

PB 11.4.2010

Item #3

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

RECEIVED BY 11.3.2010

**(Re: Upper Patuxent Area
Resources)**

RE: Properties Scheduled for Discussion on 11.4.2010

Judith Hazen Connery
17 Hillcrest Circle
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679

12/10 James
Lauman
Farm

September 24, 2010

Via Electronic Mail

Ms. Sandra Youla, Senior Historic Preservation Planner
Montgomery County Planning Department, MNCPPC
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: James Lauman Farm, Boyds (Inventory 12-10)

Dear Sandra:

Thank you for speaking with me at length last Friday and for your interest in learning more about the James Lauman Farm—property that my parents owned and that my siblings and I inherited in 1999—and where I spent my childhood. Perhaps you can use this information to correct and enhance information on the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties Form that was posted on the Internet as part of the historic designation review process.

Our family's farm is located at 22000 Peach Tree Road, Boyds, MD 20841, although no mail is now received there. When it was purchased by my parents, Alice W. and J. Frederick Hazen, in 1950, it consisted of 122 +/- acres. It was purchased from Austin L. Voorhees and his wife, Hazel M. Voorhees, as per the deed that was recorded September 7, 1950, in Liber 1427 folio 387. At that time, Peach Tree Road was called Ridge Road—the road name was changed in the late 1960's when the county renamed roads and assigned street numbers to establish the county's 911 emergency system.

Immediately after purchasing the property, my parents along with my two sisters (twins) and brother, moved there and named it "Fountainhead Farm." After settling in, they began to make improvements, including converting a spring-fed wetland in the valley behind the house into a farm pond, although the layout and buildings remain virtually unchanged. I came along seven years later. My father was a part-time farmer; his primary job was serving as a soil conservationist in Montgomery County with the Soil Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture. But the farm was his passion. My mother was a stay-at-home mother and homemaker until the early 1960's, when she went back to work as a school secretary with Montgomery County Public Schools. We had a small flock of purebred Hampshire sheep, and on the cropland raised small grains and hay. My father converted about five acres of less productive pastureland on the east side of West Old Baltimore Road (then, simply Old Baltimore Road, a dirt lane that bisected the property) into Christmas tree production. I have an aerial photo showing the farm plan as of around 1965, and can provide a photo- or scanned copy if you wish.

There are six structures that remain on the property, not four as noted in the inventory form, although the two not named are minor and one may no longer be standing. The six structures include the house, the log barn, the hay barracks with attached shed, a tool shed, and (not noted) a springhouse and small (approximately 3' x 4') pumphouse protecting an electric water pump. Both the springhouse and pumphouse are located at the base of the hill behind the house and adjacent to West Old Baltimore Road. The springhouse was still standing when my family and I were last on the farm in the spring of 2006.

According to written notes that I have from my father, a local neighbor and amateur historian, Mrs. Elsie Pyle, told him that the house was a replacement built in 1911 on the original foundation after a fire destroyed the original house. From inside the house, you can tell that originally there were two doors centrally located opposite one another connected by a central hallway; one on the back (north) that is still present but covered with siding and drywall that led out to a porch (torn down prior to my parents ownership), and one on the front (south) entrance that was replaced when the bathroom was installed, before we owned it. Upon my father's death (in the house, by the way, on his beloved farm just as he wished), the property passed to the four children, and my husband and I took over the maintenance of the house, since none of my siblings were interested in maintaining it. We used it as our base of operations on our trips to maintain the property every spring and fall after my father's death in 1997. There were two fires in the house in June, 2007: the first (June 13th), presumed to be the result of a lightning strike, was in the attic and caused minimal structural damage, and I had it repaired, but the second fire, June 19th, eventually determined to be human caused, caused extensive damage, especially to the west side of the structure. The investigator who examined the house after the second fire told me that the house was unusual in construction because they discovered in the course of fighting the fire, that the wall voids were filled with rocks. He also told me that had it been a modern house, the second fire would have totally destroyed it before the fire department could have responded. Although I have not returned to see the building or salvage any belongings, I have been told that the house is now damaged beyond reasonable repair. I had the roof repaired and the house boarded up shortly after the second fire to prevent entry, although this work is not reflected in the photographs used on the inventory form, which must have been taken rather soon after the second fire.

The inventory form prepared by your office accurately reports the presence of the log barn. You might be interested to know that the logs are chestnut. As you probably already know, chestnut was a common tree in Maryland forests before an introduced fungus caused a disease called chestnut blight. As you also probably know, chestnut is an extremely durable and rot-resistant wood and this explains why the logs are still solid and sound after 150 years. You can still find remnants of chestnut stumps in the woodlands on the farm. I remember my father and brother replacing the original cedar-shingle roof of the log barn with galvanized metal sheets (not standing metal roof) in the mid-1960's.

The hay barracks is a timber/peg building, with square-headed nails to be found where the original wooden floor planks, some of which are more than 20 inches wide, are nailed to the foundation timbers. The southwest side of the barn was re-boarded in the late 1970's and the east side was re-boarded and other structural repairs made around 2005 in an attempt to stabilize it. However, no further work has been done to my knowledge.

Also noted on the inventory form, there is a small shed located northeast of the hay barracks. My father told me that the field south of the log barn held a number (five to 10, or more) of those small buildings when they

moved to the farm, and they chose the best one and moved it to its current location to serve as a storage building and tool shed. The other “shacks” were taken down, since most were in poor condition. The field, however, was ever after referred to by our family as ‘the shack field.’ (All the fields have names, even though the wire fences we installed that separated them are now mostly gone.)

Next to the tool shed lies a long pile of bricks, long ago covered with Virginia creeper and other vines, and there are other assorted construction materials stored in and next to the barns. These materials were left there from a previous owner, prior to the Voorhees, who reportedly (again, by Elsie Pyle) was in the construction business.

On the northeast side of the brick pile was the location of our garden, and just northeast of that, and east of the house, there was an orchard of ten ancient pear and apple trees—most of the originals, if not all, are now gone, as are the apple trees that were once found on the ridge south of the pond. I planted five or six additional fruit trees in the orchard in 1980.

Back to the structures. Our drinking water was pumped uphill from the spring located just off West Old Baltimore Road, and it was the same reliable spring that supported the original family settlement. The spring is located just a few feet from a small timber frame building with a metal roof (a long-ago replacement of an original cedar shingle roof?) built over the small creek that flowed from the spring—the building is the one we always called “the springhouse.” My parents told me that the house was used by previous farm families to store dairy products and other perishables, before refrigeration, as the running water and shelter from nearby trees helped moderate the temperatures there in the summer and winter. The spring is down a very steep hill from the house, so there was a well-worn lane in the field northwest of the house that took a more gentle, round-about route, to connect the barns to the spring—all the easier for horses to haul water. Remnants of that lane remain, and it is easy to trace, despite the trees that have since grown in it. The gated lane that is currently used to access the house once continued through the property out to West Old Baltimore Road. I remember that we used it after snow storms as alternate access, when the primary lane would drift shut, and it was the route we used to walk to our school bus stop across West Old Baltimore Road.

A 12.82-acre portion of the farm located on the east side of West Old Baltimore Road was divided and transferred to my sister and her husband, Anne and James Laney (deed recorded February 26, 1987 in Liber 7585 folio 754).

My mother passed away December 23, 1993, and my father died August 22, 1997. Upon the settlement of my father’s estate, an undivided interest in the property passed to the children, (Alice Cerino, Anne Laney, Robert Hazen and myself) in different percentages of joint ownership (deed recorded September 14, 1999, Liber 17545 folio 671).

On March 18, 2000, my sisters and I purchased my brother’s interest (deed recorded in Liber 18017 folio 487) in equally divided portions.

In October, 2002, the property was placed in the Maryland Agricultural Preservation Program to protect its agricultural and open space values.

On April 16, 2009, Anne and James Laney purchased Alice Cerino's interest in the property (Liber 37073 folio 365).

Anne and James Laney and myself are currently the co-owners of the remaining 109-acre property.

Sandra, I hope this information is useful and of interest to you and others on the staff of the MNCPPC historic preservation office, although I understand that it will probably not change the recommendation by the Historic Preservation Commission to the Planning Board to remove the property from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites. However, please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have further questions or can provide additional information about our farm or the historic designation or de-listing process.

Sincerely,

/s/ Judy Hazen Connery

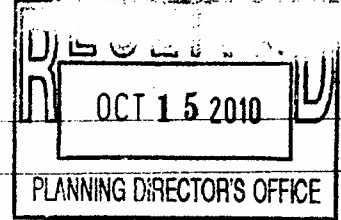
Judith Hazen Connery

2010-0901

15/73 Basil Warfield
Farm

October 12, 2010

Montgomery County Planning Department
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Md. 20910



Staff:

Sorry we will be unable to attend
Oct. 14, 2010. We are elderly and not feeling
well and it's way too far to drive.

Since we already live on the
Agricultural Reservation, isn't that enough?
An historic designation would be a double
freeze. You can't farm if you are
frozen in time. Fragile, obsolete
buildings don't even hold paint for two years.

We've seen results of County planning.
Development above us churned the land
unnaturally causing directed rainfall to
rush down 108 instead of staying where
it fell. This has caused three gullies
in our field. Fifty years ago the field
was level. No one has offered to
repair it and if we did, we would
probably be breaking some law.

15/73 MC 01 000 10407 If you dig
deeper on this one, you will find
This is complicated. It's already tied up
in Montg. Co. red tape. Somewhere between
a rock and a hard place.

Miss Dorothy E. Warfield
8251 Damascus Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3413



(2)

MC
15/73 01-0010395

Will we have to wait long years for a decision before we can pull a weed? We have read the HORROR stories from Frederick City and the 10/6/10 Gazette article, about enforcement, which you will no doubt do after you finish preserving. County could save money by eliminating your department. If you want to do something useful, teach city citizens and foreigners NOT to throw their big^{ass} liquor containers and other trash in the fields. Not good for machinery or animal feed.

You could add to Ag Reserve signs "NO TRASH ZONE" but then all road signs are targets for disposal of trash.

Yours truly,

Dorothy E. Warfield

301-253-2496

P.S. It seems we spend too much time filling out useless government forms.

Miss Dorothy E. Warfield
8251 Damascus Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3413



RE: Properties Scheduled for Discussion at Later Worksessions

Youla, Sandra

From: Whipple, Scott
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2010 11:29 AM
To: 'DB Martin'
Cc: Kelly, Clare; Youla, Sandra
Subject: RE: 7201 Damascus Road (Luther Moore home) *15/28 Luther Moore farm*

Mr. and Mrs. Martin – thank you for your email summarizing your opposition to the designation of your property at 7201 Damascus Road.

Following the January 20, 2010 Public Hearing at which Ms. Martin testified, the Historic Preservation Commission acted on March 10, 2010 to recommend your property for designation. Although the Commission is scheduled to continue their consideration of the amendment at their April 14, 2010 meeting, the agenda is limited to the eight properties that the Commission has yet to evaluate. No further testimony will be accepted relating to properties the Commission has already acted on.

The Commission's recommendation is the first step in the consideration of the amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation that your property is included in. The Planning Board will consider the Commission's recommendation at an as yet unscheduled meeting. You will be notified once this public hearing is scheduled, and you will have an opportunity to present testimony to the Planning Board at that time. Once the Planning Board has evaluated the properties under consideration, they will make a recommendation to the County Council. The Council will make the final decision on designation following a Council public hearing and their full evaluation.

Information about the amendment is available at www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/UpperPatuxent/.

Scott D. Whipple, Supervisor
Historic Preservation Section | Urban Design and Preservation Division
Montgomery County Planning Department | M-NCPPC
Office: 1400 Spring Street, Suite 500 | Silver Spring
Mail: 8787 Georgia Avenue | Silver Spring MD 20910
301-563-3400 phone | 301-563-3412 fax
scott.whipple@montgomeryplanning.org | www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/

Please note: Our office has moved. We are now located at 1400 Spring St, suite 500.

From: DB Martin [<mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 11:44 AM
To: Whipple, Scott; Fothergill, Anne; Kelly, Clare; Manarolla, Kevin; Silver, Joshua; Mroszczyk, Lisa; Youla, Sandra
Subject: 7201 Damascus Road (Luther Moore home)

- [Scott Whipple](#), Supervisor of Historic Preservation Unit
- [Anne Fothergill](#), Planner Coordinator
- [Clare Lise Kelly](#), Research & Designation Coordinator
- [Kevin Manarolla](#), Senior Administrative Assistant
- [Joshua Silver](#), Senior Planner
- [Lisa Mroszczyk](#), Historic Preservation Education and Outreach Planner
- [Sandra Youla](#), Historic Preservation Planner

Dear Members of Historical Planning Board:

Recently I read in the Gazette that my home at 7201 Damascus Road (Luther Moore house) had been included into the Historical Preservation plan. I'd like to inform you of the immense amount of improvements that have been done to the house that would NOT make it of any historical value.

The house was moved back from Damascus Road over 300 feet and new steel beams framing and underpinnings had to be done to the structure, plus a full size cement basement was dug out and finished, as the old basement one was a potato cellar. Additionally, there is new vinyl siding, windows, shutters and doors were added because the old ones were only 30 inches wide. The interior has been modernized and a small addition was done to the rear of the home in 1990. In addition, the corn crib, summer kitchen and out house were rotted and removed long ago. It is our plan to remove the old tobacco barn located in the rear of the house, but would consider giving it to the County.

The Etchison church and several other homes that were viewed at a recent planning meeting that I attended were rejected because of major changes to them, that are smaller in scope than that of our home.

I will attend your planning meeting and give a Power Point presentation to verify the changes and the all pertinent receipts.

It is our hope to NOT be included in Historic Preservation and will await your response to this letter before any further actions are taken in this matter. To date we have not received any information or a letter to inform us of a hearing for this property.

Sincerely,

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

The New Busy is not the old busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Get started.](#)

15/8-6
Ollie & Leila Moxley
House

Youla, Sandra

From: Youla, Sandra
Sent: Tuesday, November 02, 2010 6:27 PM
To: 'theisaacs2@verizon.net'
Cc: Garcia, Joyce; Whipple, Scott; Kelly, Clare
Subject: 15/8-6 Ollie and Leila Moxley House, 28515 Kemptown Road

Ms. Isaacs, thank you for the email below, which was forwarded to me. Please note that your property is not scheduled for discussion at the 11.4.2010 Planning Board worksession. It will be discussed at an as yet unscheduled worksession. Please keep checking our website at www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/upperpatuxent for the date of the relevant worksession. Your email below will be distributed to Planning Board members at the 11.4.2010 worksession.

*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
email: sandra.youla@mncppc-mc.org
web: www.MontgomeryPlanning.org/historic*

From: Skip & Donna Isaacs [<mailto:theisaacs2@verizon.net>]
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2010 11:30 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Moxley Farm LLC 28515 Kemptown Rd Damascus Md. property

I have responded on your site that I would like to again testify to the Board concerning the designation of Historic to the property at 28515 Kemptown Rd. At the last meeting you said that I would be invited to bring more information. I would invite any Planning Board member to come look at the inside of this property to see what we are dealing with. If any of the members would like to do this so that you can see for yourselves, I will gladly meet you at the property. I can be reached at 301-253-5834 or my cell number is 301-606-7325. My e-mail address is theisaacs2@verizon.net.

Thank-you for your consideration of this property.

Donna Isaacs
28601 Kemptown Rd
Damascus, Md 20872