MCPB Item No. May 29, 2008

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

May 22, 2008

TO:

Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA:

Larry Cole, Highway Coordinator DKH for

Transportation Planning

FROM:

Ed Axler, Planner/Coordinator (301) 495-4525

Transportation Planning

SUBJECT:

Abandonment Case: AB 709 – Unimproved Walkers Mill Road

Montgomery Village/Airpark Policy Area

This memorandum reflects staff's review of a request for Planning Board comments on the proposed abandonment of unimproved Walkers Mill Road. The abandonment is requested by the D'Amore Construction Company, Inc. on behalf of its client, Mr. and Mrs. H. Winfree Irvine, Jr. The existing house address had been changed from 9510 Walkers Mill Road to 9510 Bac Place. The Irvines' property consists of three unrecorded parcels used as a farm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Planning Board support approval of the proposed abandonment with the following conditions:

- 1. Provide an access agreement within the Walkers Mill Road right-of-way to the side parking area of the adjacent house on Lot 1, Block "C" at 9405 Bac Place.
- 2. Provide PEPCO an access easement to reach their utility pole and perform necessary maintenance.
- 3. Create the necessary deeds to transfer ownership of the Walkers Mill Road public rightof-way to the Irvines.

The area proposed to be abandoned contains no wetlands, but has vegetation and trees. More ever, the right-of-way has little potential to be extended and properly terminated as the land to the north and west are environmentally constrained due to 100-year floodplain and wetland conditions. According to the applicant, approximately 12 of the 13 trees can be saved that would be impacted by new tenant house construction at the originally proposed location.

At the time of future subdivision, the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) and the Montgomery County Department Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) could require construction of a turnaround at the terminus of Bac Place. The future design of any turnaround should strive to save the existing trees on the Irvines' property and minimize the environment impact. Other considerations regarding the need for a turnaround include that Bac Place is 315 feet long and has served the Irvines' house and the four other existing houses on Bac Place since 1963 without a standard turnaround for emergency vehicles. Even though the 315-foot length is longer than FRS maximum distance, the four houses along Bac Place have long driveways that may serve as alternatives for emergency vehicles to turn around. Refer to Attachment No. 5 for an aerial photograph of the subject driveway connections Bac Place and the existing houses located along Bac Place. Staff does not recommend turnaround construction. This abandonment will not require subdivision; the abandoned property can be transferred to the petitioners by deed.

According to the D'Amore Construction Company, the only known utility located within the Walkers Mill Road right-of-way is a PEPCO utility pole. This PEPCO pole serves only the Irvines' existing house at 9510 Bac Place. Comments from utility companies on the abandonment petition are solicited by DPWT independent from the Planning Board comments.

There are no known pedestrian or bicycle paths that crosses the Irvines property. In fact, trespassing is discouraged through the Irvines' property. However, staff has not been able to confirm the origin of Walkers Mill Road (available references date at least to the 1880s) so we find it a reasonable presumption that the roadway was used for public access at some point in the past.

According to the Planning Department's Historic Preservation Section, the Parcel P262 has not been designated historic on the Master Plan and the *Locational Atlas for Historic Resources* regarding impacts on this abandonment.

In conclusion, we find that with the conditions described above, the public right-of-way proposed for abandonment is not needed for present or future public use with the access easement to the adjacent house on Lot 1, Block "C". The acquisition of the public right-of-way will enable the applicant to reduce the environmental impact and improve the compatibility with the adjacent land uses of constructing a proposed tenant house on their property.

EA:tc Attachments

DISCUSSION

The proposed abandonment was referred by DPWT for comment per Section 49-62 of the Montgomery County Code. The County Executive's public hearing is scheduled on June 9, 2008. Attachment No. 1 includes DPWT memorandum describing the Abandonment Case AB709. Abandonment Case AB 709 is to abandon approximately 12,560 square feet of public right-of-way.

The unimproved segment of Walkers Mill Road is located within the unrecorded Parcel P262, Walker Mill Property, in the R-200 zone. The Irvines own Parcel 262 and the two adjoining rectangular and unrecorded Parcels P222 and P333. Attachment No. 2 shows the existing public right-of-way for Walkers Mill Road.

The Irvines' properties are located between Midcounty Highway (MD 124) and Emory Grove Road, west of Goshen Road. Their property borders the Montgomery Village Foundation's Whetstone Stream Valley Park, The Millrace, to the south. The Irvines' property is outside the boundary of the City of Gaithersburg.

The right-of-way proposed to be abandoned connects to and contains most of the driveway from the Irvines' house and other farm-related structures to Bac Place that then accesses to Emory Grove Road. The Irvines' driveway does cross the property line of the adjoining Lot 1, Block "A", but an access easement was provided on the record plat that created Lot 1. The driveway within the right-of-way also serves as access to the side parking area of the adjacent house on Lot 1, Block "C" at 9405 Bac Place. The petitioner should provide an access easement with owners of 9405 Bac Place to retain this private property access.

Three other houses are located adjacent to the Walkers Mill Road right-of-way -- Lot 1, Block "A" and Lot 3, Block "B", Sharon Woods and Lot 13, Block "A", Poplar Spring. The subdivisions of Sharon Woods and Poplar Spring were recorded in 1962 and 1990, respectively. The Record Plat No. 182-42 for Sharon Wood shows that Bac Place and a segment of Emory Grove Road, north of Goshen Road were to be constructed as part of its preliminary plan approval. Thus, Walker Mill Road was no longer connected directly to Goshen Road after Sharon Woods was built. Lot 13, Block "A", Poplar Spring, was built after 1963 in the 1990's. Refer to Attachments No. 3 and 4 for copies of the record plats. Thus, three adjacent houses were built after the alternative connection with Bac Place and Emory Grove Road replaced the original Walkers Mill Road connection to Goshen Road.

DPS has approved a building permit for the tenant house at another location on Parcel P262 by right based on the property current use as a farm. By acquiring the public right-of-way, the applicant will not be precluded from constructing a tenant house in a better location. The preferred location is an existing clearing within the public right-of-way. The clearing was a site of a house that was torn down a long time ago. In addition, the preferred house location would be out of a grove of trees, on a level grade, and further away from the adjacent property owners, especially those living on Pennywise Lane cul-de-sac.

Cc: Nellie Carey
Michael Cassedy
David D'Amore
Sue Edwards
Greg Leck/Sam Farhadi
Steve Federline

Montgomery Village Foundation

mmo to MCPB AB702.doc

ATTACHMENT 1



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

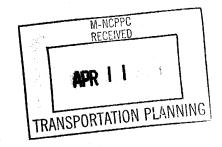
Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Arthur Holmes, Jr.

Director

April 9, 2008

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chairman Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910



RE:

Request for Comments on Proposed Abandonment AB709 – Abandonment of Walkers Mill Road Gaithersburg

Dear Mr. Hanson:

The purpose of this letter is to request M-NCPPC comments on the proposed abandonment of Walkers Mill Road in Gaithersburg. The abandonment request was made by D'Amore Construction Company, Inc., on behalf of its clients, Mr. and Mrs. H. Winfree Irvine, Jr., the Applicants. The subject right-of-way is situated entirely within property owned by the Irvines. For your reference I have enclosed a copy of the letter of request along with other information concerning this matter.

I would greatly appreciate receiving your comments by June 9, 2008.

If either you or your staff need additional information or have questions, please call me at 240-777-7254.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Cassedy

Enclosures

cc: Dan Hardy

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS BY JUNE 9, 2008

AB709

ABANDONMENT - WALKERS MILL ROAD

GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND

Pursuant to Section 49-62 of the Montgomery County Code 2007, the County Executive or his designee shall conduct a Public Hearing

2:00 p.m. on Monday June 9, 2008 101 Monroe Street, EOB Lobby Conference Room Rockville, Maryland 20850

to consider an application from D'Amore Construction Company, Inc., on behalf of its clients, Mr. and Mrs. H. Winfree Irvine, Jr., the Applicants, seeking abandonment of Walkers Mill Road in Gaithersburg. The right-of-way is situated entirely within the boundaries of property owned by the Irvines.

After the aforementioned Hearing, the Hearing Officer shall report his findings and recommendations to the County Executive for further consideration as prescribed by County Code.

Please send your comments by June 9, 2008, to Mike Cassedy
Department of Public Works and Transportation 101 Monroe Street – 10th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at 240-777-7254 or e-mail me at michael.cassedy@montgomerycountymd.gov



Corporate MHIC# 123487 Phone (301) 706-6015 Sales MHIC# 90505 Fax (301) 865-3600

September 12, 2007

Mr. Isiah Leggett
County Executive
101 Monroe Street – 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Abandonment of the remaining portion of Walkers Mill Road Gaithersburg, Maryland

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Pursuant to Montgomery County Code and on behalf of my clients, Mr. and Mrs. Irvine located at 9510 Walkers Mill Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland. A request is made to abandon the public use of the remaining portion of Walkers Mill Road in Gaithersburg. The subject right-of way is entirely within the Irvine's property and is only used by them for access house and out buildings (see enclosed tax map).

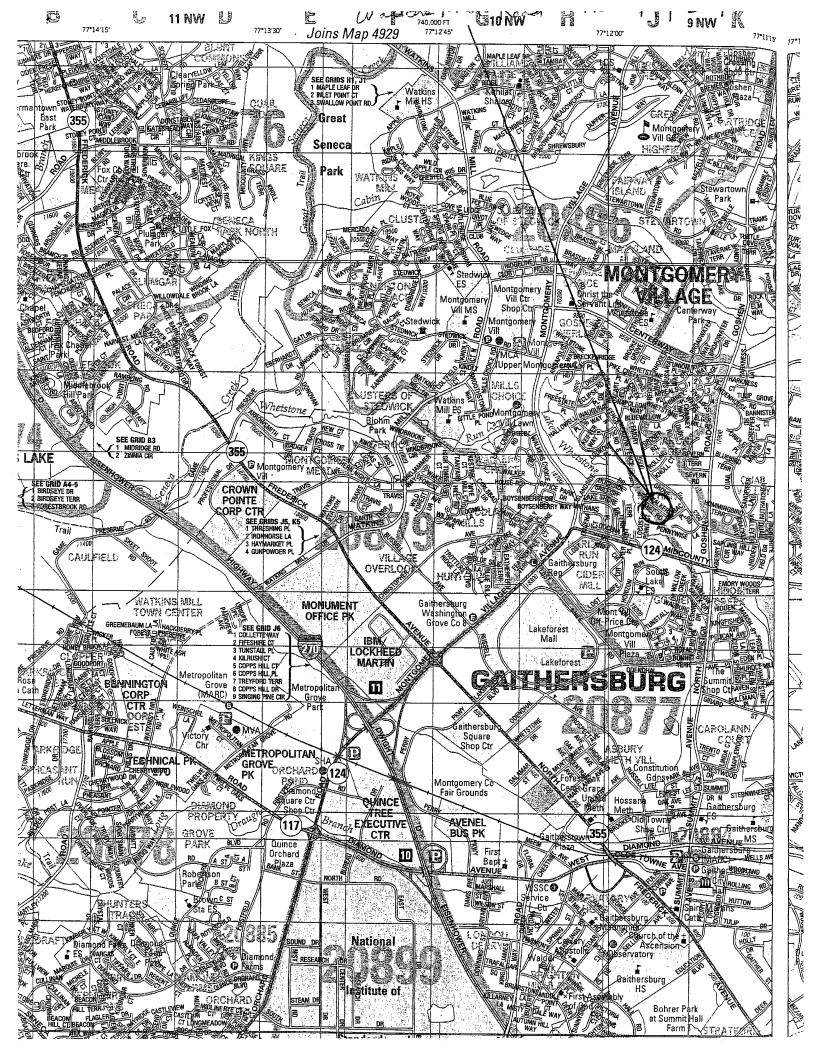
If the right-of-way is County-owned, my clients realize that if an abandonment is approved, they will need to pay the County fair market value for the property.

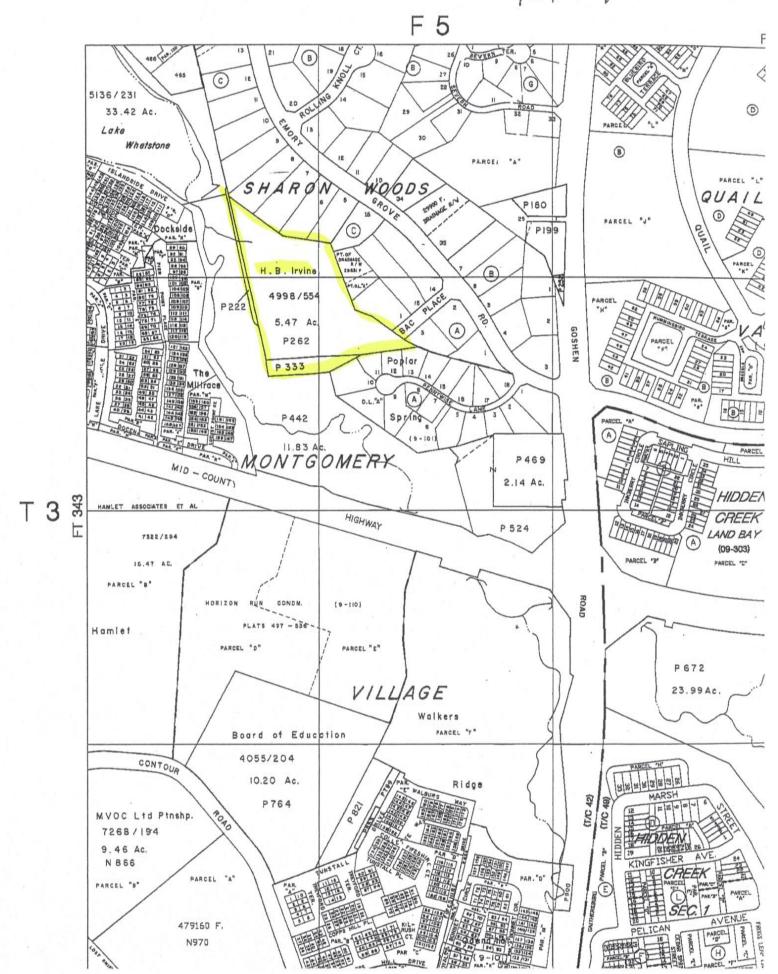
Thank-you for your consideration in this matter,

David D'Amore

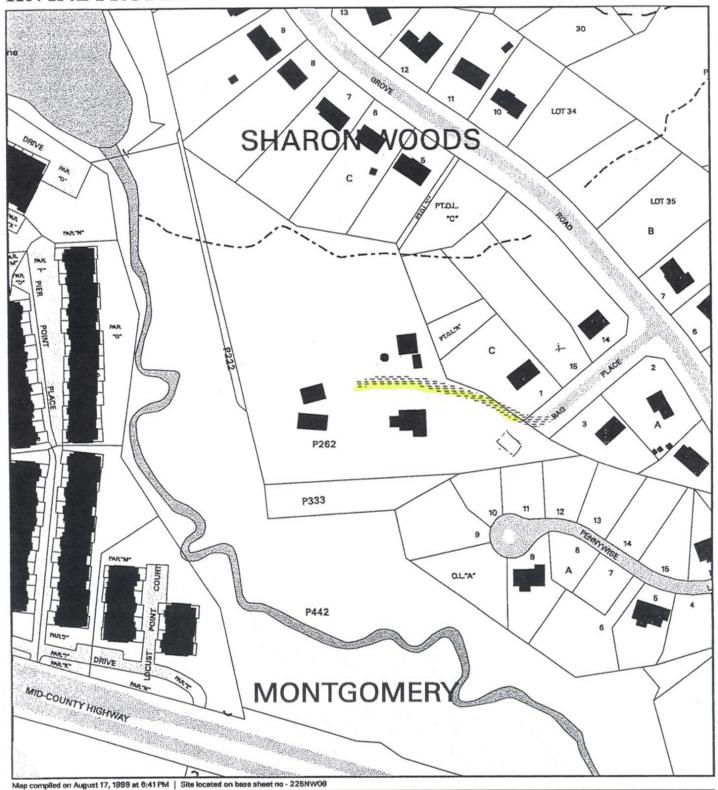
Cc: Mike Cassedy, DPWT, 101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

Enclosed check made payable to "Montgomery County Government" in the amount of \$2500.00





IRVINE PROPERTY



The planimetric, property, and topographic information shown on this map is based on copyrighted Map Products from the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning of the Maryland -National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and may not be copied or reproduced without written permission from M-NCPPC.

Property lines are compiled by adjusting the property lines to topography created from serial photography and should not be interpreted as actual field surveys. Planimetric features were compiled from 1:14400 scale serial photography using stereo photogrammetric methods. This map is created from a variety of data sources, and may not reflect the most current conditions in any one location and may not be completely accurate or up to date. All map features are approximately within five for their true location. This map may not be the same as a map of the same area plotted at an earlier time as the data is continuously updated. Use of this map, other than for general plenning purposes is not recommended. - Copyright 1938



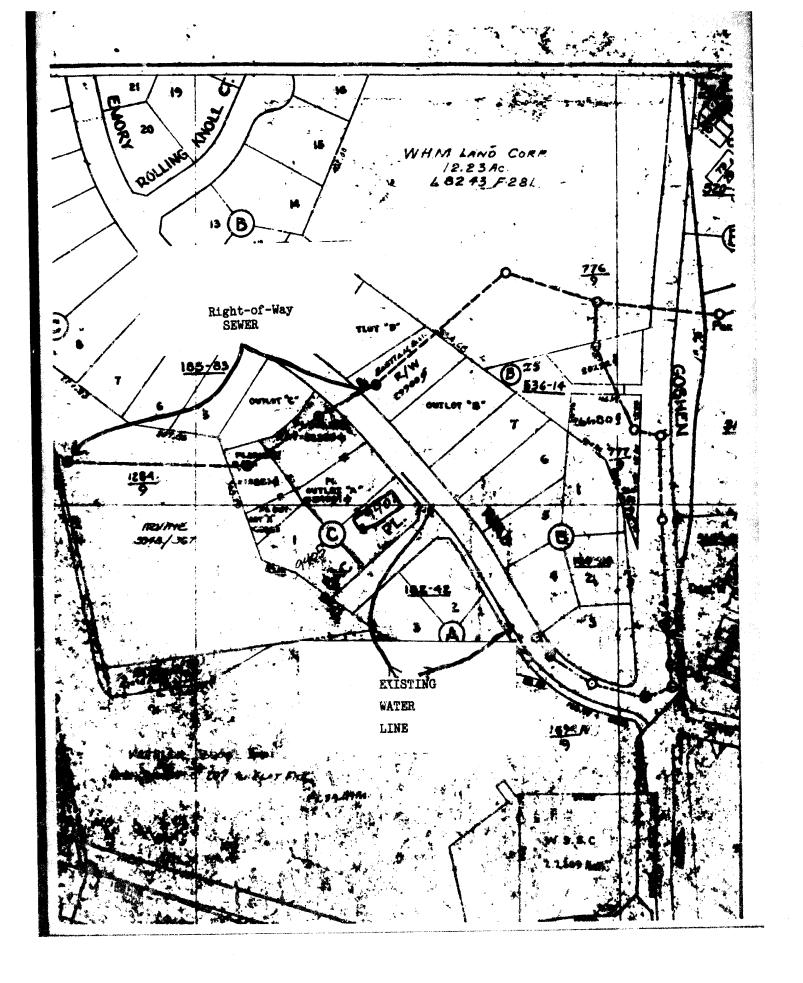
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

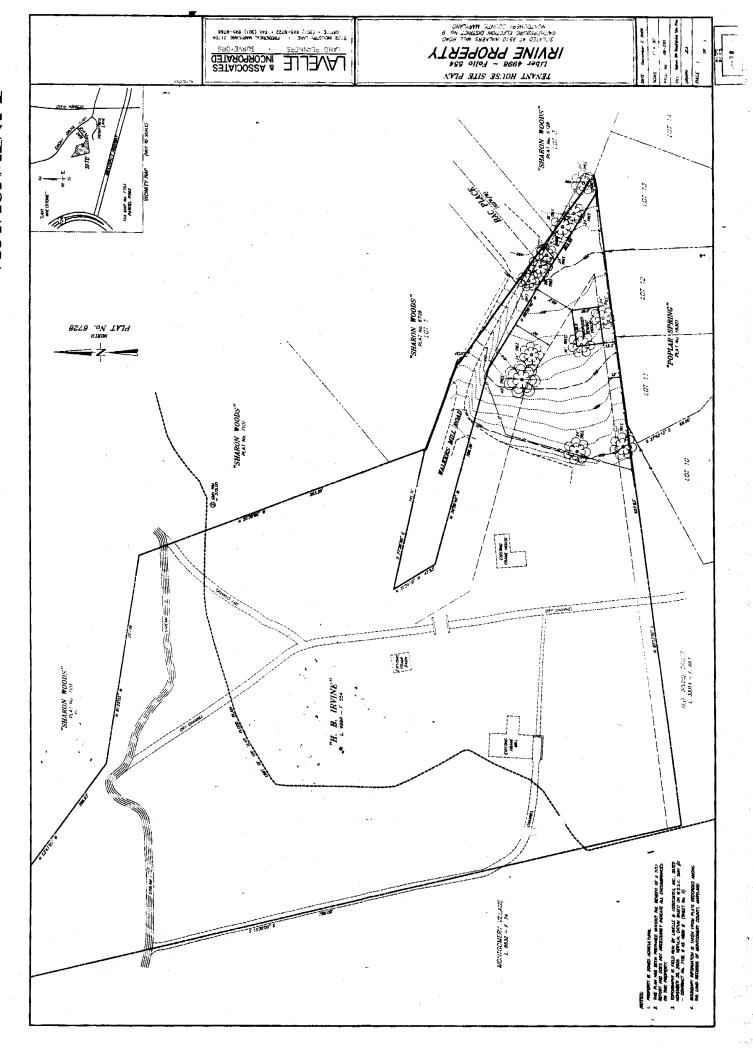
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 2001 0-8760





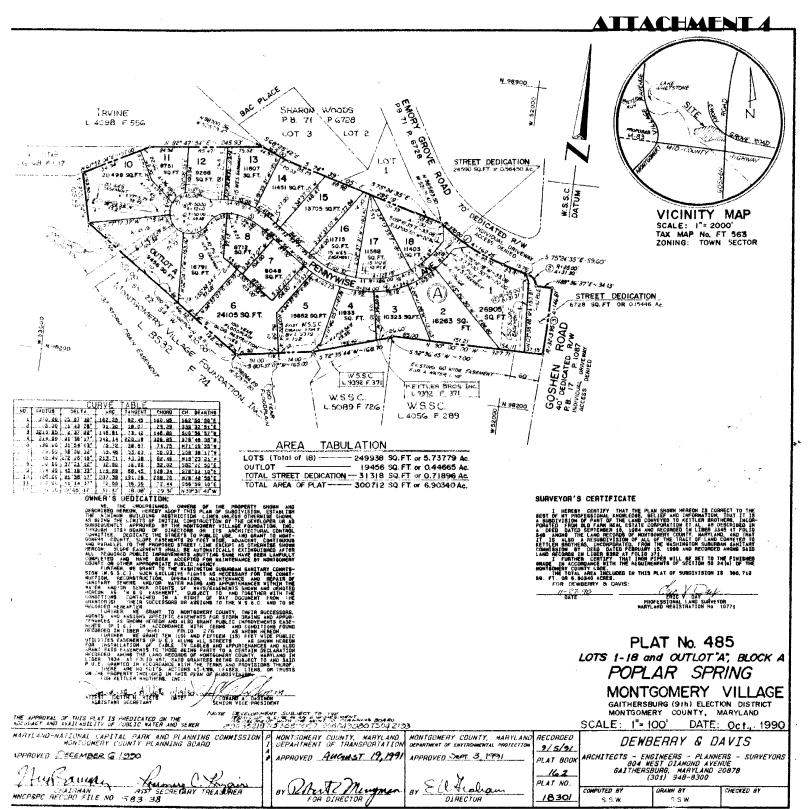
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ATTACHMENT 3





ATTACHMENT 5

