

The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) # 2022-01

Artist for Harford 250 Public Art Piece

Submissions are Due January 13, 2023
Prior to 4:00 PM

Solicitation Notification

Notice is hereby given that The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. (Historical Society) is seeking qualified vendors for

RFQ # 2022-01

Artist for Harford 250 Public Art Piece

Submissions must be received by the Historical Society in hard copy or digitally prior to **4:00 PM on January 13, 2023**. Hard Copy Submissions must be sealed, prominently marked with the RFQ number, title, due date, time, and name of vendor on outside of envelope.

Hard Copy Submissions should be delivered/mailed to:

**Historical Society of Harford County
ATTENTION: Harford 250 Steering Committee
143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014**

Digital Submissions must include the RFQ number and title in the subject line and should be e-mailed to:

art250@harfordhistory.org

RFQ documents are available from The Harford 250 Celebration website:

<https://www.harford250.org/public-art-project/>

A Pre-Application Meeting will be held on December 15, 2022 at 6 PM at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air.

Artist for Harford 250 Public Art Piece

I. INTRODUCTION

The Historical Society of Harford County is seeking a qualified vendor for the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent public art piece to memorialize Harford County's 250th anniversary, to enhance the public space and to provide visual appeal. This project is referred to as "Harford 250 Public Art Piece." The vendor may be an individual or team of artists, fabricators, and designers.

The concept for the public art piece was decided upon with public input. The theme of the piece will be:

Rooted in History, Lighting the Way to the Future

The history of Harford County is not a single narrative, but a collection of the stories from those that have come before us. Many inhabitants of this land had a unique and powerful story to tell, from the indigenous peoples who lived here long before the arrival of European colonists; to the people, enslaved and free, that built Harford County into a prosperous community; to those that reside today in our urban, suburban, and rural areas. As we evaluate those stories, triumphant, painful, and everything in between, we can try to better understand what has made Harford County the community that it is today. As we look toward our future and the stories yet to come, we can learn from different perspectives towards a deeper understanding of the past and how to make a brighter future.

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Scope of Services

The Harford 250 Public Art Piece project includes the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent exterior public art piece of exceptional quality and enduring value that interprets the theme "Rooted in History, Lighting the Way to the Future." It is anticipated that the piece will be permanently installed at Bynum Run Park in Bel Air, the County Seat of Government.

This theme may be interpreted in a variety of mediums, including but not limited to: landscape piece, metalwork, statuary, functional amenity/recreation piece, mosaic, mural. Creativity concerning style and content is encouraged to enhance the visual landscape. Public participation in the creation and installation of the art piece is encouraged, but not required.

The selected vendor shall prepare and present to the Harford 250 Steering Committee an exhibit of the Final Concept based on any modifications required by the Committee for review and approval prior to starting work on the piece. The presentation shall include images and a narrative on the proposed concept and its relationship to the Harford 250th Anniversary and theme. Description of materials, colors, and finishes of the proposed artwork will also be required.

The selected vendor shall provide technical information on the materials and equipment needed for the art piece, including such information as warranties, maintenance, and any potential problems such as toxicity, oxidation, adherence, or fire hazards. Vendor will answer any and all questions from the Committee regarding application of the artwork. Alterations to the Final Concept are to be expected as the project evolves, with any changes approved by the Harford 250 Steering Committee.

Work will include:

1. Prepare representation of the proposed artwork in the form of a rendered drawing(s).
2. Install and maintain temporary installation equipment, as necessary.
3. Prepare location for installation of art piece, to include but not limited to: building podiums, anchors, foundations, and/or support infrastructure.
4. Install proposed art piece using the materials and image described during the preliminary presentation to the Steering Committee.
5. Remove all trash and construction debris after each day of work and secure the project site.
6. Provide necessary sealants to the finished artwork to resist fading, chipping, cracking and peeling and graffiti, as necessary.
7. Document the process of creating the art piece through photographs and/or video for presentation at March 23, 2024 unveiling.
8. Artist participation in the March 23, 2024 unveiling.
9. Provide a 1-year guarantee on materials and workmanship.

Budget

Not to exceed \$20,000.

Required Participation

The Contractor must attend the Harford 250 Final Event on March 23, 2024 to unveil the artwork.

Timetable

Pre-Application Meeting	December 15, 2022
Submission Deadline	January 13, 2023
Committee Review & Finalist Choices	January 17-20, 2023
Final Designs Due from Finalists	February 24, 2023
Public Vote on Finalists Begins	February 27, 2023
Public Vote on Finalists Ends	March 11, 2023
Final Artist Notification	March 17, 2023
Award of Bid & Comments on Submission (est.)	June 2023

Contract Approval	June 2023
Fabrication/ Installation Period Begins	July 2023
Unveiling	March 23, 2024

I. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Applicant & Artwork Requirements

Applicant must be a resident of Maryland and 18 years of age or older. Artwork must be original, and designed and fabricated specific to this project.

Reservations

The Historical Society reserves the right to cancel this RFQ at any time after issuance, to reject, in whole or in part, any and all offers received, to waive minor technicalities in proposals, and to negotiate with responsible Applicants in any manner necessary to serve its best interests. The Historical Society reserves the right to use information provided in this proposal for the purpose of applying for grant funding for this project.

Incurred Expenses

Applicants are responsible for proposal preparation and submission costs, as well as travel costs incurred in connection with interviews, oral presentations or other pre-award discussions, and if awarded, unveiling of the art piece on March 23, 2024.

Evidence of Applicant Responsibility

The Historical Society may require Applicants to submit additional information regarding financial responsibility, technical expertise, and other qualifications, and may consider any information otherwise available concerning those qualifications. The Historical Society may make such investigation as it deems necessary to determine Applicant responsibility.

Award Without Discussions

The Historical Society reserves the right to accept the best submission without further discussions, and may do so; thus, Applicant should ensure that the initial submission is complete.

Contractor Responsibilities; Subcontractors

The Historical Society will enter into a contract with the selected Applicant only, and that Applicant shall be responsible for all products and services required.

Governing Law

The laws of the Town of Bel Air, Harford County and the State of Maryland, and where applicable, federal law and regulation, will govern the contract awarded pursuant to this RFQ.

Ownership and Retention of Records

All reports, drawings, and other data prepared under the contract issued pursuant to this RFQ shall become the property of the Historical Society. Unless otherwise required by applicable statute of limitations, the successful Applicant shall retain all records and documents related to any contract awarded pursuant to this RFQ for 3 years after final contract payment by the Historical Society and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the Historical Society at all reasonable times.

Change of Scope

The Historical Society of Harford County maintains the right to delete or insert tasks in the scope after the award of bid with appropriate negotiated changes in fee.

Project Manager

The Harford 250 Steering Committee will manage and coordinate this project for the Historical Society of Harford County. After award of the contract, all correspondence, including invoices for progress payments and fee change requests shall be directed to:

Historical Society of Harford County
ATTENTION: Harford 250 Steering Committee
143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

II. SELECTION

The Harford 250 Steering Committee Co-Chairs and Final Event Subcommittee will choose up to **three (3) finalists**, who will each receive an honorarium of \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars) and approximately one month to prepare a design concept for public review, including a 1-minute video describing the design concept that can be shared by Harford 250 social media/e-mail distribution lists. The vendor will be chosen by an online and in-person public vote on the three finalists' design concepts, which will be open for approximately two (2) weeks.

The Evaluation criteria to be used to determine the finalists will include the following factors, further defined in the attached Evaluation Rubric:

- Prior Experience in the Creation of Public Art 15 points
- General Art Education and Experience 35 points
- Demonstrated Ability to Complete Project 50 points

III. INFORMATION PROVIDED

A 2010 Historical Context of the County is provided as supplemental information. This context provides a brief overview of County history but should not be viewed as all-encompassing. Artists should complete their own research, oral history interviews, etc. to learn more about the history and heritage of the County.

Additional information may become available at a later date and be posted as an addendum on the Harford 250 website.

IV. INFORMATION REQUIRED IN APPLICANT DESIGN PROPOSAL

Each Applicant must submit the following:

- Signature page of the RFQ
- CVs or Resumes of all Applicants
- Portfolio samples illustrating previous public artwork
- List of Professional References

All parts of the submission must be in 8.5 x 11 inch format. Digital submissions should be in Adobe PDF.

Submit to:

Historical Society of Harford County
ATTENTION: Harford 250 Steering Committee
143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Or

art250@harfordhistory.org

V. APPENDICES

1. HSHC RFQ #2022-01 Applicant Signature Page
2. HSHC RFQ #2022-01 Evaluation Rubric
3. Harford County Historic Context (2010)

Artist for Harford 250 Public Art Piece

TO: Historical Society of Harford County
ATTENTION: Harford 250 Steering Committee
143 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

FROM: _____

Email _____

Pursuant to your request inviting submissions to be received for “Artist for Harford 250 Public Art Piece” the undersigned hereby submits the following qualifications. It is understood that the Historical Society reserves the right to award all or part of this project without claim for damages or lost profit. In addition, the Historical Society reserves the right to delete all or part of the project without compensating the contractor for lost work or profit.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Artist for Harford 250 Public Art Piece

EVALUATION RUBRIC

Scoring Sheet

Applicant Name: _____

TECHNICAL EVALUATION ITEMS (with maximum score for each item)

1. Prior Experience in the Creation of Public Art

Applicant provides examples of previously completed public art installations (15 points)

Maximum: 15 points _____

2. General Art Education and Experience

Applicant demonstrates formal or informal education or experience in the arts (15 points)

Applicant demonstrates ability to respond creatively to an established theme or prompt (10 points)

Applicant demonstrates experience interpreting diverse stories and people (10 points)

Maximum: 35 points _____

3. Demonstrated Ability to Complete Project

Applicant provides examples of successfully completed artistic works (30 points)

Applicant demonstrates ability to complete projects within a set schedule (20 points)

Maximum: 50 points _____

TOTAL SCORE (Maximum 100 points) _____

HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF HARFORD COUNTY

Location and Geology

Perched at the point in northeastern Maryland where the Susquehanna River flattens out to form the Chesapeake Bay, Harford County takes in approximately 520 square miles of land and water and 5,000 years of history. It is bordered to the east by the Susquehanna, to the south by the Chesapeake, to the west (across the Little Gunpowder Falls) by Baltimore County, and to the north by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Roughly one-third of the County lies in the Tidewater (or Coastal Plain), a gently sloping area lazily washed by the broad Bush and Gunpowder rivers. The rest of the County rolls away to the north and west into the increasingly hilly Piedmont; the two physiographic provinces are divided by the Fall Line, which lies more or less along the route of Interstate-95.

These geological bases offer a variety of mineral resources and soil types. The County exhibits an equal range in its waterways, from the tidal Bush and Gunpowder to the swift-flowing streams of the Piedmont such as Deer Creek, Winter's Run, Bynum Run, and James Run. These varieties of topography and soils have strongly influenced the County's history since they have always exerted a direct relation to its agriculture and industries. Bountiful supplies of shad and herring provided the base for a flourishing fishing industry throughout the 19th century, and this wealth evinced itself in many still-present buildings as well as in the docks, cleaning sheds, and other lost structures that could become important archaeological sites. Similarly, the crops that can be grown and the minerals that can be extracted have determined the nature of much of the County's building stock and explain why (and when) Countians built dairies and hay mows and stables, and why (and when) they were able to build of brick or frame and cover their structures with slate shingles quarried from the mines at Delta and Cardiff.

History and Heritage

The character of a community, its distinctive identity, is defined by its physical, cultural, and social qualities. Thus it is important to note that Harford's character reflects not only the changes the County has experienced during the three and one half centuries that have passed since the first known European colonists settled at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chesapeake but also the millennia during which the area was home to many Native Americans, including members of the Susquehannock and Massawomek tribes. The following overview of Harford's history is arranged according to the Maryland Historical Trust's Comprehensive Planning times and themes. In the following discussion, properties are identified by their listing number in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites, i.e., the prefix HA (for Harford) and their sequential identifying number; the Susquehannock Soapstone Quarries, for example, are inventoried as HA-1227. It is important to repeat that this is an overview; those who wish to become more thoroughly acquainted with the history and buildings of the County--and to thus perhaps gain a more in-depth understanding of its communities' character-- are urged to read Walter Preston's *History of Harford County* (1901), Samuel Mason's *Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland* (1955), C. Milton Wright's *Our Harford Heritage* (1967), Peter A. Jay's *Havre de Grace: An Informal History* (1986), Marilyn M. Larew's *Bel Air: A*

Cultural and Architectural History (1995), Christopher Weeks's *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland* (1996), and the quarterly "Bulletin" of the Historical Society of Harford County.

Pre-History

The prehistory of the County can best be understood within the context of the prehistory of the larger Northeast Maryland region, which may be divided into three broad eras, i.e., the Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic (c. 12,000-6,500 B.C.), the Archaic (6,500-1,000 B.C.), and the Woodland (1,000 B.C.-1600 A.D.). In North America, these eras were associated with the end of the Pleistocene environment. Mixed deciduous forests dominated the landscape near rivers; these forests became intermingled with grasslands as elevation rose, yielding to (generally) coniferous forests on higher ridges.

Many Native American peoples are known to have settled (or migrated through) what is now Harford County during these centuries; documented sites associated with these peoples include 1) quarry sites; 2) quarry reduction sites; 3) quarry-related base camps; 4) base camp maintenance stations; 5) outlying hunting stations; and 6) point-find sites. Archaeologists have documented many sites that have yielded artifacts associated with all three eras, from projectile points and "Folsom darts" found near Joppa (which are generally assigned to the Early Archaic era) to Archaic-era quarry sites near Broad Creek to ceramic sites and shell mounds (or "middens") from the Woodland era. To guarantee the future integrity of these sites, their exact location will not be made public.

Perhaps the most intact of these sites are the Soapstone Quarries near Broad Creek (HA-1227). Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, these extensive and well-preserved quarries are among the few such documented sites in North America. A thick, deep vein of soapstone underpins vast stretches of northern Harford County; while it generally rests far beneath the soil, here and there it breaks through to lie at (or just below) the surface. The Susquehannocks knew these outcroppings well for when members of the tribe felt the need for stone vessels, they would go to the site, choose a piece of stone that approximated the size of the desired object (a small stone for a cup; a larger one for a bowl, etc.) and then fashioned the vessel from the stone. Archaeologists with the Department of the Interior--who deemed these sites "vital" to our understanding of the Susquehannocks--have dated Harford's quarries to c. 1,700-1,000 B.C.

Without doubt the best-known reminder of the Susquehannock's time in the County are the celebrated petroglyphs of Bald Friar (HA-1784). The term petroglyph was made by combining two Greek words, petro and glyph, or "stonewriting," an accurate description of the 53 differentiable figures ground into stones that lay on islands in the Susquehanna River about 2 1/2 miles downstream from the Pennsylvania line. While most authorities agree that the Susquehannocks made their writing with a stick, using sand as an abrasive, few, if any, authorities agree as to the ultimate meaning of the carvings: some suggest they were intended as propitiation to gods; some suggest they were simply works of art--early examples of art for art's sake; others see connections between the most common designs, which are fish-shape, and the immeasurable runs of shad which filled the river each spring--in pre-Conowingo Dam days.

Whatever their artistic or practical origins, the petroglyphs have attracted the attention of the scholarly community since the mid-1800s; joint teams from the Maryland Historical Society and the Maryland Academy of Sciences examined the carvings in 1916-17; Baltimore *Sunpapers* articles on them appeared in 1923. Despite the national attention they drew, the petroglyphs' end came in 1927 when the Philadelphia Electric Company, by damming the river at Conowingo, created a lake which completely inundated the stone-writings' islands. Before the dam was built, however, representatives from the Maryland Academy of Sciences removed some of the carvings to Baltimore for safe-keeping. They remained in storage until the 1970s. Then, perhaps sparked by the Bicentennial, interest in them resurfaced locally and the few petroglyphs that could be found were returned to Harford County. Displayed in the courthouse in Bel Air for a few years, the petroglyphs have been relocated to their permanent resting place--the headquarters building of the Historical Society of Harford County.

History - Preface

The *Maryland Historic Preservation Plan* of 2005 provides a structure for creating historic and prehistoric contexts. Harford County's Prehistoric Period follows the state chronological/developmental sequence. In the Historic Period, however, Harford County's development differs from the State's in certain key ways, e.g., the County has never experienced an era that could be called "Urban Dominance"; the County's Contact period dates from c. 1608 not 1570. Nevertheless, the general framework remains loosely applicable and will be retained.

Colonial Background

In 1634, the first permanent European settlement in the colony of Maryland was established at St. Mary's City on the shores of the Potomac River. From 1634 until 1689, Maryland was governed as a proprietorship under the Calvert family, created Barons of Baltimore. After England's "Glorious Revolution" of 1688-89, Maryland became a Royal Colony under the direct governance of the Crown. This period lasted until 1715, when Queen Anne, the last Stuart monarch, died and King George I ascended to the throne establishing the House of Hanover; one of the new king's first acts was to return Maryland to the Calvert family, an act that spurred new settlement in the colony.

Contact and Settlement Period (A.D. 1570-1750)

The first recorded history of the County can be traced back to the mid- 1500's when various explorers traveled into the Chesapeake Bay area. A map of the bay was produced in 1585 by an Englishman named Wyth, but it was not until John Smith's exploration of the Upper Bay and Susquehanna River area in 1608 that a detailed description of the area was recorded. In July of 1608, Capt. John Smith sailed north from Jamestown, Virginia, to explore the Upper Chesapeake. He spent several weeks tacking and rowing in and out of the rivers and creeks that form the shoreline of modern Kent, Cecil, and Harford counties. He mapped what he saw as he traveled from the tip of the Gunpowder Neck at what he called Powell's Island (modern Poole's Island) which he named to honor

crewman Nathaniel Powell, northwards past Bush River (which he called "Willowbyes"), around Spesutia Island to the Susquehanna Flats. He detected four main streams at the head of the bay and noted that "the best commeth northwest from the mountains." This, the present Susquehanna River, he decided to explore. However, he could only get his ship a few miles upstream before what he called "rockes" at present day Lapidum rendered the river impassable. He and his men then put ashore and explored this wilderness on foot about "a myle and a halfe" where "runneth a creeke" that flowed from the west, undoubtedly Deer Creek. Smith then left the Upper Bay and returned to Virginia, where he mapped his voyage and eventually published his *Journal* from which the above excerpts were taken. But except for the journal and map and a few place names such as Smith's Falls at Lapidum, the captain left no other record of his visit to the head of the bay.

The next documented English visitor to Harford County was Edward Palmer, a native of Gloucestershire drawn to Virginia by Capt. Smith's glowing description of the fertile land and fish-filled waters. Palmer soon left Virginia, sailed north, and established a trading post on what he called Palmer's Island, a 200-acre island at the mouth of the Susquehanna. Here he established a fur-trading company, buying pelts from the Susquehannocks and selling them to English colonists in Virginia. But for unknown reasons, his venture soured, his followers abandoned him, and he returned to London, where he died in 1624. Palmer had not forgotten his stint at the head of the bay, however, for in his will he left his fortune to establish a university "to be called Academia Virginiensis et Oxoniensis," and to be built on his island in the Susquehanna. It would have been the first university in the Western Hemisphere. But here again he failed and nothing came of this quixotic notion except for "a few books found there when Lord Baltimore took over the island in 1637," according to notes made by historian George Archer in the 1890s. Certainly Palmer's Island (renamed in the late 19th century Garrett Island to honor the president of the B&O Railroad) would seem ripe for archaeological exploration.

As noted, Lord Baltimore's colonists founded St. Mary's City in 1634. But the English Civil War and subsequent regicide had thrown the colony into legal chaos: the king had granted Maryland to Lord Baltimore, but if the king was executed and his government deposed, who owned the colony? Matters clarified around 1660: in 1657 Philip Calvert, younger brother of the 2nd Lord Baltimore, came to Maryland as chancellor of the colony to re-establish his family's legal rights and in 1660 the monarchy was restored and James II ascended to the throne of his murdered father. Not coincidentally, these years saw the first land grants (patents) in what became Harford County. These tracts include Woodpecker (200 acres in 1658 to George Gouldsmith), Oakington (800 acres, 1658, Nathaniel Utie), Harmer's Town (200 acres, 1658, Godfrey Harmer), Eightrupp (500 acres, 1665, Thomas Griffith), Land of Promise (1684, Thomas Taylor), and Cranberry Hall (1,547 acres, 1694, John Hall). All these lands are waterfront, accessible either from the bay (and its tidal estuaries), the Deer Creek, Susquehanna, Bush or Gunpowder Rivers. Settlement fairly burgeoned in the late 17th century and historians have estimated that approximately 1,740 people lived in Harford County by 1701. (For convenience sake, this narrative will continue to refer to "Harford County" when dealing

with the pre-revolutionary era, even though the County was not officially erected and separated from Baltimore County until 1773.)

Shortly after receiving his patent, Godfrey Harmer sold his Harmer's Town tract to Thomas Stockett, a captain in the militia and Lord Baltimore's agent for dealing with the Susquehannocks. In 1685 Stockett acquired the services of one George Alsop, a native of London who sold himself into servitude in exchange for passage to America. Thus beginning in 1658, Alsop labored away on Harmer's farm, near the site of present-day Havre de Grace. By 1663 (or '64), however, Alsop, who had by then worked out his indenture, returned to England. In 1666 he published his book, *A Character of the Province of Mary-Land*, which gives a unique first-hand impression of 17th-century Harford County: its people, vegetation, wildlife, form of government, and living conditions.



The first substantial public works project in the new colony also dates to the 1660s: the laying out of the Great Post Road to link New England and Virginia. Its initial route through Harford County (completed c. 1670) ran across the Little Gunpowder near the future site of Joppa, down the Gunpowder Neck to the Bush River, thence across the river (by ferry) to Old Baltimore (the then County seat) and up through what is now the

Aberdeen Proving Ground (near the Anglican church at Michaelsville) to the ferry across the Susquehanna at Stockett's farm. In 1687, this circuitous route got straightened out when a new post road (known as the King's Road) was laid out a bit to the north, roughly along the right-of-way of the present U.S. Route 7. This new road was the grandest land thoroughfare in the colonies and as such, it played host to 150 years worth of American and foreign luminaries. Inns and taverns sprang up along its path at ten to twelve mile intervals. (These distances represent one day's reasonable travel.) It is known that Harford boasted three taverns from the post road's earliest days: the Peggy Stewart Inn at Joppa, one at Bush, and one at the bank of the Susquehanna. All three of which have undergone many transformations. The earliest versions of the taverns do not exist: the one in Joppa would be a candidate for archaeology; the one at Bush (the "Bush Hotel"; HA-867) is probably a late 18th-century replacement; the one near the Susquehanna (the "Elizabeth Rodgers House"; HA-798) also probably dates to c. 1780.

Unlike most of the other early counties in Maryland, Harford never had a long-lasting County seat. The hamlets that sequentially held that title in colonial years are Old Baltimore (from 1669 to 1691), Gunpowder (1691 to 1709), Joppa (1709 to 1768), and Bush or Harford Town (1773 to 1782). Old Baltimore and Joppa are known archaeological sites (HA-1305; HA-1315) but more excavation could be done at each:

the site and specifications of the 1709 Joppa courthouse, for example, are known, thanks to work by James Wollon, AIA, and Jack Riggin. Bush and environs, too, is ripe for investigation; the precise site of Gunpowder, on the other hand, has mystified historians since the late 19th century, when, aided by the Historical Society of Harford County men and women began to document Harford's colonial past.

No known structures remain from the County's early years. (Indeed, only two buildings in the entire state of Maryland can be securely dated to the 17th century.) But a few did exist into the 20th century, located on bay-front land that became the property of the federal government in 1917. The houses were generally one or one-and-one-half stories tall under a gable roof, frame covered in clapboard, one or two rooms per floor, with each room heated by a brick chimney. The precise location of the houses would not be difficult to determine and could warrant archaeological investigation; similarly, it is known that an Anglican church had been established near Michaelsville (in the Aberdeen Proving Ground) in 1671, making it one of the most venerable parishes in America. This, too, would warrant the attention of archaeologists.

Rural Agrarian Intensification Period (A.D. 1680-1815)

With the easily-accessible shoreline patented by c. 1700, settlers began to buy inland acres. Originally, most of these holdings were clearly speculative ventures and there is no evidence to suggest anyone actually lived on any of those acres. By early-mid 18th century, however, settlers began to move up the natural highways offered by the Little Gunpowder, Winters Run, and James Run valleys. The 300± acre tract known as Jerusalem, for example, had been patented as long ago as 1687, but it is unlikely that anyone built anything on the land until 1769, when Isaiah Linton and David Lee began work on the still-standing Jerusalem Mill, completed in 1772 (HA-433).

The presence of gristmills suggests the presence of grains to be ground and indeed the 18th century saw the County's agricultural base shift from a dependence on tobacco, towards more diversification until by the time of the Revolution, grains had become the dominant crop and tobacco culture had all but disappeared. The abundance of swift streams, thanks to Harford's location on the Fall Line, made the County a natural place for mills and experts have identified 400 such sites. Most of these 400 were short-lived; indeed, only a dozen or so have survived to the present day and of these only three (Jerusalem, Rock Run, and Walters) retain any semblance of their industrial-era appearance. But from about 1725 to 1920, mills were, in the words of C. Milton Wright, "a most important asset to our country life....The mill opened up new channels of trade and provided country folk with an opportunity to convert the products of their labor into food and cash."

It is not known when the first mill appeared on the local scene, but reliable sources suggest the presence of a tide mill at Swansbury, on Swan Creek near present-day Aberdeen. (A tide mill is one whose wheel is driven by the rising and falling tides.) This was followed within a few decades by Magnolia Mill on Winters Run and Bush Mill on Bynum Run at Bush. Other early mills include Lapidum Mill (c. 1760), Jericho Mill on

the Little Gunpowder (before 1770), Stafford Mill on Deer Creek (HA-199; c. 1780), Rock Run Mill (HA-191; c. 1760), Wilson's Mill on Deer Creek (HA-11; before 1783), Mill Green Mill (HA-93; c. 1770), Eden Mill (HA-562; c. 1789), Whitaker's Mill or Duncale (HA-1089; before 1790), Noble's Mill (HA-335; 1854), and the aforementioned Jerusalem. No history of Harford's mills would be complete without mention of the Wiley family's remarkable milling career. Joseph Wiley moved to Pennsylvania from Ireland in the early 18th century and prospered as a miller in Chester County. His grandson, Matthew (1751-1840) moved to northwest Harford in 1778, purchased 2,000 acres of land, and built three gristmills now known as Ivory (HA-448), Amos (HA-40), and George N. Wiley (HA-458).



George N. Wiley Mill

Also during this time, Harford became important in the nascent American iron industry. The County contained all the raw ingredients for iron furnaces and forges: ample supplies of limonite and siderite iron ore, ample water power, and thousands of acres of forests, the trees on which could be felled and burned to make charcoal. The colony wished to encourage this industry and in 1719 the assembly passed an act that offered 100 acres of land to anyone who could erect a productive furnace or forge. Thus by 1727 Stephen Onion had a flourishing forge on the Little Gunpowder near Joppa; Nathan Rigbie, Jacob Giles, and John Hall had the Cumberland Forge on Deer Creek underway by 1749 the same year George Rock built Rock Forge a bit downstream at Stafford; James Webster, John Lee Webster, Isaac Webster, John Bond, and Jacob Giles had made the Bush River Iron Works near Bush a flourishing concern by 1776; the La Grange Iron Works (HA-30, HA-31, HA-32) on Deer Creek near Rocks dates to around 1800, as does Sarah Furnace (HA-62, HA-128), about two miles south of Jarrettsville. In 1830, three Pennsylvanians incorporated the Harford Furnace Company (HA-1755) and began operations on James Run. A generation later this would grow into the County's largest industrial enterprise, and is discussed below.

The oldest surviving houses in the County also date to the early-/mid-eighteenth century. Their builders had British origins and so, too, do these early houses for they take a form historians have called a *British Cabin*, namely one or two stories tall, with one, two, or three rooms per floor, and with each room built as an independent module, that is, each room has its own entrance door, staircase (always in a closet to conserve heat and space), and fireplace (the only source of heat).

The Norris family built a one-module British Cabin, Prospect (HA-881; on the farm now known as Olney [HA-154]); the Halls built a two-module house, Cranberry (HA-163), near Aberdeen; the Websters built Webster's Forest (HA-442) and Broom's Bloom (HA-

1075) on their vast holdings near James Run, and Thomas Bond built Joshua's Meadows (HA-356) on a hillock overlooking Winters Run for his son Joshua. All these houses are believed to date from c. 1740 and all are remarkably well preserved.

One structure that is no longer standing is the stone house built by six generations of the Amos family on its own hilltop site across Winters Run from Joshua's Meadows. The first William Amos (1690-1759) immigrated to Maryland from England; he was married in Joppa in 1713 and in 1715 he paid L30 for a 200-acre tract "in the Woods." The land was patented as Clarkson's Purchase, but Amos rechristened it Mount Soma (HA-1260), which it is still called today. (*Mount* simply refers to the site and *Soma* is Amos spelled backwards.) William Amos II was born at Mount Soma in 1718 (although it is not known if the house he was born in still stands). He prospered as one of the County's leading farmers and land speculators and fought with distinction in the 1730s border wars with Pennsylvania, which eventually produced the famed Mason-Dixon Line. But he cut his military career short in 1738 when he had a revelation, converted to the Society of Friends, and devoted the rest of his life to "meekness, resignation, piety, benevolence, and charity." He established the Little Falls Meetinghouse on land donated by Thomas Bond in 1749 and that effectively marks the beginnings of the village of Fallston. (The present meetinghouse, HA-609, dates to 1843 and is the third on the site.) When Amos died in 1814, Mount Soma passed to his son James, who was later that year taxed on (2) two-story stone dwellings, both with dimensions of 22 feet by 18 feet. It is all but certain that one of these structures stands, part of the many-sectioned residence other Amoses created in a leisurely way until William L. Amos sold Mount Soma out of the family in 1918. Mount Soma met its final demise after having a disastrous fire in 1990.



Mount Soma

At about the same time Amos established the Quaker village of Fallston, at the opposite end of the County Nathaniel Rigbie established the Quaker village of Darlington. In the 1720s, Rigbie inherited more than 2,000 acres of a tract of land called Phillip's Purchase, a fiefdom that bordered the Susquehanna from Shure's Landing to Glen Cove. With help from his 22 slaves, Rigbie made these acres yield bountiful crops which he sent to London in his own ships from his own wharves at Lapidum; he also began the frame dwelling still known as the Rigbie House (HA-4). He and the Halls of Cranberry were the most influential people in the County at the time and Lord Baltimore, in recognition of this fact, showered both families with appointed offices. In September 1737 Rigbie sold 3 1/2 acres of his holdings "to the people called Quakers," thus beginning the village of Darlington, a community that developed during the 18th and 19th centuries due in part to



Rigbie House

its proximity to the industrial sites at Wilson's Mill, Rock Run, and Stafford and to the roads which led from those hubs of industry and enterprise to the port communities of Lapidum and Shuresville.

The 3 1/2-acre tract Rigbie sold the Quakers had a building on it, and the Quakers used that structure for services until they could build the present stone structure in 1784 (HA-12). Both Fallston meetinghouses display the simple clean lines one associates with Quakerism; and in

fact architecture in both communities also remained astylar until the mid 19th century.

One other Deer Creek religious institution deserves mention at this point, the stuccoed stone building known as Priest Neale's Mass House (HA-138), a structure that can truly be called unique. The reasons for this little building's existence are complicated. Put as simply as possible, in the late 17th and early 18th centuries waves of anti-Catholicism swept over England and its colonies. This led to, among other things, a series of "anti-popery" laws, including one that prohibited the celebration of mass except in private homes. A few Catholics (such as the Howards in England and the Carrolls in America) were rich enough to be able to build private chapels onto their houses and hire their own priests; others--the vast majority--had to rely on circuit-riding priests who rode from house-to-house to conduct services. One such was based here, beginning in 1743 when Father John Digges, S.J., bought a tract of land on the south bank of Deer Creek and established this mission. Digges died in 1746 and left the property to his friend and fellow-priest, Father Bennett Neale, S.J., who maintained the mission until he retired in 1773. After the Revolution, the new Archdiocese of Maryland acquired the mission; then, with freedom of religion guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, there was no need for missions such as this and the little building was sold and altered (slightly) to make it suitable for domestic use.

But the Quaker meetinghouses and the mass house were the exceptional religious institutions of colonial Harford, since the established faith was Anglican or Church of England. Harford contained two of America's earliest Anglican parishes, St. John's in Joppa, HA-1315 (when Joppa declined in the late 18th century, the church was closed and the congregation moved to its present location in Kingsville) and St. George's. As mentioned above, St. George's first church was near the Chesapeake, in the now largely-vanished community of Michaelsville. As settlement moved inland during the early 18th century, that old building became increasingly inconvenient to worshippers and in 1718 the church hierarchy chose the more central location of Perryman for a new church. That building, the second St. George's, quickly deteriorated and a third church was built in 1758. It, too, became obsolete, as is discussed below. Because of their connection with

the crown (the monarch is the temporal head of the church), these Anglican churches were more than places of worship: they were seats of government as well. Accordingly, vestry houses, built as places to conduct parish business, often functioned as courthouses, schools, and settings for other secular concerns. Such was the case at St. George's, Perryman, whose extant vestry house (HA-250) dates to 1766. The importance of the Flemish bond brick structure no doubt accounts for the remarkably complete building specifications, which have survived among the parish records.

It ought to be pointed out that the surviving colonial-era houses (and religious structures) generally represent the very highest level of building in Harford County at the time: because they were the best built, they have endured the longest. These then--Broom's Bloom, Joshua's Meadows and the rest--were the homes of the elite. The homes of the elite were built of sturdy brick or stone; the homes of most landowners were flimsily built of frame, which rotted easily during the hot humid Maryland summers. The first complete record of Harford's building stock dates to 1798, when tax assessors scoured the County writing down what they saw. They report that of the 657 taxable residences they found, 534 (81%) were one story tall. A similar percentage were of frame construction. Thus if the 39' x 20' dimensions of the Hall family's 1 1/2-story Cranberry seem small today, the house would have seemed a mansion when it was new. (In fact, 18th-century documents refer to it as "the mansion house of the Halls.") For instance, one of the family's wealthier neighbors, John Stevenson, lived in a "15 x 15 1-story wood house." One may rest assured that Stevenson's house contained a single room; that it was flimsily built; and that if it had windows at all, they were unglazed holes in the wall.

And if the County's white landowners lived simply, Harford's slaves lived in conditions impossible to imagine. For example, another of the Halls' neighbors, Clark Hollis, owned a 176-acre farm and nine slaves. Among the outbuildings on his farm listed in 1798, one finds a "quarter 14 x 18 log," as well as a "stable 18 x 12 wood" and a "henhouse 13 x 11 wood." In other words, while the slaves' building--that quarter--was larger than the henhouse, Hollis treated the hens to planed lumber but felt the slaves could make do with unfinished logs. And since that 14-by-18 building was the only dwelling mentioned for slaves, it means that nine people lived in a 14 by 18 foot log cabin. That is what home meant to one-quarter of Harford's late 18th century population, since the 1790 census showed 3,417 slaves among the 14,976 people in the County. Two known 18th-century slave quarters have survived: a 10' x 12' stone structure at Joshua's Meadows (where the Bonds' six slaves lived) and a stone building of similar dimensions at the Preston-Wysong family's seat, The Vineyard (HA-417).

The Revolutionary War stimulated Harford's development in many ways: those who took the most active role in the patriot cause helped bring neoclassical architecture to the County; the County became a major thoroughfare for troops from both sides, some of whom would later settle here bringing with them exotic architectural styles and a stimulus that aided in the growth of towns such as Abingdon and Havre de Grace; and when the County itself was created in the 1770s, it led to the new seat, Bel Air.

During the late 18th century, Harford blazed as “a hot-bed of radical politics. Its populace had shown overwhelming support for the Revolution,” wrote William O. Carr. Significantly, the men and women who most fervently led the County through the Revolution and the War of 1812--Aquila and Sophia Hall, Dr. John Archer, Col. John Streett, Commo. John Rodgers and his wife, Minerva--also pioneered the rational, ordered styles of building known as Georgian and federal.

Perhaps no Countians were more involved in the cause of self-government than Aquila and Sophia Hall, whose ancestors had built the medieval Cranberry. One of seven elected to govern the County when it was formed out of Baltimore County in 1773, Aquila Hall owned the now-demolished brick tavern in Bush that served as the new County's first courthouse (HA-864). In 1774 he chaired a meeting held in his tavern when Countians voted to support the recent revolutionary actions taken in and around Boston, he served as treasurer of the War Committee, chaired another meeting in his tavern when 34 Countians signed the Bush Declaration, that cry for self-rule that preceded Jefferson's Declaration by some 14 months. And when war finally broke out, Aquila organized a County militia and was elected its first captain. Hall had married his first cousin, Sophia White, daughter of Thomas White, a London-born lawyer who came to America in 1720 in the retinue of Charles Calvert, governor of the colony. His other children might be mentioned: daughter Mary married Robert Morris, "Financier of the Revolution," member of the Continental Congress, and signer of the Declaration of Independence; son William, friend of Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin West, studied for the ministry, served as chaplain to the Continental Congress, helped organized the Protestant Episcopal Church after the Revolution, and was elected as that new sect's first bishop. Thomas White amassed some 7,700 acres in Harford County. He gave 3,200 of those acres, land bordered by the Bush River and the Post Road, to his daughter Sophia to serve as her part of her dowry and on that land she and her husband built the landmark house Sophia's Dairy (HA-5), completed in 1768 and famed for its exquisite interior panelling and imposing double staircase.

Aquila and Sophia Hall's contemporary John Archer, born on the family farm near Churchville in 1741, studied medicine at the new College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) and when he was graduated in 1769, he became the first person in America to receive a diploma from an American school of medicine. When he returned to Harford the doctor not only practiced his profession, but also immersed himself in the political issues of the day. He signed the Bush Resolution and Declaration, helped write Maryland's first constitution, fought in battle and rose to the rank of captain, and was elected to congress where he championed the principles of his idol, Thomas Jefferson. In the midst of this, he wrote numerous papers on medical topics and established on the grounds of his farm, Medical Hall (HA-3), a well-regarded medical school where he trained 51 young men to become doctors, including all but one of his six sons. When he died in 1810, his will freed all 7 of his slaves. Either Dr. Archer or his attorney son, Stevenson, expanded the old house on the Medical Hall property to the extant neoclassical dwelling. It is certain, however, that Stevenson (also elected to Congress) added elaborate French scenic wallpaper to the centerhall of the residence in 1824 to mark the triumphant return of Lafayette to America.

John Streett, born in 1762 (HA-1214) and thus too young to serve in the Revolution, won fame as a hero of the War of 1812. Commissioned a colonel in the cavalry, he helped stop the British at the Battle of North Point in 1814 and won commendation for his "bravery and efficiency in action." He also built a neoclassical house in Harford County (HA-1517), a center hall brick dwelling that embodies the delicacy, airiness, and attenuated proportions of the federal style.

Another Harford native, William Paca, born on the family farm, Paca's Park (now Rose Hill; HA-859, HA-860, HA-861, HA-862), near the headwaters of the Bush River in 1740, won fame in the Revolution, but did so not locally but in Philadelphia (where he signed the Declaration of Independence) and Annapolis, where he served as governor and built the renowned Paca House and Garden. His brother, John, however, stayed in Harford and laid out two towns on the family farm. One, Washington (on Otter Point) was intended to become a great shipping center; it failed. The other, Abingdon, laid out along the Post Road, thrived, at least for a while. Paca divided Abingdon into 64 lots of about an acre each; artisans, educators, and merchants flocked to the new community, which quickly eclipsed the older Bush and Joppa in importance. Joseph Toy, Isaac Nichols and William Wilson made Abingdon a center of Maryland's silversmithing; William Dorney operated a gunshop that was reputed the best in America; and the town was able to support the first newspaper in the County. The compilers of the 1799 *U.S. Gazetteer* described Paca's thriving creation as containing "51 dwellings and 240 inhabitants of which 66 are black. It..has 6 stores filled with West India produce and the various manufactures of Europe." It also contained Cokesbury College, established in 1784 and the first Methodist-affiliated college in America. (HA-846, HA-847; it burned to the ground in 1795 and was never rebuilt.) The dwelling known as the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (HA-854, HA-855) is probably the only visible reminder of Abingdon's golden age: but many other houses might contain an 18th-century core under their many remodellings and the entire town seems ripe for archaeological investigation, as does the rest of the Paca's Park tract, which is still largely undeveloped.

Many of the most significant survivors of the Georgian/federal era cluster in and around Havre de Grace, a town whose origins date to this era. In the city are the stuccoed house built by Jean Baptiste Avelhe in 1801 (HA-788), St. John's Episcopal Church (HA-544; 1809), and the brick Elizabeth Rodgers House (HA-798), which probably dates to c. 1780. The last building was run as a tavern by Elizabeth Rodgers and her husband, John, who also operated a tavern in Perryville and had a monopoly of the ferry line across the Susquehanna. George Washington's diaries reveal that he stopped at the Havre de Grace tavern more than once, and it is not saying too much that the City of Havre de Grace owes its existence to the Rodgers family. John and Elizabeth's son, John, became the County's most celebrated citizen due to his naval exploits. In fact he and his wife, nee Minerva Denison, founded, according to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, "the most celebrated of American naval families."

John and Minerva Rodgers lived in the brick mansion Sion Hill (HA-525), which she inherited from her parents and which their direct descendants still own. The house, on a hill

overlooking Havre de Grace and the bay, is Harford County's only National Historic Landmark. Sion Hill also marks the northern end of a belt of contiguous, highly significant properties that encircles Havre de Grace. These include Mount Felix (HA-526; c. 1850), Mount Pleasant (HA-763, a 1907 replacement of a 1750s mansion), Blenheim (HA-107, a c. 1875 replacement of a mid-18th century dwelling), the Harry Mitchell House (HA-760, c. 1880), Old Bay Farm (HA-1721, 1937), Swan Harbor Farm (HA-243, c. 1790 with additions), Belle Vue Farm (HA-242, mid-18th century), Oakington (HA-9, c. 1816 with additions), and Swansbury (HA-240, mid- to late-18th century).

When the new County of Harford was erected in 1773, its courthouse (a tavern) was in the Post Road hamlet of Bush. This was an inconvenient location for most citizens, who by then had filtered into the County's inland reaches. Thus a new seat was needed and citizens held a referendum in 1782 and voted to move the center of government to the new town Bel Air, laid out by the Scott family in 1780 on their farm Scott's Old Fields. (In 1783, the Maryland Legislature confirmed the choice by an Act of Assembly.) The town did not



Swan Harbor

exactly flourish in its first years but entrepreneur Thomas Hays changed that. Born in 1780, a son of Archer Hays (who later built the stone house [HA-152] that forms the centerpiece of Harford Community College), Thomas started out as a tavern keeper in Bel Air. He also bought several lots in the new town and subscribed to several shares of stock in the Bel Air and Harford Turnpike Company, then planning for a new, crushed-rock highway from Baltimore (and eventually via Churchville to the ferry at Rock Run). Because of his influence, Hays was able to route that road through Bel Air (and not incidentally past his tavern); he later served as chair of the committee that oversaw the paving of Main Street in the 1840s. One of his sisters, Mary Archer Hays, married the Rev. Reuben Davis, first headmaster of the town's first school, the Bel Air Academy (HA-237). The Academy was located in the stuccoes stone building still standing on Pennsylvania Avenue. Incidentally, Thomas Hays had purportedly built the structure to house a still. In 1811 the prosperous merchant/tavern-keeper/road builder bought the c. 1788 dwelling now known as the Hays House (HA-225). His increasing fortune allowed him to expand it twice, first with a small c. 1814 frame addition and later with a massive stone wing. He lived in the house until his death in 1861. The frame section of the house, moved from its Main Street site to the Bel Air High School property on Kenmore Avenue in 1960, is now maintained as a museum by the Historical Society of Harford County. Due to many and varied contributions to the town's growth, Thomas Hays is generally known as the "Father of Bel Air."

Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period (A.D. 1815-1870)

Thomas Hays's new road, coupled with the ancient Post Road, the novel Philadelphia Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad main line, and the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal, cemented Harford's ties to the booming city of Baltimore, the fastest-growing city in America in the early 19th century and a center of innovative design and craftsmanship. Accordingly, Countians had easy access to the latest thinking in science, agriculture, and architecture. This will be borne out in this time period in a wealth of innovative buildings in Harford County and in the creation and advancement of many progressive organizations and societies.

During these years, agriculture remained the backbone of Harford's economy. Seeking new ways to increase production on often worn out land, Countians eagerly experimented with new techniques. The Rev. William Stephenson, who lived near Lapidum (HA-207) serves as a case in point. An early convert to Methodism, Stephenson founded the Rock Run Church in 1785. The congregation, assisted by Stephenson's nephew, James (HA-570), built their present stone church (HA-565) in 1843 to the design of local stone mason Joshua Stevens, an artisan also credited with the Prospect School (HA-532) and the Todd-Stephenson House (HA-569). In 1804, the Rev. Stephenson, who supplemented his clerical income with farming and who presided over the Rock Run Academy, a private school for boys, from 1813 until 1821, co-organized one of the first agricultural societies in America, The Farmer's Society of Harford County. He served as treasurer of the group and, in that capacity, bought an acre of land near Lapidum and constructed a plaster mill to produce fertilizer. Dr. John Archer may have been an early customer, for his estate inventory, made on his death in 1810, includes "28 bushels plaster of Paris" which he planned to use to fertilize his 300-acre farm. (Archer's inventory also includes 30 barrels of corn, 16 bushels of buckwheat, and 60 bushels of potatoes.)

At about the same time, Benjamin Silver II (1782-1847) was experimenting with a new type of fertilizer on his land holdings around the community of Glenville. Silver, a grandson of Gershom Silver (1725-75), the progenitor of the family in Harford County, was among the first in the nation to realize that fishing could make one rich. He revolutionized the industry by using the "Bailey Float," a huge raft with shacks for men to live in for weeks at a time. Before Silver, commercial fishermen threw their lines in from the shore; he made it possible to go out to the fish and haul in hundreds of barrels of shad and herring at a time. He invested his riches in land, buying his first farm (of 260 acres) in 1812 and continuously added to that modest beginning until at the time of his death he owned 1,352 acres from Glenville to Elbow Branch. A scientific farmer when such thoughts were novel, Silver, a descendant wrote, "used fish pickle from his own...fisheries to improve his lands while many around him neglected theirs." In good Victorian fashion, he not only improved his own condition in life, he also looked out for those less fortunate; he also donated land and paid contractors to erect the first Deer Creek Harmony Presbyterian Church and helped establish the Prospect School. (He himself had attended the racially integrated Green Spring School near Glenville.)

When Silver died, his sons (and one nephew) used their vast inherited wealth, lands, and family-owned quarry, to erect a series of picturesque stone villas on the hills around Glenville, the likes of which had never been seen in the County (HA-384, 385, 389, 398, 407). Indeed, W. Stump Forwood, first president of the Historical Society of Harford County, opined in 1880 that "there is no family in Maryland...[with] such a splendid set of buildings." The Silver Houses (a National Register Historic District) are remarkable not only for their beauty but also for what they say about the importance of architecture to Countians, for the Silvers hired local architect William H. Reasin to help them with the design of the houses, the first time in Harford's history that anyone used an architect to design a house.

The Silver Houses, which date to the 1840s and 1850s, usher in a remarkable change in Harford County architecture first because the brothers actually hired an architect but also because the architect (with the clients' blessing) brought in significant stylistic changes. Heretofore, Harford's houses, churches, and public buildings had been neoclassical (if they had a style) or vernacular. Now Countians chose from among the many picturesque styles that were just gaining popularity in the nation, another indication of Harford's expanding ties to the outside world. The Rev. William Brand brought the Gothic revival to the County in St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Emmorton (HA-168), possibly designed by Brand himself and consecrated in 1851. The church not only is part of a world-wide movement towards Gothic style, Brand even equipped the building with English-made floor tiles and with a matched set of English-made stained glass windows. Harford was definitely becoming part of the larger world. Later Episcopal churches with a definite Brand connection include Holy Trinity in Churchville (1878; HA-167) and Rock Spring near Forest Hill (1875; HA-28)

The importance of St. Mary's Church was equalled a few miles away when the noted English-born Shakespearean actor Junius Brutus Booth built the Gothic Revival brick cottage, Tudor Hall (HA-117) near Fountain Green in 1847. Booth based the design of his new house on William Ranlett's influential book, *The Architect*, and one would have to travel far to see a better example of a Gothic Revival cottage than Tudor Hall, with its cross plan, clustered chimneys, irregular profile, leaded windows, and picturesque balconies.

While Harford Countians heartily embraced Gothic Revival churches and picturesque villas, they seemed less enthusiastic about the other great national style of the time, the Greek Revival. Undoubtedly the best example of the style is the First Presbyterian Church in Bel Air on Pennsylvania Avenue (HA-238), completed in 1852. Its monumental Doric portico, placed high above the ground and clean classical lines are all one could want in a Greek building and suggest the hand of an architect. But to date, no architect's name has surfaced and credit for the design is generally given to the church's rector, the Rev. Ebenezer Finney, a son of the famed Rev. William Finney, who brought life to the Churchville Presbyterian Church in the 1820s. (The four houses the Finney family built just north of Churchville between 1821 and 1906 [HA-149; HA-1279; HA-1278; HA-1277], together form a National Register Historic District.)

Countians seemed equally diffident about Greek Revival houses. War of 1812 hero Capt. John Adams Webster, born at the family's Broom's Bloom, tacked a two-story columned portico across the front of his highly vernacular residence, Mount Adams (HA-1074), but most authorities feel he did so not out of a desire to be fashionable but to give unity to a many-sectioned, much added-to building. On the other hand, the maiden sisters Mary, Lydia, and Rebecca Titus, who moved to Harford from New Rochelle New York, did give the house they built near Fallston a distinctly Greek feel thanks to deep, columned verandas, a hipped roof, and squared fanlights above the main entrance (HA-690).

And at about this time, Harford became home to a nationally prominent architect, J. Crawford Neilson in 1840, when he married Rosa Williams, a descendant of John Stump of Stafford, and moved to her inherited Deer Creek Valley farm, Priestford. (The original house has been replaced.) Neilson, born in Baltimore in 1814 and educated in England and Belgium, worked for the Baltimore and Port Deposit Railroad Company in the 1830s and the B&O in 1842. He then formed a partnership with the Austrian-born John Niernsee and during the 1840s and 1850s they produced some of the best buildings in the region including Camden Station (1851 and the largest train station in the world when it opened), an Italianate makeover of Johns Hopkins's villa, Clifton (1852), the Greenmount Cemetery Chapel (1851), and 1 West Mount Vernon Place (1849). Neilson also did a good deal of *pro bono* work in his adopted Harford and gave the County some of its finest buildings including the fourth and final St. George's Episcopal Church (1851), the courthouse (1858), a new bell tower for the venerable Churchville Presbyterian Church (1870; HA-441), Trap Episcopal Church (1875), and the highly picturesque villa Landsowne (1875).

This mid-century change in thinking about architecture, this willingness to experiment with building styles, is paralleled with Countians' willingness to experiment in other fields as well. For instance, in 1866 Aberdeen native George Washington Baker (1815-88) "decided to can for local market the blackberries, dewberries, and peaches from his own and neighboring farms," according to the 1897 *Portrait and Biographical Record of Cecil and Harford Counties*. From this humble beginning arose a family-run canning empire that spanned three generations of Bakers. But not only Bakers but the Mitchells (HA-1659), Robinsons (HA-1229), Osborns (HA-107), and so many others that Harford became famous as "the greatest canning County in America," according to the same 1890s source. During its peak there were more than 200 canneries in the County. Virtually every farm had some sort of cannery and it is safe to say that canning was the greatest single industry the County has ever--and likely will ever--enjoy.

Canning made hundreds of Countians well off and a few truly rich. The Bakers probably grew richest of all and used their wealth to found banks, successfully run for congress, establish cemeteries (HA-1554), endow churches and hospitals, and erect, in Aberdeen and Havre de Grace, a rambunctious set of frame mansions complete with elaborate gardens and greenhouses (e.g., HA-999, HA-1296, HA-1553, HA-1559). Indeed, it has been written that "in the generation after the Civil War, the newly-incorporated town of Aberdeen swaggered with an architectural braggadocio unparalleled in Harford County," and much of this feeling continues in the town today, in contrast with the somewhat more

conservative architectural mentality of Bel Air (with its government based economy) and more architecturally "correct" ambiance of Havre de Grace, one-time candidate to become national capital.

Just one year after George Washington Baker canned his first berries and peaches, Clement Dietrich, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, paid the immense sum of \$70,000 for the 5,067-acre Harford Furnace industrial site. From its modest beginnings in the early 19th century, by the time Dietrich purchased the property, it had become a vast industrial complex with holdings stretching from Creswell to Belcamp. Dietrich continued the property's historic industries of iron and milling (mentioned above) but also tried to diversify operations by building a chemical plant to produce acetic acid, wood alcohol, and pyroligneous acid. In 1868 Dietrich also built the immense stone mansion Fair Meadows (HA-1067), the first building in the County built in the internationally popular Second Empire style, named in deference to France's second emperor, Napoleon III. This manner of building--characterized by mansard roofs, cupolas with rounded hoods, and towers, became popular in Paris in the 1850s and 1860s and in America in the 1860s and 1870s, thus making Fair Meadows one of the styles earlier American manifestations. A few years later, other Countians experimented with the style: around 1870 Garrett Amos added a mansard roof to his ancestral Mount Soma; Gabriel McComas built a toned-down second empire dwelling Del Mar (HA-1775) near Upper Cross Roads; and Henry Reckord built a mansard-roofed four-story grain mill in Bel Air in 1886 which was recently demolished in the summer of 2009 (HA-1470). Ignatius Walter Jenkins's stone, mansard roofed house near Pylesville, Belle Farm (HA-958) may actually predate its second empire peers for it possibly dates to the mid 1860s.

To the north, around the villages of Cardiff and Whiteford, Harford's famed slate quarries reached their zenith during this period. A thick vein of slate had been discovered in the area around 1725. Two brothers, William and James Reese, excavated some of the rock and fashioned it into shingles which they used to roof their new barn. Peach Bottom Slate, as it was called, the first cut slate in America, quickly attracted immigrant Welsh miners to the County and by the early 19th century quarrymen with names like Jones and Williams had made Harford slate world famous (HA-955). In 1850 slate from this quarry won first prize as the "World's Best" at London's Crystal Palace Exposition and throughout the rest of the century, architects and builders throughout America requested Peach Bottom Slate for roofing. Not only were the villages of Whiteford and Cardiff known for their award winning slate; serpentine and green marble were also important products for them. The serpentine marble was used locally in the notable Bel Air Post Office as well as buildings further away including the Empire State building. The Welsh immigrants who settled in the County brought with them the culture they knew from Wales and Welsh-language newspapers were published in Cardiff-Whiteford until well into the 20th century. They also brought their native building practices with them, specifically the Welsh cottages which folklorists have called "Coulstown Cottages," after the nearby Pennsylvania hamlet of Coulstown. Several extant examples of this vernacular building type have recently been documented in and around Cardiff (HA-946, HA-1919).

Industrial stirrings were also heard in the Deer Creek Valley during this period. In 1866, for instance, Joshua Husband paid \$4,000 for 161 acres near Kalmia. This was the site of the defunct Nottingham Iron Company of Baltimore and Husband took whatever buildings were standing and adapted them for the manufacture of ground flint (HA-1226), a material important in the manufacture of fine porcelain. Husband, his son, Joshua, Jr., and his daughter, Hannah, kept the mill going until the 1920s, while living nearby (HA-45).

The Husbands' operation helped the community of Kalmia flourish, one of many areas settled by free blacks in the years before the Civil War. Kalmia's origins go back at least as far as the very early 19th century. One of the oldest dwellings in the community is the one-story, rubblestone structure known as the Preston Stone House (HA-47) shown on the 1878 Martenet map of the County and labelled "Jane Preston co'ld." According to long-time area resident Annie Presbury, a free black stone mason surnamed Rumsey built this and five other dwellings around 1800 including the Preacher House (HA-46) on Lochary Road, which Mrs. Presbury dates to 1773. Kalmia grew large and prosperous enough to support a church of its own, the Clarks' Chapel M.E. Church (HA-48); the present stuccoed building is an 1885 replacement for one or two earlier structures. To the rear of the chapel is an ancient cemetery; most of the oldest headstones are too weathered to read, but one inscription can be made out: "Milky Gover, Died 1886, Age 77." One known worker at the Husband mill lived not in Kalmia, but in a stone house on Ady Road (HA-903). This was Walter Jackson, who paid \$279.35 for twenty-nine acres in 1886 which probably included the stone house. Jackson, well-known in his day, was the highly regarded mule driver of the Husband's mill. The mill was located about three miles away and Jackson is said to have walked there and back every day until about 1920. Samuel Mason, a Darlington farmer and historian, was among the first to note the contributions made by African-American men and women like Jackson to the County's development and prosperity. "They were the wheels that made our clock tick," Mason wrote in his *Historical Sketches*. Mason observed further that few of these laborers "had horses and they walked from place to place along the dusty roads."

The names of most of these laborers have been lost. But there are one or two exceptions and among these one finds Cupid Peaker (or *Paca* as his surname was spelled originally), one of the most interesting people of any color to live in Harford County. On March 4, 1822, "Cupid Paca, freeman of color," paid \$700 cash for fifty acres of land "on the main road leading from the Bald Friar Ferry to the [Darlington] Friends Meetinghouse." This choice of area shows good sense on Peaker's part for no other Countians were as welcoming to African Americans as residents of the Quaker village. (At least as far back as the 1790s, black students regularly attended the Silver family's Green Spring School alongside their white neighbors.) Peaker bought his acres from Cassandra Rigbie Corse, whose ancestors were discussed above. According to longtime resident George Hensel, Peaker "had married a woman who was a slave of Joseph Prigg, with whom he learned the trade of shoemaker." Peaker also learned the art of masonry and he and Moses Harris, another free African American, are remembered as "the principle builders of fences" throughout the greater Darlington area. The "thrifty Paca [Peaker] purchased his wife's freedom and that of an infant daughter" and he spent the rest of his life investing in real

estate, farming, cobbling, building stone fences--and taking steps to ensure financial security for his descendants.

Another community of free blacks grew up outside Havre de Grace in the Gravel Hill area. Gravel Hill (or Gravelly Hill) grew up around its church, the St. James A.M.E. Church (HA-1590). That church was actually an outgrowth of the St. James Church in Havre de Grace, established in the 1840s by that city's free black population. (The present church dates to 1874.) The church in town attracted free black farmers from the entire area, most of whom walked to and from service. Soon, however, enough began to weary of that trek and established St. James at Gravel Hill; they also established a cemetery at the church; the oldest grave dates to 1834. That first church proved too small, and the congregation built a replacement in 1857; in 1864 they put up an entirely new building, the core of the extant edifice.

Unlike the Quakers of Darlington, most white Harford Countians were ambivalent in their attitudes towards slavery. In the 1850s, for instance, one R. I. Jackson, who lived "in a beautiful stone house on the Stafford Road," according to Samuel Mason, "reserved one room in that house as a dungeon where he locked up slaves behind a door barred with iron." In his will, Thomas Hays, the "Father of Bel Air," bequeathed freedom to four favored slaves ("provided they behave themselves") but left others in bondage; others, including Dr. John Archer, willed freedom to all their slaves. Freeing one's slaves was relatively painless since it did not cost the deceased anything and a few Countians actually paid the substantial cost of freeing inherited slaves while alive, as Isaac Webster of Broom's Bloom did in 1785.

A few Countians took an even more active role in the fight against slavery and bravely assisted in the famed Underground Railroad, that covert network of free blacks and sympathetic whites who fed, sheltered, and comforted slaves escaping to the northern states and Canada. One documented "conductor" in Harford County was William Worthington, whose house (HA-1776) overlooking the Susquehanna near Darlington has been demolished but which would be ripe for archaeological investigation; another "stop" was the ice house at Swallowfields (HA-175), just north of the hamlet Berkley. Recent investigations suggest that the Titus sisters may have offered an Underground Railroad stop at Rochelle. Moreover, some evidence points to the possibility that the noted abolitionist and Underground Railroad "conductor" Harriet Tubman, who did most of her work on Maryland's Eastern Shore, may have been active in the Tidewater regions of Harford as well. Clearly, more work needs to be done. And despite all these efforts, in 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, some 1,800 men, women, and children remained in bondage in the County, owned by 488 Harford Countians principally in the Bel Air, Abingdon, and Aberdeen areas.

Once the Civil War broke out, Harford, while strategically important due to the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad (the only rail line to connect Washington, D.C., with Philadelphia and New York) actually saw little action. What there was focused on the railroad bridges across the Gunpowder, Bush, and Susquehanna and climaxed in 1864 when Harry Gilmor and a band of raiders fought a brief action at

the Magnolia station and then torched the rail line's bridge across the Gunpowder. (See "Burning Bridges," in the Historical Society of Harford County's Spring 1997 "Harford Historical Bulletin.")

After the war, many of Harford's African Americans continued the struggle for equality and viewed education as the key to full citizenship. They gained a powerful ally in 1864 when the federal government established the Freedmen's Bureau, under the direction of Gen. Lew Wallace. The bureau established schools for free blacks and newly freed slaves throughout the South. (Hitherto, it had been illegal to teach African Americans to read and write.) In



McComas Institute

In Harford County alone, the bureau, assisted by local blacks, oversaw construction of four schools, two of which remain. The school near Webster and the Anderson Institute in Havre de Grace are gone (the former was burned in 1926, purportedly by the Ku Klux Klan), but the McComas Institute (HA-307) on Singer Road and the Hosanna School (HA-210) on Castleton Road north of Darlington remain. Recently restored they are valued as priceless relics from a difficult era in the County's past.

Industrial/Urban Dominance Period (A.D. 1870-1930):

By the 1870s, America's Industrial Revolution, which had some of its first manifestations in Harford County, had reached its peak nationwide. Advances in science and technology, increases in population, and the spread of improved communications by road, rail, water, the advent of electrical and steam power, all came together after the Civil War and the resulting wealth--unprecedented in the world's history--produced America's Gilded Age.

Harford County gained its share of the rich-rich during these years and the architecture they favored has given rise to the phrase, "The Country Place Era." In Harford County, three architectural adventures may sum up the times, Indian Spring Farm near Churchville (HA-342 and created largely by the Symington family beginning in 1862), Liriodendron (HA-230, on the western edge of Bel Air and designed by Baltimore architects Wyatt & Nolting for Dr. and Mrs. Howard Kelly in 1897), and Oakington (HA-9), on a bluff overlooking the Chesapeake, and created between 1905 and 1933 when the early 19th-century Stump house on the site was enlarged--and enlarged again--by a series of colorful industrialists, one of whom employed the nationally-known architect Stanford White.

During these years, the hills along the Deer Creek Valley experienced their own infusion of monied new residents. But these men and women--and the architecture they produced--may be distinguished from the three bouncy buildings mentioned above: instead of a vast--if beautiful--stuccoed neoclassical pile known as Liriodendron, or the immense additions to Oakington created for James Breese, a man whose reading taste ran to books with titles such as *The Romance of Chastisement*. The area around Darlington was graced by a series of picturesque villas and churches designed by some of the most noted architects the Quaker City has produced. These buildings include Grace Memorial Episcopal Church (HA-78) and Rectory (HA-79), 1876 by T. P. Chandler and commissioned by D.C. Wharton Smith as a memorial to his father. They also include a wonderful series of houses by Walter Cope: an addition to Landsdowne (HA-288; 1886 for Hugh Judge Jewett, who also restored Darlington's venerable meetinghouse), Winstone (HA-323; 1885 for D.C. Wharton Smith), Westacre (HA-322; c. 1887 for Smith's son Courtauld W. Smith), Red Gate (HA-208) and Rosecrea (HA-311) for the brothers Bernard Gilpin Smith and Joshua C. Smith (owners of the Susquehanna Power and Paper Company), Grey Gables (HA-310) for Horace and Helen Stokes, and an addition to Meadow Farm (HA-280) for the Samuel Mason/Hannah Evans clans. All these individuals evince the spirit of public improvement, one of the better qualities to emerge from the Victorian era. D.C. Wharton Smith alone, for instance, co-founded the Darlington Cemetery Company (HA-82) and underwrote the Darlington Academy (HA-72) and the Darlington Good Road League (HA-393).

New railroads snaked their ways through the County during this era, joining the venerable Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore, which itself was reincorporated as the Pennsylvania. (Its tracks are now used by Conrail, Amtrak, and MARC.) The B&O--the oldest railroad company in America--laid its tracks to New York through Harford in 1880; and the



B&O Railroad

Maryland and Pennsylvania (familiarily known as the Ma and Pa) opened for business in 1884. (The B&O is now part of the CSX system.) In providing a (circuitous) link between Baltimore and York, Pennsylvania, the Ma and Pa also gave Harford's farmers a reliable, fast way to ship perishable products such as milk to Baltimore markets, and also aided the development of the slate and marble quarries at Cardiff, since rail can carry heavier loads than horse-drawn wagons. The Ma and Pa closed operation in 1959 and its tracks have been taken up.

The Pennsylvania's remaining stations in the County (at Edgewood and Aberdeen) date to the 20th century but the B&O's station in Aberdeen (HA-841) is a fine product of the Victorian era. While most of the Ma and Pa's stations have been demolished, those in Fallston, Vale, Forest Hill (HA-1272), and Whiteford (HA-1892) remain as evidence of the important contribution that railroad made to Harford's economy. All the stations were designed by company architects who worked full time for the various lines.

One of the most ambitious construction projects in Harford's history, the Conowingo Dam, can trace its origins to this era. As long ago as 1884, the Susquehanna Water, Power, and Light Company received a charter from the Maryland Legislature. That charter specifically gave the company the right to condemn property along the Susquehanna to build a dam and a plant to generate electricity. Nothing much happened, though, until 1919 when the company (rechristened the Susquehanna Power Company) received another, similar charter from the Legislature. This time, however, the renamed company quickly became a subsidiary of the Philadelphia Electric Company and, after several surveys and studies were made, construction began on the new dam in 1926. Work progressed smoothly and in 1928 the 4,648-foot long dam was in operation. At its dedication, the dam was called "the greatest development, steam or hydro, ever constructed in one step in the history of the power industry." It remains one of the largest hydroelectric installations in America.

Not all of the county's construction projects, however, had to rely on outside talent to design their new buildings for one of Harford's own, George W. Archer, studied and practiced architecture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Archer, a great-grandson of Dr. John Archer of Medical Hall, was born in 1848 and educated privately. He was graduated from the family-favored Princeton in 1870 and moved to Baltimore to work in the office of George Frederick, the young architect (born 1842) who designed Baltimore's City Hall in 1867. Archer opened his own office in Maryland's metropolis in 1875 and embarked on a busy, prosperous career. His Harford County commissions include the remodeling of Christ Church, Rock Spring (1875), Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Churchville (1878), a new Presbyterian Church in Bel Air (HA-1437; 1881), the house Windy Walls (HA-713) on Wheel Road (1894), and the Second National Bank on Office Street in Bel Air (HA-1462; 1900).

In 1917 Harford's decades of sunny, prosperous, and seemingly unending tranquility were abruptly interrupted by America's entry into World War I. Many Countians volunteered for and saw service in Europe during the conflict, it seems arguable that the greatest affect the Great War had on Harford came in October 1917, when the federal government condemned the entire Gunpowder and Bush river necks--35,211 acres of land and 34,000 acres covered by water or about 60 square miles in all. Heretofore, as historian Keir Stirling has written, these stretches of southern Harford County "were locally known as the 'Garden of Eden,' where an excellent grade of shoe peg corn had been grown for many years. Many area farmers were able to produce 125 bushels of corn to the acre. The Baker family and others engaged in the profitable canning industry were producing about 300,000 cases of shoe peg corn and tomatoes worth approximately \$1.5 million annually

by 1917....The famous Poole's Island peaches were...were canned locally and considered to be of high quality. Local fishing was another industry worth \$700,000 a year."

Overnight all this changed as everyone living on those bay-front lands had to move to make way for the poison-gas testing facilities Washington felt the war demanded. The former landowners--the Cadwaladers, Bakers, Mitchells, and others--received some payment from the government for their lost acres and many of them then purchased other farms and resumed their lives. The workers, generally black tenant farmers, received nothing and were forced to move from the source of their livelihoods. Many such displaced families, including the Dembys and Gilberts, settled in a stretch of land near Magnolia; the houses, church, and school they built created the community now called Dembytown (HA-1603, HA-1604).

The two new army facilities, the Edgewood Chemical Center and the Aberdeen Proving Ground, also brought much development to the County, first in the area immediately near the bases, i.e., Edgewood and Aberdeen. Over the decades, however, the affects of these large job markets have been felt throughout the County and the two installations are undoubtedly the greatest sources of employment Harford has ever known and doubtless partially explain the County's skyrocketing 20th-century population, nearly tripling from 27,965 in 1910 (it had been 21,258 in 1810) to 76,722 in 1960.

Modern Period A.D. 1930—Present

Harford County's modern era has been characterized by contradictory forces: on one hand, the County witnessed, particularly during the 1930s and 1940s, an influx of wealthy sportsmen and others attracted to the rural way of life that still characterized the area. These highly individualistic people supported ventures such as the Elkridge-Harford Hunt (HA-60) and eagerly bought and restored many of the County's finest old buildings. On the other hand, during these years Harford County, like the rest of the nation, saw the advent of mass-production, interstate highways, and suburban culture.

During the interval between the two world wars, men and women throughout America discovered Harford County's rich soils and picturesque countryside and began buying farms here. The houses they built (or created through restoration) differed from those of the preceding generation in several respects, most importantly in their owners' desire for simplicity and their avoidance of ostentatious, exotic styles in favor of, as historian Fiske Kimball put it in 1919, "the conscious revival or perpetuation of local traditions." Accordingly, Sen. and Mrs. Millard Tydings bought Oakington in 1935 and rid it of the excesses of Commo. Richards and other industrialists (as mentioned above); Gilman Paul bought and restored the 18th century Land of Promise (HA-575, assisted by Lawrence Hall Fowler, perhaps Baltimore's preeminent architect of the time); Russell and Kate Lord took time off from working in Washington for the New Deal to purchase The Land (HA-140) near Churchville and to experiment with rural electrification and the embryonic environmental movement; Francis and Lelia Stokes bought the Wilson's Mill property and hired the nationally known architectural firm Mellor & Meigs to restore the house (HA-10) and tenant house (HA-25), adapt the gristmill (HA-11) so it produced

hydroelectricity for the farm, and lay out new, naturalistic gardens throughout the property; Mrs. Anne Heighe bought the ancient Hays House near Fountain Green and turned its derelict barns and fields into a center of the horse-racing world (just as the Pons family were doing at Country Life Farm (HA-1718) and built a new residence for herself and her husband (HA-932) on the site of the ancient Moores Mill; and Larry MacPhail retired from big-league baseball to restore Glenangus Farms (HA-1719) and make it a major player in the horse- and cattle-breeding industries. Perhaps most significantly, in 1929 Harvey Ladew bought the dilapidated Pleasant Valley Farm, fixed it up, moved there from Long Island, and began the gardens that are now internationally acclaimed (HA-1245).



Moores Mill

All those somewhat romantic efforts actually ran against the temper of the times, which promoted mass-production and standardization. Accordingly, during the modern era, fewer and fewer of the County's buildings were individually crafted. The mass-produced house the sisters Florence and Sarah Helen Cronin bought from Sears Roebuck and erected near Aberdeen is far more typical of the time than Harvey Ladew's individualistic topiaries. Mass production and standardization of design also manifested themselves in the many gas stations built during these years (most were designed by company architects); one of the few remaining is the old Esso station on Route 1 near Benson; an almost identical one in Aberdeen (HA-1556) was completely made over in the 1980s. Aberdeen's New Ideal Diner (HA-1560), a shiny product of the 1950s, all aluminum and vinyl, also suggests that Countians eagerly embraced new styles and materials

Perhaps the most artistically important of these mass-produced creations dates to the late 1930s, when the Bata Shoe Company of Czechoslovakia purchased 2,000 acres of land at the head of the Bush River and began work on a planned industrial village. Working to the principles laid out by the Bata family's favorite architect, Le Corbusier, they filled their new town with small, interchangeable houses symbolic of the era of mass production (HA-1582). They also built a gymnasium, shoe factory, and hotel all incorporating clean "natural" lines, axial arrangement of buildings, and "honest" use of materials favored by Le Corbusier and other followers of the Bauhaus movement. The Bata Show complex was demolished in 2005 to make way for a new development.

After World War II, an estimated 6 million young married couples throughout America set out to build the dream houses they had longed for during the dark days of the Great Depression and war. They found fruition in Harford County in the late 1940s when returning veterans Walter Ward and Melvin Bosely bought some of the Liriodendron property from Dr. Kelly's son Freiderich and created the development Howard Park, the

first modern subdivision in the County. The developers, incorporated as Ward & Bosely, then undertook such ventures as Wakefield Meadows (whose houses won national design awards), Edgewood Meadows, and Glenwood. Indeed, there were so many such projects (not all by Ward & Bosely) that the Baltimore *Sun* ran a piece on "The Building Boom in Harford County" in its May 3, 1959 issue: "The sounds of power saws and of engines driving concrete mixers can be heard at many scattered points in Harford," the paper reported.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s developers laid out the new community Joppatowne, the latest in a long line of planned communities that have been built in the County beginning with the Paca family's Abingdon. Indeed, aided by such transportation improvements as I-95, Maryland Route 23 (planned to link Aberdeen and Hagerstown but never completed), U.S. Route 40, and a new four-lane divided Maryland Route 24, Harford has truly entered the modern age. It gained its first regional mall in the early 1970s (The Harford Mall, built on the site of the famed Bel Air Race Track) and is now thoroughly entwined in the Greater Baltimore region.