

CE-26  
Mount Harmon  
(Prize House)  
600 Grove Neck Road (MD 282)  
Earleville  
Private

c. 1788

Mt. Harmon is an 18th century brick mansion built by Sidney George around 1788. The house was restored in the 1960s under the supervision of Albert Kruse, A.I.A., the architect of the State House restoration in New Castle, Delaware. The house measures 50' x 32', and the majority of the walls of the double pile structure are original. In the late 1920s a frame wing was built on the south gable. The five bay main facade, facing west, has a central door with a scrolled pediment and pineapple keystone supported by Ionic pilasters. Windows are 12/12 sash with splayed brick jack arches with stone keystones. A one-bay-wide pediment with a bullseye window and modillion raking cornice is centered on the hip roof, and is flanked by two gable-roofed dormers with round-arched windows and pilasters. A single dormer of the same style appears between paired interior chimneys on both the north and south ends of the house. The east facade of the roof holds a single dormer between two pediments with bullseye windows. The top of the hip roof features a widow's walk with a Chinese Chippendale balustrade. A dentiled and modillioned cornice surrounds the roof on all sides. The east facade of the house is three bays wide, the two outer bays holding a 12/12 window with the same arches as on the front, and the central bay holds a tall round-arched window above a recessed door with pedimented surround. The north gable end of the building holds a single 12/12 sash window in the second story. The south gable end is covered by a two-story frame wing

covered with beaded clapboard. This wing holds 6/6 sash windows. The interior of the house has been entirely reconstructed with a center hall containing a Chinese Chippendale stair leading to the third floor. The parlor on the north and the dining room on the south are fully paneled. Near the house stands a small one-story brick structure, formerly a kitchen for the farm. There are also stables and residences for the caretakers of the estate. West of the house stands the 18' x 24' hewn frame prize house mentioned in Sidney George Fisher's diary in the 1830s.

Mount Harmon is an important site because it was the home of several locally important citizens of lower Cecil County during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. It is also important because the walls of the present mansion are those built during the 18th century, and are an object lesson in the study of Georgian architecture in Maryland. On the property is also an early prize house, used prior to 1830 when tobacco was the chief crop of lower Cecil County.

CE-26 (6)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Cecil
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Mount Harmon

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Grove Neck Road, 4 miles west of Cecilton

CITY OR TOWN:  
Earleville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Cecil CODE: 015

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Marguerite duP. Boden

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Park Place

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newark

STATE:  
Delaware

CODE:  
10

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Cecil County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elkton

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
21401

CODE:  
24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Cecil  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mt. Harmon is located on Grove Neck four miles west of Cecilton, Cecil County and lies between the waters of Forman and McGill Creeks. It presently consists of 400 acres. Within the designated area of Mt. Harmon Site stands the eighteenth century walls of a large brick mansion built by Sidney George around 1788. The house has been restored under the supervision of Albert Kruse, A.I.A., architect of the State House restoration in New Castle, Delaware. Near the house stands a small one-story brick structure formerly a kitchen for the farm. There are also stables and residences for the caretakers of the estate. Near the Sassafras River stands the prize house mentioned in Sidney George Fisher's diary in the 1830's.

The house measures 50 feet by 32 feet and the majority of the walls of the "double pile" structure is original. In the late 1920's a frame wing was built on the south gable which contains a sitting room, den and porch on the first floor with bedrooms and bath above. The hypothetical restoration accomplished in the 1960's includes an ogee broken pediment above a doric architrave for the front entrance, a deck-on-hip roof with dormers having scrolled consoles, and the rear facade with double pedimented pavillions. Inside, one of the four original rooms was used as a kitchen and the corridor to the wing. The other three rooms have paneling and trim copied from examples in Delaware, Virginia and Maryland. The hall has a Chinese trellis stair ascending to the attic. Behind the house a sunken garden has been constructed with brick retaining walls and paths. Between the house and garden stand two huge yew trees, almost as large as those of Rose Hill closeby.

West of the house stands the prize house, a hewn frame structure measuring approximately 18 by 24 feet. The prizing machinery housed there came from St. Mary's County, Maryland and is illustrated in Edwin Tunis' Colonial Living.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce    | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Harmon is an important site because it was the home of several locally important citizens of lower Cecil County during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is also important because the walls of the present mansion are those built during the eighteenth century, and are an object lesson in the study of Georgian architecture in Maryland. On the property is also an early prize house, used prior to 1830 when tobacco was the chief crop of lower Cecil County.

Mt. Harmon was laid out originally on January 4, 1658 for Godfrey Harmon. In 1675, it came into the possession of William Ward Sr. (d. c. 1721) who was appointed to the commission to lay out new towns in Cecil County in 1683. He was Justice of the County Court in 1688, 92, and was a member of the first vestry of North Sassafras Parish to which he donated a 300 acre farm still owned by the parish. Ward's children owned the farm and in 1737 sold it to James Paul Heath.

James Paul Heath (1712-45) also owned Worsell Manor and a tract called Warwick. In his will of 1745, he stipulated that a town be laid out on part of the latter tract by the name of Warwick, it being on the Main Road across the peninsula. (George Washington mentions Warwick in unflattering terms during one of his trips across the Eastern Shore). Heath married Rebecca, daughter of Daniel Dulaney, prominent lawyer of Annapolis. At the time of his death, James Paul Heath was worth over £3500, and his inventory listed many and valuable belongings in the latest fashion.

In 1761, the land consisting of over 1000 acres was sold to James Louttit, (died 1765) wealthy planter and merchant. He had married Mary George, daughter of the most respected lawyer of Cecil County in that day. James Louttit's inventory was worth £2695 in 1765. The eulogy preached at his funeral by Rev. William Barroll was printed by Benjamin Franklin in the same year.

Mt. Harmon passed to his son who died shortly thereafter. It was then sold by Mrs. Louttit to her Nephew and son-in-law, Sidney George Jr., in 1788.

Sidney George Jr. (died 1817) studied law under Robert Goldsborough of Talbot County. He contributed to the founding of Washington College in 1782, and was Justice of the Peace for Cecil County in 1780-83. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. At his death, Mt. Harmon passed to his daughter.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Maryland	CE-26
COUNTY		Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		

(Number all entries)

Mt. Harmon

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

It was sold to Dr. John Thompson Veazey (1783-1839) in 1820, a physician well known and beloved in lower Cecil County. After eight years Dr. Veazey was unable to pay off the mortgage, and the property reverted to the ownership of Sidney George Fisher, grandson of Sidney George.

Sidney George Fisher (1809-1871), lawyer of Philadelphia, whose diary on Philadelphia life was published recently under the title: A Philadelphia Perspective, visited Mt. Harmon frequently and contributed to the establishment of the steam boat lines on the Sassafras River and was the first to introduce the latest farming techniques to the area. He wrote several books on law, politics, slavery and poetry. At his death, Mt. Harmon passed to his son Sydney George Fisher.

Sydney George Fisher (1856-1927), lawyer, is best known for writing histories of Pennsylvania and Delaware, biographies of Benjamin Franklin, William Penn and Daniel Webster, and the histories of the Constitution and the American Revolution. He was also a member of the Philosophical Society and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. The Library Company of Philadelphia was the beneficiary of Fisher's estate in 1927, but they soon sold the farm.

In 1963 the house and farm was purchased by Mrs. Harry Clark Boden IV, direct descendant of James Louttit. Restoration of the house was undertaken by Mr. Albert Kruse A.I.A., the architect of the State House restoration, New Castle, Delaware.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mrs. Harry Clarke Boden IV, Interview, 1972.

Cecil County Land Records, Elkton; and Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Diary of Martha B. Forman, Cecil County Historical Society, Elkton.

Diary of Sidney George Fisher, Pennsylvania Hist. Soc., Philadelphia.

Records of Cecil County Historical Society. Elkton (Ward, Veazey, Heath, George families).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39 ° 23 ' 25 "	76 ° 56 ' 50 "		°	'	"
NE	39 ° 23 ' 22 "	75 ° 56 ' 07 "		°	'	"
SE	39 ° 22 ' 42 "	76 ° 56 ' 03 "		°	'	"
SW	39 ° 22 ' 44 "	76 ° 56 ' 55 "		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 430 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael O. Bourne, Co-ordinator of Field Services mh

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: May 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland 21401 CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Office for Maryland

Date January 17, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

CE-26

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

Mount Harmon

2. LOCATION

STATE

COUNTY

TOWN

Maryland

Cecil

Earleville

STREET AND NUMBER

Grove Neck Road, four miles west of Cecilton

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DATE

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Danny Justice

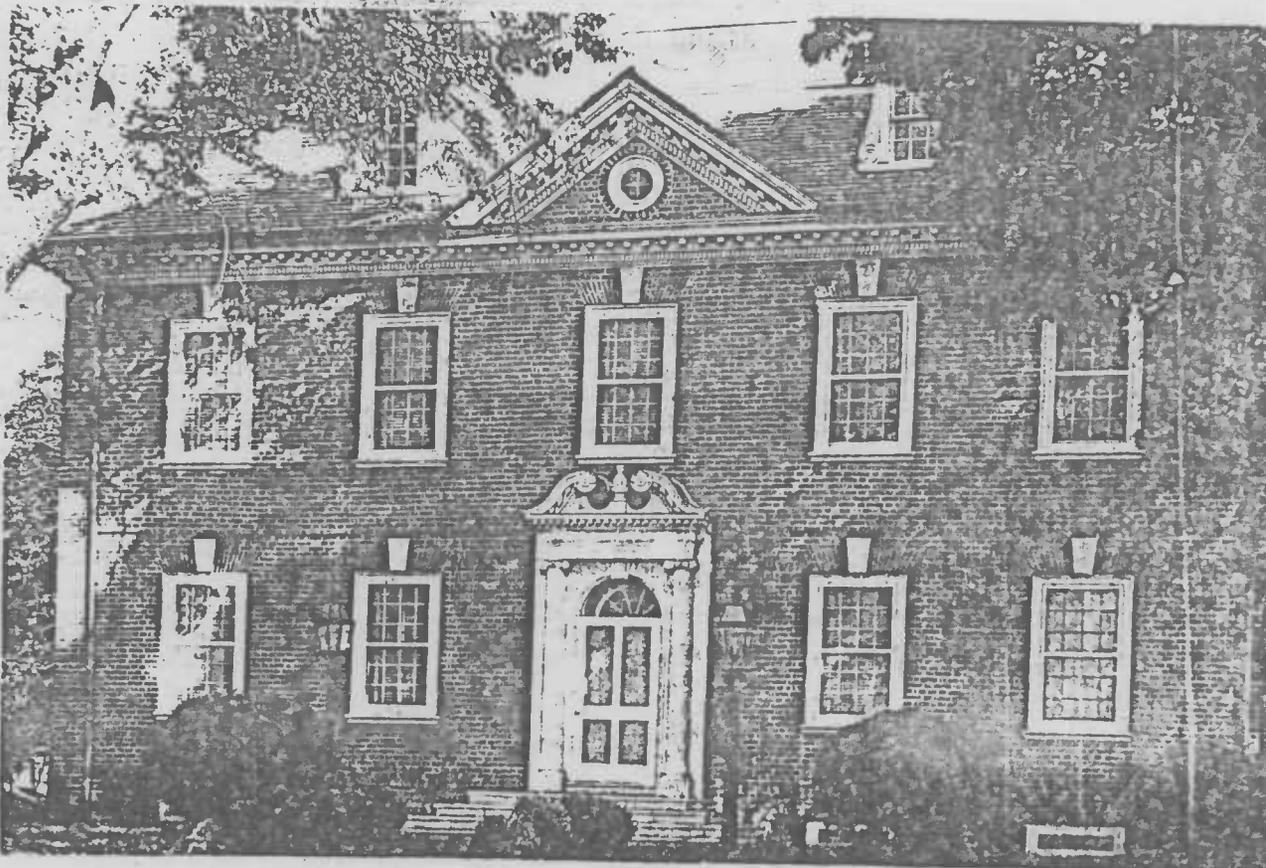
Spring 1972

Elkton, Maryland

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

North facade



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

CE-26

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Mount Harmon		

2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Cecil	Earleville
STREET AND NUMBER		

Grove Neck Road, four miles west of Cecilton

3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map Earleville Quadrangle	1958	1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

CE-26



o 23' 25"  
 o 50' 50!"

lat. 39° 23' 22"  
 long. 75° 56' 07"

house

Mount Harmon

lat. 39° 22' 44"  
 long. 76° 56' 55"  
 BR"

lat. 39° 22' 41"  
 long. 75° 56' 03"

Knight Island  
 Back



CE-26  
MOUNT HARMON  
Cecil County



CE-26  
MOUNT HARMON  
GARDEN FACADE  
Cecil County



CE-26  
MOUNT HARMON  
Cecil County



CE-26  
MOUNT HARMON  
PRIZE HOUSE  
Cecil County



EARLEVILLE QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map<sup>20</sup>  
scale: 1: 24,000  
1958

CE-26

St Pauls  
Ch  
Cem

St Stephens  
Ch

Earleville

S A S S A F

N E C K P O N D

Creek

27

PRIZE HOUSE

MOUNT HARMON

Dowdel

x 90

KNIGHT

Knights  
Island

Back

Knights

Island

Cassidy  
Wharf

12  
RIVER

AFRAS





Mount Harmon  
Near Earleville  
Elevation

CE - 26

MOB/1968

NEG - MD. Hist. Trust



CE-24



VF

CE.26

10/11/73

Md. Historical Trust  
94 College Ave.  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

ACTION! Photo  
217 W. 25th ST.  
WILM., DEL. 19802  
762-0424 • 762-4041

Art Harmon



Danny Justice, Elkton

(Mt. Harmon)

CE-26



CE-26 Mt. Harmon



Mount Hermon

Kitchen

CE-26

Michael Bolune Dec. 1971