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List of Attachments

Attachment A - Josiah Henson Special Park Work Session DRAFT Master Plan

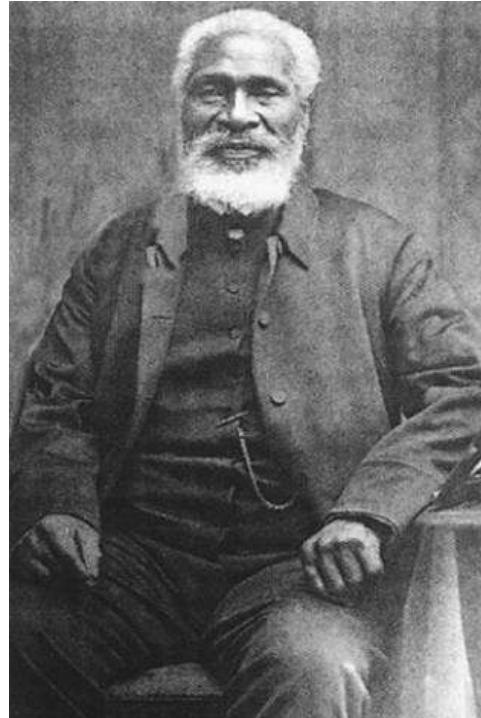
December 2010

Attachment B - Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan – Appendix #5

Attachment C - Staff Response to Public Hearing Testimony of October 28, 2010

Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan

- WORK SESSION DRAFT -



**Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Department of Parks**

December 2, 2010

Elected & Appointed Officials

County Council

Nancy Floreen – *President*
Valerie Ervin - *Vice President*
George Leventhal
Phil Andrews
Roger Berliner
Marc Elrich
Mike Knapp
Nancy Navarro
Duchy Trachtenberg.

County Executive

Isiah Leggett

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Samuel J. Parker– *Chairman*
Francoise Carrier – *Vice Chairman*

Commissioners

Montgomery County Planning Board

Francoise Carrier – *Chair*
Marye Wells-Harley – *Vice Chair*
Joe Alfandre
Amy Presley
Norman Dreyfuss

Prince George’s County Planning Board

Samuel J. Parker – *Chairman*
Sylvester J. Vaughns – *Vice Chairman*
Sarah A. Cavitt
Jesse Clark
John Squire

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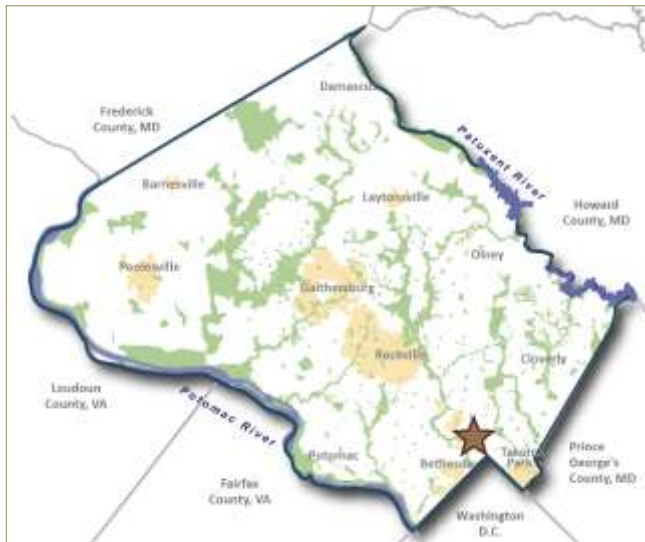
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Figure 1 - Locator Maps

Right - Vicinity Map
Below - Countywide Map



Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Plan is to establish:

- A site-specific Vision Statement;
- A process and means for gathering and responding to public input;
- Guidance in the short term for ongoing operations and programming; and
- Guidance to the upcoming Facility Plan

Figure 2 - Process for developing the Preliminary Program of Requirements

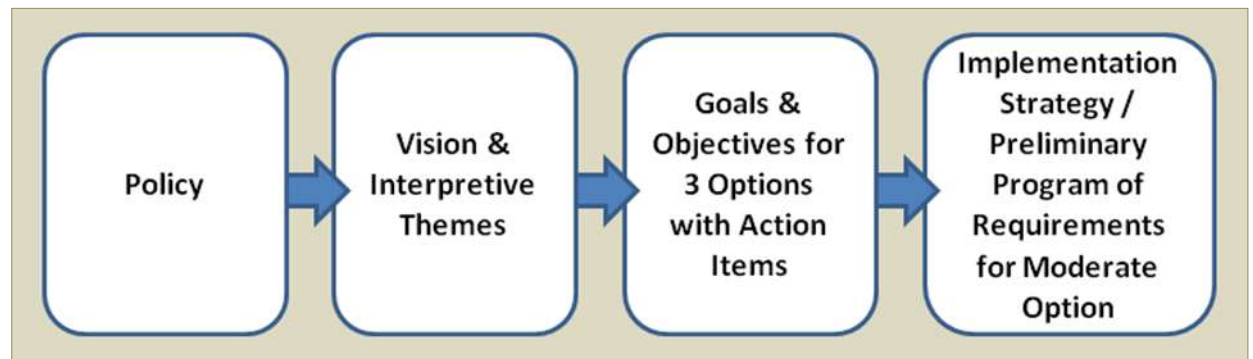


Figure 3 - Archaeological activities in the Park



Top - An archaeology volunteer at work.
Bottom - Archaeological excavation in the
backyard of the Josiah Henson Site.

The Park Today

Site Description

- 1.5 acres in an R-200 Zone
- Special Park
- Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane in North Bethesda
- Southern Maintenance Region
- Adjacent to White Flint Sector Planning Area



Top - rear view of Riley Farm log wing
Middle - front view of Riley Farm
Bottom - the Rozier property house

Opportunities

- An internationally significant cultural resource
- Interpretation can be achieved through Henson's own words from his autobiographies.
- Interpretation of the history of Slavery in Montgomery County and Maryland, the "middle ground," can be extensive.
- Stakeholders: Consensus can be achieved and efforts realized through cooperation among adjacent Luxmanor residents, Historians and Archaeologists, African American community countywide, the Maryland-National Park Planning Commission and other interested parties.

Potential Constraints

- Surrounding land-use is single-family residential, R-200 Zone
- Adjacent private, land-use pattern does not reflect historic landscape
- Small, constrained site and has no parking
- Site's historical public 'persona' mandates improved security (Note: Implementation of recommendations from a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Study is underway)
- Wayfinding and destination signage are required
- M-NCPPC's future operating and capital budgets likely insufficient for full program.

Figure 4 - Site Map



Transportation and Access Issues

- Safe, adequate pedestrian and vehicular access is a concern.
- Traffic and parking situation are concerns given neighborhood setting.

Regulatory Impacts

- Historic Preservation Ordinance/Chapter 24-A of the Montgomery County Code because site is a local landmark.
- Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (due to a Save America's Treasures grant).
- Forest Conservation and Environmental Site Design
- Noise Regulations (If applicable)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Figure 5 - Josiah Henson's Journeys through Maryland, 1789-1830

- 1. Henson's Birthplace, 1789**
Francis Newman Plantation, Port Tobacco, Charles County, MD
- 2. Owner of Henson's Mother**
Dr. Josiah McPherson Plantation, Charles County, MD
- 3. Site of Slave Auctions near Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.**
- 4. Adam Robb, former owner of Henson**
Adam Robb Plantation, Rockville, MD
- 5. Site of Henson's Enslavement, 1789-1830**
Isaac Riley Plantation, Rockville, MD
- 6. Site of Henson's Spiritual Conversion**
Newport Mill, Montgomery County, MD
- 7. Marketplace frequented by Henson**
Georgetown, Washington, DC



Map of Maryland, c. 1795

Historic Context

- The park is part of the Isaac Riley plantation where Reverend Josiah Henson, an enslaved person, grew from early childhood into adulthood.
- After escape to Canada in 1830, Henson wrote his autobiography which inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Henson's autobiography describes the Riley plantation and his forced labor there. It also describes being inside the Riley House.
- Henson's particular life story and history of slavery and emancipation in Montgomery County connect this site to other historic sites in the county and in Rockville such as Newport Mill in the Ken-Gar neighborhood (where Henson found Christianity), the sites of the Rockville auction block (where slaves were sold and families separated), Adam Robb's cabin (Henson's prior owner before his purchase by Isaac Riley), etc.
- The park also has connections to other destinations in Henson's story: his birthplace in Charles County, his travels to Kentucky (where he was sent to live as a slave under Amos Riley), his return as a minister (where he preached in the free state of Ohio), and his participation on the



Figure 6 -- A modern background with the 1863 property boundary of the Isaac Riley Farm

Underground Railroad as both fugitive and conductor.

- This park is the only site with a standing structure left in the United States where people interested in Henson can still visit and discern an association with his life.
- Henson established a free black settlement called Dawn in Dresden, Ontario, Canada that is an Ontario Heritage Trust Site, and part of the Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site. Canada has designated Henson a “Canadian of National Historical Significance.”

Guiding Documents

Planning Board Approved Actions

- *1979 – Master Plan for Historic Preservation* - Resource #30/6, Individual Designation: “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.” Subject to Chapter 24-A of the Montgomery County Code, Historic Preservation Ordinance.
- *2005 – Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* - “Integrate interpretive programs into park master plans.”
- *2009 – Legacy Open Space Master Plan*. Josiah Henson site added as a “heritage resource” during Parks’ acquisition of the Rozier parcel.
- *2010 – White Flint Sector Plan* - “The redesign of Wall Local Park should . . . include a pedestrian connection to the Josiah Henson/Uncle Tom’s Cabin site, a cultural site of international significance, about one quarter-mile south on Old Georgetown Road and one half-mile from the Metro station. This Plan envisions a public/private partnership with adjacent properties to relocate the surface parking within a parking structure built in conjunction with new residential development such as a public/private agreement.”

Staff Documents

- *2008 – Historic Structure Report for The Riley Farm / Josiah Henson Site* - Three (3) alternative treatment plans are proposed to lay the groundwork for schematic design in accordance with Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation and to support historical exhibits on Henson and slavery. (Visit www.JosiahHensonSite.org and see the Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site Summary in the Appendix.)
- *2006 – Artifact to Attraction a Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks* - A “Top 20 Priority Project” with the long-term goal of public interpretation.

Figure 7—Reverend Josiah Henson’s North American Travels, 1795-1830

1. Montgomery County, MD
2. Daviess County, KY
3. Mississippi River, LA
4. Cincinnati, OH
5. Sandusky City, OH
6. Buffalo, NY
7. Dawn Settlement, Ontario, Canada



Plan Recommendations

Vision

Adopt a facility-specific vision for this cultural site. Staff recommends the following:

A public museum that ...

- celebrates the challenging and inspiring life of Rev. Josiah Henson, the man who inspired the fictional character “Uncle Tom”;
- educates visitors about the enslavement of African Americans in Maryland; and
- promotes a greater appreciation of history in Montgomery County.



Top - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and portrait of the author, Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1881.

Bottom - *Uncle Tom's Story of His Life* and portrait of the author, Reverend Josiah Henson

Figure 8 - Interpretive Themes Diagram



Interpretive Themes

Work is ongoing to explore and refine best interpretive themes to guide programs.

The historical exhibit themes listed below will enable the public to come to know, appreciate, and put into context, the life of Reverend Josiah Henson, an African American Marylander who represents an iconic American image. Henson's Maryland years, especially the ones spent in Montgomery County at the Riley plantation, illustrate what slavery was like on the "Middle Ground," the cultural and philosophical situation that parallels the geographic "middle ground" of the Border States.

Through Henson's experiences the exhibit will explore the childhood of enslaved persons; family life; work; travel and independence; spiritual life; punishment and resistance; and freedom. It is impossible to understand Josiah Henson's life in a historical vacuum. Riley family life and tradition are linked to the understanding of Henson's Maryland years. Whenever possible, Henson's own words will give voice to the stories of his life. (*Historic Structure Report, 2008*)



Above - The Reverend Josiah Henson and his wife.

Reverend Josiah Henson - African American Slave Experience in Montgomery County, Maryland (born 1789, died 1883)

Early Life of Enslaved People

- **Childhood**

Slavery extracted a huge toll on the lives of enslaved children. (*Historic Structure Report*) (*Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme*)

- **Family Life**

Slavery in 19th century Maryland separated families, created hardships, and forced families to struggle to remain united. (*Historic Structure Report*) (*Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme*)

- **Spiritual Life**

Many enslaved persons maintained a spiritual life under varying circumstances; as spirituality was a sustaining resource to them in their daily lives. The desire to read the Bible was also motivation to become literate during a period when literacy for the enslaved was illegal. (*Historic Structure Report*)

Work & Living Conditions

Economic conditions of slaveholders varied, determining the living conditions of enslaved people and the work they performed, whether that be domestic, industrial, and/or agricultural. *(Historic Structure Report) (Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Travel and Independence**

Enslaved people sometimes exercised independence when given opportunities to travel on their own, promoting their own causes and satisfying their own desires. *(Historic Structure Report) (Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Leadership & Responsibility**

Enslaved people struggled to be recognized as human, not chattel; they demonstrated leadership skills and claimed responsibility when they could. *(Historic Structure Report) (Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Punishment & Resistance**

The institution of slavery was held in place by violence — much of which took place within the confines of the law. Punishment of the enslaved impacted both the living conditions and family life. Resistance to enslavement and its cruel punishments were exercised by many methods including escape. *(Historic Structure Report)*

Freedom / Emancipation

Enslaved people sought emancipation via **manumission**, **purchase** of their own freedom, or **escape**. Enslaved people made personal sacrifices to gain their own and others' freedom via the **Underground Railroad**. *(Public Meeting J. Henson Theme) (Public Meeting: Montgomery County History of Slavery Theme)*

- **Free Black Communities (1800s)**

Emancipated slaves and their descendants formed close-knit **communities**, including many in Montgomery County, Maryland. *(Public Meeting: Montgomery County's History of Slavery Theme)*

Isaac Riley Plantation

- **Slaveholding Family**

The life of the Riley family, representing a slaveholding family near Rockville, is linked to understanding both Henson's Maryland years and Montgomery County's role within a border state, "the middle ground." (*Historic Structure Report*) (*Public Meeting: Montgomery County History of Slavery Theme*)

- **Plantation History**

The evolution of the Riley Plantation, from its beginning to the present, demonstrates changes in American **architecture** and **landscape**, also evident through **archaeology**. (*Historic Structure Report*) (*Public Meeting: Architectural and Historic Landscape Interpretation Theme and Archaeological Discovery Theme*)

Myth, History, Literature & Stereotypes

Myth, literature, history, and stereotype are woven together in the interpretation of the period from slavery to freedom to civil rights. The complexities of slavery are revealed through the examination of: **slave narratives** and stories surrounding slavery and relevant primary documents.

- **Harriet Beecher Stowe**

It was due to the widespread publication of her 1852 book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in many different languages around the world that Henson's true-life story came to be known. (*Historic Structure Report*)

Interpretive Strategies

This interpretive plan will explore the above-listed themes by incorporation of ongoing research and interpretative strategies, such as: exhibit signage, exhibit brochures, public programs, public tours, video documentary, and outdoor experience/living history (*see Figure XXX for details*).

Goals and Objectives

Based on public input, Staff developed four Goals. The Goals and Objectives are used to guide future operational and capital improvements.

- **Goal #1** - Interpret Rev. Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County
- **Goal #2** - Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape
- **Goal #3** - Create a safe, accessible site.
- **Goal #4** - Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site.

To meet the Plan Goals, Staff then developed three implementation options, Minimum, Moderate and Maximum. These options are detailed in the chart in the *Implementation Options Chart (Figure 9)*.

- The **Minimum Option** equates with the current level of programming. Essentially depicts the activities now taking place at the Josiah Henson Special Park with enhancements.
- The **Moderate Option** takes the park to the next level in capital improvements and interpretive programming.
- The **Maximum Option** outlines steps for more extensive capital improvements and expanded interpretive programming.

Staff selected the **Moderate Option** as best meeting the goals of the public, the carrying capacity of the small park situated in a residential neighborhood, and the realities of the Department and County budgets.

Implementation Options- Minimum with Enhancements, Moderate, Maximum

Figure 9 - Implementation Options Chart

GOAL #1: Interpret Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM WITH ENHANCEMENTS	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<p>Provide interpretative programming of the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen grounds and archaeological sites.</p>	<p>Open the site to the public (4) days per year and conduct limited special request tours for private groups.</p> <p>The (4) occasions when the site is open to the public include: Luxmanor Citizens Community Art Show (April), Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage (May), Montgomery County Heritage Days (June), and Maryland Emancipation Day (Nov).</p>	<p>Conduct (4) annual special programs: Luxmanor Citizens Community Art Show (April), Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage (May), Montgomery County Heritage Days (June), and Maryland Emancipation Day (Nov).</p> <p>Open the site to the public on weekends, February through November. Conduct limited special request tours for private groups and school groups (primarily for 4th + 8th grade levels).</p> <p>Hire (1) full-time employee whose office will be on the site.</p> <p>When open, guided tours are conducted of the house, grounds and the ongoing archaeological digs;</p> <p>Expand program opportunities to include hands-on activities, docent-led living history demonstrations, and programs for school children.</p>	<p>Open the site to the public February through November (5) days per week (3) weekdays, Saturday and Sunday. Conduct special request tours for private groups and school groups (primarily for 4th + 8th grade levels.)</p> <p>Hire (2+) full-time employees, with offices on the site.</p> <p>[Utilize same programming as those noted in MODERATE OPTION.]</p> <p>Expand program opportunities to include additional hands-on activities, lectures and symposia, living history demonstrations, programs for school children, and an interactive website.</p>
<p>Conduct ongoing research into Josiah Henson (especially his experiences in Maryland, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Canada and Europe), slavery in Montgomery County, and make connections to local and regional African American history and related topics.</p>	<p>Conduct 200 hours of research annually.</p> <p>Ongoing research will ensure accurate interpretation through programs and exhibitions.</p> <p>Establish an archival collection at the site focused primarily on Josiah Henson and slavery in Montgomery County.</p>	<p>Expand research topics to include expanded interpretive themes.</p> <p>Conduct 200 hours of research annually.</p> <p>Expand the archival and library collections.</p>	<p>Conduct 600 hours of research annually.</p> <p>Hire (1) part-time historian.</p> <p>Conduct 400 hours of research annually.</p> <p>Establish an ongoing paid collegiate internship program to enlist (1) intern per semester to work onsite.</p> <p>Maintain collegiate internship program with (1) intern per semester working onsite.</p> <p>Expand research topics to include expanded interpretive themes.</p> <p>Expand the archival and library collections.</p>
<p>Establish collaborations with local, regional, statewide, national and</p>	<p>Coordinate with local & county-wide historical agencies on programming for the site, such as: Lincoln Park Foundation, Peerless Rockville, Montgomery County</p>	<p>Establish an interpretive advisory committee to assist in the development of the interpretive plan.</p> <p>Expand interpretive program coordination to include</p>	<p>Expand interpretive program coordination to include more national and international historic organizations such as the National Museum of African American</p>

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM WITH ENHANCEMENTS	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
international historical organizations to support joint interpretive programming for the site.	Historical Society, Menare Foundation, etc. Establish an interpretive advisory committee to assist in the development of the facility plan.	the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site (Ontario, Canada), regional and national historical organizations such as: M-NCPPC Prince George County historic sites, the Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History (Baltimore), Harriet B. Stowe Center (Hartford, CT) and the Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati, OH). Establish a one-room research library (non-borrowing), specializing on Josiah Henson, slavery in Montgomery County and the international appeal of both Henson's narrative and H. B. Stowe's novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin.	History and Culture (D.C.), and historic institutions in England and Denmark. Expand the research into a research center (non-borrowing) onsite that will be open the same hours as the museum. Hire (1) part-time or seasonal archivist/librarian to manage the research center. Consider making proposed research/room an online touch-screen resource.
Produce an orientation film focused on Josiah Henson's Maryland years and the Isaac Riley family.	When open, guided tours are conducted of the house, grounds and the ongoing archaeological digs; and, the video, "Father Henson – His Spirit Lives On" (produced by Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Ontario) is also shown.	Produce a 5-10 minute orientation film similar to that of the <i>Parks Show</i> as part of museum exhibition, and continue to offer the 30-minute film from Ontario site as well at visitor station..	Produce a 5-10 minute orientation film to introduce Josiah Henson, the Riley plantation history and an overview of slavery in Montgomery County. Produce a full-length documentary on the life of Josiah Henson (focused on his Maryland years), the Riley family and plantation history, and an overview of slavery in Montgomery County. Documentary will be available for sale to the public.
Design, fabricate and install museum quality exhibitions in the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen and on the grounds.		Riley House: Design, develop and install exhibitions with didactic panels, minimal artifacts, and low-tech interactive, such as tactical farm implements that can be handled by children. 1850s Log Kitchen: Restore the second, rear doorway; lower the floor; restore either partially or completely the attic; and create a simulated dirt floor. Grounds: Design and install a kitchen garden.	Riley House: Increase the level of technology for the exhibit interactives such as touch screen computer stations. 1850s Log Kitchen: Restore and furnish the kitchen to a functional 1850s kitchen with working hearth. Grounds: Expand on the gardens to include samplings of historic crop plantings. Reconstruct outbuilding(s) such as the smokehouse.

GOAL #2: Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
Demolish 1960s Rozier house and garage.	Complete demolition of house and garage.	Complete demolition of house and garage.	Complete demolition of house and garage.
Use historic documentation and archaeology to identify former structures and features of the plantation	Pursue ongoing archaeological investigation and make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibit.	Pursue ongoing archaeological investigation. Make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibit.	Pursue ongoing archaeological investigation and make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibit.

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
and make archaeology a vital element of ongoing work and future exhibits.			
<p>Identify and label large trees, remove non-historic plantings, and return landscape to an earlier form with known crops/planting.</p>		<p>Use landscape screening where appropriate and label old trees. Alter landscape to re-create historic feel where appropriate.</p> <p>Establish gardens (possible areas for reflection) and plantings based on historical information. .</p> <p>Consider creating a special school project to implement and/or care for the landscape.</p>	<p>[Maintain activities noted in the MODERATE OPTION.]</p>
<p>Preserve historic house according to historic preservation standards and applicable laws.¹</p> <p>See Appendix 1 for Staff priorities.</p>	<p>Minimum changes to the house, for use as a museum focused on Josiah Henson’s story, plantation life, and slavery with some interpretation of the Riley family and of the 1936-era architecture. This approach would be the least costly and would have the least adverse effect on the historic resources.</p>	<p>More moderate changes to the house, for use as a museum focused on Josiah Henson’s story, plantation life, and slavery, also with interpretation of the Riley family and of the 1936-era architecture. This recommendation places interpretive emphasis on the first half of the 19th century more than on 1936.</p>	<p>Generally, extensive changes to each part the House, for the most accurate or useful design of each of the house’s components as facilities for a museum focused on Josiah Henson’s story, plantation life, and slavery, with interpretation of the Riley family as well. This alternative has more architectural focus on the 1936-era architecture in some parts of the house than the other alternatives. An exception would be in the 1936 kitchen, which would be gutted and rebuilt as an exhibit space. This approach incorporates some items that may be disproportionately costly, and in some areas, it would have a negative effect regarding some of the historic materials, particularly those dating from 1936. This recommendation still places the interpretive emphasis more on the first half of the 19th century, rather than on 1936.</p>
<p>Expand the park to reflect its historic and/or cultural landscape significance.</p>	<p>Consider possible future expansion of existing park boundary based on presence of contributing historical and/or archaeological features as shown on aerial photography from 1927 and 1943. These features may include the farm road and former outbuildings with their adjacent land area. Future park acquisition assumes willing sellers, fair market value as determine through independent appraisals, and available funding.</p>	<p>Consider possible future expansion of existing park boundary based on presence of contributing historical and/or archaeological features as shown on aerial photography from 1927 and 1943. These features may include the farm road and former outbuildings with their adjacent land area. Future park acquisition assumes willing sellers, fair market value as determine through independent appraisals, and available funding.</p>	<p>Consider possible future expansion of existing park boundary based on presence of contributing historical and/or archaeological features as shown on aerial photography from 1927 and 1943. These features may include the farm road and former outbuildings with their adjacent land area. Future park acquisition assumes willing sellers, fair market value as determine through independent appraisals, and available funding.</p>

¹ *Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site*, (June 2008), prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

GOAL #3: Create a safe, accessible site

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
Make this site a safe park and protect its resources.	Remove sight-limiting shrubs, add motion-detection lighting, and better secure house and contents against potential vandals.	Remove sight-limiting shrubs, add motion-detection lighting, and better secure house and contents against potential vandals.	Remove sight-limiting shrubs, add motion-detection lighting, and better secure house and contents against potential vandals.
Create onsite parking spaces.	Staff park at both the Rozier house and the Riley house in the existing driveways.	Create (5) parking spaces: (3) staff spaces and (2) ADA public spaces. Create a bus pull-off for 55-passenger coach buses and school buses.	Create (5) parking spaces: (3) staff spaces and (2) ADA public spaces. Create a bus pull-off for 55-passenger coach buses and school buses.
Design and implement adequate public access on Old Georgetown Road.	Staff and visitors use the existing driveway into the Riley house and grounds.	Create a separate access road for Parks maintenance staff. Create a pedestrian-only access from Old Georgetown Road utilizing the existing driveway into the Riley house and grounds. Create a pedestrian path from the parking lot on the former Rozier property to the Riley house and grounds. Eliminate the circular driveway on the Riley grounds and restore the historic spring access. Identify ADA compliant access points.	Create a separate access road for Parks maintenance staff. Create a pedestrian-only access from Old Georgetown Road utilizing the existing driveway into the Riley house and grounds. Create a pedestrian path from the parking lot on the former Rozier property to the Riley house and grounds. Eliminate the circular driveway on the Riley grounds and restore the historic spring access. Identify ADA compliant access points.
Install restroom facilities.	Utilize (2) port-a-johns (ADA and regular) during special events.	Install (2) permanent public restrooms on the existing non-historic site.	Install multiple permanent restrooms off site in a future visitor center.
Create a visitor orientation/information point onsite.	Install (up to 3) interpretive signs. Install a standard Parks information kiosk on the former Rozier property. Utilize the existing garage on the Riley grounds as a visitor orientation site.	Install a standard Parks information kiosk on the former Rozier property. Install (up to 3) interpretive signs. Use an existing garage on the property grounds as a visitor orientation site with moderate design changes.	Build a visitor center off site (if additional land becomes available.)
Install park amenities for the enjoyment of visitors.		Install bike racks in the parking area. Install outdoor benches.	Install additional site amenities.

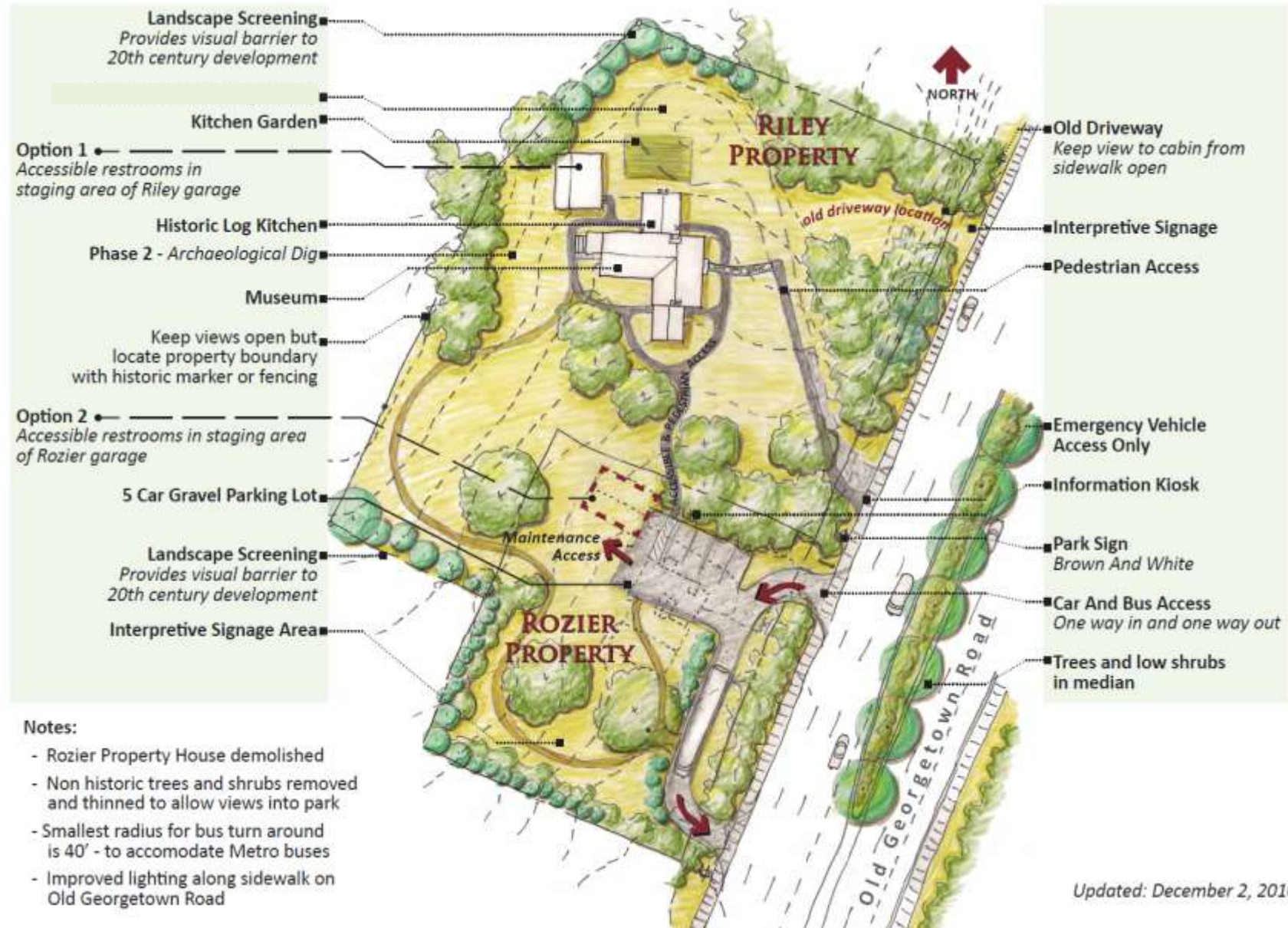
GOAL #4: Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<p>Establish income streams to support ongoing programming and staffing.</p>	<p>Obtain federal grants and state bond bills in addition to county funding sources.</p>	<p>Establish income streams from (3) areas:</p> <p>Government agencies: Solicit funding sources from items such as park tax, bonds, grants, etc.</p> <p>Business model: seek developer contributions from future private developers; and generate revenue from programming such as fees charged for special programs, group tours, etc.</p> <p>Seek develop contributions from nearby by developers such as those occurring within the White Flint Sector.</p>	<p>Establish an ongoing income stream that will fund one position for a full- or part-time employee for the site.</p> <p>Establish a gift shop on site.</p> <p>Contract a development/fundraising consultant to identify target funding opportunities and to fundraise.</p>
<p>Establish a volunteer corps to provide interpretive program assistance, to serve as advocates within the community and to provide pro bono services in specialty areas, such as development and advocacy.</p>	<p>Manage small group of volunteer docents.</p>	<p>Encourage the Luxmanor Citizens Association to create a committee of community members in support of the Josiah Henson Special Park.</p> <p>Establish a volunteer corps to provide guided tours and assist with special programs.</p> <p>Establish partnerships with local schools</p>	<p>Hire staff person to manage volunteer corps.</p>
<p>Facilitate the establishment of a Friends group.</p>		<p>Develop a site-specific Friends group whose primary focus will be to support the Josiah Henson Special Park with fundraising/development activities.</p>	<p>Financially supported by the Friends' fundraising programs, the following staff will be hired: (1) grant writer or development officer, (1) program coordinator and possibly a volunteer coordinator.</p>

Figure???10 - The Site today



Figure 11 - Plan Drawing for Moderate Option



Preferred Option

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the **Moderate Option** in the Master Plan as the preferred option. Figure 9 illustrates the Moderate Options.

Staff selected the **Moderate Option** for the following reasons:

1. It successfully fulfills the interpretive goals and potential of the historic site;
2. It maintains compatibility with the neighborhood in which it sits;
3. The operational benchmarks are achievable with a reasonable request for facility-specific staff; and
4. It is compatible with the economic realities of the Department and County, neither accepting of a status-quo vacant house with minimal public openings nor overreaching to emulate capital outlays achievable in the private museum sector.

Moderate Option: Implementation and Project Staging

Figure 12 - Implementation and Project Staging Chart

KEY: "Plan and/or Design" = White Boxes and "Construct and/or Implement" = Blue Arrows

Plan Element	Description	Short Term FY11-12	Mid & Long Term FY13-18
GOAL 1			
Interpret Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County			
Objective 1.1 Provide interpretative programming of the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen, grounds and archaeological sites.			
Action 1	Conduct (4) annual special programs: Luxmanor Citizens Community Art Show (April), Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage (May), Montgomery County Heritage Days (June), and Maryland Emancipation Day (Nov).	[Blue arrow spanning FY11-12 to end of chart]	
Action 2	Open the site to the public February through November (1) day per month. Conduct limited special request tours for private groups and school groups (primarily for 4th + 8th grade levels).	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]
Action 3	Hire (1) full-time employee whose office will be on the site.	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]
Action 4	When open, guided tours are conducted of the house, grounds and the ongoing archaeological digs; and a 5-10 minute orientation film (produced by Parks) is also shown.	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]
Action 5	Expand program opportunities to include hands-on activities, lectures and symposia, living history demonstrations, programs for school children, and an interactive website.	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]
Objective 1.2 Conduct ongoing research into Josiah Henson (especially his experiences in Maryland, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Canada and Europe), slavery in Montgomery County, and make connections to local and regional African American history, and related topics.			
Action 1	Expand research topics to include expanded interpretive themes.	[Blue arrow spanning FY11-12 to end of chart]	
Action 2	Conduct 400 hours of research annually.	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]
Action 3	Establish an ongoing paid collegiate internship program to enlist (1) intern per semester to work onsite.	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]
Action 4	Expand the archival and library collections.	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]
Objective 1.3 Establish collaborations with local, regional, statewide, national and international historical organizations to support joint interpretive programming for the site.			
Action 1	Establish an interpretive advisory committee to assist in the development of the facility plan.	[Blue arrow spanning FY11-12 to end of chart]	
Action 2	Expand interpretive program coordination to include the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site (Ontario, Canada), regional and national historical organizations such as: M-NCPPC Prince George County historic sites, the Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History (Baltimore), Harriet B. Stowe Center (Hartford, CT) and the Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati, OH).	[Dashed box from start to mid]	[Blue arrow from mid to end]

Plan Element	Description	Short Term FY11-12	Mid & Long Term FY13-18		
Action 3	Establish a one-room research library (non-borrowing), specializing on Josiah Henson, slavery in Montgomery County and the international appeal of both Henson's narrative and H. B. Stowe's novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin.				
Objective 1.4 Produce an orientation film focused on Josiah Henson's Maryland years and the Isaac Riley family.					
Action 1	Produce a 5-10 minute orientation film to introduce Josiah Henson, the Riley plantation history and an overview of slavery in Montgomery County.				
Action 2	Show orientation film within the onsite museum exhibition.				
Objective 1.5 Design, fabricate and install museum quality exhibitions in the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen and on the grounds.					
Action 1	Riley House: Design, develop and install exhibitions with didactic panels, minimal artifacts, and low-tech interactive, such as tactical farm implements that can be handled by children.				
Action 2	1850s Log Kitchen: Restore the second, rear doorway; lower the floor; restore either partially or completely the attic; and create a simulated dirt floor.				
Action 3	Grounds: Design and install a kitchen garden.				
GOAL 2 Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape					
Objective 2.1 Demolish 1960s Rozier house and garage.					
Action 1	Completion demolition of the Rozier house and garage.				
Objective 2.2 Use historic documentation and archaeology to identify former structures and features of the plantation and make archaeology a vital element of ongoing work and future exhibits.					
Action 1	Pursue ongoing archaeological investigation.				
Action 2	Make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibit.				
Objective 2.3 Identify and label large trees, remove non-historic plantings, and return landscape to an earlier form with known crops/planting.					
Action 1	Use landscape screening where appropriate and label old trees.				
Action 2	Alter landscape to re-create historic feel where appropriate.				

Plan Element	Description	Short Term FY11-12	Mid & Long Term FY13-18		
Action 3	Establish gardens (possible areas for reflection) and plantings based on historical information.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Objective 2.4 Preserve historic house according to historic preservation standards and applicable laws.					
Action 1	More moderate changes to the house, for use as a museum focused on Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, and slavery, also with interpretation of the Riley family and of the 1936-era architecture. This approach would entail a few costs over what is absolutely necessary and would have a more pronounced effect on the historic resources. ** Note - staff's recommendation places interpretive emphasis on the first half of the 19th century more than on 1936. (See Appendix 1 "Alternatives" taken and modified from the Historic Structure Report, 2008, to reflect staff priorities.)	[]	[]	[]	[]
Objective 2.5 Expand the park to reflect its historic and/or cultural landscape significance.					
Action 1	Consider possible future expansion of existing park boundary based on presence of contributing historical and/or archaeological features as shown on aerial photography from 1927 and 1943. These features may include the farm road and former outbuildings with their adjacent land area. Future park acquisition assumes willing sellers, fair market value as determine through three independent appraisals, and available funding.	[]	[]	[]	[]
GOAL 3					
Create a safe, accessible site.					
Objective 3.1 Make this site a safe park and protect its resources.					
Action 1	Remove sight-limiting shrubs, add motion-detection lighting, and better secure house and contents against potential vandals.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Objective 3.2 Create onsite parking spaces.					
Action 1	Create (5) parking spaces: (3) staff spaces and (2) ADA public spaces.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Action 2	Create a bus pull-off for 55-passenger coach buses and school buses.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Objective 3.3 Design and implement adequate public access on Old Georgetown Road.					
Action 1	Create a separate access road for Parks maintenance staff.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Action 2	Create a pedestrian-only access from Old Georgetown Road utilizing the existing driveway into the Riley house and grounds.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Action 3	Create a pedestrian path from the parking lot on the former Rozier property to the Riley house and grounds.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Action 4	Eliminate the circular driveway on the Riley grounds and restore the historic spring access.	[]	[]	[]	[]
Action 5	Identify ADA compliant access points.	[]	[]	[]	[]

Plan Element	Description	Short Term FY11-12	Mid & Long Term FY13-18
Objective 3.4	Install restroom facilities.		
Action 1	Install (2) permanent ADA restrooms (male and female) on the existing Riley garage site.		
Objective 3.5	Create a Visitor Orientation/Information Point onsite.		
Action 1	Install a standard Parks information kiosk on the former Rozier property.		
Action 2	Install (up to 3) interpretive signs.		
Action 3	Use the existing garage on the Riley grounds as a visitor orientation site with moderate design changes.		
Objective 3.6	Install park amenities for the enjoyment of visitors.		
Action 1	Install bike racks in the parking area.		
Action 2	Install outdoor benches.		
GOAL 4			
Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site.			
Objective 4.1	Establish income streams to support ongoing programming and staffing.		
Action 1	Establish income streams from (3) areas: Government agencies: Solicit funding sources from items such as park tax, bonds, etc. Business model: Establish a gift shop onsite; enlist benefits from future private developers (as available); and generate revenue from programming such as fees charged for special programs, group tours, etc.		
Action 2	Contract a development/fundraising consultant to identify target funding opportunities and to fundraise.		
Objective 4.2	Establish a volunteer corps to provide interpretive program assistance, to serve as advocates within the community and to provide pro bono services in specialty areas, such as development and advocacy.		
Action 1	Encourage the Luxmanor Citizens Association to create a committee of community members in support of the Josiah Henson Special Park.		
Action 2	Establish a volunteer corps to provide guided tours and assist with special programs.		
Objective 4.3	Facilitate the establishment of a Friends group.		
Action 1	Develop a site-specific Friends group whose primary focus will be to support the Josiah Henson Special Park with fundraising/development activities.		

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Excerpts from: "Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site"

Appendix 2 - Summary of Public Meetings and Input

Appendix 3 - Traffic Meeting Minutes

Appendix 4 - List of Figures

Appendix 5 - Testimony from Planning Board Public Hearing - October 28, 2010

Appendix 6 - Staff Response to Public Hearing Testimony - October 28, 2010 Public Hearing Testimony

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Appendix 1

Excerpts from: "Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site"

The following alternative options for the Josiah Henson Special Park are built upon recommendations contained in the *Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site* (June 2008), prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

It should be noted that certain elements in each Option are modified from John Milner Associates, Inc.'s recommendations in order to reflect staff's priorities. The three Option lists presented herein are specific to the house and immediate grounds of the 1-acre parcel originally purchased and containing the Riley House.

Minimum Option

Minimum changes to the House for use as a museum focused on Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, and slavery with some interpretation of the Riley family and of the 1936-era architecture. This approach would be the least costly and would have the least adverse effect on the historic resources.

- 1. General Landscape** — Keep landscape approximately as it is now. Purchase additional land as possible guided by documentation of historic and/or archaeological features and given willing sellers, fair market value, and available funding.
- 2. Driveway Access** — Keep the road access as is. Staff parking is accommodated at the terminus. (Note: public parking is off-site at nearby Wall Local Park.)
- 3. Garage** — Keep as is.
- 4. General Restoration of Exterior Features** (the same in all alternatives)
- 5. Shutters** — Restore the shutters, repairing damaged elements, and remaining faithful to the 1936 design.
- 6. Windows and Entrance Door of the Frame House** — Keep the window and door design as they are now. Install interior storm windows for improved thermal characteristics. (All options assume the house would have an air-conditioning system and a forced-air heating system other than an oil-fired furnace.)
- 7. Kitchen (West) Porch** — Restore/repair the rear (west) porch adjoining the kitchen, replacing damaged materials, following the 1936 design.
- 8. Window/Door from Current Library to Exterior** — Leave the window as it is.
- 9. Southeast Window/Doorway to the 1936 Kitchen Wing** — Leave window as it is.
- 10. Log Room Interior** — Keep as is, removing appearance of modern-day intrusions such as electrical outlets. Make interpretive focus on Henson and slavery.

- 11. Library** — Keep the Library as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match the 1936 design. Interpret or use as a library, possibly with books that can be used by visitors.
- 12. Living Room** — Keep the Living Room as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match the 1936 design. Use primarily as exhibit space.
- 13. Dining Room** — Use the wall space and floor area for exhibits about the plantation experience.
- 14. Kitchen in 1936 Wing** — Remove all appliances. Keep the details that date from 1936 in place. Use the room as a combination of part exhibit on the 1930s and kitchen functions and part other uses, possibly including a small museum shop.
- 15. Screened-in Porch** — Keep it as it is, but repair damaged details.
- 16. Second Story** — Repair any damaged materials. Use the space as part of Henson interpretation.

Moderate Option

More moderate changes to the House, for use as a museum focused on Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, and slavery, also with interpretation of the Riley family and of the 1936-era architecture. This approach would entail a few costs over what is absolutely necessary and would have a more pronounced effect on the historic resources.

- 1. General Landscape** — Remove boxwoods, some trees, and most twentieth century hardscape features (patios, walkways, barbecue, etc.) to achieve a design that more closely resembles the property in Henson's time. Create a facsimile of a slavery-era vegetable garden between the 1936 kitchen wing, the garage, and the log house and in the area behind the kitchen wing. Purchase additional land as possible guided by documentation of historic and/or archaeological features and given willing sellers, fair market value, and available funding.
- 2. Driveway Access** — Remove the circular terminus to provide more green space. Accommodate Public parking at Wall Local and potentially other public institutions. Build accessible paths at the site itself.
- 3. Garage** — Convert Garage to an orientation center at which a video can be shown and from which tours begin. The building may also be large enough to accommodate some small meetings, an admissions desk, and a display rack with free brochures and a limited number of items for sale. The building should include two accessible rest rooms.
- 4. General Restoration of Exterior Features** (the same in all alternatives)
- 5. Shutters** — Maintain and restore the shutters, repairing damaged elements, and remaining faithful to the 1936 design.
- 6. Windows and Entrance Door of the Frame House** — Keep as is.
- 7. Kitchen (West) Porch** — Restore the porch, repairing or replacing damaged materials, following the 1936 design in all aspects but keeping glazed storm enclosure.
- 8. Window/Door from Current Library to Exterior** — Leave the window as it is.

9. Southeast Window/Doorway to the 1936 Kitchen Wing — Re-open the exterior doorway that formerly existed at the south end of the hallway from the dining room to the kitchen and living room, using it as part of an accessible path into the house by way of a ramp.

10. Log Room Interior — Treat the log room as a teaching environment about antebellum kitchen spaces and log slave quarters on the property up through 1850. Leave log walls exposed; re-open rear (west) door so that access can be made part of an accessible path from an orientation space in the garage; lower the floor to align with the lowest logs; create a floor surface that resembles a dirt floor (possibly tinted concrete with a slightly uneven surface and a sand finish); reinstall the loft floor to serve as a ceiling, using hand-hewn framing members.

11. Library — Remove the bookcases added to the room in 1936, but keep all other aspects of the room's design as they are now.

12. Living Room — Keep the Living Room as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match the 1936 design. Interpret as a living room, but also with some interpretive exhibits.

13. Dining Room — Keep the Dining Room as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match 1936 design. Interpret as a dining room, possibly displaying Riley family artifacts.

14. Kitchen in 1936 Wing — Remove most modern appliances. Keep the details that date from 1936 in place. Interpret the history of the evolution of a plantation from antebellum times to a modern day subdivision.

15. Screened-in Porch — Completely rebuild this space to provide one more room for the house. New floor should be on level with interior of house, and room should be completely sealed as part of interior space. Use the room to house a research library and possibly a small museum shop.

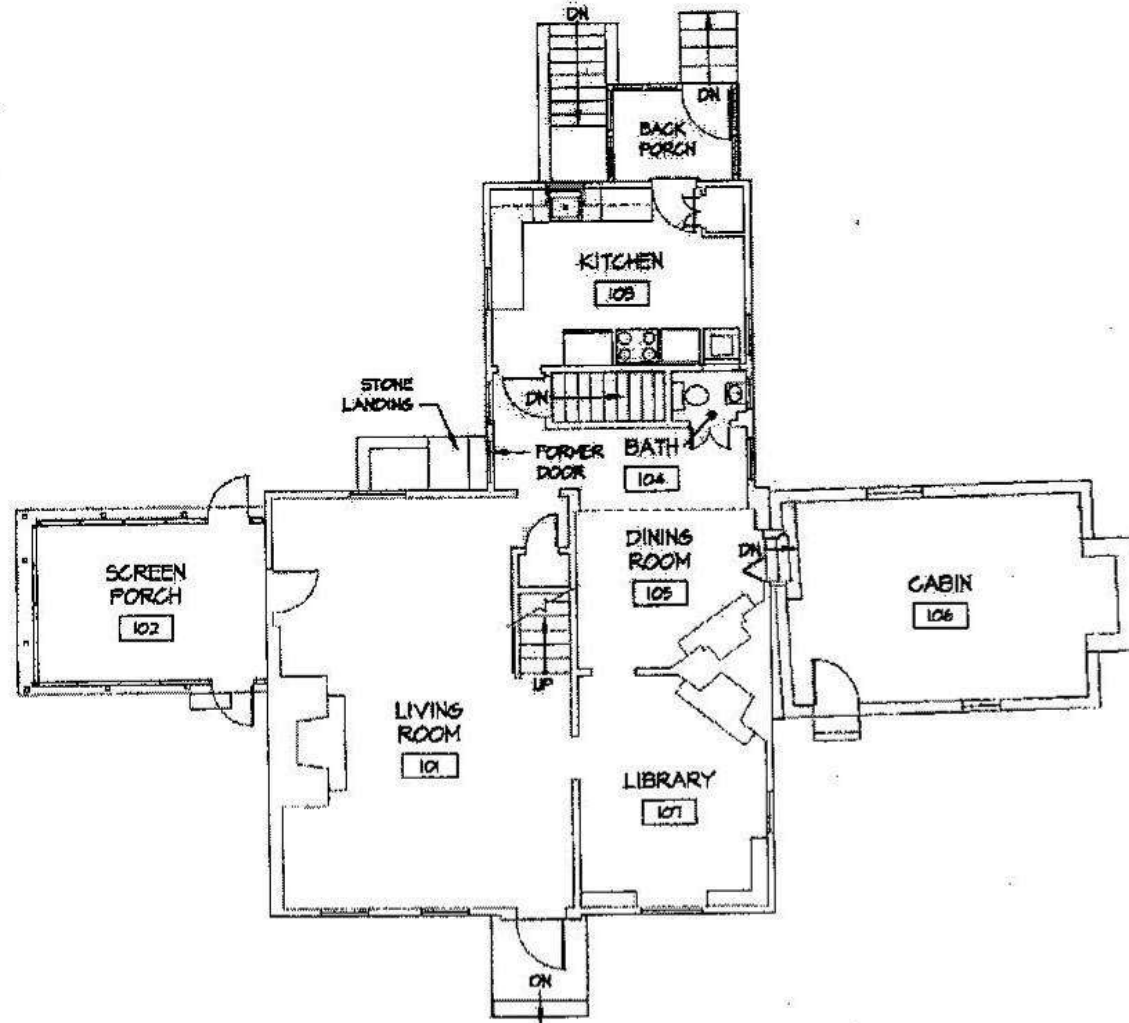
16. Second Story — Repair where materials have been damaged without removing or destroying any details shown on the 1936 drawings. Reinforce the floors as needed. Use the space as office and library space for a research facility, to the extent that may be allowed by code.

Maximum Option

Generally, extensive changes to each part the House, for the most accurate or useful design of each of the house's components as facilities for a museum focused on Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, and slavery, with interpretation of the Riley family as well. This alternative has more focus on the 1936-era architecture in some parts of the house than the other alternatives. An exception would be in the kitchen, which would be gutted and rebuilt as an exhibit space. This approach incorporates some items that may be disproportionately costly, and in some areas, it would have a negative effect regarding some of the historic materials, particularly those dating from 1936.

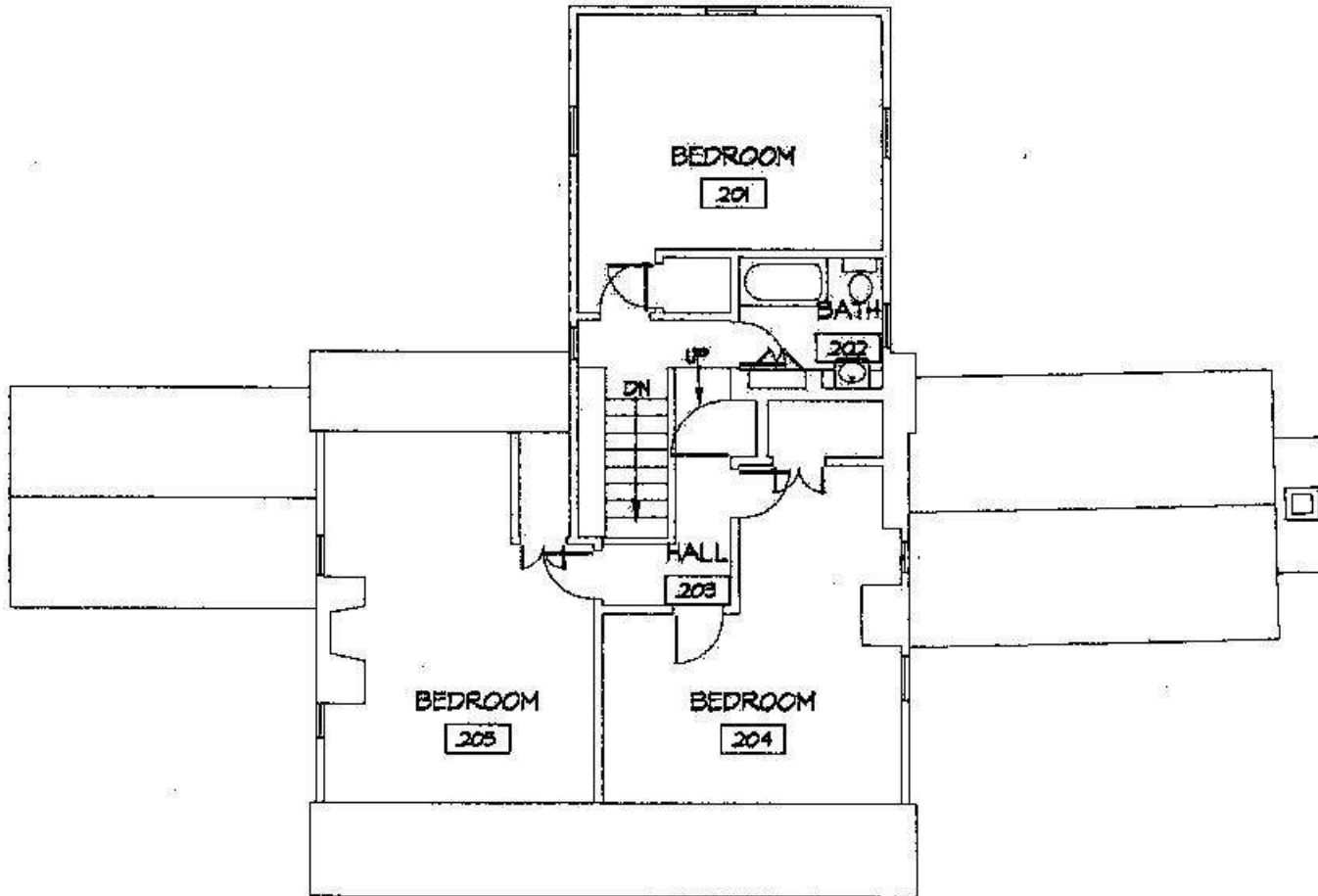
- 1. General Landscape** — Remove boxwoods, some trees, and most twentieth-century hardscape features (patios, walkways, barbecue, etc.) based on achieving a design that more closely resembles the property in Henson's time. Create a facsimile of a slavery-era vegetable garden between the 1936 kitchen wing, the garage, and the log house extending back into the area behind the kitchen wing. Purchase adjoining property if willing sellers, fair market value, and available funding to allow for additional archeology, the creation of larger representations of agricultural fields, and possible recreation of slave quarters and other outbuildings.
- 2. Driveway Access** — Remove circular terminus to provide more green space. Accommodate Public parking at Wall Local and potentially other public institutions. Build accessible paths at the site itself.
- 3. Garage** — Convert Garage to an orientation center at which a video can be shown and from which tours begin. The building may also be large enough to accommodate some small meetings, an admissions desk, and a display rack with free brochures and a limited number of items for sale. The building should include two accessible rest rooms.
- 4. General Restoration of Exterior Features** (the same in all alternatives)
- 5. Shutters** — Restore the shutters, repairing damaged elements, and remaining faithful to the 1936 design.
- 6. Windows and Entrance Door of the Frame House** — Preserve and restore historic façade per local, state, and federal directives.
- 7. Kitchen (West) Porch** — Keep as is.
- 8. Window/Door from Current Library to Exterior** — Reopen the exterior doorway that formerly existed at the north wall of the current library and rebuild the porch, based on the photographs that exist, to provide a connection to the current front door of the log wing.
- 9. Southeast Window/Doorway to the 1936 Kitchen Wing** — Re-open the exterior doorway that formerly existed at the south end of the hallway from the dining room to the kitchen and living room, using it as part of an accessible path into the house by way of a ramp.
- 10. Log Room Interior** — Treat the log room as a teaching environment to tell the story of kitchen spaces and log quarters on the property prior to 1828. Leave log walls exposed; re-open rear (west) door so that access can be made part of an accessible path from an orientation space in the garage; lower the floor to align with the lowest logs; create a floor surface that resembles a dirt floor (possibly tinted concrete with a slightly uneven surface and a sand finish); reinstall the loft floor to serve as a ceiling, using hand-hewn framing members.

- 11. Library** — Remove the book cases and other 1936 details, keeping fireplace as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match presumed 1820s-1880s design. Reopen the doorway where the north window is now, in tandem with restoring the missing porch that connected the frame house to the log house. Possibly use as part of the visitor path (though this section would not be accessible for those with disabilities).
- 12. Living Room** — While keeping the plaster, fireplace, window details, and doorway details as they are, use the wall space and floor space for exhibit materials, such as enlarged photographs, interpretive panels, a timeline, display cases, interactive exhibits, etc.
- 13. Dining Room** — Return some aspects of the Dining Room to the presumed design before 1936. Remove shelves over fireplace. Reverse other 1936 alterations to fireplace. Possibly interpret the room as a dining room (or, it may have been a bedroom). Use as space for exhibits on both the Henson and Riley stories, perhaps showing the contrast between the formality and higher standard of living in the frame house and the conditions in the log house, seen at a distance looking through the opening that now connects the two rooms.
- 14. Kitchen in 1936 Wing** — Remove all appliances. Completely convert the room to contain interpretive exhibits on the plantation experience.
- 15. Screened-in Porch** — Completely rebuild this space to provide one more room for the house. New floor should be on level with interior of house, and room should be completely sealed as part of interior space. Use the room to house a research library and possibly a small museum shop.
- 16. Second Story** — Repair where materials have been damaged without removing or destroying any details shown on the 1936 drawings. Reinforce the floors as needed and provide accessibility features (chair lift or elevator) to allow use by public. Use the space as exhibit space, to the extent that may be allowed by code.



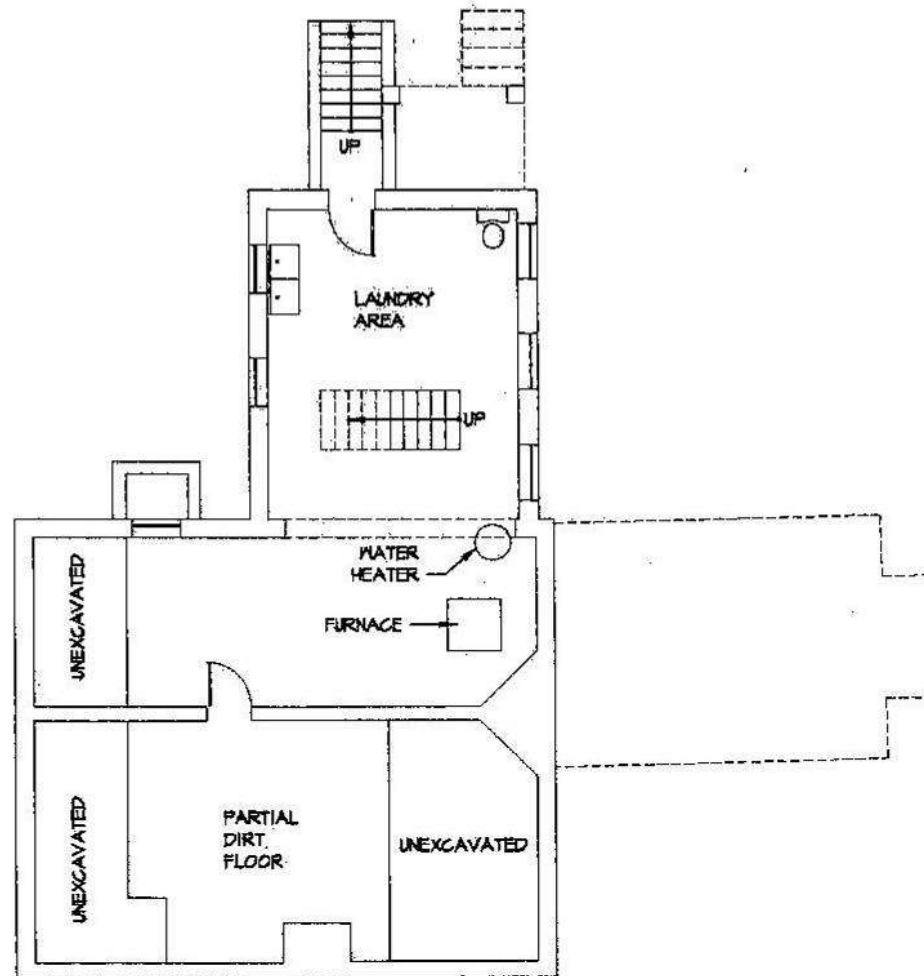
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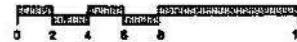


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Appendix 2

Summary of Public Meetings and Input

Public Meeting #1 - Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Community Kick-off meeting to identify visions and issues for the project.

Public Input: Vision and Issues by Category

Vision Statement Categories	Public Comments
<p>Josiah Henson's Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not ignore prehistoric, continuum of history to present – 4 dots • Make website as “rich” with information as possible, so that it provides interpretation of the Josiah Henson story. Keep it current with historic archeological discoveries and attract visitors to the site. – 4 dots • A living museum, w/ re-enactors or people in character – 3 dots • Make things hands on for kids – 3 dots • Centrality of Henson/celebrate the man and person (not just novel story) – 3 dots • Auditory environment to recreate sounds from the times – 3 dots • Focus on History over archeology – 3 dots • Influence on inside – more input in context of his/Harriet Beecher Stowe story/abolition/civil war – need timeline start to finish what happened after – 2 dots • Josiah Henson could be a good platform to talk about history of global slavery in the past and present – 2 dots • Tours with good, accurate telling of the life story – 2 dots • Shift from “frozen in time” idea to more organic idea – 2 dots • Narrated excerpts from his book – 2 dots • How to separate the myth of Uncle Tom from the man Josiah Henson – 2 dots • Museum exhibits on stages of Henson's life – 1 dot • Website accessibility on site – multi-media access (MP3, iPhone) – 1 dot • Living history interpreter in costume – 1 dot • Build site into school curriculum – 1 dot • Experiential Factor – 1 dot • People want to walk where Josiah Henson walked – 1 dot • Comparison to Uncle Tom's Cabin in Canada – talk to Canada • Hybrid morph of everything

Vision Statement Categories	Public Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids relate better to artifacts than architecture • Slavery is not just in the South • Isaac Riley never learned to read and write but Josiah Henson did learn • Slavery has existed for thousands of years. Not just black people – slavery exists today • Story is interesting to students • Site is a trickle in time of his entire life • Kids will ask why important (moral, ethic, spiritual issues) • Need access to Autobiography, not just on internet (maybe in high school curriculum) • Who is Henson – make connection to <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> • ID students in preservation programs for internships • See Canon Prairie in Indiana www.canonprairie.org • How can this be put into MC Public School curriculum – 8th grades?
<p>Montgomery County's History of Slavery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address denial of slavery in Montgomery County, neighborhood – 2 dots • Tie into history of Luxmanor i.e. religious and racial covenants – 2 dots • Tell of the connections/relationships between Josiah Henson and other slaves and plantations in the region. – 1 dot • Promote greater history of Montgomery County not just west Mo Co trails – 1 dot • Connect to other antebellum sites in Mo Co - 1 dot • Everyone's history – rules of different groups = Mo Co story • Life on plantations in Mo Co • Tying in other sites in County (Sandy Spring, Oakley) • Tie to Underground Railroad • Context of whole historic history of county • Need to make connection to other Mo Co sites • Context – size county, Quakers, Unique mid Atlantic, only free community in Sandy Spring; freedom to hire out • Connect to other attempts at freedom: Georgia Avenue/Rt. 28, escape on the Pearl, Edmonston sister, captured corn field, Miner school.

Vision Statement Categories	Public Comments
<p>Architectural and Historic Landscape Interpretation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship of present site to its historical landscape – what features still exist that tells the story? – 9 dots • Raised 3-d scale model showing Riley’s plantation in context with Canty plantation – 2 dots • Interpret house as part of living landscape – 1 dot • Authenticity of house to Henson period at farm, examples of other houses shown original style – 1 dot • New building with classrooms – multi-use building, visitor’s center – classroom 35-40 kids • Small museum showing prehistoric as well as historic continuum • Kitchen (rain) garden situated to help treat run-off • Historic Preservation philosophies – landscape is changing – organic neighborhood • Log cabin back to 1850
<p>Archaeological Discovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological interpretation on the site – use it to tell the story – 8 dots • Ongoing archeology on site – 1 dot • Make archeological process available to visitors, as well as historical and architectural process.

Public Input: Issues

Issues	Public Comments
<p>#1 Community Outreach: African American History</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much African American community input has Parks sought? Still living residents available to obtain authentic experiences. Senior Citizens oral history. Go into churches to inform. Mo Co Channel 21 – watch this channel for city information. Go where black people are. Seven Locks Church. Scotland Area, Travilah Area, Cabin John. Kid volunteers to pass out information. Get word out about project. Mine rich history of existing residents, esp. African American community – 11 dots • African American community involvement – 7 dots
<p>#2 Safe Crossing at Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Tilden and Old Georgetown Road safer for Pedestrians – 4 dots • Pedestrian Crossing of Old Georgetown Road (pedestrian overpass) – alternatives – 3 dots • Concern – pedestrian safety – crossing Old Georgetown Road – 2 dots • OG Rd. and Tilden Roundabout – according to design concept by Ian Lockwood (decom.com) – 1 dot • Pedestrian crossing – crossing guards (Old Georgetown) – wire cage elevated crosswalk – 1 dot • Really need to work with County Department of Transportation(DOT) and MD DOT – 1 dot • Issue - Disconnect between agencies MNCPPC, County DOT and SHA – 1 dot • Old Georgetown crossing • White Flint Sector Plan build-out impact on intersections

Issues	Public Comments
<p>#3 Programming Impact of Traffic and Parking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at adjunct interpretive center offsite on public property in early phase of the park (Wall Park, Tilden MS) – 3 dots • How big should the program be? Vis-a vies site size, road access parking – 1 dot • Concern – parking needs are addressed so community is not driven out by traffic and parking – 1 dot • Neighborhood traffic /congestion – 1 dot • Ask synagogue to help with parking – 1 dot • Suggestions – • portable pavers • shuttles • Bus pull-off on Rozier – 1 dot • Open as often as possible • Parking and Pedestrians: How about parking at Tilden Middle School? • Share doctor’s offices parking on weekends • Bus access • Monitor crossing if parking buses at the swimming pool • An area plan for traffic – vehicles and pedestrian • One plan: realistic impacts • Establish clear timeframes for visiting - start outside rush hours – 10 – 3, consider reverse commuters arrive earlier • Traffic control in neighborhood
<p>#4 Security of Site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security: Lighting that doesn’t spill over into neighborhood but makes it safe. Neighborhood watch – 3 dots • Security at night etc. (visibility) – 1 dot • Issue: Rozier house – vagrancies – security issues – fire – park police • Timeline for demolition • Security and Policing (how) especially when closed – night attracts kids • Blair High School in great need of Maintenance
<p>#5 Directional and Interpretive Signage for Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent county way finding - ex. UDC walking tours - 1 dot • Essential – a connection between Rock Creek Trail (Newport Mill) – significant to Josiah Henson’s life – 1 dot • Way finding from Trolley Trail and Metro • Visibility – do we want people to be able to see the site from old Georgetown Road? • Connect to interpretive signage at Ken Gar

Issues	Public Comments
<p>#6 Need for Open Public Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency in Process – 1 dot • Schools, esp. elementary – information on meetings – 1 dot • Meeting log on website so everyone can see who we are meeting with – 1 dot
<p>#7 Need for Additional Park Amenities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider neighbors use of access to the site (could be other than cultural interpretation) (sunrise to sundown): - 3 dots • Benches • Walking paths • Other casual uses
<p>#8 Future Acquisition Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition: Expand the site? – 1 dot • Acquisition of alternative land for parking – 1 dot
<p>#9 Site Drainage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run-off issues – 1 dot • Parking – parking run-off
<p>#10 Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Private Partnerships • County Executive Community Partnerships – Bruce Adams director



Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - Public Meeting, June 15, 2010

Summary of Public Input

At the Josiah Henson Special Park meeting held on June 15, 2010, the public was asked to provide input on two questions:

Question #1 - Vision - What would you like to see offered at the park to help advance the Josiah Henson Story and create a safe and attractive public park?

Question #2 -Issues - What are you most concerned about?

Vision

The public's response to the vision question for the park has been divided into 4 interpretive categories:

1. Josiah Henson's Life
2. Montgomery County's History of Slavery
3. Architectural and Historic Landscape Interpretation
4. Archaeological Discovery

Josiah Henson's Life

The public vision for this incorporates many different types of interpretive programs and displays. They want to see a living museum with re-enactments in costume, exhibits that display the stages of Josiah Henson's life, readings from his autobiography, connections with the site and programs offered in Canada at Henson's Dawn Establishment for freed slaves and programs that educate visitors to the importance of the man, his values and the way he lived his life. They see his story as a way to discuss local slavery issues and worldwide slavery issues. They see the moral, spiritual and ethical issues that surround the story of slavery.

There is a lot of interest in creating a program that can be used to educate Montgomery County School children (possible incorporated into the curriculum) and for the broader student body possibly through an internet based curriculum. There is also an interest to have internships available for students.

The public sees a need for museum space/visitor center space to accommodate school classroom trips, classroom space and to have the space to accommodate museum exhibits and access to Josiah Henson's autobiography in many forms (auditory, interactive) and in multiple languages.

Montgomery County's History of Slavery

There were many comments concerning the need to link the history of Josiah Henson to the history of Montgomery County and its role during the slavery period. Current programs in Montgomery County describe the African American experience at Oakley Cabin and programs along the Underground Railroad in Sandy Spring. The public sees this site as another way to make connections to life as a slave, and the desire to be free. Some see this site as a way to discuss the oppression or prejudice against one group of people by another in general.

Architectural and Historic Landscape Interpretation

The public is interested in keeping the cabin and house as close to the way it was when Henson was on the plantation. They wanted to understand the relationship of the present site to its historical



Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - Public Meeting, June 15, 2010

plantation landscape (possibly through a model or aerial photos over time) and which features still exist today that tells the story. There is interest in creating an historic kitchen garden (that might also become a community education garden with vegetables and flowers from that period). There is interest in understanding what types of crops were grown on the plantation.

Archaeological Discovery

Most of the people who attended the meeting thought it was very important to continue the on-going archaeology on the site and see the value of having the process available for visitor education and to enable further discoveries about Josiah Henson and life on the plantation.

Issues of Concern

The issues raised by the public fall into ten categories (prioritized by number of votes received by the public):

1. Community Outreach: African American History
2. Safe crossings at Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane
3. Programming Impact of Traffic and Parking
4. Security of Site
5. Directional and Interpretive Signage for the Park
6. Need for Additional Park Amenities
7. Need for an Open Public Process
8. Future Acquisition Needs
9. Site Drainage
10. Funding

Community Outreach: African American History

By far the issue with the greatest number of votes was the need to include the African American Community in the development of the programming and history of the park.

Safe Crossing at Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane

This one intersection near the park was the focus of a lot of the public's concerns about safety. No one felt that this intersection could be safely crossed by pedestrians or bicyclists. There was mention that it was safer to cross mid-block rather than try to walk in the crosswalk, for fear of not being seen by turning and speeding vehicles. Recent efforts by McDOT to calm traffic and reduce cut through traffic on Tilden Lane include the re-stripping of Tilden Lane to provide parking on the north side of the road, a bicycle lane and narrower vehicle travel lanes.

Programming Impact of Traffic and Parking

Although interested in having the park open and available for interpretive programs, the public's fear of having too many people and cars at the site was evident by the concerns voiced over how big the program would be and how many events would be planned. Many suggested alternative sites for shared parking including the synagogue next door, the Wall Local Park parking lot (which is currently used for parking for Heritage Day events), parking at the adjacent schools during weekends, etc. The public wants a careful consideration of the traffic being proposed during regular programming and a plan that controls over crowding in the neighborhood during events. There was mention of an adjunct interpretive center off-site.



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Security of the Site

The comments in this category mostly related to local concerns and making sure that the park buildings and site were maintained and policed. The neighbors wanted to be sure that any lights needed for evening activities would not spill into their properties. They felt that they could help with watching over the site and informing the Department of any problems with vagrants or activities at night. They expressed concern about the vacant Rozier House.

Directional and Interpretive Signage for Park

The public would like to have informative signage that leads them from many of the nearby or future transportation providers and parking sites to the park "itself". They mentioned having signage from White Flint Metro, Bethesda Trolley Trail, a future trolley bus system around White Flint, and from future parking facilities. Interpretive signage that links the site to other historic sites related to the Henson themes in the county and future walking tours were also mentioned. They wondered if the park should be more visible from Georgetown Road.

Need for additional Park Amenities

The public wanted the site to have some of the typical amenities available at most public parks which included benches, walking paths and picnicking areas. There was mention of having access to the site for adjacent neighbors in addition to a main park entrance way.

Need for an Open Public Process

The public would like to see more transparency in the process and having a website that has schedules and meeting notes provided.

Future Acquisition Needs

The 1.5 acre parcel of the Josiah Henson Special Park is only a fraction of the original +263 acre plantation that made up the Riley Plantation where Josiah Henson lived and worked. People were concerned about the sites' small size in relation to questions about parking needs, interpretive programming possibilities and archaeology discovery.

Site Drainage

Adjacent neighbors did not want improvements to the site to worsen or create drainage problems into their adjoining properties.

Funding

Recognizing the lack of funding for additional programs or improvement to the property, the public mentioned the use of public private partnerships including the County Executive's Community Partnership's program.

Public Meeting #2 - Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010

The public will be able to review the staff response to the public input on issues and visions voiced at the first public meeting. RESCHEDULED:



Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - Public Meeting, AUGUST 24, 2010

Comments from Josiah Henson Public Meeting

August 24, 2010

GOAL #1 – Interpret Josiah Henson’s life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County.

Shirl Spicer reviewed the proposed staff plan for interpretation of the Henson Site, while explaining the interpretive themes for the exhibitions and programming.

- Pull together “touchstones/key stories” of Montgomery County, history of Charles Prince home in Rockville. Bring together these three stories that are internationally known:
 1. The Pearl
 2. Escape of Maria Weems
 3. Josiah Henson
 - Underground Railroad See the larger context that Josiah Henson/Isaac Riley Story
 - Beall Dawson connection
 - Broaden even further to international community
 - Edmoston family going to Europe
 - Abolitionists going to Europe
 - Tie to religious community: Methodist
 - Tie to Baltimore
 - Money from Europe and religious community, i.e. Washington Grove, Asbury Methodist
 - Discuss split within Methodist community during the Civil War (Rockville)
 - Punishment: not only violence but other means, such as lack of education
 - Local interpretive programming partner:
 - Menare Foundation – [Living history site] Interpretation of plantation life
 - Myth, Literature, History and Stereotypes:
 - No branches [listed on interpretative theme outline, and the following were suggested:]
 - Relationship between Josiah Henson and “Uncle Tom.”
 - Josiah Henson and his own “myth making.”
 - How Josiah Henson manipulates fame of Stowe’s book to his own advantage.
 - What Josiah Henson establishes in Canada
 - What does Josiah Henson mean to us today? Man vs. myth
 - Teachable moment
 - Garden element for reflection:
 - How stereotypes are still with us today. “How do we change today our role in making a better place?”
 - Reflection/teachable moments
 - Slavery in the modern world
- Interpretive themes will not be restricted to text on walls, but will incorporate programs. Programs are key to the interpretation of the site, such as ongoing programs with partners in county and throughout the country.
- Living history/interpreters
 - Living historians
 - Interpretation will evolve over time
 - From “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” to what it is today



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- Local folklore
- Emphasis on agriculture in county
- Emphasis on economics [in county]: Mills, agriculture, etc.

Archaeology:

Archaeology can locate features that can tell the story of life experiences of others on the property.

- Different perspectives
- Other slaves on property
- Ceramic: Economic social status
- Archaeology can enrich the interpretation.
- Reports, papers, presentations about archaeology

GOAL #2 – Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape.

Joey Lampl reviewed the proposed staff plans for retaining the integrity of the Henson Site’s historic architecture and landscape.

Bring landscape elements back:

- Agricultural crops
- Willows
- Well
- Make Rozier agricultural

GOAL #3 – Create a safe accessible site.

Ed Axler reviewed minutes from the meeting with state and county traffic staff which addressed the public comments from the June 15 public meeting.

Concerns

- Number of traffic accidents at Tilden Lane and on Old Georgetown Rd at 270 (non-reported).
- ADA compliance with pedestrian crossing timings.
- Possible incorporation of new pedestrian crossing technology.
- Recommend Tilden and Old Georgetown become a test site for crosswalk technology.
- Suggestion of installing “no right on red”

Next steps?

Public contact McDOT and SHA and Senator and legislators and advise of potential dangers.

Suggestions:

- Extend pedestrian signal timing.
- Widen pedestrian sidewalk/curb.
- Improve sense of safety for pedestrians.
- Is there interest of parking on western side of Old Georgetown?
- Include study of parking on Old Georgetown.
- Reviewed action items from traffic meeting.
- Seek support from Old Georgetown parking garage developers.



Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - Public Meeting, AUGUST 24, 2010

- Thing if installing a historic site specific sign.

Goal #4 – ADVOCACY: Funding, Friends Groups, Partners. Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site.

Objectives

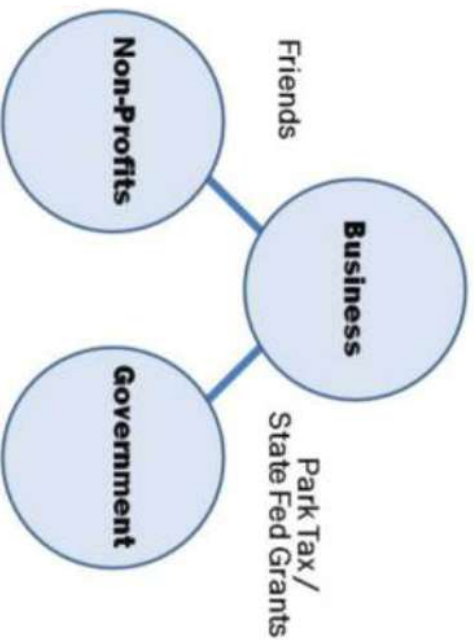
- Establish income streams to support ongoing programming and staffing.
- Establish a volunteer corps to provide interpretive program assistance to serve as advocates within the community and to provide pro bono services in specialty areas, such as development and advocacy.

Jayne Hench, acting chief of Special Programs Division for Parks, discussed the ways to achieve the objectives:

Montgomery County Department of Parks needs to avail ourselves of all available and potential income streams to both fund this project and to develop strong advocates. There are three basic models and we should consider how best to engage each:

1. **Government Model** – funds projects through tax dollars – including Park Tax, bond, POS, etc
2. **Business Model** – includes selling goods and services above cost to generate a profit – could be selling programs, gift shop items, sponsorships, etc.
3. **Non-Profit Model** – supports a mission by fund/friend raising – includes elements like grant writing for private foundation/publicly funded grants, Fundraising appeals, Friends Group development, solicitation of donations (cash/in-kind), planned giving, volunteerism (traditional, pro-bono, interns, corporate), etc.

Donations Fixed Program





Additional Public Input Received

- Reduce the speed limit on OLD GEORGETOWN RD. to 30 mph in this vicinity. The 40 mph is not appropriate for a "city" situation, which is what White Flint is going to be. Lowering the speed limit to 30 mph on OLD GEORGETOWN RD. between Rockville Pike and Tuckerman Lane would reduce the traffic volume and the speed of traffic in the vicinity of your property. This would prevent traffic moving at 45 mph to speed up to 55 mph or more to "make the light". Reducing the OLD GEORGETOWN RD. speed limit to 30 mph would -- ALONE -- significantly promote and increase pedestrian safety at the OLD GEORGETOWN RD. / Tilden Lane / Nicholson intersection. It would become much safer to cross OLD GEORGETOWN RD. for pedestrians. It would also lower the speed of traffic turning onto Nicholson or Tilden Lane, from OGR.
- Increase the walking time for pedestrians crossing OGR, to meet ADA standards. Reportedly the State and County are already planning to do this.
- Install a "No Right on Red Light" sign for southbound OLD GEORGETOWN RD. traffic, wishing to turn right onto Tilden Lane (westbound). This would make it safer for pedestrians crossing both OLD GEORGETOWN RD. and Tilden Lane in this vicinity.
- Install a raised crosswalk on Tilden Lane just west of the OLD GEORGETOWN RD. intersection. That would great slow traffic coming from OGR.
- Eliminate east / west "thru" traffic between Nicholson and Tilden Lane in both directions. This idea would meet resistance, but it would greatly improve the situation and it could be done at this time.
 1. This would tremendously "calm" traffic in this vicinity.
 2. THIS single change would SATISFY the County Council's promise (when it approved the White Flint Sector Plan) to "protect" Luxmanor from non-resident "cut through traffic".
 3. This would mean traffic on Nicholson or Tilden Lane could no longer travel straight through the intersection, but could only turn left or right onto OGR. Much of the traffic at this intersection is motorists who are in the habit of using this route to drive between Potomac and Wheaton. This was historically a "standard route" for this traffic. Eliminating this would significantly reduce the traffic volume for this OLD GEORGETOWN RD. / Tilden / Nicholson intersection.
 4. This would eliminate "speeding" on Tilden Lane and Nicholson to "make the light" and then cross the intersection at a high rate of speed. This would make all three roads much safer in this vicinity.
 5. This would reduce the number of vehicles entering Tilden Lane and speeding, coming down the hill from OLD GEORGETOWN RD. for westbound Tilden Lane traffic.
 6. It would make parking on Tilden Lane safer, and then walking across Tilden to reach the Henson property (for Henson visitors).
 7. This would not significantly inconvenience Luxmanor residents, who could still turn left or right onto OLD GEORGETOWN RD. and have other streets they could use to enter or exit the neighborhood.
 8. Residents from Old Farm and Tilden Woods would not be unduly affected - because they can now conveniently enter and exit their neighborhoods via Montrose Road and the NEW Montrose Parkway (that cost many millions of dollars).
- Encourage changes to reduce school bus traffic using this intersection. For example, the Green Acres School could be given their own entrance and exit from Executive Boulevard or Montrose



Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - Public Meeting, AUGUST 24, 2010

- Parkway. Also, the County could arrange to have school buses enter via other streets, rather than rely exclusively on Tilden Lane.
- Again, I believe that the White Flint developers' traffic consultants would be the best source of advice for you. Their primary theme is "pedestrian friendly", "walkability", and reducing the vehicles. They WANT pedestrians to be able to walk from the Luxmanor area over to White Flint. The traffic using this intersection that could use other routes is significant. It would be better to change old habits now. The traffic engineers are the experts and their ideas will be much better and more comprehensive than anything I could come up with.
 - You had also said that currently a parking lot is proposed for the Rosier property directly adjacent and to the south of the Henson/Riley property. I want to emphasize, as I said on the phone, this is a rare opportunity to put in some agricultural model land down county, rather than pave it over with yet another parking lot. I would assume you are targeting a period of significance that includes the pre-Civil War era, and possibly a model farm from that time period would be considered. I believe the property was occupied in the 18th century as well, however, and of course post-Civil War, the late-19th and 20th-century period of tenant farms has been sorely overlooked in the county from what I can tell.
 - Also, given that the thrust of the Planning Board is to make WF a walkable area, it would be in keeping with that planning to make sure visitors take metro and walk to this park. It would also be in keeping with the 'feel' and the viewshed of this historic site that a parking lot is not built next door to it.
 - You also mentioned the number of visitors at ~16,000. That is significantly more than we now have, and more, I believe, than my neighbors were anticipating, so I would assume, and I believe my neighbors do too, that parking and traffic would be elsewhere, in the WF Sector, and nowhere near Old Georgetown and our residential neighborhood.

**Meeting Minutes for
Transportation-Related Topics associated with Josiah Henson Special Park
August 10, 2010 at MCDOT Gaithersburg Office**

A. Meeting Purpose: To prepare for the next/2nd scheduled public meeting on August 24, 2010 by coordinating with MCDOT on traffic-related issues.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Name	Phone Number	E-Mail	Agency - Role
Ed Axler	301-495-4536	ed_axler@mncpc-mc.org	MRO Transportation Planning APF
Tom Shoemaker	240-777-2161	tom.shoemaker@montgomerycountymd.gov	MCDOT- Street Lighting
Fred Lees	240-777-2196	fred.lees@montgomerycountymd.gov	MCDOT- Operational Traffic Studies
Peggy Schwartz	301-770-8108	pschwartz@bhtrmd.org	North Beth. TMD- Trip Mitigation
Stacy Coletta	240-777-5836	stacy.coletta@montgomerycountymd.gov	MCDOT, DTS - Ride-On Bus Stops
Yousef Hamroun	1-301-512-7481	Yhamroun@sha.state.md.us	MD SHA District 3 Traffic
Brooke Farquhar	301-650-4388	brooke.farquhar@montgomeryparks.org	Parks- Planning & Trails Supervisor
Rachel Newhouse	301-650-4368	rachel.newhouse@montgomeryparks.org	Parks- Master Plan Project manager
Will Haynes	240-777-2132	william.haynes@montgomerycountymd.gov	MCDOT - Pedestrian Safety
Randy Paugh	240-777-7608	randy.paugh@montgomerycountymd.gov	MCDOT - Tilden Lane Project
Eileen Emmet	301-495-2550	eileen.emmet@mncpc-mc.org	Parks- Facility Planning Project Manager
Corren Gilles	1-410-545-5595	Cgilles@sha.state.md.us	MD SHA Access Permits
Nkosi Yearwood	301-495-1332	nkosi.yearwood@mncpc-mc.org	MRO Planning - Master Plan Review
Shirl Spicer	301-650-4373	shirl.spicer@montgomeryparks.org	Parks Project's Museum Manager

B. Introduction to the Josiah Henson Special Park

1. Project Manager of the Master Plan, Rachel Newhouse:
Project schedule: Next public meeting is scheduled on August 24th, followed by staff draft presentation to the PB in September, and a PB public hearing on October 28.
 2. Project Manager of the Facility Planning Project, Eileen Emmet:
After the Master Plan process, the Facility Plan will follow by developing 30% design plans.
- C. Safe pedestrian crossing of Old Georgetown Road at the intersection with Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane.**
1. Pedestrian Signal Timing-Citizen's concerns regarding inadequate time for pedestrians to cross Old Georgetown Road
 - a) Currently, the Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane approaches operate as a split signal phasing (i.e., one approach has a green signal, while the other opposite approach has a red signal.
 - b) The SHA "controls" the signal timing and has final approval of any signal timing or geometric changes (Old Georgetown Road is State Route, MD 187).
 - c) The MCDOT operates the traffic signals as part of their countywide computerized traffic signal control system.
 - d) Suggested Improvements by Public agencies to address the citizen's concerns:
 - 1) Installation of pedestrian count-down signal heads:
 - 2) Now being installed at most signalized intersections in the County.
 - 2) Widen the Old Georgetown Road median to provide a pedestrian refuge median:
A refuge island in the middle of the intersection is not needed because pedestrian signal timing is set to provide enough time for pedestrians to walk between opposing curbs.
 - 3) Prohibit RTOR from southbound Old Georgetown Road to westbound Tilden Lane to prevent conflicts between free right-turning vehicles with pedestrians:
The "rules of the road" should require motorist to stop for pedestrians before turning right on red.
 - 4) Install signs to warn motorists turning left that conflicting pedestrian movements crossing Old Georgetown Road might be occurring:

**Appendix 3
Traffic Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Minutes for

Transportation-Related Topics associated with Josiah Hensen Special Park

August 10, 2010 at MCDOT Gaithersburg Office

- Pedestrian crossing time would start after left turns (particularly from) from Nicholson Lane are stopped.
- 5) Construct a pedestrian overpass over Old Georgetown Road:
An overpass is not warranted, its construction costs are too prohibited, and insufficient right-of-way is available for the long landing that is required to satisfy ADA's grade requirements.
 - 6) Convert the intersection into a roundabout:
The existing right-of-way is insufficient and, thus, would require "taking" the adjacent properties.
 - 7) Eliminate east-west or Nicholson Lane/Tilden Lane through traffic:
Not feasible because public interconnectivity to and from neighborhoods is essential and needed for school bus access to Luxmanor Elementary School.
 - e) Other suggested improvement by SHA and MCDOT staff:
 - 1) Will Haynes: Relocate the pedestrian push button to be at the starting point of crosswalks.
 - 2) Corren Giles: Realign the crosswalks to be perpendicular and the shortest path to cross the intersection.
 - 3) Fred Lees: Priority is given to improve "unsafe" pedestrian intersection crossings over improving the "undesirable" operational" conditions.
 - D. **Initiate improvements by the Project Manager, Rachel Newhouse:**
 1. Write to the SHA District 3's Assistant Traffic Engineer, Anyesha Mookherjee, at Maryland SHA, 9300 Kenilworth Avenue, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or AMookherjee@SHA.state.md.us. She is currently on maternity leave and will return after Labor Day, but is checking her e-mails and will forward to the appropriate person.
 2. After SHA and MCDOT investigation, a detailed traffic engineering study is needed that would be prepared by the Facility Planning Project's selected consultant. The study should include the existing traffic conditions and future build-out conditions.
 - E. **Any improvement would be funded and implemented by the "developer" or, in this case, the Parks Department.**
Possible source of funded could be using North Bethesda developer's PAMR (i.e., at \$11,300 per PAMR trip) payment directed towards improvements located in North Bethesda. MCDOT's Gary Erenrich must approve the transfer of the PAMR funds to Parks Department and into an established Park's CIP project.
 - F. **Suggested improvement of a mid-block crossing of Old Georgetown Road directly across from the Josiah Hensen Park site:**
A mid-block crossing is unsafe for pedestrians to cross because drivers do not expect pedestrians to be present.
 - G. **Ride-on Bus Stops on Old Georgetown Road (lead by Stacy Collita):**
 1. Relocate the nearest bus stop at the southwest corner of Old Georgetown Road/Tilden Lane-Nicholson Lane intersection southward closer to the Josiah Hensen site:
MCDOT does not supported mid-block bus stops because they are more disrupted to the traffic flow and harder for bus to pull out from compared with the existing far side bus stop. In addition, the current spacing between bus stops is at the preferred 550 feet apart.
 2. Ride-On route 26 operates on Old Georgetown Road with service to/from the White Flint Metrorail Station and peak-hour scheduled 30-minutes between buses.

Meeting Minutes for

**Transportation-Related Topics associated with Josiah Hensen Special Park
August 10, 2010 at MCDOT Garthersburg Office**

- a) The largest current ridership is occurring at the southbound far side bus stop on Old Georgetown Road at intersection with Tilden Lane-Nicholson Lane with 65 boarding and 50 alighting.
 - b) Based on the current transit usage, the bus stop should be improved as follows:
 - 1) Move the bus stop 10 feet back from the curb.
 - 2) Improve the ADA accessibility.
 - 3) Install a bus shelter that would be one of the standard Clean Channel (with commercial ad space) design with the smallest footprint.
 - 4) SHA permits would be needed.
 - 3. The other bus stops on Old Georgetown Road have a fewer number of boarding and alighting.
 - 4. The existing right-of-way along the southbound/west side of Georgetown Road is sufficient to install bus shelters. However, the right-of-way along on the northbound/eastside of Old Georgetown Road is not sufficient to install a bus shelter.
- H. Site access from Old Georgetown Road:**
- 1. SHA would require either combining the Josiah Hensen site and house curb cuts or permitting a one-way right-turn in/right-turn out combination.
 - 2. Any non-residential curb cut is considered to be "commercial".
 - 3. Parks Department must submit a concept plan for SHA approval.
- I. Bus access to/from Old Georgetown Road and on-site circulation:**
- 1. Bus pull off lane along Old Georgetown Road was discussed.
 - 2. Minimum required setback from intersection with Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane.
 - 3. Depending on the proposed scheduled bus arrivals, may need to bays. Adequate distance from the intersection at Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane is required to store one bay for a boarding/alighting and another bus waiting behind it.
 - 4. Consider alternate designs for right turn into the site, bus drop-off/pick-up, and right-turn out of the site.
 - 5. Master Plan to develop "sketch plan concept" drawings with dimension while the Facility Planning would develop the details.
- J. Off-site parking locations are under consideration at Luxmanor Elementary School, Tilden Middle School, and Wall Park.**
- K. A visual buffer could be provided by planting trees in Old Georgetown right-of-way with SHA approval.**
- L. Street Lighting (lead by Tom Shoemaker):**
- 1. The "developer" (or Parks Department) would pay for the street lighting improvements.
 - 2. Currently wooden Pepco poles with street lighting fixtures are along the nearby segment of Old Georgetown Road (preferred spacing between lighting fixtures is between 150 and 200 feet).
 - 3. Project manager, Rachel Newhouse, should write to Emil Wolanin to request improvements.
 - 4. Prevent spill-over lighting by using cut-off flat lighting on the site.
- M. M. WMATA White Flint Metrorail Station way finder signs of nearby activity centers include maps, descriptions, and which bus route serves that site.**
- N. North Bethesda Trail signs direct users to Josiah Hensen site.**
- O. MCDOT's Tilden Lane Project is not related to the Josiah Hensen Project other than the public meeting being a forum for citizens to state their concerns about local traffic issues.**
- P. Other traffic suggestion:**
- Q. Reducing the speed limit to 35 mph on Old Georgetown Road is beyond the control of this project. ADJOURN (20 minutes early)**

Appendix 4

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Appendix 5 - Testimony from Planning Board Public Hearing - October 28, 2010

Available online at www.ParkPlanning.org

Appendix 6 - Staff Response to Public Hearing Testimony

Summary and Response to October 28, 2010 Public Hearing Testimony

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
<i>Don Housley, President, Mid-Potomac Chapter, Archaeological Society of Maryland and volunteer with Archaeology Program.</i>	We've provided over 2,000 volunteer hours in field and lab on Josiah Henson site alone.	Staff is tremendously appreciative of the outstanding work and the support provided by the chapter.
	Strongly support Moderate Option.	Staff agrees.
	Particularly support Goal 2, Objective 2 on archaeological interpretation.	Staff agrees that this is a critical goal and objective.
	Support name change to Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff agrees.
<i>Lorraine Pearsall, President, Montgomery Preservation, Inc.</i>	Support "at least" the Moderate Option. Should try to spend a little more.	Staff supports the Moderate Option.
	This site represents a cultural evolution in that we can tell the story of slavery in Maryland.	Staff agrees.
<i>Susan Soderberg, representing Menare Foundation (with Anthony Cohen contributing to the testimony that was read) and Friends of Oakley Cabin and the Underground Railroad</i>	Request the Maximum Option	Staff believes the Maximum Option is prohibitively expensive to recommend and runs the risk of jeopardizing the ability to implement the park as a public museum.
	The importance of this site is not in the architecture. The importance of the site lies in the man, Josiah Henson	Staff agrees.
	There is no other comparable site in the State of Maryland. We have lots of slave cabins in the state, but no heroes associated with those cabins. We have lots of heroes, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas, for instance, but no sites have been developed in connection with those people.	The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is owned by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. The plantation where Douglass was enslaved is the Wye House near Easton (which is not open to the public); Douglass also spent many years in Baltimore before achieving freedom. The Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad State Park on the Eastern Shore, Maryland honors Tubman's life as an Underground Railroad conductor.
<i>David Rotenstein, Parks consumer</i>	Parks removed North Four Corners community building and has removed porta-potties from Parks, causing him distress as Parks consumer.	Staff believes that an African-American heritage site of this caliber merits distinct decision-making and funding, and should not be compared to an under-utilized activity building and portable toilets.
	Urge the Board to use frugality in reviewing the Master Plan.	That is why staff has recommended the Moderate Option.
<i>Anita Neal Powell, Lincoln Park Historical Foundation and Leroy E. Neal African-American Research Center.</i>	Support the name change to Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff agrees.

Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - WORK SESSION DRAFT - December 2, 2010

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
	The Lincoln Park Historical Foundation wants to be assured that it is a true and accurate account of the cultural institution of slavery during the period prior to 1863.	Staff intends to make the interpretation of slavery true and honest. Staff will be working with an advisory committee on interpretation to get the input of scholars of slavery and African American history.
Paula Bienenfeld, neighbor in Luxmanor subdivision.	Encourage Board to rethink the interpretation of the landscape and to rethink the period of significance. Request that the Board ask staff to consider the property and time as a whole. Neighborhood would not be at theoretical odds with Park, but...part of the long-term history. As one example, there were restrictive covenants on the properties, so that Jews were not allowed to purchase.	The Period of Significance in the draft National Register Nomination is 1800-1950, a broad sweep of time that brings it up to the current subdivision's appearance on the landscape. The interpretive emphasis, however, both in buildings and grounds, will be tied to Josiah Henson's time on the property, between 1800 and 1828. Parks has located restrictive covenants to the properties in Luxmanor in the 1930s that prohibited sale or transfer to African-Americans.
	Suggest a more far-reaching idea than just slavery in Maryland; slavery still exists in the world. Suggest widening mission.	Staff's master plan denotes key themes for permanent exhibits. There are numerous opportunities to expand on the permanent exhibits with multi-cultural and/or broader messages on slavery through traveling exhibits, special programs, school workshops, seminars, etc.
	Consider using Rozier property as a kitchen garden or agricultural field, rather than as a parking lot. Use Wall Local Park and save the Rozier property for a historically accurate garden or field.	Onsite parking is minimal to accommodate two accessible parking spaces and a few staff spaces within closer walking distance of the facility.
Russell Campbell (testimony (read by Anita Neal Powell))	The Historic Structure Report established the date of the cabin.	The Historic Structure Date was not conclusive as to the date of the cabin.
	My motives were clear to me and others participating in Riley House project. It was to ascertain the truth and validity of this property, and its impact on the history of Montgomery County, Maryland. Josiah Henson did, in fact, live on the property. He was a slave on this land.	Staff agrees that the Historic Structure Report added to the record of documentation on Josiah Henson's life on the Riley plantation. Parks staff continues to conduct primary-source research on Henson and the site.
Warren Fleming, Damascus Connection Committee	Josiah Henson's cabin is here in Montgomery County.	While Reverend Henson did live in a "log hut" on the grounds, the structure no longer stands. It would be an archaeological site somewhere in the vicinity of the main house, but not necessarily on land that Parks currently owns.
Dorothy Krass, professional archaeologist and volunteer with Archaeology Program.	Support the Moderate Option.	Staff agrees.
	Particularly support Goal 1, Objective 1, to expand the time to interpret and research the site. Only slave-based site....	Staff agrees that this is a critical goal and objective.
Valerie Hall, Archaeological Society of Maryland and volunteer with Archaeology Program.	Support ongoing archaeological dig so people can see, feel, discover and learn.	Staff agrees.
	Especially support Josiah Henson Special Park name change.	Staff agrees.
	Full support Moderate Option	Staff agrees.

Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - WORK SESSION DRAFT - December 2, 2010

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
Vivian Eicke, President of Civil War Roundtable	Important to separate the man from the myth.	Staff agrees.
	Support the name change to Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff agrees.
Yelena Gorina (Jump Foundation)	Take my family for 20 years to this site when they visit from Russian, Canada, Israel, demonstrating the importance of this site to the international community. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" has been required reading in Russia, and is tied, supposedly, to the liberation of the serfs in Russia.	Staff agrees on the international significance and value of the site, especially as tied to the publication of the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in so many languages, worldwide. Staff hopes to have a non-circulating research library on site that will contain copies of the novel in multiple languages.
	Dedicate the site to Josiah Henson and have a research center on slave/owner relationships.	Staff agrees on name change and on exhibits that focus on slave/owner relationships.
Cheryl J. LaRoche, Maryland Commission on African-American History and Culture, Archaeologist and Professor, University of Maryland.	M-NCPPC has responsibility to bring this aspect of Montgomery County's history to the forefront. It has "lain fallow" for 400 years.	Staff agrees.
	Josiah Henson walked the land and was probably in that structure.	Staff agrees that it is logical to conclude that Josiah Henson, as superintendent of the plantation, walked the land near the master's house. Henson's autobiography notes that he went inside the house in 1878 and spoke to Matilda Riley. Staff also agrees that, as superintendent, he likely was inside the master's house during the course of conducting his business.
	There were 2 dendrochronology reports, not one. Commission has chosen the latter.	It is correct that there were two dendrochronology reports. The first report's sampling and methodology were insufficient, and the author of the draft report did not feel comfortable with its conclusions. The second report was done by the lab that is used by Colonial Williamsburg, the Maryland Historical Trust, and Mount Vernon. Its practitioners elicited a "phenomenal" match for dating the timbers to 11 regional chronologies, and its finding was corroborated by dendrochronology scientists at Columbia University.
	Recommend the name be changed to Josiah Henson Special Park. Irresponsible, ill-advised to keep name.	Staff agrees that the name should be changed.
	Commission has a responsibility to handle the project in a holistic way, not a discrete way, looking at the issue of slavery and African-American history.	Staff agrees.
Written Public Testimony		
Steven Cook, Site Manager / Curator, Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site	Property has undeniable historic significance, and with proper interpretation will lead to a fuller understanding and appreciation of Henson's life in slavery.	Staff agrees.

Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - WORK SESSION DRAFT - December 2, 2010

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
	You have a unique opportunity to interpret plantation life as seen through the eyes of one of the United States' most famous refugees from slavery.	Staff agrees.
	Look forward to continue discussions with your organization as you explore interpretive themes in the life of Josiah Henson.	Staff also looks forward to continued discussions regarding interpretation.
Judith Christensen, citizen.	Support the Staff Draft and Master Plan recommendations and urge Board to approve the "moderate option."	Staff agrees.
	Prefer the name Isaac Riley Farm-Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff believes a more concise park name is preferable.
	Henson's experiences in Rockville and Montgomery County are the basis for Stowe's book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." This association is the strength, significance and value of this property.	Staff agrees that Henson's experiences are a key basis for Stowe's novel, according to her own writing, "The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin." Staff agrees that the association to the book is one of the site's strengths.
	We know from his [Henson's] autobiography that he was in this actual house and lived and worked on this farm . . .	Henson describes being in the Riley House and seeing Matilda Riley on his return to the United States in 1878. His autobiography records his working life on the plantation.
	It is a quite typical two room farm house of around 1800 with a loft and a log kitchen, and it is the real thing, not a reconstruction or modern museum as at other national sites.	An 1856 insurance application by Matilda Riley indicates that the frame portion of the house had four rooms on the first floor with an attached log kitchen. The framing of the house dates to 1800-1815 and the logs to 1850-51. The Ontario, Canada heritage site known as "Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site" contains Henson's dwelling from his emancipation days in Canada. The house there has been renovated and is a public historic site.
	We need a well thought out master plan process to prevent interference with neighbor's privacy and daily life and to create an effective educational site.	Staff agrees, and has sought to include the neighbors throughout the process, as well as to solicit input from the public and interested parties in educational themes to convey at the site.
<i>Eileen McGuckian, citizen and former chair, Historic Preservation Commission</i>	Urge you to approve the Staff Draft and Master Plan recommendations.	Staff agrees.
	Prefer the name "Josiah Henson Special Park."	Staff agrees.
	Henson left a huge footprint on the Riley plantation: he resided there for decades, escaped from its harsh conditions, and returned for a bitter-sweet visit years after slavery was banned.	Staff agrees.
	Harriett Beecher Stowe grafted the Riley plantation onto the nation's conscience with her novel in 1852. The following year, she published <i>A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> to identify the real inspirations for her fictional characters . . . She specifically named Josiah Henson as the prototype for her title character.	Staff agrees that the novel is largely based on Henson's memoirs. Stowe describes Henson's life as narrated in his autobiography as one of several sources for her creation of the character, Uncle Tom.

Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - WORK SESSION DRAFT - December 2, 2010

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
	In 2006, many of us, citizens and scholars, came out to urge the County's purchase. ...We knew that on this property, better than any other place, the experience of the enslaved Hensons and the hard-scrabble Rileys could truly touch our lives.	Staff agrees.
	This is truly a "harmonic convergence": slave and escapee narrative—influential antislavery novel—author's explanation of background for characters—surviving frame and log structures—a border state held in the Union during the Civil War—continuing documentation.	Staff agrees that the site provides outstanding opportunities for interpretive education and ongoing research/archaeology.
<i>Betty Meehan Spano, citizen and realtor who sold property to the County.</i>	Before the County (MNCPPC) contracted to buy the site, they, with due diligence, had two outside appraisers appraise the property, before offering the \$1,000,000.	It is standard Commission practice to have two outside appraisals prior to making any offers on real estate.
	The history of (the property's) connection to the book, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , and to the history of plantations and slavery in the County and in the country is there on that acre of land, the remainder of what was a large plantation.	Staff agrees.
	The main house is a period home from the early 1800's and the 1930's addition at the back was designed (as I understood) by a White House architect, Lorenzo Winslow.	Staff agrees the framing of the main house dates to 1800-1815, the log kitchen to 1850-51, and the restoration by Lorenzo Winslow to ca. 1936. The restoration added the two-story wing to the rear of the house and resulted in modifications to the older portions of the house.

Attachment B - Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan – Appendix #5

DATE: 10/28/10

ITEM NO. 9

EXHIBIT NO. 1

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission-Montgomery County
Public Hearing: Item #9 Josiah Henson Special Park
October 28, 2010

Madam Chair and Planning Board Members,

My name is Don Housley and I am president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland. The chapter's Board of Directors has approved my comments. The Mid-Potomac Chapter is an incorporated non-stock tax-exempt entity in Maryland and has 501(c)(3) status as an educational/scientific public charity.

Importantly, our chapter members provide most of the labor, muscle, and sweat to support the Parks archaeology program under the professional guidance of Heather Bouslog. From September 2009 to the end of May 2010, our members and others have contributed over 2000 volunteer hours of field and laboratory work on the Josiah Henson site alone. In addition, from the initial planning meetings following the Parks purchase of the property to the two public meetings on June 15 and August 24, our members have taken an active interest in the site's development. Thus, our members have a vested interest in your deliberations tonight and strongly support staff's recommended moderate option. Understanding the financial and property constraints, our chapter believes the moderate option will build on existing programs to attract school groups and the general public and to begin making the necessary physical alterations to the site.

Specifically, our chapter is supportive of the archaeology action items as described throughout the moderate plan, especially those noted in Goal 2, Objective 2: "Use historic documentation and archaeology to identify former structures and features of the plantation and make archaeology a vital element of ongoing work and future exhibits." We thank the staff for recognizing the valuable service archeology can play in providing a deeper understanding of the site. Our chapter members are ready and eager to do the following:

1. Continue to help look for former farm structures on Park property,
2. Aid in the development and implementation of non-invasive strategies to look for former structures on consenting neighbors' properties,
3. Be on site to answer the public's questions about the archaeology when the park is open for special events,
4. Help plan exhibits that inform the public about general archaeological methods and about the role archaeology has played in providing a fuller interpretation of the Henson site, and
5. Volunteer to be a part of any on-going advisory or friends group.

On the issue regarding the name of the special park, our chapter supports the change to the Josiah Henson Special Park. With the current dust up over the legitimacy of the site, I am reminded of mystery writer Jane Haddam's quotation, "People seem to know half of history, and to get it confused with the other half." By changing the name to the Josiah Henson Special Park, the Planning Board has an opportunity to begin the

public educational process by tying this site to a real person whose incredible life, including his enslaved experiences on the Riley farm in Montgomery County, are worthy of interpretation on their own merits, along with his significant connection to Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel. What better place is there in the county for the public to come and learn about the history of slavery in the county, Henson's inspirational story, and the role historical research and archaeology can contribute to make this history and story come alive and be relevant in today's world.

Don Housley
704 Cabin John Pkwy
Rockville, MD 20852

RECEIVED BY MCPB
 DATE: 10/28/10
 ITEM NO. 9
 EXHIBIT NO. 2

My name is Susan Soderberg. I am a historian with a Masters degree in American Studies from George Washington University and much experience in interpreting history for the public. Anthony Cohen and I are currently doing primary source research for a book on Josiah Henson. I am representing the Friends of Oakley Cabin and the Underground Railroad, an independent non-profit with the mission of preserving and interpreting African American historic sites in Montgomery County Parks, and for the Menare Foundation.

We request that the Planning Board approve the Maximum Option to achieve the Interpretation and restoration goals set forth in the master plan for the property, rather than the Moderate Option as recommended by the staff, for the following reasons based on historical facts:

- The book Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe, published in 1852, was the best selling book after the Bible in the late 19th century and was translated into all the major languages. It is still used today in many English classes in other countries as a text. It so touched the people of the north that many were incensed against slavery.
- In The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin, where Mrs. Stowe explains the origins of the characters and situations in her book, she demonstrates many parallels between the character of Uncle Tom and Josiah Henson, and quotes from his 1849 autobiography.
- Josiah Henson was a slave of Isaac Riley and lived approximately 25 years on the Riley plantation, growing into adulthood there and becoming a Christian there, an event that would direct the rest of his life.
- Henson's second autobiography was written to raise the money to purchase his brother, a slave of Jane Beall (of the Beall Dawson House in Rockville) and bring him to freedom, and his third autobiography was written to raise money for the Industrial School that he had helped to found in Canada for refugees from slavery in the United States. In his fourth autobiography he describes returning to the Riley farm in 1878.
- The four autobiographies of Josiah Henson, and one children's book of his life written by his publisher, sold very well. People bought the later ones to find out how his life was evolving since the previous editions -- making great profits for his publishers if not for himself.
- His public talks in England and the U.S. after the Civil War drew hundreds and even thousands. People were drawn to him as the "real" "Uncle Tom," a man who was not beaten to death to protect two young girls as in the novel, but a survivor, and not just a survivor, but a hero who defeated the inhumanity of slavery by escaping, learning to read and write, helping to form a school to help others grow in their independence, and becoming an important and influential person who was introduced to both the President of the United States and the Queen of England.
- The importance of Josiah Henson in the charged political and social atmosphere after the Civil War cannot be underestimated. He was revered both as a hero, having escaped enslavement on the Underground Railroad and gone back several times to rescue others, and as a religious figure. He was a person to be emulated. A man who grew from a non-person into a person of influence.
- He visited the Riley Farm and his former mistress in 1878.
- His funeral in 1883 in Canada drew thousands from all walks of life.
- Canada issued a postage stamp with his image.
- His home in Ontario, Canada has been made into a historical museum, "Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site," operated by the provincial government, which draws 9,000 to 15,000 visitors a year even though it is in a remote area and not open in the winter months. Also, its name has never been challenged.

Let us stay focused on the true importance of the Riley site. What is important is that this is the farm and “Big House” where a slave grew up who wrote an autobiography that figured prominently in the growing public indignation that escalated into civil war. The fictional narrative in Uncle Tom’s Cabin and its parallel in Josiah Henson’s true-life autobiography is a story of inhumanity, but also of great stoicism and heroism and humanity. It is the story of our nation.

Montgomery County has in its ownership of this treasured property a singular opportunity to tell the narratives of slavery and the courageous heroes who stood up to the injustice of slavery. This narrative has remained “underground” in American history—as the “underground railroad” was hidden. This extraordinary opportunity openly to tell the stories will begin to give to the enslaved people as well as to the heroes of the arduous escapes from slavery their full measure of merit. Any continuation of the failure to tell these stories reflects the tragic heritage of slavery and segregation in our society. At long last, Montgomery County has a unique opportunity, in the powerful setting of an on-site museum, to tell the stories that can contribute to the process of righting past wrongs.

The importance of the site is not the architecture. The importance of the site lies in the man, Josiah Henson, known to people in the north, in Canada and in England as “The Real Uncle Tom.” And the importance of this one person from the past to the future is far more than any of us can comprehend at this point in time. The potential of this site in teaching American history and its relevance to us today is immeasurable. It will draw tens of thousands of visitors a year from all parts of the world. It will bring good publicity and revenue to Montgomery County. There is no other comparable site in Maryland.

So we request that you approve the maximum plan and the maximum amount of funding for this public historic site in Montgomery County of international significance. The residents of Montgomery County deserve no less for their tax money, and the rest of the world demands it.

COMMUNITY EXHIBIT

RECEIVED BY MCPB

DATE: 10/28/10

ITEM NO. 9

EXHIBIT NO. 3

David S. Rotenstein, Ph.D.
10308 Edgewood Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901-1908
(240) 461-7835 - phone

28 October 2010

**Montgomery County Planning Board
Josiah Henson Special Park Draft Master Plan Public Hearing**

Testimony of David Rotenstein

Good evening chair Carrier and members of the Planning Board. For the record, my name is David Rotenstein and I live in the Four Corners section of Silver Spring.

I am appearing this evening not as a professional historian nor as a former Historic Preservation Commission chairman. I am here this evening because I live next to North Four Corners Park and I am a regular Montgomery County parks consumer. I enjoy visiting the county's diverse parks and one of my favorite recreational activities is riding my bike along the Sligo Creek Trail.

Earlier this year the Montgomery County Parks Department decided to shutter 11 recreation buildings and over the past year portable potties have disappeared from many parks. These are the reasons I am here this evening to urge you to proceed with frugality in mind as you decide on implementation of a new master plan at the park once called "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Up until this spring, our neighborhood association had for decades used the recreation building in North Four Corners Park for its regular business meetings and for special events. That history ended when the building was mothballed because of budget cuts. Efforts by our civic association to form a partnership with the Parks Department to manage and maintain the building were rebuffed by Parks Department managers because all of the department's staff who once dealt with such matters had left the agency and there are neither resources nor people available to pursue such discussions.

HISTORY | HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Josiah Henson Park Master Plan Testimony
28 October 2010
Page 2 of 2

Our county has been reduced to begging for money to keep porta-potties in our parks. I remember vividly the years before our park had a potty and how park users routinely used secluded and not-so-hidden parts of the park and neighboring yards, including ours, as public toilets. I can no longer ride my bike the length of Sligo Creek Trail and use an adjacent porta-potty; if nature calls, I must wait until I arrive in a Prince George's County park near the trail's southern terminus.

I cannot argue against the merits of adding another historical park to the county's many cultural resources that communicate our county's amazing history. And, despite the embarrassing mistakes made in acquiring the property once called "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the property has the potential to be a valuable teaching tool and heritage tourism asset. I only ask that you first ensure that the county's existing assets be given the resources they need before embarking on an expensive plan to develop a new park.

Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening.

Attachment: October 2010 North Four Corners Civic Association Newsletter excerpt



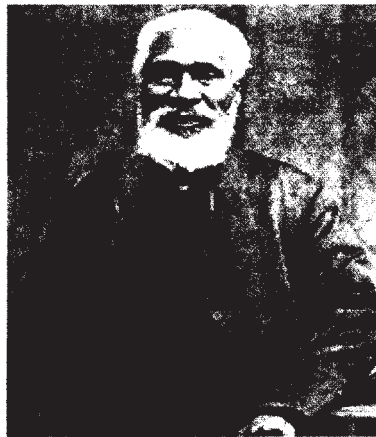
NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ OCTOBER 2010

Montgomery Co. Dept. of Parks Rebrands Park, Rewrites History

By David S. Rotenstein

The Montgomery County Planning Board is holding a hearing on 28 October to take testimony on the Parks Department's proposed Master Plan for the Josiah Henson Special Park. For much of the 20th Century, oral tradition in Montgomery County suggested that a small log building on the Old Georgetown Road property was used by Josiah Henson (pictured at right), the former slave whose



Josiah Henson's narrated autobiography inspired the classic 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.'

autobiography inspired Harriett Beecher Stowe to write *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In 1979, the property was designated a local historic site and, in 2006, the County bought it for \$1 million to develop a park. Subsequent specialist studies (e.g., tree ring dating) revealed that the log building was built long after Henson departed the property and the proposed park's name was changed from "Uncle Tom's Cabin" to "Josiah Henson Special Park."

Back in 1979, when the property was designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Pres-
(continued on page 3)

Henson House Declared Not To Be Legendary 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'

(continued from page 1)
ervation against its owner's wishes, the owner's claims that Henson never set foot in the building fell flat under the weight of local historical experts who claimed otherwise. The County's chief historian at the time told *The Washington Post* that that Henson "slept there often." As a historian, I think it is wonderful that a portion of the Riley farm has survived and that there is tremendous opportunity there to use its vernacular architecture, landscapes, and archaeological resources as teaching tools. But, as a Montgomery County resident, I have trouble with one question: Would the County have paid what is now approaching \$2 million dollars to buy the property and develop the museum had it not been so publicly identified as the Uncle Tom's Cabin?

The County wants to spend at least another half a million to a million dollars on development, staffing, etc., on this park while it allows existing park properties to remain

shuttered and neglected. All of this while the County begs for money to keep porta poties in the parks. The hearing may give all County residents an opportunity to give the Planning Board some guidance on how we would like to have the County exercise some fiscal responsibility.

More about the issue at: <http://historian4hire.wordpress.com/2010/08/24/cabin/>.

On 16 September, Parks Department's staff briefed the Planning Board on the proposed Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan. The staff report, with tables showing how much the County has spent to date on the property, is available at the Planning Board Website: www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2010/documents/20100916_Josiah_Henson_Special_Park_000.pdf.

The Josiah Henson Special Park Website—its HTML code still identifies the property as "Uncle Tom's Cabin—is at: www.josiahhensonsite.org. ■



Not the property where Henson worked as a slave after all.

NFCCA BOARD

The Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association meets five times a year, in October, December, February, April, and June.

New officers will be elected at the 13 October 2010 Members Meeting (please attend, pay your dues, and vote!). Current officers for 2009-2010 are:

President

Carole Barth
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Vice President

Laura Hussey
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DATE: 10/28/10
ITEM NO. 9
EXHIBIT NO. 4

Testimony of Dorothy Schlotthauer Krass
Item#9: Master Plan for the Josiah Henson Special Park
October 28, 2010

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission-Montgomery County

Good evening Commissioners, and thank you for taking the time to listen to comments from the public on the Master Plan for the Josiah Henson Special Park.

My name is Dorothy Krass, and I'm a retired professional archaeologist, a member of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Maryland and one of the volunteers Don Housley mentioned in his remarks. I'm here to express my support for staff's recommended moderate option for the development of the Henson park.

In particular, I'd like to endorse the recommendations under Goal Number One—to interpret the Reverend Mr. Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in the Montgomery County. This is a goal that was widely emphasized by the citizens who attended the public meetings in June and August. The moderate option's focus on expanding the time and effort spent on continuing research is crucial to building a solid foundation for interpreting the site and creating an enriched understanding of the role slavery played in the development of our community.

It is appropriate, indeed, to call this place a "special" park, because the Henson site has many characteristics that make it special. One such aspect is the fact that it is the only slave-based site from the antebellum era that I know of that is described in the writings of one of the enslaved workers, rather than in the writings of the slave owner. Josiah Henson became literate and left us his life story in his own words. Isaac Riley was probably not literate and while we have some documents about him—probate lists and court proceedings—we have no diaries or letters or memoirs of his life in his own words.

The second characteristic of the Henson site that makes it very special is that the Riley farm is not a handsome mansion that required scores of enslaved laborers to maintain it. This is not Mount Vernon or Monticello with their classic Georgian architecture and rows of brick slave quarters and other outbuildings, preserved in good condition because of the prominence of their owners.

The Riley farmhouse was not an architect's show piece, but a vernacular farm house. The slave quarters and outbuildings were, so Josiah Henson himself tells us, wooden constructions with dirt floors. This makes the archaeology more challenging, but it also gives us the opportunity to investigate and illuminate a stratum of social and economic life that was different from—and more prevalent than—the more picturesque life on the plantations of elite slave holders. The Henson site presents us with an opportunity to truly expand our understanding of the lives of ordinary Marylanders in the last half-century of the slave era.

I'd like to end with a note about the appropriateness of funding the research and interpretation of the Josiah Henson site and, indeed, all the parks' historical and archaeological sites. When I was Public Education Manager for the Society for American Archaeology we, along with other professional associations and the National Park Service and other federal land management agencies, commissioned the Harris polling organization to study the public's perceptions of archaeology. Among the results of that nationwide poll of over 1000 respondents, one finding stood out, and I quote:

Eighty per cent of the respondents agree that public funds should be used to protect archaeological sites, with a higher percentage (86%) believing that public monies should be used to preserve historic sites.

Thank you again for inviting the public to contribute to your consideration of the plans for the future of this important archaeological and historic site.

(I have attached a link to that NPS/SAA/Harris poll to the written version of my remarks.)

*Dorothy Schlotthauer Krass, Ph.D.,
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Public Perceptions

A poll conducted by Harris Interactive found that most Americans support the goals and practice of archaeology, endorse laws protecting archaeological sites and artifacts, and think archaeology is important to today's society. Although they may be unclear about the primary activities of and topics studied by archaeologists, a majority (60%) of the public believes in the value to society of archaeological research and education.

A clear majority of the public (96%) believes that there should be laws to protect archaeological resources, but is less certain of laws pertaining to materials found on private land. Many people (80%) agree that public funds should be used to protect archaeological sites, with a higher percentage (86%) believing that public monies also should be used to preserve historic sites. Many Americans also felt that archaeological objects should not be removed from a foreign country without that country's permission (64%).

Most Americans (98-99%) said that archaeologists study ancient civilizations and the human past, with more than one-third (38%) mentioning Egyptian sites such as the pyramids and the Valley of the Kings as some of the most important archaeological discoveries. More recent discoveries also received public attention, with 83% aware that archaeologists also study the 19th and 20th centuries, and 77% identifying archaeologists as shipwreck investigators.

The majority of respondents learned about archaeology through television (56%) and books, encyclopedias, and magazines (33%), followed by newspapers (24%). Learning about archaeology in school accounted for 23% of respondents at the college level, 20% at the secondary level, and 10% at the primary level, although the vast majority (90%) believed that students should learn about archaeology as part of the school curriculum from their earliest years. Most of the public (88%) have visited a museum exhibiting archaeological material, while 1 in 3 people (37%) have visited an archaeological site.

To determine how Americans view archaeology, Harris contacted a random sample of 1,016 adults across the continental United States. Questions centered on the public's grasp of, and participation in, archaeology.

The project was instituted by a coalition of archaeological organizations, including the Society for American Archaeology, the Archaeological Conservancy, Archaeological Institute of America, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Society for Historical Archaeology.

For further details **download the full report as a PDF file.**

www.saa.org
- For the Public
- Resources
- Harris poll

Valerie L. Hall 301 796 8249
7324 Brenish Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

October 28, 2010
Planning Board Public Hearing
Item #9

Good Evening, I am Valerie Hall and I am a Trustee at Large of the Archaeological Society of Maryland, Inc. but tonight I am speaking as an active volunteer with the Parks Department in Archaeology. I volunteered about 100 hours during 2010 so far, doing public outreach at events like the Harvest Festival, Opening Day of Oakley Cabin, Science Day, and Public Dig Day and as part of an archaeology crew working on sites such as Zeigler Log House, Woodlawn Manor, Darby Store and last year at the Josiah Henson site.

I am speaking tonight because I am very excited about the great potential for the proposed Josiah Henson Special Park. The significance of having an on-going archaeological site (open to visitors) in an urban/suburban setting like North Bethesda is intriguing. This will allow people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to see and appreciate archaeology in action and hear explanations from the experts on the correct techniques to use. I love talking to county residents and teaching them about archaeology and how it reveals the past. I guess I love this so much because I never really appreciated history or the study of it until I started volunteering in archaeology in 1996. For me there is something about being able to touch the artifacts, the items that people used over a hundred years ago and to learn from what we find. And because visitors will be able to see and feel and discover they too will learn about a significant part of our Maryland state and county history. Archaeologists are able to challenge long held beliefs about sites and use their findings to reveal a more accurate picture of life in that time period.



This site has that potential since we are still unclear as to where the out buildings were located on the property and many more questions we don't even know to ask. It has the potential for being a place for on-going historical research and archaeology as new information is found to fill in many unknown details in Henson's life story.

In addition, because of the site's significance, it has already attracted the interest of the community, many local people participated in the Parks Adult Field School and continue to volunteer for the Parks Department.

I especially appreciate the recommended name change to Josiah Henson Special Park. This change places the emphasis on the life of an author and reverend who during his early years was enslaved in Montgomery County. It reminds us to celebrate a man who began his difficult and inspiring life as the child of an enslaved woman in Charles County, who grew and worked in Montgomery County, who escaped from slavery and published his autobiography. A man whose writings were influential enough to inspire another's fictional account of slavery. This name change takes the emphasis off of a fictional character and places it on one of Montgomery County's influential historical figures.



I fully support the staff's recommendation for the moderate option at the park which will allow many more visitors to learn about Josiah Henson, slavery in Montgomery County, and the connections to local African American history. I am especially excited that this will allow a limited number of school groups to have access to the site. Children are always intrigued by archaeology, digging around in the dirt, and the multifaceted presentation proposed for this site will reach

children with many different learning styles.

Thank you very much for the long hours you put in today (and many days before) and for your consideration of this proposal.

**COMMUNITY EXHIBIT
RECEIVED BY MCPB**

12 DATE: 10/28/10
ITEM NO. 9 #2

DATE: 10/28/10

ITEM NO. 9

EXHIBIT NO. 6

Testimony for Item 9

Public Hearing, Josiah Henson Special Park Draft Master Plan

Madam Chair and Planning Board Members,

My name is Vivian Eicke and I am President of the Montgomery County Civil War Round Table. The Round Table is a group of history enthusiasts with the goal of education in all areas pertaining to the Civil War and related subjects.

Since slavery was a leading cause of the Civil War, we find that we now have a unique opportunity to explore and educate the citizens of Montgomery County in the history of slavery within the County and the State of Maryland. Plantations in Montgomery County were not moonlight and magnolias, and definitely were not plantations on the scale of "Gone with the Wind" with a large number of enslaved people. Within the County there is a museum dedicated to slavery in general, from capture to being sold as property. There is also the Underground Railroad Experience Trail explaining what escaping slaves would experience in their quest for freedom. With the Josiah Henson Site, we can now delve into the peculiar institution of enslavement within the County, which until recent years has been left untold.

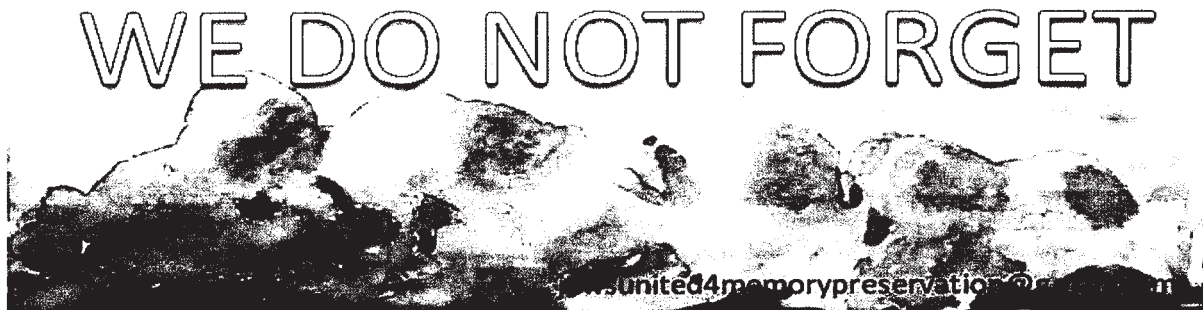
Josiah Henson was one of several enslaved individuals who gave a voice to those who bore their enslavement in silence; however, it was Henson who would become internationally known. It was Henson who strode the grounds of the Riley farm living the harsh reality of enslavement. It was Henson who eventually escaped to Canada, established the Dawn Settlement in Dresden, Ontario, Canada, and then dictated his memoirs upon which Harriett Beecher Stowe would base her characters in her novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. We now have the opportunity to separate the man from the myth.

Regarding the name of the special park, the Montgomery County Civil War Round Table, in keeping with its goal of educating the public about the Civil War, in general, and in Montgomery County in particular, supports the name change to the Josiah Henson Special Park. As we approach the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, this site, with careful preparation and interpretation, can become a focal point for the county's discussion of its own history of slavery, just as Josiah Henson's real experiences played a major role in focusing the nation's attention on slavery over 150 years ago.

DATE: 10/28/10

ITEM NO. 9

EXHIBIT NO. 7



Thank you for inviting me to testify in support of the Department of Parks decision to establish a public museum dedicated to the topic of slavery and the life of Josiah Henson.

I represent the JUMP Foundation, a non-profit community organization dedicated to memories preservation of World War II survivors from the former Soviet Union.

Although "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was not required by the Russian schools reading program, it was extremely popular among Russian children and every Russian person that I know is familiar with it. Growing up in Russia I have read "Uncle Tom Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe for the first time at age of 10 or 11. I cried over Uncle Tom and Eva, but my favorite character was Elisa who took her child and ran away jumping over sheets of ice to avoid of being sold. I remember being mad at uncle Tom for his patience and endurance of the tortures that his master subjected him to and did not understand why did not he ran away too. Only few years ago, after reading the autobiography of Josiah Henson, did I understand that he HAD ran away and that solved my childhood puzzle of Uncle Tom's character. Every time when our friends or relatives visit us, I am taking them to see where the Uncle Tom's Cabin is, even before the Maryland Parks purchased the site. I tell them about Josiah Henson, whose life presents an example of endurance, moral superiority, and ingenuity winning over humiliation and tyranny. And believe me, it does not make any difference to them, had Uncle Tom slept there one night or all thirty years that he lived on plantation, the amount of the interest from our visitors from Russia, Germany, Canada, and Israel is comparable only to their interest when they saw the White House.

I also learned that this book made an important contribution to freeing the Russian slaves, or surfs, in 1861. In 1860, the slaves accounted for 37% of Russian population compared to 13% in United States. Russian surfs were mostly peasants, but also artists, scientists, coach drivers and others who worked for the master and could be bought and sold, whipped, marry off, raped, and tortured to their master's pleasure. Here is one fact. Russian landowners loved to hunt and there is a special breed of hounds, Russian hounds, or Russian borzoi. So, in some villages peasant-slave women were forced to breastfeed their master's dog puppies. Russian translation of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" appeared first in 1852, just one year after its first publishing. It was banned by the tsar and there are some evidences that the book was first translated from English to Yiddish, smuggled to Russia, and then translated into Russian. In any case, it became very popular and has been widely read by educated people, many of whom were landowners and therefore, slaveholders. The book had a wide influence and contributed to the political reform of 1861 when the slavery in Russia was abolished. However, to these days there is no single museum in Russia dedicated to the serfdom

and relationship between surfs and a master, and the only slave house preserved to these days is a little house of Arina Radionovna, the slave nanny to the famous Russian poet Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837). Ironically, he was a grandson of the Ethiopian boy, who was presented to the tsar Peter the Great as a human present. Peter the Great adopted him and made a general. In America, Pushkin probably would be considered a black person.



This is just an example of how important the international value of Uncle Tom is. And that is why we want to support the Department of Parks position to dedicate the site in the name of Josiah Henson as a historic park and to develop it as a research center, interpretive site, museum to educate today visitors about slave-owner relationship as Beecher Stowe did so many years ago for Russian people.

Anita Powell, President
Lincoln Park Historical Foundation
P. O. Box 1884
Rockville, MD 20849
Phone: 301-674-1644
Email: lincolnparkhist@aol.com

**COMMUNITY EXHIBIT
RECEIVED BY MCPB**
DATE: 10/28/10
ITEM NO. 9
EXHIBIT NO. 8

October 28, 2010

My name is Anita Powell; I live at 619 Douglas Avenue, in Rockville, MD.

I appear before you tonight, on behalf of the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, the Leroy E. Neal African American Research Center, and a group of individuals who have come together, as a team, to focus on the history and life of the Reverend Josiah Henson. Reverend Josiah Henson, a former slave who lived at the Riley Plantation for at least 30 years; and the site to which tonight we will offer in support of the Staff's recommendation in the name of "Josiah Henson Special Park."

Tonight our purpose is to share with you our perspective on why, this property is an important historic treasure in Montgomery County and in the State of Maryland, particularly as it relates to the naming of the site. Since the property was purchased in 2006, much research and findings about the site has been uncovered. It is important to know that history never ends; it is built upon as time goes on. And the same holds true for this property and its history of which is no different as it continues to unfold.

However, in supporting the staff's recommendation and moving forward with research, interpretation, education, collections, and resources, etc., the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation want to be assured, that it is a true and accurate account of the cultural institution of slavery, during the period prior to 1863. This was the year in which President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and more specifically on New Year's Day, January 1, in the year of 1863. According to Dr. John Hope Franklin, in the summer of 1993, during the 130th anniversary on the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, he states "An Act of Justice." This is why the foundation is involved in the study and the growth of this property, known for its 30 years of enslavement of Rev. Josiah Henson and other slaves.

Can you imagine that we are only two generations away from slavery! It is important that when the history of America is told, as it relates to the property that we fully understand the pain, the suffering, the sacrifice, and triumph that slaves, had to endure in order to achieve their freedom.

As the Department of Parks continues on its journey to interpret the site, we are grateful that they are willing to partner with organizations, such as Lincoln Park Historical Foundation and interested parties to tell the story and to educate the public about a place “called home” too many slaves. Home because this was the only place they knew until freedom was upon them, by way of the Underground Railroad, as documented, in the “Pathways to Freedom: Maryland and the Underground Railroad.”

The department’s Master Plan must fully captured the most significant part of this property, and one man’s challenges and achievements in spite of the institution of slavery and the conditions to which he rose above to gain his freedom.

In closing, we have been asked to partner with Parks to help implement the Master Plan on this property and offered space on Parks’ property, to house our archives and research documents in support of the program and African American history and culture. However, while the department has created a leasing opportunity, it has not been implemented to date. We asked the Planning Board to consider our request, to continue to use Park property for our programming and research and public education, initiatives associated with the Josiah Henson Special Park. We also ask that we continue to be recognized as an organization supportive, of the goals and objectives highlighted in the Master Plan, and to participate in the management, programming and development of this culturally significant facility.

I would like to end with this quote “History cannot be changed nor erased, nor can it serve as a pretense that certain events never took place during our time or that of our forefathers. Rather, history should be viewed as a way to better understand who we are as a people, as a community, and as a nation. We must apply the knowledge we gain from the wealth of information that has been shared with us, as it can aid us in our endeavors to acknowledge the past, to live in the present, and to prepare for the future.”

Thank you and good evening.

RECEIVED BY MCPB

DATE: 10/28/10
 ITEM NO. 9
 EXHIBIT NO. 1

Correction and Clarification

October 7, 2010

"Confusion over history of Md. cabin museum"

The Washington Post
 Monday, October 4, 2010,

Note: Information recently developed and distributed by others about the Montgomery County Department of Parks and our work requires amplification, correction, clarification, and commentary. This analysis is provided to ensure an accurate, complete, and balanced perspective is available to those who are interested in, engaged in, and care about our work and purpose.

Text in bold in the left column is the subject of clarification, correction, or commentary in the right hand column.

#	Article	Correction & Clarification
1	In 2006, at the height of the housing bubble, Montgomery County paid \$1 million to buy a two-story colonial in North Bethesda with a log cabin jutting out on one side. The house had been on the market only a couple of months, but county officials felt compelled to act quickly: This might be their only chance to save the real Uncle Tom's Cabin - the former home of Josiah Henson, the model for the title character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's seminal antislavery novel.	The historic name for this property is the Riley House, and the common, or popular, name has long been "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The popular name for this property has always referenced the title of the novel written in 1852 by Harriet Beecher Stowe. The property references the novel because the novel was inspired by the 1849 autobiography of Josiah Henson, a real person, who lived on the plantation property while enslaved. There is no "...real Uncle Tom's Cabin." Uncle Tom is a fictional character; Josiah Henson was a real person.
2	"I seriously doubt the county would have spent upwards of \$2 million if they had known the cabin was not the real Uncle Tom's Cabin," said David Rotenstein, who was on the county Historic Preservation Commission at the time of the purchase.	Staff would have recommended this purchase regardless of whether Henson lived in or slept in the extant structure. The property is the location where he was enslaved. The historic Riley dwelling is all that's left of the large plantation that is now mostly a mid-20 th century subdivision. In 2006, staff recommended and the Planning Board agreed that the Riley plantation on which Josiah Henson was enslaved was an important interpretive opportunity to discuss Josiah Henson's life, slavery in Maryland, and the transition from Henson's real

"Confusion over history of Md. cabin museum"**Correction & Clarification****Page 2 of 4**

#	Article	Correction & Clarification
		life to Stowe's fictional, groundbreaking abolitionist novel.
3	Henson does refer to spending at least one night in the Riley kitchen, but it was probably not in the room that survives.	Staff agrees. This fact does nothing to detract from the significance of the site.
4	A 2008 analysis of the tree rings on the cabin's logs found that the cabin wing was built around 1850 - more than a decade after Henson had fled the United States for Canada, where he established a fugitive slave community called Dawn.	Staff undertook the dendrochronology study as one of its first exercises upon owning the property. While it is not possible to always date log structures, the effort was successful. The 1850 date of the log wing reveals that the log wing is a pre-Civil War structure. Architectural drawings of the house from the 1930s also reveal that the structure used to contain a loft in the interior above the kitchen, but that the loft was removed in the 1930s. Log kitchen wings with lofts were typical antebellum structures on plantations in the southern Mid-Atlantic, although they are rare today.
5	That inconvenient truth presents an immediate challenge to county officials: what to call the place.	There is no inconvenient truth. History is history. All public information generated by the Department of Parks --tours, website, printed materials, etc.— reflects the fact that the log wing was built in 1850 and functioned as a kitchen with loft and has been represented as such since the data was revealed. Staff has believed since 2007 that the site's name ought to reference Henson.
6	The site's official name is still Uncle Tom's Cabin Special Park. But starting in 2007, parks officials began referring to it as the Josiah Henson Historic Site (formerly Riley House/Uncle Tom's Cabin). The name change has not been formally approved and is awaiting public comment.	It takes an act of the Planning Board to change a Park's name. The master plan now in progress is the perfect opportunity to reconsider the park name. Staff is recommending the park be renamed Josiah Henson Special Park.
7	The purchase of the Riley House, which is now open to the public only rarely, was "driven by oral tradition" and not rigorous research, Rotenstein argued. "As a taxpayer, I'd like to see the money spent elsewhere. As a historian, I'm torn. I am not trying to minimize the property's historic significance, but the county needs to be more careful about what it designates as historic."	This resource has been a historic site designated on the county Master Plan for Historic Preservation since 1979. The research upon which that designation was based, included: Montgomery County land records, wills, Henson's published autobiographies, published records of county history, and published regional histories.

“Confusion over history of Md. cabin museum”

Correction & Clarification

Page 3 of 4

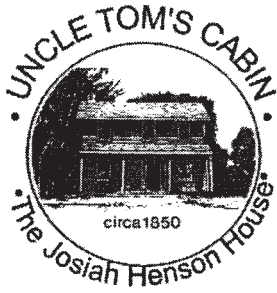
#	Article	Correction & Clarification
		<p>The most important source was Henson’s autobiographies, published over several decades and added to as he aged. His first narrative, published in 1849, is the third most widely read slave narrative in the world. That autobiography, in combination with his later narratives that name his owner as Isaac Riley, document Henson’s life on this particular plantation. Historic maps and Riley descendants confirm that the structure that stands is the Riley house on what was the Riley Plantation.</p> <p>At the time of acquisition, staff had the autobiography that described Henson’s own dwelling as a “log hut,” and part of a “village” of such structures. The staff who presented the building’s historic significance to the Planning Board on the day of its approval for acquisition on January 5, 2006 described the existing structure as the Riley house with attached log kitchen, not as Henson’s dwelling. Prior to dendrochronology, the age of the log kitchen was unknown. Other written documents and other parties, both within county government and outside of it, repeatedly made statements that tied the attached log structure to Henson’s dwelling - this was not based in fact and perpetuated the myth.</p>
8	<p>The decision to spend millions on the property was prompted in part by a public outcry over the possibility of losing the site to development. Newspapers, including this one, seized on the story of the real cabin being on the verge of destruction.</p>	<p>Acquisition to make it available to the public was essential. The public interest is served by the County’s investment in saving this important resource and making it publicly accessible. As noted above, there could be no “...real cabin...” since Uncle Tom’s Cabin is a fictional place.</p>
9	<p>Those who voted for the acquisition based on a misconception were not available to talk about it.</p>	<p>The Planning Board voted for the acquisition. The staff who presented the historic significance of the resource to the planning board as the Riley House with attached log kitchen, which was thought at that time to have been slightly older than it actually was.</p>
10	<p>Floreen said it was "discouraging" to know the council pushed to buy the Riley House based on inaccurate information, but she doesn't believe the purchase was a mistake.</p>	<p>The purchase is not a mistake. The plantation where Henson was enslaved is the right setting to discuss the life of this extraordinary man, the fact that slavery was a vital force in Maryland (a Union state), the great novel that arose out of Henson’s life story and changed the course of this country,</p>

“Confusion over history of Md. cabin museum”

Correction & Clarification

Page 4 of 4

#	Article	Correction & Clarification
		the struggle for emancipation, and many other aspects of history. Historical information about this site and its structures continues to be sought and collected, and staff through the Master Planning process has developed 5 major interpretive themes that will interpret Henson, the slave experience, and the interconnection between Henson’s life and Harriet Beecher Stowe’s literary masterpiece.



UNCLE TOM'S CABIN HISTORIC SITE

29251 Uncle Tom's Rd.
Dresden, Ontario
Canada N0P 1M0

Telephone: (519) 683-2978
Fax : (519) 683-1256
utchs@heritagetrust.on.ca



An agency of the Government of Ontario

October 28, 2010

Rachel Newhouse
Project Coordinator
Montgomery County Department of Parks
1109 Spring Street, Suite 800
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Greetings Rachel!

I am pleased to hear of the extensive work being undertaken by the Montgomery County Department of Parks at the Josiah Henson Site. The property has undeniable historic significance, and with proper interpretation will lead to a fuller understanding and appreciation of Henson's life in slavery. You have a unique opportunity to interpret plantation life as seen through the eyes of one of the United States' most famous refugees from slavery.

As you are aware, the Ontario Heritage Trust operates the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, Ontario, Canada—home to his last dwelling before passing away in 1883.

For four decades, the Ontario Heritage Trust has been on the front lines of heritage conservation. Working with various partners and individuals throughout the province of Ontario, the Trust remains the centre of excellence for the delivery of services to the government and communities of Ontario for the sustainability and availability of its built, cultural and natural heritage. As the province's lead heritage agency, we have been entrusted with keeping Ontario's heritage alive and meaningful. We are committed to celebrating the people, places and events that have influenced our past and that continue to shape our culture.

It is so fitting that you've chosen today, October 28th, to conduct your public meeting, as it marks the 180th anniversary of the Henson family's arrival on Canadian soil. Reverend Henson worked with energy and vision to improve life for the Black community in Upper Canada (now Ontario). In 1841 he co founded the British American Institute, a vocational school for Underground Railroad refugees. The Dawn settlement, comprised of mostly Black settlers, grew around the school. Henson's dramatic experiences and his connection with Stowe's book made him one of the most famous Canadians of his day.

I look forward to continued discussions with your organization as you explore interpretive themes in the life of Josiah Henson. Do consider joining us for Emancipation Day on July 30th, 2011. Emancipation Day commemorates the end of slavery in Canada and the British Empire. It is an important expression of identity for the Black community, complete with lectures, music, food and dancing. We would love to have you share your developments at the Josiah Henson Special Park.

Warmest regards,

Steven Cook
Site Manager/Curator

MCP-CTRACK

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2010

From: Eileen McGuckian [phileen3@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 3:30 PM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Submission for Oct. 28, 2010 public hearing record -- Riley/Henson Park Master Plan
Attachments: Josiah Henson.doc

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
RILEY/HENSON PARK MASTER PLAN

Kindly enter the attached two-page testimony into the public hearing record for the Riley/Henson Special Park Master Plan. The hearing date is October 28, 2010.

Thank you,

Eileen McGuckian
11807 Dinwiddie Drive
Rockville, MD 20852
301-468-7331

other place, the experience of the enslaved Hensons and the hard-scrabble Rileys could truly touch our lives.

Next we turned to deeper research which, properly, is on-going. Your superb Parks staff invited the public to participate and to learn along with them. On-site investigation conducted over the past three years resulted in a Historic Structure Report, solid information, and additional questions – all part of the learning process. And here we are now with an excellent proposal for a Master Plan that will address challenges of interpretation, permit preservation and selective restoration, continue scholarship and archaeology, and provide access to the public while not disrupting the daily lives of neighbors.

This is truly a “harmonic convergence”: slave and escapee narrative – influential antislavery novel – author’s explanation of background for characters – surviving frame and log structures – a border state held in the Union during the Civil War – continuing documentation. What better situation could anyone devise to help us relate to and understand the first 200 years of our history?

For 30 years there has been no question on the parts of the owners, local historians, the HPC, the Planning Board, or the County Council as to how Henson, the Rileys, and this property fit into Montgomery County and national history. While we should always oversee the use of public money, particularly when difficult choices must be made, the current challenge by an individual to the significance of this property -- not to mention criticizing public decisions when the critic had full opportunity to weigh in at the time of purchase – is pure egotistical grandstanding that lacks any substance.

I urge the Planning Board to continue on its chartered path with resources as they are available. Josiah Henson Special Park is a legacy for all generations and people.

RECEIVED
0880
OCT 13 2010

Garcia, Joyce

From: BettySpano [bettyspano@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 12:50 PM
To: letters@gazette.net
Subject: Riley Farm/Uncle Tom's Cabin Park

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

In recently reading articles and letters about the Riley Farm/ Uncle Tom's Cabin Park I would like to add my perspective as the Realtor who sold the property to Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission.

Before the County (MNCPPC) contracted to buy the site, they, with due diligence, had two outside appraisers appraise the property, before offering \$1,000,000. The history could not be appraised! At the time, in December of 2005, the real estate market was very strong, and the property was over an acre in a very sought after area of North Bethesda/Rockville.

There were two other excellent contracts on the table. However, as the family said, their parents hoped the property would go to the public trust. The history of its connection to the book, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and to the history of plantations and slavery in the County and in the country is there on that acre of land, the remainder of what was a large plantation. The main house is a period home from the early 1800's and the 1930's addition at the back was designed (as I understood) by a White House architect, Lorenzo Winslow.

The Mallet-Prevosts were very respectful of the history of their home, and over the forty plus years they owned the property, took excellent care of this unique site. I know because they were close friends of my parents, and I had visited them in previous years. The footprint of history is there.

Betty Meehan Spano
Realtor
REALTY EXECUTIVES ONE
907 Russell Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

(O) 301 990-9090, x 720
(Cell) 240-888-6488

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Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing

Josiah Henson Special Park Draft Master Plan

T R A N S C R I P T

O F

P R O C E E D I N G S

8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

October 28, 2010

BEFORE:

Francoise M. Carrier, Chair

Commissioner Joe Alfandre

Vice-Chairman Marye Wells-Harley

Commissioner Norman Dreyfuss

Commissioner Amy Presley

Deposition Services, Inc.
6245 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel: (301) 881-3344 Fax: (301) 881-3338



ORIGINAL

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rachel Davis Newhouse, Department of Parks

Dr. John Hench, Park Planning and Stewardship Fivision

Don Housley, Mid-Potomac, Archeological Society of Maryland

Lorraine Pearsall, Montgomery Preservation Inc.

Susan Soderberg, Friends of Oakley Cabin

David Rotenstein, Individual

Anita Powell, Lincoln Park Historical Foundation

Warren Fleming, Individual

Dorothy Krass, Individual

Valerie Hall, Individual

Vivian Eicke, Civil War Roundtable

Yelena Gorina, Jump Foundation

Cheryl LaRoche, Commission on African American History

C O N T E N T S

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Vivian Eicke	29
Yelena Gorina	31
Cheryl LaRoche	34

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MS. NEWHOUSE: For the record, Rachel Newhouse with the Department of Parks. With me is Shirl Spicer, who is our museum manager and chief of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division, John Hench.

We are here to have the public hearing for the Josiah Henson Special Park master plan. And I just wanted to say real quickly for the Board, I wanted to remind you what our schedule would be after this evening. After tonight's testimony we're hoping to come back to you on November the 18th with our response to the testimony this evening.

And the last thing that I would like to share is a really neat little fact that I think the Board would appreciate hearing. On this date back in October 1830, Josiah Henson stepped onto the Canada land, and was a free man.

CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Today?

MS. NEWHOUSE: Today, October the 28th. We thought that was kind of cool. So, I guess --

CHAIR: I don't have a list.

MS. NEWHOUSE: -- you have the list?

CHAIRMAN CARRIER: I don't have a list.

MS. NEWHOUSE: Oh, you don't have the list.

CHAIRMAN CARRIER: No, but it's on its way to me.

MS. NEWHOUSE: Okay, great.

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1 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: I could make it up but that
2 wouldn't be so effective. All right.

3 MS. NEWHOUSE: And we can have the screen turned
4 off, too, Chris, when you get a chance. Thanks.

5 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Okay. I'm going to call up the
6 first seven people. Don Housley, Lorraine Pearsall, Anthony
7 Cohen, Paula Bienenfeld, Susan Soderberg, David Rotenstein --
8 how do you say it?

9 MR. ROTENSTEIN: Rotenstein.

10 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Stein, sorry, and Anita Powell.
11 Are all those people actually here?

12 MS. SODERBERG: No. Tony Cohen, I am speaking for
13 both him and myself.

14 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Okay. But there's only five of
15 you, so there's one other person who is not here. Nobody
16 knows? Okay. We'll see who is missing. Meanwhile, Warren
17 Fleming, do you want to come on up. And Mr. Housley, you're
18 first.

19 MR. HOUSLEY: Thank you. My name is Don Housley
20 and I'm president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the
21 Archeological Society of Maryland. The chapter's board of
22 directors has approved my comments.

23 The Mid-Potomac Chapter is incorporated in Maryland
24 and has 501(c)(3) status. Importantly, our chapter members
25 provide most of the labor, muscle, and sweat to support the

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1 park's archeology program under the professional guidance of
2 Heather Bouslog.

3 From September 2009 to the end of May 2010, our
4 members and others have contributed over 2000 volunteer hours
5 of field and laboratory work on the Josiah Henson site alone.
6 In addition, from the initial planning meetings following the
7 park's purchase of the property, to the two public meetings
8 on June 15th and August the 24th, our members have taken an
9 active interest in the site's development. Thus, our members
10 have an invested interest in your deliberations tonight, and
11 strongly support staff's recommended moderate option.

12 Understanding the financial and property
13 constraints, our chapter believes the moderate option will
14 build on existing programs to attract school groups and the
15 general public, and to begin making the necessary physical
16 alterations to the site.

17 Specifically, our chapter is supportive of the
18 archeology action items as described throughout the moderate
19 plan, especially those noted in goal two, objective two. We
20 thank the staff for recognizing the valuable service
21 archeology can play in providing a deeper understanding of
22 the site. Our chapter members are ready and eager to do the
23 following.

24 Continue to help look for former farm structures on
25 park property; aid in the development and implementation of

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1 non-evasive strategies to look for former structures on
2 consenting neighbor's property; be on site to answer the
3 public's question about the archeology when the park is open
4 for special events; four, help plan exhibits that inform the
5 public about general archeological methods, and about the
6 role archeology has played in providing a fuller
7 interpretation of the Henson site; and five, volunteer to be
8 a part of any ongoing advisory or friends group.

9 On the issue regarding the name of the special
10 park, our chapter supports the change to the Josiah Henson
11 Special Park. With the current dust up over the legitimacy
12 of the site, I am reminded of the quotation, people seem to
13 know half of history and to get it confused with the other
14 half.

15 By changing the name to the Josiah Henson Special
16 Park, the Planning Board has an opportunity to begin the
17 public educational process by tying this site to a real
18 person whose incredible life, including his enslaved
19 experiences on the Riley Farm in Montgomery County are worthy
20 of interpretation on their own merits, along with this
21 significant connection to Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel.

22 What better place is there in the County for the
23 public to come and learn about the history of slavery in the
24 County, Henson's inspirational story, and the role historical
25 research and archeology can contribute, to make this history

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1 and this story come alive and be relevant in today's world.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much,
4 Mr. Housley. The person who is missing is clearly Paula
5 Bienenfeld, because I know her and I don't see her. Lorraine
6 Pearsall.

7 MS. PEARSALL: My name is Lorraine Pearsall. I'm
8 president of Montgomery Preservation, Inc. We are the
9 countywide preservation group. And I'm here on behalf of our
10 board and our membership to wholeheartedly support this
11 master plan. And we recommend that you spend at least the
12 moderate option. And I'd actually like to recommend you try
13 to spend a little bit more, because this site is so very,
14 very important.

15 There has been so much very eloquent testimony
16 already submitted, notably by Susan Soderberg and Eileen
17 McGuckian and Judy Christensen of our MPI board, and I know I
18 cannot be more eloquent than they are, but what I would like
19 to note is that this site is really a celebration for me, not
20 because good things happen there, but because we have finally
21 reached a point in our cultural evolution that we understand
22 the importance of telling the story of slavery, and
23 particularly the story of slavery in Maryland.

24 I am very grateful for the visionary people, the
25 scholars who recognize the importance of this site and

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1 protected it over the years, and have now ensured that we do
2 have it for our ongoing generations.

3 And finally, I just want to note that we are very
4 proud of the work that was done by the Montgomery County
5 Department of Parks, and also we're very proud that our
6 County government purchased the site. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you for your comments.
8 Ms. Soderberg.

9 MS. SODERBERG: My name is Susan Soderberg. I am a
10 historian with a master's degree in American Studies from
11 George Washington University, and much experience in
12 interpreting history for the public.

13 I am representing the Menare Foundation, Anthony
14 Cohen, and the Friends of Oakley Cabin and the Underground
15 Railroad, an independent nonprofit with the mission of
16 preserving and interpreting African-American historic sites
17 in the County, Montgomery County Parks.

18 Anthony Cohen and I are currently doing primary
19 research for a book on Josiah Henson. We request that the
20 Planning Board approve the maximum option to achieve the
21 interpretation and restoration goals set forth in the master
22 plan for the property, rather than the moderate option as
23 recommended by the staff for the following reasons, based on
24 historical fact. And these are from our research and not as
25 people usually do, from the Josiah Henson autobiographies.

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1 Number one, the book, Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Harriet
2 Beecher Stowe, published in 1852 was the best selling book
3 after the Bible in the late 19th century, and was translated
4 into all major languages. It is still used today in many
5 English classes in other countries as a text. It so touched
6 the people of the north, that many were incensed against
7 slavery.

8 In the key to Uncle Tom's Cabin where Mrs. Stowe
9 explains the origins of the characters and situations in her
10 book, she demonstrates many parallels between the character
11 of Uncle Tom and Josiah Henson and quotes from Josiah's 1849
12 autobiography.

13 We know that Josiah Henson was a slave of Isaac
14 Riley and lived approximately 25 years on the Riley
15 plantation, the site of this park, growing into adulthood
16 there, and becoming a Christian there, an event that would
17 direct the rest of his life.

18 We know that Henson's second autobiography was
19 written to raise the money to purchase his brother, a slave
20 of Jane Beall of the Beall-Dawson House of Rockville, and
21 that's a direct connection with another historic site in the
22 County, and to bring him to freedom.

23 And his third autobiography was written to raise
24 money for the industrial school that he helped to found in
25 Canada for refugees from slavery in the United States. In

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1 his fourth autobiography, he describes meeting Queen Victoria
2 and meeting President Hayes and returning to the Riley farm
3 in 1878 to visit his former mistress and the grave of his
4 mother.

5 The four autobiographies of Josiah Henson, and one
6 children's book of his life, written by his publisher, all
7 sold very well. People bought the later ones to find out how
8 his life was evolving since the previous editions, making
9 great profits for his publishers, if not for himself.

10 His public talks in England, Canada, and the
11 northern United States after the civil war drew hundreds and
12 even thousands. People were drawn to him as what they
13 called, the real Uncle Tom, a man who was not beaten to death
14 to protect two young girls, as in the novel, but a survivor.

15 And not just a survivor, but a hero who defeated
16 the inhumanity of slavery by escaping, learning to read and
17 write, helping to form a school to help others grow in their
18 independence, and becoming an important and influential
19 person who was introduced to the President of the United
20 States and the Queen of England.

21 The importance of Josiah Henson in the charged
22 political and social atmosphere after the civil war cannot be
23 under-estimated. He was revered both as a hero and he
24 escaped enslavement on the underground railroad, and gone
25 back several times to rescue others, and as a religious

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1 figure. He was a person to be emulated, a man who grew from
2 a non-person into a person of influence.

3 His funeral in 1883 in Canada drew thousands from
4 all walks of life. Canada has issued a postage stamp in his
5 image. His home in Ontario, Canada, has been made into a
6 historical museum called Uncle Tom's Cabin historic site,
7 operated by the provincial government. And this site draws
8 9,000 to 15,000 visitors a year, even though it is in a
9 remote area and not open in the winter months. Also, it's
10 name has never been challenged.

11 Let us stay focused on the true importance of the
12 Riley site. What is important is that this the farm and the
13 big house where a slave grew up who wrote an autobiography
14 that figured prominently in the growing public indignation
15 that escalated into civil war.

16 Josiah Henson's story is a story of inhumanity, but
17 also of great stoicism and heroism and humanity. It is the
18 story of our nation. Montgomery County has in its ownership
19 of this treasured property, a singular opportunity to tell
20 the narratives of slavery and the courageous heros who stood
21 up to the injustice of slavery.

22 This narrative has remained underground in American
23 history as the underground railroad was hidden. This
24 extraordinary opportunity openly to tell the stories will
25 begin to give to the enslaved people, as well as to the heros

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1 of the arduous escapes from slavery, their full measure of
2 merit, and a continuation of the failure to tell these
3 stories reflects the tragic heritage of slavery and
4 segregation in our society.

5 At long last, Montgomery County has a unique
6 opportunity in the powerful setting of an on-site museum to
7 tell the stories that can contribute to the process of
8 righting past wrongs. The importance of this site is not in
9 the architecture. The importance of the site lies in the
10 man, Josiah Henson, known to the people in the north in
11 Canada and England as the real Uncle Tom.

12 And the importance of this one person from the past
13 to the future is far more than any of us could comprehend at
14 this point in time. The potential of this site in drawing
15 American history and its relevance to today to us is
16 immeasurable. It will draw tens of thousands of visitors a
17 year from all parts of the country and the world.

18 It will bring good publicity and revenue to
19 Montgomery County. There is no other comparable site in the
20 State of Maryland. We have lots of slave cabins in the
21 state, but no heros associated with those cabins. We have
22 lots of heros, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas, for
23 instance, but no sites have been developed in connection with
24 those people.

25 So we request that you approve the maximum plan and

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1 the maximum amount of funding for this public historic site
2 in Montgomery County of international significance. The
3 residents of Montgomery County deserve no less, and the rest
4 of the world demands it. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much, Ms.
6 Soderberg. Mr. Rotenstein.

7 MR. ROTENSTEIN: Good evening, Madam Chair, members
8 of the Planning Board. For the record, my name is David
9 Rotenstein, and I live in the Four Corners section of Silver
10 Spring.

11 I'm appearing this evening not as a professional
12 historian with more than 25 years in public history,
13 including an extensive background researching and writing on
14 African-American heritage and popular culture, nor as the
15 former Historic Preservation Commission chairman. I'm here
16 this evening because I live next to the North Four Corners
17 Park, and I'm a regular Montgomery County Parks consumer.

18 I enjoy visiting the County's diverse parks, and
19 one of my favorite recreational activities is riding my bike
20 along the Sligo Creek trail.

21 Earlier this year, the Montgomery County Parks
22 Department decided to shutter 11 recreation buildings, and
23 over the past year portable potties have been removed from
24 many parks. These are the reasons I am here this evening, to
25 urge you to proceed with frugality in mind as you decide on

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1 the implementation of a new master plan at the place once
2 called Uncle Tom's Cabin.

3 Up until this spring, our neighborhood association
4 had for decades used the recreation building in North Four
5 Corners Park for its regular business meetings, and for
6 neighborhood special events. That history ended when the
7 building was moth balled because of budget cuts, the same
8 budget cuts that have affected your staffing levels.

9 Efforts by our civic association to form a
10 partnership with the Parks Department to manage and maintain
11 the building were rebuffed by Parks Department managers,
12 because all of the Department staff who once dealt with such
13 matters have left the agency, and there are neither resources
14 nor people available to pursue such discussions. Our County
15 has been reduced to begging for money to keep potties in our
16 parks.

17 I remember vividly the years before our park had a
18 potty, and how park users routinely used secluded and not so
19 hidden parts of the park and neighboring yards, including
20 ours, as public toilets. I can no longer ride my bike the
21 length of Sligo Creek trail and use an adjacent port-a-potty.
22 If nature calls, I must wait until I arrive in Prince
23 George's County to a park near the trail's southern terminus.

24 I cannot argue the merits of adding another
25 historical park to the County's many natural and cultural

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1 resources that communicate our County's amazing history. And
2 despite the embarrassing mistakes made in acquiring the
3 property once called Uncle Tom's Cabin, the property has the
4 potential to be a valuable teaching tool and heritage tourism
5 asset. I only ask that you first ensure that the County's
6 existing assets be given the resources they need before
7 embarking on an expensive plan to develop a new park. Thank
8 you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you, Mr. Rotenstein.
10 Ms. Powell.

11 MS. POWELL: Good evening. I am going to read a
12 written testimony that was sent to you by Ms. Paula
13 Bienenfeld and Mr. Russell Campbell on my time.

14 My name is Anita Powell. I appear before you
15 tonight on behalf of the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation,
16 the Leroy E. Neal African-American Research Center, and a
17 group of individuals who have come together as a team to
18 focus on the history and life of Reverend Josiah Henson.
19 Reverend Josiah Henson, a former slave, who lived at the
20 Riley plantation for at least 25 years, and the site which
21 tonight we will offer support to the staff recommendation in
22 the name of Josiah Henson Special Park.

23 Tonight our purpose is to share with you our
24 perspective on why this property is an important historic
25 treasure in Montgomery County and in the State of Maryland,

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1 particularly as it relates to the naming of the site.

2 Since the property was purchased in 2006, much
3 research and finding about this site has been uncovered. It
4 is important to know that history never ends. It is built
5 upon as time goes on. And the same holds true for this
6 property and its history of which it is no different as it
7 continues to unfold.

8 However, in supporting the staff recommendation and
9 moving forward with research, interpretation, education,
10 collection and resources, the Lincoln Park Historical
11 Foundation want to be assured that it is a true and accurate
12 account of the cultural institution of slavery during the
13 period prior to 1863.

14 This was the year in which President Abraham
15 Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and more
16 specifically on New Year's Day, January 1, in the year of
17 1863.

18 According to Dr. John Hope Franklin, in the summer
19 of 1993, during the 130th anniversary of the signing of the
20 emancipation proclamation he states, an act of justice. This
21 is why the foundation is involved in the study and the growth
22 of this property known for its 25 years of enslavement of
23 Reverend Josiah Henson and other slaves.

24 Can you imagine that we are only two generations
25 away from slavery? It is important that when the history of

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1 America is told as it relates to the property, that we fully
2 understand the pain, the suffering, the sacrifice and triumph
3 that slaves had to endure in order to achieve their freedom.

4 As the Department of Parks continue on this journey
5 to interpret this site, we are grateful that they are willing
6 to partner with organizations such as the Lincoln Park
7 Historical Foundation, an interested party to tell the story
8 and to educate the public about a place called home to many
9 slaves; home, because this is the only place they knew until
10 freedom was upon them by way of the underground railroad, as
11 documented in the Pathway to Freedom: Maryland and the
12 Underground Railroad.

13 The Department's master plan must fully capture the
14 most significant part of this property, and one man's
15 challenges and achievements in spite of institutional -- the
16 institution of slavery and the condition to which he rose
17 above to gain his freedom.

18 In closing, we have been asked to partner with
19 parks to help implement the master plan on this property, and
20 offer space on parks property to house our archives and
21 research documents in support of the program and African-
22 American history and culture.

23 However, while the Department has created a leasing
24 opportunity, it has not been implemented to date. We ask the
25 Planning Board to consider our request to continue to use

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1 park property for our programming and research and public
2 education initiative associated with the Josiah Henson
3 Special Park.

4 We also ask that we continue to be recognized as an
5 organization supportive of the goals and objectives
6 highlighted in the master plan, and to participate in the
7 management, programming and development of this culturally
8 significant facility.

9 I would like to end with this quote. History
10 cannot be changed nor erased, nor can it serve as a pretense
11 that certain events never took place during our time or that
12 of our forefathers. Rather, history should be viewed as a
13 way to better understand during our time, to better
14 understand who we are as a people, as a community, and as a
15 nation.

16 We must supply the knowledge we gain from the
17 wealth of information that has been shared with us, as it can
18 aid us in our endeavors to acknowledge the past, to live in
19 the present, and to present -- and to prepare for the future.
20 Thank you and good evening. Do I have enough time to read
21 these other two, because I have 10 minutes.

22 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: It is -- you have five minutes,
23 11 seconds left.

24 MS. POWELL: Okay. I'll take it. This testimony
25 is presented by Paula Bienenfeld --

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1 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Bienenfeld.

2 MS. POWELL: Bienenfeld? Okay. Thank you. My
3 name is -- I am speaking on behalf of the staff draft master
4 plan and asking that the Planning Board endorse the plan and
5 the park.

6 I live on Tilden Lane, just three doors down from
7 the Henson Park and have been closely following the
8 development of the master plan. In addition to being an
9 adjoining neighbor, I am an archeologist and historic
10 preservation professional. So I have been following the work
11 at the property with professional interest as well.

12 Those of us who live in Luxmanor community are
13 aware that we live on property that was once the Riley Farm,
14 and that Reverend Henson was one of the people that lived on
15 the farm as well.

16 First, I want to applaud the efforts of park staff
17 in working with the various communities in this County. And
18 I want to say how much we appreciate the work that has been
19 done, especially the archeological excavation under the
20 direction of Heather Argslaw. Okay.

21 I have these comments on the master plan. First,
22 the plan states adjacent private land use patterning does not
23 reflect historic landscape. I would encourage staff to
24 rethink this interpretation of the landscape and to rethink
25 the period of significance for this property.

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1 While the initial focus of the park is on the
2 structure itself in an intervailing period when Reverend
3 Henson lived on the property. In fact, the landscape is a
4 living, dynamic thing and changes in its use through time,
5 should be incorporated into the park's interpretation.

6 I would ask that the Planning Board request staff
7 to consider the property and time as a whole. This approach
8 to historic preservation is well-respected, and would
9 acknowledge the reality of life on this property. In this
10 approach, our neighborhood would not be at theoretical odds
11 with the park, but instead would blend in as part of the
12 long-term history of the area.

13 As one example, when the Luxmanor subdivision was
14 first developed, there were restrictive covenants on the
15 property so that Jews were not allowed to purchase properties
16 within the subdivision. This discrimination and restriction
17 would fit well with the park objectives in the long term.

18 Second, the plan recommends that the museum educate
19 visitors about the enslavement of African-Americans in
20 Maryland. At meetings that were held within the community,
21 community members brought up the idea of a more far-reaching
22 idea, which would be to extend this idea into the present and
23 discuss the fact that slavery still exists throughout the
24 modern world. In this way, the Parks Department could widen
25 the mission of parks, and create a more dynamic and

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1 contemporary park.

2 I would ask that the Planning Board request the
3 staff to consider this recommendation which was endorsed by
4 most of the members of the meeting I attended. Now, how much
5 time do I have left?

6 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Two minutes, 18 seconds.

7 MS. POWELL: Okay. Counting. This is from Russell
8 Campbell. Russell Campbell Associates. Standing in this
9 little log cabin gave me a sense of sadness and depression.
10 I was selected as a subcontractor to work with the company
11 tasked to do the full documentation analysis of the property
12 known as Riley House. Attached was this little cabin,
13 allegedly the home of a slave named Josiah Henson.

14 Montgomery County has purchased this historic site
15 to preserve the legacy of a slave whose autobiography was
16 captured in the Pre-Civil War book called Uncle Tom by
17 Harriet Beecher Stowe.

18 To me, this was an opportunity to set the record
19 straight, to take a story that was not accurate and make sure
20 the truth was revealed. For years, African-Americans
21 believed that being an Uncle Tom was a demeaning and
22 insulting statement that was delivered as a derogatory name
23 to a person. Many did not know the full story of the real
24 person whose life was taken and distorted by someone else.

25 Josiah Henson was a slave on the property where the

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1 Riley House and this little cabin sits on. He was a slave
2 owned by another who looked upon as a catalyst, like a horse
3 or a property that is owned. He represented an institution
4 that was based upon the blood, sweat and tears of millions --
5 on enslaved African burials and millions of unmarked graves,
6 that damnable institution that belies over 500,000 white
7 people died while defending and defeating that blemish on
8 American history.

9 My motives were clear to me and others
10 participating in Riley House project. It was to ascertain
11 the truth and the validity of this property, and its impact
12 on the history of Montgomery County, Maryland. Josiah Henson
13 did, in fact, live on the property. He was a slave on this
14 land.

15 Isaac Riley bought him, worked him in the dirt and
16 soils of Montgomery County and later betrayed him to keep him
17 a slave. It was his blood, his toil that was the economic
18 foundation on this county. We know he tried to buy his
19 freedom, and we know when he failed, he escaped to freedom.

20 The research we did as part of the Riley House
21 project revealed that the cabin currently attached to the
22 Riley House did not exist when Henson escaped to Canada in
23 1830. But I maintain that this is not about a sleeping
24 quarters, but about the suffering of those unnamed millions
25 -- I only have one sentence -- symbolized by the state of one

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1 man who made a difference, about one many whose autobiography
2 was used as a fuse to finally destroy this particular
3 institution called slavery.

4 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Well done. Okay. Mr. Fleming.

5 MR. FLEMING: Good evening everyone. My name is
6 Warren Fleming, and I'm the past Commissioner here for
7 Historic Preservation. And I'm now the president of the
8 Damascus Connection Committee. And our mission is to promote
9 civil rights for all people.

10 I'm here tonight to testify on behalf of moving
11 forward with the Josiah Henson project. Some Americans have
12 embraced this myth of the term Uncle Tom, and this myth has
13 put the standard image of a black man. This image has
14 damaged my father, my grandfather, my great grandfather, and
15 today this image sometimes damages me.

16 Josiah Henson's cabin is located here in Montgomery
17 County. If it was in another state, then we wouldn't be
18 having this meeting tonight. But if it was in another state,
19 you'd best believe that I would still be trying to persuade
20 everyone that -- who this man Josiah Henson really was.

21 We must move forward with this process so many of
22 our youths will have a better understanding of the truth and
23 the abilities of who Josiah Henson really was.

24 In closing, I'm going to say this. The Josiah
25 Henson project has been put on the County of Montgomery. We

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1 have a chance tonight and this year to correct what history
2 has told us about Josiah Henson and the African-American
3 culture. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much. And thank
5 you all. I'm going to call up the remaining speakers. There
6 are six more. Dorothy Krass, Valerie Hall, Macy Nelson,
7 Vivian Eicke -- I hope I said that okay -- Yelena Gorina, and
8 Cheryl LaRoche. Ms. Krass.

9 MS. KRASS: Good evening. Good evening
10 Commissioner and thank you for taking the time to listen to
11 the comment from the public on the master plan for the Josiah
12 Henson Special Park.

13 My name is Dorothy Krass, and I'm a retired
14 professional archeologist, a member of the Mid-Potomac
15 Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, and one of
16 the volunteers that Housley mentioned in his remarks.

17 I'm here to express my support, my individual
18 support for staff's recommended moderate option for the
19 development of the Henson Park. In particular, I'd like to
20 endorse the recommendations under goal number one, to
21 interpret Henson's life and the history of slavery in our
22 County.

23 This is a goal that was widely emphasized by the
24 citizens who attended the public meetings in June and August.
25 The moderate option strategy to expand the time spent on

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1 continuing research is critical to building a solid
2 foundation for interpreting the site, and creating an
3 enriched understanding of the role slavery played in the
4 development of our community.

5 It is appropriate, indeed, to call this place a
6 special park, because the Henson site has many
7 characteristics that make it very special. On such aspect is
8 the fact that it is the only slave-based site that I know of
9 that is described in the writings of one of the enslaved
10 workers, rather than in the writings of the slave owner.

11 Josiah Henson became literate and left us his life
12 story in his own words. Isaac Riley probably was not
13 literate, and while we have some documents about him, probate
14 lists and court proceedings, we have no diaries, no letters,
15 no memoirs of his life in his own words.

16 The second characteristic of the Henson site that
17 makes it very special is that the Riley Farm is not a
18 handsome mansion that required scores of enslaved laborers to
19 maintain it. This is not Mt. Vernon or Monticello, with
20 their classic Georgian architecture and rows of brick slave
21 quarters and other outbuildings, preserved in good condition
22 because of the prominence of their owners.

23 The Riley farmhouse was not an architect's
24 masterpiece, but a vernacular farmhouse. The slave quarters
25 and outbuildings were, as Henson tells us, wooden

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1 constructions with dirt floors. This makes the archeology
2 much more challenging. But it also gives us the opportunity
3 to investigate and illuminate the stratum of social and
4 economic life that was different from and more prevalent than
5 the more picturesque life on the plantations of the elite
6 slave holders.

7 The Henson site presents us with an opportunity to
8 truly expand the understanding of the lives of ordinary
9 Marylanders, both enslaved and slave holding in the last half
10 of the century -- in the last half-century of the era.

11 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: That means you need to bring
12 your remarks to a close, please.

13 MS. KRASS: Well, I just have one more note about
14 the appropriateness of funding, and it's more fully figured
15 in the written cite, but I'll just quote from a Harris Poll
16 survey of 1,000 respondents on the perception of archeology.
17 In that survey, 80 percent of the respondents agreed that
18 public funds should be used to protect archeological sites,
19 and that even a higher percentage believe that public -- 86
20 percent believe that monies should be used to preserve
21 historic sites. And I thank you again for inviting the
22 public to contribute to your consideration of the plans for
23 the future of this important archeological and historic site.

24 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much. Valerie
25 Hall.

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1 MS. HALL: Good evening. I don't know if it's
2 appropriate, but thank you to everyone who has spoken thus
3 far. The passion and thoughtfulness that have gone into the
4 remarks has been really nice.

5 I am Valerie Hall, and I'm a trustee-at-large of
6 the Archeological Society of Maryland. But tonight I'm
7 speaking as an active volunteer with the Parks Department in
8 archeology. I volunteered about 100 hours during 2010 so far
9 doing public outreach at the Harvest Festival, opening day of
10 Oakley Cabin, Science Day, the public dig, and also as part
11 of an archeology crew working on sites such as the Zeigler
12 Log House, Woodlawn Manor, Darby Store, and last year at
13 Josiah Henson site.

14 I'm speaking tonight because I'm very excited about
15 the potential for the proposed Josiah Henson Special Park.
16 The significance of having an ongoing archeological site open
17 to the visitors in an urban/suburban setting like North
18 Bethesda, is intriguing. This will allow people of all ages
19 and backgrounds the opportunity to see and appreciate
20 archeology in action, and to hear explanations from the
21 experts on the correct techniques to use.

22 I love talking to the County residents, and
23 teaching them about archeology and how it does reveal the
24 past. I think I love this so much because I never really
25 appreciated history until I began volunteering in 1996. And

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1 for me, it's something about touching the artifacts, and
2 these are things that people used, you know, 100 years ago,
3 and to learn from what we find.

4 Because visitors will be able to see and feel and
5 discover, they too will learn about a significant part of our
6 Maryland State and County history. Archeologists are able to
7 challenge the long held beliefs about sites, and use their
8 findings to reveal a more accurate picture of life in that
9 time period.

10 This site has that potential, since we are still
11 unclear as to where the outbuildings were located on the
12 property. And there's many more questions that we don't even
13 know what to ask.

14 It has the potential for being a place of ongoing
15 historical research and archeology, as new information is
16 found to fill in many unknown details in Henson's life story.

17 In addition, because of the site's significance, it
18 has already attracted the interest of the community, and many
19 local people participated in the park's adult field school
20 last year, and they continue to volunteer with the Parks
21 Department.

22 I especially appreciate the recommended name change
23 to Josiah Henson Special Park. This change emphasizes,
24 places the emphasis on the life of an author and a reverend
25 who, during his early years, was enslaved in Montgomery

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1 County. It reminds us to celebrate a man who began his
2 difficult life and difficult and inspiring life as a child of
3 an enslaved woman in Charles County who then grew --

4 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Are you wrapping up?

5 MS. HALL: I will wrap up. Absolutely. We've
6 already gone through his history, quite an inspirational
7 historical figure for us.

8 I fully support the staff's recommendation for the
9 moderate option, and since it will allow both people and
10 school groups to come in and experience this first hand. And
11 I will just say, thank you so much for the long hours that
12 you all are putting in and for considering the proposal.

13 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much. Macy
14 Nelson is not here? Vivian Eicke. Did I say that okay?
15 Eicke?

16 MS. EICKE: It's Eicke.

17 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Eicke. Okay.

18 MS. EICKE: As in Dwight D. Madam Chair and
19 Planning Board members, my name is Vivian Eicke, and I'm the
20 president of the Montgomery County Civil War Roundtable. The
21 Roundtable is a group of history enthusiasts with a goal of
22 education in the areas pertaining to the civil war and
23 related subjects.

24 Since slavery was a leading cause of the civil war,
25 we find we are now in a unique, have a unique opportunity to

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1 explore and educate the citizens of Montgomery County in the
2 history of slavery within the County and the State of
3 Maryland.

4 Plantations in Montgomery County were not
5 moonlights and magnolias, and definitely were not plantations
6 on the scale of Gone with the Wind, with a large number of
7 enslaved people. Within the County there is a museum
8 dedicated to slavery in general, from capture to being sold
9 as property. There is also the underground railroad
10 experience trail explaining what escaping slaves would
11 experience in their quest for freedom.

12 With the Josiah Henson site, we can now delve into
13 the peculiar institution of enslavement within the County,
14 which until recent years has been left untold. Josiah Henson
15 was one of several enslaved individuals who gave a voice to
16 those who bore the enslavement in silence.

17 However, it was Henson who became internationally
18 known. It was Henson who strode the grounds of the Riley
19 Farm living the harsh reality of enslavement. It was Henson
20 who eventually escaped to Canada, established the Dawn
21 Settlement in Dresden, Ontario, Canada, and then dictated his
22 memoirs upon which Harriet Beecher Stowe would base her
23 characters in her novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin.

24 Now we have the opportunity to separate the man
25 from the myth. Regarding the name of the special park, the

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1 Montgomery County Civil War Roundtable, in keeping with its
2 goal of educating the public about the civil war in general,
3 and in Montgomery County in particular, supports the name
4 change to the Josiah Henson Special Park.

5 As we approach the 150th anniversary of the civil
6 war, this site, with careful preparation and interpretation,
7 can become a focal point for the County's discussion of its
8 own history of slavery, just as Josiah Henson's real
9 experiences played a major role in focusing the nation's
10 attention on slavery over 150 years ago.

11 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much. Yelena
12 Gorina.

13 MS. GORINA: Good evening. Thank you for inviting
14 me to testify in support of the Department of Parks decision
15 to establish a public museum dedicated to the topic of
16 slavery and the life of Josiah Henson.

17 I represent the Jump Foundation, Jews United for
18 Memory Preservation, a nonprofit community organization
19 dedicated to memories, preservation for survivors from the
20 Soviet Union.

21 Also, Uncle Tom's Cabin was not required by the
22 Russian school reading program, it was extremely popular
23 among Russian children, and every Russian person that I know
24 is familiar with this book.

25 Growing up in Russia, I have read Uncle Tom's Cabin

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1 by Harriet Beecher Stowe for the first time at age of 10 or
2 11. I cried over Uncle Tom and Eva, but my favorite
3 character was Elisa, who took her child and ran away,
4 jumping over sheets of ice to avoid being sold. I remember
5 being mad at Uncle Tom for his patience and endurance of the
6 tortures that his master subjected him to, and didn't
7 understand why didn't he run away too.

8 Only a few years ago, after reading the
9 autobiography of Josiah Henson, did I understand that he had
10 run away, and that solved my childhood puzzle of Uncle Tom's
11 character.

12 For 20 years living in Montgomery County every time
13 my friends or relatives visit us, I am taking them to see
14 where the Uncle Tom's Cabin was, even before the Maryland
15 Parks purchased the site. I tell them about Josiah Henson,
16 whose life represents an example of endurance, moral
17 superiority, and ingenuity winning over humiliation and
18 suffering. And believe me, it doesn't make any difference to
19 them, had Uncle Tom slept there one night or all 30 years
20 that he lived on plantation.

21 The amount of the interest from our visitors from
22 Russia, Germany, Canada, and Israel, is comparable only to
23 the interest where they saw the National Capitol or the White
24 House.

25 I also learned that this book made an important

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1 contribution to freeing the Russian slaves or serfs in 1861.
2 In the 1860s, the slaves accounted for 37 percent of Russian
3 population, compared to 13 percent in United States. Russian
4 serfs were mostly peasants, but also artists, scientists,
5 coach drivers, and others who worked for the master and could
6 be bought and sold, whipped, married off, raped and tortured
7 to their master's pleasure.

8 Here is one fact, Russian land owners love to hunt.
9 And there is a special breed of hounds, Russian hounds or
10 Russian borzoi. So in some villages, peasant slave women
11 were forced to breast feed their master's dog puppies.

12 Russian translation of Uncle Tom's Cabin appeared first
13 in 1852, just one year after its first publishing in English.
14 It was banned by the czar, and there are some evidences that
15 the book was first translated from English to Yiddish,
16 smuggled to Russia, and then translated into Russian. In any
17 case, it had become very popular and was widely read by
18 educated people, many of them who were land owners, and they
19 were slave holders.

20 The book had a wide influence and contributed to
21 the political reform of 1861 when the slavery in Russia was
22 abolished. However, to this day there is no single museum in
23 Russia dedicated to the serfdom and relationship between
24 serfs and the master, and the only slave house preserved to
25 this day is a little house (indiscernible) slave nanny to the

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1 famous first and greatest Russian poet, Alexander Pushkin,
2 who lived from 1799 to 1837. Ironically, he was the grandson
3 of the Ethiopian boy who was presented to the czar, Peter the
4 Great, as a human present. Peter the Great adopted him and
5 made a general. In America, Pushkin probably would be
6 considered as a black person.

7 This is just an example of how important the
8 international value of Uncle Tom is. That is why we want to
9 support the Department of Parks position to dedicate the site
10 in the name of Josiah Henson as a historic park, and to
11 develop it as a research center, interpretive site, museum to
12 educate today visitors about slave/owner relationship, as
13 Beecher Stowe did so many years ago for Russian people.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much. Cheryl
16 LaRoche.

17 MS. LAROCHE: Yes. Thank you for the opportunity
18 to speak to you this evening. My name is Cheryl LaRoche.
19 I'm the vice-chair of the Maryland Commission on African-
20 American History and Culture. I am also an archeologist. I
21 am a professor, an adjunct professor at the University of
22 Maryland, College Park.

23 One of the things that the Commission is very
24 interested in is County histories. We go around the state
25 and helping various counties, municipalities, and other kinds

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1 of organizations to begin to pull together a holistic history
2 to start to look at Maryland's African-American history in a
3 broader way.

4 Montgomery County has, at this time, the
5 opportunity tell a history that has not been told before.
6 The County was, and had a very deep history in slavery. It
7 had a very deep history inside of what happened to the
8 enslaved population.

9 When we look at Josiah Henson and begin to think
10 that we want to speak about this as the history of Maryland,
11 I am saying we need to speak about this as the history of
12 Montgomery County first and foremost. The County had a
13 problematic slave past. And that's something that I think we
14 can embrace and speak about in a responsible way.

15 To that end, I also did much of the research for
16 the report that came through from Park and Planning, and I
17 understand the level of research that remains. We did not
18 and were not able to look deeply into the primary source
19 records.

20 There is much history that remains to be uncovered,
21 not only the early history of Josiah Henson, but the County
22 has an opportunity to contribute on a national and an
23 international level, to not only the story of Josiah Henson,
24 but to the larger story of African-American history.

25 You also have the opportunity to lay a path for

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1 other municipalities looking to do this form of
2 interpretation. But it is the Commission's position that
3 the County has a responsibility to this history. We cannot
4 think about, or it would be, I think, ill-advised to compare
5 this special project to other sites where expenditures of
6 money are important.

7 If you think about African-American history and the
8 fact that it lay fallow for more than 400 years, where no one
9 looked at it, where it was not important, where it was not
10 ever looked at, now to take that history and to think about
11 it in terms of its revenue generation, in terms of tourism,
12 is something that is problematic, but it is a reality of
13 life. Everywhere I go, I sit at the table with people who
14 are from the tourist bureau.

15 So to take a history that was first ignored and
16 then unwanted, and to now commodify it into tourism, is
17 something that we have to be careful and think about. What
18 is the history we are going to tell that is responsible, that
19 really uplifts this resource.

20 As this County grows, as we erase a historic
21 landscape, as we continue to become a glittering jewel in the
22 state, it is a very modern place. When you erase history out
23 of the landscape, it is a very important way to take it out
24 of memory. One of the reasons why I am an archeologist is
25 because I know archeology has the opportunity to really

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1 retrieve a history that otherwise would not be presented to
2 us.

3 I was, I worked in New York at the World Trade
4 Center, and there's a reason why people attack these kinds of
5 structures. They have meaning. Josiah Henson's site, and I
6 do believe he walked that land, I do believe that he was more
7 than likely in that structure. I know that the
8 dendrochronology says 1850, but I want to remind you that
9 there were two dendrochronology studies, not one, and the
10 dates are different. So we've chosen to go with the latter
11 date, but there was an earlier date, as well. These things
12 have to be taken into consideration.

13 So what I want to say, in closing, that as we begin
14 to think about how we're going to interpret this site, as we
15 move away from Uncle Tom, I was shocked in all of my work
16 when doing it on the site, and also I worked on another
17 archeological site where I continued to speak about Josiah
18 Henson, Uncle Tom's Cabin remains, to this day, African-
19 American history. It is read as African-American history
20 around the world and many other parts of the world outside of
21 the United States.

22 This is the magnitude of the story that you are
23 dealing with here. It is an international story. And I
24 think the County has, as I said earlier, a responsibility to
25 develop that story.

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1 Naturally, I feel that, or the Commission feels
2 that the name should be changed, and I recommended that in
3 the report, that it would be ill-advised and irresponsible,
4 although from a tourist point of view I can understand that
5 we would want to hang on to that name, because we can bring
6 more people forward. But I think that the County needs to be
7 responsible in discussing Uncle Tom, Uncle Tom's Cabin,
8 Josiah Henson, the history of slavery, the enslavement of
9 children in the County, which I believe is going to be a
10 large part of the story.

11 And I think the County needs to be prepared for the
12 story that will eventually emerge if we do the level of
13 research that I believe is necessary to fully disclose not
14 just these discrete stories that we talk about, Maria Weems
15 in one place, and the Beall-Dawson House in another place,
16 but to come together and look at the history of the County
17 and the State, as a matter of fact, in a holistic way, so
18 that we can talk responsibly about Josiah Henson and the
19 legacy of this man. We would be ill-advised to do anything
20 less than what we know Henson deserves. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you very much. I'd like
22 to thank everybody who attended tonight. This has been a
23 very valuable discussion. The passion that many of our
24 speakers have displayed is really inspiring. And I have
25 gained a lot from it, so thank you all for coming. Does

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1 staff have any further remarks for this evening?

2 MS. NEWHOUSE: I just wanted to add that at the
3 worksession on November 18th we are also hoping to gain your
4 approval of the plan. So that's the action we will be
5 looking for unless another worksession is needed.

6 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Do we, can we expect any kind of
7 cost estimates before we give our approval for something?

8 MS. NEWHOUSE: We don't typically have a cost
9 estimate at the master plan. We have an example of funds
10 that have been expended for the cost of planning and possible
11 future facility planning, and some estimated costs that would
12 happen for operation of the site over the next couple of
13 years, that type of thing.

14 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Yes. I think that type of thing
15 would be useful for us to compare the cost of the three
16 options, so that we're making an informed decision about a
17 really very important site.

18 COMMISSIONER DREYFUSS: Yes, I also had the same
19 request. And I wonder if you could break that out into
20 annual operating costs, which, for example in the second
21 option there are employees and an intern and other expenses
22 that occur every year.

23 MS. NEWHOUSE: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER DREYFUSS: And then there are capital
25 expenditures that are the improvements. So if we could

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1 separate those two, that would help also.

2 MS. NEWHOUSE: Okay.

3 DR. HENCH: For the record, Dr. John Hench, chief
4 of our Park Planning and Stewardship Division, we'll do our
5 best with your request, but I'd like to remind the Board that
6 our normal process is to come up with accurate cost estimates
7 at the time of facility planning. And that follows the
8 approval of the master plan.

9 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: I think we're looking for order
10 of magnitude, because in these fiscal times, it doesn't seem
11 responsible to make this decision with no idea whether we're
12 talking about a difference in a half million dollars of
13 operating costs a year, or \$100,000 difference.

14 And for capital expenditures, you know, just some
15 sense of what the ballpark is, because partly, because if we
16 aim too high, we may be delaying implementation because we
17 may not have the money. So we need to make a choice. You
18 know, the less we say we're going to spend, the more quickly
19 we are likely to have that money, and be able to actually
20 implement. Whereas if we are too ambitious, we may be just
21 having delay that might not be worth it.

22 DR. HENCH: Understood. We'll do our best.

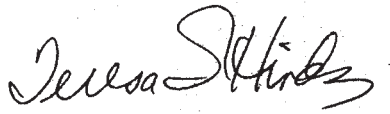
23 CHAIRMAN CARRIER: Thank you. That concludes our
24 public hearing. Thank you very much.

25 (Whereupon, at 9:11 p.m., the hearing was concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before the Montgomery County Planning Board in the matter of:

Josiah Henson Special Park Draft Master Plan



By: _____

Date: _____

Teresa S. Hinds, Transcriber

11/1/10

Attachment C - Staff Response to Public Hearing Testimony of October 28, 2010

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Attachment C - Staff Response to Public Hearing Testimony - October 28, 2010

Summary and Response

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
<i>Don Housley, President, Mid-Potomac Chapter, Archaeological Society of Maryland and volunteer with Archaeology Program.</i>	We've provided over 2,000 volunteer hours in field and lab on Josiah Henson site alone.	Staff is tremendously appreciative of the outstanding work and the support provided by the chapter.
	Strongly support Moderate Option.	Staff agrees.
	Particularly support Goal 2, Objective 2 on archaeological interpretation.	Staff agrees that this is a critical goal and objective.
	Support name change to Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff agrees.
<i>Lorraine Pearsall, President, Montgomery Preservation, Inc.</i>	Support "at least" the Moderate Option. Should try to spend a little more.	Staff supports the Moderate Option.
	This site represents a cultural evolution in that we can tell the story of slavery in Maryland.	Staff agrees.
<i>Susan Soderberg, representing Menare Foundation (with Anthony Cohen contributing to the testimony that was read) and Friends of Oakley Cabin and the Underground Railroad</i>	Request the Maximum Option	Staff believes the Maximum Option is prohibitively expensive to recommend and runs the risk of jeopardizing the ability to implement the park as a public museum.
	The importance of this site is not in the architecture. The importance of the site lies in the man, Josiah Henson	Staff agrees.
	There is no other comparable site in the State of Maryland. We have lots of slave cabins in the state, but no heroes associated with those cabins. We have lots of heroes, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas, for instance, but no sites have been developed in connection with those people.	The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is owned by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. The plantation where Douglass was enslaved is the Wye House near Easton (which is not open to the public); Douglass also spent many years in Baltimore before achieving freedom. The Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad State Park on the Eastern Shore, Maryland honors Tubman's life as an Underground Railroad conductor.
<i>David Rotenstein, Parks consumer</i>	Parks removed North Four Corners community building and has removed porta-potties from Parks, causing him distress as Parks consumer.	Staff believes that an African-American heritage site of this caliber merits distinct decision-making and funding, and should not be compared to an under-utilized activity building and portable toilets.
	Urge the Board to use frugality in reviewing the Master Plan.	That is why staff has recommended the Moderate Option.
<i>Anita Neal Powell, Lincoln Park Historical Foundation and Leroy E. Neal African-American Research Center.</i>	Support the name change to Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff agrees.
	The Lincoln Park Historical Foundation wants to be assured that it is a true and accurate account of the cultural institution of slavery during the period prior to 1863.	Staff intends to make the interpretation of slavery true and honest. Staff will be working with an advisory committee on interpretation to get the input of scholars of slavery and African American history.
<i>Paula Bienenfeld, neighbor in Luxmanor subdivision.</i>	Encourage Board to rethink the interpretation of the landscape and to rethink the period of significance. Request that the Board ask staff to consider the property and time as a whole. Neighborhood would not be at theoretical odds	The Period of Significance in the draft National Register Nomination is 1800-1950, a broad sweep of time that brings it up to the current subdivision's appearance on the landscape. The interpretive emphasis, however, both in buildings and grounds, will be tied to Josiah

Montgomery County Parks - Park Planning and Stewardship Division

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
	with Park, but...part of the long-term history. As one example, there were restrictive covenants on the properties, so that Jews were not allowed to purchase.	Henson's time on the property, between 1800 and 1828. Parks has located restrictive covenants to the properties in Luxmanor in the 1930s that prohibited sale or transfer to African-Americans.
	Suggest a more far-reaching idea than just slavery in Maryland; slavery still exists in the world. Suggest widening mission.	Staff's master plan denotes key themes for permanent exhibits. There are numerous opportunities to expand on the permanent exhibits with multi-cultural and/or broader messages on slavery through traveling exhibits, special programs, school workshops, seminars, etc.
	Consider using Rozier property as a kitchen garden or agricultural field, rather than as a parking lot. Use Wall Local Park and save the Rozier property for a historically accurate garden or field.	Onsite parking is minimal to accommodate two accessible parking spaces and a few staff spaces within closer walking distance of the facility.
Russell Campbell (testimony (read by Anita Neal Powell))	The Historic Structure Report established the date of the cabin.	The Historic Structure Date was not conclusive as to the date of the cabin.
	My motives were clear to me and others participating in Riley House project. It was to ascertain the truth and validity of this property, and its impact on the history of Montgomery County, Maryland. Josiah Henson did, in fact, live on the property. He was a slave on this land.	Staff agrees that the Historic Structure Report added to the record of documentation on Josiah Henson's life on the Riley plantation. Parks staff continues to conduct primary-source research on Henson and the site.
Warren Fleming, Damascus Connection Committee	Josiah Henson's cabin is here in Montgomery County.	While Reverend Henson did live in a "log hut" on the grounds, the structure no longer stands. It would be an archaeological site somewhere in the vicinity of the main house, but not necessarily on land that Parks currently owns.
Dorothy Krass, professional archaeologist and volunteer with Archaeology Program.	Support the Moderate Option.	Staff agrees.
	Particularly support Goal 1, Objective 1, to expand the time to interpret and research the site. Only slave-based site....	Staff agrees that this is a critical goal and objective.
Valerie Hall, Archaeological Society of Maryland and volunteer with Archaeology Program.	Support ongoing archaeological dig so people can see, feel, discover and learn.	Staff agrees.
	Especially support Josiah Henson Special Park name change.	Staff agrees.
	Full support Moderate Option	Staff agrees.
Vivian Eicke, President of Civil War Roundtable	Important to separate the man from the myth.	Staff agrees.
	Support the name change to Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff agrees.
Yelena Gorina (Jump Foundation)	Take my family for 20 years to this site when they visit from Russian, Canada, Israel, demonstrating the importance of this site to the international community. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" has been required reading in Russia, and is tied, supposedly, to the liberation of the serfs in Russia.	Staff agrees on the international significance and value of the site, especially as tied to the publication of the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in so many languages, worldwide. Staff hopes to have a non-circulating research library on site that will contain copies of the novel in multiple languages.
	Dedicate the site to Josiah Henson and have a research center on slave/owner relationships.	Staff agrees on name change and on exhibits that focus on slave/owner relationships.

Montgomery County Parks - Park Planning and Stewardship Division

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
Cheryl J. LaRoche, Maryland Commission on African-American History and Culture, Archaeologist and Professor, University of Maryland.	M-NCPPC has responsibility to bring this aspect of Montgomery County's history to the forefront. It has "lain fallow" for 400 years.	Staff agrees.
	Josiah Henson walked the land and was probably in that structure.	Staff agrees that it is logical to conclude that Josiah Henson, as superintendent of the plantation, walked the land near the master's house. Henson's autobiography notes that he went inside the house in 1878 and spoke to Matilda Riley. Staff also agrees that, as superintendent, he likely was inside the master's house during the course of conducting his business.
	There were 2 dendrochronology reports, not one. Commission has chosen the latter.	It is correct that there were two dendrochronology reports. The first report's sampling and methodology were insufficient, and the author of the draft report did not feel comfortable with its conclusions. The second report was done by the lab that is used by Colonial Williamsburg, the Maryland Historical Trust, and Mount Vernon. Its practitioners elicited a "phenomenal" match for dating the timbers to 11 regional chronologies, and its finding was corroborated by dendrochronology scientists at Columbia University.
	Recommend the name be changed to Josiah Henson Special Park. Irresponsible, ill-advised to keep name.	Staff agrees that the name should be changed.
	Commission has a responsibility to handle the project in a holistic way, not a discrete way, looking at the issue of slavery and African-American history.	Staff agrees.
Written Public Testimony		
Steven Cook, Site Manager / Curator, Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site	Property has undeniable historic significance, and with proper interpretation will lead to a fuller understanding and appreciation of Henson's life in slavery.	Staff agrees.
	You have a unique opportunity to interpret plantation life as seen through the eyes of one of the United States' most famous refugees from slavery.	Staff agrees.
	Look forward to continue discussions with your organization as you explore interpretive themes in the life of Josiah Henson.	Staff also looks forward to continued discussions regarding interpretation.
Judith Christensen, citizen.	Support the Staff Draft and Master Plan recommendations and urge Board to approve the "moderate option."	Staff agrees.
	Prefer the name Isaac Riley Farm-Josiah Henson Special Park.	Staff believes a more concise park name is preferable.
	Henson's experiences in Rockville and Montgomery County are the basis for Stowe's book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." This association is the strength, significance and value of this property.	Staff agrees that Henson's experiences are a key basis for Stowe's novel, according to her own writing, "The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin." Staff agrees that the association to the book is one of the site's strengths.
	We know from his [Henson's] autobiography that he was in this actual house and lived and worked on this farm . . .	Henson describes being in the Riley House and seeing Matilda Riley on his return to the United States in 1878. His autobiography records his working life on the

Montgomery County Parks - Park Planning and Stewardship Division

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
		plantation.
	It is a quite typical two room farm house of around 1800 with a loft and a log kitchen, and it is the real thing, not a reconstruction or modern museum as at other national sites.	An 1856 insurance application by Matilda Riley indicates that the frame portion of the house had four rooms on the first floor with an attached log kitchen. The framing of the house dates to 1800-1815 and the logs to 1850-51. The Ontario, Canada heritage site known as "Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site" contains Henson's dwelling from his emancipation days in Canada. The house there has been renovated and is a public historic site.
	We need a well thought out master plan process to prevent interference with neighbor's privacy and daily life and to create an effective educational site.	Staff agrees, and has sought to include the neighbors throughout the process, as well as to solicit input from the public and interested parties in educational themes to convey at the site.
<i>Eileen McGuckian, citizen and former chair, Historic Preservation Commission</i>	Urge you to approve the Staff Draft and Master Plan recommendations.	Staff agrees.
	Prefer the name "Josiah Henson Special Park."	Staff agrees.
	Henson left a huge footprint on the Riley plantation: he resided there for decades, escaped from its harsh conditions, and returned for a bitter-sweet visit years after slavery was banned.	Staff agrees.
	Harriett Beecher Stowe grafted the Riley plantation onto the nation's conscience with her novel in 1852. The following year, she published <i>A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> to identify the real inspirations for her fictional characters . . . She specifically named Josiah Henson as the prototype for her title character.	Staff agrees that the novel is largely based on Henson's memoirs. Stowe describes Henson's life as narrated in his autobiography as one of several sources for her creation of the character, Uncle Tom.
	In 2006, many of us, citizens and scholars, came out to urge the County's purchase. . . . We knew that on this property, better than any other place, the experience of the enslaved Hensons and the hard-scrabble Rileys could truly touch our lives.	Staff agrees.
	This is truly a "harmonic convergence": slave and escapee narrative—influential antislavery novel—author's explanation of background for characters—surviving frame and log structures—a border state held in the Union during the Civil War—continuing documentation.	Staff agrees that the site provides outstanding opportunities for interpretive education and ongoing research/archaeology.
<i>Betty Meehan Spano, citizen and realtor who sold property to the County.</i>	Before the County (MNCPPC) contracted to buy the site, they, with due diligence, had two outside appraisers appraise the property, before offering the \$1,000,000.	It is standard Commission practice to have two outside appraisals prior to making any offers on real estate.
	The history of (the property's) connection to the book, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , and to the history of plantations and slavery in the County and in the country is there on that acre of land, the remainder of what was a large plantation.	Staff agrees.

Montgomery County Parks - Park Planning and Stewardship Division

Speaker	Comment	Staff Response
	The main house is a period home from the early 1800's and the 1930's addition at the back was designed (as I understood) by a White House architect, Lorenzo Winslow.	Staff agrees the framing of the main house dates to 1800-1815, the log kitchen to 1850-51, and the restoration by Lorenzo Winslow to ca. 1936. The restoration added the two-story wing to the rear of the house and resulted in modifications to the older portions of the house.