MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION 8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring Maryland 20910-3760

July 17, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA

Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Supervisor Historic Preservation Section, Countywide Planning

Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning

FROM:

Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner

Historic Preservation Section, Countywide Planning Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning

SUBJECT:

Master Plan Evaluation for Locational Atlas Resource

Solomon Owens House, 18200 Cattail Road, #17/8-11

(Demolition Permit Pending)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Designate the Solomon Owens House as an individual site on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. The resource meets criteria 1A, 1D, 2A, and 2E.

BACKGROUND

On June 24, 2003, an application for a demolition permit was accepted by DPS for the Solomon Owens House located at 18200 Cattail Road. Identified as Resource #17/8-11, the property is listed on the *Locational Atlas* as part of the Jonesville Historic District. Because it is on the *Atlas*, this resource is subject to the Moratorium Provision of the County's Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A - Section 10, of the County Code. Under that provision, a Planning Board public hearing and finding on historical/architectural significance is required prior to the issuance of a County permit to demolish or substantially alter any *Atlas* resource.

The Historic Preservation Commission will be evaluating this resource at its July 23rd meeting. Their recommendations will be presented to the Planning Board at the July 24th public hearing.

If the Planning Board finds that the resource warrants designation on the *Master Plan*, then the demolition permit will be withheld for a maximum period of 195 days and the designation process will continue on to the County Council. If the Planning Board finds that the resource does not

warrant designation on the *Master Plan*, then the demolition permit may be issued immediately and the property may be razed.

HISTORY OF JONESVILLE

Erasmus and Richard Jones established Jonesville on land that was part of Aix la Chappelle. They purchased two nine-acre parcels in 1866 and 1874. In between these two purchases, Cattail Road was surveyed and platted (1869). Over the subsequent decades, other families settled in Jonesville. By 1879, Henry Noland and Perry Davis had built houses there, as shown on Hopkins 1879 Atlas.

Solomon and Sarah "Sallie" I. Owens were married about 1896. They had at least two children, Lewis H. and Clarence P. born in 1897 and 1899. Solomon was a farm laborer. The family, at first, lived with Perry Davis whose house is shown on Hopkins 1879 map. Sarah Owens purchased the 2.5-acre property from John Hilleary Tyler in 1901. The house was only sold out of the family when the current owners bought it in March of this year.

Remaining in Jonesville are five historic structures of the original 15 homesteads recorded in George McDaniel's survey (1979). The only one that has not been altered by additions or artificial siding is the Solomon Owens House. A second house identified in 1985 as being unaltered, the Basil Bailey House, 18310 Cattail Road, has been demolished and replaced by a new house.

Similar in form to the Solomon Owens House is the Elmer Jones House (c1915) yet it has been much altered with additions and is now accessed from the back façade that faces Jonesville Terrace cul de sac. The earliest houses are the Richard Jones House (c1874), 6 Jonesville Court, and the Mary Genus Davis House (c1870-90), 18451 Cattail Lane, which have each suffered from diminished integrity.

DISCUSSION

The Solomon Owens House meets criterion 1A and 1D, as a significant residence in an African American community of Montgomery County. Historian George McDaniel wrote, "Unlike most blacks in the South who were landless tenants, many blacks [in Montgomery County] were able to buy land after emancipation and establish a comparatively more autonomous way of life." Solomon Owens was a land-owning farm laborer. Dependent for work at the farms of white neighbors, the residents of Jonesville nonetheless prided themselves on self-sufficiency including building their own houses and growing their own fruits and vegetables. Built in the era of segregation, the Solomon Owns House represents the importance of community when blacks were severely restricted in educational, social political and economic opportunities.

The Solomon Owens House is a rare example of an intact African-American dwelling. The house has a high level of integrity. The residence meets criteria 2A, representing a house type that succeeds the post emancipation era. Immediately after the Civil War, African Americans typically built simple log houses. In the era represented by the Solomon Owens House, the dwellings were more substantial frame structures of a more prosperous time. The three-bay dwelling has the typical configuration of two rooms upstairs and two rooms down. With its pair

of chimneys and center cross gable roof, it is more substantial than most dwellings inhabited by African Americans at the turn of the 20^{th} century.



17/8-11 Solomon Owens House, 18200 Cattail Road

Finally, the resource meets criteria 2E as an established and familiar visual feature in the community. The Solomon Owens House is prominently located on Cattail Road near its intersection with Cattail Lane. Cattail Road is designated a Rustic Road. In the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan, the Solomon Owens House is identified as a significant historic resource on Cattail Road.

Adding to the overall significance of the Solomon Owens House is the fact that so many of Montgomery County's African American historic sites have already been demolished and/or are being irreparably changed with alterations. The tiny number of dwellings of African Americans that have been protected by historic designation is startling. There are 391 individually designated historic sites on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. No houses of free black citizens have been designated individually. Only in the Historic Districts of Boyds, Clarksburg, and Hawkins Lane are the residences of free blacks included. Fifteen African American communities have been recognized with the designation of public buildings but no dwellings, even though each of the communities typically consisted of clusters of houses surrounding the central core of church and school. There were some 40 African American communities by or before the end of the Civil War.¹

¹One slave residence, Oakley Cabin, has been individually designated, and a dozen or so slave quarters are included in farmsteads.

In nearly every evaluation of African American communities, the dwellings have been found to be ineligible because of diminished integrity. Most of the dwellings were originally modest structures that have over time been altered with non-historic fabric such as artificial siding and replacement windows and expanded with additions.

In the case of the Solomon Owens House there is a high degree of integrity but poor condition. Staff inspection of the exterior of the house indicates that the building is structurally sound and has a roof in fair condition. Staff has seen structures in similar condition in Montgomery County renovated for residential use.

Staff feels that the Solomon Owens House is a unique resource which should be saved as an important reminder of Jonesville and the African American experience and history in turn of the 20th century Montgomery County.



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

XUNALTERED

LORIGINAL SITE

_GOOD ≰FAIR __RUINS

__ALTERED

__MOVED DATE__

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This handsome two story house stands on the west side of Cattail Rd. Its facade, which is oriented towards the road, contains three bays, a door in the middle flanked by a window on each side. This is the typical design of two story frame houses of the turn of the 19th century in Maryland. The frame is covered with weatherboards, which are left unpainted and give a lovely, natural hue of color to the house. The design of the house is compact, and the tall vertical lines of the gable ends are made more striking by the short length of the facade, enhancing the attractive appearance of the house.

Behind the house is a shed, which was probably a meat house, and a garden. The interior contains two rooms down divided by a central stairway, and two rooms upstairs. There are brick stoves inside each gable end. The walls are lathed and plastered. Underneath the south gable end is a cellar.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNINGCONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURELAW	RELIGION
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X.1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	THER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION	Black Hist	pry
CDEOUSIO DAT	50 - 3003	DINI DED/ARCI	LITECT	

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1901

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to oral informants in Jerusalem/Jonesville (Betty Genus and Ora Lyles) and to the current owner/occupant Mrs. Mathe Johnson, this house was built for the family of Solomon Owens, one of the Black landowners near the turn of the 19th century. Research of deeds for this property has not been completed at this stage, but given the previous accuracy of these informants, their account is reliable.

The design of this house is especially appealing, as the photographs show.

The current owner of the Basil Bailey property, M.V. Owens, was raised in this house and should be consulted for further details of its history.

Appendum: According to deed T.D. 17/78, this property was purchased by Sarah Owens from John Hilleary Tyler in 1901. This matches the oral history account. She purchased 2.50 . acres, and it was a portion of the tract "Reservey on the Beginning, part of a tract called Friendship."

* Properly Mo product 905



MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land records, Montgomert County ourthouse, Rockville, Md. U.S. Census, 1900, Montgomery ounty, E.D. 52, p. 12A. Oral interviews with Ora Lyles and Hannah Jones, Jonesville community, September-October, 1978, (not taped) by George McDaniel.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	_
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
VENDAL BOONDANT DESCRIPTION	
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	TIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	TIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY
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STATE STATE FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE George W. McDaniel, Surveyor ORGANIZATION	COUNTY COUNTY Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant DATE Oct. 1978
STATE STATE FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE	COUNTY COUNTY Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant
STATE STATE STATE FORM PREPARED BY NAME/TITLE George W. McDaniel, Surveyor ORGANIZATION Sugarloaf Regional Trails STREET & NUMBER Box 87	COUNTY COUNTY Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant DATE Oct. 1978 TELEPHONE 926-4510
STATE STATE STATE FORM PREPARED BY NAME/TITLE George W. McDaniel, Surveyor ORGANIZATION Sugarloaf Regional Trails STREET & NUMBER	COUNTY COUNTY Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant DATE Oct. 1978 TELEPHONE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

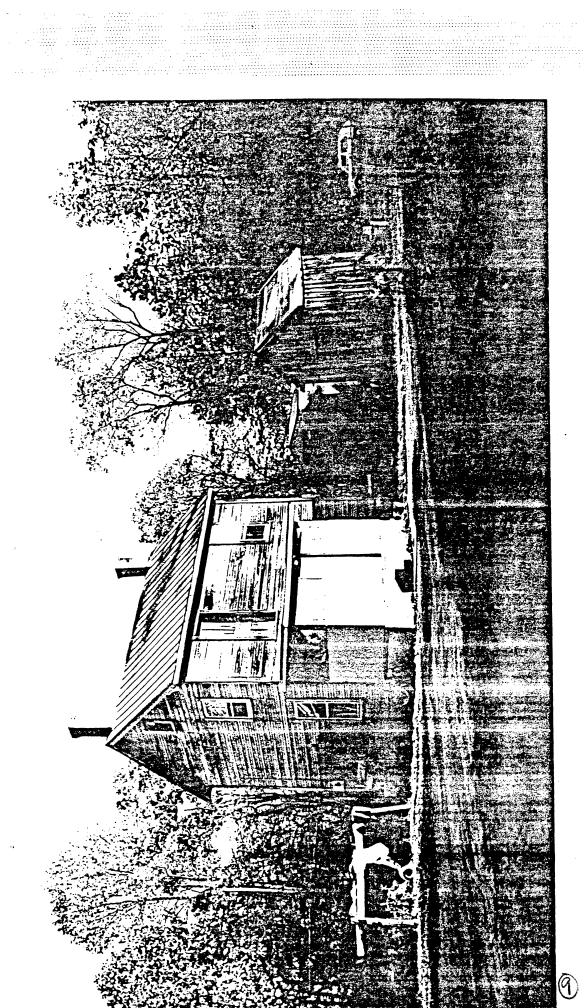
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:

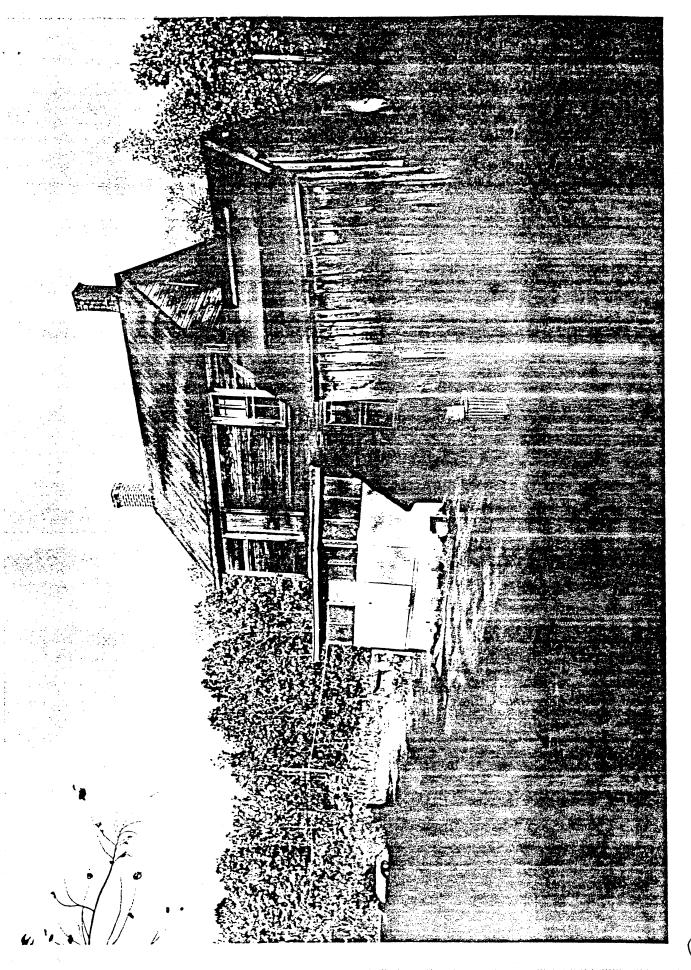
Maryland Historical Trust The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) - 267 - 1438

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS Box 87, Strenghold Dickerson, Md. 20753 (301) 926-4510





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GEORGE MCDANIEL. BLACK HISTORICAR RESOURCES IN UPPER WESTERN MONT. CO. (1979)

JONESVILLE

Present Description

Jonesville is a small community north of Poolesville between Jonesville Road and Cattail Road. It consists of 15 or more houses and mobile homes at the end of Jonesville Road. Much of the land is either wooded or in residential lots. Thus its appearance today does not reflect its history which extends back for more than a century. Five of the old houses from the community still remain and a few informants have survived to tell of the old houses and ways of life.

History

Unlike the other communities in this survey, Jonesville received its name from the founding families. Erasmus Jones and Richard Jones, who presumably were brothers. The first tract of 9 1/8 acres was purchased in 1866 by Erasmus Jones. The identity of Erasmus and the location of his house are not remembered. However, the home of Richard Jones still stands. He purchased nine acres in 1874 from the heirs of Joseph Bruner, a white farmer, whose residence was shown on the Martinet and Bond's Man of Montgomery County of 1865. (Man 6) It was part of the tract of Aix la Chappelle, a plantation nearby where Erasmus and Richard Jones may have worked.

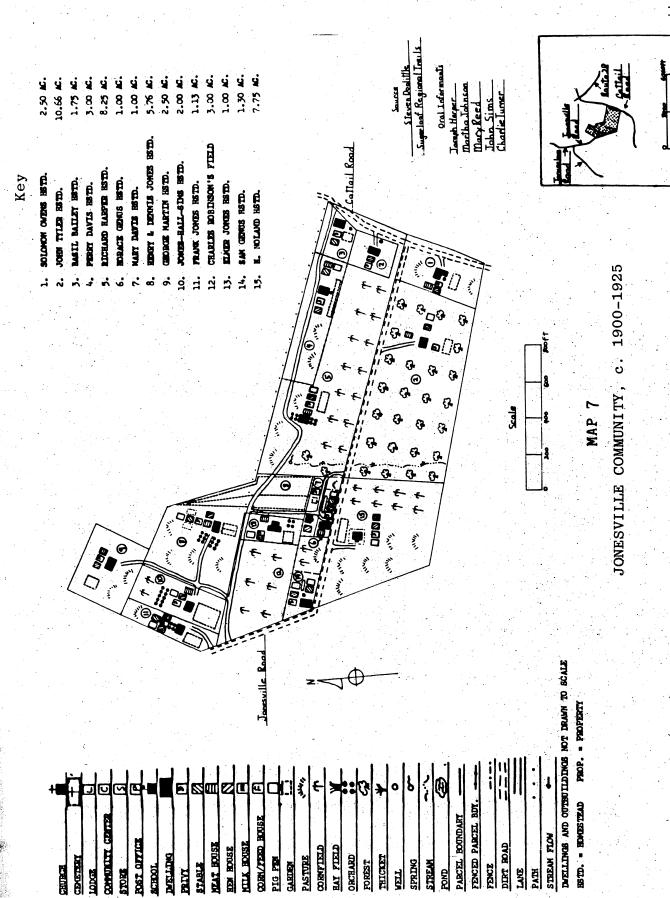
Pace of Development

In the late 1800s and early 1900s other black families settled in the Jonesville community. They were either

descendants of Erasmus and Richard Jones or had married into the family or were simply seeking available land. These people included the families of Basil Bailey, Mary Genus, Horace Genus, Thomas Harper, Levin Hall, George Martin, Henry Noland, and Perry Davis. The homes of Noland and Davis are shown on the Hopkins Atlas map of the Medley District (Map 2). Early 20th Century Community Appearance

At this time Jonesville Road continued from Jerusalem Road to Cattail Road, and the land was cleared so the community was not an isolated cul-de-sac as it is today. As the map of the historical community in the first quarter of the 20th century (Map 7) shows, the houses were surrounded by gardens and outbuildings and one could see all the way to Cattail Road.

The home of Richard Jones, later of Levin Hall, and now of the Sims family (still standing, Figure 17) was like most log houses of black families after emancipation in Montgomery County. Plain in appearance, it stood two stories high and contained two rooms down and two up. Close by was the dwelling of Mary Genus Davis. A smaller frame house of one room down and one up, it still stands today. Next to it stood the home of Horace Genus, the son of Mary Genus Davis. Like the houses built by the second generation in other communities, it was a two story frame house with two rooms down and two up and had decorative features that were popular near the turn of the century. Similar in construction and design were the homes of Basil Bailey and Solomon Owen on Cattail Road (still standing).



(3)

The third generation continued with these building traditions, as can be seen in Figure 18, the house constructed by Elmer Jones c. 1925. Thus the houses in Jonesville reflect the transitions in housing of black landowning families from the period after emancipation through the 20th century and indeed up to the present.

Community Institutions

Institutions such as churches and schools did not develop within Jonesville itself, probably because it was less accessible than the nearby Jerusalem community located along Jerusalem Road and the Beallsville-Poolesville Road. For this reason the members of the Jonesville community belonged to the two churches in Jerusalem, attended school in Jerusalem, and were probably members of the Loving Charity Society there.

Sites of Special Significance

The Harper family house in Jonesville was dismantled and reassembled in 1976 at the Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton Regional Park as an example of "a pioneer cabin". It has been changed radically from its earlier appearance but three of the Harper brothers are still living -- two in the Jerusalem community -- and could participate in historical workshops or tours of the house as oral informants for school groups. They could provide a rich history, not only of the Jonesville community, but of the black experience in Montgomery County.

Today the members of the Jonesville community still retain some of the traditional ways of life and are concerned about the preservation of their community's heritage. The Sims family are trying to rehabilitate the Jones-Hall-Sims house since it is so much a part of their family's history. Among the families interviewed during the survey, they are one of the relatively few who continue to produce their own food, raising and butchering their own hogs, curing the meat and growing their own vegetables. In the fall as part of this survey, students from a class in Maryland history at Montgomery College participated in a hog butchering with them and recorded their methods in a photo essay.

Sites of Special Significance

Sites recommended for special recognition due to historical significance:

- Basil Bailey house
- Mary Genus Davis house
- Thomas Harper house
- Jones-Hall-Sims house
- Elmer Jones house
- Solomon Owens house

Sites recommended for rehabilitation/stabilization

- Mary Genus Davis house
- Jones-Hall-Sims house

These two houses were the first built in the community by its founders and need repairs. The structures themselves are still sound. Both are still inhabited by descendants of the founders.

COMMUNITY: Jonesville

SITE	LOCATION ON TAX MAP	PRESENT PHYSICAL CONDITION	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
l. Basil Bailey house M-17-8-1	CT 563 - p. 70	3 Fair	1899	Significant
Mary Genus Davis house M-17-8-2	СТ 343 -р. 689		c. 1870-1890	Very Significant
Horace Genus house (Site)	CT 343 -p. 717	Destroyed	c. 1911	Site
house (Site) M-17-8-4	Wheaton Regional Park's Brookside Nature Center		Late 18th cen. Early 19th	
Jones-Hall-Sims house M-17-8-5	CT 43 - p. 497	Reconstructed		Very
Jones (Site) M-17-8-6	527& CT 343 -p. 529	Fair Destroyed	c. 1874 Unknown	Significant Site
. Elmer Jones house M-17-8-7	634 & CT 343-p. 635	Good	1915-1925	Significant
Frank Jones house (Site) M-17-8-8	CT 43 - p. 495	Destroyed	c.1870- 1890	Site
Nieorge M. Martin house M-17-8-9	CT 43 - p. 390	Good	c. 1880s	Significant
Noland house (Site)	CT 43 - p. 769	Destroyed	Late 1880s	Site
Nolomon Owens house M-17-8-11	CT 343 - p. 890	Fair	c. 1901	Significant
ire			. 1/01	organiteant
				(17)



DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING SERVICES

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Robert C. Hubbard

MEMORANDUM

June 23, 2003

TO:

Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Supervisor

Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

FROM:

Reginald Jetter, Division Chief

Casework Management

SUBJECT:

18200 Cattail Road - Demolition Permit 302698

As required by Sec. 24A-10. Moratorium on alteration or demolition, I am forwarding the Demolition Application 302698 to you to submit to the Planning Board to make a finding, after a public hearing, as to the significance of the historic resource and to determine whether, after considering the recommendations of the Commission, the property will be designated as an historic site or an historic resource within an historic district, listed in the master plan for historic preservation.

1 will inform the applicant by copy of this letter that within 60 days from June 24, 2003 the planning board shall render its findings and determinations with respect to the application.

If you have questions or need additional information, please call me on 240 777-6275.

Cc: Robbin Kemp



SENT BY: DPS CW; 24077762	262; JUN-23-03 3:36PM; PAGE 3/3		
7. FENCES/RETAINING WALL			
□ Located Entirely on Land of Owner	D. CONTACT PERSON DOWN VEMP 240 371		
□ Located on Lot Line; a signed letter from lot owner(s) is attached.			
□ Fence/Retaining Wall Height:ftin.	2407937154		
	Telephone FAX		
8. Type of Sewage Disposal/Water Supply	E-mail Address		
Sewage Disposal	***************************************		
Water Supply □WSSC □ □ □Other	E. AUTHORIZED AGENT AFFIDAVIT		
9. Revisions	 I hereby declare and affirm, under the penalty of perjury, that 		
Original Permit #			
☐ House Type Change ☐ Site Revision ☐ Structural	1. I am duly authorized to make this permit application on benjair of		
Other (Architectural, Electrical, Mechanical)	(of 9 st L bonn of		
10. SPECIAL EXCEPTION	Name of Property Owner		
	•		
☐ YES, lot is a Special Exception; Case #	The work proposed by this building permit application is authorized by the property owner; and		
□ NO, lot is not subject to Special Exception	 All matters and facts set forth in this Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. 		
11. COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES ONLY			
Has this space been occupied before?			
If yes, Previous Use	Signature of Authorized Agent Date		
Intended Use	F. HISTORIC DESIGNATION (ATLAS OR MASTER PLAN)		
	F. HISTORIC DESIGNATION (ATLAS OR MASTER PLAN)		
12. MPDU (20% Moderately Priced Dwelling Units) ☐ Yes ☐No	Is the property a historic resource?YESNO		
13. INDUSTRIALIZED MODULAR BUILDINGS & TRAILERS	G. AFFIDAVIT		
Manufacturer	In applying for an exemption from the licensing requirements for		
Model	building contractors, I hereby declare and affirm, under the penalty		
	or perjury, that; 1. I or a member of my immediate family will perform any and all		
14. MODEL HOUSE PROGRAM	construction associated with the foregoing building permit		
□ Initial Submittal Model Name	application; 2. The type of improvement indicated on the building permit		
☐ Previously approved Referring Back to Permit #	application is designed for use as a residence or dwelling		
	place for my own or my immediate family's use; and 3. All matters and facts set forth in this Affidavit are true and		
15. REFER BACK SYSTEM	correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.		
Refer Back Permit # Model Name			
	Signature of Property Owner Date		
16. DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS (DAP)	Print Name		
☐ YES, lot is subject to DAP	H. REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED PLAN REVIEW		
NO, lot is not subject to DAP			
	☐ I request to receive an Expedited Plan Review, subject to additional fees.		
17. EXPEDITED DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL EXCISE TAX			
O YES, lot is subject to EDAET	Signature Date		
NO, lot is not subject to EDAET	TO BE READ BY APPLICANT Any information that the applicant has set forth in this application that is		
18. IMPACT TAX	false or misleading may result in the rejection of the application. A condition for the issuance of this permit is that the proposed construction		

☐ YES, building project is Subject to Impact Taxes

© NO, building project is not subject to Impact Taxes

☐ I will exercise an Impact Tax Credit, a copy is attached.

comply at all times with the plans as approved by all applicable

perjury, that all matters and facts set forth in this building permit application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information

and belief.

government agencies. I hereby declare and affirm, under the penalty of

PAGE 2/3

3:35PM;



255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor Rockville, Maryland 20850-4153 (240) 777-6370 Fax (240) 777-6262 http://permiss.emontgomery.org



APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

	CONTACT ID	
BUILDING PERMIT# 303698		
SEDIMENT CONTROL#	SPECIAL CONDITIONS	
Properties located within historic districts, municipalities and special taxing districts require additional approvals beyond the required Department of Permitting Services' (DPS)' building permit. Projects located in the City of Takoma Park's Commercial Revitalization Overlay, certain permits must be approved by the City prior to commencing construction. Please refer to Permit Procedures for Properties within a Montgomery County Municipality 2. Type of Permit Commercial Building Fence/Retaining Wall Historic Area Work New Home Construction New Home Construction Demolition or Move; Building is 25 years or older YES NO	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY-ZONING Classification Street Number Board of Appeals Checked by A. Building Premise Address Mapth Street Address City State Zip Lot Block Subdivision Parcel	
3. Type of Work U Addition	B. APPLICANT (COMPANY/PERSON) Reflection of Company/Person Permit is to be issued to PRASS West A Fun Mailing Address City State Zip Telephone FAX	
5. COST ESTIMATE Construction Cost Estimate dollars	RSK4 a) acr. com E-mail Address	
6. PRINCIPAL USE Assembly Multi-Family, Piggyback Townhouse Bioscience Multi-Family, # of units Business; Multi-Family Senior, #of units Type: (Office) Place of Worship Daycare Pool-In-Ground Deck Pool-Above-Ground Detached Garage Restaurant	C. ARCHITECT/CONTRACTOR/ENGINEER Name of Firm Contractor License Number (Montgomery County New Home Builder and/or Maryland Home Improvement Commission License)	
□ Duplex □ Retail (Mercantile) □ Educational (Schools) □ Retaining Wall □ Fence □ Shed	Street Address City State Zip	
☐ Hospital ☐ Single Family Dwelling ☐ Hotel ☐ Storage ☐ Hot Tub ☐ Theaters	Telephone FAX	
☐ Hot Tub/Deck ☐ Townhouse ☐ Industrial ☐ Temporary Trailer ☐ Institutional ☐ Miscellaneous	Plans Prepared By Registration Number (Design Professional)	
☐ Modular Type:	Mahan autou manian /a a	