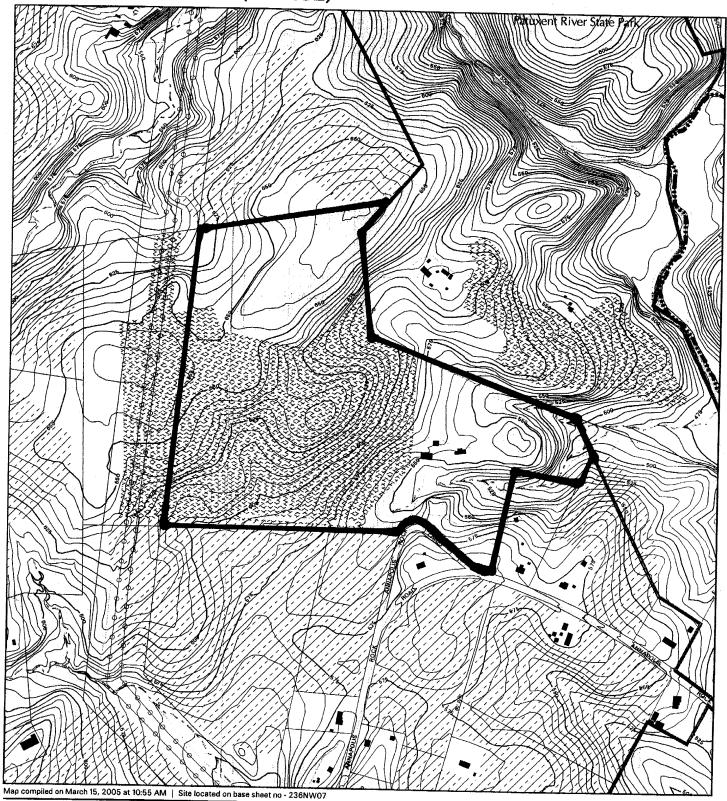
## **GREAT MEADOWS (7-05052)**



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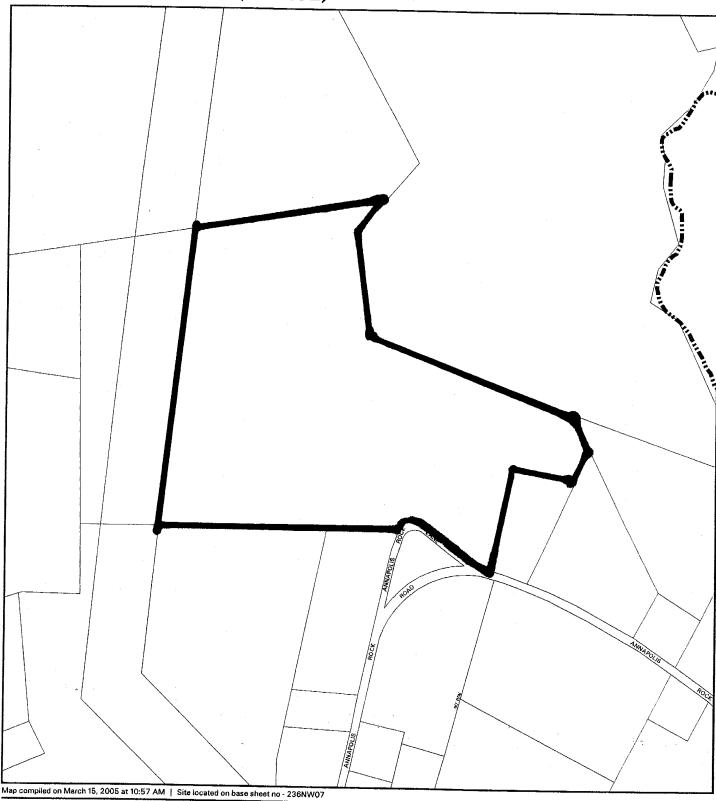




MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 2091 0-3760

# **GREAT MEADOWS (7-05052)**



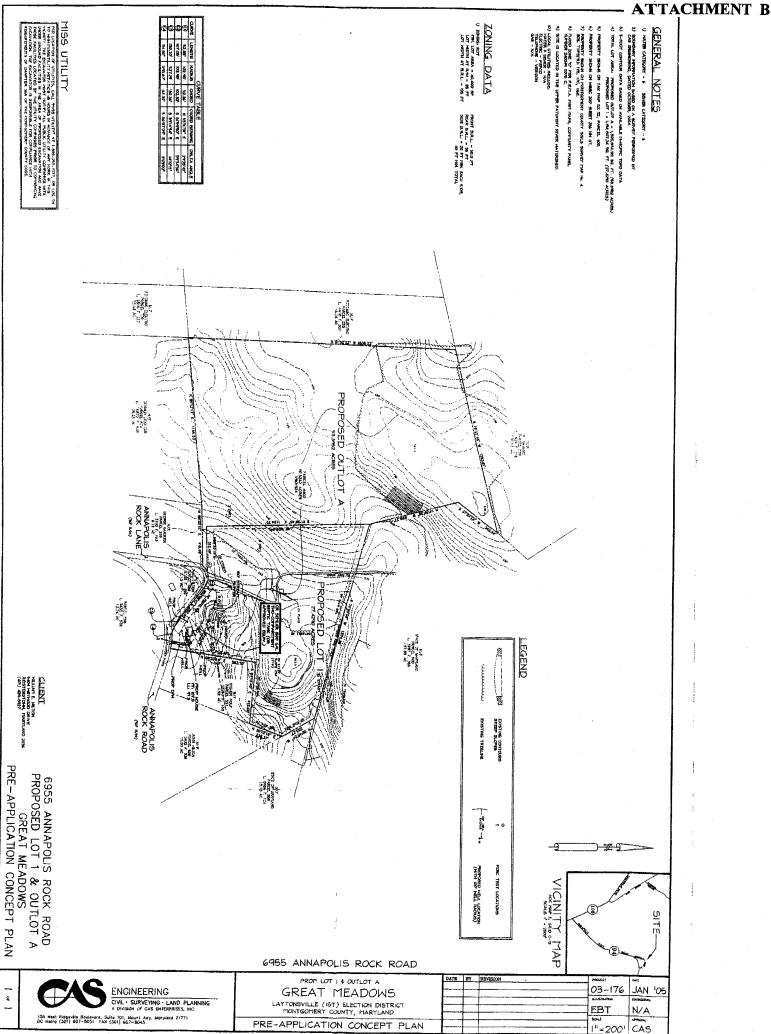
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8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 2091 0-3760





June 17, 2005

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Dolores Kinney, Senior Planner

**Development Review Division** 

FROM:

Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Supervisor

Countywide Planning Division

**SUBJECT:** 

Pre-Preliminary Plan #7-05052, Great Meadows

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve this Pre-Preliminary Plan with the following conditions:

- 1. The historic Perry Etchison House will be considered a tenant house on the new lot.
- 2. The owner will not demolish the historic Perry Etchison House and will begin rehabilitation work on the house within five years.
- 3. The owner will keep the historic buildings secure and weathertight at all times, correcting any structural problems that may arise that could endanger the viability of the house.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Perry Etchison House was designated as a historic site on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* in 1981. It is an extraordinary early log house that was built in three sections, with the earliest sections built in the early to mid 1800's. The original owners of the house – the Etchisons – were prominent is this part of the county and gave name to the small crossroads community nearby – the village of Etchison. The Hiltons acquired the property in 1880 and Hilton descendants are still the owners. The house has been vacant for many years and is suffering from neglect and deterioration.

Charles Hilton has farmed the property for many years, but has not used the house. Now his son, William Hilton, is interested in creating a lot for a new house that will include not only the house he plans to construct, but also the historic Perry Etchison House. He plans to rehabilitate the house — which is where he grew up — slowly over a number of years. He has already boarded up the windows and taken measures to stabilize the house.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff is very concerned about the deteriorated condition of this remarkable building. It is a unique resource in Montgomery County and truly deserves to be rehabilitated.



April, 2005 photo of the Perry Etchison House

Although staff is usually concerned about historic buildings being relegated to secondary or ancillary structures on new lots, staff supports this specific proposal because it seems to be the most likely way that the historic house will be saved.

William Hilton seems very committed to saving his family home and has submitted a letter confirmed his plans for the property, which is attached to this packet. Staff supports his efforts and wants to work with him to successfully rehabilitate and save this very important county historic site.

To that end, staff recommends approval of this subdivision plan with the following conditions (all of which have been discussed with William Hilton):

- The historic Perry Etchison House will be considered a tenant house on the new lot.
- The owner will not demolish the historic Perry Etchison House and will begin rehabilitation work on the house within five years.
- The owner will keep the historic buildings secure and weathertight at all times, correcting any structural problems that may arise that could endanger the viability of the house.

Staff will continue to offer any support that we can to Mr. Hilton as he begins to work on the Perry Etchison House and will assist in any efforts he may pursue to get tax credits or grants for this building.