

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Broad Creek Historic District Inventory Number: PG: 80-24

Address: Broad Creek, MD

Owner: various

Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project MD 210: I-495 to MD 228 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff:  no  yes Name: Katry Harris Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

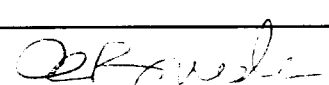
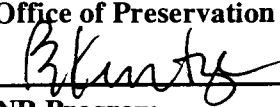
Is property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?:  no  yes

**Description of Property and Eligibility Determination** *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

For the purposes of 36 CFR 800.4 (Identification of Historic Properties) and the application of the Section 106 process to the current project, the Broad Creek Historic District is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: Katry Harris

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Consideration <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
 _____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	 _____ Reviewer, NR Program
_____ Date	_____ Date
_____ Date	_____ Date

## **Capsule Summary**

Inventory No. PG: 80-24  
Property Name: Broad Creek Historic District  
Address:  
City: Broad Creek  
Date of Construction: 1662 - 1800

### **Description (Summary):**

The district includes St. John's Church, Harmony Hall, Want Water ruins, and Piscataway House and their contiguous setting. Each of these components has been individually documented and evaluated.

### **Significance (Summary):**

The district encompasses the extant components of the colonial port town of Aire. Aire was a tobacco port established by the Maryland General Assembly, and it developed as a result of the of the thriving tobacco agronomy in the colonial period.

Acreage: 589.71

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG-80-24

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Aire  
common/other name Broad Creek Historic District

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Broad Creek vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state MD code \_\_\_\_\_  
county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>24</u>		buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>    </u>		sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>		structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>		objects
<u>4</u>	<u>24</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes      Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
No X

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Agricultural Field, Ag. Outbldgs
Religion Church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Recreation Sub: Park
Religion Church

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Colonial
Pre-Georgian
Georgian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation \_\_\_\_\_
roof \_\_\_\_\_
walls \_\_\_\_\_
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Religion

Period of Significance     1662-1800  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Broad Creek Historic District Study," Maryland National Park and Planning Commission, 1983.

MNCPPC, Historic Sites and Districts Plan for Prince George's County, MD. Upper Marlboro: MNCPPC, 1992.

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 589.71 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See 10-1, 10-2, 10-3

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Jill Dowling
organization SHA date 2/9/98
street & number 707 N. Calvert telephone 410-545-8559
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code \_\_\_\_\_




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12. Property Owner
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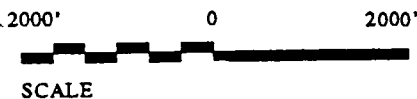
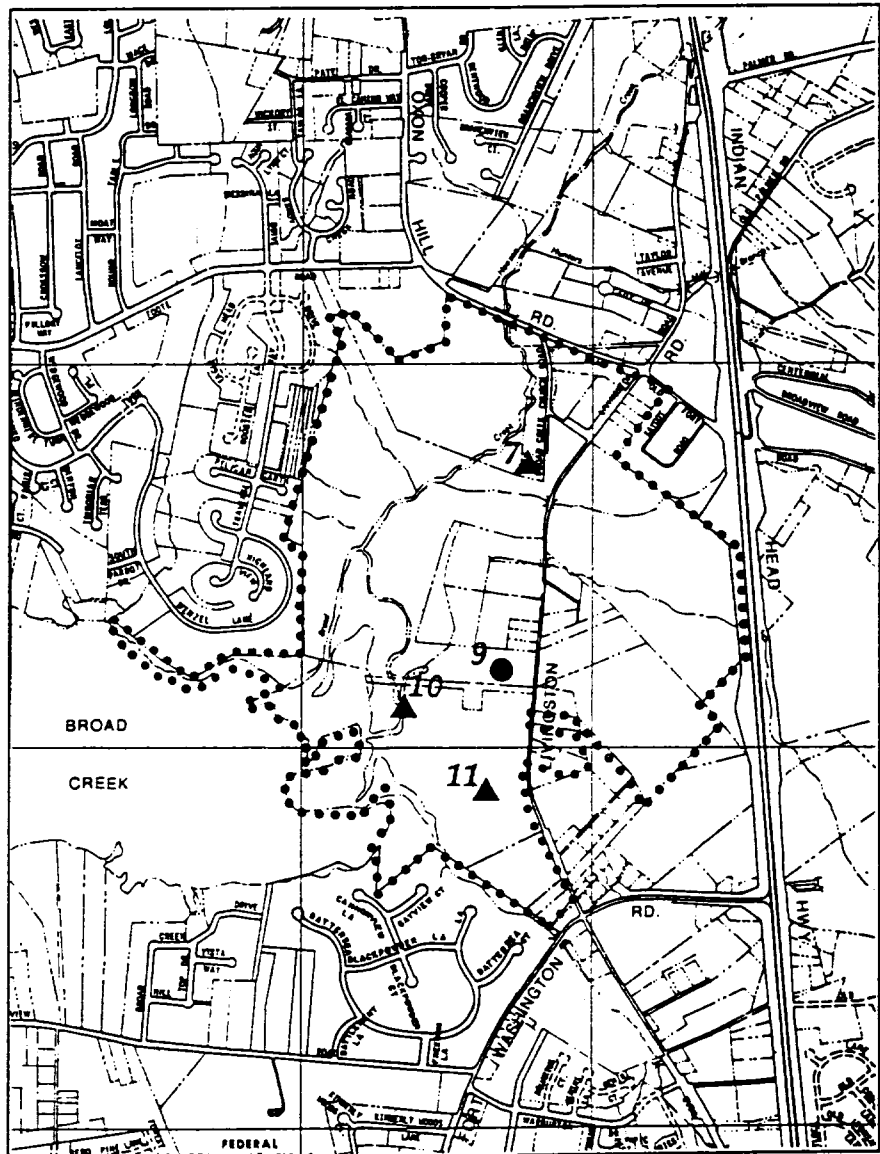
name Various- National Park Service
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_
or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_
=====

Broad Creek District  
name of property  
Broad Creek, MD  
county and state

=====

# Broad Creek Historic District

- County Historic District Boundary 
- National Register 
- Site 





Section 8 Page 1

Broad Creek Historic Dist.  
name of property  
Broad Creek, MD.  
County and state

=====

First Involvement: 1662-1699

The first recorded English involvement in Broad Creek came in 1662 with a survey for the 500-acre tract called Battersea to Humphrey Haggett. Haggett was a young, ambitious lawyer who practiced in the County Court.<sup>1</sup> The location of his grant along the river suggests his youthful influence in getting this coveted location and possibly his eye for the natural harbor at Broad Creek destined to serve a function for shipping. The Battersea tract, also spelled Battersee and Battersey, stretched northeast in a large rectangular pattern encompassing much of the area that is now part of the proposed Broad Creek Historic District.

North of the Battersea tract was another land grant named Little Hall which in part became the home for the Piscataway Parish of the Church of England in 1692. This parish, now known as King George's, was one of the original thirty Church of England parishes set up at this time. In 1695, the first frame church was built on the selected 78 acres of Little Hall.<sup>2</sup> St. John's Church became the mother church to a number of other Episcopal churches in the Washington area,<sup>3</sup> and is the oldest church on its original site in the County.

Both the selection of Little Hall as the site for St. John's Church and the construction of the church were engineered by the vestrymen of Piscataway Parish. The most prominent vestryman was Colonel John Addison, a member of the Governor's Council, the son-in-law of the first Anglican clergyman to migrate to Maryland, and the first colonel of the militia of Prince George's County. Other prominent vestrymen included William Hatton, a justice of the Provincial court, William Hutchison, a justice of the County court and a delegate to the Assembly, and William Tannehill, also a justice of the County court. These same men were active in the establishment of Prince George's County in 1696.<sup>4</sup>

The Community is Established: 1700-1730

As the 18th century began to unfold in Broad Creek and Prince George's County, St. John's Church became a center of community and religious life for the County. In 1710, the first rector, John Fraser, arrived at St. John's. Fraser claimed that his reason for accepting the parish was because of his wife's real estate holdings. His wife, Anne Blizzard, had inherited two substantial tracts of land, one called Blue Plains near Oxon Hill and the other called St. James

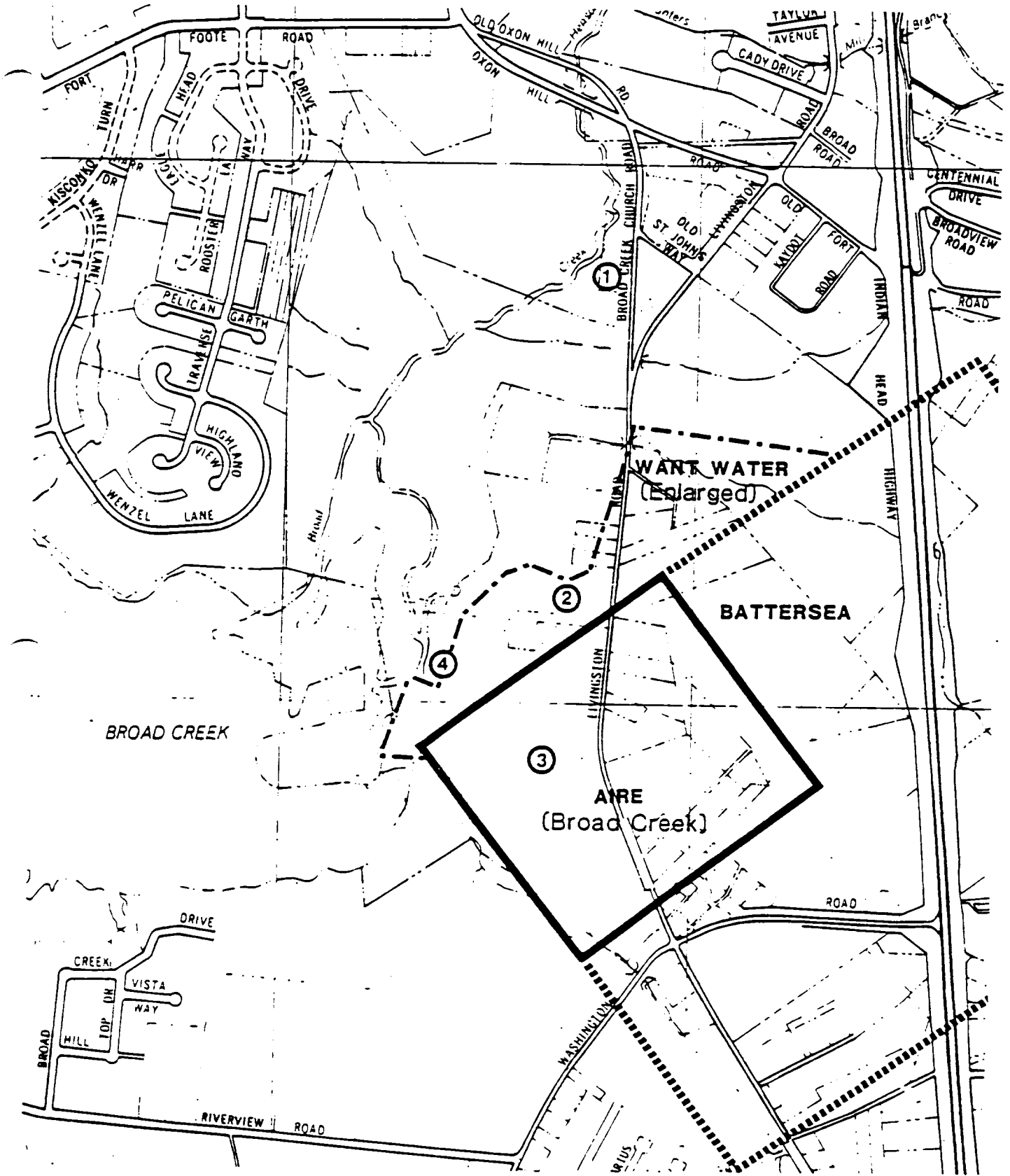
on Piscataway Creek.<sup>5</sup> Fraser remained as rector until his death in 1742; this ended over thirty-two years of service.<sup>6</sup>

It is unclear as to how much of a community predated the erection of St. John's Church in Broad Creek, but it is easy to document the growth of a community after the church had developed as a focal point of the County. One sign of growth came with the 1706 Assembly Act for the Advancement of Trade which set up six towns in Prince George's County to be ports for shipping tobacco. The Town of Aire was established at Broad Creek--the only one of the six towns placed on the Potomac River. The description of Aire was given as follows, "brod Creek... on the south side of sd Creek at Thomas Lewis's landing."<sup>7</sup>

It is difficult to determine if Aire, later called Broad Creek, ever developed into a legitimate town or remained a scattered community. Louise Heinton states that the port became a sizeable town with shops and taverns.<sup>8</sup> Although there is some reason to believe that the town grew to this extent, such as a 1716 order for stocks and a whipping post, a division of the land set aside for Aire into lots has not been found.<sup>9</sup> It is entirely possible that Aire or Broad Creek was spread out over the land stretching from the Battersea and Want Water tracts to St. John's Church along the creek to the north, originally the tract of Little Hall. Nevertheless, if Aire or Broad Creek did disappear as a town, it would be much like other vanished Tidewater tobacco ports and would support the theory that many tobacco planters preferred their own wharves to a possibly distant and inconvenient port.<sup>10</sup>

The imprecise description given above made the location of the Town of Aire difficult to determine and for years subject to speculation as to its exact location. Recent research, however, has uncovered a description of a town in the deed for the transfer of Battersea from Richard Lewis to William Tyler in 1709. The metes and bounds of the town outlined approximately 100-120 acres in the southwest corner of Battersea bordered on the northwest by the tract called Want Water and on the southwest by Clash Creek.<sup>11</sup> (See Map 2) A formal town plan as suggested in the 1706 Assembly Act was not located.

Since the Broad Creek area was receiving a lot of attention around 1706-1710, the activity must have attracted the well-to-do Thomas Addison, son of Colonel John Addison. In 1708, he patented the small tract of land called Want Water.<sup>12</sup> This name may have been derived from the name for the mouth of Broad Creek called Wide Water Cover. Regardless, it is believed that Thomas Addison constructed the once handsome frame and brick dwelling that carries the name of the



MAP 2  
HISTORIC TOWN OF AIRE

Scale: 1"=1000

1. St. John's Church
2. Piscataway House
3. Harmony Hall
4. Want Water Ruins

land patent, Want Water. Little is known about the house and Mr. Addison's association with it except that it was well-appointed with rich interior paneling and had a foundation with galleting--small pebbles placed in the mortar mostly for a decorative effect. These are obvious signs of wealth which increase the association between the house and Thomas Addison and make the dating of circa 1710 more likely. John Addison, the eldest son of Thomas Addison, inherited Want Water in 1727.<sup>13</sup>

In the same deed that described the Town of Aire or Broad Creek in 1709, Battersea was transferred to William Tyler. Upon the death of William Tyler, Battersea passed by will to his son William Tyler, Jr. in 1721.<sup>14</sup> It is during the ownership of the younger William Tyler that most accounts state that the Georgian mansion, now known as Harmony Hall, was constructed, circa 1723.<sup>15</sup> Although architectural historians who have inspected the mansion tend to accept the 1723 date of construction, the date is suspect when the inventory of William Tyler, Sr., is explored. This inventory shows only modest possessions, such as a few beds and only utilitarian fireplace utensils.<sup>16</sup> It seems unlikely that the son would have had the means to construct such a stately home shortly after inheriting the land. Nevertheless, until more research is done on the matter, it is presumed that the circa 1723 date of construction is correct.

By the same will that passed Battersea to William Tyler, Jr., Mary Tyler, the second child of the elder William Tyler, acquired a mill at Broad Creek in 1721.<sup>17</sup> This is significant for two reasons. One is that it tells us that there was once a mill on Broad Creek for which there are no visible remains; and, second that Mary Tyler carried a handsome dowery with her when she married Humphrey Batt, a shipwright, in 1727.<sup>18</sup>

#### Growth of the Community: 1730-1775

The recorded activities of Humphrey Batt are one indication of the continued growth of the town of Broad Creek in the mid-18th century. It is known that Humphrey Batt operated a shipbuilding business through 1735, probably near the mouth of Broad Creek.<sup>19</sup> His obvious success allowed him to purchase Want Water from John Addison in 1736.<sup>20</sup> Batt was still in business in 1747 when a tobacco inspection warehouse was authorized to be built on his land.<sup>21</sup> The whereabouts of the warehouse has not yet been determined. In 1756 Humphrey Batt willed Want Water to his son-in-law Richard Barnes. Barnes disposed of the house and property, approximately 47 acres, to Enoch Magruder in 1761.<sup>22</sup>

Eight years later, in 1769, Enoch Magruder purchased Battersea. This wealthy merchant and extensive landowner must have seen the value of the Broad Creek harbor so closely positioned along the Battersea and Want Water tracts. Although Magruder is known to have lived at Battersea at some point, it is believed that he rotated between this house and his other house farther inland called Mount Lubentia. Another theory is that Mount Lubentia, constructed in 1761, served as his home until he purchased Battersea.<sup>23</sup> Since it is known that Magruder leased Mount Lubentia to a Reverend Boucher in 1771, it is entirely possible that he could have built the mansion on Battersea around 1770 in anticipation of a move closer to the river.<sup>24</sup> This date would still follow the long accepted legend that bricks remaining from the construction of St. John's Church were used on the Battersea mansion.<sup>25</sup> In this case the bricks could have been from the substantial alterations and additions of the church, completed in 1767-1768, in which Enoch Magruder played an active role.<sup>26</sup> If this theory could be researched more thoroughly, it might provide a new date for the construction of the mansion now known as Harmony Hall.

Shortly after the death of Reverend John Fraser in 1742, Henry Addison was named the second rector of St. John's. Henry Addison was the grandson of Colonel John Addison, one of the founding vestrymen. During his tenure the alterations and additions to the present structure were completed. Henry Addison, a loyalist, returned to England in 1775 in anticipation of the war. His departure marked the close of the pre-Revolutionary period in the history of Broad Creek.<sup>27</sup>

#### The Stabilizing Community: 1776-1799

Following the departure of Henry Addison, Joseph Messenger became rector of St. John's Church and remained there for twenty years.<sup>28</sup> At some point in his tenure as rector, he is believed to have used Battersea or Harmony Hall as the rectory.<sup>29</sup> Messenger's long term as rector of St. John's came to an end on the eve of the 19th century. In 1799, Walter Dulaney Addison, great-nephew of Reverend Henry Addison, became assistant rector and later rector of St. John's.<sup>30</sup> This Addison is said to have been the first priest ordained in America by Thomas John Clagett, the first Episcopal bishop consecrated in the United States.<sup>31</sup> The extended length of Joseph Messenger's stay at St. John's was a stabilizing force for the Broad Creek community in this period.

The long-term ownership of Battersea and Want Water by the Magruder family likewise contributed to the stability of Broad Creek. Upon Enoch Magruder's death in 1786, Battersea and Want Water were willed to his daughter Sarah Magruder. Sarah, who had married Colonel

William Lyles around 1776, chose to live at Want Water giving it the name of "Lyles House".<sup>32</sup> Battersea remained in Sarah Magruder's name, but the mansion became more closely associated with two members of the Addison family and with Sarah's brother, Dennis Magruder.

The association with the Addison family came in 1793 when two brothers, Walter Dulany Addison and John Addison, and their wives rented Battersea for a year. At the end of the year, Mrs. Walter Dulany Addison named the place "Harmony Hall" because of the harmonious time the two couples had shared there. This name and story have outlived the legal name of "Battersea".<sup>33</sup>

The association with Dennis Magruder came around the turn of the 19th century when he is known to have lived at Harmony Hall. In spite of this close attachment to the Magruder family, Harmony Hall remained in the Lyles family until the middle of the 19th century.<sup>34</sup>

At the close of the 18th century, the Broad Creek area had become the home of tobacco planters, carpenters, shipbuilders, and merchants. It was the location for ordinaries and taverns. By attracting so many people and personalities, it became the center of legends and a source of historical pride. Some of the legends report the travels of George Washington around Broad Creek claiming that he dined at Want Water and Harmony Hall and attended services at St. John's Church. Another legend tells of a fatal duel between the youngest son of Colonel William Lyles and his cousin over an off-handed comment about the young Lyles sister's dancing.<sup>35</sup> Whether fact or fiction, the stories have been repeated over the years and have made the history of Broad Creek more colorful.

19th Century

Throughout the 19th century Broad Creek continued to attract new settlers, but to a lesser degree than in its 18th century heyday. The focus of the area had historically been toward the river as the major means of transporting goods, but as the Broad Creek inlet began to show siltation, gradually Broad Creek become less of a viable harbor. Technological advancements such as the railroad, located farther inland, and more roads also changed the orientation of the area. For such reasons, Broad Creek was bypassed for development in favor of communities in other parts of Prince George's County.

In spite of this, a wave of new settlers arrived in the late 19th century. These new settlers were of German extraction who were encouraged to come to Broad Creek by a recent immigrant named Robert Stein. Stein is reported to have worked as a translator for the

National Geological Survey and to have published articles on geology and linguistics. In his efforts to attract his family to the United States, he purchased acreage in Broad Creek which included Harmony Hall and part of Silesia to the south of Harmony Hall. His brother, Richard Stein, and a friend, Joseph Adler, moved into Harmony Hall. Their acreage was called "Broad Creek Farms." German immigrants continued to move to Broad Creek into the early 20th century. Some of the descendants from these families still live in the area, such as the Tilch family.<sup>36</sup>

### 20th Century

For the most part, the architecture and history of Broad Creek had been ignored during the 19th century. It lay in this largely unaltered, unnoticed state until the 1920s. At that time Charles Collins arrived, purchased Harmony Hall, and began a period of conservation and preservation that has continued in Broad Creek.<sup>37</sup> Mr. Collins restored Harmony Hall and created around it a plantation-like setting. He prepared historical reports on Harmony Hall, Want Water, and the Broad Creek area. His efforts preserved for us the many artifacts of the 18th century we find today.

One particular project deserves recognition and explanation. This was the move of the dwelling now called Piscataway House. This house was located in the Town of Piscataway, approximately four miles to the south of Broad Creek. Aware of its threatened demolition, Mr. Collins purchased the house and detached kitchen and moved them to Broad Creek in the early 1930s.<sup>38</sup> The move was in the wake of the popular preservation and reconstruction activities of Williamsburg, Virginia, and similar places in the 1920s and 1930s. Therefore, the moving of Piscataway House was not seen as a question of the right or wrong preservation philosophy, but as a means of preserving a valuable and threatened architectural resource. Its placement in Broad Creek could not have been more appropriate. The Town of Piscataway had been established for purposes similar to Broad Creek, namely for tobacco exportation. So, by placing the dwelling, dated circa 1750 and associated with a tobacco community, in Broad Creek, it was in the correct time frame and in perfect character with its new setting. As an extant structure in excellent condition, it contributes significantly to the architectural cohesiveness and integrity of the proposed Broad Creek Historic District.

### Architecture

Four documented historic sites fall within the boundaries of the potential historic district. The location and contiguous relationship

of these sites served as the impetus for establishing a historic district in the area.

St. John's Church - 9801 Livingston Road - 1766. The brick church which was built on this site in 1722 superseded two frame structures (the first from 1695) both of which had been destroyed by fire. The present church was built in 1766, incorporating parts of the 1722 foundations (see Map 3, #1). St. John's is an example of Georgian ecclesiastical architecture arranged as a simple rectangular brick structure in Flemish bond with a hipped roof. The west facade serves as the main entrance distinguished as such by the small, gabled porch covering it. The east facade has two twelve-over-nine windows which replaced a circular stained glass window that had been installed in 1910. The central bay of the three-bay south facade is occupied by a double door, originally the main entrance. The north facade is four bays wide with a twelve-over-nine window in each bay. A rustic, wooden bell tower with a wooden shingled, pyramidal roof stands next to the porch on the west facade, roughly the same height as the porch.

To the east of the church is the rectory, a modern red brick dwelling that is visually harmonious with the church building. The rectory was constructed in 1961. The main entrance and driveway are from Livingston Road.

The Parish Hall stands to the north of the church separated by a semi-circular driveway. This L-shaped, brick building, constructed in 1965, is also harmonious with the church. The weathered gravestones and majestic old trees in the cemetery and lawns surrounding the church provide a serene setting.

Today, St. John's is owned by the Vestry of King George's Parish and is maintained by an active minister and congregation. The building was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936. Additional research was completed by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as part of the nomination of St. John's to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was formally approved and listed in 1974.<sup>39</sup>

Harmony Hall - 10511 Livingston Road - circa 1723. Harmony Hall is the second site in the proposed district (see Map 3, #3). Originally known as Battersea, this two-and-one-half story Georgian mansion is constructed of red brick set in Flemish bond pattern. The west facade, facing the Potomac River, has seven bays, six with shuttered windows on the first and second floors. The seventh and central bay contains on the first floor a Georgian-style door with a triangular



pediment, entablature, and pilasters on each side. The east facade, facing Livingston Road, has seven bays, six with shuttered windows. The central bay has a double door with a small entrance porch. Two dormers and a central brick pediment with a large bull's-eye window appear above the cornice. The north and south ends have brick chimneys. On the south facade there is also a story-and-a-half brick pantry wing added in the 1930s. Eight outbuildings -- two one-and-one-half story frame servant's quarters, a garage, a smokehouse, a two-story bungalow, two frame sheds, and a log shed -- in various stages of disrepair complete the plantation-like setting. These eight outbuildings are mostly 20th century and are considered non-historic but compatible.<sup>40</sup>

A gravel driveway, approached through a white picket gate from Livingston Road, leads up to the east facade. The driveway forms a circle in front of the house. The east grounds are shielded from Livingston Road by a fence, trees and shrubs. Another white picket gate is located on the northeast part of the property; it is not in use. On the west front of the house a lawn extends down toward the Potomac River. At one time, extensive landscaping must have existed on this lawn. Also, historically there was a ha-ha beyond this lawn to restrict wandering cattle. This side of Harmony Hall provides a spectacular view of the river in the winter months, although some selective pruning is needed.

In 1929, the house was purchased by Charles Collins and subsequently restored. Sue Collins, the widow of Charles Collins, sold the house, outbuildings, and sixty-five acres to the National Park Service in 1966 with a life tenancy. The property was part of a proposed parkway to Fort Washington, roughly two miles to the southeast, which was never realized.

Harmony Hall was measured by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.<sup>40</sup> Recently, in May 1983, Mrs. Collins died, leaving the house unoccupied and presenting difficult questions to the National Park Service as to how to maximize the reuse of the property. The current National Park Service plan is to seek an appropriate commercial reuse which would allow the tenant to collect tax benefits for restoration work.<sup>41</sup>

Want Water Ruins - 10511 Livingston Road (same property as Harmony Hall) - circa 1710. The third site included in the district is known as Want Water or Lyles House (see Map 3, #4). It is more accurate to refer to this property as the "Want Water ruins." Today, the property is owned by the National Park Service and is located on the original

PG: 80-24

parcel purchased from Mrs. Collins as part of the Harmony Hall property.

Want Water was a one-and-one-half story rectangular dwelling with frame sides, brick ends, and a gambrel roof. Photographs and measured drawings by the Historic American Buildings Survey show that both the west and east facades had four bays with six-over-six windows occupying three of the bays. The fourth bay, off-centered, was the entrance on both sides of the house, connected by a central hallway. The entire house measured 46'-4" by 22'-6". The later figure includes a brick terrace on the west facade, uncovered during the Historic American Buildings Survey work in the 1930s. Significant architectural features included the galleting in the fieldstone foundations and the rich decorative interior paneling. The only remaining features are the two brick gable ends, the fieldstone foundations and some wooden floor joists. The brick end walls are set in Flemish bond with window and door openings flanking the chimneys in the center of each end wall.

Want Water is the earliest structure in the district. It was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, probably at the same time as Harmony Hall.<sup>42</sup> It was also listed on the National Register with the Harmony Hall nomination. Today, its ruinous condition deems it unusable for all practical purposes; but, there may be valuable archeological data awaiting discovery and interpretation. This seems to be the only predictable use the National Park Service can foresee, although its stabilization and interpretative use in a trail system is desired by local citizens.

Piscataway House - 10307 Livingston Road - circa 1750. Piscataway House completes the inventory of the historic properties in the proposed district (see Map 3, #2). Piscataway House is a one-and-one-half story frame dwelling with a steep, pitched gable roof extending to cover a porch on the east and west facades. The west facade is three bays wide with the main entrance through the central bay. Two freestanding brick chimneys are on each gable end, those on the south facade are connected by a pent. On the east and west slopes of the roof are three dormer windows with fluted pilasters, small capitals, and broken pediments. The house was moved in the early 1930's from the Town of Piscataway to avoid demolition. At that time the once separate brick kitchen was attached to the north facade. In 1980 a south wing was designed and built to balance the carriage house and kitchen on the north. A frame workhouse is separated from the house by a circular graveled driveway. Farther to the west is a frame stable in a small pasture behind the house.

PG: 80-24

Finally, the last set of factors are political, economic, or social in nature. The political factors are government-owned land, institutional land, and attitudes of private citizens and property owners.<sup>64</sup> At this stage, these factors are not desirable to use.

### Description of Boundaries

The determination of boundaries is the most difficult issue surrounding the creation of the Broad Creek Historic District. A number of alternatives were considered; those rejected are described in Appendix C. The boundaries described below are for the largest land area considered. Local citizens have suggested an expansion of these boundaries. The proposed boundaries and alternative are illustrated on Map 7.

Special concerns in delineating boundaries were to include all vistas and visual approaches, landscape features contributing to the semi-rural setting, and the original site of the Town of Aire or Broad Creek. The proposed boundaries with an adjustment for the alternative satisfy all these concerns.

The proposed boundaries include a total of 589.71 acres, with twenty-two private property owners, two quasi-public property owners, and four public property owners. The northern boundary is set by Oxon Hill and Old Fort Roads. The western boundary follows the property line of the M-NCPPC property down to and around the Broad Creek inlet until connecting with the M-NCPPC property below the inlet. At that point the southern boundary is established by Riverview Road which moves toward the east along Fort Washington Road. Near the intersection of Fort Washington with Livingston Road, the southern boundary follows along property lines in order to exclude the Harmony Hall Elementary School. The boundary then crosses Livingston Road and follows property lines again on the eastern side of Livingston Road. The eastern boundary follows property lines up to Old Fort Road.

The alternative to these boundaries calls for an adjustment to the southern boundary so that it continues toward the east on Fort Washington Road then moves toward the north on Livingston Road at their intersection. This alternative includes Harmony Hall Elementary School. The alternative southern boundary picks up across Livingston Road along property lines, and then follows a ridge line near the intersection of Indian Head Highway and Fort Washington Road. This adjustment allows for the topographical features that are critical to the vistas of the historic properties.

The boundaries described here may be defended in the following ways:

PG: 80-24

- (1) Maximum protection is allowed for visual approaches and potential vistas to and from the historic sites by including the elevation in the northwest and southeast quadrants;
- (2) A broad interpretation is given to the local historic district ordinance with the application of the term "environmental setting" which sets a reasonable precedent for preservation efforts in the County;
- (3) The land areas sensitive to development pressure and still connected with the historic sites will be protected because of the broad consideration of physical and natural features;
- (4) All of the objectives given for creating a district will be satisfied;
- (5) The proposed zoning and land use changes will not be altered significantly by the district boundaries;
- (6) The environmentally-sensitive land is protected; and
- (7) They provide opportunities for public access to the historic features through the potential for walking trails.

The following may be negative factors in selecting these boundaries:

- (1) The edges, particularly along the eastern boundary, are difficult to determine because they do not easily show up on a field inspection;
- (2) There are a number of property owners included which means the likelihood for owner disapproval and political vulnerability is increased;
- (3) There are some points that are a sizeable distance away from the historic sites, but must be included within property lines to avoid arbitrary lines of designation;
- (4) The size of the acreage included could lead to controversy over how much land should be included in the historic district;
- (5) There would be an increase in the administrative and Historic Preservation Commission time involved in review of the district due to the number of properties and the amount of land included. This increased workload might overtax existing bodies of review;

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG-80-24

Broad Creek District  
name of property  
Broad Creek, MD  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:**

Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Contact and Settlement Period  
(1570-1750)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape  
Architecture, and Community  
Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:**

District

**Historic Environment:**

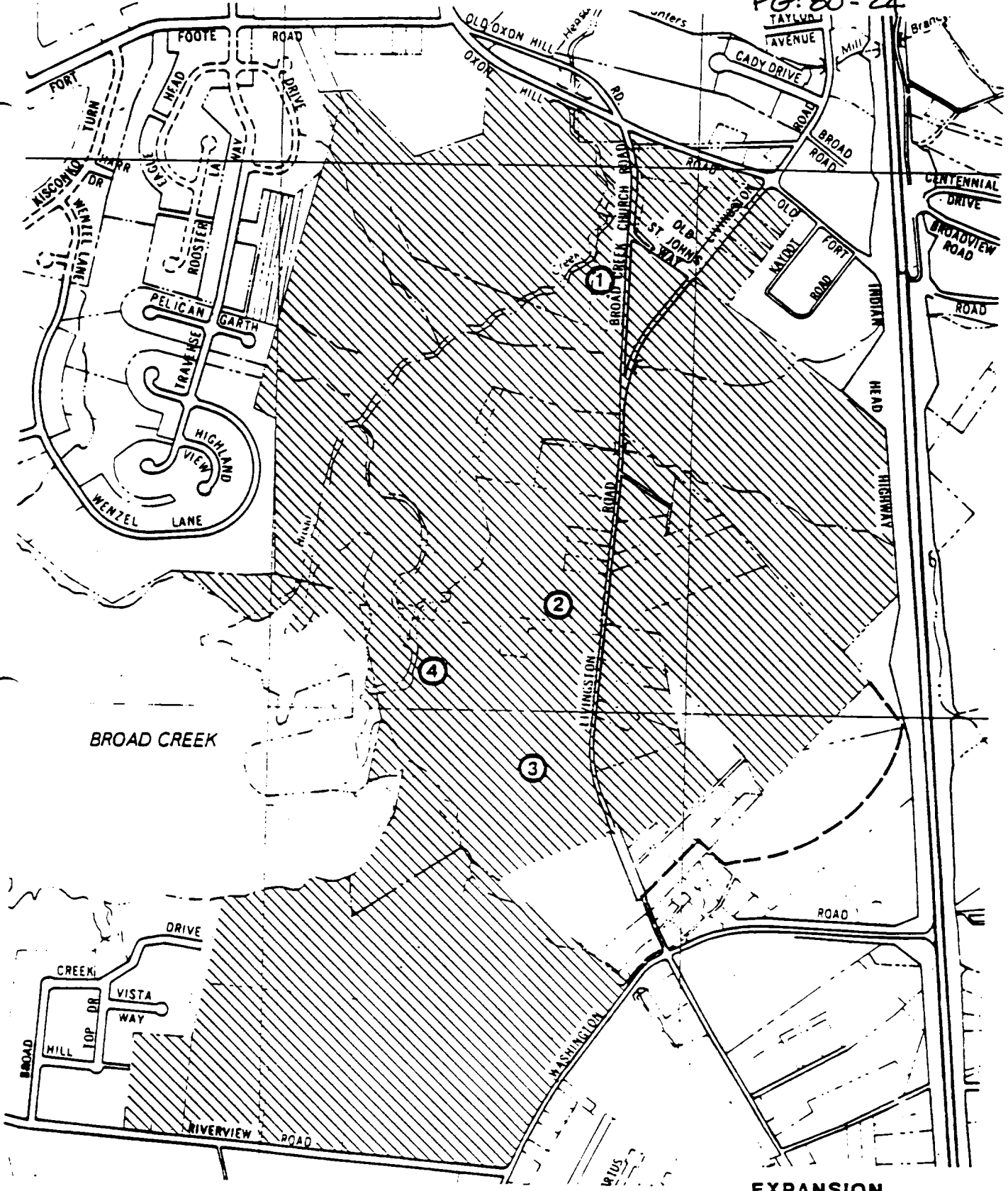
Rural

**Historic Function (s):**

Agriculture, Religious

**Known Design Source:**

None



**MAP 7  
PROPOSED DISTRICT C  
AND EXPANSION**



Scale: 1"=1000

- 1. St. John's Church
- 2. Piscataway House
- 3. Harmony Hall
- 4. Want Water Ruins

PG:80-24  
Broad Creek Historic District (Aire)  
Fort Washington  
Alexandria, Anacostia, Piscataway, and Mt. Vernon Quadrangles

