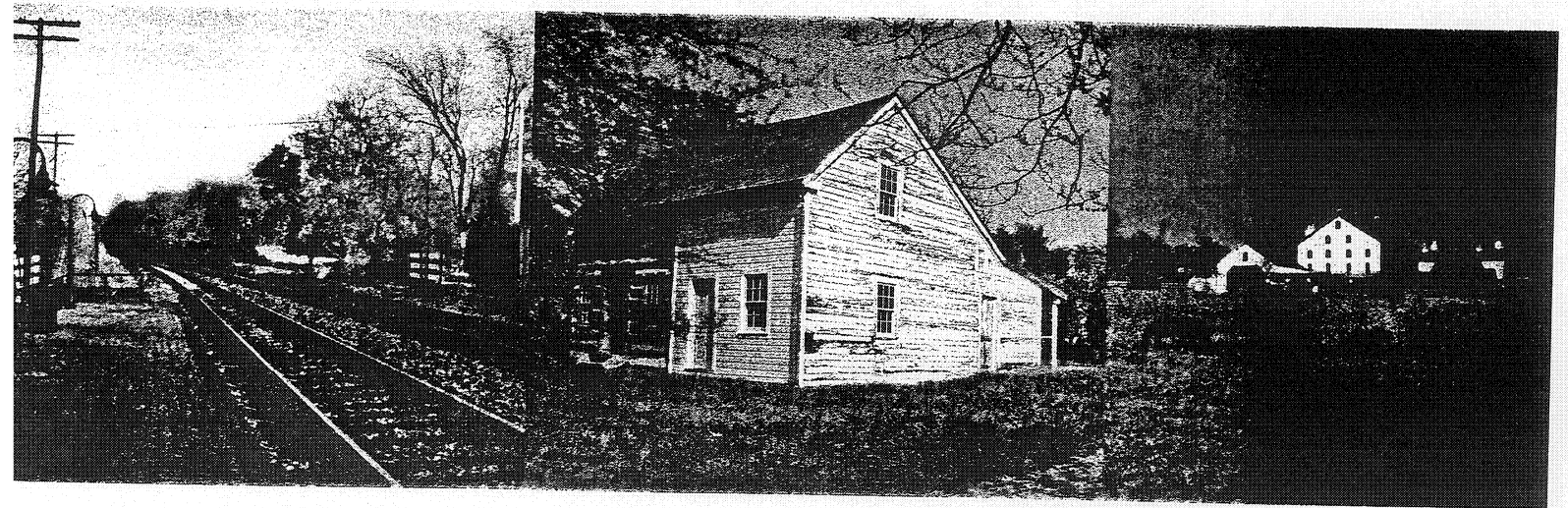


Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan



Prepared for the
**Montgomery County Heritage Area
Advisory Committee**

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Sandy Spring

Boundaries & Location

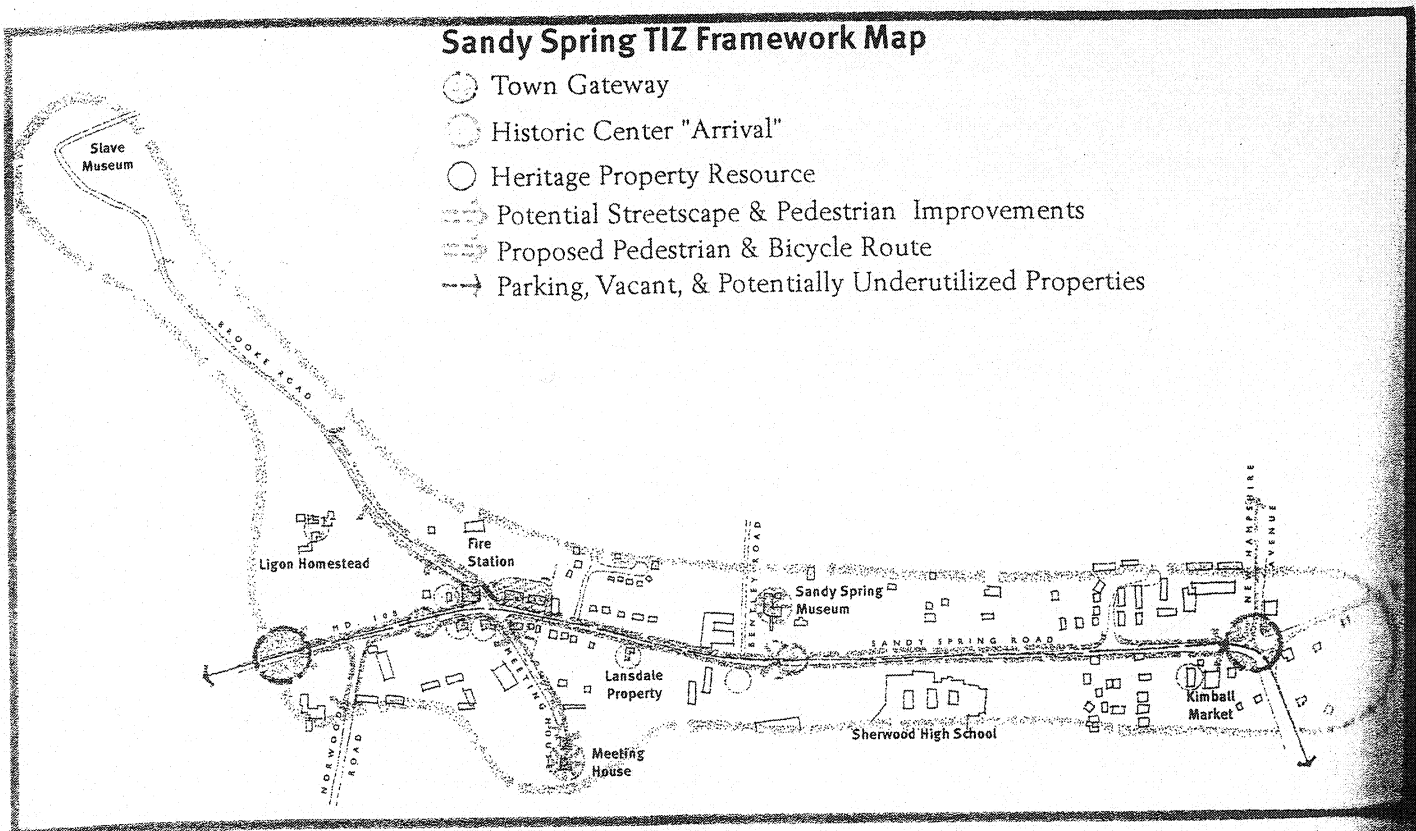
Sandy Spring is located to the west of the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and MD 108/Sandy Spring Road in a largely suburban area of Montgomery County. The edges of the town meet other jurisdictions' edges, making it somewhat difficult upon first visit to discern where Sandy Spring begins and its neighbors end. There are a number of well-known county historic sites nearby, including Woodlawn, Norwood, Clifton, and Cherry Grove.

The approximate proposed boundaries for the Sandy Spring TIZ are shown on the map below.¹⁷

Heritage

Members of the Religious Society of Friends, popularly known as Quakers, settled Sandy Spring in the first half of the 18th Century and established a meeting house, schools, banking institutions, farms, and more in the area. As it grew, the community evolved into a small, successful 19th century farming and commercial center. Not all citizens were Quakers, but the population was connected by a strong community spirit, as evidenced by other church denominations, active social clubs and the exchange of ideas about important social and political issues.

The Quakers' community life was centered on the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House. The current meetinghouse is the third, built in 1817. It shares its rural setting with an historic cemetery, which holds generations of Friends, and an 1859 frame building, which has served as day school, women's club/lyceum, and Friends Community House; the frame building housed many social/political meetings and activities. The founding and early



The Sandy Spring TIZ Framework Map shows the boundaries of the Sandy Spring TIZ, the community's core and gateway areas, and its historic resources.

families in the Quaker community are still represented by their descendants in Sandy Spring today.

There is historical evidence of 19th century



The first settlers of Sandy Spring were Quakers, and their community life centered on the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House.

Underground Railroad activity here; slaves making their way to freedom came through this part of the county, utilizing the stream valleys and marshes and relying on the assistance of this small community. Most Sandy Spring Quakers had freed their slaves by the early 19th century, and many were ardent abolitionists. Local oral history includes remembrances of northward-pointing candles, tunnels, and trapdoors utilized by runaway slaves. Today, the Sandy Spring community includes a number of African American residents whose ancestors fled slavery to find safe harbor here.

Town Character

The intersection of MD 108/Sandy Spring Road, Brooke Road, and Meeting House Lane is the heart of the 'village center,' however, Sandy Spring as a whole is stretched out along MD 108, which is a busy, noisy road with growing traffic volumes. The pedestrian environment along and near 108 is difficult at best because there is a dearth of sidewalks and a lack of clear divisions between pedestrian and automobile zones. To the north and south of 108 in Sandy Spring, the environment rapidly becomes rural and less trafficked, and a number of historic farmsteads can be found, especially south of 108.

The buildings in Sandy Spring's "village center" are mainly two-story, brick, Federal style commercial structures abutting a sidewalk. There is head-in parking between the sidewalks and MD 108, but the area between the road and the commercial buildings is without landscaping or other visual interest,

lending an impression of vast, flat pavement. There is also a large gap, currently serving as a parking lot, between the primary row of buildings and the pool store; this gap adds to the flat, paved feel in the commercial core.

Sandy Spring has a locally designated historic district, composed primarily of the Quaker Friends buildings and the historic insurance company building on MD 108. Several nearby individual properties have been designated as well; for example, Sharp Street Church, Oakley, Bloomfield, Cloverly, and the Sandy Spring itself are all local historic sites, carrying the protection of local review. Furthermore, the Quaker Friends Meeting House has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972, and the nearby historic site of Clifton is National Register listed as well.



Sandy Spring's village center has a number of two-story, brick structures stretched along a high-traffic roadway with insufficient pedestrian connections.

Interpretative Strategies

Successful interpretation, more than the presentation of historical 'fact,' makes an emotional connection with visitors and seeks to answer the often unspoken question, "How does this relate to me and to today?" The demographics of the metropolitan area are increasingly diverse, with a growing number of foreign-born residents who are unfamiliar with the story of Whites and free Blacks who operated the Underground Railroad and of the slaves following it toward freedom. The importance of sharing this story offers rich opportunities for this theme to be developed.

The Underground Railroad is a popular topic, but because the nature of its operation was secretive, much of the documentation surrounding it is based on oral history. Lack of material evidence concerns some historians and museum professionals and

makes strictly artifact-based interpretation difficult. However, the stories that reference houses, barns, and streams where fleeing slaves were sheltered could be made accessible to the public through other techniques, such as a themed heritage touring route.

Furthermore, this theme offers an opportunity for expansion; other stories could be told using the perspective or starting point of the Underground Railroad. For example, the following topics all rationally link to the activities of the Underground Railroad:

- Religion and tolerance
- Civil society
- Race and slavery
- Life of free Blacks pre- and post-Civil War
- Maryland's status during the Civil War as a border state and what that meant to residents and families here

The rehabilitation and conversion of the Woodlawn barn into an interpretive center devoted to the Underground Railroad could provide a strong and memorable introduction to the theme. The barn could contain orientation exhibits, visitor information about the cluster and the heritage area at large, and educational programming spaces large enough to seat a school class or motor coach, approximately 45 – 50 people. This recommendation is well timed to coincide with a rehabilitation feasibility study that has been approved for the barn, appearing in the county's Capital Improvement Program for 2003.

Should the barn be developed into an interpretive center, the opportunity for greater interpretation of

the Woodlawn mansion would arise. Panels and programming could be developed around the history of Woodlawn itself, bringing into focus the prominent Quaker family who built it.

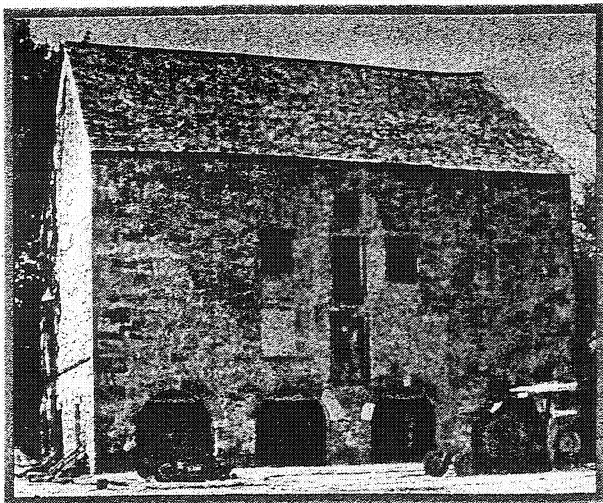
The county has planned a Legacy Trail from the south through Woodlawn and Sandy Spring to the north of 108. Potential routes for the trail include historic rural homes, the Quaker Friends Meeting House, and other significant sites in the area. A walking tour could be developed utilizing this trail and appropriate locations in Sandy Spring village area. Informational brochures, maps, and/or kiosks could provide visitors with information regarding sites along the way.

Another tour could be done by automobile or bicycle and could include both historic buildings known to have been involved in Underground Railroad activity and contemporary expressions of the Sandy Spring African American community, such as Oakley Cabin, the Slave Museum, and Boddy Center.

Both past and present Sandy Spring community activity revolves around the Quaker Friends Meeting House, making it one of the most significant historic sites in the area. The current congregation is interested in developing interpretive programming, potentially including docent guides and living history, perhaps produced by the Friends themselves. It might also be beneficial to include the community house and cemetery in interpretive activities since each piece of the overall site had a significant role to play in Sandy Spring's history. A possible partner in this endeavor might be the Sandy Spring Museum, which is a repository of Quaker artifacts and stories.

Urban Design & Preservation Strategies

There is great opportunity to reinforce the 'village center' around the aforementioned intersection.¹⁸ Several existing buildings could accommodate a variety of uses that would enhance visitor experiences and resident community lifestyle. Currently, the village's character is well established along the southern side of MD 108 with the Friends Meeting House, Montgomery Insurance Company, Sandy Spring National Bank, and Old Sandy Spring Fire Station. Along the north side of 108, the village character is somewhat lost due to the setback of the existing structures, the general state of the architecture, and tenant usage. However, these structures could be renovated, perhaps with infill buildings to reinforce the architectural edge. In



The barn at Woodlawn offers a unique facility for interpretation of the Underground Railroad.

Capital Projects *

	<i>Cost Low</i>	<i>Cost High</i>
Woodlawn Barn rehabilitated as exhibit/educational facility		
4,000 square foot stone barn quality rehabilitation	\$720,000	\$880,000
All new HVAC, electric, plumbing, & sprinkler systems	\$180,000	\$220,000
1,000 square feet of interactive exhibits	\$225,000	\$275,000
400 square feet of classroom w/ AV equipment	\$36,000	\$44,000
600 square feet of circulation, restrooms, etc.	\$54,000	\$60,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,215,000 \$1,626,900</i>
Architect/planning fees @ 10%	\$1,336,500	\$1,789,590
Contingency @ 10%	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,470,150 \$1,968,549</i>
Poolesville Farming History Gateway Exhibit (at John Poole house?)		
Building rehabilitation, lighting, etc. (1,000 square feet)	\$225,000	\$275,000
Exhibit design, fabrication, and installation (600 square feet)	\$135,000	\$165,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$324,000 \$484,000</i>
Contingency @ 10%	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$356,400 \$532,400</i>

*These figures do not include long-term operations or staffing costs for these projects.

Planning & Development Projects

Interpretive framework plan		\$50,000
Graphic identity system: website, templates for publications, signage, etc.		\$50,000
Audio guides: planning & development for 1 of 3 tapes		\$25,000
Heritage area map/guide: plan, design, & produce 5,000 copies @ \$1 copy		\$30,000
School programs (including consultant curriculum specialist)		\$40,000
2 traveling exhibits: planning, design, & fabrication		\$40,000
Trail interpretive panels: design, plan, fabricate, & install 10 @ \$4500 each		\$45,000
Underground Railroad thematic map of MCHA: design, write, & produce camera ready		\$15,000
Farming History maps/guides: design, write, & produce camera ready		\$15,000
Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan: C & O Canal Scenic Byway		\$80,000
Coordinated heritage site signage system: design, fabricate, & install 10 @ \$2000 each		\$20,000
Poolesville interpretive kiosks & waysides: design, fabricate, & install 4 @ 3000 ea		\$12,000
Sandy Spring/Woodlawn interpretive kiosks & waysides: 4 @ \$3000 each		\$12,000
Technological Innovation Cluster interpretive kiosks; 6 @ \$3000 each		\$18,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$452,000</i>
Contingency @ 10%	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$497,200</i>
Total Capital, Planning, & Development Cost Estimates	\$2,323,750	\$2,998,149

Staffing & Operations

*This section covers annual coordination functions.

Heritage Area Coordinator		
Salary	\$45,000	
Benefits (25%)	\$11,250	
Office Operations	\$12,000	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$68,250</i>	
Website services	\$20,000	
Capacity building grants	\$250,000	
<i>Seed grants for private, nonprofit preservation groups, museums, and historical attractions seeking more extensive operations/hours</i>		

Total Annual Staffing & Operations Cost Estimates **\$338,250**

Potential Funding Sources

	Estimated Cost	Other MHAAs	State Funds	County Funds	Grants/Philanthropic Funds	In-kind	Partnerships
Capital Projects							
Woodlawn Barn rehabilitated as exhibit/educational facility 4,000 square foot stone barn quality rehabilitation	\$1,470,150 to \$1,968,549	X		X	X		
Poolesville Farming History Gateway Exhibit 1,000 square foot building rehabilitation, lighting, etc.	\$356,400 to \$532,400	X		X	X		
Planning & Development Projects							
Interpretive framework plan	\$50,000	X		X			
Graphic identity system	\$50,000	X		X			
Audio guides	\$25,000				X		
Heritage area map/guide	\$30,000	X		X	X		X
School programs	\$40,000		X		X		
Two traveling exhibits	\$40,000	X		X	X		X
Trail interpretive panels	\$45,000	X		X			X
Underground Railroad thematic map	\$15,000	X		X	X		
Farming History maps/guides	\$15,000	X		X	X		
Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan	\$80,000		X	X			
Coordinated heritage area signage system	\$20,000	X		X	X		X
Poolesville interpretive kiosks & waysides	\$12,000	X		X	X		X
Sandy Spring/Woodlawn interpretive kiosks & waysides	\$12,000	X		X	X		X
Technological Innovation Cluster interpretive kiosks	\$18,000	X*		X	X		X
Staffing & Operations							
Heritage Area Coordinator/operations	\$68,250	X		X			
Website services	\$20,000	X		X			
Capacity building grants	\$250,000	X		X	X		

*Any activities taking place outside the MCHA boundaries would not be eligible for MHAAs funding.