

November, 15 2006

Dear Property Owner,

Historic preservation planning staff is beginning the evaluation of historic resources in the Little Bennett-Patuxent area. The historic evaluation of these properties is taking place at this time because of the update to the Montgomery County *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*.

Records indicate that you are the owner of a property located within the **CLAGETTSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT (Resource 15/008-000)**. Your property was identified on the 1976 *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites* as being of potential historic significance, or was noted by planning staff as being of potential historic merit. Staff will be visiting each of the sites under consideration, to document the property with photographs. If you would like us to make an appointment with you for this site visit, please call our office at 301-563-3400.

Evaluation of historic resources is a careful process, as the enclosed chart reveals. The Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, and County Council review each property, evaluating every proposed designation to see whether it meets Historic Preservation Ordinance criteria for historic or architectural significance that would warrant its protection. Each reviewing body holds public hearings, with the County Council having the final say on all designations. Not all nominated properties are designated. Over 425 resources have been found to be ineligible for designation and have been removed from the *Locational Atlas*.

Historic designation helps to manage change, so that new construction or landscaping is accomplished in sympathy to the historic character of a property. The enclosed brochure explains in more detail the effects of designation, including tax credits that are available for restoration work.

Site visits and photographic documentation are the first step in researching historic properties. Staff will also be consulting land records, tax assessments, family histories, and other documents. Staff will summarize findings in a Maryland Historical Trust inventory form for each property. If you know of resources that would be useful in conducting this research, please contact me at 301-563-3400. Feel free to contact me concerning the designation process in general or about your own property. Alternatively, you may e-mail me at clare.kelly@mncppc-mc.org. You can also reach my colleague Joshua Silver at the number above Tuesday through Thursday, or by e-mail joshua.silver@mncppc-mc.org.

Sincerely,

Clare Lise Kelly, Historic Preservation Planner