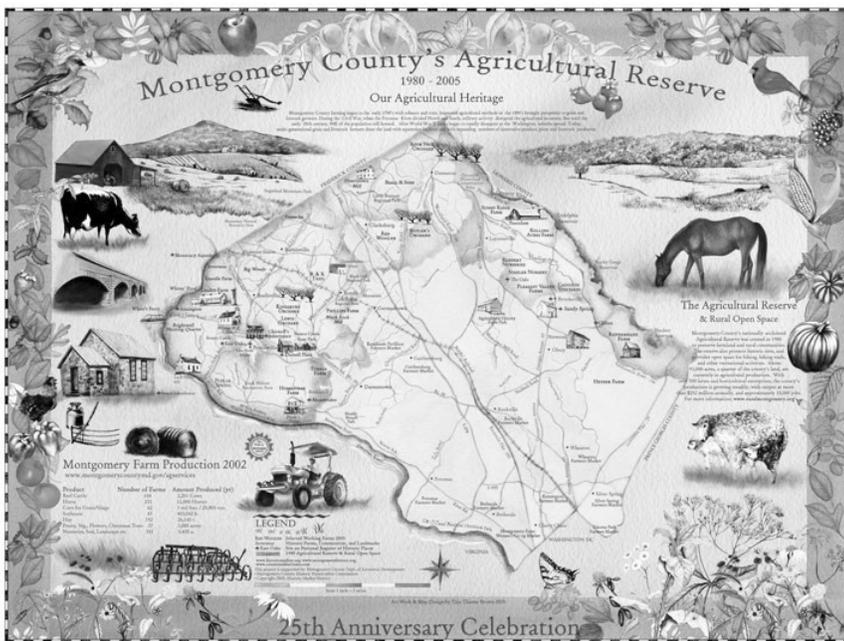


the Preservationist

Fall 2005

Celebrate Rural Montgomery On the 25th Anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve



An 18x24 illustrated map of the Agricultural Reserve, suitable for framing, can be purchased from Historic Medley District, Inc., Montgomery County Historical Society, Sandy Spring Museum, Gaithersburg Community Museum, and Peerless Rockville.

by Melanie Choukas-Bradley

2005 marks the 25th Anniversary of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, a rural crescent of 93,000 acres crowning the northwestern third of the county. This charming Piedmont landscape is bordered by the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers and surrounds several historic communities, including Brookeville, Comus, and Poolesville. In 1980, Montgomery County adopted a functional master plan designed to preserve the historic rural character of the northwestern portion of the County. Titled *Preservation of Agriculture & Rural Open Space*, the plan outlined an innovative farmland preservation program introducing zoning of one house per 25 acres, and a system of transferable development rights (TDRs). Following the adoption of this master plan, Montgomery County began to stanch its farmland losses while becoming a national leader in rural preservation.

Anyone who has savored the view of the Montgomery countryside from the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain in Frederick County, or tasted a fresh peach from a Barnesville orchard, owes thanks to the forward-looking 1980 County Council and the Planning Board chaired by Royce Hanson. Dr. Hanson remains a staunch defender of the County's rural character today, calling Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve "one of the most beautiful landscapes in the East." He currently serves as chair of the Maryland Environmental Trust board of trustees. MET establishes conservation easements for rural land-owners wishing to place stringent protections on their properties.

Throughout 2005, Celebrate Rural Montgomery, a nonprofit consortium of 67 civic groups, farms and government agencies, has called attention to the 25th anniversary of the Ag Reserve (as it's often called) with events throughout the County. On October 8th, a Fall Festival, free to the public, will be held at Butler's Orchard in Germantown from 4 to 7 PM with live music, hayrides, a bonfire and marshmallow roast. Dr. Hanson and other founders and preservers of the Ag Reserve will be honored during the festivities. On November 5th, I will lead a tour of the Ag Reserve for the Montgomery County Historical Society in my capacity as programs and education director for Celebrate Rural Montgomery. Barnesville artist Tina Thieme Brown has created a beautiful illustrated map of the Agricultural Reserve.

Although Montgomery County is best known for its suburbs, the county's 577 farms (the majority of them family-run and many of them multi-generational) and 350 horticultural enterprises contribute \$252 million to the annual economy. "Montgomery is the number one pumpkin grower in Maryland and the number two berry-grower,"

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Historic Preservation News and Notes



White-Carlin Barn in Boyds is featured in the Barns of Montgomery County notecards.

Barns of Montgomery County Note Cards and Poster Available

The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery has produced a poster and note cards in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve. The beautiful photographs of our county's historic barns make lovely note cards

for any occasion. They can be purchased at the John Poole Museum and Store or The Surrey in Poolesville, the Montgomery County Historical Society in Rockville, the Sandy Spring Museum, the Gaithersburg Community Museum, and Peerless Rockville. Posters (24 x 36) are \$15.00. A boxed set of note cards of 12 Barns is \$15.00. Individual cards are \$1.50 each. For more information see www.HeritageMontgomery.org or call 301-515-0753.

Davis Mill Historic Marker Ceremony October 15

The Davis Mill historic marker will be unveiled at 3 pm on October 15 at the site of the mill, the intersection of Davis Mill Road and Huntmaster Road in Goshen. Built in 1783, the mill operated until the early 20th century. Its ruins are still visible. There will be a Girl Scout color guard,

speakers, and refreshments. For information call 301-563-3400.

Celebration of Emancipation of Slaves in Maryland, November 5

The Emancipation of Slaves in Maryland will be celebrated on Saturday, November 5 with a variety of activities at three different sites. From 9 to 10:30 AM there will be an Underground Railroad hike on the 1½ mile Rural Legacy Trail from Woodlawn Manor to Sandy Spring. A shuttle bus will carry people back to Woodlawn. The Sandy Spring Slave Museum and African Art Gallery at 18524 Brooke Road in Sandy Spring will be open from 11 AM to 2 PM with lunch by Ribs-on-the-Run and entertainment. Oakley Cabin, 3610 Brookeville Road in Brookeville, will be open from 12 noon to 4 PM with tours of the Cabin, reenactors and refreshments. A program will be presented at 2 PM at Oakley Cabin. Parking is at Longwood Recreation Center at 19300 Georgia Avenue between Olney and Brookeville and a shuttle bus will carry people to the Cabin. For information call 301-563-3400.

County's Founding Celebrated

Eighteen County historical organizations participated in the celebration of the 229th Birthday of Montgomery County September 11 at the Beall-Dawson House in Rockville. Four of these presented exhibits on projects that they had achieved with the help of Historic Preservation Grants. In addition, two of the videos shown during the day in the video tent were the products of HPC grants. In the HPC tent Commissioners Julia O'Malley, Nuray Anahtar, coordinator Gwen Wright, and archeologist Heather Bouslog presented the work being done by the staff and commissioners to help preserve our county's history.

HPC Participates in Magical Montgomery

The Historic Preservation Commission joined with many other cultural and arts organizations October 1 for a grand street fair in Silver Spring. Commissioners David Rotenstein, Timothy Duffy, coordinator Gwen Wright and planner Tania Tully greeted visitors to the HPC booth and shared information about tax credits, historic rehabilitation, and the importance of preserving our past.

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
Steven Breslin, AIA Lynne B. Watkins Kimberly Prothro Williams
Nuray Anahtar, AIA Lee Burstyn Caroline Alderson David S. Rotenstein
Historic Preservation Coordinator Gwen Wright

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

Historic Renewal in Boyds

With their purchase of the White-Carlin Farm in 2003, Chuck and Carol Bergmann entered the world of preservation and restoration feet first. The two-story Federal stone house had been abandoned for 15 years and the 140-by-45-foot seven-bay bank barn was in great need of repair despite stabilization efforts in 1996.

Located on 25 acres in rural Boyds, the White-Carlin Farm, with its collection of farm buildings, represents the eras of tobacco, wheat and dairy farming in Montgomery County. The c.1793 residence along with the kitchen house, spring house, smoke house, bank barn, and dairy house (now gone) were designated to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* in 1979.

Working with an architect, the Bergmanns presented a preliminary proposal to the Historic Preservation Commission as contract purchasers of the property. An inappropriate 1950s addition containing all the plumbing and mechanicals had been previously removed, so the Bergmanns proposed a compatible rear addition to make the historic house habitable. Once work on the house was well underway, rehabilitation of the bank barn began.

Rehabilitation work on the house was extensive and included replacing non-historic window sashes with custom-made true-divided light 18th century reproduction wood sashes; repairing window frames and trim; replacing the roof; repairing and repointing the chimney; repairing and where necessary replacing fascia, soffit, and rake boards; and repointing the stone walls including removing inappropriate Portland cement.

The barn entailed repairing and replicating the cupolas; repairing and replacing damaged and missing wood siding; repairing, reglazing and where missing, replacing windows; and repairing stone foundation walls.



To help finance the extensive work, the Bergmanns utilized both the State of Maryland Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Tax Credit. The State program allowed the Bergmanns to claim 20% of the eligible interior and exterior costs as a credit to their income taxes and the County's program allowed 10% of eligible exterior costs to be credited towards their property tax, making for a 30% reimbursement on the cost of the exterior work!

Additional information and technical advice on preservation issues can be obtained by visiting our website at: www.mc-mncppc.org/historic, or by calling the Montgomery County Historic Preservation section at 301-563-3400. Information on the State tax credit is available on the Maryland Historical Trust website at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net or by calling the Office of Preservation Services at 410-514-7639.

Restored two-story Federal stone house at White-Carlin farm in Boyds.

Ag Reserve, from page 1

according to Agricultural Services division manager Jeremy Criss. The Ag Reserve provides countless benefits for all who live in the Washington area, including clean air, clean water, stunning rural scenery, recreational opportunities such as horseback riding, hiking, cycling, and canoeing, and fresh fruits and vegetables available at pick-your-own orchards, farm stands and farmers markets. One of the most important benefits of the Ag Reserve is the protection of historic

sites. Many 18th and 19th century homes, barns, and other structures are protected within the Agricultural Reserve along with places associated with the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. For more information about the Agricultural Reserve and the 25th anniversary celebration: www.ruralmontgomery.org.

Melanie Choukas-Bradley is author of Sugarloaf: The Mountain's History, Geology and Natural Lore and other regional natural history books. She is a freelance contributor to the Washington Post.

Calendar

October

Through March 28 Exhibit: *The C & O Canal*, Beall-Dawson House, Rockville. Tuesdays through Sundays, 12:30-4:30 PM. Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org

12 & 26 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

28 & 29 *In Search of Ghosts* at the Beall-Dawson House in Rockville and the Waters House in Germantown. Tours at 7, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45. \$12. Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org

November

2 through December 20 Exhibit: *The Sporting Life* at the Waters House in Germantown Wednesdays 2 PM-9 PM, Saturdays 10am-4pm. Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org

5 Maryland Emancipation Day Celebration at Oakley Cabin. Call 301-563-3400. www.montgomeryparksfnd.org

5 Bus Tour of the Agricultural Reserve. \$50. Call 301-762-1492 for information. www.montgomeryhistory.org

6 Inaugural Walking Tour of Underground Railroad Sites in Rockville. \$15. Peerless Rockville 301-762-0096. peerlessrockville.org

16 HPC Meeting, 7:30 pm., MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

December

6 to 31 The 1815 Beall-Dawson House in Rockville will be decorated for the holiday season in the styles and traditions popular in the early 1900s. Tours end with hot spiced cider and homemade cookies. Tuesday to Sunday from 12-4 PM with the last tour of the day at 3:15 PM. Free to members, \$3 non-members. Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org

4 7th Annual Waters House Tree Lighting from 4:30 to 6 PM. at the historic Waters House, Royal Crown Drive and Milestone Manor Drive in Germantown. Santa on a horse-drawn wagon, hot cider, cookies, carol singing. Call 301-762-1492 for information. montgomeryhistory.org

7 & 21 HPC Meeting, 7:30 pm., MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

10 & 11 Christmas on the Farm: Hayrides and Candlelight Tours of the Bussard Farmhouse at the Agricultural History Farm Park, 18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood; noon to 8 PM. Call 301-670-4661. montgomeryparksfnd.org/fg

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

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