

the Preservationist

Spring 2007

Former Town Hall Soon to Become Poolesville Museum

Poolesville Museum is a brick Romanesque bank built in 1905 and remodeled several decades later into a stucco Greek Revival town hall. It sits solidly in the middle of the main road through town.

In February 2006, Historic Medley District, Inc. (HMD) debated whether to buy the building to convert into a museum. The organization's mission is the preservation of historic structures and spaces. But a small museum can be either a black hole, sucking in endless amounts of money and volunteer time, or it can be the focal point for community life and for heritage education. HMD was already operating two small museums that worked well, the John Poole House General Store and Seneca Schoolhouse. Both have specific themes – one concentrates on colonial Maryland, the other on the lives of late 19th century children. These still left a few holes in the western county heritage story. One big gap was the Civil War (1861-1865); the other was a cohesive history of farming and other local industry. Additionally, Poolesville is a Target Investment Zone of a State Certified Heritage Area (www.heritagemontgomery.org) and needed a gateway building for heritage tourism.

A year later, with the help of the Kiplinger Foundation, grants awarded by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and others, HMD became owner of the former town hall. Although not due to open until September, it has become a pet project of the community. Renamed the Poolesville Museum, the building's exterior has been repainted by an enthusiastic donor.



The fire escape is to be replaced with an access ramp. The interior will be renovated to resemble an Edwardian-era bank lobby (complete with the original bank vault), the perfect design for a public space where visitors can stop and pick up brochures and driving tours while enjoying exhibits and programs about the Civil War and farm and small town life in the 19th to early 20th centuries. Fundraising events such as the Spring Country Kitchen Tour, September Poolesville Day Art Show, and October Preservation Barn Dance are upcoming.

For progress reports or to participate in the effort, go to www.historicmedley.org.

Poolesville's former town hall, opposite, is now owned and operated by Historic Medley District and on track to reopen in September as the Poolesville Museum.

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Historic Preservation

News and Notes

2007 Preservation Awards

The Montgomery County Preservation Awards honor individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the preservation or restoration of historic resources in the county during the past year. Anyone can nominate an individual or group for an award. Selection of the winners is made by a panel of expert judges. All efforts to preserve our historic buildings and to educate the general public in the value of our local heritage are worthwhile, but sometimes a group or individual deserves special recognition for extraordinary efforts. Deadline for nominations is April 30.

The 2007 Historic Preservation Awards are supported by a grant from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, however, program operation, judges, and selection of the recipients are entirely the responsibility of Montgomery Preservation, Inc. The awards will be presented at a reception in the first week of June. For more information, including nomination forms, contact the 2007 Preservation Awards Chair, Judy Christensen at 301-655-5477 or email: judith.christensen@starpower.net.

Montgomery County Heritage Days June 23 & 24

This year's county-wide celebration of its history will feature live music—everything from string quartets to blues guitar to bluegrass. More than thirty county historic sites will be open with special demonstrations, exhibits and tours, along with the musical entertainment. Explore our agricultural past, learn more about African American culture, take a hike on the Underground Railroad, or see what it was like to live in Montgomery County during the Civil War. For information, visit www.heritagemontgomery.org, call 301-515-0753, or pick up a brochure at your local library.



HPC Chair Julia O'Malley (left), HPC staff Joey Lampl, and architect Caesar Pelli at the 2006 Preservation Awards.

MHT Forms Online

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties has been scanned into electronic files and put on the Internet by the State Archives. All standing structures inventoried on a Historic Site Inventory Form or assigned an inventory number as of 2004 are available, except for those in Baltimore City. The list can be searched by street address, site name, or browsed by County. The electronic inventory can be accessed through the Maryland Historical Trust at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net.

Local Expertise Sought for Uncle Tom's Cabin - The Riley House

MNCPPC announces the first step in restoration and interpretation of Uncle Tom's Cabin/ TheRiley Farm at 11420 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland. A consultant firm has been selected to do a structural and historical documentation of the site and structure. The project will include working with an advisory committee to develop suggestions for public interpretation and presentation as a museum/educational center devoted to better understanding slavery in Maryland.

Citizens with substantial expertise and professional credentials in African American history, Eighteenth Century plantation management and dwellings and other related fields are sought to serve on the advisory committee.

To apply, please send a short letter of interest outlining the specific knowledge and credentials pertinent to this project to: Uncle Tom's Cabin, Historic Preservation Section, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring MD 20901.

Archaeology Summer Workshops

The Montgomery County Department of Parks Archaeology staff will again be offering summer archaeology workshops for both children and adults at the Needwood Mansion in Derwood. To register for any session, go to www.ParkPass.org or call 301-840-5848.

Workshops for Children Ages 10 - 15

Hours: 9 AM – 3 PM; Extended Care 3–5 PM

Fee **Sessions I, II & IV:** \$220, Extended Care \$55; **Session III:** \$175, Extended Care \$44.

Session I June 18–22

Session II July 25–29

Session III July 2–6 (none July 4)

Session IV July 9–13

Workshops for Adults, Ages 16 and up

Hours: 9 AM–3 PM

Fees: 2-day sessions, \$40; 3-day sessions \$60

Session I July 30–31

Session II August 1–3

Session III August 6–7

Session IV August 8–10

the Preservationist

The Preservationist is the official publication of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 301-563-3400. Statements herein do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Commission. Created by the Historic Resources Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 24A, Montgomery County Code) the Commission is responsible for identification, designation, and regulation for purposes of protection, preservation, continued use, and enhancement of sites and structures of historical, archeological, architectural, or cultural value. Commission members are appointed by the Montgomery County Executive and confirmed by the Montgomery County Council.

Commission

Julia O'Malley, Chair Jef Fuller, AIA, Vice Chair

Nuray Anahtar, AIA Lee Burstyn Caroline Alderson David S. Rotenstein

Timothy J. Duffy Thomas C. Jester Warren Fleming

Historic Preservation Coordinator Gwen Wright

Requests to be on the mailing list and content information should be directed to the Commission.

Do I Need a Permit?

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is responsible for protecting more than 3,500 historic properties in the county. Some of these properties are in Historic Districts and some are designated as individual historic sites. For both individual sites and historic district properties, any changes to their exteriors or grounds must be approved by the HPC and performed under a county-issued Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP).

Sometimes property owners are unclear about whether or not work they are considering requires a permit, such as for items that are both inside and outside the structure such as windows, chimneys and foundations; or for things that seem to be just on the surface such as walkways and fences.

As a general rule, a HAWP will be needed for any landscaping such as walks, steps, retaining walls, driveways, fences, decks and porches. A HAWP is also needed for removal of trees over 6 inches in diameter. As to the structure itself, a HAWP will be needed for any changes in materials on the exterior, including windows and window sashes, doors and door frames, shutters, dormers, chimneys; and, of course, any new construction.

Permits are not needed for routine maintenance, repair with same materials, paint color changes, or any interior changes.

When in doubt, you can always call the Historic Preservation office (301-563-3400) to talk to a planner, ask questions or obtain help with your project. The Historic Area Work Permit application form can be downloaded from the Park and Planning website: www.mc-mncppc.org/historic/index.shtm and must be filed at the Department of Permitting Services in Rockville. You should obtain HPC approval of your HAWP application before applying for your county building permit. All HPC permit applications are reviewed within

45 days of receipt and 97 percent of applications are approved. The HPC offers free information and consulting from their staff with the opportunity for a preliminary hearing where only sketches are required. Complete and expensive sets of design and structural drawings required for building permits should not be prepared before your HAWP has been approved.

In reviewing HAWP applications, the Historic Preservation Commission uses the Secretary of Interior Guidelines (available at www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/rhb), Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code (available online at www.amlegal.com/library/md/montgomeryco.shtml), and any local Guidelines developed for a specific Historic District such as Kensington or Takoma Park.

The county offers a 10% tax credit for any exterior work to improve or maintain a historic resource or a house within a historic district, since that home contributes to the district as a whole. Yes, even painting, or a new roof can get you a tax credit. Visit the Historic Preservation home page of the Park and Planning website at www.mc-mncppc.org/historic/index.shtm.

For larger restoration projects you might also be eligible for the State of Maryland's 15% tax credit. To receive this tax credit, projects must be reviewed for eligibility by the Maryland Historic Trust before the work begins. Get more information online at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/taxcr.html.



A Historic Area Work Permit is required for any exterior changes to individual historic properties or structures in a county historic district.

Calendar

April

Exhibit through September: *Mining in Montgomery County*. Operations digging gold, copper, and mica out of the earth. Beall-Dawson House, 111 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville. Tuesdays through Sundays, 12:30-4:30 PM Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org.

Exhibit: Quilts. Montgomery County Historical Society's collection of historic quilts on display at the Waters House, 12535 Milestone Manor Lane, Germantown, MD 20876. Free admission. Wednesdays 2-9PM, Saturdays 10AM-4PM. Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org.

11 & 25 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

May

9 & 23 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

12 Peerless Rockville Homes and Hospitality Tour. 4 – 8 PM Rockville's West End. Call Peerless Rockville, 301-762-0096 for reservations. www.peerlessrockville.org.

14 Rockville Awards for Preservation Excellence. Rockville City Hall, 6-8 PM Peerless Rockville, 301-762-0096. peerlessrockville.org.

21 Homes and Hospitality Tour, Rockville, 4-8PM. A *Progression Through Time* tour of historic homes with gourmet hors d'oeuvres from Rockville's finest restaurants. For ticket information contact Peerless Rockville, 301-762-0096, manager@peerlessrockville.org.

31 & June 1 Maryland's Annual Preservation & Revitalization Conference, Chestertown, Maryland. www.preservationmaryland.org. 410-685-2886, ext. 302.

June

13 & 27 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

23 & 24 Montgomery County Heritage Days. More than 30 county historic sites open with live music and special demonstrations. www.montgomeryheritage.org. 301-515-0753

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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Non-discrimination: The Montgomery County historic preservation program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operation by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director of Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC., 20013-37127.