

Fall 2022

Vol. 1 No. 2



Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Awards to be presented on October 28

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 serves as an umbrella for history and preservation groups. It offers support for local efforts and organizes unified County support and expertise for larger projects and issues. After taking title to the Silver Spring B&O Railroad Station in 1997, MPI restored the building to its 1945 appearance and ever since has opened the station for events, programs, and rentals.

In This Issue

Awards for Historic Pres.

150 the anniversary of TheMet

Weller's Dry Cleaners

Preservation Calendar

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Cordially invites you to celebrate

the 34th annual

**AWARDS for HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

To honor excellence in preservation
achievements

Friday, October 28, 2022

7 to 9 p.m.

Historic Kensington Armory

3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD

*Co-Hosted by Montgomery Preservation
and the Town of Kensington*



Kensington Armory

To attend on October 28 please RSVP at:
mpi@montgomerypreservation.org

Face masks are recommended, and social distancing is convenient in the spacious Drill Hall.

This celebration includes the premiere of the movie featuring 2021 awards, with spotlights on honored individuals and organizations. On October 29, a link to the movie will be posted on YouTube at

www.montgomerypreservation.org

Outstanding achievements to be showcased at the celebration are:

- **“The Folly”** in Chevy Chase, for exterior restoration of an historic mansion and addition of a compatible pavilion, to owner Adrienne Arsht
- *Wayne Goldstein Award*, for preservation advocacy on behalf of **Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 Moses Cemetery** in Cabin John, to Friends of Moses Hall
- *Michael F. Dwyer Award*, for rehabilitation and preservation of the historic **Montevideo Road Bridge** in Poolesville, to Montgomery County Department of Transportation
- **Meem house** in Gaithersburg, for exterior restoration of an historic residence, to former owner LeAnn Feiss and current owners Amy and Jarin Lopez
- **Woodend Sanctuary and Mansion** in Chevy Chase, for installation of accessible walkways through the woods and around the mansion, to Audubon Naturalist Society
- *County Executive's Award* for restoration of **Pleasant View Historic Site** in Quince Orchard and documentary to Rev. Gerald Green, Jason Green, and Dr. Kisha Davis
- **Basil & Nancy Dorsey site** at Sugarland, for an archaeological study of the historic home site, to Tara Tetreault, Suzanne Johnson, and Sugarland Ethno-History Project
- *The Montgomery Prize* for more than three decades of contributions to local and state history and preservation, to **Susan Cooke Soderberg**, of Germantown

Go to www.montgomerypreservation.org for more details and photos of the 2021 awards, plus a link to the movie trailer preview in advance.

Contact Us

Montgomery Preservation, Inc
PO Box 4661

Rockville, MD 20849-4661
301-495-4915

Email

mpi@montgomerypreservation.org

website

www.montgomerypreservation.org

OFFICERS

Eileen McGuckian, President
(Rockville)

Mary Reardon, Vice President
(Silver Spring.)

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Susan Soderberg, Germantown
Historical Society

Karen Burditt, At Large

John Sery, At Large

STAFF

Media -- Brett Riley

Station Rentals – John Sery

Awards – Sandra Heiler

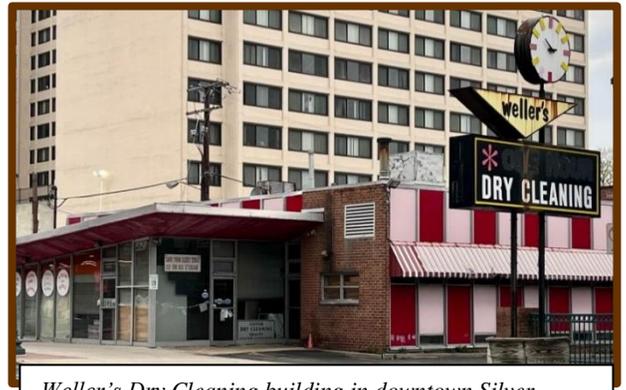
Open Houses – Wendy Woodland

Newsletter – Susan Soderberg

Weller's Dry Cleaners One Step Closer To Protection

Debbie Chalfie

The county Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) took the first step in protecting the midcentury modern Weller's Dry Cleaning building in downtown Silver Spring, voting 7-1 on September 21st to recommend listing it in the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*.



Weller's Dry Cleaning building in downtown Silver

The Weller's Dry Cleaning building, with its slanted, cantilevered roof, colorful porcelain panels, glass walls, and its whimsical signage with an iconic clock, make it an excellent specimen of "Googie-style" architecture – an exuberant, futuristic form of modern architecture that originated in Southern California and expressed the car culture and space age themes of its time. This Jetsons-style of architecture and signage took off across the country in the 1950s and '60s, attracting passing cars with its bold colors, casual style, and hip design. Weller's is one of the rare surviving examples of Googie architecture in Montgomery County.

The HPC found that Weller's distinctive style and status as an established fixture in the community met at least two criteria for architectural and design significance. Additionally, it was designed and built in 1961 by prominent local architect Ted Englehardt, who also designed other notable, midcentury modern buildings in the county.

Designation for Weller's has been discussed on and off for twenty years. Most recently, the county HP staff proposed, and the County Council approved, studying protection for Weller's in the Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan. HP staff quickly prepared a report and put the matter before the HPC.

The HPC's recommendation is expected to go to the Planning Board in late October. If approved, the listing would protect the building and sign from demolition or substantial alteration while it is considered for additional protections in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.



The architect Ted Englehardt (1898-1980) was founder and early president of the Potomac Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He also designed the Operations Research building, 1400 Spring Street, Silver Spring in a similar style.

MPI OPEN HOUSES
Fun for the whole family!

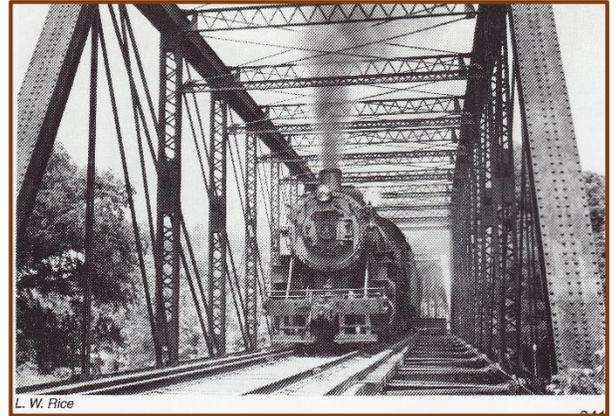
Please join us on
Saturday, November 5 and
Saturday, December 3
between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
for an indoor/outdoor
event at
the Historic Silver Spring B&O
Railroad Station, 8100 Georgia
Avenue, Silver Spring

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

CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE MET"

History of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad

After the Civil War proved the economic worth of railroads they began springing up all over the country. The Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) Railroad company had built a line from Baltimore west to the Ohio River before the War, but that single track had many sharp curves and ran through two narrow tunnels making it difficult to upgrade



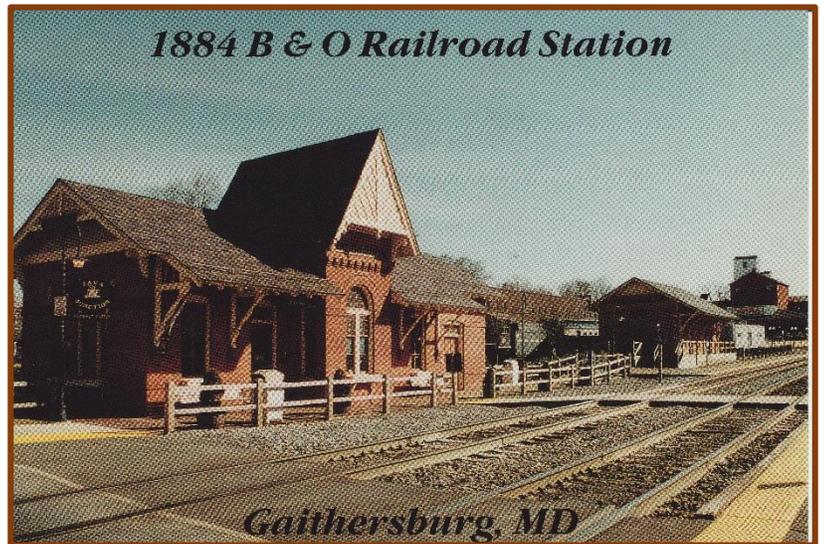
for the increase in rail traffic planned by the company. So, they came up with a proposal to run the western bound trains south from Baltimore to Washington D.C. on the Washington Junction spur, then build a new line from Washington through Montgomery County to join the old main line at Point of Rocks.

They were in luck because a company that had gone bankrupt at the beginning of the War had already drawn plans and purchased some right-of-way for just such a line. This was the Metropolitan Railroad Company, the brainchild of William Wilson Corcoran and Francis Cassatt Clopper. The B & O purchased the rights and changed

the alignment a bit, but kept the name, calling it the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad.

The rail line changed the face of the County, bringing it into the industrial age with steam powered mills and factories, coal yards and wood lots located next to the tracks. Farms changed from marketing wheat and corn to producing perishables such as milk and peaches. Railroad suburbs started sprouting upwards from the District line, and sleepy country towns turned into summer resorts. Montgomery County was never the same after the railroad came.

Service on the entire 42 miles 150 years ago on May 25, 1873. Now two-mile long freight trains and MARC commuter trains race along the tracks. But there are still six extant stations, designed by E. Francis Baldwin, plus several historic structures remaining in Montgomery County from this railroad.



MPI is planning a huge county-wide event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of "The MET" that will include every station, even the ones without a historic station house. Don't wait for the next celebration in 2048. Please volunteer to be a part of this event by contacting Eileen MCGuckian, phileen3@verizon.net to discuss how you and your organization can participate.

Preservation Calendar

Oct. 17, 7-8pm – Virtual presentation on how to use the **Historic Preservation MCATLAS**, the on-line map tool where you can explore historic properties and burial sites: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/events/historic-preservation-mcatlas-training/>

Oct. 27, 9:30am-4pm – **Maryland Historical Trust Architectural Fieldwork Symposium**, In-person in Crownsville, MD. Pre-registration required: https://mht.maryland.gov/research_archsymposium.shtml?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Oct. 28, 7-9pm **Montgomery County Awards for Historic Preservation**, Kensington, MD
www.montgomerypreservation.org

Nov. 5, 9 am-NOON -- **Clean-up at historic Morningstar Moses Cemetery, Cabin John**, volunteers ages 15 and up
Details at www.friendsofmoseshall.org (rain date Nov. 12)

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, tel. , email and date to:

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Rockville, MD 20849-4661

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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