Harris Graves **1814-1837**
CH-179
Mt. Victoria
Private

The Harris Family graves are located on a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River Valley near the former home known as Mt. Tirzah (CH-81). Containing six tablets, the most prominent stone marks the burial place of Gwinn Harris (1780-1837), President of the Executive Council of Maryland. The inscription asserted that Harris acted "correct in his principles, just in his transactions, and human in his feelings". The cemetery is typical of the many isolated family cemeteries scattered throughout Charles County.

CH-179 19th century
Harris Graves
Thompkinsville
Private

Buried here are members of the Harris family whose home, Mt. Tirzah (Burrough Hall), stood nearby.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-179

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Harris Graves
other	

2. Location

street and number	Tirzah Place	___	not for publication
city, town	Mt Victoria	___	vicinity
county	Charles		

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

name	Michael Sullivan				
street and number	P.O. Box 7			telephone	Unknown
city, town	Mt. Victoria	state	MD	zip code	20661

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	83 p.109		
city, town	La Plata MD	liber	1411	folio	287

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
X Other MIHP CH-81 Mt. Tirzah

6. Classification

Category
___ district
___ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
X object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function
X agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
___ domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
X vacant/not in use
___ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
___	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
6	___	objects
6	___	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-179

Condition

___ excellent	_X_ deteriorated
___ good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

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

The Harris Graves are located on top of a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River Valley in Cobb Neck. Nearby are the ruins of the 18th century Harris Family home, Mt. Tirzah, (CH-81). The site was likely approached from Mill Run Road to the north. Heavily overgrown in weeds and brambles, currently only a few stones are visible. The largest appears to be a slab marking the burial site of Gwinn Harris who died in 1837. In 1983, Anita Wood of the Charles County Historical Society visited the site and transcribed six stones. The stones range in date from 1814-1837.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-179

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philospohy
X 1800-1899	__ architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	X social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime industry	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates 1814-1837 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1814-1837

Evaluation for:

____ National Register ____ Maryland Register X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Harris Cemetery is significant in its association with the prominent Harris family of Charles County who established nearby Mt. Tirzah(CH-81) just before the American Revolution. The home is believed to have been built by Col. Thomas Harris, III. Among his children were Gwinn, who in 1780 was President of the Executive Council of Maryland; Dr. Morgan Harris, builder of nearby Waverly, (CH-30), who married Ann Morson, daughter of the Governor of the Island of Antigua in the West Indies; Thomas, IV author of an important legal work known as "Harris and McHenry,"; and Joseph, a prominent figure in Southern Maryland during the early 19th century. Mt. Tirzah was destroyed by fire in 1969. Prior to its destruction, many of the historic portraits and furnishings in the home belonging to the Harris family were donated to the Maryland Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-179

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 33.48

Acreage of historical setting 1000+

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Harris Cemetery is believed to stand on what is now Lot No. 1 of the Mt. Tirzah Cemetery found on Charles County Property Tax Map 83, Parcel 109.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey Hardy		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept.	dat	2/7/2002
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-5815
city or town	LaPlata	stat MD	zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

CH-179

HARRIS CEMETERY AT "MT. TIRZAH"
Route 257, Tompkinsville
6 tombstones
Transcribed September 28, 1983 by Anita Wood

HARRIS

In memory of Anne Harris, wife of Thomas Harris who departed this life on the 10th of December 1814, aged 70 years, 7 months and 19 days

In memory of Elizabeth Harris daughter of Thomas and Ann who departed this life on the 22nd April 1818 aged 46 years and 10 months

Sacred to the memory of Gwinn Harris who was born on the 27th of April 1780 and after long and useful service in the navy of the United States, died on the 12th of August 1837. Whilst President of the executive council of his native state having won for himself in both stations as he did in the varied scenes of life. The respect, confidence and affection of all with whom he acted correct in his principles, just in his transactions and human in his feelings his heart was the seat of manly virtue, disinterested and generous he never knew "a joy but friendship might divide"

Harris, son of Morgan and Ann L., who departed this life on the 21st August 1817, age 2 years 8 months

In memory of John Harris son of Thomas and Eleanor who departed this life on the 18th March 1831 age 34 years 7 months and 10 days

In memory of Thomas Harris who departed this life on the 22nd February 1815 age 73 years 6 months and 22 days

CH- 179 Charles County, MD
Name: HARRIS GRAVES
Location: MT. VICTORIA
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH N

CH-179
HARRIS GRAVES
CHARLES CO, MD
C. CURREY
4/2001
MD SHPO LOOKING NW 1 OF 1