

***EXPEDITED***  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

<b>Address:</b>	900 Jessup Blair Dr., Silver Spring	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	9/11/2019
<b>Resource:</b>	Master Plan Site #36/06 <b>Jessup-Blair House</b>	<b>Report Date:</b>	9/4/2019
<b>Review:</b>	HAWP	<b>Public Notice:</b>	9/28/2019
<b>Case Number:</b>	36/06-19B	<b>Tax Credit:</b>	n/a
<b>Applicant:</b>	M-NCPPC <b>Montgomery Parks</b>	<b>Staff:</b>	Dan Bruechert
<b>Proposal:</b>	Water Fountain Alterations		

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

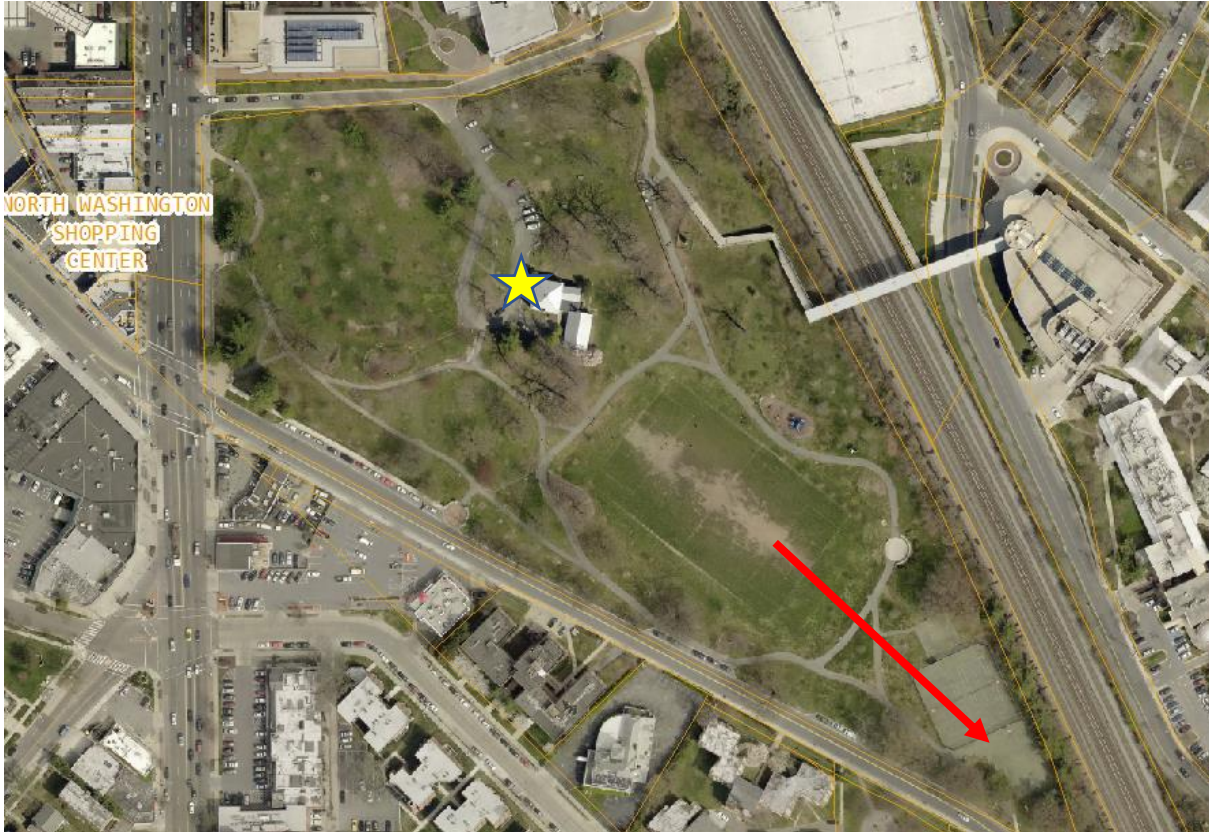
☒ **Approve**  
☐ **Approve with conditions**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Individually Listed Master Plan Site #36/6 *Jessup Blair House*  
**STYLE:** Greek Revival w/ Colonial Revival Additions  
**DATE:** c.1850 w/1930 additions

*From Places from the Past:*

“Originally known as The Moorings, the Blair family built this distinguished residence about 1850 as a summer retreat. The square, two-story frame house incorporates elements of Federal and Greek Revival styling, the design of the house has an unusual level of sophistication for the area. High style features include wooden corner quoins, louvered cupola, and paneled window openings. A pronounced door cornice with wide frieze rests on slender pilasters. For many years, the residence was home to Mary J. Blair, daughter-in-law of Francis Preston Blair, whose Silver Spring estate, located on the opposite side of Georgia Avenue, was namesake to the community. Mrs. Blair maintained a Washington residence in addition to this summer residence. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, brother-in-law of Mary Blair, resided at The Moorings in the 1860s. The property remained in the Blair family until 1937 when Violet Blair Janin, grandchild of Francis Preston Blair, dedicated the property to the State of Maryland as a memorial to her brother, Jessup Blair.”



*Figure 1: The Jessup Blair House identified with a star, the red arrow points to the location of the existing water fountain.*

## **PROPOSAL**

The applicant proposes relocating an existing water fountain, currently adjacent to non-historic park recreation features of Jessup Blair Park, approximately 15' (fifteen feet) to the southwest. The relocated water fountain will be approximately 840' (eight hundred forty feet) from the historic Jessup Blair House. The Environmental Setting for the Master Plan Site is the entire park.

Staff finds that the work will not have an impact on the historic character of the site. Staff recommends approval.

## **APPLICABLE GUIDELINES**

The use of the expedited review form is supported by the second item on the Policy on Use of Expedited Staff Reports for Simple HAWP Cases:

2. Modifications to a property, which do not significantly alter its visual character.

### **Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8**

- (b) The commission shall instruct the director to issue a permit, or issue a permit subject to such conditions as are found to be necessary to insure conformity with the purposes and requirements of this chapter, if it finds that:
  - (1) The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of an historic site or historic resource within an historic district; or
  - (2) The proposal is compatible in character and nature with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural features of the historic site or the historic district in which an historic

resource is located and would not be detrimental thereto or to the achievement of the purposes of this chapter; or

#### **Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation**

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, space and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportions, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Commission **approve** the HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in *Chapter 24A-8(b)(1)* and (2) having found that the proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of the historic resource and is compatible in character with the site, and the purposes of *Chapter 24A*; and with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* #2, #9, and #10,

and with the general condition that the applicant shall present the **3 permit sets of drawings, if applicable, to Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) staff for review and stamping** prior to submission for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) building permits;

and with the general condition that final project design details, not specifically delineated by the Commission, shall be approved by HPC staff or brought back to the Commission as a revised HAWP application at staff's discretion;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall notify the Historic Preservation Staff if they propose to make **any alterations** to the approved plans. Once the work is completed the applicant will contact the staff person assigned to this application at 301-563-3400 or [dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org) to schedule a follow-up site visit.





HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

301/563-3400

APPLICATION FOR  
HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

Contact Email: scott.whipple@montgomeryparks.org Contact Person: SCOTT WHIPPLE  
Daytime Phone No.: 301.670.8063

Tax Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property Owner: MNCPPC Daytime Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 8301 TURKEY THicket DR GAITHERSBURG 20879  
Street Number City Street Zip Code

Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor Registration No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Agent for Owner: SCOTT Whipple Daytime Phone No.: 301.670 8063

LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE

House Number: 700 Street: JESUP BLAIR DR.

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest Cross Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_ Subdivision: \_\_\_\_\_

Liber: \_\_\_\_\_ Folio: \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel: \_\_\_\_\_

PART ONE: TYPE OF PERMIT ACTION AND USE

1A. CHECK ALL APPLICABLE:

- ☐ Construct ☐ Extend ☐ Alter/Renovate  
☐ Move ☐ Install ☐ Wreck/Reuse  
☐ Revision ☐ Repair ☐ Revocable

CHECK ALL APPLICABLE:

- ☐ A/C ☐ Stab ☐ Room Addition ☐ Porch ☐ Deck ☐ Shed  
☐ Solar ☐ Fireplace ☐ Woodburning Stove ☐ Single Family  
☐ Fence/Wall (complete Section 4) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1B. Construction cost estimate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1C. If this is a revision of a previously approved active permit, see Permit # \_\_\_\_\_

PART TWO: COMPLETE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND EXTENSION ADDITIONS

2A. Type of sewage disposal: 01 ☐ WSSC 02 ☐ Septic 03 ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2B. Type of water supply: 01 ☐ WSSC 02 ☐ Well 03 ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

PART THREE: COMPLETE ONLY FOR FENCE/RETAINING WALL

3A. Height \_\_\_\_\_ feet \_\_\_\_\_ inches

3B. Indicate whether the fence or retaining wall is to be constructed on one of the following locations:

- ☐ On party line/property line ☐ Entirely on land of owner ☐ On public right of way/easement

I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the application is correct, and that the construction will comply with plans approved by all agencies listed and I hereby acknowledge and accept this to be a condition for the issuance of this permit.

[Signature] Signature of owner or authorized agent  
Date: 8.21.19

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ For Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission

Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application/Permit No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Description of Project:

Relocate a water fountain about 10-15 feet. The fountain is currently set on the paved surface between the basketball and tennis courts at the far end of the park, some 840 or so feet from the front door of the historic house (the entire park is designated historic). We want to relocate it just off the playing surface, immediately adjacent to the court along an existing paved path. The new location will make it easier for our plumbers to maintain and service the fountain, without disrupting/tearing up the courts' paved surface.

There are currently numerous non-historic park amenities clustered in this remote corner of the park, including the courts, paths, parking and other hardscaping, chain-link fencing, bicycle racks, the water fountain, benches, trash cans, utility cabinets, etc.

#### Adjacent/confronting properties

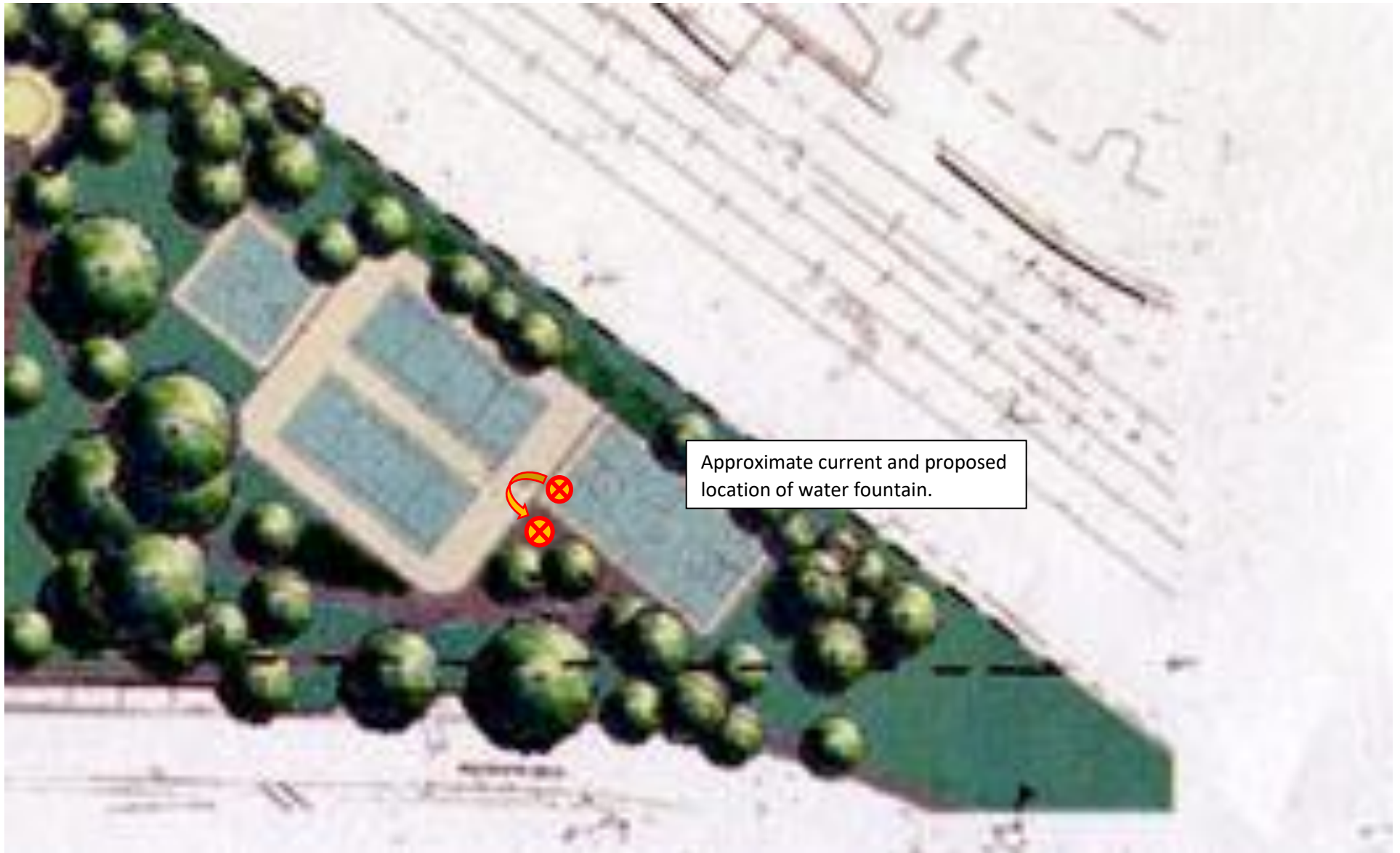
Board of Community College  
Trustees for Montgomery County  
900 Hungerford Drive, #315  
Rockville MD 20850

WMATA  
600 5th St NW  
Washington DC 20001



## Jesup Blair Site Plan





Proposal: Relocate an existing water fountain from the paved surface between the tennis and basketball courts approximately 10-15 feet to a new location along the paved path just adjacent to the playing courts.







