

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Pg: 72-045

National Harmony Memorial Park

7051 Sheriff Road

Landover, Maryland

1960

Private

Columbian Harmony Cemetery was established in Washington, DC, in 1829 by the Columbian Harmony Society, a mutual aid organization founded in 1825 by a group of free African-Americans. The cemetery has moved three times in the Society's history. The first burial grounds, "Harmoneon," was a one and one-third-acre site in Washington City located on Rhode Island Avenue near Boundary Street (present day Florida Avenue). After an ordinance forced cemeteries to relocate outside city limits, the Society acquired a larger site in 1857 outside city limits but within the District's corporate boundaries; and all remains were moved to the new "Harmony Cemetery" by 1859. In 1957, the Society was approached by developer Louis M. Bell with an offer to relocate Columbian Harmony Cemetery to a site in Landover, Prince George's County, in exchange for the Society's real property in the District. After an agreement was reached, approximately 37,000 remains from Columbian Harmony Cemetery, representing burials from the early eighteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, were transferred to National Harmony Memorial Park between May and November 1960.

National Harmony Memorial Park (NHMP) is located on just over 142 acres of open land in suburban Prince George's County. The eastern half of the site is relatively flat, while the western half has a steep terrain. The designed landscape features small stands of trees, some individual specimens, and large expanses of grass. NHMP sections that are named after sections in the old Harmony cemetery are identified by small signs at the front and rear of each section. Since the grave markers or monuments apparently were not moved from old Harmony with the remains, all of the markers were probably fabricated post-1959. The markers are generally of a simple design with minimal ornamentation and inscriptions.

A consideration of the level of integrity of National Harmony Memorial Park presents a dilemma. As the "successor" to the 1857 Harmony Cemetery (which included remains from the original 1829 site), National Harmony Memorial Park could be characterized as the latest installment in the organization's history. In the move to Landover, however, based on a number of accounts, none of the grave markers or monuments of the old Harmony Cemetery were transferred. Removed from its original setting and devoid of original architectural elements, National Harmony Memorial Park possesses low-to-no integrity. It does not retain the location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, or feeling of old Harmony. It does retain association with the old cemetery mainly through the designation of the Columbian Harmony sections which border the eastern section of the driveway.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG 72-025

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Harmony Memorial Park
other National Harmony Memorial Park

2. Location

street and number 7051 Sheriff Road not for publication
city, town Landover vicinity
county Prince George's County

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

name National Harmony Memorial Park, Inc./ Stewart Enterprises, Inc.
street and number Salt Dept. P.O. Box 11250 telephone 504.729.1400
city, town New Orleans state LA zip code 70181-1250

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2586 folio 206
city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 66 tax parcel tax ID number 3343704

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: Prince George's County Planning Department, MNCPPC

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. PG: 72-045

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

National Harmony Memorial Park (NHMP) is located on just over 142 acres of open land in suburban Prince George's County. A high fence spans the northern border of the property along Sheriff Road. A chain link fence runs along the eastern border on Belle Haven Drive. The eastern half of the site is relatively flat, while the western half has a steep terrain. [photos 1, 2] The designed landscape features small stands of trees, some individual specimens, and large expanses of grass. An asphalt driveway leads into the property from Sheriff Road. The driveway loops through the memorial park and contains smaller loops that provide access to areas currently in use and those intended for future development. NHMP sections that are named after sections in the old Harmony cemetery are identified by small signs at the front and rear of each section.

In the eastern half of the memorial park, all of the markers are flush bronze plaques. [photo 3] Since the grave markers or monuments apparently were not moved from old Harmony with the remains, all of the markers were probably fabricated post-1959. The markers are generally of a simple design with minimal ornamentation and inscriptions. [photo 4] Some of the plaques are attached to granite bases. In addition to markers for individuals, some markers identify family plots. [photo 5] There are also memorial plaques placed in the Columbian Harmony section to honor three Civil War veterans. [photo 6] In the western section, most of the markers are granite headstones. Also in the western section are a columbarium, a mausoleum, and a number of stone-like concrete walls that identify family "estates" or plots. The NHMP offices and equipment storage are housed in modern buildings located in the south east corner of the site.

A consideration of the level of integrity of National Harmony Memorial Park presents a dilemma. In summary: In 1960, more than 37,000 remains from the cemetery of the Columbian Harmony Society were reinterred in National Harmony. The old cemetery was established as the Columbian Harmony Society, an organization originally founded by a group of free African-Americans in Washington, DC, in 1825. The old cemetery was the final resting place of African-Americans of every social and economic status for more than 125 years. As the "successor" to the 1857 Harmony Cemetery (which included remains from the original 1829 site), National Harmony Memorial Park could be characterized as the latest installment in the organization's history. In the move to Landover, however, based on a number of accounts, none of the grave markers or monuments of the old Harmony Cemetery were transferred. In addition, many of the relocated remains rest in unmarked graves dispersed throughout 30 or more acres of the new memorial park. As of 1998, the cemetery board was no longer required to provide burial space for members of the Columbian Harmony Society. Removed from its original setting and devoid of original architectural elements, National Harmony Memorial Park possesses low-to-no integrity. It does not retain the location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, or feeling of old Harmony. It does retain association with the old cemetery mainly through the designation of the Columbian Harmony sections which border the eastern section of the driveway.

8. Significance

Inventory No. PG 72-045

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

Specific dates	1825-1960	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	Burials moved to present location May-November, 1960		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Columbian Harmony Cemetery was established in Washington, DC, in 1829 by the Columbian Harmony Society, a mutual aid organization founded in 1825 by a group of free African-Americans. The cemetery has moved three times in the Society's history. The first burial grounds, "Harmonion," was a one and one-third-acre site in Washington City located on Rhode Island Avenue near Boundary Street (present day Florida Avenue). After an ordinance forced cemeteries to relocate outside city limits, the Society acquired a larger site in 1857 outside city limits but within the District's corporate boundaries, and all remains were moved to the new "Harmony Cemetery" by 1859. By the end of the nineteenth century, the grounds of Harmony Cemetery extended from Rhode Island Avenue to Brentwood Road. As land in the cemetery available for burials diminished and operational expenses increased, the Society sought to move the cemetery again in the early twentieth century, and purchased a 44.75-acre tract of land in Huntsville area of Prince George's County in 1929. While some interments took place at the new site, the planned relocation did not occur. In 1957, the Society was approached by developer Louis M. Bell with an offer to relocate Columbian Harmony Cemetery to a site in Landover, Prince George's County, in exchange for the Society's real property in the District. After several months of negotiations an agreement was reached, and approximately 37,000 remains from Columbian Harmony Cemetery, representing burials from the early eighteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, were transferred to National Harmony Memorial Park between May and November 1960.

SUMMARY

The suburban setting of the 142-acre National Harmony Memorial Park in Landover, Maryland belies the fact that the cemetery has a unique history with roots in the local African-American community in the early nineteenth century. The Columbian Harmony Society was founded as a mutual aid organization by free African-Americans in Washington, DC, in 1825.¹ Organizations like Columbian Harmony Society, also known as benevolent societies, were established in areas of the South by persons of color as early as the late eighteenth century.² Through membership in these organizations, African-Americans could be assured of financial assistance in times of need and a dignified burial.

The Columbian Harmony Society was established "to aid each other in infirmity, sickness, disease, or accident, and to provide burial for them after death."³ All free African-American males, 21 years or older, were eligible for election to membership in the Society. Upon election to membership, an individual was required to pay an initiation fee of fifteen dollars and monthly dues of twenty-five

¹ The principal source of historic information about the organization and the cemetery is the *History of the Columbian Harmony Society and of Harmony Cemetery, Washington, DC*, 2001 Revised edition, by Paul E. Sluby Sr. Sluby is current president of the Columbian Harmony Society.

² The Brown Fellowship Society in Charleston, South Carolina was founded in 1790.

³ "Revised Constitution of the Columbian Harmony Society, 1846" reproduced in Sluby, *History*, 71. According to Sluby, this is the earliest version that exists and is virtually identical to the 1825 original.

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cents plus three percent on the annual total.⁴ Members were required to visit fellow members who became sick and “to render such attention as may be convenient or agreeable.”⁵ The Society pledged to provide twenty-five dollars toward a member’s burial expenses, fifteen dollars toward burial expenses for the member’s wife, and seven dollars and fifty cents toward the burial expenses of a member’s child. In addition, the Society pledged financial assistance to the widow and orphaned children of a deceased member “so far as the funds of the Society will admit.” The widow of a member could continue the membership of her deceased spouse at half the monthly dues; an adult son could continue the membership of a deceased parent at the regular monthly rate.

As in other African-American communities in the nineteenth century, both urban and rural, the founding of the Columbian Harmony Society met a pressing need among African-American residents. While slave owners were supposed to be responsible for the well being of their slaves and provide a place of interment upon a slave’s demise, freed African-Americans had to provide for their family’s welfare and burial expenses in a time when their economic opportunity was limited. By 1830, free African-Americans comprised more than 15 percent of the total population of Washington City.⁶ While during the early nineteenth century some white cemeteries allowed African-American interments in special sections, Sluby notes that the available space fell short of demand.⁷ The problem intensified as the population of both African-American and white residents increased.

As one of its first actions, the Society allotted \$100 to acquire suitable land for a cemetery, and on April 7, 1828, purchased square 475 in the northernmost area of the city. The parcel covered approximately 1 1/3 acres, and was located on Rhode Island Avenue near its intersection with Boundary Street (now Florida Avenue).⁸ Burials began in the cemetery, named “Harmoneon,” in early 1829.⁹ In 1856, due to a city ordinance, all cemeteries were forced to relocate outside corporate limits.¹⁰ On July 21, 1857, the Society purchased a 17-acre tract within the District but outside corporate limits for \$4,046, and, all of the remains in square 475 were moved to the new site by 1859.¹¹ The new cemetery was named Harmony Cemetery.¹²

As Sluby notes, while the Columbian Harmony Society was originally established as a mutual aid organization, the activities of the Society soon focused on the founding and operation of the cemetery.¹³ A number of factors may have caused this change in focus. First, the demand for dignified burial places for African-Americans continued to grow especially following Emancipation, and the Society sought to fulfill this need. Second, the upkeep of the burial grounds required constant attention and the sale of new lots and grave plots supported maintenance and improvements. Third, as African-American churches were founded, “they slowly took over many of the functions of the (burial) societies and lodges, including burials.”¹⁴ It is reasonable to expect that this occurred in the District, with many new African-American churches assumed the benevolent activities of formerly provided by mutual aid organizations like the Society.

⁴ “Bylaws of the Columbian Harmony Society, 1846,” Sluby, *History*, 74

⁵ *Ibid.*, 73. Subsequent information on membership benefits in this paragraph are from the same source.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 5. Of the total population of 39,534, there were recorded 6,152 free African-Americans; 6, 119 slaves; and 27,563 whites (www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1830a-01.pdf)

⁷ Sluby, *History*, 9

⁸ *Ibid.*, 10-11

⁹ *Ibid.*, 11

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 12

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 13

¹² Susan G. Pearl, *African-American Heritage Survey*, 1996. Upper Marlboro: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 124.

¹³ Sluby, *History*, “Foreward,” no page number

¹⁴ Roberta V. Hughes Wright and Wilbur B. Hughes III, *Lay Down Body: Living History in African-American Cemeteries*, 1996. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 268

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By the 1880s, the Board of Directors of the Society sought additional land for the burials, and an 18-acre parcel adjacent to the existing cemetery was purchased for \$2,100 in summer 1886.¹⁵ The cemetery grounds extended from Rhode Island Avenue to Brentwood Road.

The earliest existing burial records of the Society's cemetery date from 1874, therefore, little information is available on the persons buried in Harmony during the cemetery's initial decades.¹⁶ However, the 1829 deed required that $\frac{1}{4}$ of square 475 should be set aside for colored inhabitants without means, indicating that the cemetery served as a burial ground for free African-Americans across the economic spectrum.¹⁷ Among the African-Americans buried in Harmony cemetery in the nineteenth century are George Bell (or Beall), who co-founded the first school for African-Americans in Washington in 1807; Mary Ann Shadd Cary, a prominent abolitionist, educator, and suffragist; and entrepreneur James Wormley, proprietor of the Wormley Hotel at Fifteenth and Fifth streets, NW.¹⁸ George Brown, "Washington's Colored Sousa," who had led the Capital City Band, was buried in Harmony in 1897.¹⁹ The cemetery was also the scene of elaborate Memorial Day ceremonies at the turn of the century. An article on the 1901 ceremony reported that more than 400 African-American Civil War veterans were buried at Harmony.²⁰ In 1894, the Report of the Secretary of the Columbian Harmony Society estimated that 10,000 individuals had been interred in the cemetery since its founding in 1829.²¹

In the early twentieth century, obituaries of prominent African-Americans to be interred in the cemetery reflect the prominence of these individuals in the local community. On March 30, 1902, *The Washington Post* ran an obituary covering the recent death and eventful life of Sandy Alexander, co-founder and former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Washington, who had been born a slave.²² Also known to be interred in Harmony during the first decades of the twentieth century were Robert Johnson, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church; Robert Terrell, former municipal judge; and William H.H. Hart, a professor of criminal law at Howard University, "one of the co-organizers of the 'Niagra Movement,' out of which grew the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."²³ In 1912, remains from the Plummer family cemetery were relocated to Harmony from its original site in Bladensburg. The Plummers are descendants of Cupid Plummer, a freed African-American who served as a soldier in the American Revolution. His story was recorded by one of his grandsons, Adam Francis Plummer, born a slave, who also documented the times and trials of his own family before and after the Civil War.²⁴

¹⁵ Sluby, *History*, 21

¹⁶ The Columbian Harmony Society has compiled, reproduced, and published the cemetery records from 1874-1959 in seven volumes.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 11

¹⁸ Eugene L. Meyer, "History Chiseled in Stone," *The Washington Post*, October 30, 1998, N.06. News articles on Wormley's funeral appeared in the October 21 and 22, 1884 editions of *The Post*.

¹⁹ *The Washington Post*, January 18, 1897

²⁰ The 1901 Memorial Day services were reported on by *The Washington Post* which noted the exercises took place "opposite a plot of ground in which are buried the remains of 435 African-Americans whose monument states that they rendered the Union conspicuous service ... during the war." (*The Washington Post*, May 31, 1901, 11).

²¹ *Ibid.*, 23

²² "Began Life as Slave. Sandy Alexander, a Noted African-American Divine, Dead." *The Washington Post*, March 30, 1902, 2

²³ *The Washington Post*, September 13, 1917, 17 (Johnson); December 25, 1925, 22 (Terrell); January 10, 1934, page (Hart)

²⁴ The story of the Plummer family is recounted in Bianca P. Floyd, *Records & Recollections: Early Black History in Prince George's County, Maryland*, 1989. Upper Marlboro: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 78-93

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While the nineteenth century closed with disagreements over the leadership of the Society, the Harmony Cemetery enjoyed sound financial health.²⁵ Sales of lots and graves and increased assessment of current owners allowed for significant improvements to the cemetery, including new drains, roads, gutters, and landscaping, construction of a chapel (1899) and lodge (1912). However, after this boon period, the Cemetery fell on hard financial times. The reasons are unclear, since there is a 23-year gap in the financial records of the Society.²⁶ Reconstructing the situation from personal accounts of older Society members, Sluby concluded that while lot and grave sales in the first few decades of the twentieth had increased over previous figures, income was not sufficient to meet the cemetery's expenses.²⁷ The Society sold other land it owned in 1903, 1923, and 1928, but still had difficulty meeting costs at the Rhode Island Avenue/Brentwood Road site and decided to relocate to solve its financial problems. In 1929, the Society purchased 44.75 acres in Prince George's County near Huntsville for \$18,000 cash and obtained a loan for \$10,000 in 1932 to improve the site.²⁸ In the late 1930s, the Society still planned to relocate there, but was also open to selling the Huntsville property. It accepted an offer in 1940 for the land; however, the deed to the land held by the Society was in error and the sale did not take place.

In April 1949, the Society contacted 2300 Harmony lot and grave owners by mail with its plan to move all remains from the current location to the new site in Prince George's County and to sell the property within the district.²⁹ Some owners fought the move and in early 1950 formed a group known as the Lot and Grave Owners Association to bring suit against the Society. While a number of burials did take place at the Huntsville site, the move of the old cemetery did not take place. In 1950 the Society halted sales of single graves and of burials in other lots in the old cemetery due to lack of space.³⁰ The financial crisis only worsened: by early 1952, the cemetery was operating at an average annual loss of \$3,000.³¹ Legal issues with the deed were resolved, in 1953, the Society sold the Huntsville property for \$178,031 to Manor Real Estate Company of Philadelphia.³² Now, the Society began to look for a new relocation site, with the purchase to be paid for by the combined profits from the Huntsville sale and the as yet to be sold Rhode Island Avenue/Brentwood property.³³

The Society received "many offers" for the cemetery property after the cemetery made public its plans to move in 1949; however, these were rejected as unfeasible.³⁴ In 1957, the Society received an offer from Maryland real estate investor Louis N. Bell for the Rhode Island Avenue property. Bell owned the 107.5-acre Forest Lawn Cemetery in Landover to which he was planning to add 65 acres owned by his company, Prince George's Nurseries, to create a new cemetery. He offered to give the Society 25 percent of the stock in the new venture and pay all costs associated with relocating Harmony to the new cemetery in exchange for all of the real property belonging to the Society. The Society rejected the initial offer, but by early 1958 the two sides had reached an agreement. The final document included provisions for the establishment of a perpetual care fund, empowered the Society to name one-half of the membership of the National Harmony Park Board, and designated a 30-acre section of National Harmony Memorial Park as the "Harmony Section," which, with an additional 30 acres, would become property of the Society if the new corporation was dissolved.³⁵

²⁵ In 1884, the Society had a membership of one, John F. Cook Jr. In 1886, Cook elected 11 new members to the Society, many of them members of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery Association, an opposition group of lot and grave owners. Sluby, *History*, 17

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 27. The gap is from April 1914 to August 1937.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 30

²⁸ Sluby, *History*, 30

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 37

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 39

³¹ *Ibid.*, 39

³² *Ibid.* The 89 burials that had taken place there were moved to Ash Memorial Cemetery, Sandy Springs.

³³ *Ibid.*, 40

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 43

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 45. Sluby provides a detailed description of the negotiation process and final agreement.

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A group of lot owners opposed to the move filed suit against the Society in 1959; however, the suit was unsuccessful. That year, Bell was quoted as planning to make the park “a national monument to Negroes.”³⁶

A news article in September 1959 noted that Bell and the District Health Department were working together to send issues of interment to owners of lots and graves.³⁷ The Health Department also developed new regulations about moving cemeteries as a result of the Harmony move.³⁸ With an order from the District Court permitting the mass relocation of bodies, the move from Columbian Harmony Cemetery to National Harmony Memorial Park in Landover began May 23, 1960.³⁹ The re-interments were completed November 17, 1960.⁴⁰ The names of sections in the old cemetery were retained for the “Columbian Harmony” section of the new memorial park and include Adams, Bailey, Bell, Bowen, Brooks, Cook, Costin, Datcher, Fisher, McCoy, Slade, Trustees, and Wormley.⁴¹ Additional names in the new Columbian Harmony section are Gray, Simms, Foote, Lewis, and Cornish. According to Sluby, the remains of individuals whose families responded to a notice about the removal “appear to have been re-interred in sections in the new memorial park bearing the same names as those in old Harmony...remains that could not be identified were reburied in graves [where] with an ‘Unidentified Remains’ bronze plaque...”⁴² The location of these graves may be at the rear of the cemetery in the “Garden of Eternal Rest.”⁴³ None of the memorials or markers in the old Harmony appears to have been preserved. In 1965, the remains from Payne’s Cemetery, a historic African-American cemetery located on Benning Road, NE, were moved to National Harmony Memorial Park.⁴⁴

National Harmony Memorial Park was sold to Stewart Enterprises, Inc., based in New Orleans, in November 1998. The new owners agreed to honor most conditions of the 1958 agreement with the Society; however, Society members are no longer part of the Board of Directors.⁴⁵

National Harmony Memorial Park was formally dedicated on July 1, 1962. The exact location of most of the remains transferred from old Harmony cemetery is unknown. Information on the specific location of the old Harmony burials may be contained in NHMP’s “Day Books,” however, the management was unwilling to have these documents reviewed by the researcher and could not spare staff time to undertake the research.⁴⁶ The cemetery database permits a search by staff for individual grave sites; however, this database or staff assistance was not provided to the researcher.

³⁶ Bell quoted in “Old District Graveyard’s Moving Set,” *The Washington Post*, September 1, 1959, A11. The article gives the address of Harmony Cemetery as 9th Street and Rhode Island Avenue, N.E.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ “Workers Start to Clear 100-Year-Old Cemetery,” *The Washington Post*, May 24, 1960, A3

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Sluby, *History*, 49

⁴¹ Paul E. Sluby Sr., electronic communication, 24 April 2008

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Beverly Greene, National Harmony Memorial Park, telephone interview, 8 May 2008

⁴⁴ Sluby, *History*, 57

⁴⁵ Ibid., 65

⁴⁶ Phyllis Lambert, National Harmony Memorial Park, telephone interview, 16 May 2008

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Chain of Title

Map 66, Lot 1
Plat 1319108

Deed 1338:179 February 14, 1951	Mark J. Hammett to Prince George's Nurseries (105.4 acres, \$10)
Mortgage 1338:180 March 12, 1951	Prince George's Nurseries, Inc. to Mark J. Hammett (105.4 acres, \$25,000) Purchase money. Mortgage payable at \$5,000/year at 4% interest per annum
Deed 1367: 265 April 13, 1951	George R. Hunt, Ralph L. Powers and Penelope L. Powers, wife (29.04 acres, \$10) Lots 1-12, 25-31 inclusive in subdivision known as Huntsville
Deed of Trust WWW1774:403 July 2, 1954	Prince George's Nurseries, Inc., to Thornton W. Owen, William H. Dyer, and Junior F. Crowell (105.4 acres save and except 10 acres, \$60,000)
Merger WWW 2586:206 August 18, 1961	Prince George's Nurseries, Inc., to National Harmony Memorial Park, Inc. (142.86 acres, \$0) Merger between National Harmony Memorial Park, Inc., and Prince George's Nurseries, Inc., May 3, 1961.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Sluby, Paul E. Sr. 2001, Revised Edition. *History of the Columbian Harmony Society and of Harmony Cemetery*, Washington, DC Prince George's County Memorial Library, Hyattsville Branch.
Sluby, Paul E., *Records of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery*, 1874- December 31, 1959. Washington, DC Seven volumes.
Stanton L. Wormley, co-author of volumes one through four. Prince George's County Memorial Library, Hyattsville Branch.
Prince George's County land records
ProQuest Historical Newspapers, *The Washington Post* (1877-1988).
Pearl, Susan G. 1996. *African-American Heritage Survey*. Upper Marlboro: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 142.86

Acreage of historical setting Approximately 60 acres of the park contain the historic burials from the previous sites

Quadrangle name Washington East, D.C.-MD Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of National Harmony Memorial Park are defined as Sheriff Road on the north, Belle Haven Drive on the east, the southern boundary of plat 1319108 on the south, and the segment of driveway that separates the eastern and western section of the cemetery. The cemetery is located on map 66, lot 1. This area contains the sections of the park believed to contain the reinterred remains from old Harmony Cemetery.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Rosemary Faya Prola/Architectural Historian		
organization	The Ottery Group	date	March 9, 2009
street & number	3420 Morningwood Drive	telephone	301.562.1975
city or town	Olney	state	MD 20832

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600