

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 25, 2004

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Stamp News Release Number: 04-033

## **HARRITON HOUSE HONORED AS PART OF POSTAL SERVICE'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERIES**

WASHINGTON – To commemorate the 300th anniversary of Harriton House in Bryn Mawr, Pa., the U.S. Postal Service will issue a stamped postal card on June 10, 2004. The house is significant as the residence of prominent Revolutionary-era figure Charles Thomson, who served as Secretary to the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1789. Harriton house is also a remarkable example of a colonial-era Pennsylvania home.



“The Harriton House stamped card pays tribute to one of our nation’s best preserved and most historic homesteads,” said Chairman S. David Fineman, U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, who will dedicate the stamp at a 10:30 a.m. ceremony, at the Harriton House, 500 Harriton Rd. The event is free and open to the public.

Scheduled to join Fineman at the event are Jordan Small, District Manager/Lead Executive, U.S. Postal Service, Philadelphia Metro Performance Cluster, and Dennis Carr, Officer-in-Charge, U.S. Postal Service, Bryn Mawr, Pa., Post Office.

Originally called Bryn Mawr (Welsh for “high hill”), Harriton House – a three-story, T-shaped stone house with ornate features – including flaring eaves and tall brick chimneys – was completed in 1704 for Rowland Ellis, a Welsh Quaker. The house received its present name from Richard Harrison, a Maryland tobacco farmer who purchased the house and nearly 700 acres of surrounding farmland in 1719. The term “Harriton” was probably meant to imitate “Norriton,” the name of nearby land owned by the family of Harrison’s wife, Hannah Norris.

From 1774 until 1824, Harriton House was owned by its most famous resident, Charles Thomson, who married Harrison’s daughter in 1774. Thomson served as Secretary to the Continental Congress and had a reputation among his contemporaries for fairness and integrity. The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence has sometimes been attributed to him, and some early historical sources suggest that Thomson’s final official act was to travel to Mount Vernon in

1789 to inform George Washington that he had been elected President. A design by Thomson is also believed to have inspired the Great Seal of the United States.

Thomson continued to reside at Harriton House after his retirement from public life in 1789 until his death in 1824. An ardent abolitionist, he ended slavery on the Harriton farmstead. He also experimented with agriculture and indulged his love of the classics, penning what is believed to be the first published North American translation of the Bible from Greek into English.

Restoration of Harriton House to its 18th-century appearance began in 1970. Today the house is open to the public and furnished to reflect the period of Charles Thomson's occupancy. The house and the surrounding 16.5-acre grounds are owned by the Township of Lower Merion and administered privately by the Harriton Association.

The stamped card features a circa 1828 watercolor of Harriton House by William L. Breton, who is known for creating several watercolor views of the Philadelphia area during the 1820s and 1830s. The restored structure now includes reconstructed architectural features that were not present when Breton painted the watercolor, such as a small balcony and lower eaves across the front.

The Breton painting of Harriton House is in the collection of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, a library founded in 1814 and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977.

To see the Harriton House stamped card and other images from the 2004 Commemorative Stamp Program, visit the Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop) and click on "Release Schedule" in the Collector's Corner.

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by toll-free phone order at 1 800 STAMP-24. A wide selection of stamps and other philatelic items is also available at the Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop). Beautifully framed prints of original stamp art for delivery straight to the home or office are available at [www.postalartgallery.com](http://www.postalartgallery.com).

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to more than 141 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue:	<i>Harriton House</i>
Item Number:	221600
Denomination & Type of Issue:	23-cent Stamped Card
Format:	Stamped Card
Series:	<i>Historic Preservation</i>
Issue Date & City:	June 10, 2004, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Designer:	Carl T. Herrman, Carlsbad, CA
Engraver:	N/A
Art Director:	Carl T. Herrman, Carlsbad, CA
Typographer:	John Boyd, New York, NY
Modeler:	N/A
Manufacturing Process:	Offset
Printer:	Government Printing Office (GPO)
Printed at:	GPO, Washington, DC
Press Type:	Offset
Print Quantity:	5 million stamped cards
Paper Type:	22-lb. bright white
Adhesive Type:	N/A
Processed at:	GPO, Washington, DC
Colors:	Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black
Card Orientation:	Horizontal
Image Area (w x h):	2.10 x 1.25 in./53.30 x 31.73 mm
Overall Size (w x h):	5.50 x 3.50 in./139.59 x 88.83 mm
Full Pane Size (w x h):	N/A
Plate Size:	N/A
Plate Numbers:	N/A
Marginal Markings:	© 2003 USPS [Recycled logo] recycled
Catalog Item Number(s):	221640 Harriton House Stamped card — \$0.25 221661 First Day Cancellation — \$0.35

## HOW TO ORDER THE FIRST-DAY-OF-ISSUE POSTMARK

Customers have 30 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase stamped postal cards at their local post office, by telephone at 1 800 STAMP-24, and at the Postal Store at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). Address the stamped postal cards (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

HARRITON HOUSE STAMPED POSTAL CARD  
POSTMASTER  
18 N BRYN MAWR AVE  
BRYN MAWR PA 19010-9998

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the stamped postal cards through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark. All orders must be postmarked by July 9, 2004.

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