

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #61-1 Building Date: ca. 1860

Building Name: Harrison House (Nicholson House)

Location: 11430 Montgomery Road, Beltsville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Harrison House is a Greek Revival style frame dwelling house; its main block is two-and-one-half stories with gable roof, its principal facade being its east gable end. Entrance is through a narrow door in the first bay of this two-bay gable end; the door is surmounted with a three-pane transom. The cornice of the building is boxed and returned, and forms a pediment on this principal facade; centered in the pediment is a lunette window. There is a one-story shed-roof porch across the gable end. The main block is two bays deep, with the two windows spaced widely apart. The plain horizontal board siding is covered by white vinyl, and the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, without shutters; there is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the ridge at the west gable end. The building rests on a foundation of iron-bearing stone, infilled in some places with brick. A one-and-one-half-story rear kitchen wing extends to the west; it rests on a stone foundation. Interior plan of the main block consists of side stairhall and double parlor; the staircase has a handsome turned Greek Revival style newel. Extending to the south, flush with the front of the east porch, is a modern one-story wing with a large exterior chimney at its south gable end.

Significance:

The Harrison House is a rare surviving example of a simple front-gabled Greek-Revival style frame farmhouse. The main block of the house was probably built just before the Civil War at the time John K. Harrison purchased the property from his kinsman, Thomas R. Benson. It is possible that the small kitchen wing may predate the main block, or it may have been added shortly afterwards. Members of the Harrison family retained the property for nearly a century. In 1952, the house and 20 acres were sold to John and Nellie Hancock who undertook significant repairs and alterations. The most substantial change was the construction of the south wing. The Hancocks subdivided most of the 20-acre property, and modern houses have been constructed on three sides. The addition of the wing has significantly changed the appearance of the building, but the Greek Revival style main block with its classical pediment is still a noticeable landmark. It is one of very few examples of its type surviving in Prince George's County.

Acreage: 52,198 square feet

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Harrison House

and/or common Nicholson House (indicated on 1974 survey as Hancock House)

2. Location

street & number 11430 Montgomery Road not for publicationcity, town Beltsville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county P.G.

3. Classification

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

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

name Raymond Nicholson

street & number 11430 Montgomery Road telephone no.: 937-1429

city, town Beltsville state and zip code Md. 20705

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #4396

street & number Main Street folio 722

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#61-1

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Harrison House is a Greek Revival style frame dwelling house which stands on an oversize lot surrounded by modern suburban subdivision housing. The main block of the house is two-and-one-half stories with gable roof, with its principal facade being its east gable end. Entrance is through a narrow door in the first bay of this two-bay gable end; the door is surmounted with a three-pane transom. The cornice of the building is boxed and returned, and forms a pediment on this principal facade; centered in the pediment is a lunette window. There is a one-story shed-roof porch, on plain posts, across the gable end.

The main block is two bays deep, with the two windows spaced widely apart. The plain horizontal board siding is covered by white vinyl, and the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, without shutters; surrounds of the windows are covered by the vinyl siding, and therefore not visible. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the ridge at the west gable end. The building rests on a foundation of iron-bearing stone, infilled in some places with brick.

There are wings to the south and west, as well as an enclosed porch to the north. The west wing is one-and-one-half stories high, extending the main block, at a lower roofline, two bays farther to the west. This smaller kitchen wing rests on a stone foundation, as does the one-story enclosed porch which adjoins it to the north.

Interior plan of the main block consists of side stairhall and double parlor. The staircase has a handsome turned Greek Revival style newel post and plain square balusters. The pockets can still be seen in the dividing wall between the two parlors, but the retracting doors have been removed, and a hinged molding has been applied to close the pockets. At the west end of the rear parlor is a tall brick fireplace in which some old bricks have been used as material. The rear parlor leads into the one-room kitchen wing. Doors and windows in the kitchen have plain board surrounds, while those in the hall and parlors have three-band ovolo moldings.

Extending to the south, flush with the front of the east porch, is a modern one-story wing, with a multi-pane bay projecting to the east. It has a shallow gable roof, and a large exterior chimney at its south gable end; it rests on a concrete foundation.

There is a twentieth century well-house immediately west of the house. It has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingle, and white board-and-batten siding.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca. 1860 **Builder/Architect**

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

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

The Harrison House is a rare surviving example of a simple front-gabled Greek-Revival style frame farmhouse. The main block of the house was probably built just before the Civil War at the time John K. Harrison purchased the property from his kinsman, Thomas R. Benson. Harrison had married Eliza Benson in 1848, and in 1859 he purchased from her family 22 acres of Edmonston's Range which had been the Benson home place. (This land was described as being across the public road from Evan Shaw's portion of Edmonston's Range, cf. #61-2.)¹ It was probably at approximately this time that the main block of the house was constructed, following the popular Greek Revival style of the day. It is possible that the small kitchen wing may predate the main block, or it may have been added shortly afterwards. Both rest on stone foundations.

Members of the Harrison family retained the property for nearly a century. In 1871, John Harrison deeded to his wife, Eliza, her family home; many years later, she deeded it to her daughter, Ida Nash, who sold the property in 1935.² In 1952, the house and 20 acres were sold to John and Nellie Hancock who undertook significant repairs and alterations. The most substantial change was the construction of the south wing, a one-story family room/recreation room with bay window and exterior chimney. The Hancocks subdivided most of the 20-acre property, and modern houses have been constructed on three sides.³ The addition of the wing has significantly changed the appearance of the building, but the Greek Revival style main block with its classical pediment is still a noticeable landmark. It is one of very few examples (cf. Magruder Law Office, #79-23) of its type surviving in Prince George's County.

Notes:

¹ Prince George's County Land Records HB #5:87; CSM #3:413; CSM #3:186. Prince George's County Census, 1850-1900.
² Prince George's County Land Records HB #5:87; #49:559; cf. chain of title.
³ Conversation with owner, August 1985.

Chain of Title

Harrison House P.G. #61-1

#4396:722 26 Jul 1974 Deed	John C. and Nellie L. Hancock to Raymond B. and Patricia P. Nicholson, as tenants by the entireties; Lots #1 and #2, Block A, West View, as shown on plat recorded WWW #61:84; same which grantors acquired by #1514:40.
#1514:40 25 Jun 1952 Deed	Alice B. Morris, widow, to John C. and Nellie L. Hancock, as tenants by the entireties; 20 acres in Vansville District, being Lot #3 of Edmonston's Range (excepting 2.247 acres conveyed by #389:348).
#434:249 19 Oct 1935 Deed	Ida E. Nash (formerly Ida E. Hopkins) and Luther L. Nash to Alice B. Morris, widow; 20 acres, Lot #3, Edmonston's Range (excepting 2.247 acres); same grantors acquired by #391:416.
#391:416 9 Mar 1933 Deed	For \$5,500, S. Marvin Peach, appointed attorney in mortgage recorded #327:82, to Ida E. Nash; property sold under Equity #8880; 20 acres, Lot #3, Edmonston's Range (excepting 2.247 acres).
Equity #8800 1933	Default having occurred on mortgage recorded #327:82, S. Marvin Peach, appointed attorney therein, exposed the property to sale on 7 Feb 1933; Ida E. Nash was the high bidder for 20 acres in Vansville District, Lot #3, Edmonston's Range (excepting 2.247 acres).
#327:82 25 Sep 1928 Mortgage	To secure a debt of \$6,500, Joseph J. and Lillian V. Broches granted a mortgage to Ida E. Hopkins, widow, on 20 acres in Vansville District, Lot #3, Edmonston's Range.
#332:153 25 Sep 1928 Deed	Ida E. Hopkins, widow, to Joseph J. and Lillian V. Broches; 20 acres in Vansville District, Lot #3, Edmonston's Range; same which grantor acquired by #49:559.
#49:559 28 Feb 1909 Deed	For \$3 per month for the rest of her life, Eliza E. Harrison to Ida E. Hopkins; 20 acres in Vansville District, Lot #3, Edmonston's Range; part of the land which grantor acquired by HB #5:87.
HB #5:87 9 Sep 1871 Deed of Gift	John K. Harrison to his wife, Eliza E. Harrison; 200 acres in Vansville, "where I now reside"; same which grantor purchased from the heirs of Thomas Benson.

- 2 -

CSM #3:413
6 Dec 1859
Deed

Thomas R. and Julie Ann Benson for \$400 to John K. Harrison, part of Edmonston's Range, 22 acres, same conveyed by Thomas Benson and wife to Thomas R. Benson, recorded (6 December) 1857 and described therein.

CSM #2:186
26 June 1857
Deed

Thomas Benson and wife Elizabeth to Thomas R. Benson, their son, for \$44, all that land on which they now reside, and of which the said Thomas Benson (after decease of his mother, Ann Benson) was possessed as his child's portion of her real estate. This land adjoins the land of the late Evan Shaw, the public road alone intervening; and also adjoins lands of Mrs. M. Bulter, containing 22 acres.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1700105304
Pg 10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: John C. Hancock				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 11430 Montgomery Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Beltsville				
STATE: Md.		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: John and Nellie Hancock				
STREET AND NUMBER: 11430 Montgomery Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Beltsville			STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Upper Marlboro Prince George's Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Md.	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(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

The house is a 2 and 1/2 story frame house with a full classical revival pediment on the east facade. Below the pediment is a frieze. The pediment has a semi-circular window. The house is two bays wide with the entrance in the south bay; the door has a three-light transom light. At the west end is a chimney at the roof rige. There is a one story addition on the south end with a large chimney.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th 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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 2/2/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
5107 Muncaster Mill Road / 8787 Ga. Ave., S.S., Md.

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Md.

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

R-18

PG. 61-1

COMPUTER SCIENCES
C-1
 49, 89
 5 90A
 P. 118
 5383

P 16

R-80A

3142

PROPERTY 3180

TRUST OF THE PRES. OF WASH. CITY
2037-103
4.32 A P 70

MAJOR L. CORBIN
2526

POWDER MILL

212

BIRMINGHAM EST.

R-R

ANNE E. FOGERTY, ETAL
1547/326
6.44 A.
P. 27

BIRMINGHAM ESTATES
2361

BIRMINGHAM ESTATES
2475

M.N.C.P.P.C
3405/311
12.70 A.
P. 145

BIRMINGHAM TERRACE
6182

100 A
P. 28

MONTGOMERY PLACE
6183

WESTVIEW
6164

61-1

BELTSVILLE RECREATION CENTER

7254

FOREST PARK
7049

FORD TAYLOR
1239

R-R

HOME ACRES
2613

HOME ACRES
4755

MELCLARE
13165

MELCLARE MANOR
2942

HARRISON
392

FORESTON
3204

MELCLARE
2897

AMMENDALE RD

WEST BELTSVILLE

P. G. CO., MD.
5066/339
5.86 A
P. 32

MYRTLEWOOD
105

0.71
P. 33

ROAD

I-95

OUTLOT

WESTVIEW
6164

LONGHORN DRIVE

STEPHANIE ST

IONIA

BARBARA DR

MARIE

DOUGLAS

DAN H. HOLMAN, JR
1412-318
2.28A
PIOT

6488

4698

3823

6488

2741

2897

2897

2897

2897

2897

6006

6006

6006

6006

6006

6006

6006

FRANK
143
17

BRANDON

BRANDON

BRANDON

BRANDON

P.C.
90

M.18-P.118



P.G. #61-1

Harrison House

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

East elevation

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



P.G. #61-1

Harrison House

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

North elevation

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