

State of Maryland

2007 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
1760	SB796	1181	HB650	Mount Harmon Plantation Education and Discovery Center
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Cecil County Senators				Cecil County Delegation
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Cecil County				\$125,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
Authorizing the creation of a State Debt to serve as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc. for the construction and renovation of an education and discovery center at Mount Harmon Plantation, located in Earleville.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
The grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund. No part of the fund may consist of real property or in kind contributions. The fund may consist of funds expended prior to the effective date of the Act.				
8. Special Provisions				
None.				
9. Contact Name and Title			Contact Phone	Email Address
Paige Howard, Director of Development			443-566-0141	pphoward@dol.net

10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)

Mount Harmon Plantation is one of the few remaining colonial era plantations in the region open to the public, and is a historic and scenic treasure. Mount Harmon features a restored 18th century Manor House, Colonial Kitchen, Serpentine Walled Garden, rare Tobacco Prize House, a 200-acre nature preserve, and a spectacular waterfront setting. Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc. is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Mount Harmon Plantation for the public's education and enjoyment.

Mount Harmon Plantation is the crown jewel of heritage tourism in Maryland's upper Chesapeake region. Friends of Mount Harmon has active and growing visitor, educational, special event, membership, and fund raising programming. Thousands of visitors come to Mount Harmon annually to experience its colonial history and natural beauty. Dozens of special groups and hundreds of school children visit Mount Harmon annually. Mount Harmon is also available for weddings, special events, and corporate functions.

All programming at Mount Harmon importantly serves to educate the public about this unique and in today's modern world, increasingly rare historic and scenic plantation. Our visiting school program provides children from around the region with a window into Maryland's colonial heritage. The school program includes tours of the manor house, colonial demonstrations, crafts and games, and a nature walk to the prize house. Here at Mount Harmon, visitors of all ages learn about life on an 18th century plantation and gain an appreciation of our nation's colonial history.

The Board of Directors of Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc. recently announced a capital campaign to raise \$250,000 in urgently needed funds for capital improvements to the plantation. This capital campaign will enable Mount Harmon Plantation to convert the stables into a Plantation Education & Discovery Center. In short, funds raised from the capital campaign will enable Mount Harmon to shift gears into the 21st century as an unparalleled heritage destination, colonial history and educational center, and scenic special event site, for Cecil County and for the state of Maryland. The capital improvements have been scheduled in phases, to better manage and finance this project.

11. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)

The purpose of the Bond Bill is to fund the creation of the Plantation Education and Discovery Center at Mount Harmon. This new Plantation Education and Discovery Center will significantly upgrade Mount Harmon’s education program and public services. Students and the public will reap the rewards of an enhanced and vibrant heritage destination, one that helps to define the colonial significance of the region and educate the public about Maryland’s rich history and natural beauty.

This project will convert the stables into a Plantation Education and Discovery Center, and will help to make Mount Harmon a living history museum and a more effective center for heritage tourism. The Plantation Education and Discovery Center will be a multi-use space with museum exhibits, that will serve as a classroom and conference hall. The Plantation Education and Discovery Center will feature exhibits of Mount Harmon’s history, from the 16th century to the present. The interpretive exhibits will tell the story of Mount Harmon’s plantation culture and its deep connection to its natural resources.

Each year school children visit Mount Harmon to learn about colonial history and how people lived in the 18th century. The new Plantation Education and Discovery Center will allow Mount Harmon to expand its educational programming and offer unparalleled hands-on educational opportunities in Maryland’s history and natural significance – the two significant features at Mount Harmon. The Plantation Education and Discovery Center will provide much needed educational, classroom and meeting space to accommodate Mount Harmon’s educational and public service goals.

The stables were built in the 1970s and this well built structure will serve as the framework for the newly created Plantation Education and Discovery Center. This project is a capital improvement and construction project, which will convert the stable’s interior into the Plantation Education and Discovery Center. The stable’s interior will be redesigned and remodeled as a plantation museum and education/classroom and conference facility.

This capital improvement project will enable Mount Harmon to become a premiere Heritage Destination in Cecil County and the state. Funding the Plantation Education and Discovery Center will make Mount Harmon a center for colonial education and heritage tourism.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	N/A
Design	\$ 10,000
Construction	\$240,000
Equipment	N/A
Total	\$250,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Source	Amount
Bond Bill - State Grant	\$125,000
Crystal Trust Foundation	\$100,000
Friends of Mount Harmon	\$14,000
Cecil County Historical Trust	\$11,000

D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	2,500		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	2,500		
New GSF			
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion		1970	
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			
<p>Mount Harmon helps to define the history and colonial significance of Cecil County and the region. The success of this Bond Bill Legislation will ensure that Mount Harmon remains the crown jewel of heritage tourism in the region. There is no doubt Mount Harmon has a bright future and with your help, it will continue to be a great resource of our colonial history for future generations.</p>			