

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
MEDIA ADVISORY**

For immediate release:

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**PLANNING BOARD TO COMMEMORATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY WITH A
DEED TRANSFER CEREMONY AT UNCLE TOM'S CABIN HISTORIC SITE**

SILVER SPRING, MD – Monday, January 16, at 11 a.m., the Montgomery County Planning Board invites the public to a deed transfer ceremony at the historic site and former home of Josiah Henson, a slave that served as Harriet Beecher Stowe's model for her novel on slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Originally a 3,700-acre tobacco plantation, the one-acre property, including the 18th century main house with a log kitchen wing, is located at 11420 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

Last week, the Montgomery County Planning Board unanimously and enthusiastically approved a \$1 million real estate contract to purchase the historic site to assure its preservation for future generations. In the coming months, the Board will explore options for restoring the building, interpreting its history and making it accessible to the public.

Currently the property is designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation but has been in private ownership and not accessible to the public. When the settlement is completed this week, the property will become part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's 32,639-acre park system in Montgomery County, Maryland.

WHO:

Montgomery County Planning Board and elected officials (invited)

Greg Mallet-Prevost, one of the heirs to the estate of Marcel and Hildegarde Mallet-Prevost

Historic preservation groups and members of the public

WHAT:

Deed transfer ceremony on the slave home portrayed in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

WHEN:

Monday, January 16, 11 a.m. ceremony

Guided walk-throughs of the historic section following ceremony until 1 p.m.

WHERE:

11420 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland – No onsite parking is available

Free parking is available diagonally across the street at the Montgomery Aquatic Center

5900 Executive Boulevard, Old Georgetown Road and Nicholson Lane

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