



FRIENDS OF MOUNT HARMON, INC. PRESERVATION NEWS SPRING 2008

* * MOUNT HARMON NEWS * * *



Mount Harmon Manor House, after restoration.

NEW ERA OF PRESERVATION STEWARDSHIP

FOMH celebrates a new era of preservation stewardship at Mount Harmon. With the first signs of spring approaching, we celebrate significant restoration progress at Mount Harmon. After several years of work and careful planning, we are very happy to report that the Manor House and colonial kitchen exterior restoration is now complete.

2006 saw the beginning of long awaited progress, with Phase I: restoration of the Manor House exterior woodwork. After months of scaffolding, careful sanding and prep work, custom millwork restoration (to replace rotted sections of the widow's walk, cornice, and clapboards), the Manor House woodwork emerged looking grand and ready to last well into the future.

2007 ushered in Phase II: masonry restoration of the manor house and colonial kitchen. After more than two and a half centuries, the walls of the historic manor house, which date to 1730, had areas of deteriorated bricks and mortar. The manor house masonry and colonial kitchen were meticulously restored from head to toe. Bricks and mortar were carefully restored and matched to the original.

* * * PRESERVATION NEWS * * *



Manor House front entrance, after restoration.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to recently received grants and contributions from supporters like you, Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc. has been able to restore the exterior of the Manor House and the Colonial Kitchen, and convert the outdated pool into the new special event site at the plantation.

A very special thank you to the Crystal Trust, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Cecil Historical Trust, to our \$1,000.00 and up donors, and to all those who have helped to fund the restoration efforts. All those who donate \$1,000 and up during the capital campaign will be acknowledged by a commemorative plaque to be prominently displayed at the plantation.

Of the \$250,000.00 Capital Campaign goal, just over \$150,000.00 has been raised to date. The FOMH is actively seeking additional funding to restore the Serpentine-Walled Garden and to install an HVAC system in the manor house, to protect its museum quality collection of antiques, among other important preservation projects. Every donation makes a difference and helps to preserve Mount Harmon for you, your friends and family, and for future generations. Thank you donors!

*** * * HISTORY CORNER * * ***
EXCERPTS FROM THE
MOUNT HARMON DIARIES

Of the Mt. Harmon Dairies of Sidney George Fisher, 1837 – 1850, W. Emerson Wilson wrote “he is such a faithful recorder of the times and the people and scenes he lived through.” “Mt. Harmon, over the years, became his obsession. It cast a spell upon him that was to last a lifetime....He was at his best there, loving the soil, the plantings, the rivers, the beauty and the animals.” - From the foreword by W. Emerson Wilson.

October 25 - 27, 1838. “Nature is always beautiful & interesting whether smiling with the verdure of spring, rejoicing in the rich maturity of summer, decked in the many colored & glowing robes of autumn or cold & naked in the rugged desolation of winter.”

“The landscape is in all the glory of autumn & the woods are gorgeous in scarlet, yellow, orange, brown & green....

"Very cloudy with an east wind in the morning, but about 9 o'clock the wind got round to the northwest and some symptoms appeared of clearing up. After breakfast mounted Reynard and galloped to Formans (Rose Hill)".

"Walked thro the woods till after 5 taking care to get home to enjoy a magnificent sunset, which here at this season is worth seeing as the glorious luminary goes down just behind the lake, like a sheet of water, formed by a bend in the river in front of the house".

"The more I see of the country elsewhere the more I admire and appreciate the beauties of this region, and the shores of the Sassafrafs afford situations and views which I never surpassed. Came in to tea and after that to the enjoyment of books, cigars, scribbling, musing, solitude & liberty".

- Sidney George Fisher, 1838



Colonial Kitchen, after restoration.

FOMH IS DEDICATED TO
PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

With a new lease on life, the Manor House stands today as one of the region’s best examples of Georgian architecture of the Tidewater. Whether you enjoy visiting historic homes, or simply appreciate a pristine waterfront setting, plan a visit soon to Mount Harmon – and see one of the region’s historic and scenic treasures.

The Manor House is open for tours, May – October, Thursday – Sunday 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Special interest and school group tours are available by appointment, year around. Group rates are available. For more information call 410-275-8819 or via e-mail at info@mountharmon.org.

Mount Harmon is administered by the Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc., a non profit organization dedicated to its preservation and interpretation, for the public’s education and enjoyment. Become a member in Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc. and help to preserve this historic landmark.

FOMH Membership is annual and benefits include admission to the manor house and grounds in season, invitations to special events, and much more. FOMH members at the \$100 and up levels receive many added benefits. Visit our website at www.mountharmon.org for more info.