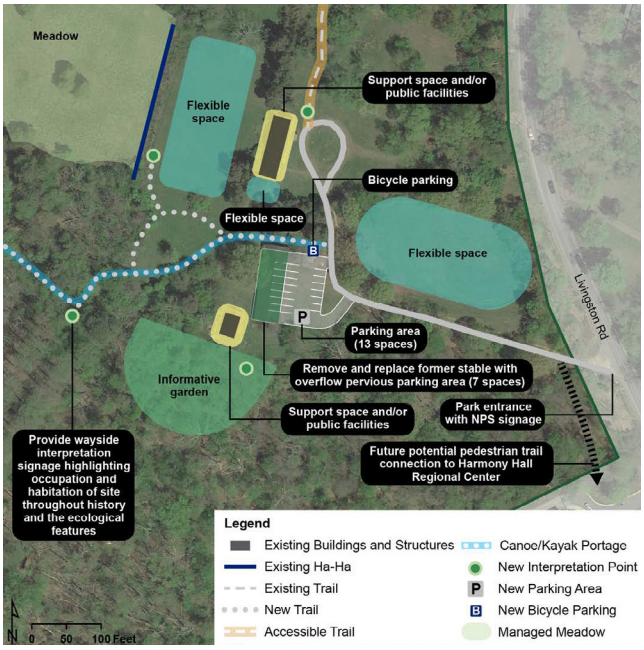


Figure 5-22. Option C removes the stable and adds a 13-space parking area that extends from the bend in the south entrance drive and includes the footprint of the former stable.

- **When new pedestrian circulation routes are required to support programs or use, or modification to existing routes is necessary to address facility requirements, design them to be compatible with the historic character of the landscape.**
    - Proposed site circulation (including accessible routes) is illustrated on Figure 5-23. Individual trail recommendations are detailed in the Initial Treatment Tasks section of this chapter.
    - Avoid regrading that will damage contributing circulation routes when establishing new or modified trails along historic routes in areas of high archeological potential. Whenever regrading is necessary, use fill that is distinguishable from the existing soil rather than cut to avoid impacting resources.
    - Provide Outdoor Recreation Access Routes (ORARs) to all major site features, including the interpretive nodes at Want Water and Harmony Hall and the boat launch.[3]
    - Utilize materials, width, and edge treatment compatible with the historic character of the site and visitor use.
        - Use a material palette of bank run gravel, limestone fines, bare earth surface, or mown trails for hiking trails throughout the study area (Figure 5-24 through Figure 5-26). If feasible for trails within the study area, bank run gravel is preferred.
        - Use a material palette of bank run gravel, limestone fines, stabilized soil, resin pavement, or chip seal for accessible trail surfaces (Figure 5-27 through Figure 5-29). If feasible for trails within the study area, bank run gravel is preferred.
        - Consider incorporating brick pavers into circulation features in proximity to the Harmony Hall manor house or Want Water (Figure 5-30).
    - Visually differentiate circulation routes on historic routes from those on nonhistoric routes.
    - Provide stormwater management and erosion control as an integral component to development of new circulation systems.

- **Where the proposed trail network extends through wet conditions, work with natural resources staff to identify a circulation type that will protect the site's hydrology and ecosystem while providing a firm, stable route for visitors.**
    - Trail construction options include boardwalks (Figure 5-32 through Figure 5-36), puncheons (Figure 5-37 through Figure 5-41), modular floats (Figure 5-42), and turnpikes and causeways (Figure 5-43 through Figure 5-45).
        - Grade modification techniques (turnpikes and causeways) are only appropriate for locations with low archeological potential and when applied in the most minimal approach possible.
    - Use a simple trail surface visually similar to a boardwalk or bare earth trail.
    - Avoid wood members where possible. Alternative options may include composite decking, fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) planks or molded panels, or concrete planks.

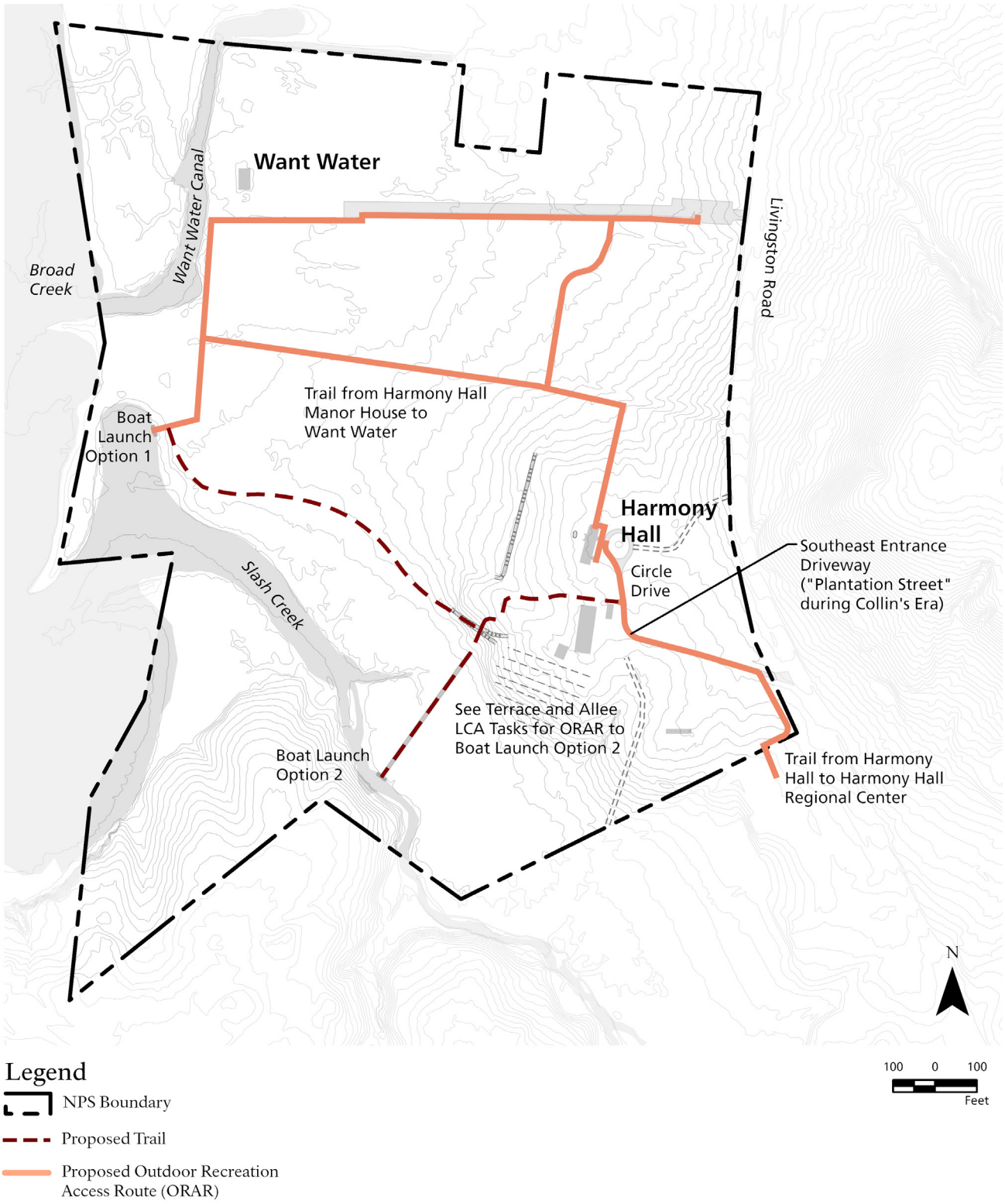


Figure 5-23. Proposed new routes within the study area.



Figure 5-24. A limestone fines or bank run gravel trail combines the rustic feeling of a natural trail with a durable surface. This type of surface feels more like a trail than a hard-surfaced path and fits well with rustic settings (AmericanTrails).

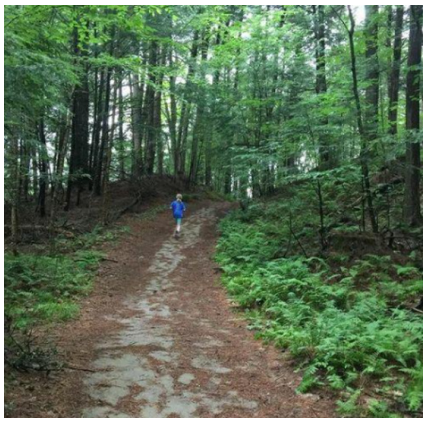


Figure 5-25. A natural bare earth surface offers inexpensive maintenance costs, limited drainage correction, erosion repairs, and vegetation removal with appropriate soils and canopy or other protective cover (Mt. Ascutney State Park, Trailfinder).



Figure 5-26. A mown trail provides a way to traverse a meadow (Upper Lawn at Standen, Wikimedia).

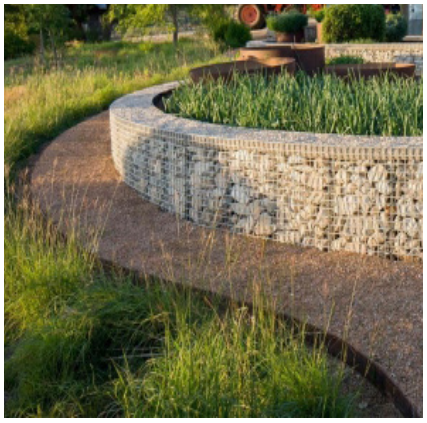


Figure 5-27. Example of stabilized soil path using decomposed granite and stabilizer, a non-toxic, organic binder that is derived from crushed seed hulls and other natural ingredients (www.stabilizersolutions.com).



Figure 5-28. Resin pavement is an alternative to bituminous hot mix asphalt. The finished product blends with the natural environment and provide a smooth, accessible surface (USDA).

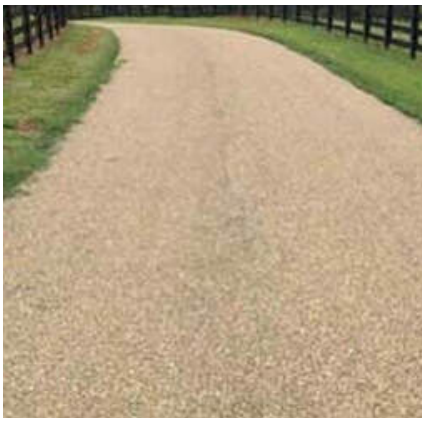


Figure 5-29. Chip sealing is a thin film of heated asphalt liquid sprayed on the road surface, followed by the placement of small aggregate chips, which are then compacted (www.tarandchiparlington.com).



Figure 5-30. Brick pavers can be appropriate around Harmony Hall and Want Water when designed according to SOI standards (arroybuildingmaterials.net).

Boardwalk



Figure 5-31. Circular boardwalk at Museum of the Shenandoah. To limit disruption to the wetlands, the usual wood support pilings were not allowed (Museum of the Shenandoah).



Figure 5-32. Engineers designed the boardwalk with four poles that keep the circular structure stationary while it bobs horizontally on wedges over aluminum supports (Museum of the Shenandoah).



Figure 5-33. A hinge joint allows for the boardwalk to flex in response to changing conditions (Museum of the Shenandoah).



Figure 5-34. A rebuilt wooden viaduct spans across Dyke Marsh on helical piles. Each bridge section was built individually using construction equipment on top of the previous installed section to minimize footprint of the project and protect the underlying marsh ecosystem (mountvernontrail.com).



Figure 5-35. The accessible boardwalk trail at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is an 0.5-mile loop through uplands, forested wetlands, and across 600' of fresh land marsh (US Fish and Wildlife Service).



Figure 5-36. A boardwalk at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore rests on treads situated on the ground surface with minimal anchors (Quinn Evans, 2024).

Puncheon

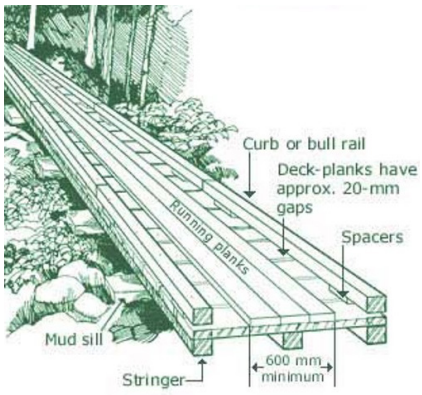


Figure 5-37. A puncheon is a wooden walkway used to cross bogs or deep muskeg, to bridge boulder fields, or to cross small streams. It can be used where uneven terrain or lack of tread material makes turnpike construction impractical (USFS).

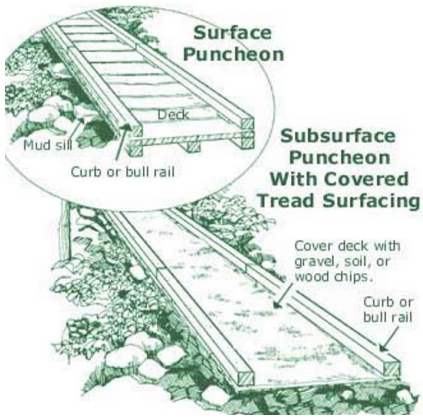


Figure 5-38. Subsurface puncheons are constructed with the mud sill, stringers, and decking under the ground surface. This design depends on continual water saturation for preservation (USFS).

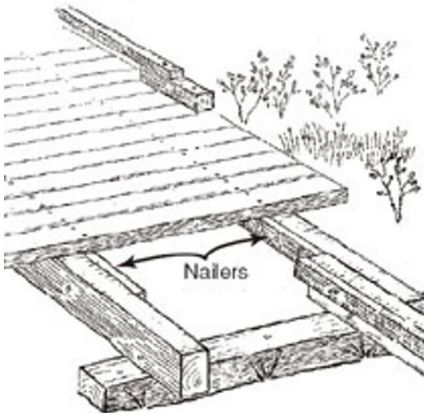


Figure 5-39. This puncheon type is constructed from preservative treated timbers. The nailer bolted to the inside of each stringer helps prevent decay by concentrating screw holes and associated decay in the easily replaced nailers instead of the stringers (USFS).



Figure 5-40. Puncheon boardwalk protecting sensitive, saturated areas of the trail at Graveyard Fields, Pisgah National Forest (HikeWNC).



Figure 5-41. This puncheon connects to an ADA stone fine trail at Huntley Meadows, a Fairfax County Park (Huntley Meadows, Fairfax County).

Modular Floats



Figure 5-42. A superdeck modular system used as a floating bridge crossing a wetland in Alaska (US Fish and Wildlife Service).

Turnpikes and Causeways

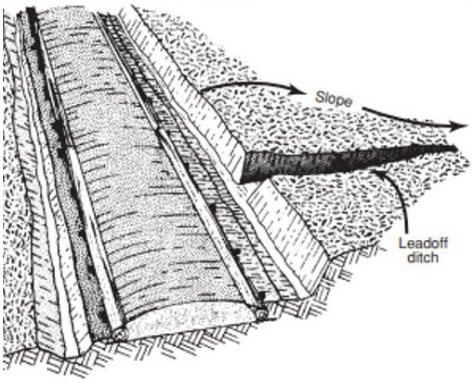


Figure 5-43. Turnpikes elevate a trail above wet ground. The technique uses fill material from parallel side ditches and other areas to build the trail base higher than the surrounding water table (US Forest Service, USDA).

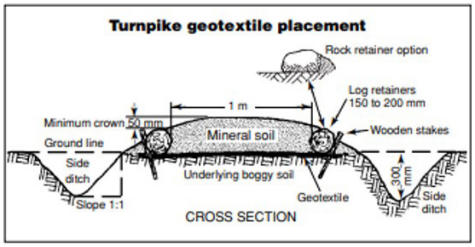


Figure 14—Place the geotextile under the retainer logs or rocks before staking it.

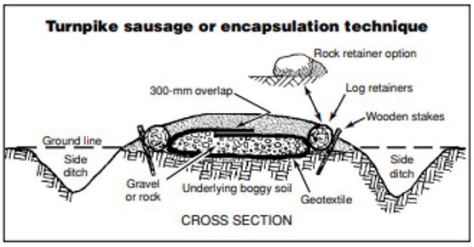


Figure 15—Sausage or encapsulation method.

Figure 5-44. Two techniques for construction of trail turnpikes. If using geotextile, the fabric should go under any retainer rocks or logs. Lay the geotextile over the top with no excavation, then fill over with high quality fill. Sausage or encapsulation method uses rock or logs for retainers (US Forest Service, USDA).



Figure 5-45. New turnpike with timber culvert. Overfill is appropriated because the fill will settle. Wet fill compacted with a vibratory plate compactor will help reduce settling (US Forest Service, USDA).

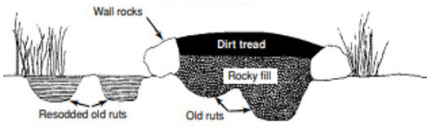


Figure 5-46. Both turnpikes and causeways interrupt the flow of water along and across the trail. A causeway is essentially a turnpike without side ditches. Causeways create less environmental impact than turnpikes because they do not require ditches that lower the water table. In highly saturated soils the causeway could sink into the ground, a problem that geotextiles help prevent (US Forest Service, USDA).

- **Add a boat launch for non-motorized craft to access Broad Creek and the Potomac River.**
  - Appropriate locations include:
    - Option 1: Confluence of Slash Creek and Broad Creek (Task 55).
    - Option 2: Slash Creek at the terminus of the cypress allée (Task 25).
  - Want Water Canal is not recommended as a boat launch location because of the potential impact to sensitive resources.
  - Non-motorized boat launch alternatives include:
    - Stepped ramps (Figure 5-47 and Figure 5-50) provide an on-grade option without a boardwalk or raised walkway.
    - A launch port lift (Figure 5-49 and Figure 5-51) is appropriate for tidal conditions.
    - An EZ dock (Figure 5-51 and Figure 5-52) provides a universally accessible option.
  - Design the route to the boat launch to incorporate use of a dolly.

- **Work with Prince George's County to evaluate the addition of a bike lane along Livingston Road to connect to the Potomac Heritage Trail.**
  - Consider adding a bike lane or trail parallel to Livingston Road. The trail may incorporate minor adjustments to vegetation or grade along the east side of the Harmony Hall property.
  - Avoid adding a bike trail through the interior of the study area.
  - Provide signage identifying the route adjacent to the study area and its connection to the Heritage Trail.

- **Add a trail connection to the Harmony Hall Community Center.**
  - Refer to Task 24 for a proposed route.
  - Coordinate with the Harmony Hall Community Center to provide overflow parking.

- **Do not add a trail connection to the Broad Creek WSSC property to north of the study area.**



Figure 5-47. Kayak launch incorporating shallow steps that form a ramp down into the water and a timber retaining wall. The launch is not part of a boardwalk (Anoka County Parks).

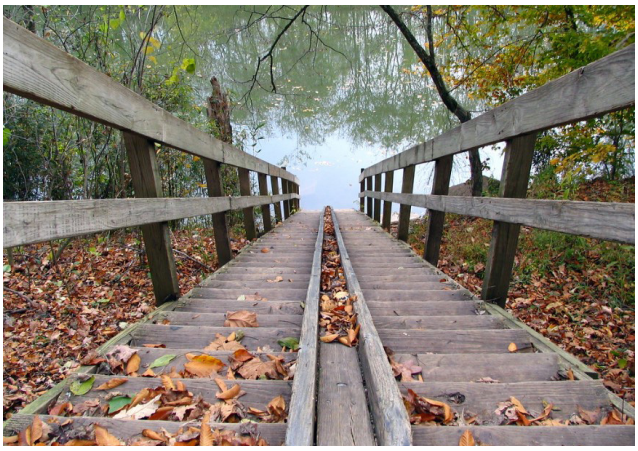


Figure 5-48. Wooden kayak launch at the narrows of Harpeth State Park (Flickr).



Figure 5-49. A launch port lift for launching kayaks, canoe, or other small craft from a dock. The 30" handwheel lowers and raises the boat for boarding with the assistance of the boarding handle (The Dock Doctors).

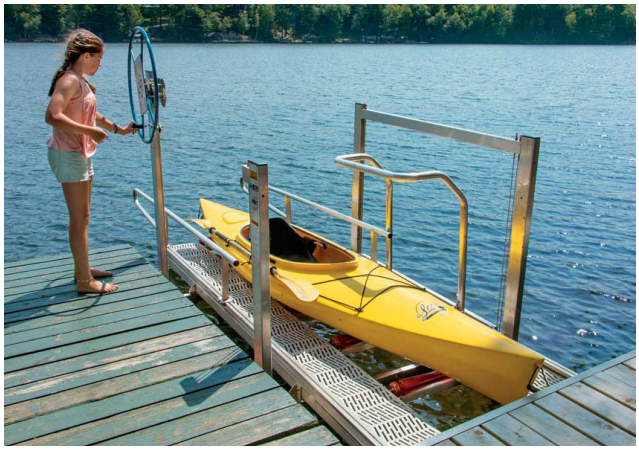


Figure 5-50. Another view of the launch port lift for launching kayaks, canoe, or other small craft from a dock (The Dock Doctors).



Figure 5-51. A wheelchair-accessible EZ Dock floating kayak launch on the Saluda River in Anderson County (NPS).



Figure 5-52. The kayak launch at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is ADA compliant and is located at the end of an ADA compliant trail from the parking lot (Blackwater Falls Canaan Valley).

VEGETATION GUIDELINES

- **Maintain contributing upland mixed forest communities.**
  - Existing contributing and non-contributing vegetation is documented in the Vegetation section of Chapter 3.
  - Manage contributing forests to maintain a sustainable mix of native vegetation. Work with regional national resource staff to identify a mix of species that will balance habitat, erosion control, brackish conditions, and aesthetic needs. A proposed species list for mixed forest communities is provided in Table 5.3.
  - Develop a routine monitoring schedule that is reasonable given staff and funding.
  - Refer to Natural Systems and Features Guidelines for deer management recommendations.

- **In-the long term, manage the pine stand as an upland mixed forest community.**
  - Monitor and maintain the pine stand consistent with the guidelines for upland mixed forest.
  - As trees in the pine stand decline and die, clear felled trees and plant new trees from the upland mixed forest plant list in Table 5.3.
  - Refer to Task 42.

- **Preserve contributing specimen trees and allées around the Harmony Hall manor house.**
  - Develop a Vegetation Management and Monitoring Plan specific for cyclic specimen tree stewardship, including arboricultural best management practices for tree health assessment, risk assessment, and tree and soil management during treatment activities.
    - Refer to International Society of Arboriculture best management practices handbooks *Tree Risk Assessment*, *Soil Management for Urban Trees* and *Managing Trees During Site Development and Construction* for supplemental guidance and industry-standard protocols.[4]
  - When trees decline or die, replace with trees of similar form, size, and character. Consider varying species composition for resilience. A proposed species list for specimen trees and allées provided in Table 5.5.

- **Preserve baldcypress trees in the cypress allée.**
  - When baldcypress trees decline or die, replace in kind in historic locations.
  - If a circulation route is established along the allée, design to protect the tree roots and knees (for example, a boardwalk). Refer to Task 26.

- **Work with NPS natural resources staff to evaluate and test long-term management techniques and species composition for areas of tidal swamps and marshes.**
    - Monitor the tidal swamp for condition changes, particularly in response to sea level rise and increasingly brackish conditions.
    - Evaluate approaches for resisting, accepting, or directing changes to the vegetation community based on natural resource, cultural resource, and visitor experience considerations:
        - Resist: Develop guidelines that prevent the likelihood of increased flooding in these areas.
        - Accept: Manage the transition of existing tidal swamps to a vegetation community better suited to long-term climate and use conditions, such as a shrub swamp.
        - Direct: Plant tree species such as baldcypress, blackgum, water tupelo, etc., that will preserve the forested character of these locations while shifting the makeup of the plant community.

- **Maintain rough mown turf around the Harmony Hall manor house and Want Water ruins.**
    - Work with the local community to identify a strategy for discouraging unsanctioned mowing.
    - Identify and maintain boundaries for mown areas.
    - Remove downed branches before mowing.

- **Maintain non-contributing successional mixed forest along the northern property boundary as a visual buffer between the study area and adjacent land uses.** Manage this forest following the monitoring and maintenance guidelines for upland mixed forest communities.

- **Establish and maintain meadow vegetation comprised of native grasses and forbs in the historic location of the west pasture.**
    - Refer to Task 57.
    - Mow 1–2 times per year or evaluate fire management as an appropriate maintenance technique.
    - Establish monitoring and maintenance protocols for meadow management in the west pasture.

TABLE 5.3: UPLAND MIXED FOREST COMMUNITY RECOMMENDED PLANT PALETTE*

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height (ft)	Tolerances (Full Shade - S; Drought - D; Extended Flooding - F)	Growth Rate
Canopy Trees				
Acer rubrum	**Red maple**	60 - 75	D, F	Fast
Acer saccharum	**Sugar maple**	60 - 80		Medium
Fagus grandifolia	**American beech**	50 - 75	D	Slow
Nyssa sylvatica	**Blackgum**	65 - 75	S, D, F	Slow
Liquidambar styraciflua	**Sweetgum**	60 - 75	F	Fast
Liriodendron tulipifera	**Tuliptree**	80 - 100	D	Medium
Magnolia acuminata	**Cucumber magnolia**	60 - 80	S	Fast
Quercus alba	**White oak**	60 - 100		Slow
Quercus bicolor	**Swamp white oak**	50 - 70	F	Medium
Quercus falcata	**Southern red oak**	60 - 80	D	Medium
Quercus lyrata	**Overcup oak**	40 - 50	F	Fast
Quercus phellos	**Willow oak**	50 - 75	D, F	Medium
Quercus rubra	**Northern red oak**	60 - 75	D	Fast
Pinus taeda	**Loblolly pine**	55 - 80		Fast
Pinus strobus	**Eastern white pine**	50 - 80	F	Fast
Platanus occidentalis	**American sycamore**	75 - 90	F	Fast
Understory Trees				
Carpinus caroliniana	**American hornbeam**	20 - 30	S	Slow
Cercis canadensis	**Eastern redbud**	15 - 30	D	Fast
Cornus florida	**Flowering dogwood**	20 - 30	S	Medium
Ilex opaca	**American holly**	35 - 50	S, D, F	Slow
Oxydendron arboreum	**Sourwood**	30 - 50		Slow
Sassafras albidum	**Sassafras**	30 - 50	D	Medium

* Select trees from this palette or similar species approved by NCR or NACE NR managers that will be adaptive to future climate conditions.

TABLE 5.4: SPECIMEN TREE AND ALLÉE RECOMMENDED PLANT PALETTE				
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	Height (ft)	Tolerances (Full Shade - S; Drought - D; Extended Flooding - F)	Growth Rate
Specimen Canopy Trees				
Acer saccharum	**Sugar maple**	60 - 80		Medium
Nyssa sylvatica	**Blackgum**	65 - 75	S, D, F	Slow
Liquidambar styraciflua	**Sweetgum**	60 - 75	F	Fast
Gymnocladus dioicus	**Kentucky coffeetree**	65 - 70	D	Medium
Quercus alba	**White oak**	60 - 100		Slow
Quercus bicolor	**Swamp white oak**	50 - 70	F	Medium
Quercus lyrata	**Overcup oak**	40 - 50	F	Fast
Quercus palustris	**Pin oak**	50 - 75	F	Medium
Quercus phellos	**Willow oak**	50 - 75	D, F	Medium
Tilia americana	**American linden**	50 - 80		Medium
***Ulmus americana* 'Jefferson'**	**Jefferson elm**	70 - 90	D, F	Fast
*Allée Trees**				
Acer rubrum	**Red maple**	60 - 75	D, F	Fast
Acer saccharum	**Sugar maple**	60 - 80		Medium
Ilex opaca	**American holly**	35 - 50	S, D, F	Slow
Juniperus virginiana	**Eastern red cedar**	40 - 50	D	Fast
Quercus alba	**White oak**	60 - 100		Slow
Quercus falcata	**Southern red oak**	60 - 80	D	Medium
Taxodium distichum	**Baldcypress**	60 - 80	D, F	Fast

*Trees from this palette acceptable for use as single-species allées, or to preserve or rehabilitate single-species allées, include American holly, eastern red cedar, and baldcypress. Red maple, sugar maple, white oak, and southern red oak can be mixed to create a diversified allée.

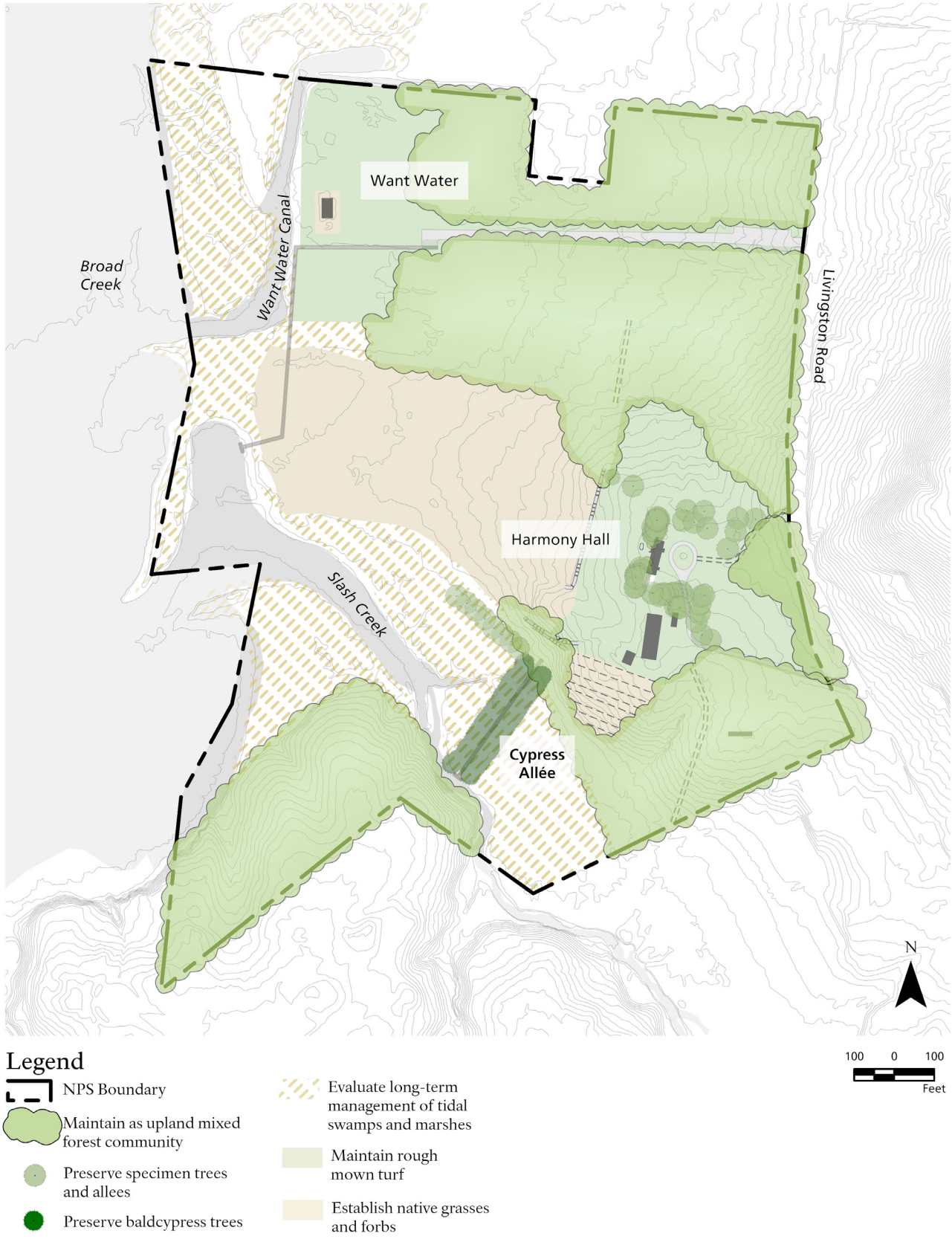


Figure 5-53. Site-wide vegetation community management

- **Manage ash tree dieback from emerald ash borer (EAB) based on risk to public health and safety, habitat value, and significance.**
  - Retain ash trees that show no signs or symptoms of decline.
  - Prune deadwood and branches showing early signs of dieback to reduce risk of falling branches in locations where this will present a hazard to contributing features or visitor use.
  - Consider biannual insecticide trunk injection treatment for mature trees in or near public areas that show no signs or symptoms of decline and are historically significant, provide habitat value, or to maintain canopy diversity.
  - Fell trees in public areas that have greater than 30% canopy thinning and dieback.
  - Do not replace felled trees in kind. Plant to fill open forest areas with an alternate tree species from Table 5.3 or similar species approved by NCR and NACE NR managers that will be adaptive to environmental change.

- **Establish invasive vegetation monitoring and maintenance protocols within the study area.**
  - Initiate National Capital Region Network Long-Term Forest Vegetation Monitoring Protocol.
  - Develop preventive measures or standard operating procedures (SOPs) for invasive species removal specific to the Harmony Hall cultural landscape (e.g., clean mowers before and after maintenance at the site, verify plant materials before planting new trees/shrubs, etc.).
  - Prioritize invasive vegetation treatment in the following locations:
    - Along forest margins.
    - At the study area's northern boundary adjacent to WSCC.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES GUIDELINES

- **Preserve contributing buildings and structures as features within the cultural landscape.**
    - Follow 2012 Harmony Hall Historic Structure Report (HSR) recommendations for the Harmony Hall manor house.[5] Refer to Task 11 and Task 12.
    - Preserve and maintain buildings and structures by use of nondestructive methods and daily, cyclical, and seasonal maintenance.
        - Use nondestructive methods for preventative maintenance, and avoid practices and materials that are harsh, abrasive, experimental, or obscure historic fabric.
    - Repair buildings and structures by reinforcing historic materials. Do not replace a contributing building or structure when repair is possible.
    - If replacement of a deteriorated building or structure is necessary, design the new structure using existing physical evidence of the scale, form, material, and detail of the original structure so that the replacement is compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

- **Prioritize rehabilitating existing buildings and structures to support partner use of the site rather than constructing new features.**
    - Follow Harmony Hall HSR recommendations and the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to preserve the integrity of historic buildings as features within the landscape.
    - Allow for removal of nonhistoric sections of the Harmony Hall manor house as part of rehabilitation efforts.
    - Examples of existing building reuse are presented in the 2022 Harmony Hall DCP.[6]

- **If non-contributing buildings and structures are not necessary to support partner use of the site, allow for removal of these features to reestablish historic spatial patterns.**

- **If new buildings or structures are necessary to support partner use of the site, design the new construction to be compatible with the historic character of the landscape.**
    - Design new buildings or structures to be secondary to contributing buildings, structures, or ruins within the study area.
    - Use materials that reflect the material palette of contributing buildings and structures, including brick, board-and-batten, weatherboard, or concrete block (Figure 5-54 through Figure 5-57).
        - Use materials similar to their incorporation in contributing buildings.
        - Use simple details and avoid extensive ornamentation.
        - Use small, rectilinear, single-story massing.
        - Brick courses should be laid in Flemish bond.
        - Board-and-batten, weatherboard, and concrete block should be painted white to adhere to historic conditions.
    - Do not place a new building or structure in a location where it may cause damage to or be incompatible with the historic character of the landscape.
    - Do not design buildings or structures to create a false sense of history.

- **Repair, replace, or add non-contributing fences in limited locations to support spatial division, security, and visitor safety.**
    - Post and board fences are appropriate for spatial delineation in public use areas.
        - New fences should be compatible with the materials, scale, and character of historic fences but should not match potentially contributing fence types.
        - Potentially historic fence types remaining in the landscape are limited to remnants of metal post and wire fences and decorative metal fences. Do not recreate these fence types within the study area.
        - Use natural finish or dark colored paint to reduce the visual prominence of the fences within the landscape. Refer to Figure 5-58 and Figure 5-59.
    - Security fences are appropriate along the property boundaries and to restrict access to deteriorated features. These fences should be anti-climb and visually recede into the landscape. Examples are provided in Figure 5-60 and Figure 5-61.
    - Refer to Task 15, 16, 30, 47, and 48 for new or repaired fence locations.

- **Remove non-contributing fences that pose a safety hazard to visitors.** Refer to Task 29, 46, and 48.

- **Refer to Archeological Sites Guidelines for treatment of ruins and remnants.**



Figure 5-54. Brick laid in Flemish bond (Classicist.org).



Figure 5-55. White-painted board-and-batten siding (Katepearcevintage.com).



Figure 5-56. White-painted weatherboard siding (Katepearcevintage.com).



Figure 5-57. White-painted concrete block (Adobe Stock).



Figure 5-58. Example of unpainted wooden post and rail fencing (www.prowoodlumber.com).



Figure 5-59. Example of painted wooden post and rail fencing (www.bucklyfence.com).



Figure 5-60. Anti-climb security fencing that visually recedes within the landscape would be appropriate protection for the bungalow (Betafence).



Figure 5-61. Alternate example of anti-climb security fencing that visually recedes within the landscape (Ameristar).

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES GUIDELINES

- **Provide a consistent style for site furnishings including benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, and signs utilizing form, scale, and materials that are compatible with the historic setting.**
  - Use a simple, consistent style of benches (for example, the Victor Stanley features used at other NACE sites, see Figure 5-62).
  - Picnic tables may be wooden or wooden with a welded steel frame (Figure 5-66). Provide ADA-compliant tables in locations adjacent to accessible routes (Figure 5-64).
  - Provide low-profile, bear-proof trash and recycling receptacles (Figure 5-65 and Figure 5-66).
  - Use simple, short wayfinding signs (Figure 5-67 and Figure 5-68).

- **Consider providing site furnishings to support use of the boat launch(es).**
  - Add temporary storage for small watercraft. Storage racks may be attached to the dock (Figure 5-69) or freestanding (Figure 5-70).
  - Provide dollies to transport kayaks and canoes from the parking or drop-off areas to the boat launch (Figure 5-71, Figure 5-72, and Figure 5-73).

- **Create a sign and wayfinding plan.**
  - Provide wayfinding at site entrances, trailheads, and trail intersections.
  - Potential interpretive nodes include:
    - Want Water ruins
    - Tobacco inspection warehouse site
    - Want Water Canal
    - Ha-ha
    - Collins Era terraces
    - Harmony Hall manor house
    - Bungalow (civil rights)
    - Cypress allée and Slash Creek
    - Collins Era outbuildings/plantation street
    - Broad Creek/Aire townsite
  - Include signage that interprets the land as part of the Piscataway ancestral homeland. Develop content in consultation with associated tribes and nations.
  - Consider providing signage acknowledging the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area and Potomac Heritage Trail along Livingston Road.
  - Recommended wayfinding and interpretive locations are identified on Figure 5-74.



Figure 5-62. Typical bench standard for NACE sites (Victor Stanley).



Figure 5-63. Simple wooden picnic table (Home Depot).



Figure 5-64. ADA wooden picnic table with welded steel frame (theparkcatalog.com).



Figure 5-65. Double bear-proof trash receptacle (Belson Outdoors).



Figure 5-66. Single bear-proof trash receptacle (Belson Outdoors).



Figure 5-67. Simple routed wood wayfinding sign (www.bikewalkdrive.com).



Figure 5-68. Simple routed wood wayfinding sign (QE).



Figure 5-69. Storage rack option for small watercraft attached to dock (StoreYourBoard).



Figure 5-70. Freestanding storage rack option for small watercraft (Storage Rack Solutions).



Figure 5-71. Malone WideTrak ATB Large Kayak or Canoe Cart for transporting small watercraft along a trail or boardwalk (Amazon).



Figure 5-72. Bonnlo Kayak Cart Canoe Dolly for transporting small watercraft along a trail or boardwalk (Amazon).



Figure 5-73. A person towing a kayak using a dolly (Amazon).

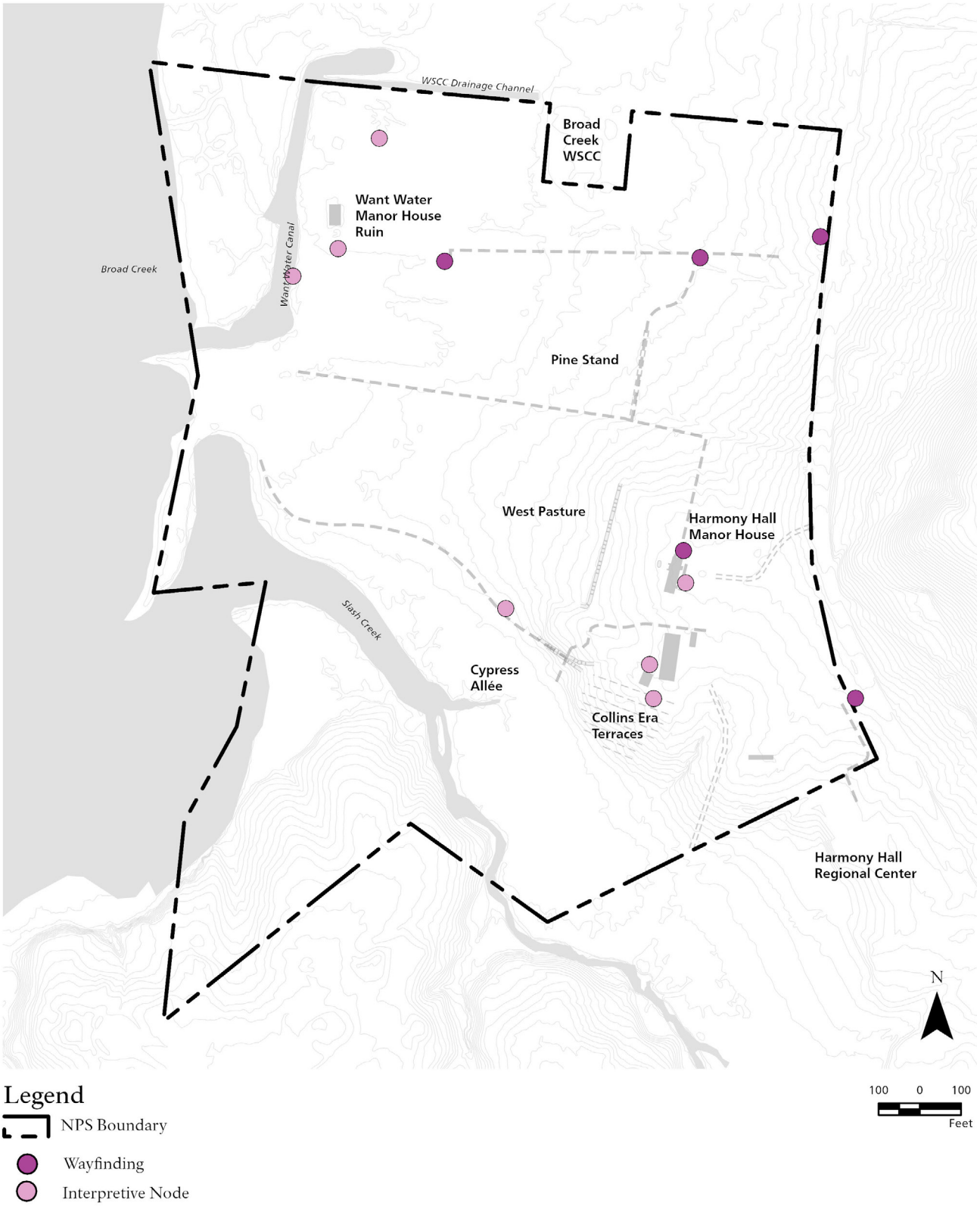


Figure 5-74. Proposed wayfinding and interpretive nodes

CONSTRUCTED WATER FEATURES GUIDELINES

- **Preserve Want Water Canal.**
  - Maintain the Want Water Canal's alignment to support interpretation of its historic condition and nonmotorized boat navigation.
    - Do not dredge the canal.
    - Do not launch boats into the canal. Appropriate boat launch locations are identified on Figure 5-23.
  - Repair erosion along the canal, particularly where it turns east. Refer to Natural Systems and Features guidelines.

- **Coordinate with adjacent property owners to provide interpretation to distinguish between the Want Water Canal and the connected drainage from WSCC.** Interpretation may include differentiated plantings, signs, or other strategies.

ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES GUIDELINES

- **Develop an archeological potential map for the Harmony Hall site to guide future investigations and placement of new elements within the landscape.**

- **Conduct underwater archeology** to identify resources and potential national significance of the Broad Creek/Aire town site, Want Water Canal, the property's connections to other commercial sites in Maryland, and/or Indigenous significance and use.

- **During development of implementation plans for individual projects, work with park cultural resources staff and State Historic Preservation Office to determine an appropriate process for archeological monitoring.**

- **Conduct archeological identification and/or evaluation of sites in advance of any ground-disturbing activity in the area.**

- **Monitor ruins and remnants annually.**
  - Work with regional archeologists to develop a GIS-based field assessment method for above-grade archeological remnants and ruins. At a minimum, track the following data:
    - FMSS data
    - Access considerations
    - Vegetation impacts
    - Structural condition and/or deficiencies
    - Masonry/stonework condition/deficiencies

- **Stabilize and preserve ruins and remnants associated with the Tobacco Era (1708–1798).**
  - Archeological features associated with this period are currently limited to the Want Water manor house. Future archeological studies may identify additional resources associated with this period.
  - Repair by reinforcing historic materials, and do not replace when repair is possible. Follow recommendations from historic structures reports or other assessments, as indicated in Task 53.

- **Stabilize partially standing Collins Era (1929–1964) ruins for interpretation.**
  - Remnants and ruins associated with this period include the bungalow, outbuilding ruin, ha-ha, stone retaining walls, collapsed shed, masonry posts, garage foundation remnant, boathouse remnant, northeast entrance gate, and southeast entrance gate. Future archeological studies may identify additional resources associated with this period.
  - Repair by reinforcing historic materials, and do not replace when repair is possible. Refer to Task 20, 32, 34, and 59.

- **Consider removing Collins Era ruins and remnants that pose a safety hazard to visitors.**
  - Initiate Section 106 to evaluate potential adverse effects of removing these features.
  - Prioritize removal of fencing and collapsed structures in areas identified for visitor use.
  - Consider removal of scattered debris east of the Collins Era terraces.
  - Refer to Task 33 and 54 for features to be evaluated for removal.

- **Consider interpreting below-grade or missing historic features to support understanding of Tobacco Era site developments.**
    - Conduct archival research and archeological investigations to support interpretation of missing buildings and structures.
    - Based on available evidence, applicable interpretation strategies may include:
        - *On-grade building footprints:* When the dimensions and location of the footprint of a missing building or structure are known, an outline or other demarcation such as a low wall or corner markers can identify the feature's location on the ground plan. Avoid digging into the ground surface and add a minimal layer of fill over the site to protect any archeological resources if necessary. Incorporate typical local building materials used during the period when the building was standing, such as stone or brick, but differentiate the foundation outline from historic features. Refer to Figure 5-75 and Figure 5-76.
        - *Three-dimensional frame structures or structural reinforcement:* When the overall dimensions, roofline, and massing of a missing building or structure are known and of great importance for understanding the significance of the cultural landscape, consider developing a three-dimensional "ghost structure." This strategy may also include stabilization or bracing that interprets missing portions of a partially standing existing structure, such as the Want Water manor house. This approach should only be used in very specific instances and should not be applied widely. Refer to Task 53.
        - *Vegetation patterns:* Consider altering vegetation management regimes, such as mowing patterns or planting palettes, to identify the location of missing historic buildings or vegetation patterns. For example, use tall grasses or groupings of shrubs to identify the location of a structure by creating a vertical pattern in the landscape. Mowing patterns creating a depression relative to other vegetation may represent the historic location of agricultural fields. Refer to Figure 5-77.
        - *Waysides or matching photos:* Provide interpretive materials that align historic imagery with existing locations to help visitors visualize missing features in the landscape. Refer to Figure 5-78.
        - *Tactile or 3D maps:* Provide information about the present and/or historic layout of the site. This type of tool could also visualize the missing features in the landscape without explicitly identifying potential archeological sites on-grade and incorporate raised printed text and braille labels for the place names. Refer to Figure 5-79.
        - *Augmented reality*: Consider augmented reality (AR) to enhance the experience of the cultural landscape by overlaying digital information onto real-world environments. This technology allows users to visualize historical sites, artifacts, or events. Through virtual reconstructions users can see 3D models of buildings or monuments as they originally appeared, offering a glimpse into history that might be lost due to decay or destruction. Refer to Figure 5-80.



Figure 5-75. On-grade interpretation and wayside signage for the small arsenal building at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (NPS).



Figure 5-76. On-grade interpretation and wayside signage at George Washington's Birthplace (www.presidentusa.net).



Figure 5-77. This strip of tall grass represents the Confederate picket line at Petersburg National Battlefield (Towingsilver.com).



Figure 5-78. Interpretation suggested by the DCP may include a metal frame outlining the building walls and roof or views of the outlines of the original structure (NPS, 2022).

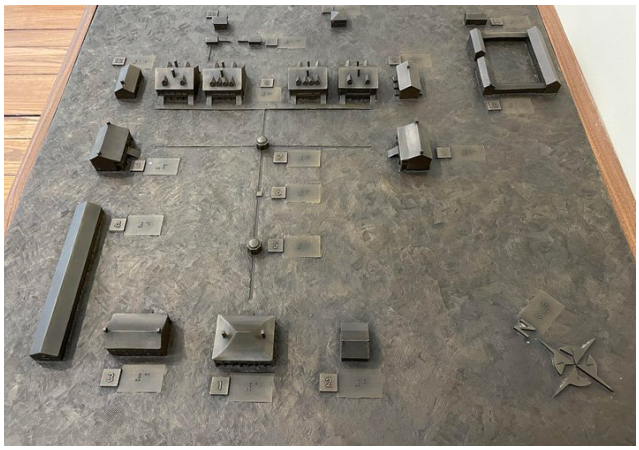


Figure 5-79. Tactile or 3D map at Fort Scott National Historic Site, Kansas (Fort Scott National Historic Site, Freya McGregor).



Figure 5-80. Example of an augmented reality (AR) filter used for an AR heritage trail (Zubr Curio).

INITIAL TREATMENT TASKS

This section provides treatment tasks tailored to specific issues within each of the study area's character areas. The recommendations identify initial tasks to be undertaken by NPS before a partner is identified for the site and will require adjustment and refinement as each design is developed. The narrative is accompanied by recommended treatment drawings RT-1 through RT-5.

HARMONY HALL AND ENTRANCE LCA TREATMENT TASKS

Treatment tasks for Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA focus on stabilization of Collins Era features to support future use and interpretation by a partner. The recommendations provide guidance on improving pedestrian connections throughout the site and visitor safety. The tasks recommend modifications to fences and vegetation to support visitor understanding of the historic space as well as recreational and interpretive use. Recommended treatment tasks for the Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA are illustrated on RT-2.

Circulation

1. Add a trail along the historic alignment between Harmony Hall and Want Water.
    - Consider a phased approach to reestablish the path from Harmony Hall to Want Water as a mown path (not ADA compliant) before a partner is confirmed for the property.
    - If desired as part of future partner use of the site, modify the surface to provide an accessible trail between Harmony Hall and Want Water.
    - Refer to recommended trail surfaces in Circulation Guidelines section of this chapter.

2. Repair the contributing northeast and southeast entrance drives.
    - Pavement options compatible with the historic character of the landscape include:
        - Chip seal with an aggregate matching the native soil.
        - Compacted gravel that provides a firm, stable surface.
    - If desired as part of future partner use of the site, consider reestablishing the northeast entrance drive as a secondary access route into the site. See example concept in Chapter 6.

3. Consider adding a trail connecting from the entrance drive to the cypress allée.
    - Two options are provided in Figure 5-23 and described in detail in the Terrace and Cypress Allée Treatment Tasks.
    - Above the terraces, both options route the trail through highly disturbed areas near the stables to limit disturbance of below-grade features.

- Note that only Option 1 is illustrated on the treatment drawings.

4. Stabilize the non-contributing brick patio on the south facade of the Harmony Hall manor house.
   - Allow for modification to the patio by a future site partner.
   - Consider removing the patio if this space is not needed by the partner.

Vegetation

5. Maintain and consider interpreting the contributing apple tree.
   - Prune for tree health.
   - When the apple tree dies, remove and do not replace.

6. Remove non-contributing successional vegetation west and south of Harmony Hall manor house and reestablish mown turf.
   - Clearly define and communicate the extent of the mown turf area with maintenance staff.
   - Monitor to ensure no historic features are impacted by vegetation removal.

7. Repair and maintain boxwoods.
   - Remove volunteer trees from boxwood plantings adjacent to the manor house.
   - Prune boxwoods for plant health.
   - When boxwoods die or decline, replace in kind in historic location.

8. Remove successional vegetation within the chicken pen and repair surface to mown turf.

9. Remove noncontributing individual trees in open areas that are not part of an allée or fencerow.
   - Repair ground surface to mown turf.
   - Refer to Vegetation Guidelines for treatment of individual specimen trees and allées.

10. Selectively thin vegetation along Livingston Road to provide filtered view of Harmony Hall manor house.
    - Do not remove large amounts of vegetation at one time. Use a phased approach over several years and adjust the modification of vegetation to respond to changing conditions.
    - Remove woody vegetation and trees below 8” diameter at breast height. Maintain or reestablish understory woodland vegetation below remaining large trees.
    - Monitor invasive vegetation species throughout the process and manage according to practices endorsed by resource managers.

Buildings and Structures

11. Stabilize and preserve the Harmony Hall manor house.
    - Conduct a structural assessment to identify immediate stabilization needs for the manor house.
    - Continue to follow recommendations in the 2012 Historic Structure Report for Harmony Hall to stabilize and preserve the manor house.[7]
    - Establish a protocol for annual building condition monitoring.

12. Allow for rehabilitation of the interior of the Harmony Hall manor house by a future site partner.
    - Provide information on the non-contributing additions to the structure to a future partner.
    - Consider removing non-contributing additions as part of programming modifications if this space is not needed by the partner.

13. Consider modifying the horse stable for storage or open-air public facilities.
    - Refer to scenarios developed for the horse stables by the DCP. The CLR recommends considering the following options:
        - Remove the stable, which would minimize building maintenance and rehabilitate historic spatial organization. Revegetate the stable's footprint.
        - Repurpose the stable to provide support space and/or public facilities. In the short term, the building may be best suited to storage or open-air public facilities, such as an outdoor art exhibit or boat concessions.

14. Remove non-contributing gate and fence remnants:
    - Fence remnants around the chicken pen and raised brick patio.
    - Fence remnants between the manor house and the stables.
    - Iron gate and brick piers west of the manor house.

15. Repair or reconstruct the post and rail fence extending north from the Harmony Hall manor house (Figure 4.46 and 4.47).
    - This in a non-contributing fence that NPS considers useful for space definition and wayfinding within the existing site. If in the future it is determined that it is not necessary, remove it.
    - Refer to the Buildings and Structures Guidelines for fence types compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

16. Add a safety fence around the bungalow.
    - Refer to the Buildings and Structures Guidelines for fence types compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

Small-Scale Features

17. Remove non-contributing small-scale features including the picnic tables, hinged wooden storage chest, and signs and replace with new site furnishings.
    - Refer to the Small-Scale Features Guidelines for furnishings compatible with the historic character of the landscape.
    - Limit the addition of site furnishings to only those necessary for initial use to avoid cluttering the historic landscape.

18. Add wayfinding at existing site entrance and the trail extending north from the Harmony Hall manor house.

19. Add interpretive nodes at the Harmony Hall manor house and the bungalow.

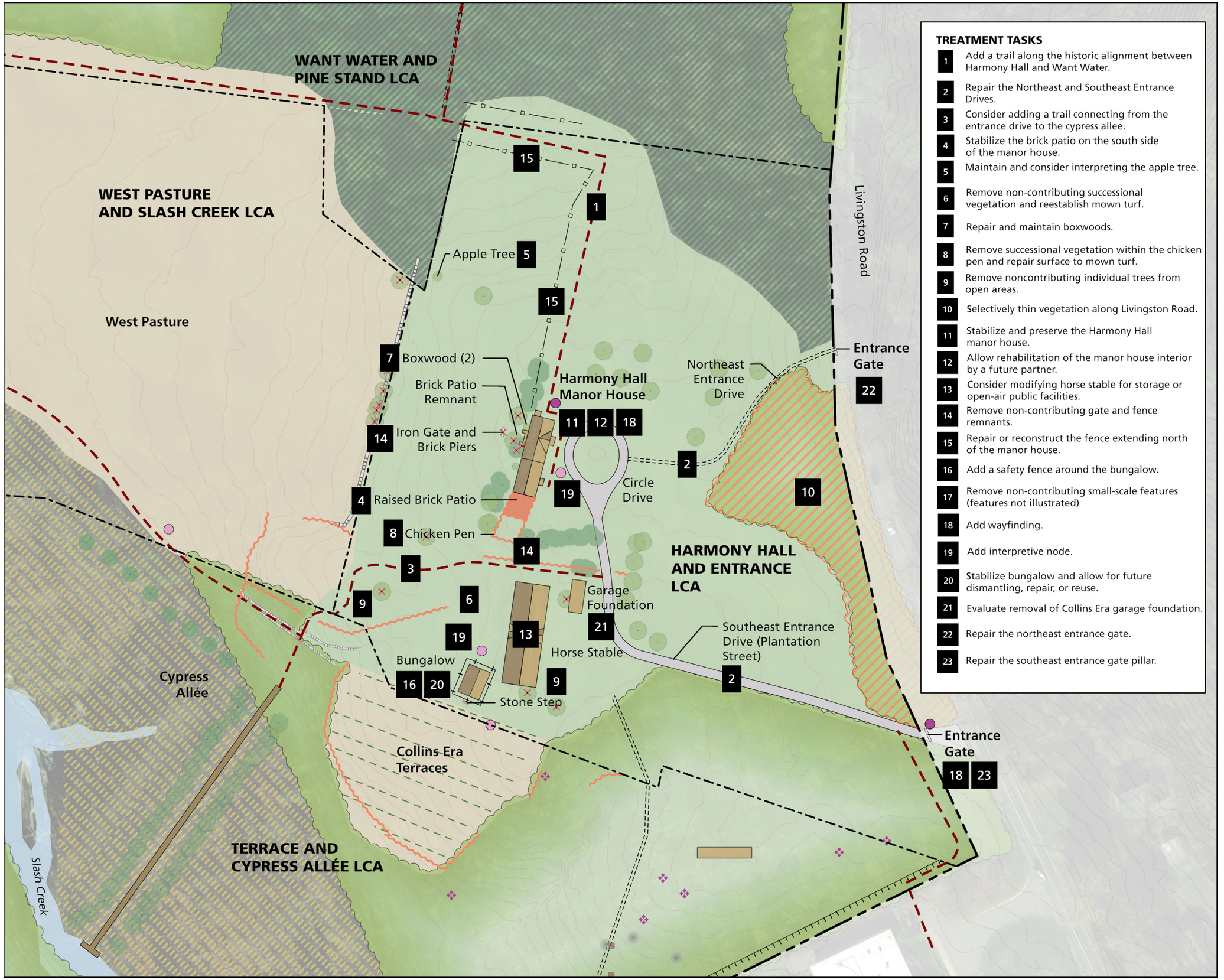
Archeological Features

20. Stabilize bungalow and allow for future dismantling, repair, or reuse of the ruins.
    - In the short-term, stabilize the bungalow.
    - In the long term, allow for future interpretive dismantling or repair and reuse to support programming by partner.
        - Initiate Section 106 to evaluate potential adverse effects of removal.
        - Chapter 6 includes examples and background information on interpretive removal of problematic structures to support inspiration and decision-making for a future partner.

21. Evaluate removal of Collins Era garage foundation. Initiate Section 106 to evaluate potential adverse effects.

22. Repair the northeast entrance gate.

23. Repair the southeast entrance gate pillar.



TREATMENT TASKS

1. Add a trail along the historic alignment between Harmony Hall and Want Water.
2. Repair the Northeast and Southeast Entrance Drives.
3. Consider adding a trail connecting from the entrance drive to the cypress allee.
4. Stabilize the brick patio on the south side of the manor house.
5. Maintain and consider interpreting the apple tree.
6. Remove non-contributing successional vegetation and reestablish mown turf.
7. Repair and maintain boxwoods.
8. Remove successional vegetation within the chicken pen and repair surface to mown turf.
9. Remove noncontributing individual trees from open areas.
10. Selectively thin vegetation along Livingston Road.
11. Stabilize and preserve the Harmony Hall manor house.
12. Allow rehabilitation of the manor house interior by a future partner.
13. Consider modifying horse stable for storage or open-air public facilities.
14. Remove non-contributing gate and fence remnants.
15. Repair or reconstruct the fence extending north of the manor house.
16. Add a safety fence around the bungalow.
17. Remove non-contributing small-scale features (features not illustrated)
18. Add wayfinding.
19. Add interpretive node.
20. Stabilize bungalow and allow for future dismantling, repair, or reuse.
21. Evaluate removal of Collins Era garage foundation.
22. Repair the northeast entrance gate.
23. Repair the southeast entrance gate pillar.

Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA
Recommended Treatment

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Repair or Add Road
- Repair Brick Patio
- Add Trail
- Preserve Road Trace
- Maintain Mixed Forest
- Maintain Pine Stand
- Maintain or Expand Mown Turf
- Maintain Evergreen Tree
- Maintain Deciduous Tree
- Maintain Boxwood
- Thin Woodland Vegetation
- Stabilize or Rehabilitate Building, Structure, or Ruin
- Remove Non-Contributing Fence Remnant
- Add Safety Fence
- Replace Post and Rail Fence
- Repair Gate
- Add Wayfinding
- Add Interpretive Node
- Evaluate Remnants For Removal
- Remove Feature

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 50 100 200 Feet

Drawing RT-02

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TERRACE AND CYPRESS ALLÉE LCA TREATMENT TASKS

Treatment recommendations for the Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA provide guidance on stabilizing Collins Era features to provide options for interpretation and use by a future partner. The tasks also address new interpretive nodes and a trail connection to the Harmony Hall Regional Center and present two options for integrating a boat launch into the cypress allée. Recommended treatment tasks for the Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA are illustrated on RT-3.

Circulation

24. Establish a trail connection to the Harmony Hall Regional Center.
    - Refer to the Circulation Guidelines for trail surface types compatible with the historic character of the landscape.
    - Design the trail to be an accessible route.

25. Consider adding a boat launch for small watercraft at the end of the cypress allée.
    - Refer to the Circulation Guidelines for boat launch features compatible with the historic character of the landscape.
    - An alternate boat launch location is proposed in the West Pasture LCA.

26. Provide a trail to the boat launch at the end of the cypress allée. Two trail options are illustrated on Figure 5-81.
    - Option 1: This option utilizes a historic route to connect the terraces to the cypress allée and incorporates contributing steps embedded in the terraces' stone retaining walls. Note that north of the terraces, the trail is routed through an area of low archeological potential and does not follow a historic road or trail. Above the high tide level, the trail would be an on-grade surface (refer to Circulation Guidelines for a palette of options). Within the cypress allee, the trail would be constructed as a boardwalk, puncheon, or modular float that accommodates wet conditions within the floodplain and tidal flats. Option 1 does not provide an accessible route.
    - Option 2: This option provides an outdoor recreation access route (ORAR) connecting between the southeast entrance drive and the cypress allée, using the topography of the terraces to traverse the steep hillside. Although it is a longer route, this trail would improve access to Slash Creek and could be paired with an accessible boat launch. Similar to Option 1, the trail surface within the cypress allée would accommodate wet conditions, while the trail at higher elevations would be constructed on-grade.

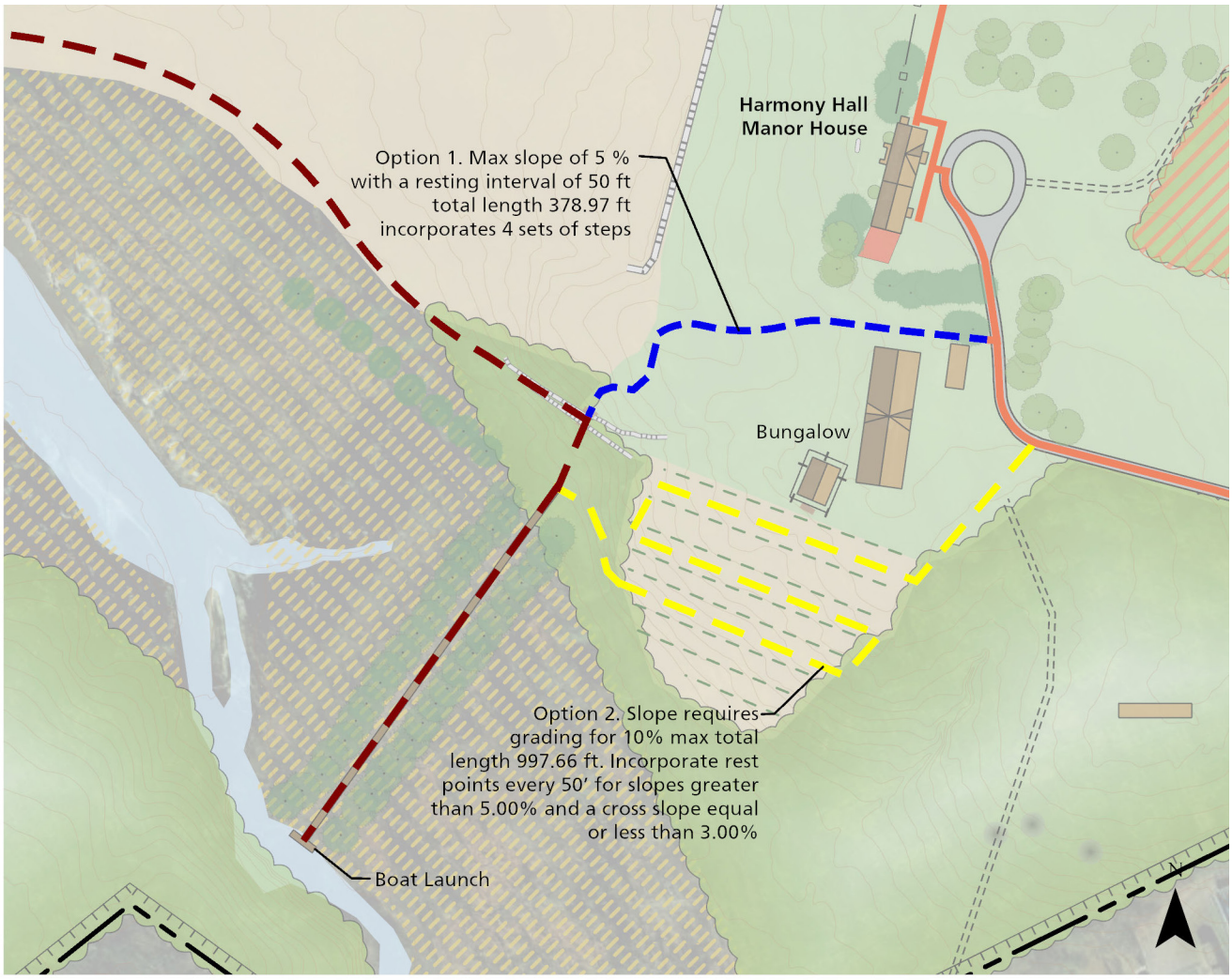


Figure 5-81. Options for trail routes to cypress allée and proposed boat launch.



Figure 5-82. Proposed boardwalk along cypress allée.

Vegetation

27. Maintain the baldcypress trees following the Vegetation Guidelines in this chapter. Remove non-contributing woody vegetation from within the alignment of the cypress allée.

28. Establish native ornamental plantings on Collins Era terraces.
    - In the short term, prioritize low-maintenance stabilization.
      - Remove woody and invasive vegetation.
      - Repair collapsed portions of stone wall.
      - Establish native meadow vegetation with a high proportion of forbs.
    - In the long term, consider working with a partner to develop an interpretive garden incorporating art exhibits, performance spaces, educational gathering spaces, and walkways that can serve to engage the community and reframe problematic Collins Era narratives.

Buildings and Structures

29. Remove non-contributing fence remnants:
    - Along the edges of the Collins Era terraces
    - South of the ha-ha

30. Add a new, compatible fence along the south property boundary.
    - Refer to the Buildings and Structures Guidelines for fence types compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

Small-Scale Features

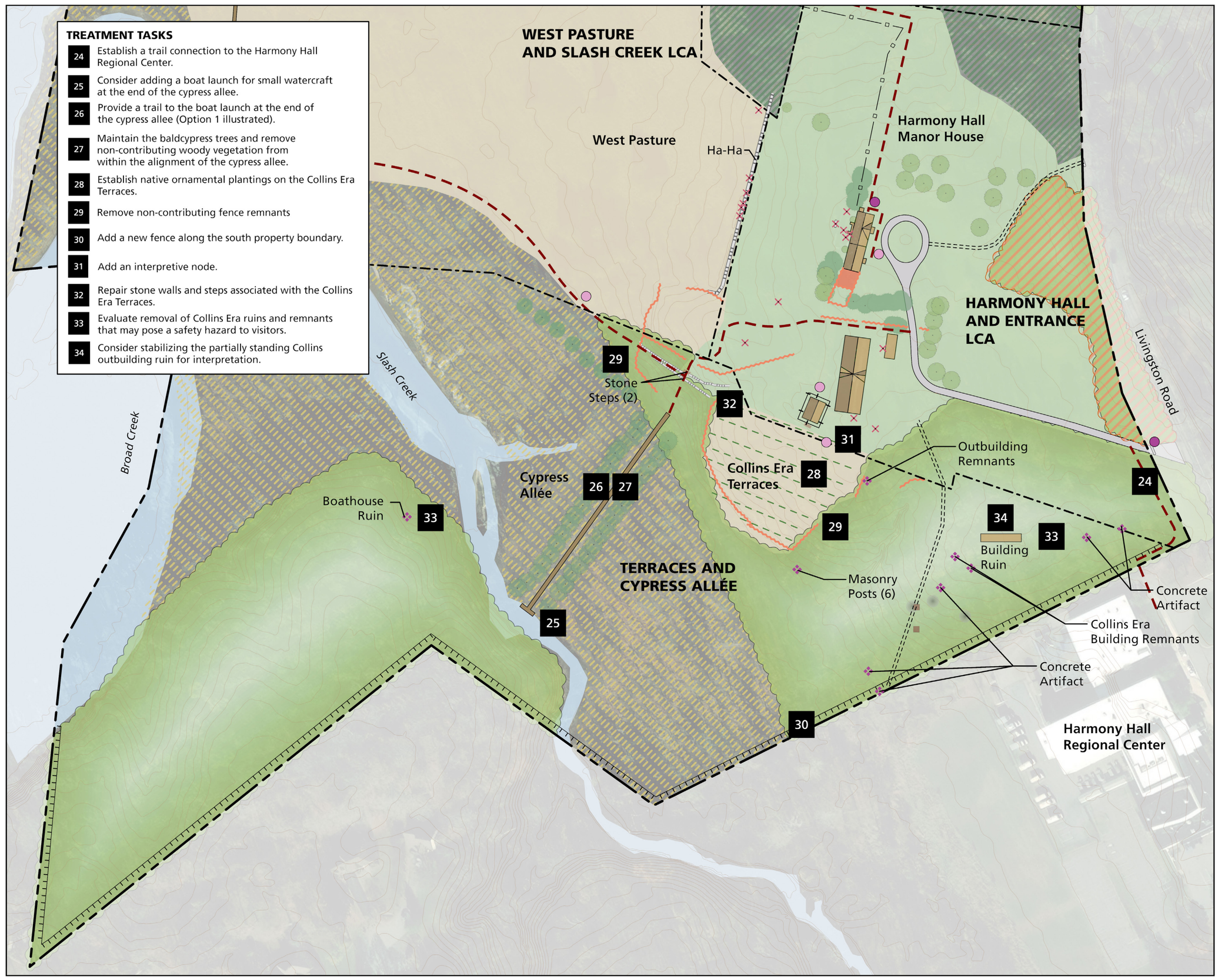
31. Add an interpretive node at the Collins Era terraces.

Archeological Features

32. Repair stone walls and steps associated with the Collins Era terraces.
    - Repair stone walls by restacking dry laid stones.
    - Reset stone steps and stabilize to accommodate foot traffic.
    - Remove woody and invasive vegetation (Task 28).

33. Evaluate removal of Collins Era ruins and remnants that may pose a safety hazard to visitors.
    - These features include:
        - Scattered construction materials and debris east of Collins Era terraces
        - Collapsed shed
        - Masonry posts
        - Concrete remnants at boathouse
    - Initiate Section 106 to evaluate potential adverse effects.

34. Consider stabilizing the partially standing Collins outbuilding ruin for interpretation.



Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Terrace and Cypress Allee LCA
Recommended Treatment

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Add Boardwalk or Puncheon
- Add Trail
- Preserve Road Trace
- Add Native Grasses and Forbs
- Maintain Mixed Forest
- Maintain Tidal Marsh
- Maintain Tidal Swamp
- Maintain or Expand Mown Turf
- Maintain Baldcypress Tree
- Consider Interpreting Building Ruin
- Repair Retaining Wall
- Remove Non-Contributing Fence Remnant
- Add Boundary Fence
- Repair Collins Era Terrace
- Interpretive Node
- Evaluate Remnants For Removal

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 65 130 260 Feet

Drawing RT-03

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WANT WATER AND PINE STAND LCA TREATMENT TASKS

Treatment tasks for the Want Water and Pine Stand LCA provide guidance on reestablishing Tobacco Era spatial organization and interpreting missing eighteenth-century features. The treatment reorients the public entrance to the study area along the historic road alignment to Want Water, improves trail connections and wayfinding throughout the study area, and provides an accessible route to a boat launch located south of the LCA. Recommended treatment tasks for the Want Water and Pine Stand LCA are illustrated on RT-4.

Circulation

Note that the trail to the Harmony Hall manor house is addressed under Harmony Hall and Entrance LCA tasks. The trail to the boat launch is addressed in the West Pasture LCA tasks.

35. Add a new entrance route along the missing historic road to Want Water.
    - Conduct archeological investigations to confirm the historic road route.
    - Construct a two-way road along the historic alignment.
    - Consider using a road surface evocative of the historic dirt road, for example:
        - Chip seal with an aggregate matching the native soil
        - Rustic pavement matching the native soil
        - Compacted bank run gravel

36. Add a new parking area immediately west of Livingston Road near the northeast corner of the study area.
    - Provide parking for 10–15 cars and 1–2 buses, consistent with scale of parking proposed in the 2022 DCP.
    - Consider differentiating the parking area surface from the historic road route.

37. Add a drop-off and van accessible parking spaces at the west end of the new entrance route.
    - Provide a dropoff location for people and small watercraft.
    - Incorporate 1–2 van accessible parking spaces near the trail to the boat launch.
    - Consider differentiating the parking area surface from the historic road route.

38. Add a pedestrian or shared pedestrian/vehicular route along the historic alignment between the new parking area and Want Water.
    - A combined pedestrian/vehicular route is likely more representative of the historic condition and would limit potential impacts to below-grade archeological features. If the routes are combined, consider striping the vehicular route to separate vehicles and pedestrians.
    - A separate pedestrian route would prioritize pedestrian safety. Refer to Circulation Guidelines for trail surfaces compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

39. Add a trail connection between the new route along the historic alignment to Want Water and the trail from Want Water to the Harmony Hall manor house.
    - Refer to Circulation Guidelines for trail surfaces compatible with the historic character of the landscape.
    - Task 1 addresses treatment for the trail between Harmony Hall and Want Water.

40. Provide a trail to the boat launch at the west end of the West Pasture.
    - Follow historic road or trail alignments to the extent possible.
    - Design the trail to be an accessible route connecting to the proposed drop-off/turnaround near Want Water.
    - Use a trail surface that accommodates wet conditions. Refer to Circulation Guidelines for trail surfaces compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

41. Remove unauthorized trails within the study area.
    - Use natural barrier materials to discourage unauthorized trail use as new routes are constructed.

Vegetation

42. As the Virginia pines decline, transition the pine stand to upland mixed forest.
    - Refer to Vegetation Guidelines for forest management guidelines and recommended tree lists.

43. Selectively remove or prune woody vegetation along Want Water Canal to re-establish views between the canal and Want Water ruins.
    - Begin by removing plants that are in poor condition or are hazard trees. Replace with plants that are appropriate for the environmental conditions but that will not block the significant view.

44. Remove woody vegetation from around Want Water to reestablish Tobacco Era spatial organization and views. Establish mown turf.

45. Plant individual canopy trees in the historic location of trees near Want Water. Refer to Table 5.4 for specimen tree palette recommendations.

Buildings and Structures

46. Remove non-contributing fence remnants within the pine stand.

47. Add a new, compatible fence along north property boundary.
    - Refer to the Buildings and Structures Guidelines for fence types compatible with the historic character of the landscape

48. Remove the split rail fence remnants and add a post and rail fence around the Want Water manor house ruins.

Small-Scale Features

49. Add interpretive node(s) addressing the Want Water Ruins, Want Water Canal, and Tobacco warehouse sites.

50. Add wayfinding at new entrance and parking areas.

51. Interpret missing buildings and structures at Want Water.
    - Conduct archeological investigations ahead of any interpretation. Refer to Task 52.
    - Consider utilizing on-grade foundation outlines, vegetation patterns, or augmented reality to interpret the missing features.
    - Refer to Small-Scale Features Guidelines for interpretive strategies.
    - Illustrated locations are conceptual.

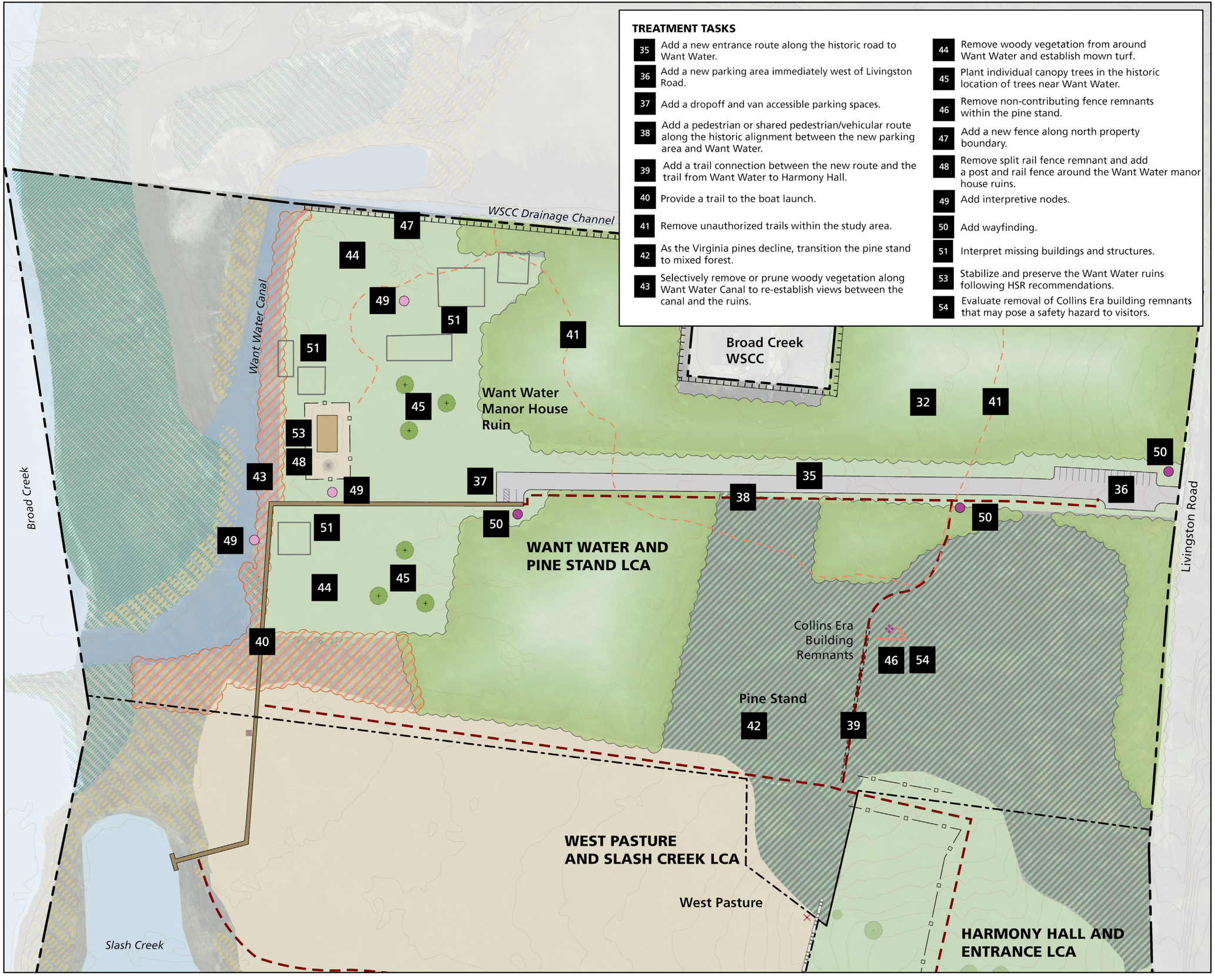
Archeological Features

52. Conduct archeological investigations to identify the locations of buildings and structures that supported the Want Water plantation, tobacco inspection warehouse, and Broad Creek/Aire townsite.
    - Refer to Archeological Features Guidelines.
    - This recommendation is not illustrated on RT-4.

53. Stabilize and preserve the Want Water ruins following HSR recommendations.
    - In the long term, consider utilizing bracing to interpret its historic form.

54. Evaluate removal of Collins Era building remnants that may pose a safety hazard to visitors. Initiate Section 106 to evaluate potential adverse effects.

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Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

Want Water and Pine Stand LCA
Recommended Treatment

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By
Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend
- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Repair or Add Road
- Add Trail
- Preserve Road Trace
- Add Boardwalk or Puncheon
- Remove Unauthorized Trail
- Add Native Grasses and Forbs
- Maintain Mixed Forest
- Maintain Tidal Marsh
- Maintain Tidal Swamp
- Transition Pine Stand to Mixed Forest
- Maintain or Expand Mown Turf
- Add Deciduous Canopy Tree
- Thin Woodland Vegetation
- Stabilize or Rehabilitate Building, Structure, or Ruin
- Interpret Missing Building and Structures
- Remove Non-Contributing Fence Remnant
- Add Boundary Fence
- Replace Post and Rail Fence
- Add Wayfinding
- Add Interpretive Node
- Evaluate Remnants For Removal

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 62.5 125 250 Feet

Drawing RT-04

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WEST PASTURE AND SLASH CREEK LCA TREATMENT TASKS

Treatment tasks for the West Pasture and Slash Creek LCA re-establish an open meadow in the historic location of the west pasture. The recommendations also provide an option for a boat launch into Slash Creek at the west end of the West pasture and a new trail connection to Harmony Hall. Recommended treatment tasks for the West Pasture and Slash Creek LCA are illustrated on RT-5.

Circulation

55. Consider adding a boat launch for small watercraft at the west end of the west pasture.
    - Refer to the Circulation Guidelines for boat launch features compatible with the historic character of the landscape.
    - An alternate boat launch location is proposed in the Terrace and Cypress Allée LCA.

56. Add a trail along the south side of the west pasture.
    - Establish the trail along the Collins Era route, connecting the terraces and the Want Water Canal along the south side of the west pasture.
    - Consider using a mown turf surface in this location. Refer to the Circulation Guidelines for trail surface types compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

Vegetation

57. Re-establish meadow in the historic location of the west pasture.
    - Remove large woody vegetation from the historic extent of the west pasture to re-establish historic view.
    - Add native herbaceous meadow plants where bare earth is exposed.
    - Refer to Vegetation Guidelines for long-term management information.

Small-Scale Features

58. Add an interpretive node at the ha-ha.

Archeological Features

59. Stabilize the ha-ha to maintain the feature's future interpretive potential and stabilize the steep slope associated with the west pasture.
    - Remove vegetation impacting the feature.
    - Repair stone walls by restacking dry-laid stones following the rubble pattern established during the period of significance.
    - Document all instances of removed vegetation and the condition of the wall before and after repair.



Figure 5-83. Proposed view of west pasture toward Harmony Hall.

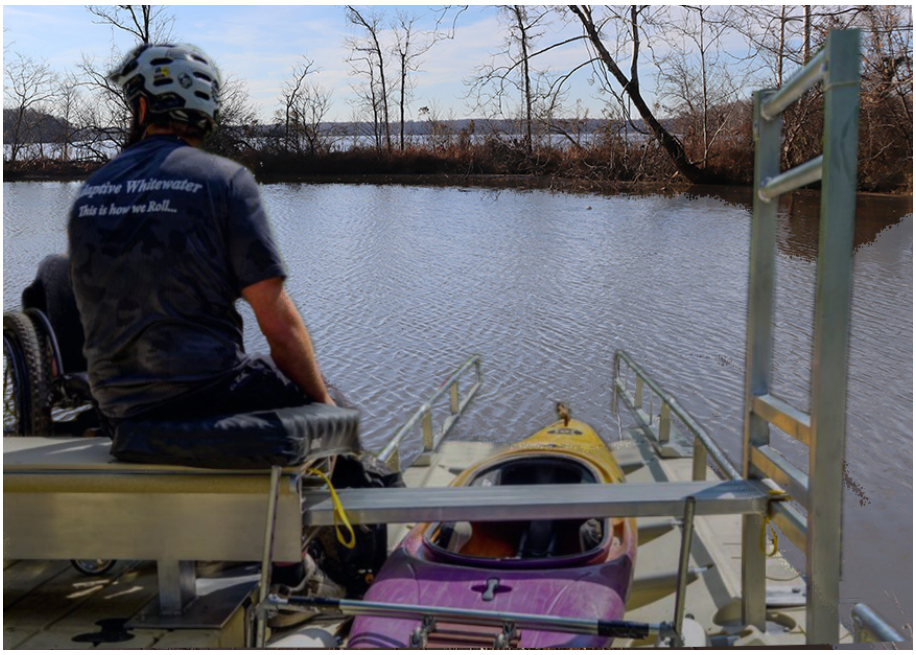


Figure 5-84. Example of a boat launch at Slash Creek.

Cultural Landscape Report

Harmony Hall
National Capital Parks-East

West Pasture and Slash Creek LCA
Recommended Treatment

National Park Service
National Capital Region

TREATMENT TASKS

55 Consider adding a boat launch for small watercraft at the west end of the west pasture.

56 Add a trail along the south side of the west pasture.

57 Reestablish meadow in the historic location of the west pasture.

58 Add an interpretive node at the ha-ha.

59 Stabilize the ha-ha.

Broad Creek

Want Water Canal

WANT WATER AND PINE STAND LCA

WEST PASTURE AND SLASH CREEK LCA

HARMONY HALL AND ENTRANCE LCA

TERRACE AND CYPRESS ALLÉE LCA

Ha-Ha

Slash Creek

55

56

57

58

59

Sources

1. National Capital Region GPS.
2. World Imagery, ESRI.
3. Quinn Evans, field investigations, August 2023.

Drawn By

Quinn Evans, ArcGIS Pro 3.1.3, 2024

Legend

- NPS Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- Add Trail
- Add Boardwalk or Puncheon
- Add Native Grasses and Forbs
- Maintain Mixed Forest
- Maintain Tidal Marsh
- Maintain Tidal Swamp
- Remove Tree
- Remove Non-Contributing Fence Remnant
- Add Interpretive Node

Notes

1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. Contour Interval= 2' - 0"
3. Draft Version 1

N 0 50 100 200 Feet

Drawing RT-05

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ENDNOTES

1 National Park Service, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, United States Department of the Interior, https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/fourtreatments/landscape-guidelines; and NPS DO 28, 1997.

2 National Capital Parks - East, White-Tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, accessed August 2024, https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=428&projectID=102432&documentID=115847.

3 US Access Board, "Chapter 10: Outdoor Developed Areas," accessed August 2024, https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/chapter-10-outdoor/#outdoor-recreation-access-routes-orars.

4 E. Thomas Smiley, Nelda Matheny, and Sharon Lilly, *Tree Risk Assessment Best Management Practices* (International Society of Arboriculture, 2017); Bryant C. Sharenbroch and E. Thomas Smiley, *Soil Management for Urban Trees Best Management Practices* (International Society of Arboriculture, 2014); and Nelda Matheny, E. Thomas Smiley, Ryan Gilpin, and Richard Hauer, *Managing Trees During Site Development and Construction* (International Society of Arboriculture, 2023).

5 Beyer Blinder Belle, *Harmony Hall: Historic Structure Report*.

6 National Park Service, *Harmony Hall Development Concept Plan* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2022)

7 Beyer Blinder Belle, *Harmony Hall: Historic Structure Report*.

8 Beyer Blinder Belle, *Harmony Hall: Historic Structure Report* 478.

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Partnership Concept

Chapter 6

Chapter title page: Overgrown bungalow ruin, 2023 (Quinn Evans).

Chapter 6: Partnership Concept

This chapter presents an inspirational vision for the Harmony Hall landscape, incorporating both immediate stabilization needs and a long-term concept to support a potential appropriate future use and interpretation. The treatment represents one option based on a cultural landscape perspective and following guidance from the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, with the understanding that an individual partner, funding, timing, and additional research will likely require adjusting or phasing the desired landscape condition. In particular, ongoing ethnographic research and future archeological investigations may reveal new significance, historic information, or descendent communities that may require reconsideration of landscape treatment to ensure their integration in site planning and design. A potential partner organization may also focus on a different aspect of the site or its history to support their mission and goals.

REPRESENTING HIDDEN OR MISSING NARRATIVES IN THE LANDSCAPE

This concept intends to inspire a potential partner. The Harmony Hall landscape includes features that can engage the public with both periods of significance, from stories of enslaved people in the Tobacco Era to White resistance towards the advancement of African Americans during the Collins era. This concept focuses on Charles Collins's erasure and reinterpretation of the Tobacco Era at Harmony Hall, which demonstrates the effort of a White supremacist to physically reshape the landscape to conform to a racist representation of history. As the location where Collins authored his writings, the site provides a direct opportunity to interpret White resistance to desegregation. In addition, the site's proximity to Broad Creek, the Chapel Hill community, and Harmony Hall Regional Center provides important regional context for the African American struggle for education and Black achievement. Interpretation and rehabilitation of the site by an arts-and-culture-focused partner offers several opportunities, including educating the public about a difficult history, African-American self-expression through a cultural and artistic response to history, and acknowledgment necessary for racial healing.

PRECEDENT SITES

The following examples are from other landscapes that experienced similar erasure of features or narratives related to Black history. These sites incorporate art installations to recognize missing elements or stories in the landscape and illustrate the breadth of potential interpretation at Harmony Hall.

"From Absence to Presence"

In this project at St. Mary's College, Maryland, Re: Site Studio conceptualized the private space of the slave quarters as a representation of resilience, determination, and persistence (Figure 6-3 and 6-4). The architectural form of the slave quarters rises from the ground, reflecting how this history was unearthed through archeological research, transforming the hidden into the visible.

The design features a gradient pattern of staggered Ipe wood clapboards and mirror-polished stainless steel, reminiscent of the uneven pattern found in erasure poetry. Text on the mirrored surfaces is "redacted" by the clapboards, creating a striking effect that unveils a developing story.[1]

Declaration House, Independence Historical Park

Declaration House is a public art and history exhibit by Monument Lab at Independence National Historical Park, focusing on the location where Thomas Jefferson and Robert Hemmings spent several months in Philadelphia while drafting the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

The project poses a key question: What relevance does the Declaration of Independence hold for us today? By placing Hemmings at the heart of this historical moment, the exhibit aims to shed light on the intertwined legacies of freedom and slavery that underpin our nation's founding. Declaration House features the exclusive debut of Sonya Clark's "The Descendants of Monticello," a public artwork that revitalizes the historic house with a striking montage displaying the blinking eyes of Robert Hemmings's descendants and others connected to the more than 400 individuals enslaved at Monticello, including those with direct biological ties to Jefferson (Figure 6-5 and 6-6).[2]

Camp Barker Memorial at Garrison Elementary School

During the Civil War, Union forces referred to formerly enslaved individuals as "contraband," stolen Confederate property, to circumvent the Fugitive Slave Act. Originally constructed as barracks for Union soldiers, Camp Barker and Garrison Elementary School's buildings were quickly repurposed to house those fleeing

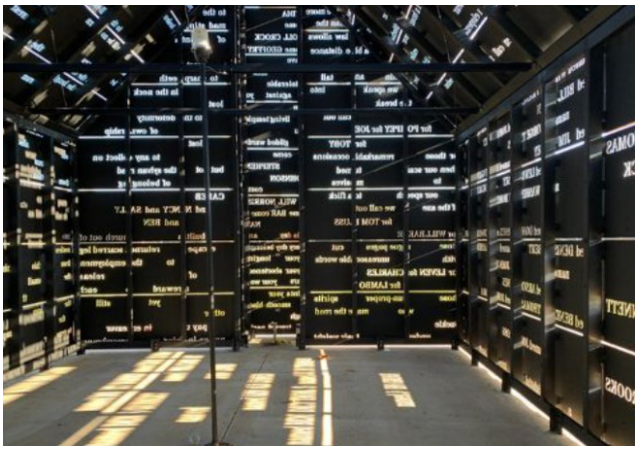


Figure 6-1. "From Absence to Presence," St. Mary's College, MD (Contemporary Monuments to the Slave Past).



Figure 6-2. "From Absence to Presence," St. Mary's College, MD (Contemporary Monuments to the Slave Past).



Figure 6-3. Declaration House art installation and exhibit, Sonja Clark (Steve Weinik, Monument Lab).



Figure 6-4. Declaration House art installation and exhibit, Sonja Clark (Steve Weinik, Monument Lab).



Figure 6-5. Camp Barker Memorial at Garrison Elementary School (Contemporary Monuments to the Slave Past).



Figure 6-6. Camp Barker Memorial at Garrison Elementary School (Contemporary Monuments to the Slave Past).

slavery. Despite the harsh living conditions in the camp, it played a significant role in the development of the surrounding community in Washington, DC.

Through the Camp Barker Memorial, After Architecture contextualized the history of Camp Barker as a Civil War-era "contraband camp" through three entry gateways leading to a public elementary school in northwest Washington, DC (Figure 6-5 and Figure 6-6).[3]

A FUTURE VISION FOR HARMONY HALL

The following inspirational partnership incorporates guidelines and tasks presented in Chapter 5 and provides modifications for new use and interpretation of Collins Era features. The example includes an arts/community-development-focused local partner and reframes the problematic Collins Era narratives by rehabilitating the bungalow and terraces as a garden and art event space. The bungalow is reinterpreted as "sculpture as a ruin" within the garden, and the horse stable is repaired either for boat concessions or an open-air arts pavilion. A route through proposed terrace garden leads to the boardwalk along the cypress allée and seasonal boat launch at Slash Creek.

Circulation

Building on the recommended treatment proposed in Chapter 5, this concept reorients access to the site to the historic drive to Want Water and incorporates a boat launch either south of Want Water or at the end of the cypress allée. The proposed trail network in this concept is also consistent with the tasks described in the previous chapter.

The proposed circulation for the Harmony Hall study area modifies the southeast entrance driveway as primary vehicular entrance and adds accessible parking outside the horse stable. The northeast entrance driveway would be used as a bus and utility drive. South of the manor house, the brick patio would be repaired and maintained as a passive seating/picnic area.

A new accessible route through the Collins Era terraces would lead to a proposed boardwalk through the cypress allée. The proposed boardwalk may include a viewing platform or boat launch. A mown path along the west pasture would follow the historic drive alignment, and a new trail to Harmony Hall Community Center would create a connection to adjacent arts and community activities as well as overflow parking.

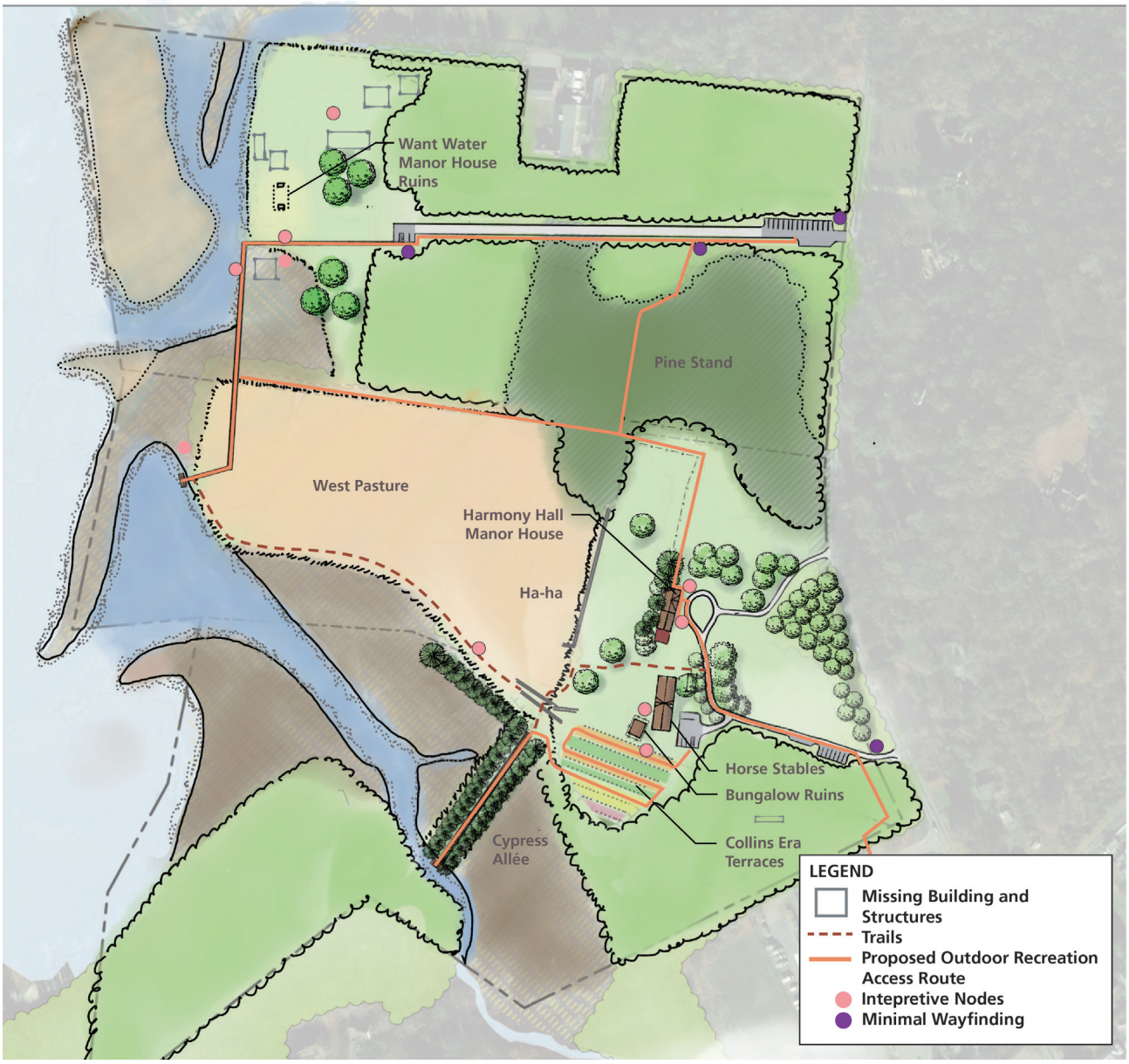


Figure 6-7. Overall study area proposed concept.

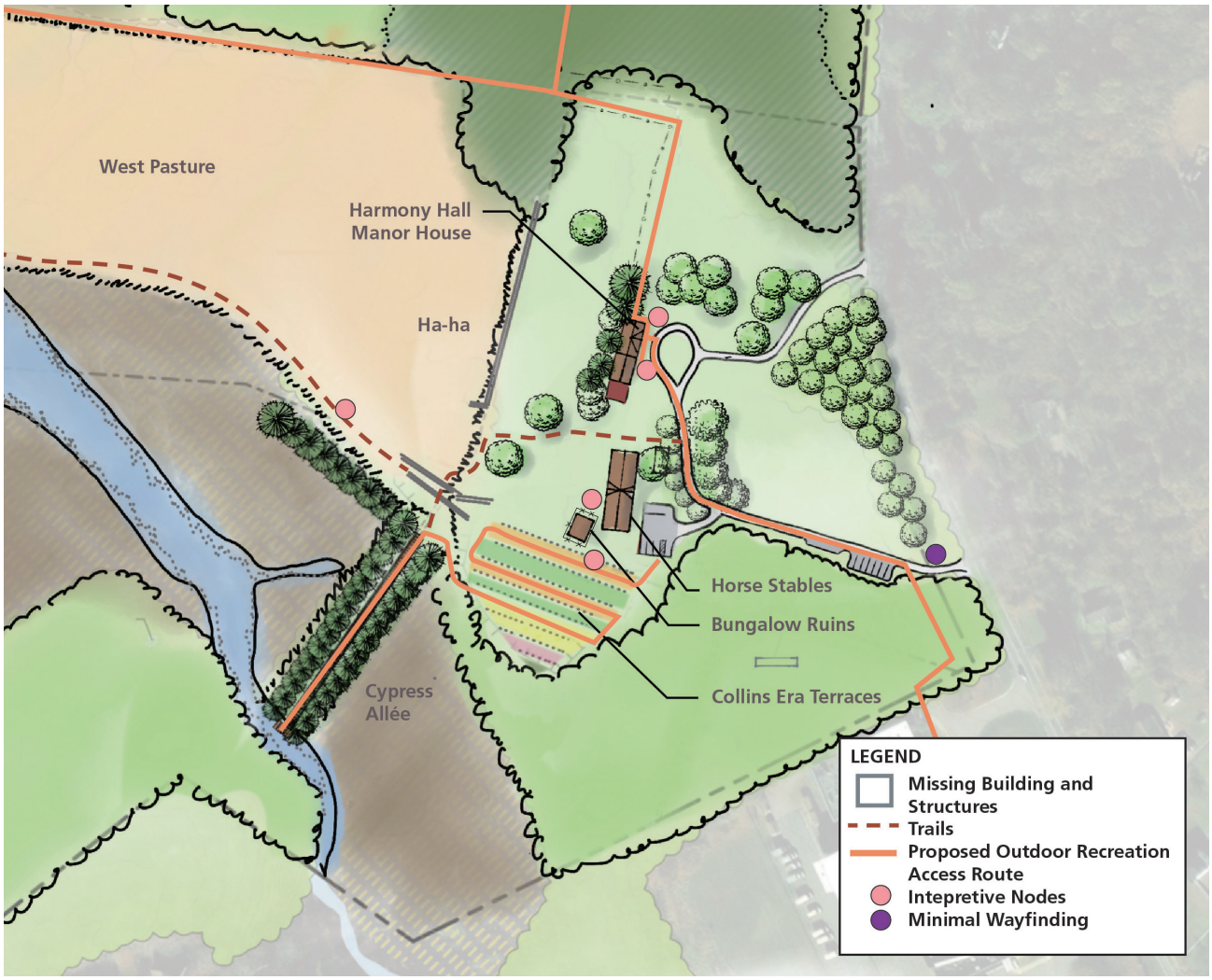


Figure 6-8. Detailed concept at Harmony Hall manor house and Collins Era terraces.

Vegetation

A potential future centerpiece of interpretation and gathering, the Collins Era terraces would be rehabilitated as a garden and art event space, activating the terraces to include a mix of temporary art programming and perennial plantings (Figure 6-9). The terraced topography of this location presents an opportunity for small, naturalistic performance spaces integrated within interpretive planting, along with permanent or rotating art installations framed by ornamental vegetation. Partner engagement, descendant engagement, and the ethnographic study would inform an appropriate design for this space, which would acknowledge and reveal the missing or hidden narratives on the site.

Temporary sculptures or paintings addressing topics relevant to the community and site interpretation (such as those illustrated in Figure 6-12 through Figure 6-15 focusing on civil rights and African American outdoor experience) would be framed within the lush backdrop of the garden.

Garden Design Precedents

This CLR recommends drawing inspiration from other design concepts that propose healing gardens in nearby communities. For example, Figure 6-10 and Figure 6-11 illustrate a design concept for a garden in the Gum Springs community, a historically Black community founded on property deeded to West Ford, who had been formerly enslaved at George Washington's Mount Vernon. This concept imagines a restorative garden space on an empty parking lot owned by the historic African-American church Bethlehem Baptist, a mainstay in the community. The garden includes meadow plantings that feature a palette of botanicals used by enslaved people, as recorded in *Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1938*.[4]

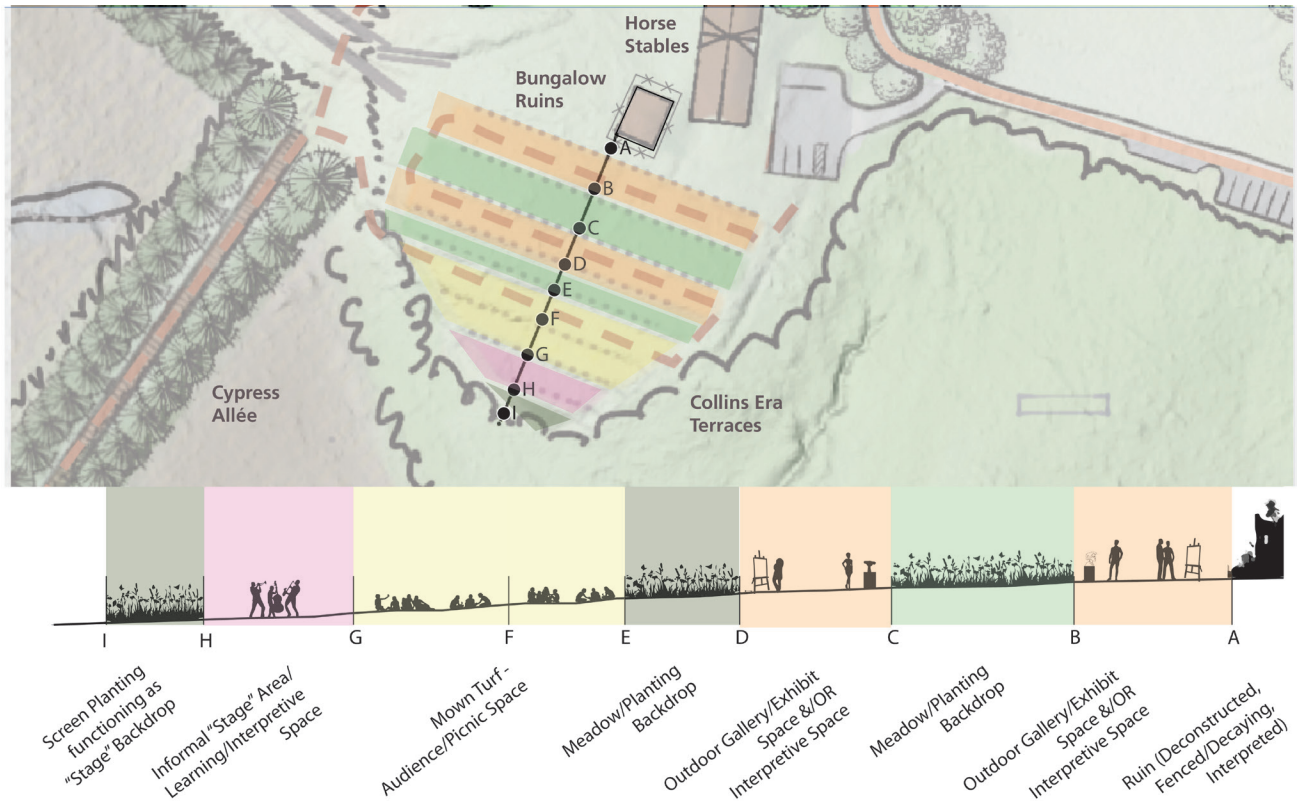


Figure 6-9. Example concept of section through ornamental plantings, art installations, and performance spaces along the Collins Era Terraces.

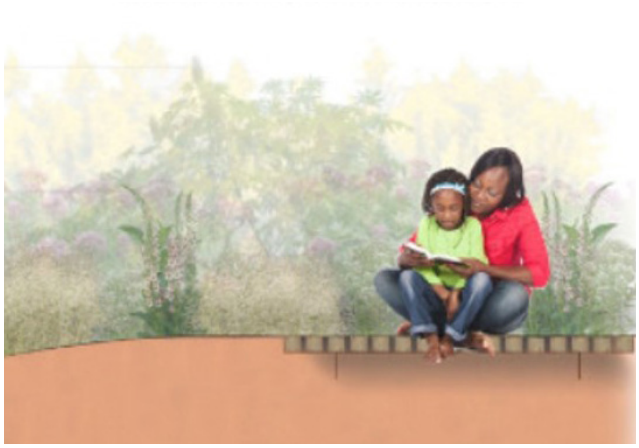


Figure 6-10. Gum Springs (GIS Symposium, George Washington's Mount Vernon).

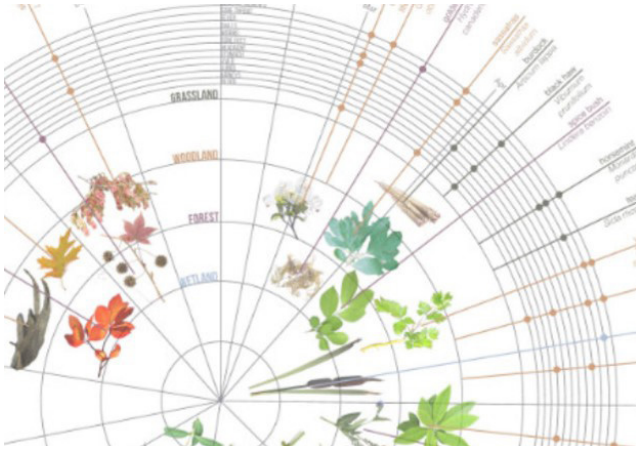


Figure 6-11. Gum Springs (GIS Symposium, George Washington's Mount Vernon).

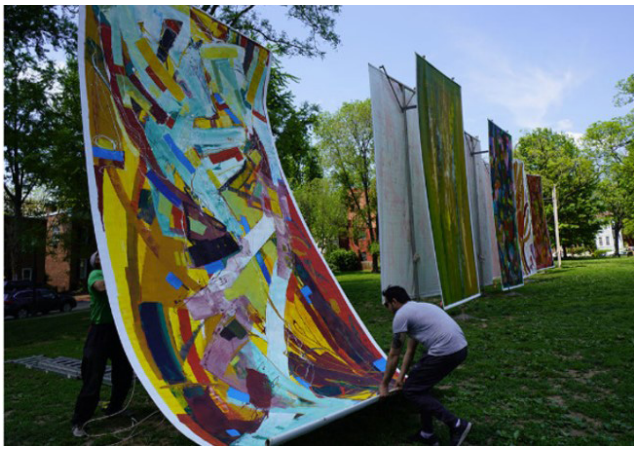


Figure 6-12. "The Orange Step," outdoor painting exhibition, Kiril Jeliazkov, 2018.



Figure 6-13. "A Voluminous Crush," banner, wooden frame, "With the Land" outdoor exhibition, Alvin Luong, 2023.



Figure 6-14. "RockIt Black," plywood outdoor sculpture, Tanda Francis, 2021 (Reuters).

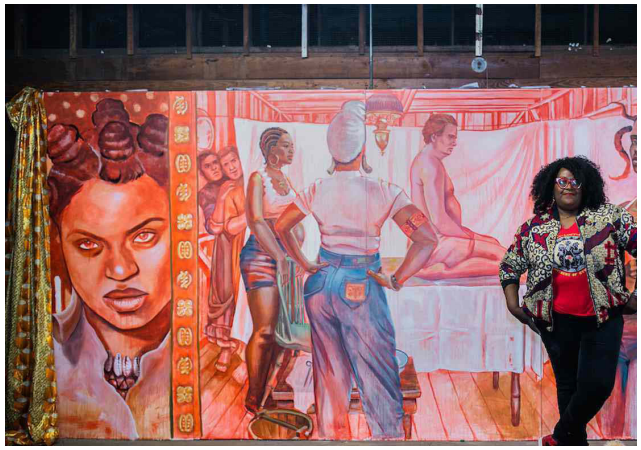


Figure 6-15. "People," painted mural, Michelle Browder, 2022 (EJI).

Buildings and Structures

Consistent with the study area's 2022 DCP proposals, this concept recommends rehabilitating the Harmony Hall manor house to support partner use. Nearby, the horse stable would be modified to provide boat concessions or fresh-air art pavilion.

Critical to the inspirational use of this site is treatment of the bungalow, where Collins wrote his arguments against integration and in support of White supremacist ideology. This concept proposes that the bungalow be reinterpreted as a "sculpture as a ruin." The approach would allow for a safe, curated deconstruction of the ruin, which is now a safety hazard, or the slow decay of natural processes with a protective fence and interpretive signage. Documentation of the building before and during implementation of this concept would provide materials for future interpretation.

The sculpture as ruin strategy requires initiating the Section 106 process to assess the effect of dismantling or decay of the ruin on the entire historic property. This CLR asserts that the interpretive value of controlled decay or dismantling directly tied to the building's problematic history is a critical factor in evaluating the impact of the eventual loss of the structure. Integrating this process with local art and community engagement efforts may also identify potential salvage or reuse opportunities that may preserve portions of the feature while reframing it to better contextualize Collins's role in active disruption of twentieth-century civil rights efforts. Alternatively, the bungalow could be rehabilitated for use as a partner/visitor space paired with interpretation that acknowledges its history.

Sculpture as Ruin Precedents

Various treatment approaches for historic structures in differing degrees of ruin and former structures that pose safety concerns have been identified as possible precedents for dismantling of the bungalow:

- **Disassembled/reassembled:** In 2018, Berlin-based artist Ryan Mendoza rebuilt an abandoned house once owned by Rosa Parks in an overseas location (Figure 6-16). The house, which had sheltered Parks after she fled Alabama due to threats, was saved from demolition in Detroit by Parks's niece, Rhea McCauley. McCauley then enlisted Mendoza, who deconstructed and relocated the house to Berlin. Mendoza and McCauley faced challenges in finding a US buyer but continued their search, hoping to preserve the house as a symbol of the struggles faced by African Americans due to discriminatory housing practices.[5]
- **Protected with plywood:** In this example from *Preservation Brief 31* (Figure 6-17), severely deteriorated wooden siding on a farm building has been covered over with painted plywood panels as a temporary measure to eliminate moisture penetration to the interior. Foundation vents and loose floorboards allow air to circulate inside.[6]
- **Mothballed and protected by fencing:** This example from *Preservation Brief 31* (Figure 6-18) involves controlling the long-term deterioration of the building while it is unoccupied as well as finding methods to protect it from sudden loss by fire or vandalism. This requires securing the building from unwanted entry, providing adequate ventilation to the interior, and shutting down or modifying existing utilities. Long-term success depends on periodic maintenance and surveillance monitory.[7]
- **Allowed to be overtaken by natural processes:** Baltimore City has not addressed the maintenance needs of the Clifton Park Valve House (Figure 6-19) over the years of its abandonment. The steel roof truss system is rusting away, which has led to the loss of number roof tiles, and the stained glass windows are in disrepair. The Department of Recreation and Parks has no funds available for maintenance on the Valve House, and it has been allowed to be overtaken by natural processes.[8]
- **Stabilized and memorialized:** This project commemorates the former segregated swimming pool and facilities in Baltimore's Druid Hill Park (Figure 6-20 and Figure 6-21). The project included interpretive signage and a plaza framed by four pillars with a set of broad steps leading down to the pool deck. The former open pool was replaced by green lawn. The ladders and diving equipment were preserved and painted bright blue. The paving patterns of the new plaza and the paving around the pool incorporate traditional African braided forms.[9]



Figure 6-16. Rosa Parks House reconstructed in Berlin as part of a traveling exhibit (www.archpaper.com).

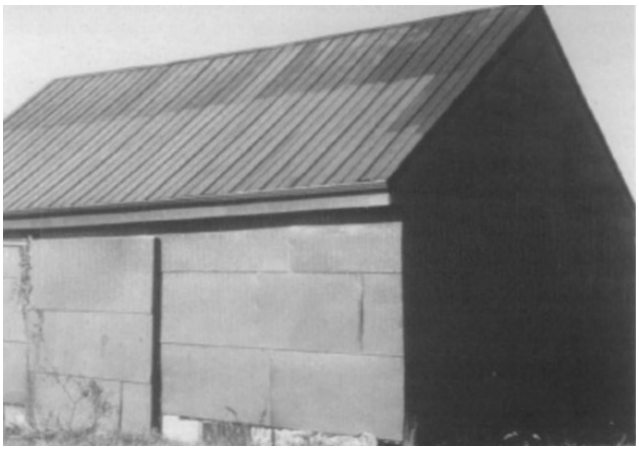


Figure 6-17. Historic resource protected with plywood paneling (NPS).



Figure 6-18. Historic resource mothballed and protected by fencing (NPS).



Figure 6-19. Clifton Park Valve House in Baltimore, MD allowed to fall into ruin (Preservation Maryland).



Figure 6-20. Segregated swimming pool in Druid hill park as Memorial Pool (Joyce J. Scott).



Figure 6-21. Druid Hill Park swimming pool during use (bmoreart.com).

Small-Scale Features

Following the 2022 DCP, the proposed concept integrates wayfinding and interpretive nodes to support future partner and public use. Wayfinding is recommended at the entrances, including Harmony Hall Regional Center, and trail heads. Interpretive nodes would support understanding of the historic significance of the Harmony Hall manor house, bungalow, cypress allée and Slash Creek, Collins Era outbuildings/plantation street, Broad Creek/Aire townsite, Want Water ruins, tobacco inspection warehouse site, Want Water Canal, ha-ha, and the Collins Era terraces.

Archeological Sites

Consistent with the guidelines and tasks presented in Chapter 5, this concept proposes stabilizing and interpreting ruins and remnants that support visitor understanding of the property. Features that pose a hazard to safety, such as fence remnants and collapsed structures, may be evaluated for removal.

ENDNOTES

1 Contemporary Monuments to the Slave Past, https://www.slaverymonuments.org/items/show/1213.

2 Monument Lab, https://monumentlab.com/projects/declaration-house.

3 "From Absence to Presence, the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland (St. Mary's College of Maryland)," accessed September 24, 2024, https://www.slaverymonuments.org/items/show/1213.

4 Herbert C. Covey, African American Slave Medicine: Herbal and Non-Herbal Treatments (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2007); Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narrative Project, manuscript/mixed material, www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection.

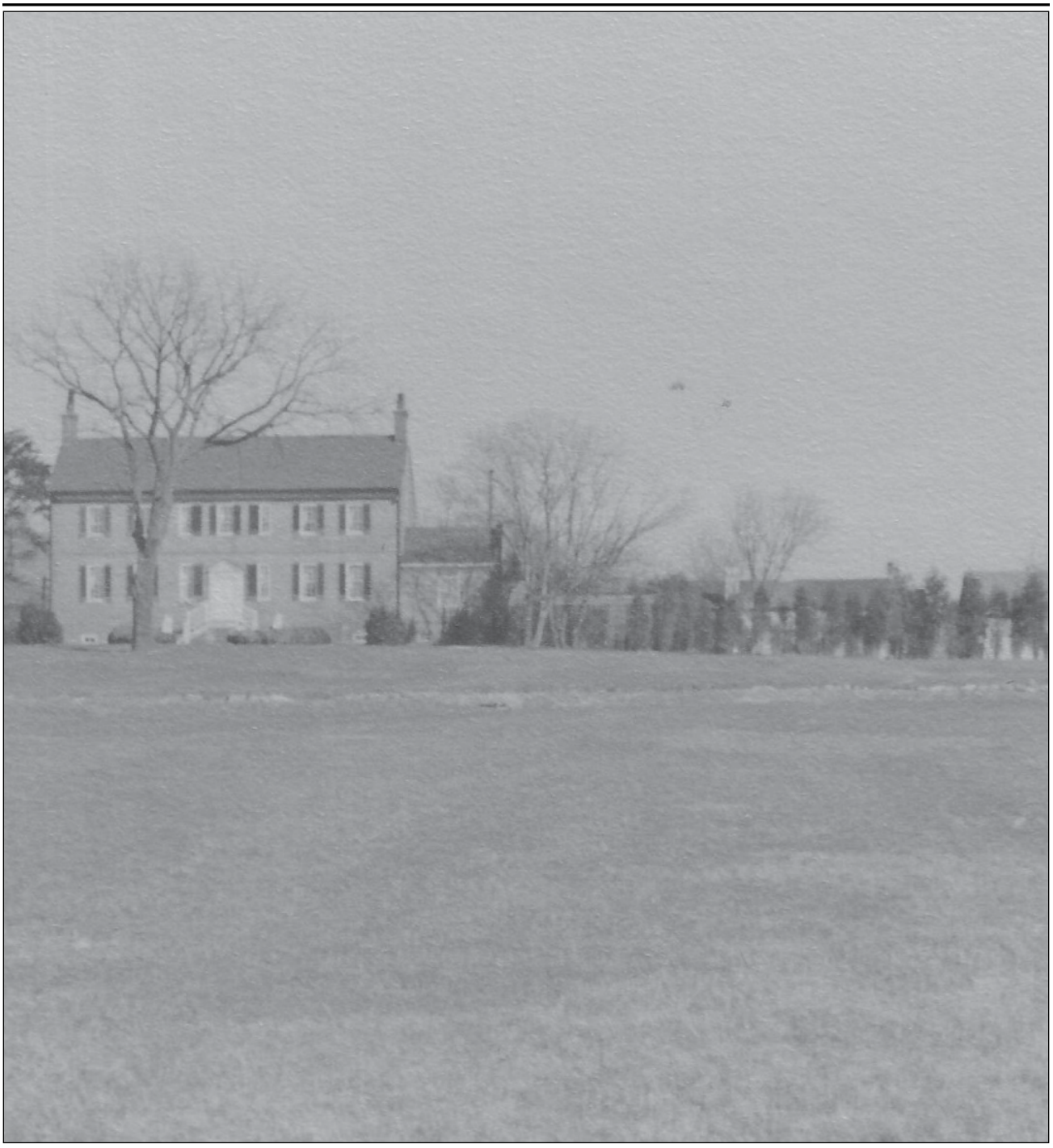
5 Jack Balderrama Morley. "Rosa Parks house reconstructed and put up for sale." Artnet. August 15, 2018. https://www.archpaper.com/2018/08/rosa-parks-house-sale/.

6 Sharon C. Park, *Preservation Brief* 31 (US Department of the Interior National Park Service Cultural Resources), 5, https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-31-mothballing-buildings.pdf.

7 Paraphrased from Park, *Preservation Brief 31*, 6, https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-31-mothballing-buildings.pdf.

8 Preservation Maryland, "Endangered: Valve House in Clifton Park," October 10, 2014, https://preservationmaryland.org/valve-house/.

9 Cultural Landscapes Foundation, "Druid Hill Park Memorial Pool," https://www.tclf.org/druid-hill-park-memorial-pool.



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Chapter title page: View of West Pasture, ha-ha, and Harmony Hall manor house, ca. mid-1930s, facing east (National Capital Parks-East Archive).

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