

**PB 10.14.2010
Agenda Item 8**

**Public Submittals Received by the
Historic Preservation Office Subsequent
to Issuance of Staff Report dated
10.7.2010**

**Re: Updates to the Locational Atlas and
Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation:
Upper Patuxent Area Resources**

RECEIVED

OCT 06 2010

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



David S. Rotenstein, Ph.D. | 10308 Edgewood Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 | (240) 461-7835

6 October 2010

Françoise Carrier, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org

RE: Public Hearing on Updates to Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites and Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Upper Patuxent Area Resources

Dear Ms. Carrier,

Regarding the above-referenced agenda item, I am writing to you to enter into the record a memorandum (Attachment A) I distributed to Historic Preservation staff members and my colleagues on the Historic Preservation Commission shortly before my term as HPC chairman expired earlier this year. I also am submitting copies of blog posts (Attachments B & C) I wrote concerning the HPC's treatment of these properties as they moved through the HPC's public hearings and work sessions.

I hope that the Planning Board rigorously reviews the public record regarding the documentation used to recommend designation of these properties in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. I also would hope that the Planning Board thoroughly question historic preservation staff about properties recommended for removal from the Locational Atlas and from further consideration as Montgomery County historic properties. The most important property in this latter group is the Colonel Lyde Griffith Farm (M:15/27), a property the HPC voted unanimously to recommend not be designated. This property may have architectural and landscape resources that meet the criteria for designation outlined in the staff report submitted to the HPC, only for reasons not discussed by staff at the time. There may be architecturally significant buildings at the property and potentially intact archaeological resources, including a family cemetery. Nearby properties not currently under consideration have intact industrial archaeological features related to nineteenth century mining done at this once much larger farm.

The memorandum and blog posts identify serious shortcomings in the documentation that the HPC relied on to make its recommendations. The HPC hearing and work session transcripts that should be available for your review reflect the many problems with the designation documents and the concerns conveyed by current and former HPC members about them.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. S. Rotenstein', written over a horizontal line.

David S. Rotenstein, Ph.D.
Attachments

HISTORY | HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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18 January 2010

TO: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
Staff and Commissioners

FROM: David S. Rotenstein

SUBJECT: Upper Patuxent Area Master Plan Amendment

This memorandum contains a brief summary of my review of the Staff Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Upper Patuxent Area Resources. I have read the Draft Amendment document, the Staff Report, and the individual Maryland Inventory of Historic Places forms completed for each of the resources. On Saturday 16 January 2010 I visited the Upper Patuxent area and viewed the two historic districts and several of the individual properties recommended for designation in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. I am writing this memorandum to summarize my impressions from the various information sources.

Overall I am disappointed by portions of the Draft Amendment and the supporting documents. The supporting documents, notably the MIHP forms, lack consistency in their reporting style and format and in some cases do not provide reviewers sufficient information to form a reasonable opinion regarding the recommendations for designation (or removal from consideration for designation). Although the Draft Amendment contains location maps derived from the County's GIS layers, there is insufficient information in the maps to understand each property's context. The MIHP forms, intended to provide the raw data from which decision making may occur, lack sufficient detail. Some do not contain contemporary location maps; others, notably the MIHP form prepared for the Rezin Moxley House (15/3), lack sufficient photographic documentation. In general, the thumbnail photographs provided for individual properties within the two proposed historic districts do not provide sufficient detail to adequately evaluate the resources.

I also am concerned with discrepancies in the various documents. For example, according to the Draft Amendment, the proposed Etchison Historic District has 20 properties; the Staff report indicates there are 19; and, the MIHP form identifies 21 properties.

Time does not permit a more comprehensive discussion of all of the resources. Discussed below are resources for which I believe there are significant issues regarding the data presented and the recommendations for designation. I do not believe that there are intact historic districts in Etchison and Clagettsville. Although both represent clusters of old buildings, corporately they lack chronological cohesion and many of the individual properties have such diminished integrity that imposing regulatory review via the Historic Area Work Permit process would create an undue burden on property owners and the County.

The bases for recommending designation are parochial and fail to draw upon other jurisdictions — federal, state, and local — which have tackled the problem of ubiquitous rural unincorporated hamlets. I am particularly concerned about the recommendation for designating five unremarkable modern ranch houses in Etchison by suggesting they are resources that have achieved significance within the past fifty years solely because of their associations with families who have a long history of land tenure in the community. There are ways to recognize local importance and not all of those ways may be achieved by designating properties as historic.

Etchison Historic District (15/29)

This proposed historic district is a rural unincorporated hamlet located in the vicinity of the intersection of Laytonsville Road (SR 108) and Damascus Road (SR 650). The period of significance proposed in the Master Plan Amendment spans 1876 to 1965.¹ According to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form, the proposed Etchison Historic District is significant primarily for its association with two early families, the Etchison and Hawkins families, who built homes and businesses. The substance of the proposed historic district's significance appears to turn on the assertion that,

The district displays an unusual dichotomy between residents who built outmoded residences long after popularity waned [sic.] on a regional scale, reflecting persistence of tradition, and up-to-date styles indicative of a consciousness of current trends in architectural design.²

The Master Plan Amendment recommends designating the proposed Etchison Historic District in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation under four criteria:

- 1a) The property has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
- 1d) The property exemplifies the cultural economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities;
- 2a) The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; and,
- 2d) The property represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

¹ Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Montgomery County Department of Planning. Historic Preservation Section, *Staff Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Upper Patuxent Area Resources*, December 2009, 33.

² Clare Lise Kelly and Rachel Kennedy, *Etchison*, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, November 2009, Section 8.

The recommendations contained in the designation documents do not appear to be consistent with Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. Etchison is a rural unincorporated hamlet with a population of many buildings that individually lack distinction and are historically and architecturally unremarkable. Notably lacking from the staff narratives defending the proposed Etchison Historic District's significance are the many academic and public-sector reports, articles, and monographs that attempt to deal with the difficult issue of evaluating the significance of rural hamlet.³ Etchison does not appear to represent a "significant *and* distinguishable entity" as required to meet Chapter 24A-3. Although distinguishable as a hamlet, the cluster of buildings, structures, and landscape elements does not appear to merit designation.

The designation documents emphasize Etchison's history as a "kinship community" as a key factor in evaluating the property's significance. Although the documents include a fair amount of genealogical and anecdotal data, there is little analysis of the development of kinship networks and land tenure beyond the descriptive data presented in the documents. Staff elected to cite the differences in architectural styles used by different families in Etchison as a major basis for historical significance. This phenomenon is not unique to Montgomery County and there are a number of explanations – none of which were explored in the designation documents – including socioeconomic status.

Designation of the proposed Etchison Historic District would not appear to serve any historic preservation objectives defined under Chapter 24A and would subject individual property owners and the County to costly regulatory compliance requirements that are not commensurate with the resources in the proposed historic district.

Parr's Spring (15/1)

This property historically contained a survey boundary stone marking the intersection of Montgomery, Frederick, Carroll, and Howard Counties. Originally surveyed in the eighteenth century, the site has achieved traditional significance in oral and written histories. Located on private property posted with No Trespassing signs and lacking public access, Parr's Spring consists of two commemorative markers: a concrete marker submerged in the spring/pond at the site and a monument erected in 1976 by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

There is no physical evidence available to suggest that the original boundary markers remain at the site submerged beneath the pond. The designation documents fail to clearly assign a date to the placement of the concrete marker. According to the documents, the property was resurveyed in 1979 or 1980 and the partially submerged marker may have been placed at that time.

³ Jeffrey Winstel, "The Unincorporated Hamlet: A Vanishing Aspect of the Rural Landscape," *CRM* 17, no. 1 (1994): 25-27.

Regardless of the date for the boundary marker, because there is no evidence that the original boundary marker exists, the property's objects (D.A.R. monument and boundary marker) are commemorative. Although Chapter 24A does not specifically deal with the issue of commemorative property historical significance, the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation do contain clear language regarding commemorative properties: "Properties primarily commemorative in nature ... shall not be considered eligible for the National Register."⁴

Alfred Baker House (15/4)

According to the designation documents, this property was the home of Methodist circuit rider Alfred Baker built in the 1850s. The National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation provide amplification for the criteria for designation outlined in Chapter 24A-3. The Amendment ties much of its justification for designation of the Alfred Baker House to his role as a Methodist circuit rider. Although staff has compiled an impressive amount of biographical information regarding Baker, his contributions to local, state, or national history fail to distinguish him as a significant individual as defined by the National Register of Historic Places. "A property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is a member of an identifiable profession, class, or social or ethnic group," wrote the National Park Service in its bulletin on applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. "It must be shown that the person gained importance within his or her profession or group."⁵

Architecturally, the Alfred Baker House The house is clad by aluminum siding and has replacement windows. Additions and alterations and alterations to original block contribute to the diminished integrity of this vernacular residence.

⁴ 36 CFR §60.4, Criteria for Evaluation.

⁵ *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, National Register Bulletin (Washington, D.C.: United States National Park Service, 1997), 15, <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/INDEX.htm>.

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Who was Col. Lyde Griffith & Why Preserve His MoCo Farm?



March 11, 2010

Update on MoCo's Upper Patuxent Historic Designations

historian4hire (David Rotenstein) Cultural Resource Management, Historic Preservation, History historic preservation, landmarking, Montgomery County (Md.) Leave a comment

Last night the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission concluded its latest work session on the Upper Patuxent Master Plan Amendment for Historic Preservation designations begun near the end of my term as HPC chairman. Now that the HPC has reviewed and voted on all of the properties contained in the proposed amendment, the next step in the process is evaluation by the Montgomery County Planning Board. [Correction: This refers to the draft amendment prepared in December 2009. There will be one additional meeting to evaluate properties culled from the previously proposed Etchison and Claggettville HDs.]

From the first time I received the amendment documents last December I was troubled by the quality of the research done by Historic Preservation staff in making the recommendations for designation to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation or in recommending removal from the Locational Atlas and from future consideration for designation. Some of the properties, like the two proposed historic districts — Etchison and Claggettville — appeared to lack cohesion and contained an unsettling number of noncontributing properties, i.e., properties constructed after the proposed districts' period of significance or properties that lacked integrity and/or historical associations. The proposed Claggettville Historic District, for example, had more than 30% (12) of its 37 properties identified as "non-contributing." HP staff failed to disclose prior to the completion of January 2010 staff report that the Claggettville Historic District had been reviewed by the Maryland Historical Trust. The 1991 Determination of Eligibility report, based on documentation prepared by then-M-NCPPC historian Mike Dwyer, noted "The crossroads community of Claggettville has undergone numerous alterations and has many intrusions. It no longer conveys the sense of a 19th and early 20th century village and lacks sufficient cohesiveness to be considered a district." [1] The HPC voted February 24, 2010, to not recommend designation of the Claggettville Historic District.

The December 2009 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form HP staff completed for the proposed Etchison district included language suggesting that the proposed historic districts many postwar ranch houses were significant elements because they had achieved an exceptional level of significance:

The period of significance for the district is from 1876-1965. The residences built at the end of this range, even though not yet attaining 50 years of age, qualify under Criterion Consideration G for exceptional significance, representing continuity of tradition in this kinship community. [2]

Leaving aside the issue that Montgomery County does not designate properties based on the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Listing (and the supplementary

farmstead to chrome extractors since at least 1837 when he executed a contract with Washington Waters to mine and remove the chrome from Griffith's farm. Shortly after executing that contract Griffith began negotiating with the Tysons for them to lease the property for chrome extraction. Waters sued Griffith for breach of contract and the case was litigated, appealed, and reported in 1852. [4] The appeals court case included explicit descriptions of the Griffith property and the rights afforded to lessees to use the farmhouse and other buildings for housing workers, etc.:

The defendant then offered in evidence the following receipt: 1838, January 30th. Received of Washington Waters, \$50 in full, for the entire right to search for, dig, and remove, as he may think proper, chrome ore or mineral from the lot of ground marked out for him, upon the terms specified in a contract between him and myself, dated, October 18th 1837. Also for the use of the house, except the cellar, in said lot, so long as he may wish it, for the use of the hands he may employ in digging for chrome upon said lot. [5]

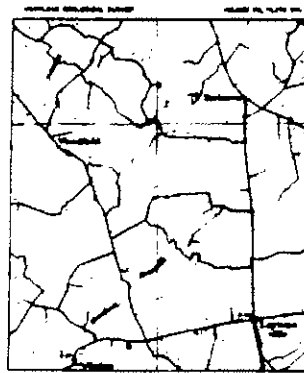
We know that the Tysons did in fact secure the lease to remove chrome from the Griffith property because the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map of Montgomery County shows the "Tyson Chrome Pits" at the location now known as the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm [6] What remains unclear and which should have been explored by staff is how the antebellum chrome extraction site identified in Waters v. Griffith relates to what appears to be a second Griffith chrome extraction site, also mined by lease, located southwest of the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm and documented between the 1890s and 1929 by the Maryland Geological Survey.

According to one writer, in 1928 the "Etchison Chrome Mine" was:

On the farm of Columbus Griffith three-quarters of a mile west of Etchison, chrome ores were mined off and on several times prior to the Civil War and hauled to Woodbine for shipment. There appears to have been three openings ... [7]

Another writer, in 1928, observed, "The mine now consists of a shallow depression surrounded by dumps, somewhat overgrown with briars." [8]

Maps published in various Maryland Geological Survey reports place the mine described on property southwest of Damascus Road yet the historical record reviewed thus far does not identify two distinct mining operations active on the Griffith properties. HP staff should have ensured that the HPC had sufficient information to know which chrome extraction operation was active at what is now known as the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm and HP staff should have been better prepared to address the HPC's questions about the individual elements within the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm



Map of a portion of Montgomery County showing boundary of which
The lines show where the mine was located
and the two pits were used.

As it stands now, the Planning Board will receive a Master Plan amendment fraught with errors with long-term implications for Montgomery County's history and its property owners. I will update this blog post with more details from last night's hearing and a future post will cover the significance of Montgomery County's only chrome extraction site.

NOTES

[1] Elizabeth Harrold, *Claggettsville Historic District (M-15-8)*, Individual Property/District Maryland Historical Trust Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form (Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, September 20, 1991).

[2] Clare Lise Kelly and Rachel Kennedy, *Etchison*, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, November 2009.

[3] Chapter 24A §3(b)(1).

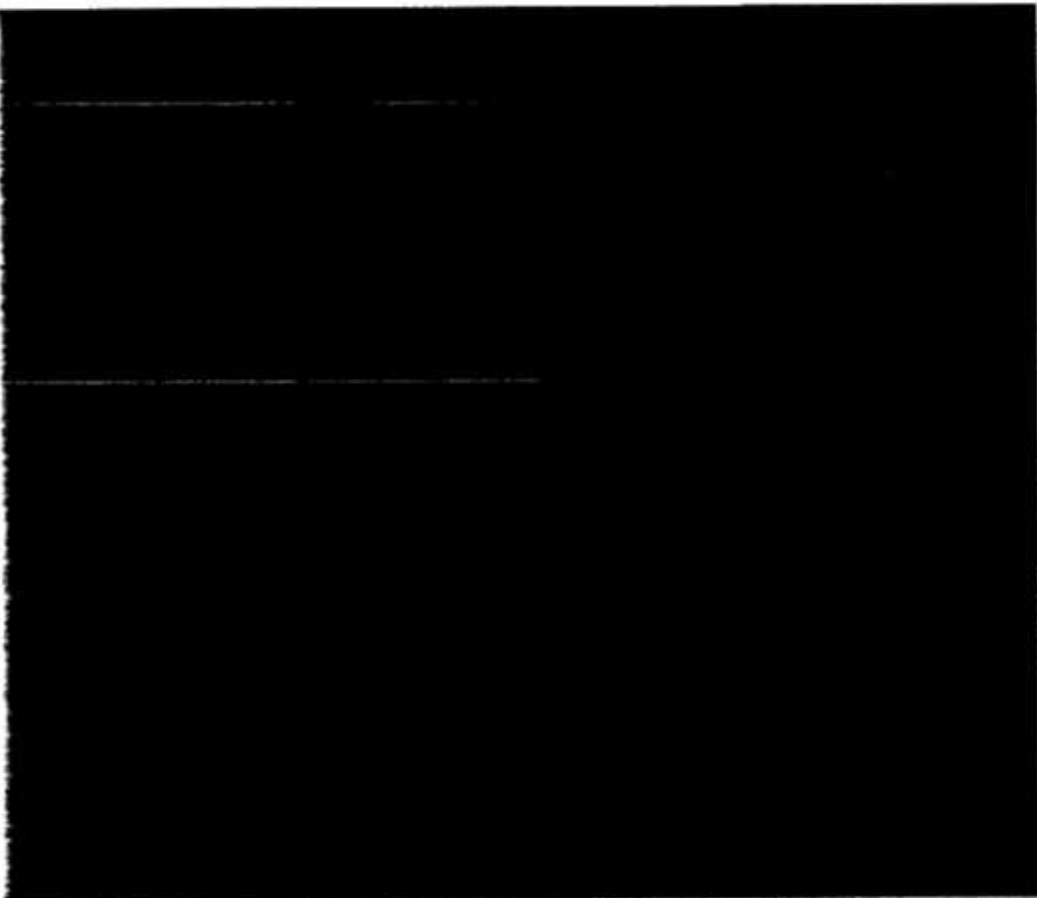
[4] *Washington Waters vs. Lyde Griffith, Executor of Lyde Griffith, deceased*, 2 Maryland Reports 326 (1852).

[5] Ibid.

[6] Simon J Martenet, Martenet & Bond, and Schmidt & Trowe. "Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland" (Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865).

[7] Joseph T. Singewald. "The Chrome Industry in Maryland," *Maryland Geological Survey Reports* 12 (1928): 191.

[8] Earl V. Shannon, "Mineralogy of the Chrome Ore from Etchison, Montgomery Co., MD.," *The American Mineralogist* 11, no. 1 (1926): 16.



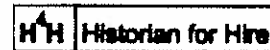
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History and Historic Preservation



◀ Update on MoCo's Upper Patuxent Historic Designations

Mose Allison & The Dream Band ▶



March 18, 2010

Who was Col. Lyde Griffith & Why Preserve His MoCo Farm?

historian4hire (David Rotenstein) Cultural Resource Management, Historic Preservation, History historic preservation, landmarking, Montgomery County (Md.) Leave a comment

The Col. Lyde Griffith Farm (M: 15/27), also known as the Mehrle Warfield Farm, is located at 7301-7307 Damascus Road in Gaithersburg. The current property covers approximately 87.6 acres north of Damascus Road and northwest of Etchison, a rural unincorporated hamlet. [1] The farmstead includes several domestic and agricultural buildings, agricultural fields, and areas in mixed hardwoods. At its March 10, 2010, work session the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to remove the property from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites and to not recommend designation in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

I agree with the HPC's decision and the reasons stated by individual members for voting against designation. The documentation prepared by staff in support of its recommendation of designation based on the property's historical associations and architecture was not defensible nor was it accurate and complete. If the HPC had voted to designate the property, all 87.61 acres and individual buildings would have been subject to regulation by the HPC. This brief summary of the property's history and cultural features derives from research conducted at the Library of Congress. The information presented below underscores the serious questions raised by the HPC regarding the research conducted to support the proposed Upper Patuxent Area Resources Amendment to the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Audio (heavily compressed MP3) from the March 10, 2010, work session where the HPC discussed and voted on this property is available [here](#).

Architecture

According to the [December 2009 MIHP form](#) completed by staff, the surviving historic house is a log and frame structure with a three bay, side gable main block. [2] Staff noted a metal-clad roof, synthetic siding, a rebuilt [brick] chimney, and an attached garage. Most of staff's description of the property derived from a 1987 survey. At the March 2010 work session staff was unable to answer HPC members' questions about the house's integrity nor could staff provide the HPC with a definitive construction date for the building.

Staff wrote in the 2009 MIHP form, "The log and frame house was likely built between 1797, the date of Col [sic] Lyde Griffith's first marriage to Anne Poole Dorsey and 1809. The three bay house is a traditional form that was used throughout the region in this area. [3] Pictures of the home included in the 2009 MIHP form, along with earlier MIHP forms, suggest that the house is a traditional I-house, a common nineteenth and early

twentieth century vernacular house type found throughout the eastern United States. [4] The building shown in the photos has a pair of internal gable-end chimneys, a 1.5-story gable roof side (east) addition and a one-story shed roof addition, and a one-story hip-roof garage attached to the building's rear (north). There are two first-floor windows piercing the west (side) façade. These windows appear to be 1/1 double-hung-sash replacement windows (metal or vinyl). The original three-bay principal façade (south) appears to have a one-story shed roof porch support by wood posts. A photo included in the 2009 MIHP form taken from a distance shows 6/8 DHS windows with wood shutters.

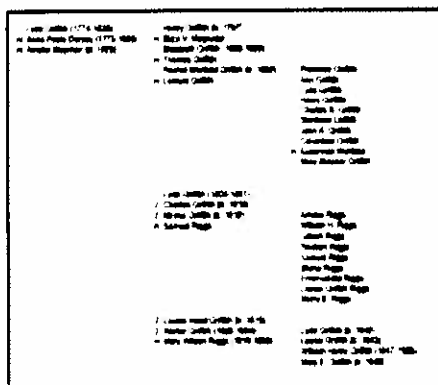
In her report delivered to the HPC at the March 2010 work session planner Sandra Youla described her visit to the property. "We were invited off of the site when we were there so this is the best we can do for you," reported Youla as she delivered her presentation to the HPC. Youla explained that her departure from the property precluded collecting additional information to present to the HPC.

The dairy barn complex was described at length in the 1987 survey by Andrea Rebeck and in the 2009 MIHP form. In addition to the nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings and structures, there are several late twentieth and early twenty-first century buildings located at this property. These include a large new residence and agricultural buildings and structures related to the active dairy farm.

Landscape

Staff recommended an environmental setting that embraces the entire parcel: "The setting is 87.61 acres, being parcel P909. In the event of subdivision, the features to be preserved include the historic dwelling house, the dairy barn, the Griffith family cemetery, and the vista from Damascus Road." [5] Staff's recommendation did not include potential archaeological resources, including the antebellum chrome mines reported to have been operated on Lyde Griffith's farm.

Historical Significance



Lyde Griffith Genealogy Outline

Lyde Griffith (1774-1839) was born into a prominent Maryland family. Engaged in state and local government, large landholders, and military officers in the late Colonial and early Republic periods, the Griffith family's role in the development of Maryland history is documented in several local histories and genealogies [6] Lyde Griffith's father, Samuel, was a Continental Army captain and farmer. Lyde was the only child born to Samuel and his first wife, Rachel Warfield.

Lyde Griffith's first wife, Anne Dorsey, with whom he had three children, died in 1808; he later married Amelia Wayman and they had four children. The Griffith genealogy is complex and warrants further research to be specific Montgomery County farmsteads to individual descendants and affines in the Warfield and Dorsey families.

Despite Historic Preservation Office staff's assertions in earlier documents and testimony that the source of Griffith's title, "Colonel," was unknown, several histories identify Lyde Griffith as a captain who served in the 44th Regiment (Montgomery County) during the War of 1812. [7] The Griffiths held extensive lands and relied on African-American labor to work their farms before and after the Civil War. It is beyond the scope of this document to review all of the Griffith Montgomery County landholdings. By 1824, however, Lyde Griffith had accumulated sufficient capital to acquire nearly 1,200 acres which he named "Griffithsburg" (Griffithsburg) [8]

Chrome Mining

Lyde Griffith's 1,196-acre farm was located in the Upper Patuxent River drainage and was dissected by several unnamed tributaries. The geology of this area includes

serpentine rock formations rich with chrome ore. According to Maryland Geological Survey maps, the serpentine formations near Etchison run from southwest to northeast.^[9] Chrome is a mineral that in the nineteenth century was used in the manufacture of steel, the leather industry, and as a pigment. The American chrome industry was founded in the first quarter of the nineteenth century by Baltimore entrepreneur Isaac Tyson Jr. Tyson's career and contributions to American and Maryland economic history are discussed at length in articles on the chrome industry and in several biographies.^[10]

Lyde Griffith appears to have realized by the mid 1830s that his lands held merchantable quantities of chrome. In October 1837 Griffith executed a contract with Washington Waters allowing Waters to remove chrome from the property. According to the contract, Waters, for \$50, bought the right to "search for, dig, and remove, as he may think proper, chrome ore or mineral from the lot of ground marked out for him." Waters also obtained, "the use of the house, except the cellar, in said lot, so long as he may wish it, for the use of the hands he may employ in digging for chrome."^[11]

Less than a year into the contract with Waters Griffith apparently began negotiating with Tyson to mine chrome from the farm. These negotiations spurred a breach of contract suit involving Waters and Lyde Griffith's heirs. Waters was awarded \$2,056.25 in damages and Griffith's heirs appealed the judgment to the Maryland Court of Appeals. The portion of Griffith's property mined by Waters was a tract formerly owned by Benjamin King and bought by Griffith in 1824.^[12] This appears to be the farm that came to be held by Columbus Griffith and which is now south of Damascus Road.^[13]

Records consulted to date do not indicate if there were chrome pits active within the 89 acres now comprising the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm. The 1865 Martenet and Bond Montgomery County map show "Tyson's Chrome Pits" in the vicinity of the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm.^[14]

The Etchison chrome mines were the only ones active in Montgomery County.^[15] The earliest known description of the place where chrome was removed starting in c. 1837 is in a Johns Hopkins University publication from 1889. "On the land of Columbus Griffith, a mile west of Etchison P. O., and a little east of Great Seneca Creek, is a considerable deposit of chromite ... This was formerly worked for chrome ore," reported A.C. Gill. Gill also described "old dump -heaps which surround the pits."^[16]

In 1926 geologist Earl Shannon wrote in the *Journal of the Mineralogical Society of America*:

An old chromite mine near Etchison in Maryland has been mentioned by Gill as a locality for chrome tourmaline and fuchsite and the present writer has recently described a green margarite from this region. The mine now consists of a shallow depression surrounded by dumps, somewhat overgrown with briars. The only rock exposed in place is a mass of rusty talc in the pit. Beneath this talc outcrop is an old tunnel which still shows a narrow opening but, since no light was available, this was not explored.^[17]

Two years after Shannon's article was published, Joseph Singewald wrote on the Chrome Industry in Maryland in a report published by the Maryland Geological Survey and he described the "Etchison Mine":

On the farm of Columbus Griffith three-quarters of a mile west of Etchison, chrome

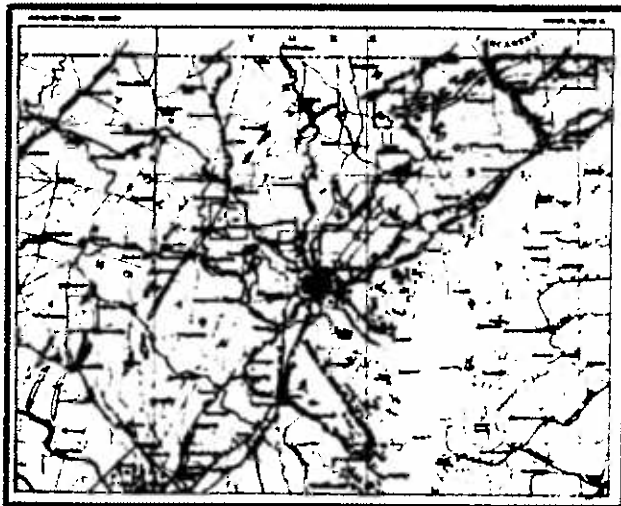


1824 folio cover for the Griffithsburg survey.

ores were mined off and on several times prior to the Civil War and hauled to Woodbine for shipment. There appears to have been three openings. The largest and only accessible one shows no evidence of chrome ore. It consists of a pit 30 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep from which a gallery runs with a steep down grade for 50 feet N. 20° W. and then turns N. 70° E. for 30 feet. The country rock is a soft talcost schist with the direction of N. 70° W. 30° N. A second opening 80 feet distant in the direction N. 35° E., and a third 50 feet N. 75° E. of the second are now completely filled up but small dumps about them contain serpentine in which there are metallic particles but no pieces of massive chromite could be found. The indications are that not much ore was produced here. [Endnote did not copy: Singewald, "The Chrome Industry in Maryland," 191.]

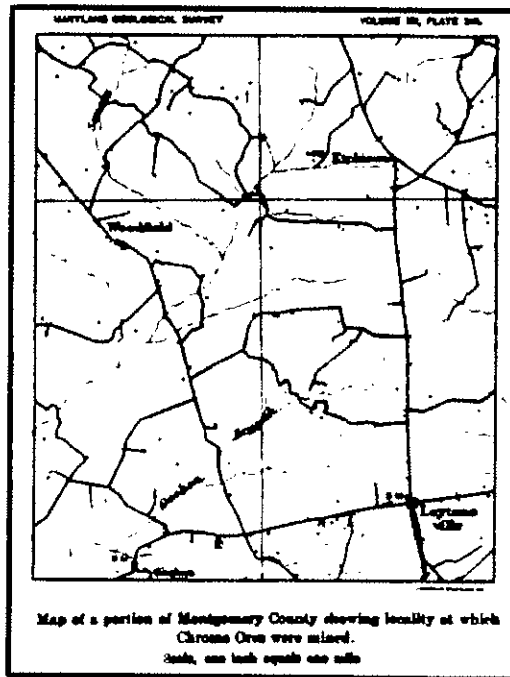


Portion of 1865 Martenet and Bond Map. Tyson Chrome pits are pictured in the center.



Maryland Chrome Mines. Map published by the Maryland Geological Survey in 1928. The 1928 color plate appears to have been derived from maps created as early as 1919 and published in articles on Maryland's chrome industry.

Singewald's article also contained a map precisely locating the Etchison mine :



1928 Maryland Geological Survey Map Showing the Eitchson Chrome Mine Location.

The documents available suggest that the chrome extraction occurred on portions of the former Lyde Griffith property outside of the boundaries of the farmstead now known as the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm. Aerial photographs and United States Geological Survey topographic maps, along with the 1865 Martenet and Bond map, suggest that the wooded portions now within the Col. Lyde Griffith Farm could have been exploited for chrome. These areas require an archaeological evaluation to determine if chrome was extracted in this portion of the former 1,196-acre Griffith property.

Griffith Family Cemetery

Although there appears to be no evidence of the Griffith family cemetery visible, the graves may still be intact and their location delineated using non-destructive archaeological methods (e.g., ground penetrating radar, surface survey, etc.).

Clean-up of Col. Lyde Griffith's tombstone - The block next to the tombstone is RAMP for the ones who grass over the cemetery.



Photograph of Burial Ground - Col. Lyde Griffith, Walter Griffith, et al.
(Some of the stones are under soil - near the surface.)



Griffith Family Cemetery. Photos included in 1973 MIHP form on file with the Maryland Historical Trust

Other Archaeological Components

Historical photographs and earlier MIHP forms show a large Pennsylvania German bank barn at the farm. Demolished after the farm was first surveyed by M-NCPPC, the barn and its associated yard area may contain significant archaeological data that could amplify and expand the surviving historical record. Furthermore, in addition to the surviving I-house, other domestic buildings may have been located within the current property's boundaries. These buildings may have been occupied by Griffith family members or by agricultural and industrial (mine) workers. Privies and other outbuildings, if preserved archaeologically, also could contribute to a more complete understanding of Lyde Griffith and his heirs through the architecture they preferred and the objects made and bought, used, and discarded at the farm through time.



Bank barn, privy, and other buildings and structures photographed by M-NCPPC historian Mike Dwyer in 1973.



Griffithsburg Resurveyed (1870)

NOTES

[1] Clare Lise Kelly and Rachel Kennedy, *Etchison*, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, November 2009.

[2] Clare Lise Kelly and Lorin Fams, *Col Lyde Griffith Farm (M-15/73)*, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, December 2009.

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Henry H Glassie, *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1969); Henry H Glassie, *Vernacular Architecture* (Philadelphia: Material Culture, 2000); Henry H Glassie, *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts*, 1st ed. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975).

[5] Sandra Youla and Clare Lise Kelly, *Staff Report, Staff Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Upper Patuxent Area Resources*, January 13, 2010, 3-4.

[6] Joshua Dorsey Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland: a Genealogical and Biographical Review from Wills, Deeds, and Church Records* (Baltimore: Regional Pub. Co, 1967); Emily Griffith Roberts, *Ancestral Study of Four Families: Roberts, Griffith, Cartwright [and] Simpson* (Terrell? Tex., 1939); Maxwell Jay Dorsey, *The Dorsey Family: Descendants of Edward Darcy-Dorsey of Virginia and Maryland for Five Generations, and Allied Families* (Urbana, Ill.?: M.J. Dorsey, 1947).

[7] 'He was called 'Colonel Griffith' too. We haven't been able to determine why. Perhaps it was a term of respect for this gentleman but we don't know exactly why,' Clare Lise Kelly, *Worksession to consider the Staff Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Upper Patuxent Area Resources* (Silver Spring, Md. 2010). The MIHP form completed by staff states, "Perhaps he served in the War of 1812," Kelly

and Farris, *Col Lyde Griffith Farm (M-15/73)*. William M. Manne, *The British invasion of Maryland, 1812-1815* (Hatboro, Pennsylvania: Tradition Press, 1965), 305; General Society of the War of 1812, *Register of the General Society of the War of 1812* (Washington, 1972), 308.

[8] Staff wrote that Griffith patented the tracts in 1826. Kelly and Farris, *Col Lyde Griffith Farm (M-15/73)*. Although the land patent was filed in 1826, earlier survey documents show that Griffith began laying out his Griffithsburg tracts in late 1824.

[9] Joseph T. Singewald, "The Chrome Industry in Maryland," *Maryland Geological Survey Reports* 12 (1928): 158-191.

[10] Collamer M. Abbott, "Isaac Tyson, Jr.: Pioneer Industrialist," *The Business History Review* 42, no. 1 (Spring 1968): 67-83; William Glenn, "Biographical Notice of James Wood Tyson," *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers* 31 (1902): 118-121; Johns Hopkins University, *Maryland, Its Resources, Industries and Institutions* (Baltimore: The Sun Job Printing Office, 1893); William Glenn, "Chrome in the Southern Appalachian Region," *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers* 25 (1896): 481-499; Joseph T. Singewald, "Maryland Sand Chrome Ore," *Economic Geology* 14, no. 3 (May) (1919): 189-197; Singewald, "The Chrome Industry in Maryland"; United States National Museum, *Report upon the condition and progress of the U.S. National Museum during the year ending June 30 ...* (G.P.O., 1901), 249; "Maryland's Geologic Features: Soldiers Delight Serpentine Barrens, Baltimore County," <http://www.mgs.md.gov/esic/features/soldiers.html>.

[11] *Washington Waters vs. Lyde Griffith, Executor of Lyde Griffith, deceased*, 2 Maryland Reports 326 (1852).

[12] Montgomery County Land Records. Liber X, folio 497. Benjamin King to Lyde Griffith.

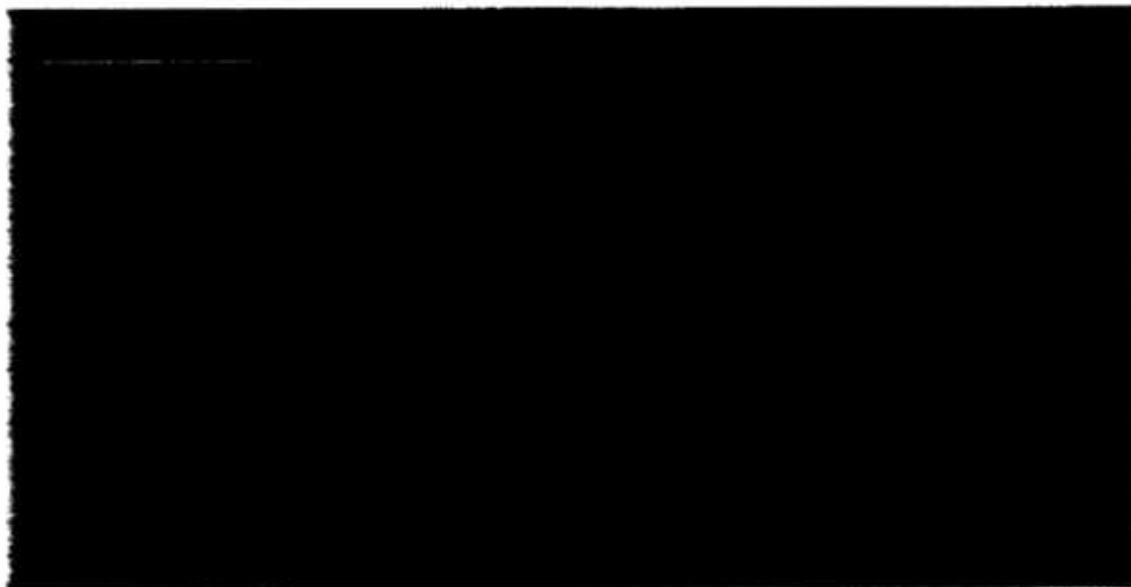
[13] In 1879 Lyde Griffith (descendant) had Griffithsburg resurveyed and the King tracts are clearly shown in the southern portion of the original Griffithsburg survey. "Resurvey on Part of Griffithsburg," May 8, 1879. Maryland State Archives.

[14] Simon J. Martenet, "Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland" (Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865).

[15] Additional research in Isaac Tyson's business papers held at the Maryland Historical Society may change this assertion. According to a contract Tyson executed in 1836, he secured the rights to prospect for and remove chrome from lands owned by a Mary Costigan. Montgomery County Land Records Liber BS 7, folio 522.

[16] A.C. Gill, "Notes on Some Minerals from the Chrome Pits of Montgomery County, Maryland," *Johns Hopkins University Circulars*, September 1879, 100.

[17] Earl V. Shannon, "Mineralogy of the Chrome Ore from Etchison, Montgomery Co., MD.," *The American Mineralogist* 11, no. 1 (1926): 16.





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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

October 6, 2010

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
Montgomery Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Molesworth Burdette Farm: 28600 Ridge Road
Historic Preservation Designation

Dear Ms. Carrier:

On behalf of the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB) please consider our following comments and opposition regarding the Historic Preservation Designation for the Molesworth Burdette Farm, also know of record and Rock Hill Orchard, owned by Richard and Nancy Biggs.

The APAB had provided written testimony as part of the Historic Preservation Commission's Public Hearing held on January 20, 2010; however from reviewing the staff report for the Planning Board's Public hearing, it is not apparent our concerns over the historic preservation designation for this property have been addressed. It is our hope that Planning Board will accept our written comments so that they may be entered into the Public Record so that our concerns about this Historic Preservation can be discussed and adequately vetted.

The APAB is concerned about how this designation may impact the agricultural production capabilities of this farm or any farm where this designation is pursued. Of particular interest is the fact that this farm is encumbered by a Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Easement that was purchased by the State of Maryland and recorded among the land records of Montgomery County is Liber 35268 at Folio 334. This easement contains very specific covenants that include restrictions on the uses, subdivision and off-conveyances of land. More specifically, this easement states "said land shall be preserved solely for agricultural use in accordance with the provisions of the Agriculture Article, Title 2, subtitle 5 of the Annotated Code of Maryland." Furthermore, the easement is clear that its purpose is to "enable the land to remain in agricultural use for the production of food and fiber by preserving and protecting in perpetuity its agricultural

Agricultural Services Division

18410 Muncaster Road • Derwood, Maryland 20855 • 301/590-2823, FAX 301/590-2839

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
October 6, 2010
Page 2.

value, character, use, and utility, and to prevent any use or condition of the land that would impair or interfere with its agricultural value, character, use or utility.”

This easement states further that “Unless written approval is first obtained from the Grantee, no easement or other restriction may be granted to any person or government agency in the land subject to this deed of easement.”

The Historic Preservation Designation on this property represents a condition by which additional restrictions, covenants or other requirements may “impair or interfere with its agricultural value, character, use or utility” of the subject property. Particularly when you factor in what can and cannot be done within the historic footprint which comes with the historic preservation designation. We must also understand that a Historic Preservation Designation is an act of government by which certain restrictions and compliance requirements are placed upon the land whether within the historic footprint or the conditions that must be met for under taking any structural improvements under the work permitting process.

We believe that under Section II, A. 3. of the easement, written approval from the Foundation must be achieved before any Historic Preservation Designation on this property can be approved by the County. This process starts with a request for consideration before the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB). The APAB is required by law to advise the MALPF as to cause and affect of the Historic Preservation Designation with regard to the agricultural easement which currently exists on the farm property.

The designation of Historic Preservation on working farm properties will place additional restrictions upon the land that may increase costs to farmers, threaten their economic viability and limit the use of their properties through the regulatory Historic Area Work permitting process.

Please do not construe our comments as being negative to the need for Historic Preservation Designations. There are times when such designations are necessary. For instance the Historic Preservation Designation is one tool government can use to ensure that historic structures on properties are not neglected and allowed to degrade to the point where such structures are lost. The nomination of properties that have been abandoned or neglected represents the appropriate use of the Historic Preservation Designation.

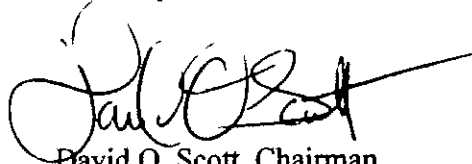
This however, is not the case with the Rock Hill Orchard property. The Biggs family has demonstrated their dedication and commitment not only to the structures on their property, but to their family's historical heritage as well. One must ask several questions, why is the designation needed at this time? Have the Biggs exhibited a reluctance or inability to protect this important historical structure? Given the nature of their agricultural enterprise and their well documented contribution to farmland preservation, every opportunity should be provided which allows this agricultural operation to continue to prosper. We greatly desire the Rock Hill Orchard legacy to continue and the County must maintain maximum flexibility in order for this hope to be realized.

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
October 6, 2010
Page 3.

Unfortunately, the Historic Preservation Designation reduces flexibility that is needed for agricultural viability. Therefore, we believe the Molesworth Burdette Farm, also known as Rock Hill Orchard, located on 28600 Ridge Road should be removed from the list of properties under consideration for Historic Preservation until such a time that both the APAB and the MALPF Board of Trustees has determined the impact of the proposed Historic Preservation Designation would have on the property encumbered by the easement and written approval from the Foundation is received.

On behalf of the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board we thank you in advance for considering our formal recommendations for the Molesworth Burdette Farm (Rock Hill Orchard property) and our request to remove this property from formal Historic Preservation Designation at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O. Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David O. Scott, Chairman
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

cc: Montgomery County Council
MALPF Board of Directors
APAB Committee
AAC Committee
Rock Hill Orchard

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OCT 11 2010

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

24200 Laytonsville Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20882

October 9, 2010

Via e-mail to: mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org

Francoise Carrier, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: October 14, 2010, Public Hearing
Updates to *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites* and
Amendment to Master Plan for Historic Preservation:
Upper Patuxent Area Resources
Etchison Historic District

Dear Chair Carrier:

As the owners of the property at 24200 Laytonsville Road,¹ we write this letter to urge the Montgomery County Planning Board [hereinafter, "Planning Board"] to *not* designate the above-referenced district on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* [hereinafter, "*Master Plan*"] in the above-referenced *Amendment to Master Plan for Historic Preservation* [hereinafter, "*Amendment*"], as the proposed district does not meet the criteria for designation.

The proposed district does not meet the requirements in the Montgomery County Code, Section 24A, for designation on the *Master Plan*. In particular, the district does not meet the requirement in Section 24A-2 that a "historic district" be composed of a "group of historic resources which are significant as a cohesive unit and contribute to the historical, architectural, archeological or cultural values within the Maryland-Washington Regional District" According to the classifications in the proposed *Amendment*, the seven "historic resources" represent six different building styles, including a lone residential bungalow. While the oldest "historic resource" was built in the mid-1800s, at least one "historic resource" was significantly modified as recently as 1947-48. The district's lack of cohesiveness was one reason why, during an earlier examination, the "relatively weak district" was considered only a "marginal resource" (the lowest rating an existing resource could be given). In fact, "the number of resources [was] so small" that "the notion of making it a district could be reconsidered" (HPC has since reduced the number of "resources" from 21 to seven).

Unlike a century ago, modern-day Etchison does not have a sense of community. Today, Etchison's residents consist almost exclusively of individuals who have no connection to families that lived there during its historic significance. Its current residents are not related to each other; Etchison no longer is a kinship community. Etchison is, however, the location of various commercial businesses. In fact, although originally built for residential uses, three of the proposed district's seven "historic resources" most recently have been used for commercial purposes. For instance, the intersection of Routes 108 and 850 is dominated by a large landscaping business. That operation currently occupies multiple properties, with numerous large industrial buildings, from which truck and trailer traffic is heavy, and was a recent occupant of the district's now-vacant Vernacular Gothic Revival and now-vacant Victorian Vernacular.

¹ Initially included in the proposed district by Historic Preservation Commission ("HPC") staff, 24200 Laytonsville Road subsequently was removed from the district by HPC.

October 9, 2010
Chair Carrier
Page 2 of 2

The proposed district's other businesses serve mainly those passing through Etchison, rather than its residents, and include a motorcycle shop and a small store. That store, although operated at the location of the original Nettie Hawkins/Etchison Store, has long since stopped being a "general store," patronized by the local community, and now is merely a small convenience store for passing motorists. In addition, the district's residential-built and now-vacant Vernacular most recently was occupied by a secondhand shop.

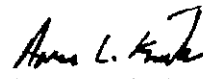
Further, we agree with David Rotenstein's January 18, 2010, memorandum to HPC, urging HPC to *not* designate the proposed district on the *Master Plan* in the proposed *Amendment*. In particular, he noted that:

The recommendations contained in the designation documents [do] not appear to be consistent with Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. Etchison is a rural unincorporated hamlet with a population of many buildings that individually lack distinction and are historically and architecturally unremarkable. Notably lacking from the staff narratives defending the proposed Etchison Historic District's significance are the many academic and public-sector reports, articles, and monographs that attempt to deal with the difficult issue of evaluating the significance of rural hamlet.[footnote omitted] Etchison does not appear to represent a "significant *and* distinguishable entity" as required to meet Chapter 24A-3. Although distinguishable as a hamlet, the cluster of buildings, structures, and landscape elements does not appear to merit designation.

The designation documents emphasize Etchison's history as a "kinship community" as a key factor in evaluating the property's significance. Although the documents include a fair amount of genealogical and anecdotal data, there is little analysis of the development of kinship networks and land tenure beyond the descriptive data presented in the documents. Staff elected to cite the differences in architectural styles used by different families in Etchison as a major basis for historical significance. This phenomenon is not unique to Montgomery County and there are a number of explanations – none of which were explored in the designation documents – including socioeconomic status.

(emphasis original). For the above reasons, the proposed district does not meet the criteria for designation on the *Master Plan*; thus, the Planning Board should *not* designate the district on the *Master Plan* in the proposed *Amendment*.

Sincerely,


Aaron L. Kimber


Mary Clare H. Kimber

MCP-CTRACK

From: MCP-Chair
Subject: FW: Testimony for Upper Patuxent Area Amendment Public Hearing -- 15-28 Luther Moore House, 7201 Damascus Road

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OCT 13 2010

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

From: DB Martin [mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 4:00 PM
To: Kelly, Clare; Youla, Sandra
Subject: 7201 Damascus Road- Luther Moore house

This is the testimony for our registered time to speak on Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. Please forward to appropriate members or let me know to whom this should go to.

Dear Members of Historical Planning Board:

Our home at 7201 Damascus Road (the Luther Moore house) had been included into the Historical Preservation plan according to Mr. Scott Whipple of Historical Preservation in Montgomery County. The listed items below have been given for the inclusion:

(1) Historical and Cultural significance. The historic resource:

- a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;

Since this seems to be such an ambiguous statement we would insist a peer review be done before this inclusion. The Moore family were poor tobacco farmers and died in pauper status. I'm wondering how can that be construed as having character, interest or value as a significant historic resource or having heritage or being of cultural value. When we applied over 30 years ago for Historical Preservation our home was declined because it was deemed of no historical significance to the County. What has changed in this time?

- d. Exemplifies the cultural economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

Again, this would need careful peer review so the designation is clearly understood and to make a comparison to other homes also under this designation. How does our home exemplify this designation by the Historical staff? This seems to be an all-inclusive kind of verbiage, since many homes in this area could qualify under those guidelines, such as the Fanny Etchison, Earnest Hawkins or Tom Hawkins homes, Mt. Tabor Methodist Church?

(2) *Architectural and design significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;

The house was moved back from Damascus Road over 300 feet and new steel framing beams and underpinnings had to be done to the structure, plus a full size cement basement was dug out and finished, as the old basement was a potato cellar. Additionally, there is vinyl siding, replacement windows, shutters and doors. The interior has been completely modernized, which included the removal of the crumbling stone and mud chimney with a brick replacement. The rear porch was rebuilt and new roofing added to the home in 1990. In addition, the corn crib, wood shed and out house were rotted and removed long ago. The chestnut tobacco barn and small summer kitchen located in the rear of the house are in the process of being removed due to safety issues resulting from damage this past summers rain storms. What remains to be included as a historical designation needs to be addressed because little remains of the original house structure or any of the out buildings.

We will be attending your planning meeting and would like to have a complete peer review, as suggested by Mr. Rotenstein in a recent Gazette article, for the Historical Preservation designation for 7201 Damascus Road. We do not concur with their findings and staunchly oppose any inclusion into the arguably poorly written and

uninterpretable Preservation guidelines. We only ask a fair and equitable review before any designation into the Master Plan for Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Deneen and Gary Martin
7201 Damascus Road
Laytonsville, MD 20882
301-253-2955 Cell 301-467-5335

Youla, Sandra

From: Youla, Sandra
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 2:00 PM
To: 'DB Martin'
Subject: RE: 15-28 Luther Moore House, 7201 Damascus Road -- demolitions require permission

Ms. Martin, thank you for the information below. Would you kindly bring copies of the photos to the public hearing tomorrow so they can be entered into the record.

*Sandra L. Youla, AICP
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Historic Preservation/Urban Design and Historic Preservation Division
Dedrick Annex
1400 Spring Street, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910
tel: 301-563-3419
fax: 301-563-3412
e-mail: sandra.youla@mncppc-mc.org
web: www.MontgomeryPlanning.org/historic*

From: DB Martin [mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 7:19 PM
To: Youla, Sandra
Subject: RE: 15-28 Luther Moore House, 7201 Damascus Road -- demolitions require permission

I have pictures- they have been removed and the lumber was recycled.

Subject: Re: 15-28 Luther Moore House, 7201 Damascus Road -- demolitions require permission
Date: Tue, 12 Oct 2010 18:12:30 -0400
From: Sandra.Youla@mncppc-mc.org
To: deneenmartin7@msn.com
CC: Scott.Whipple@mncppc-mc.org; Clare.Kelly@mncppc-mc.org; Anne.Fothergill@mncppc-mc.org;
Sandra.Youla@mncppc-mc.org

Mr. and Ms. Martin, as shown below, I have forwarded your written testimony to the Planning Board Chairman's Office.

Also, would you kindly please contact our office immediately before removing any structures, including the summer kitchen and log tobacco house, which you note you will be removing for safety reasons because they were damaged during summer storms. *Locational Atlas* resources are afforded certain protections under Montgomery County Code 24-

A. Historic Resources Preservation, and you need permission to demolish any structures. Your log tobacco barn is extremely rare, and it would be a great loss to the County to lose it.

We look forward to discussing this with you. Please call my supervisor, Mr. Scott Whipple, at 301-563-3400 or email him at scott.whipple@mncppc-mc.org. Many thanks.

Sandra Youla

From: Youla, Sandra
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 4:38 PM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: FW: Testimony for Upper Patuxent Area Amendment Public Hearing -- 15-28 Luther Moore House, 7201 Damascus Road

Sorry – wrong email address.

■ Sandra

From: Youla, Sandra
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 4:34 PM
To: 'Chair@mncppc-mc.org'
Cc: 'deneenmartin7@msn.com'
Subject: FW: Testimony for Upper Patuxent Area Amendment Public Hearing -- 15-28 Luther Moore House, 7201 Damascus Road

To the Planning Board Chairman's Office: Please include the following email as testimony re: 15/28 Luther Moore House, 7201 Damascus Road, which is one of the resources being considered at the Planning Board Public Hearing, 10.14.2010, Agenda Item 8, *Public Hearing for Updates to Locational Atlas and Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Upper Patuxent Area Resources.*

*Sandra L. Youla MCP
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Historic Preservation/Urban Design and Historic Preservation Division
Dedrick Annex
1400 Spring Street, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910
tel: 301-563-3400
fax: 301-563-3412
e-mail: sandra.youla@mncppc-mc.org
web: www.MontgomeryPlanning.org/historic*

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To: Kelly, Clare; Youla, Sandra
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- d. Exemplifies the cultural economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

Again, this would need careful peer review so the designation is clearly understood and to make a comparison to other homes also under this designation. How does our home exemplify this designation by the Historical staff? This seems to be an all-inclusive kind of verbiage, since many homes in this area could qualify under those guidelines, such as the Fanny Etchison, Earnest Hawkins or Tom Hawkins homes, Mt. Tabor Methodist Church?

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Sincerely,

Deneen and Gary Martin
7201 Damascus Road
Laytonsville, MD 20882
301-253-2955 Cell 301-467-5335