

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

March 19, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

FROM: Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner *CLC*
Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning

SUBJECT: Addition to *Locational Atlas*
Derwood Store and Post Office, 15911 Chieftain Avenue
(Demolition Permit Pending)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Add the structure and lot to the *Locational Atlas*. If – during the course of the review of the Shady Grove Sector Plan – the property is not rezoned to allow for adaptive reuse, remove it from the *Locational Atlas*.

BACKGROUND

Staff has received an application to add the property at 15911 Chieftain Avenue to the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*. The Historic Preservation Commission will consider this issue at its March 24th meeting and will present its recommendations to the Planning Board on the 25th.

The entire Derwood community was identified on the 1976 *Locational Atlas* as a potential historic district. In a 1990 evaluation, the County Council found that it did not merit designation as a historic district and it was removed from the *Locational Atlas*, although an individual site, the Crabbe Family Cemetery, was added to the *Master Plan*.

The three-story structure at 15911 Chieftain Avenue was built in 1903 as a store and post office to serve the railroad community of Derwood. The structure and 11,500 square foot lot are currently being used as a facility to store construction materials. After the building was neglected for many years, the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs issued a condemnation notice in July 2003. Responding to the condemnation notice, the property owner filed an application to demolish the building in November 2003. Some

community residents wish to see the building be preserved and restored, to provide a visual link to the community's history. These residents filed a formal request in December 2003 to add the property to the *Locational Atlas*.

The owner is willing to consider options that might result in preserving the structure if he can achieve reasonable use of the property.

For many years, this site has been zoned R-200 like the other lots on its block, although the existing structure does not lend itself to single-family use. Like most stores of its time, this structure probably had a residential apartment on the second level from the beginning. By the mid-20th century, the store closed and the building's interior was divided into apartments and served for a good part of the past century as a multi-family dwelling. Converting the building to a single-family house would be architecturally awkward and difficult to achieve. The present owner has permission to continue the grandfathered current use of the property – storage of construction materials.

The condemnation notice requires the owner to make repairs and upgrades to the structure or demolish it. If the owner were to demolish the existing structure, a new structure would have to conform to R-200 zoning. Because the site is adjacent to the Derwood Business Center and opposite the Vehicle Emissions station, its suitability for a single-family dwelling is questionable. The community has indicated that it does not support commercial use of the Derwood Store and Post Office site, but may agree with multi-family use.

HISTORY

The Derwood Station stop on the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad opened in 1875, as shown on train schedules. The year 1887 was a banner year when the railroad company built an architect-designed railroad station at Derwood, and, on an adjacent parcel, local businessmen established a substantial flour mill. The first Derwood post office opened in 1883. Derwood was formally platted in 1888. Derwood was a thriving community through the first half of the 20th century. The flour mill was a mainstay of the railroad stop. In 1954, fire destroyed both the flour mill and the railroad station. Hereafter, the Derwood Station stop ceased to exist.

Clarence Hoskinson built the Derwood Store and Post Office in November 1903, on Redland Road (now Chieftain Avenue). At about the same time, he built his own five-bay Colonial Revival residence just up the street, at 15919 Redland Road (now Chieftain Avenue). In 1936, the miller Richard T. Schwartz and his wife, Mary, purchased the Derwood Store. They operated the store for some time, and continued operating the post office, even after they closed the store. A community history by Carlos Avery states that the Derwood Post Office closed in 1974 and was relocated to Redland Shopping Center in 1974, though a listing of postmasters' records show that the Derwood post office was discontinued in 1966.

The two-bay by six-bay structure is three stories tall. The front porch of the structure has been enclosed. The original German siding has been covered with asbestos shingle siding. The structure has been enlarged with a two-story rear addition.

DISCUSSION

The Derwood Store and Post Office is a front gable, rectangular structure. The building form is very typical of commercial structures of the late 19th and early 20th century. Surviving examples already designated on the *Master Plan* are found at Seneca (1901), Beallsville (1910), and Barnesville Station (1918). The Derwood building is larger than most, having three stories instead of the more typical two stories.

The value of the Derwood Store and Post Office may be in its historic significance, rather than architectural merit. Because of this, the diminished integrity of the structure may not preclude its consideration for designation. An example of an altered commercial structure that was ultimately designated on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* is Angler's Inn. The building was historically the Cropley Store and Post Office, also a front gable, rectangular structure.

Staff agrees with the nominators that the building was a significant part of the history of the Derwood community. Sufficient information exists to merit placing the Derwood Store and Post Office on the *Locational Atlas* for further study.

The challenging question of an appropriate zone that will enable the owner to preserve and restore the structure and offer a viable use is being addressed through the Shady Grove Sector Plan process. In terms of Sector Plan context, a new Sector Plan is currently underway for this area with the Public Hearing Draft before the Planning Board. Worksessions are in progress. The proposed Plan recommends the surrounding industrial zoned areas for multifamily and townhouse uses. This site is under consideration for multifamily housing as well, in order to create a viable and compatible use for the building. Preservation of the historical resources of Old Derwood is one of the goals of the Sector Plan. Community Based Planning staff supports the designation of the structure on the *Locational Atlas*.

It is likely that any recommended zone will require a zoning text amendment, given the non-standard features of the structure and small lot size. The intent is to preserve the existing structure and allow six apartment units on the 11,500 square-foot site.

The reason the staff recommendation includes a provision for removing the property from the *Locational Atlas* is that historic preservation staff feels it is important to assure that the property owner is not put into an untenable situation. This is a building which does not lend itself to conversion to a single-family house under R-200 zoning. If appropriate zoning is not granted through the Sector Plan process, preservation of the building is unrealistic and the owner should not be required to preserve the structure.

CONCLUSION

The Derwood Store and Post Office is a building which tells a great deal about the history and development of Derwood as a community. It is one of the few remaining civic/commercial buildings that recall this early village. Adding the building to the *Locational Atlas* will provide

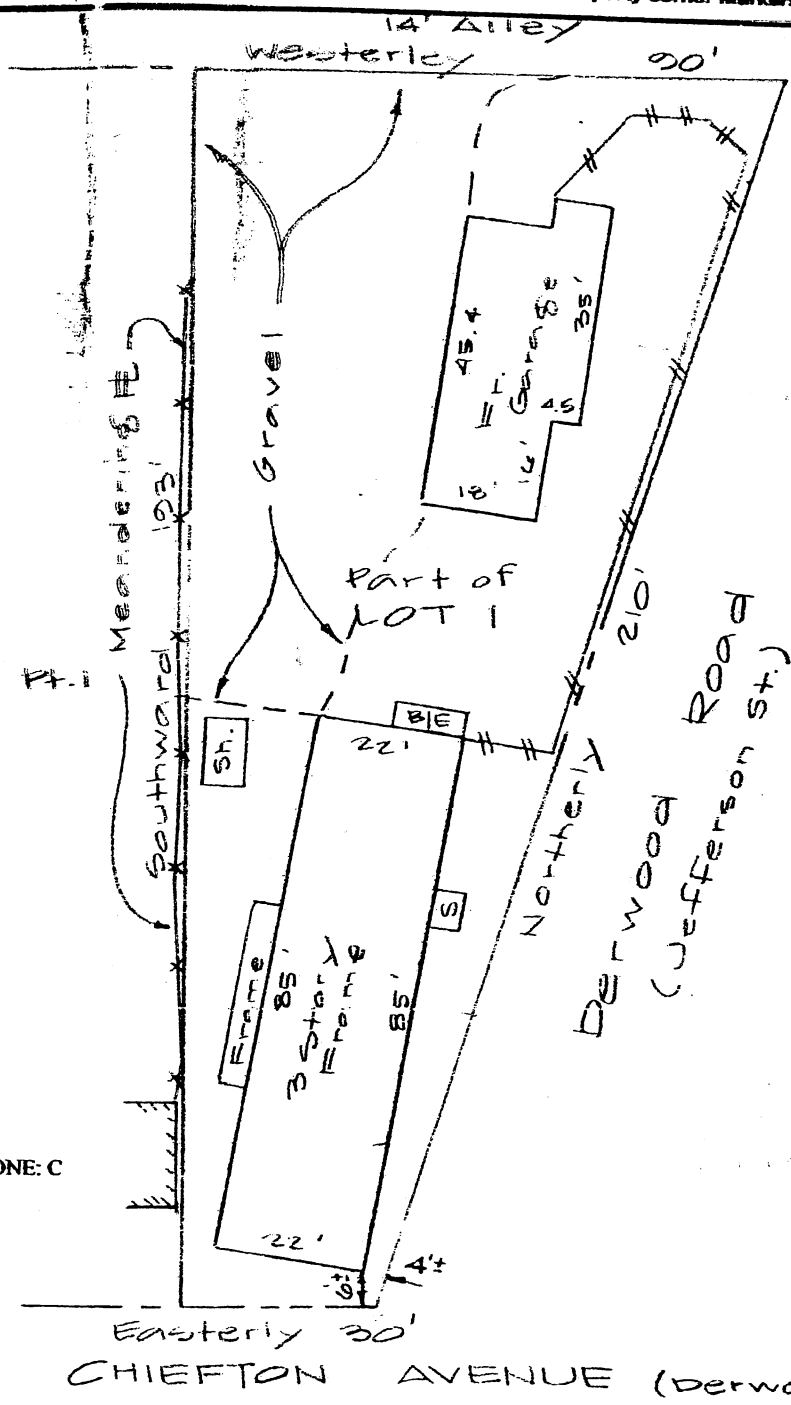
some temporary protection for the building while a more long-term plan for its reuse and renovation can be developed, in conjunction with the ongoing Shady Grove Sector Plan.



Derwood Store and Post Office, 15911 Chieftain Avenue

ASE NO. 01-22915

NOTE: This location for title purposes only. Not to be used for determining property lines. Property corner Markers Not guaranteed by this location



IMPROVEMENT LEGEND

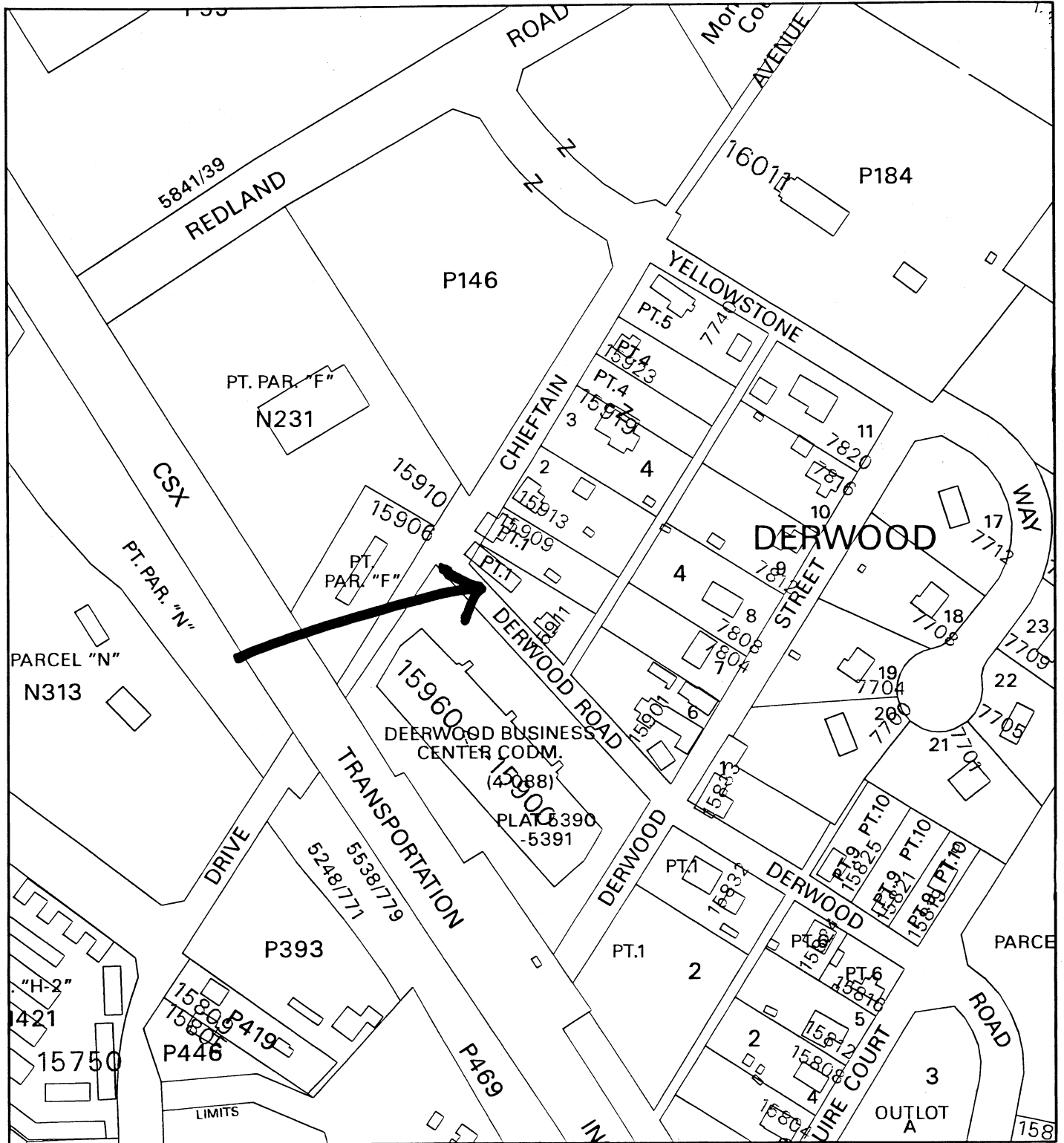
- Sh = She
- S = Stoo
- P = Pati
- D = Dec
- B/E = Basement Entranc
- D/W = Drivewa
- C = Concret
- St = Ston
- Br = Bric
- Fr = Fram
- = Fence / I
- G = Gat
- O/H = Overhan
- Por = Porci
- Sty = Stor
- Asph = Aspha

LOCATION OF HOUSE
PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK 4
DERWOOD
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
HUD FLOOD PANEL NO.240049-0125C ZONE: C

Note: No Property Corners Found, Plat/Deed does not close.

<p>CERTIFICATE</p> <p>I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE POSITION OF ALL THE EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS ON THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY HAS BEEN CAREFULLY ESTABLISHED BY A FIELD SURVEY.</p> <p><i>David L. Haller</i></p> <p>DAVID L. HALLER MARYLAND RPLS No. 240</p>	<p>REFERENCES</p> <p>PLAT BK A</p> <p>PLAT NO 37</p>	<p>HALLER-BLANCHARD & ASSOCIATES</p> <p>SURVEYING · ENGINEERING · PLANNING</p> <p>(301) 228-2286 P.O. BOX 1774, FREDERICK, MARYLAND 21702</p>	
	<p>LIBER 18440</p> <p>ROLIO 254</p>	<p>DATE OF SURVEYS</p> <p>WALL CHECK:</p> <p>HSE. LOC.: 7-31-01</p> <p>BOUNDARY:</p>	<p>SCALE: 1" = 30'</p> <p>DRAWN BY: <i>EBB</i></p> <p>JOB NO. 01-19347</p>

DERWOOD STORE AND POST OFFICE (22/33-3)



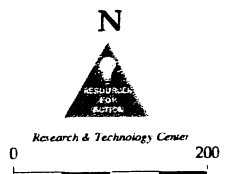
Map compiled on March 17, 2004 at 1:47 PM | Site located on base sheet no - 221NW06

NOTICE

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Property lines are compiled by adjusting the property lines to topography created from aerial photography and should not be interpreted as actual field surveys. Planimetric features were compiled from 1:14400 scale aerial photography using stereo photogrammetric methods.

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December 15, 2004

Susan Velasquez
Chair, Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760


Dear Ms Velasquez:

Please consider the Old Derwood Post Office at 15911 Redland Road for listing on the *Locational Atlas of Historic Sites* as per your ordinance, Chapter 24(A) of the Montgomery County Code.

We, the Old Derwood and Derwood Community Residents, have prepared the required Maryland Historical Trust "Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form" as per required.

Over 60 people support the designation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph Parelo
Shady Grove Alliance Vice President

Cc: Clare Cavicchi, Preservation Planner

1903
Lot 1
Bldg 2

1941 Deeds Liber 1512
folio 38

L 8435
Inventory No. F 979

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Derwood former store and warehouse served as Post Office/
other a residence and an apartment building.

2. Location 15911 Derwood Road (AS PER DEMOLITION PERMIT NUMBER 324552 -ENCLOSED) Located at the corner of Chieftian Ave. & Derwood Road.

street and number (Tax Record) 15911 Redland Road not for publication
city, town Derwood, Maryland 20855 vicinity
county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joao Morgado
street and number 4416 Hallet Street telephone (301) 942-2508 (W)
city, town Rockville state MD zip code (301) 942-8078 (H)
20853

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records of Montgomery liber 1512 folio 38
city, town Rockville, MD tax map GS22 tax parcel tax ID number 04
00045257

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: Derwood Railroad District was approved for historic designation. Historic designation was not supported by the majority of residents at that time (approx. 10/15yr ago). Many now wish to save the building being nominated. (60 persons TTT)

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			Contributing
			Noncontributing
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No.

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

The condition varies as discussed below.
Cannot make an indepth determination
without further study.

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

7. Description

The former store and warehouse building that also served as the post office, a residence and an apartment building was first built in November, 1903. The original building was a store, post office and residence. At some later date, it was enlarged. The building is a long, narrow, three story rectangular shaped structure with a center gable metal roof. The exterior sides of the building are covered with white 12" by 12" shingles. Most of the windows are in place, some on the lower level have been broken and have been boarded up. The original wooden window frames and other exposed wood needs to be replaced. The building appears to be a sturdy upright structure that is approximately 30 feet by 70 feet. When I entered the building three years ago, I determined that it was structurally sound based on a visual examination of the interior which included the floors, walls and roof rafters. From all accounts, the exterior has not been extensively altered. We cannot determine when it was covered with shingled siding - perhaps 50/60 years ago. The porch facing Redland Road was enclosed to form a room from which the post office continued to operate when, we assume, the store was closed and the entire interior was converted to living space. We do not have the the exact date of the conversion and/or enlargement; however, we have the names of individuals who lived there in 1942 which means that alterations would have been made more than 60 years ago. The post office closed in 1974. The building has been vacant since then.

8. Significance

Inventory No.

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>POST OFFICE</u>

Specific dates 1903

Architect/Builder Clarence Hoskinson

Construction dates Construction began November 1903

Evaluation for: Please evaluate for any category that will save this building.

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

This landmark structure is being threatened for demolition. Failure to preserve this building as part of the Shady Grove Sector Plan would be a tragic loss in our effort to preserve and enhance Old Derwood. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, in their proposed Shady Grove Sector Plan, has committed to enhancing and preserving Old Derwood. If we are to preserve and enhance Old Derwood, it is crucial that we save this original landmark from being destroyed by placing it on the Locational Atlas or create a conservation district or protect it in some manner.

This building is a significant part of the town of Old Derwood, referred to as the Derwood Railroad District. Construction of this building began in November of 1903 by storekeeper Clarence Hoskinson. The store was run by Ulysses S. Walters from 1912-1914. It was purchased in July of 1914 by John L. Welsh who ran his mercantile business there until his death November 27, 1921. In 1936 the store building was purchased by Richard and Mary Schwartz. This landmark structure has survived for a century and the activities conducted there have served the community well especially in the years when the B & O Railroad conducted business in the Derwood Railroad District. The Derwood Post Office provided mail service until it closed in 1974. Concurrently, the building served as a store, warehouse and residence. Its final use provided eight residential apartments for Derwood residents.

According to Wayne Goldstein, president of Montgomery Preservation, Inc., this threatened structure is one of the last of its kind. The only remaining buildings with a similar historic use anywhere in Montgomery County are the vacant general store in Dickerson and the Darby Store in Beallsville.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. _____

1. Shady Grove Sector Plan December 2003 Pages 36-38. (Copy enclosed)
2. Testimony before Planning Board on Shady Grove sector Plan- 12/4/03 Wayne Goldstein Montgomery Preservation, Inc. (copy enclosed)
3. Information taken from the Maryland Historical Trust state Historic Sites Inventory From Survey No. 22- 33, Dated 5/84. (Copy enclosed)
 - *Montgomery County Land and Judgment records.
 - *Montgomery County Historical Society Library Files, etc.
 - *Interview with Derwood resident, Mary Schwartz.
 - *Plat of Derwood, 1888 (EBP 11/395) & Deets & Maddox Atlas, 1917
4. Derwood Days April 26-May 4, 1986 pages 26 and 28. (Copy enclosed)
5. Short History of Derwood, Jo Seymour article (copy enclosed)
6. Derwood Post office- Postmasters (copy enclosed)
7. Property Deeds (copy enclosed)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 11,580 SF
Acreage of historical setting three-story building is approx. 30 X 70 feet
Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

Building is at corner of Chieftian Avenue (formerly Redland Road) in the 1980's Redland Road road was rerouted from Route 355 to Muncaster bypassing Old Derwood) and Derwood Road.

The property is zoned R-200 and joins two other R-200 properties. The houses on the two adjoining lots are approximately 100 years old and are occupied by families.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	<u>Joseph parello</u>		
organization	<u>Old City of Derwood Resident Representative</u> <u>Vice President II Shady Grove Civic Alliance</u>	<u>(SEE ATTACH)</u> <u>PETITION</u>	date <u>December 15, 2003</u>
street & number	<u>15821 Derwood Road</u>	telephone	<u>(W) 202-782-6533</u> <u>(H) 301-990-7613</u>
city or town	<u>Derwood</u>	state	<u>Maryland 20855</u>

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation MONTGOMERY COUNTY Real Property Data Search	Go Back View Map New Search
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Account Identifier: District - 04 **Account Number -** 00045257

Owner Information

Owner Name:	MORGADO, JOAO	Use:	RESIDENTIAL
		Principal Residence:	NO
Mailing Address:	15911 REDLAND RD DERWOOD MD 20853	Deed Reference:	1) /19682/ 743 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address	Zoning	Legal Description
15911 REDLAND RD DERWOOD 20853	R200	DERWOOD SEC 4

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
GS22				502		4	P1	82	Plat Ref:

Special Tax Areas	Town Ad Valorem Tax Class
	53

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
0000		11,580.00 SF	111

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2003	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	78,290	127,580		
Improvements:	16,830	18,710		
Total:	95,120	146,290	95,120	112,176
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: MILLONIG CORPORATION	Date: 09/18/2001	Price: \$110,000
Type: IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: /19682/ 743	Deed2:
Seller: MILLONIG, PAUL A ET AL	Date: 10/05/2000	Price: \$40,000
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: /18446/ 254	Deed2:
Seller:	Date: 06/18/1979	Price: \$18,000
Type: IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: / 5339/ 623	Deed2:

Exemption Information

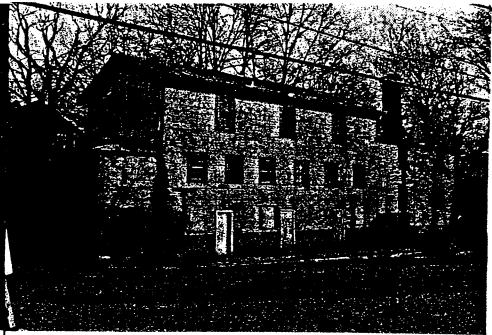
Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt:	NO	Special Tax Recapture:
Exempt Class:		* NONE *

Save Derwood History

Nominate the Old Derwood Post Office to the Maryland Historical Trust.

FYI: The demolition permit can be issued after 28 December 2003

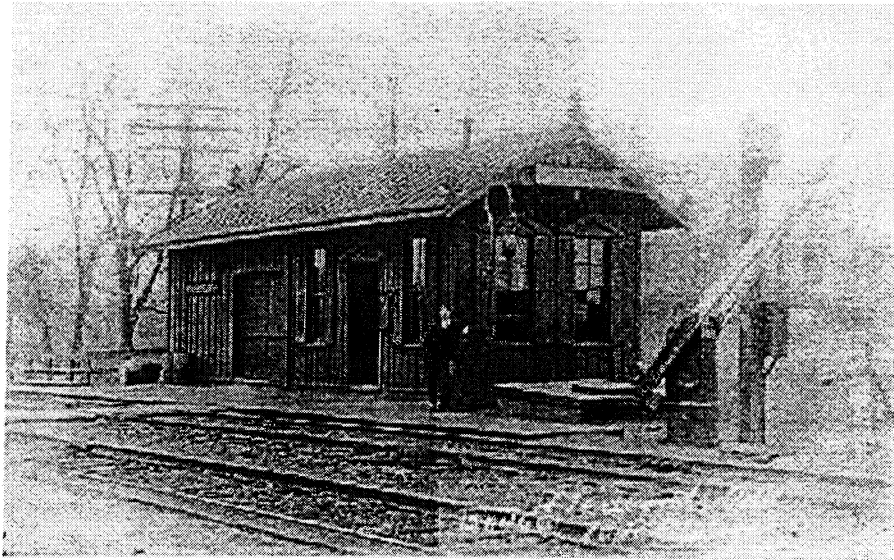


START
POSTS
REC. 4
2003
↓

Name	Address	Phone/ E-Mail
Joseph Paul	15821 DERWOOD RD. DERWOOD	301-990-7613 PDRBLL@SCBXATHA.MK.NET
John Chan	6901 Arroyo Terrace Derwood	301-345-3614
James D. Chapman	15824 Derwood Rd Derwood	Derwood
Mary Bell	15825 Derwood Rd	301-869-6318
John Hagg	15819 Vernon Rd	301-869-1735
Mabel Smith	15816 Caplan Ct.	301-877-7568
Desmond Thomas	7404 Mahaska Dr.	
Chet Arellano	15903 Chiffum Av.	301 942 0381
Fabrizia Rodas	7713 yellowstone way	301 926 0318
PHIL NGUYEN	7712 yellowstone way	301 670 0549
Maurice Eldridge	15832 Derwood Rd	301-9264241
Mrs. v. Mrs. Morris	7816 Overton St	301-258-9348
Sherry Schenker	SHADY GROVE APT.	301-869-3080
David Schenker	16109 CRABBS BRANCH WAY DERWOOD MD	301-869-3090
John Schenker	1690 CHIMNEY HOUSE RD. PETAHUA, VA.	
Faren Kumm Morris	3725 N. Delaware St.	Arundel, Va. 22207
Shelley Winkler	501 Brown St. Wash. Grove 20880	301-730-6446
Pat Labuda	16929 Briardale Rd.	(301) 990-8292
Pill Labuda	16929 Briardale Rd	(301) 990-8292
JOHN TALCOTT	7506 Brenish DR	301-926-3287
Sarah Paulinet-irish	8201 Langport Ter. GWA 20897	301-944-7335
James Grace	18006 Mill Creek Dr	301-924-6428
Nancy Grace	18006 Mill Creek Dr	301-924-6428
Lori Keesev	17431 Boyne Mill Rd	301-330-9058
John Compton	202 Ridge Rd. FOB 1187	301-330-8264
David Hurl	7404 Parky Pal Ct 20855	
Don Finkler	7812 Bounded Bend Ct 20855	
Silvan Petravel	4645 Cherry Valley Drive	Rockville, MD 20853 301-774-8003
Kurt Lehmann	1701 Hobble Bush Ct	20855
DAVID LEHMAN	7729 Greenbale Ct Derwood	20855 301 963 6821 STORMON@POL.COM
Tami Kiley	7729 Ironforge Ct Derwood	20855 301 579 3443
John McNAMARA	7301 Okaloosa Dr	MCNAMARA@hoyahou.com
CARL AYERS	8225 LANGPORT TER	GATHERBY AYERS@EROLS.COM
Sam Ayers	17509 Park Hill	Rushell 301 963-8890
LINDA MATHERS	17509 PARK MILL DR.	301-963-8890
Pamela Lindstrom	421 Galther St Gaithersburg	301 869-7139
Kay Guinan	7915 Bounding Bend 20855	301 527 8380
KRISTY GRISHAM	215 RIDGE RD, WASHINGTON AVE	240 631 7895, CHAMBERS.GRISHAM@EROLS.COM
Wesley Keller	2230 Kuyper Ter Derwood	301 864 2341
Mary Ann Shuman	2 Bethel Res of Derwood	301 977 8034
Wayne M. Goldstein	3009 Jennings Rd. Kensington	301-942-8079 Waynegoldstein@hodmail.com
Wayne M. Goldstein	14 Maple Ave Wash Grove	301-963-3925
Peter DeLo	P.O. Box 1060	Wash Grove MD 20880
Christina Dibble	PO Box 305 Wash Grove 20880	dibble.christina@epa.gov
Karen Farrell	15821 Derwood Rd	301-990-7613
BRADLEY HILL	97014 YELLOWSTONE WAY Rockville	240 632 0135

SHORT HISTORY OF DERWOOD, MARYLAND

5



Picture from the collection of Richard A. Cook

The following article was compiled by Jo Seymour from information provided by Carlos P. Avery and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission.

In the late 1800's Derwood, previously just a crossroads with a blacksmith shop and a post office, began its transformation into a small but thriving community. The catalyst was the opening of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad, a 43-mile link between Washington, DC, and the B & O "main-stem" at Point of Rocks, MD. The "Met" played an important role in the growth of central Montgomery County and the development of towns and villages along its right-of-way.

Although the Post Office had been operating since 1883, 1886-1889 are significant dates to remember, as it was during this time that the second Derwood station was built (the first was an open "waiting shed"). It was a small Victorian Gothic board and batten structure (see illustration) designed by E. Francis Baldwin, the architect for the B & O Railroad, Baltimore Division. It was constructed at a cost of \$682.55. Other stations designed by Baldwin, which are still standing, can be seen in Kensington, Rockville, Gaithersburg, Dickerson, and Point of Rocks.

The Derwood station served not only as a commuter stop but also as a freight and baggage station and an office for handling agricultural and dairy products for the local area. Aside from the railroad and surrounding farming operations, the only other industry was Schwartz's mill (a flour mill) built in 1887 on Chieftain Avenue. The Montgomery County Sentinel of April 15, 1887 noted that the three-story, 32 x 56 structure was to be built directly across the tracks from the railroad station. The B & O built a siding there to serve it.

As the community grew so did the need for housing. The majority of the homes in Historic Derwood today are examples of turn-of-the-century vernacular architecture which housed the workers in the community. Other structures of interest are a church located on the site at 15812 Esquire Court (now used as a Masonic Lodge meetinghouse); a now vacant warehouse and store built in 1903 at the corner of Chieftain and Derwood Rd; and Hall's General Store, now a residence (15833 Derwood Rd). In addition, there is a 1903 Colonial Revival house built by store keeper Clarence Hoskinson which later

became the home of the town's miller, Richard Schwartz (15919 Chieftain Avenue). It remains an architectural jewel with its palladian window, pediments, and strong dentilled cornice. These buildings, taken together, represent a grouping of harmonious styles, textures and scale which convey a common history, and are typical of communities which existed in many areas of the county in the later part of the nineteenth century. (Refer to Derwood map.)

A century ago, passenger revenues were sought by the railroads, and by the late 1880's the "high-water mark" in passenger traffic had probably been reached. The May 1887 schedule for the "Met" listed ten inbound trains a day from Derwood to Union Station in Washington, DC. The fare for the hour-long trip was 60 cents with some special group reductions. But sandwiched between the more established communities of Rockville and Gaithersburg, Derwood did not experience the accelerated growth that those cities enjoyed as a result of the railroad. Derwood's population remained small: B & O publications list it as 72 in 1905, 170 in 1917, and 225 in 1928.

Passenger traffic fell steadily in the 1900's as the automobile grew in numbers. As a point of comparison, the 1935 schedule listed only two inbound and two outbound stops each day at Derwood. Then on January 7, 1954, 67 years after its construction, Schwartz Mill caught fire in the early morning hours and was destroyed, as was the Derwood station. The fire put an end to the mainstay of commercial rail traffic there. This, combined with the decline in passenger traffic, made the rebuilding of the station impractical and Derwood station as a stop on the B & O line ceased to exist.

In 1974 the old Derwood post office closed and was reopened in its present location in the Redland Shopping Center. It retained the name "Derwood Branch" thereby designating the 20855 Zip Code area as present day Derwood. The Derwood area was originally referred to as "Deer Park" and it is possible that "Deer Park" later became "Deer Wood" which local idiom translated into "Derwood."

With the construction of the Metro's Red Line to Shady Grove in 1984, the last remaining bits of evidence of the B & O station and the mill in Derwood were erased. But perhaps the Metro's terminus, some 300 yards further north of Redland Road, will be the new "Derwood Station." It has already brought to Derwood the growth and development that the B & O did not.

6.

DERWOOD POSTOFFICE

Derwood

Randolph Watkins	18	April	1883
Mrs. Mary C. Watkins	27	April	1885
Joseph Carmack	23	April	1887
Uriah Ricketts	4	Oct	1887
John P. Belt	18	Jan.	1889
John P. Bell	18	Jan	1889
David E. Coffman	16	Oct	1889
NB 15 Jun 1891			
Mary E. Matthews	25	May	1893
Mary Mullican	3	May	1895
David E. Coffman	11	Oct	1897
NB 17 Oct 1901			
Clarence H. Hoskinson	5	Apr	1905
George D. Walters	16	Aug	1913
John L. Welsh	5	Apr	1915
Margaret B. Welsh	6	May	1922
Commission Signed	17	May	1922
Alvin E. Higgins			
Acting	6	Sept	1933
Assumed Charge	25	Aug	1933
Alvin E. Higgins			
Confirmed	13	Jun	1934
Commission Signed	20	Jul	1934
Transferred To Rural Carrier			
Edward P. Ganley			
Acting	7	Dec	1937
Assumed Charge	29	Nov	1937
Remarks: Pres.	1	Jul	1946
Edward P. Ganley			
Confirmed	4	Jun	1938
Commission Signed	20	Jun	1938
Assumed Charge	1	Jul	1938
Remarks: Rel.	1	Jul	1946
Edward P. Ganley			
Nominated	24	Jul	1946
Confirmed	30	Jul	1946
Appointed Pres.	31	Jul	1946
Commission Signed	31	Jul	1946
Assumed Charge	30	Sept	1946
Edward P. Ganley			
Confirmed	4	Aug	1947
Commission Signed	26	Sept	1947
Assumed Charge	30	Sept	1947
Deceased	13	Apr	1954
Ernest C. Zebuhr, Jr			
Acting	13	Oct	1954
Assumed Charge	31	Aug	1954
Ernest C. Zebuhr, Jr.			
Nominated	4	Feb	1955
Confirmed	8	Mar	1955
Appointed Pres.	9	Mar	1955
Comission Signed	9	Mar	1955
Assumed Charge	31	May	1955
Transferred	14	Jan	1966
Disxontinued-Effective Mail to Rockville	14	Jan	1966