

# the Preservationist

Winter 2003

## Get Credit For Your Hard Work

## Time to Apply for 2003 Tax Credits



Restoring old windows  
qualifies for tax credits.  
7113 Holly Ave.,  
Takoma Park.

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Montgomery County encourages preservation by offering a tax credit against real property taxes for 10% of the documented expenses for exterior maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, or other preservation work deemed necessary to preserve the integrity of both individual historic sites and properties in historic districts designated on the *Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation*.

All structures within County historic districts, including new and non-contributing buildings, are eligible. Storm window/door installation, invasive insect control, chimney relining, and foundation repair also qualify. The credit can be carried forward five years, but does not transfer to a new owner.

The work at each site must be for projects costing, cumulatively, \$1,000 or more for the previous calendar year, and with payment made in the year for which the tax credit is sought. The credit for qualified work in 2002 will be credited to the tax bill issued in 2003.

Not every historic site may require \$1,000 or more of work in any given year, but a reduction in the real property tax of at least \$100 has encouraged more and more taxpayers to keep track of all qualified work over the course of a year. Very few applications do not qualify. For the most part, disqualified applications are for work below the \$1,000 minimum, for permit fees, for interior work not required to preserve the structure (such as installation of mechanical equipment or interior painting), or for exterior site work such as driveway paving and landscaping.

### A Simple Process

Montgomery County strongly supports historic preservation by encouraging owners of historic properties to take advantage of this opportunity to defray the cost of good stewardship. 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.
- Photographs of the structure before (requested) and after the work (required).
- A **signed** two-page application.

A tax credit application form for work paid for in 2002 is included in this issue of *The Preservationist*. **Completed forms must be postmarked by April 1, 2003.** 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 20% of the qualified capital costs expended on exterior and interior work (with a \$5,000 cumulative minimum). Unlike the county program, the state applications should be completed *before* the work begins. The forms and more information are available on the Maryland Historical Trust Web site ([www.MarylandHistoricalTrust.net](http://www.MarylandHistoricalTrust.net)) or by calling the Office of Preservation Services at 410-514-7627.



# Historic Preservation News and Notes



Recently acquired by M-NCPPC, the Red Door Store at Layhill and Norwood Roads is one of only three original general stores on the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation still in operation.

## Black History Month Programs

This year's Black History Month programs sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning feature African American Authors in Historic Black Schools. All of the programs are free and open to the public and refreshments will be served. You can call 301-258-4044 for directions or more information.

### Friday, February 21, 7-9 PM, Boyds Negro School, 19510 White Ground Road, Boyds

C.R. Gibbs, author. *Black, Copper & Bright: The District of Columbia's Black Civil War Regiment*. This is the first book ever written about the First Regiment, U. S. Colored Troops. The regiment included a number of men from Montgomery County. Mr. C.R. Gibbs is an internationally known historian, journalist and lecturer. He has written numerous articles and video scripts and coauthored *Black Georgetown Remembered* with Dr. Kathleen Lesko and Dr. Valerie Babb.

Built in 1895, the Boyds Negro School was one of the few schools built by Montgomery County for African American students before the 1920s. The present one-room schoolhouse has been restored by the Boyds/Clarksburg Historical Society and is completely furnished to represent a school of that time.

### Friday, February 28, 7-9 PM, Quince Orchard School, 11900 Darnestown Road (Rt. 28), Gaithersburg

Joyce Hammock, author *Recompense*, a crime novel set in Baltimore. Joyce Hammock's first novel in a writing career that began late in life promises to be

rewarding to both herself and her readers. An article about Ms. Hammock and the book appeared in the Baltimore Sun, Thursday, December 26, 2002.

The one-room Quince Orchard school has been lovingly preserved by a descendent of Gary Green, the person who donated the land and was influential in having the first school built there in 1874 next to Pleasant View Church. When that school burned in 1901, the abandoned 1875 school of the white children across the road was moved to the site for use by the black children.

## M-NCPPC Acquires Red Door Store

Through the two-year old Legacy Open Space Program, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has purchased the Red Door Store (Holland Store) along with 79 acres of land surrounding the store at the corner of Norwood and Layhill Roads. The Holland House and property being used for a composting facility are not included in the purchase.

The combination house and store was built in 1860 by James Holland, who was named postmaster of Norwood in 1889 when the Post Office was located in the store. This is one of only three original general stores on the *Master Plan of Historic Preservation* in Montgomery County still in operation. Poole's General Store in Seneca and Cedar Grove Store are the other two.

## Preservation Award Nominees

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 2003 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.

For nomination forms, reception reservations, or other information, contact one of the 2003 Preservations Awards co-chairs, Brooke and Ken Fox, at 301-990-0457, foxbrooke@hotmail.com. The deadline for nominations is March 31. To nominate "endangered historic sites" for the annual list to be presented at the ceremony please contact Wayne Goldstein, 301-942-8079, waynengoldstein@hotmail.com. The awards will be presented at a reception in May. See the next issue of *The Preservationist* for date and place.

## 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

Steven Spurlock AIA, Chair Susan Velasquez, Vice Chair  
Steven Breslin Douglas A. Harbit Lisa P. Kinard Nancy Lesser  
Julia O'Malley Lynne B. Watkins Kimberly Prothro Williams  
Historic Preservation Coordinator Gwen Wright

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

## **Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Fund**

Julius Rosenwald strongly believed in the education of African-American children at a time when they had very limited access to schools. He attempted to rectify this situation in part by establishing the Rosenwald Fund that provided seed money to build schools in southern states. To obtain this money, communities had to provide their own matching funds either in the form of cash or some other means such as labor or materials.

Within a 15-year period spanning 1917 to 1932, the Rosenwald fund supported the construction of 4,977 new schools, 163 shop buildings and 217 teachers' homes in 15 states at a cost of \$28.1 million. African-American communities contributed \$4.7 million. The Rosenwald Fund gave \$4.3 million and the remainder came from local governments. Two hundred and ninety two schools were built in Maryland – 15 in Montgomery County, five of which still exist. One, the Smithville school, is included on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*.

To help raise the necessary matching funds to build these schools, the fund contributed to the hiring of African-American agents. Their job was to promote fund raising activities such as suppers and entertainment events in local communities. They were also involved in the negotiations for building the schools with the white community.

The Rosenwald schools had a standard architectural design, which was intended to be the model for modern rural schools. The Fund's first school was built in Tennessee and consisted of a one-story structure that housed one to six classrooms. Eventually the design was expanded up to 12 rooms. The construction materials and the interior/exterior finishes were standardized. The schools were equipped with the bare essentials. In the winter months, the potbelly stove served as the primary source of heat. The building lots for the schools had to be a minimum of two acres in order to have space for playgrounds and gardens.

Julius Rosenwald was born in 1862 in Springfield, Illinois and lived in a house located across the street from a residence previously occupied by Abraham Lincoln. President



Lincoln had a great influence on Mr. Rosenwald, as did Booker T. Washington, who gained the support of Mr. Rosenwald to initiate a pilot rural school building program in the South. Mr. Rosenwald pursued a career in business and in turn acquired the financial means to address humanitarian needs. Between the years 1910-1925, he served as president of Sears Roebuck & Company followed by becoming the chairman. He married and was the father of five children. In addition to his family and business responsibilities, he was very active in numerous Jewish activities and charities. He died in 1932 leaving an educational legacy in the rural south of America.

Five Montgomery County Rosenwald schools still exist: Norbeck, Poolesville, Sandy Spring, Sugarland and Smithville, which is listed on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. Other Rosenwald schools in the County included: Clopper's, Ken-Gar, Laytonsville, River Road, Rockville, Scotland, Spencerville, Stewartown, Takoma Park and Washington Grove.

*The historic Smithville Rosenwald school is one of five still standing of the 15 Rosenwald schools built in Montgomery County.*

# Calendar

## February

**1-March 2** Exhibit: *Montgomery County Modern: Everyday Life in the 1930s*. Beall-Dawson House, Rockville. Tuesdays through Sundays, 12:30-4:30 PM Call 301-762-1492. [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org)

**1-March 29** Exhibit: *Toys From the Attic: Old Fashioned Toys for All Ages*. Waters House in Germantown. Wednesdays 2PM-7PM, Saturdays 10AM-4PM. Call 301-762-1492. Call 301-762-1492. [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org)

**17** *The Long Road to Freedom*. Anthony Cohen lectures on his Underground Railroad walk to Canada in 1996. 1-2:30 PM at the Rockville Civic Center. Call 240-314-8770 for information and reservations.

**21** *Black Copper and Bright*, lecture and book signing by C.R. Gibbs. 7 to 9 PM at the Boyds Negro School, Boyds. M-NCPPC African American Heritage Program. 301-258-4044.

**26** HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org).

**28** Joyce Hammock, author of *Recompense*, book signing. 7-9 PM at the Quince Orchard historic school. M-NCPPC African American Heritage Program. 301-258-4044.

## March

**12 & 26** HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

**31** Deadline for Montgomery Preservation, Inc. Preservation Award nominations.

## April

**9 & 23** HPC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

**19 & 20** Steam and Gas Show and Civil War Medical Seminar, 10AM-5PM. Agricultural History Farm Park, 18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood; noon to 8 PM. Call 301-670-4661. [www.montgomeryparksfnd.org/fg](http://www.montgomeryparksfnd.org/fg)

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

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