

the Preservationist

Winter 2007

Healthcare for Historic Buildings

Don't wait for a catastrophe. Maintain your historic building and use the **County's Historic Preservation Tax Credit** to help offset the cost. Maintenance is preservation! Keeping up with smaller projects is less expensive and will help avoid more serious problems in the future. Use these tax credit eligible tips to maintain a happy and healthy house.



Exterior repairs and maintenance on the Forest Glen Country Store (right) qualified for a County Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

- Keep your roof weather-tight and functioning properly by repairing the flashing and gutters. Inspect roofing at least once a year, then repair deteriorated and replace missing roofing shingles, slates, or tiles. Also, check for gaps, cracks, or missing flashing. Do not depend upon caulks, sealants or “goop” to do what metal flashing can do better. Extensive shingle failure may require complete re-roofing.

- Repair damaged foundation materials with care and never apply a waterproof coating to an aboveground masonry wall – it can trap moisture underneath, causing further damage to the historic material. Repoint masonry with appropriately formulated mortar.

- To remedy a chronic moisture problem in the basement, such as a visibly wet floor or periodic ponding, install an electric sump pump and consider installing a “French drain” to reduce splash-back onto foundation walls. A ground leader attached to the downspout should channel water at least five feet away from the foundation and the ground next to the building should slope away from the house.

- Broken clapboards are easily repaired, but if necessary can be replaced in-kind on a limited basis with boards that match the material, size, and type of the existing siding – few if any houses require total replacement of all exterior clapboards and any proposal to do this would require HPC approval. With a coat of primer and two topcoats of paint, minor repairs and limited replacements will last as long as the original

clapboards next to it. Inspect for damage once every five years and make spot repairs, as needed. Removal of “later” artificial siding is restoration, not maintenance, but with an approved HAWP may be eligible for the tax credit.

- Eliminate any cracks or open joints in window and door openings and caulk or repoint where needed. You should also repair or re-set weatherstripping and repaint. Installing storm windows reduces condensation and its damaging effects to historic materials. Complete rehabilitation, including wood repairs, replacing glass, and overall re-painting will give windows a new lease on life that can last indefinitely with the help of routine maintenance. Assess conditions every five years, looking for proper and complete operation, broken glass, cracked or missing glazing, paint cracked or peeling to bare wood, loose or open joints, or cracks in the sill. If you have many windows that need work, but have limited time, repair the worst two or three windows each year. Total window replacement is not recommended and would require HPC review.

Web based rehabilitation guidance from the National Park Service is found here: www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/online_ed.htm

To learn more, see “Apply Now” on page 3

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Historic Preservation News and Notes



Three historic sites in County parks currently in need of volunteer docents include the Bussard Farmhouse at the Agricultural History Farm Park.

Volunteer Conference Sells Out!

A sellout crowd attended the Montgomery County Historical Society's First Annual History Volunteer Conference January 27 at the Mansion at Strathmore. The event provided a great opportunity for all current Montgomery County history and archeology volunteers, and residents interested in volunteering, to learn about the County's history and pre-history – including themes such as Women of Maryland, Josiah Henson and Uncle Tom, Interpreting for Young Audiences, and Historical (or hysterical) Myths. Overwhelming interest in the event bodes well for Montgomery County's increasing focus on heritage tourism.

Volunteers Needed at Historic Sites

Do you ever think about what it might be like to go back in time? Did you ever want to feel what it was really like to live in a former century? The closest we can actually come to that experience is to visit a restored house, place of worship, barn or landscape, complete with period furnishings and tools of trade. Docents, or guides, at historic sites in the County's parks receive thorough training and a reading list to explore pertinent topics. Volunteer guides are currently needed at three historic sites in Montgomery County Parks :

- 1910 Bussard Farmhouse at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood
- 1820 Oakley Cabin, home to enslaved people and free Blacks, in Brookeville
- The Underground Railroad Experience Trail in Sandy Spring

Volunteer training involves five to six hours in two weekday or evening sessions. Your commitment is to serve six to seven times during the period from April through October. You may choose to volunteer on weekends or weekdays. Training begins the first week of March, so sign up now! To register contact Susan Soderberg, Education and Outreach Planner at 301-563-3405, susan.soderberg@mncppc-mc.org.

Black History Month Programs

The Montgomery County Department of Planning, Historic Preservation Section sponsored two programs in conjunction with Black History Month.

February 2, in partnership with the Sandy Spring Slave Museum, professor Debra Newman Ham from Morgan State University presented "Expert Witnesses: The NAACP's Brown Case Strategy" focusing on the historians, social psychologists and educators that the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund used in their legal assault on segregation in American schools.

"African American Folk Tales" for all ages was presented by a storyteller at the Waters House in Germantown on February 10.

Montgomery Preservation, Inc. Invites Nominations for 2007 Preservation Awards

The deadline for submitting nominations for 2006 Montgomery County Historic Preservation Awards is March 31, 2007. The Preservation Awards honor individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the preservation or restoration of historic resources in the county, or to educate the general public in the value of our local heritage 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. For more information or to receive a nomination form, contact the 2007 Preservation Awards Chair, Judy Christensen, email: judith.christensen@starpower.net.

To nominate "Endangered Historic Sites" for the annual list to be presented at the ceremony, please contact Wayne Goldstein, 301-942-8079. The deadline for the Endangered Historic Sites nominations is March 31.

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
Nuray Anahtar, AIA Lee Burstyn Caroline Alderson David S. Rotenstein
Timothy J. Duffy Thomas C. Jester Warren Fleming
Historic Preservation Coordinator Gwen Wright

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

Historic Preservation Commission Awards 2007 Grants

The following grants were awarded by the Historic Preservation Commission for 2007:

Damascus Heritage Society – to create and produce a tri-fold color brochure to publicize this new historic preservation organization.

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture – to hire a consultant to create a study for the design and planning of an historical exhibit highlighting the protests and events that led to the desegregation of Glen Echo Park in 1961. The exhibit will be placed in a new facility in the Park: the reconstructed Candy Corner building.

Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County – to create and produce the brochures and signs for the annual Heritage Weekend in which more than 25 heritage organizations in the county participate.

Historic Medley District – for the redesign and expansion of the organization's web site, creating four interlocking web sites, calendar of events, online newsletter, etc. Check out www.historicmedley.org for information.

Historic Takoma – for a feasibility study for the renovation of a historic building in Takoma Park and conversion of the building into offices and housing of collections and archives for the organization.

King Barn Dairy Mooseum – for the collection, transcription and annotation of four oral histories having to do with dairy farming in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County Historical Society – to create and carry out the First Annual History Volunteers Conference to take place at Strathmore Hall in Rockville on Saturday, January 27, 2007. For more information see: www.montgomeryhistory.org.

Montgomery Preservation, Inc. – for the 21st annual Preservation Awards Reception to take place in the spring of 2007.

National Capital Trolley Museum – for the creation of two banner exhibits for the Museum's educational programs: Rock Creek Railway and the Development of Chevy Chase, and Promoting Transit Riding.

Friends of Oakley Cabin and the Underground Railroad – for the design study for a museum exhibit inside Oakley Cabin.

Peerless Rockville -- Rockville's Recent Past phase V— to survey an additional 30 properties and extend the survey outside the Rockville corporate limits, continue in-depth research on select properties, conduct oral history interviews, prepare a "watch list" of endangered buildings, present a scholarly paper on Rockville's religious architecture, prepare exhibits and programs.

Sugarland Ethno-History Project – for the archiving and cataloging of artifacts, photographs and documents in the organization's collection using Past Perfect museum database software.



Making rag dolls at Oakley Cabin, during Montgomery County Heritage Days 2006.

Preservation Tax Credits

Apply Now!

In 2006 did you paint your house, replace the roof, or finally repair that back stoop? These and other projects, such as storm window/door installation, chimney relining, and foundation repair, qualify for the tax credit. As long as you've spent at least \$1,000 over the course of the year (not a hard task) on exterior maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, or other preservation work you could benefit from this County program.

Montgomery County rewards preservation activities with a historic preservation tax credit against real property taxes for 10% of the eligible

documented expenses on all individual historic sites and properties in historic districts (including non-contributing buildings) designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Completed forms must be postmarked by April 1, 2007. Don't miss out.

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, or by visiting our website at: www.mc-mncppc.org/historic/instructions/info_tax.shtm

Calendar

Exhibits

Through February 28 *The Well Trod Stage: Montgomery County's Community Theaters*, at the Waters House, 12535 Milestone Manor Lane, Germantown. Relating the history of our many community theaters, with displays of images, playbills, costumes, props and set pieces from over the years. Free admission. Wednesdays 2pm-9pm, Saturdays 10AM-4PM. Call 301-762-1492. www.montgomeryhistory.org

February

2 *Expert Witnesses: The NAACP's Brown Case Strategy* by Debra Newman Ham. 7:30 pm, Sandy Spring Slave Museum, 18524 Brooke Road, Sandy Spring. Call 301-563-3400 for information.

12 *Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald School Program* by Peter M. Ascoli, grandson of Julius Rosenwald at 3 PM at the Seventh Day Adventist Church (former Rosenwald high school), 8108 54th Avenue, College Park, MD. Call 301-262-3367 for more information.

Also at 7PM at the Highland Park Elementary School, Seat Pleasant, MD. Call 301-262-3367 for more information.

14 & 28 HPC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

March

14 & 28 HPC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

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

April

11 & 25 HPC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. www.mc-mncppc.org

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
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