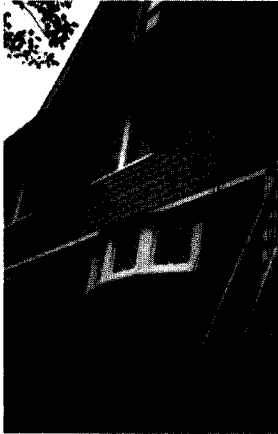


the Preservationist

Winter 2001



Exterior work on this Prospect Street house in the Kensington Historic District qualified for a County property tax credit in 2000.

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Time to Apply for 2001 Tax Credits

If you spent \$1,000 or more on approved work on the exterior of your historic house in the year 2000 you can now apply to receive 10% of that money back as a reduction of your 2001 county property tax bill. This is a great opportunity to defray the cost of your good stewardship and hard work.

There were 78 tax credit applications last year and even more expected for this year. So get your application in as soon as you can, but be sure that the work that the money was spent on qualifies. Most interior work — unless approved as affecting the building structure — and exterior work such as landscaping and driveway paving do not qualify.

Applying for the tax credit is easy. A complete application requires:

- a brief description of the work
- photocopies of receipts and/or canceled checks or other proof of payment
- before (requested) and after (required) photographs
- a signed two-page application.

Insuring Replacement Value for Your Historic Home

Many standard homeowners insurance policies don't provide special coverage for historic homes that would insure special features such as a slate roof, wide pine floors, plastered walls, or 15-foot ceilings. Nor do these policies include "ordinance coverage" for the additional costs involved in the required upgrading of utilities if they would have to be replaced.

Most standard policies are based on standard construction types and requirements and don't guarantee full replacement cost for anything other than that. Special endorsements on your insurance policy will not cover the kind of replacement values that you need unless they are determined by individual appraisal.

A tax credit application form for work paid for in 2000 is included in this issue of *The Preservationist*. Completed forms must be postmarked by April 1, 2001. Additional forms can be obtained, or questions about any aspect of the program answered, by calling the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission at 301-563-3400.

Tax Credits from the State, too!

Another significant tax incentive for revitalization and rehabilitation of historic structures is the Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program administered by the Maryland Historical Trust. This provides Maryland income tax credits equal to 25% of the qualified capital costs expended on exterior and interior work (with a \$5,000 cumulative minimum). The credit may also be used as a mortgage credit. Unlike the county program, state applications should be completed *before* the work begins. Applications forms and more information are available on the Maryland Historical Trust website (www.MarylandHistoricalTrust.net) or by calling the Office of Preservation Services at 410-514-7627.

To find out what companies offer the specialized appraisals and policies for historic homes, contact the Maryland Historical Trust.

Take a Guided Walking Tour of the National Park Seminary

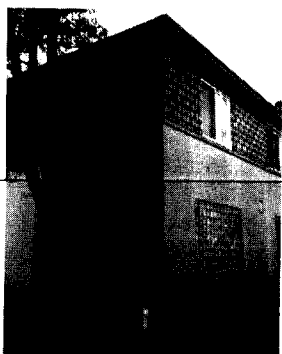
If you've ever wanted a close-up look at the National Park Seminary, then stop by for one of the monthly walking tours being led by members of Save Our Seminary at Forest Glen. Tours are every fourth Saturday, at 1 p.m., March through November. Meet at the parking lot on Linden Lane near Woodstock Ave., Silver Spring. \$5 donations will be accepted.

Call 301-495-9079 for more information or visit www.saveourseminary.org.

Historic Preservation News and Notes



Gwendolyn Briley-Strand
portrays Harriet Tubman
February 27 at Gibson
Grove AME Zion Church.



Polychrome House on
Sutherland Rd., Silver Spring.

Montgomery Preservation, Inc. Invites Nominations for 2001 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 is worthwhile, but sometimes a group or individual deserves special recognition for extraordinary efforts. The 2001 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 on Friday evening, June 1, 2001 at a gala reception at the Brookeville Academy in Brookeville. The event is co-hosted by Montgomery Preservation, Inc. and the Town of Brookeville. The fee is \$10 for members of Montgomery Preservation, Inc., and \$15 for non-members.

For nomination forms, reservations for the reception, or other information contact one of the 2001 Preservations Awards co-chairs, Kathy Lyons: 301-570-5577, kmhlyons@aol.com.; or Regina Hunt: 301-493-5426. The deadline for nominations for the awards is April 30.

Black History Month Series To Be Held in Historic African American Churches

Historic African American churches in Montgomery County will be the setting for a series of programs on Tuesday evenings in February in honor of Black History Month. *Footsteps into the Past* is a series of lectures and performances focusing on the roots of African American Culture in Montgomery County and in Maryland, sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation/Society. All programs are free and open to the public and refreshments will be served. Call 301-563-3400 for more information.

Tues., Feb. 6, 7-9pm – Anthony Cohen – *Underground Railroad–The Long Road To Freedom*. St. Marks Methodist Church, 19510 White Ground Rd., Boyds

Tues., Feb. 13, 7-9pm – Anita Neal Powell – *Tracking the Footprints of African Americans in Montgomery County*. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 608 N. Horners Ln., Lincoln Park, Rockville

Tues., Feb. 20, 7-9pm – Ben Hawley – *The African American soldier in the Civil War*. Sharp Street United Methodist Church, 1310 Sandy Spring Rd., Sandy Spring

Tues., Feb. 27, 7-9pm – Gwen Briley-Strand as *Harriet Tubman*. Gibson Grove AME Zion Church, 7700 Seven Locks Rd., Bethesda

Sat., Feb. 24, 10:30am-12noon – Baba Jamal Koram *The Story Man – African American Folk Tales for Children*. Woodlawn Manor, 16501 Norwood Rd., Sandy Spring.

Polychrome Houses to Be Featured in Symposium

One of the smallest historic districts in the county is made up of five concrete houses in Silver Spring that were built by master-craftsman John Joseph Earley in 1934-35. They are also on the National Register of Historic Places. Earley and his art of concrete building will be the subject of a national symposium at the School of Architecture of the University of Maryland, College Park on March 31, with a bus tour on April 1. The symposium is organized by the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians and one presenter on Earley is local historian Constance Terry. For more information call 703-768-6987.

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

George E. Kousoulas AIA, Chair Steven Spurlock AIA, Vice Chair
Steven Breslin Emily Eig Susan Velasquez Lynne B. Watkins
Douglas A. Harbit Marilyn Boyd DeReggi Nancy Lesser
Historic Preservation Coordinator Gwen Wright

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

George Kousoulas Says Goodbye to Historic Preservation Commission

One of the most striking things about my time on the Historic Preservation Commission is how dramatically our responsibilities have grown since 1991 when I joined the HPC. In the last ten years, six new historic districts have been designated in Montgomery County, including large numbers of properties in Takoma Park, Chevy Chase Village, and Garrett Park. The down side of this increased level of historic designations is that the volume and complexity of the Commission's regulatory work has nearly tripled. The up side is that more historic properties have local protection in Montgomery County than in virtually any other county in the State of Maryland — we are saving more of our heritage than ever before.

Happily, the Commission has met the challenge of an enormously increased workload by streamlining its Historic Area Work Permit review process and increasing the professionalism of its operations. In 1997, the County Council adopted Executive Regulations for the Commission's activities which clearly lay out procedures and operations to which we adhere. The HPC is succeeding in its efforts to provide its constituents with good and efficient service and with clear rules and procedures.

We have had our share of preservation wins and losses on particular properties. The last issue of *The Preservationist* focused on the tremendous victory of saving the Ringland House in Somerset. The lesson of this preservation success story for me is that we must be patient and work cooperatively with even those citizens who are less preservation-minded, such as the previous owners of the Ringland property. It is important to hold firm to preservation ideals, but not cultivate an adversarial posture.

One of the greatest challenges in this regard has been working with communities which are being considered for historic designation to help them see the benefits of such historic preservation protections. Many citizens find the prospect of historic designation frightening; however, the neighborhoods which have had this designation are operating well under the historic preservation laws. In fact, we are now being approached by former "adversaries" who are suggesting additional designations in some communities because they want to protect the

character of their towns. This is heartening and a testament to the work of the Commission.

Looking ahead, there are several larger issues facing historic preservation here in Montgomery County and throughout the country. As a field, it is maturing; we are no longer just saving properties, but are involved in the stewardship of their evolution. Preservation is not a one-time proposition, but a continuous process. We have to understand the effect of the accumulated changes to individual properties and across districts.

Preservation should neither be timid in its embrace of good design nor afraid of construction. Too often preservation is seen as

***“We are saving more
of our heritage
than ever before.”***

reactionary, a rebuttal to the shortcomings of contemporary architecture and a fetish of architectural detail. But, history is always growing and what is new and good today will be the focus of designation tomorrow.

In addition, it is essential for preservation interests to be an integral part of the larger planning and development processes — although preservation's regulatory process shouldn't become the forum and convenient tool for regional and local frustrations that have other sources. While preservation is an important objective of the County, it is not the only one. Often these objectives are complimentary in creating a better community; however, they will sometimes be at odds with each other. We need to recognize the larger goals and keep preservation a viable part of achieving them. To do otherwise will be to consign preservation to gradual irrelevance.

Most importantly, preservationists must set priorities, celebrate our victories, and learn from our defeats. We must hold fast to our ideals and avoid becoming cynical.



Chairperson since 1996 and a Commissioner since April 1991, George Kousoulas has had the longest tenure of anyone who has served on the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission. With his third term on the Commission coming to an end, he will be leaving the legacy of a strong HPC that has evolved to meet new preservation challenges. As Mr. Kousoulas prepared to leave the Commission, we asked him to share with readers his observations on the state of historic preservation in Montgomery County.

Calendar

February

4-April 8 County Dollhouse Exhibit at the Beall-Dawson House, Rockville. Montgomery County Historical Society. Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org

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

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

March

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

24 Montgomery County National History Day Competition for high school and junior high school students. 9am-4pm. Julius West Middle School. Call 301-762-1492.

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

31-April 1 Symposium on John Joseph Early (Polychrome Houses). School of Architecture, University of Maryland. Sponsored by the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Call 703-786-6987.

April

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

21 & 22 Steam and Gas Show, 10am-5pm. Agricultural History Farm Park, 18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood; noon to 8 p.m. Call 301-670-4661. www.montgomeryparkland.org/fg

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

28 Dedication of a kiosk and historic Marker at the Bethesda Avenue entrance to the Capital Crescent Trail. Call 301-563-3400.

29 Arbor Day Celebration, 12 noon-4pm. Agricultural History Farm Park, 18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood; noon-8 p.m. Call 301-670-4661. www.montgomeryparkland.org/fg

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission

8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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