

Spring 2022

Vol. 1 No. 1



Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

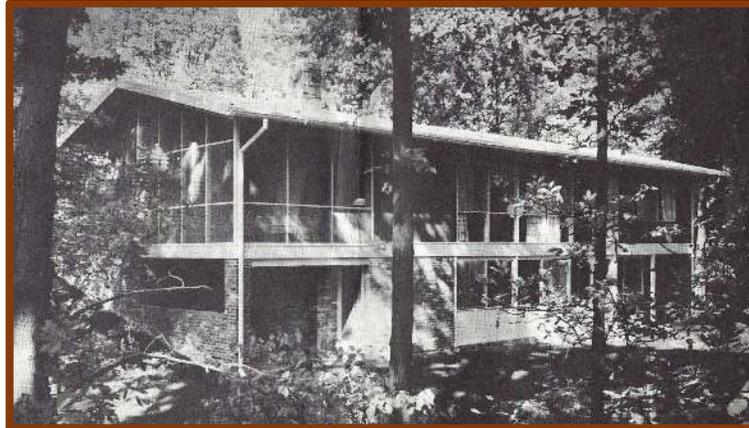
Our Mission

To preserve, protect, and promote Montgomery County's rich architectural heritage and historic landscapes.

Our Story

MPI is Montgomery County's county-wide nonprofit historic preservation organization. The group incorporated in 1984 to actively encourage and defend preservation efforts in local communities and throughout the county.

Today, MPI remains dedicated to saving our buildings, landscapes, and sites for future generations. MPI encourages preservation efforts in every corner of Montgomery County, working with all parties to ensure that our towns, owners of historic properties, businesses, and volunteer groups can step up to the modernization, revitalization, demographic, and development challenges of the 21st century.



House in Potomac Overlook Historic District

County Council Approves Potomac Overlook Historic District

Potomac Overlook is the first Mid-Century Modern historic district to be placed on the *Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation*, and the first historic district approved since 2011. County Council approval took place on April 19, with Planning Board adoption set for June 2, 2022.

The Potomac Overlook designation reflects the importance of site development and land planning in creating communities respectful of the natural surroundings, topography, and tree canopy. The contemporary-styled dwellings are recognized as outstanding examples of situated modernism. In addition, the contributions of several of the first homeowners in Potomac Overlook augment the historic significance of the district and reflect the multi-nationalism of the County.

Builder Edmund J. Bennett and the architecture firm of Keyes, Lethbridge, and Condon developed Potomac Overlook in the late 1950s. The partnership celebrated the aesthetic design, functional advantages, and untapped commercial potential for modern architecture in tract housing and recognized the importance of creating communities respectful of the existing natural surroundings, topography, and tree canopy. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) awarded them the "excellence of their cooperative efforts to create better homes and communities for Americans" award in 1961.

The new district is located between MacArthur Blvd. and Clara Barton Parkway just south of Glen Echo Park and consists of 19 houses.

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Addressing Preservation Issues in the Downtown Silver Spring Master Plan

Mary Reardon

The draft of the Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan, awaiting County Council approval, contains recommendations that could affect historic sites as well as established residential neighborhoods (the controversial “adjacent communities”). MPI has worked with the Silver Spring Historical Society, the Art Deco Society of Washington, and the arts community in challenging a number of recommendations in the Plan as well as welcoming a few.



Fenton Building in downtown Silver Spring

The draft Downtown Silver Spring Master Plan:

- Endorses redeveloping the site of the iconic 1951 Fenton Building -- part of a Moderne style downtown historic district, as well the unique 1941 Art Deco style headquarters building of the Little Tavern business.

- Encourages density in the side streets of Silver Spring’s “Fenton Village”, which could result in transforming an area that is prized for its low-scale character and multiple independent businesses.

- Presents an opportunity to gain a statement of County support for full restoration of the historic Civil War-era house in Jesup Blair Park, which is in dire need of funding to rehabilitate it for community use.

- Recommends several mid-century modern properties for potential listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and a striking “Googie” style (see below) building for the County’s Master Plan of Historic resources.

- Proposes a Garden Apartment Historic District for National Register listing, but also recommends a zoning change that could facilitate redevelopment of Silver Spring’s architecturally significant 1930s-40s garden apartments.

MPI and its allies will be monitoring the Council’s final action on these recommendations.

Fun Facts

Googie architecture is a type of futurist architecture influenced by car culture, jets, the Space Age, and the Atomic Age. It originated in Southern California with the Streamline Moderne architecture of the 1930s, and was popular nationwide from roughly 1945 to the early 1970s. The name comes from a Hollywood coffee shop designed by John Lautner.

MPI IS FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR OUR FIRST OPEN HOUSE in 2 1/2 YEARS !

Please join us on
Saturday, June 4, 2022, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for an indoor/outdoor event at
the Historic Silver Spring B&O Railroad Station, 8100 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring

Enjoy family favorites "BanTrak" N gauge modular railroaders and the "Local Locos" Live Steamers who bring a Garden Railway exhibit to share

Note: if MD positivity testing rate exceeds 10% prior to June 4, MPI will re-schedule for July 2. Change would be announced on recorded phone line 301- 495- 4915 and posted on Facebook and Web site no later than Thursday, June 2.

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

Kensington Historical Society

Kate DeWitt

The Kensington Historical Society (KHS), founded in 1977, is celebrating its 45th anniversary and honoring founding members by hosting a Summer Picnic for the Town on Sunday July 17, noon – 4 p.m. at the Kensington Town Hall. More information on the Web site www.kensingtonhistory.org In addition to picnic fare, music and libations (new brewery in Kensington to make its debut), we will have wonderful images of the history of KHS and Kensington in addition to the compilation of a number of oral histories provided by long-time members. KHS has worked to safeguard the heritage of the Community of Kensington, to promote the preservation, protection and restoration of elements of Kensington that are integral to the community. Efforts by the Society were instrumental in having Kensington listed on the



Warner Mansion, Kensington

National Register and designated as a Montgomery County Historic District.

Historic Medley District

Jean Findlay

Historic Medley District members have been watching curiously the goings on next door to the John Poole House in Poolesville where the new restaurant, Locals, has been taking shape in the historic 1844 Veirs/Stevens House. Though it has been open outside on weekends for breakfast baked goods and coffee since last summer, it is now open both outdoors and indoors with more substantial offerings plus local fresh vegetables and crafts Wednesdays through Saturdays 7am-3pm. Owner David Therriault has been careful to maintain the integrity of the historic structure, keeping the interior much the same, and transforming an enclosed side porch into the service area and adding an addition in the rear for the kitchen. These additions complement the house without being too modern.

On another note, HMD members have been working with the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project to help coordinate the ceremonies surrounding the placing of a memorial plaque recognizing the 1880 lynching of George Peck in Poolesville. The



Locals Farm Market with the John Poole House in the Background

plaque will probably be placed on the John Poole House grounds in 2023. In October MCLMP will sponsor Community Conversations at the John Poole House to give people a chance to voice their thoughts about the meaning of lynching in our society.

**Medley District was one of the eight voting districts of Montgomery County in the 19th century. They were named for the taverns where the voting took place.*

B&O STATION

SAFETY MEASURES

Montgomery Preservation continues to prioritize the health and safety of our visitors, volunteers, and guests, with social distancing and a masking policy that follows CDC and Montgomery County rules.

Anyone inside the building must wear a mask in consideration for vulnerable patrons and staff. Masking is optional outdoors.

The building is cleaned to CDC standards.

MPI Awards

The annual awards program, sponsored by Montgomery Preservation, showcases the great work being done in the private, non-profit, and public sectors in Montgomery County. Since 1987, at MPI's signature program, preservation advocates, elected officials, local historical groups, friends, and families have celebrated the accomplishments of dedicated property owners, creative non-profits, talented architects, and community activists. 2021 Award recipients will be announced in June 2022.

Don't Forget ---

Montgomery County Heritage Days June 25 & 26

More than 30 heritage sites around the County will be open Free of charge.

Download a brochure at:

www.heritagemontgomery.org

Membership Dues and Donations are critical to MPI's programs and preservation efforts.

Annual Dues

Individual -- \$25

Family -- \$40

Organization -- \$50

Business -- \$75

Mail membership dues and/or donations to MPI with Name, address, telephone, email and date to:

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MPI encourages citizen participation in preservation activities. If you have a concern or would like to volunteer please contact us at:

mpi@montgomerypreservation.org

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