

Holly Hill  
(Near) Friendship,  
Maryland,  
Anne Arundel County

HABS No. MD-284

HABS  
MD.

2-FREN.V

1-

*Church 1857 - 1860*

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Washington, D.C.

*1857-1860*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Delos H. Smith, District Officer  
1707 Eye St. N.W., Washington D.C.

Holly Hill,  
Anne Arundel Co.  
The Friendship

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### Holly Hill

Holly Hill is located at the southernmost tip of Anne Arundel County. The southern boundary is the Calvert County line. The farm consists of 245 acres.

While great holly trees now stand around the house, they were planted in this century to conform to a name of a different origin. The land was surveyed in 1663 as Holland's Hills for Francis Holland. Two years later the site was bought by Richard Harrison, a rich Quaker planter and merchant, who owned upwards of 5,500 acres and was lord of Abington Manor in Calvert County. Richard apparently never lived at Holly Hill; his seat was at Hornisham, on Lyon's Creek a few miles westward. But allegedly about 1667, and demonstrably well before the end of the 17th century, he built (perhaps as an overseer's cottage) a frame one-storey-and-loft house, with riven clapboard exterior sheathing, which forms the east end of the present building. A few years later two more rooms were added, and later still the north and east side walls were replaced with brick.

Richard Harrison's son Samuel inherited Holly Hill in 1717 and made it his residence. Before his death in 1733 he doubled the size of the house by adding a cross-wing, of a rather formal and spacious construction. Holly Hill continued in the Harrison family until 1850; then, after a brief interregnum, it was the home of a branch of the Scrivener family until its purchase in 1936 by Capt. and Mrs. Hugh P. LeClair. They subjected the house to a careful and thorough restoration, and added, at the rear, a kitchen wing and a garage in faithful Tidewater style. The present owners are Brice McAdoo Clagett, a descendant of Richard Harrison, and his wife, the former Virginia Lawrence Parker.

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Holly Hill

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Vic. Friendship

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Of architectural and artistic interest are the massive chimneys, the ogee arches over several windows and the entrances to barrel-vaulted cellars. Inside, the visitor will note the huge fireplaces, original floors and paneling, 17th-century beams, very old windowpanes with scratched autographs of 18th and 19th century owners and guests, glimpses of the original clapboard exterior of the 17th-century wing to be seen in a closet, and the interesting main staircase. One second-storey room has a wall whose paneling is completely marbled, one of the finest examples of this style in the country.

Among the treasures of the house are four early 18th-century paintings. Three are landscapes set into the paneling. The fourth is a surveyor's plat, with full description, of "Samuel Harrison's land near Herring Bay," with, in a corner, a detailed painting of the house and its forecourt as they existed about 1730.

The present owners, who bought Holly Hill in 1968, have planted hundreds of flowering trees and shrubs, converted several acres of tobacco fields into parkland, added a pond, and begun further extensions and landscaping of the grounds and creation of a flower garden.

Northwest of the house is the old Harrison family graveyard. The only extant Harrison tombstone is that of Col. Joseph Galloway Harrison (d. 1844), but several earlier generations of the family are doubtless buried there also.

The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is treated in many historical, architectural and art-history works.

Holly Hill.  
Anne Arundel Co.  
Friendship vicinity.

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#2 South to Friendship. Left on #261 1.8 mi.  
to:

1. **HOLLY HILL.** This mellow brick structure is one of the oldest and most interesting houses in the state. The land was surveyed in 1663 by Francis Holland as "Holland's Hill", of which the present name is an understandable corruption. The earliest portion of the house was built about 1667 by Richard Harrison, a Quaker planter, merchant and shipowner. After several alterations and additions, the house was substantially completed by Richard's son, Samuel. Among the many notable features are the great fireplaces, vaulted cellars, ogee arches, fine early paneling and floors, remnants of the original 17th century clapboard exterior and signatures and initials, some dated, carved into bricks and window panes. Of particular interest are three early 18th century landscape paintings set into the paneling, and a plat of the estate as it was about 1725, including a painting of the house. The marbled paneling upstairs is among the finest in the country. *Holly Hill* was carefully restored by the late Capt. Hugh P. LeClair and Mrs. LeClair. Out of the Harrison family from 1850 to

1968, it is now again owned and occupied by descendants of Richard Harrison, the builder. Near the house are fine boxwood planting and the family graveyard. Gardens and parklands have recently been laid out. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Brice McAdoo Clagett.

Addendum to:  
Holly Hill  
Friendship Road (State Route 261)  
Friendship vicinity  
Anne Arundel County  
Virginia

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM TO:  
HOLLY HILL  
(Rose Valley)  
(Holland's Hills)  
(Richard Harrison House)  
Friendship vicinity  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001