



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

November 13, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**From:** Kacy Rohn, Historic Preservation Specialist  
**Subject:** Thomas H. White House (M: 16/17), 21820 Club Hollow Road, Poolesville  
Removal from the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*

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**Staff Recommendation:** That the HPC recommend that the Planning Board remove the Thomas H. White House, 21820 Club Hollow Road, from the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*.

**Background:** The Thomas H. White House sits on a 389-acre parcel within Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. The entire environmental setting is included in the *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan* (2001) as a Natural Resource designee for park acquisition. The Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Department of Natural Resources designated this area for conservation in the *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan* (1971).

On March 5, 2019, the property owner requested reconsideration of the Thomas H. White House's *Locational Atlas* listing, citing safety concerns with the poor condition of the historic dwelling. Historic Preservation staff visited the property in March and September of 2019, reviewed existing documentation, and researched the history of the property in order to evaluate its historic and architectural significance.

On March 15, 2019, Historic Preservation Supervisor Rebeccah Ballo issued an approval letter for the demolition of a 20<sup>th</sup> century shed and c.1920s-1930s milk house, finding that this work would not constitute a substantial alteration.

**Discussion:**

The resource comprises a mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse with several historic and modern outbuildings. The current dwelling consists of the original two-story, three-bay, frame house, and the collapsed debris from an addition to the west elevation. The house has been heavily altered and is in poor condition with collapsed ceilings, significant overgrowth of vegetation, and termite damage to structural members. The property also includes a 20<sup>th</sup> century garage, shed, milk house, and dairy barn; and a 19<sup>th</sup> century bank barn foundation and double corn crib.

Though the agricultural setting is largely intact, significant alterations to the historic home and its partial collapse have impaired the property's ability to convey its 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural origins. As noted in Section 7 of the Evaluation Report, staff finds that the property does not satisfy the historic, cultural, architectural, or design criteria for designation outlined in §24A-3 of the Montgomery County Ordinance.

**Conclusion:** The Thomas H. White House does not retain sufficient physical integrity to convey its period of construction, and therefore does not meet designation criteria. The Historic Preservation staff recommends the property be removed from the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*.