

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	1/13/03	# of pages	3
To	GWEN WRIGHT		From	JERRY MCCOY	
Co./Dept.	HR		Co.	55 NIST. SOC.	
Phone #	301 563 3413		Phone #	202 282 0214	
Fax #	301 563 3412		Fax #		

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Date Received Jan. 15, 1946.

Application Number 646



Registration Granted Feb. 12, 1946.
(Date)

Basis Reciprocity transfer from Maryland

Registration Number 498

Registration Denied _____
(Date)

BOARD OF EXAMINERS AND REGISTRARS OF ARCHITECTS

APPLICATION

FOR REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE

IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Under the provisions of an Act No. 295, "To provide for the examination and registration of architects and to regulate the practice of architecture in the District of Columbia," approved December 18, 1924, as amended by the Act approved May 29, 1928:

I hereby apply for registration to practice architecture and to employ the title "ARCHITECT" or "REGISTERED ARCHITECT" in accordance with the provisions of said Act.

Full name C. Clifton Bryan White
 Post office address _____
 Street 7906 Georgia Avenue
 City or town Silver Spring, State Maryland
 Date of birth May 18, 1903 Place of birth Knoxville, Tenn.
 Citizen of the United States Yes
 (Yes or No)

If you are registered in any state or states, give information as follows:

State	Date of Certificate	Certif. No.	Reg. by Examination	Reg. by Exemption	Reg. by Transfer
<u>Maryland</u>	<u>July 27, 1945</u>	<u>422A</u>	<u>Yes</u>		

Has any one of your registration certificates ever been revoked?

No.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

If a graduate, give names of institutions, locations, length of time spent in each, and dates of graduation, and degree received.

Institution	Location	From	To	Date of Graduation and Degree
High School	-----	-----	-----	-----
College	-----	-----	-----	-----
University	-----	-----	-----	-----
School of Architecture	-----	-----	-----	-----
Travel, Teaching, etc.	-----	-----	-----	-----

If not a graduate, give names of institutions attended, locations, length of time spent in each and course pursued.

Institution	Location	From	To	Length of Time
High School	Maryland High Norfolk, Va	1919	1923	4 years
College	-----	-----	-----	-----
University	-----	-----	-----	-----
School of Architecture	Georgetown Washington, D.C.	1923	1927	4 years (10 credits)
Travel, Teaching, etc.	Correspondence Course	-----	-----	-----

EXPERIENCE

If you are or have been a practicing architect,--

(A) Give a complete record of your experience in the office or offices of architects where you were employed as a draftsman or assistant.

Office	Location	From	To	Kind of Work
George D. Ray	Wash, D.C.	1923	1926	Architectural Drafting
Bauman & Bauman	Knoxville, Tenn.	1926	1927	" "
Flournoy Flournoy	Wash, D.C.	1927	1928	" "
John H. Whitman	" "	1928	1932	office manager & Arch. Drafting
Private Practice	" "	1932	1931	Architectural work
Government (Engineer Board)	" "	1941	1942	Camouflage (Civil) Arch. Draftman

(B) Also give complete information as to date you commenced your own practice and firm names and locations.

Firm Name	Location	Date commenced practice
Chapman B. White	7926 Georgia Ave. Silver Spring, Md.	1932

(C) Also give a list of not less than three nor more than ten buildings actually constructed, which you designed and supervised and for which the drawings bear your name as principal.

Name and Use of Building	Location	Owner	Date of Completion
Residence - Mrs. Mrs. S. H. Jones	Fishall Rd	Mrs. & Mrs. Jones	1923
Development Plant	1250 Ohio St. S.E.	Eastman Kodak	1929
Residence	27 Kiah St.	Mrs. Mrs. Tracy Taylor	1927
Chapman B. White Hospital	Cherry Lane Rd 7926 Georgia Ave. Silver Spring	Mrs. E. E. Ruchel	1936

Name and Use of Building	Location	Owner	Date of Completion
Residence	Glentworth Rd. Bradley Hall	Frank Burton	1935
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----

If you are not or have not been a practicing architect—
 Give a complete record of your experience in the office or offices of architects where you have been employed as draftsman or assistant.

Office	Location	From	To	Kind of Work
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

REFERENCES

I submit herewith the names of three architects and in addition the names of three persons, not architects, who can certify as to my character, competency and qualifications to practice architecture.

- Name Margaret L. May Address 1223 Logan Ave. N.W.
- Name Lion Chatelain Address 1327 K. Street N.W.
- Name Jarrett C. White Address 1326-18th St. N.W.
- Name Madame E. Brown Address 1147 Logan Ave. N.W.
- Name A. J. Scullion Address 1224 Lawrence St. N.E.
- Name E. Irving Fulton Address U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Clyton B. White
 Signature of Applicant

District of Columbia, ss:

I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have read the foregoing application by me subscribed and know the contents thereof, and that the facts therein stated are true to the best of my knowledge and belief

Clyton B. White
 Signature of Applicant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of January 1946

May V. Gregg
 Signature of Notary Public or other Officer Administering Oath

A check or money order for ten (\$10.00) dollars, payable to the Treasurer, Board of Examiners must accompany this application.
 Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects.
 See page 4 for Instructions.

Please Deliver asap to Gwen Wright, thank you! 1/14/03

TO: Gwen Wright, HPC Coordinator, for HPC Staff Report
FR: Jerry McCoy, Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society, 301-585-3817

Blair Post Office, Clifton Bryan White, Architect; Beaux Arts Institute: An Enormous Success

Clifton Bryan White indicates on his Granted Application to practice architecture in Wash., D.C., 2/12/46, which Jerry McCoy faxed to you, that he attended the Beaux Arts Institute in New York City, 1923-1927. The Beaux Arts Institute, New York, was a revered, highly respected, and utilized form of education for architects, in fact, it is being emulated today by the New School for Traditional Architecture & Urbanism, <http://traditionalarchitecture.org/news.htm>, [//traditionalarchitecture.org/apologia.htm](http://traditionalarchitecture.org/apologia.htm), 843-722-0025, P.O. Box 974, Charleston, S.C., Robert Behre, 937-5771, 937-5579. (fax), rbehre@postandcourier.com, quoting:

The Virtual School

One hundred years ago, the leading American graduates of the French Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, banded together to promote the teaching of the Ecole's principles of architectural design for use in the United States. Finding little support at American universities, they founded the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, which used the offices of the top graduates of the Ecole around the country to teach interns who simultaneously studied and worked in the offices.

Design problems were mailed from the New York headquarters to students across the country. Students opened their envelopes at the same time, and postmarked their solutions no later than five p.m. four to six weeks later. The designs were then judged in New York and published in the Institute's newsletter.

The Beaux Arts Institute was an enormous success. Its graduates were accomplished and in great demand. Universities had to acknowledge that the Beaux Arts students were producing better work than their own graduates, and so most schools adopted the Beaux Arts methods of teaching. Many of America's greatest buildings and neighborhoods, built in the first half of the 20th Century, were designed by architects trained in the methods of the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

The new (Charleston, South Carolina) school will take a lesson from the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, founded a hundred years ago in New York and patterned after the Ecole des Beaux Arts, a 19th-century school of architecture in Paris that promoted historical and eclectic design on a large scale. The Beaux Arts school of thought migrated to America and had a strong influence here. The Gibbes Museum is one of Charleston's best surviving examples of this style.

The Beaux Arts Institute was a network of American graduates of the Ecole, who wanted to bring the teaching methods of the school to America, where it was ignored by the universities and their architecture schools. The Institute architects, who had offices around the country, would take local students as interns and serve as their teachers, critiquing the intern's designs for the school assignments mailed from New York.

White, Beaix Arts Institute, 1/14/03, P. 2

The New School will use similar distance-learning methods updated with the world wide web, and its curriculum will be similarly updated for America and the 21st century. While the school's instructors and students will work in several cities and communicate via the Internet, the school promises to lure dozens of talented tutors and students to the Lowcountry, at least for a few weeks at a time. "We want to bring people to Charleston," he says:

"Charleston to become architecture classroom," Monday, May 13, 2002, <http://traditionalarchitecture.org/news.htm>:

Charleston is poised to assume a greater role as a classroom for teaching future architects about how buildings were designed in the past.

The New School for Traditional Architecture and Urbanism, plans to hold its first events in the fall and its first course here early next year.

The New School will use the Internet to update this system of interns studying and working in leading offices, and combine it with periods of study when the practitioners and the interns will gather together for joint classes.

Each year-long program will start in January in Charleston, South Carolina. There we will spend a week studying the fundamentals of drawing, construction and theory, using the sterling examples of Charleston, Savannah, and the New Urban projects of the Lowcountry as our classroom.

The program will also finish in Charleston in December, with a charrette for the city led by our Board members Andres Duany, Leon Krier and Ray Gindroz. In between, we will have 6 design problems, and a week-long session during the summer in Nantucket or Rome. Successful participants will receive a certificate and AIA/CES credits. <http://traditionalarchitecture.org/apologia.htm>, 843-722-0025

"The first reason we're in Charleston is because of the mayor's encouragement and help," director John Massengale says.

"The second reason is because Charleston is such a beautiful city with so many examples of beautiful traditional architecture and urbanism.

"The third reason is because the area has so many examples of the best new urban projects, like I'On, plus the Lowcountry and Savannah. There's so much to take students to see."

White, Architect, Information, SSHS, 1/14/02, P. 2

From Marilyn Slatick & Bob Oshel's Woodside Park book:

**2 Homes on Noyes Drive, 1930's for S.J. Monk, builder,
Woodside Park Historic District, 1009 & likely 1005 Noyes**



SERVICES

PORTFOLIO

CONTACT

MICHAEL COHALAN
ARCHITECT



HOME EMAIL

BIOGRAPHY TIME LINE | CLIENT LIST

- 1939 BORN, OCTOBER 1ST; MANHATTAN, NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA
- 1944 BEGIN STUDIES; ALL HALLOWS GRAMMER SCHOOL, BRONX, NY
- 1952 GRAMMER SCHOOL DIPLOMA; CARDINAL FARLEY MILITARY ACADEMY
- 1956 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; CARDINAL FARLEY MILITARY ACADEMY, RHINECLIFF, NY

BEGIN ARCHITECTURE STUDIES; CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC
- 1959 CONSTRUCTION WORK; RODMAN, METAL LATHER'S UNION, NEW YORK CITY, NY
- 1961 RETURN TO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY; WASHINGTON, DC
- 1962 ARCHITECTURAL APPRENTICESHIP; MUSSOLINO & CAHILL, ARCHITECTS, WASHINGTON, DC,

→ CLIFTON WHITE, ARCHITECT, SILVER SPRING, MD,

WALTER BUCHER & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS, SILVER SPRING, MD
- 1963 DRIVING TOUR OF UNITED STATES WITH AMIN YOUSIF,

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE, ACTIVE DUTY; PARRIS ISLAND, SC & JACKSONVILLE, FL
- 1964 ARCHITECTURAL APPRENTICESHIP; KEYES, LETHBRIDGE & CONDON, ARCHITECTS, WASHINGTON, DC

MARRIAGE TO MARY ELLEN (MAME) KELLY, SCRANTON, PA
- 1965 BIRTH OF DAUGHTER; DEIRDRE
- 1966 TOUR OF EUROPE WITH MAME COHALAN
- 1967 ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- 1968 BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE DEGREE; CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC

MEMBERSHIP; AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, WASHINGTON, DC

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE; FLORANCE & COHALAN, AIA, ARCHITECTS, WASHINGTON, DC

ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION;

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION BOARDS,
MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, DELAWARE

1969 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE; MICHAEL J. COHALAN, AIA,
WASHINGTON, DC

BIRTH OF SON; SHANNON

1972 ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION; NEW YORK

1974 TOUR OF MEXICO WITH LANCE & NEILA WYMAN

1976 SECOND TOUR OF EUROPE WITH MAME COHALAN

1979 LECTURER; UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

1980 ARTICLE; SCIENCE 80 MAGAZINE

1981 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE; COHALAN DESIGN ASSOCIATES,
WASHINGTON, DC

1991 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE; ARCHOTECH, INC., WASHINGTON, DC

1995 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE; MICHAEL J. COHALAN, R.A., ARCHITECT,
LEWES, DE

1997 MEMBERSHIP; ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Jan 16 20 16:24

GEORGETOWN BRANCH LIBRARY 2022820236

P. 2

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P.O. Box 1160 • Silver Spring, Maryland • 20910-1160

January 15, 2003

Hon. Derick Berlage, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
JAN 16 2003

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Berlage:

The Silver Spring Historical Society would like to comment on the plan of applicant "8045 Newell Street, LLC" for "Newell Street Lofts" (Case No. 9-03000), particularly as the plan affects the former Blair Station Post Office building. We ask that our comments become part of the public record. At this point, of course, we have not yet seen the staff report.

The Silver Spring Historical Society welcomes development in the area of Silver Spring where "Newell Street Lofts" is proposed. However, we would object strongly to demolition of the original Blair Station post office (by "the original Blair Station post office" we are referring only to the structure built in 1949-1950¹ and located at 8051 Newell Street, where it intersects with Kennett Street.) We believe the Blair Station post office should be preserved, restored, and re-used.

WHY PRESERVE THE ORIGINAL BLAIR STATION POST OFFICE?

Two years ago, when the Blair Station post office was at risk of demolition, the SSSH testified in favor of preservation. What has changed since then is 1) more definitive documentation of the age of the building; and 2) recognition through listing on the County's Inventory of historically significant 20th-century structures in the Silver Spring CBD, completed last month (for this reason the Silver Spring Historical Society has nominated it to the County's Atlas of Historic Sites).

¹ Our research indicates the Blair Station post office was "established" on September 1, 1950.

We ask that the 1950 portion of Blair Station post office be preserved because we believe that this older building will enhance the ambiance appropriate to loft-style apartments (which themselves are emblematic of and celebrate a past era) - just as the architecturally significant portion of the nearby Canada Dry building will enhance the feel of those loft and English basement-style apartments. Other communities (notably Baltimore) have recognized that older functional buildings can greatly contribute this ambiance to apartment communities.

We believe the Blair Station post office is historically and architecturally significant for a number of reasons.

THE "CANADA DRY SOLUTION"

As with the Canada Dry bottling plant, we are proposing that a relatively small portion of the entire site of the Newell Street Lofts project be preserved, leaving most of the site for development. The 1950 building is only one-fifth the size of the 1954 building. We ask that the 1950 structure be preserved so that the facades along Newell Street and Kennett Street are visible.

Along Newell Street, we are referring to all three bays - the central bay and the two outer bays, including the bay angling from the central entrance at the corner of Newell and Kennett Street (described in the Inventory of 20th century buildings in the Silver Spring CBD as the bay "angled at approximately 45 degrees from the sides facing either street").

If Locational Atlas status is approved, we would wish to be flexible, as we recognize the constraints the developer faces in combining old and new. The Canada Dry preservation solution has been widely cited as an example of successful collaboration among developers, the Planning Board, the Historic Preservation Commission, the preservation community, and the community in general. We think this approach could work with the Blair Station post office.

SALVAGE IS NOT PRESERVATION

The developer has proposed "commemorating" the Blair Station facility in two ways in the plaza: with a "paving pattern to evoke postal cancellation stamp" and with a display of "architectural remnants or machinery parts from postal equipment."

These proposals are not acceptable substitutes for preservation. There can be no substitute for preservation. With all due respect to the architect, the paving pattern makes a mockery of preservation, as does the suggested "salvage" preservation. In fact, a proposal to commemorate a building is an

acknowledgment of its historical and/or architectural value. It makes sense to save machinery or machinery parts from postal equipment, but only if they are incorporated into a restored post office.

SPECIFIC OPTIONS

We urge the Planning staff and Planning Board to work with the developer to arrive at a solution that preserves the 1950 building. We see these options:

1. The Board would waive the 20 percent public-use requirement and substitute preservation of the Blair Station as meeting the requirement. Under this option, the building would remain standing in lieu of the currently planned plaza. There would be no promise to be fulfilled later by the applicant - preservation would be incorporated into the project plan. We urge the Board to extend this flexibility to the applicant. It would be ironic if a requirement intended for the good of the public nevertheless would limit an applicant's ability to accommodate preservation of a structure that marked a milestone in Silver Spring's history.
2. Preserve the structure and use it to help meet the public-use amenity space requirement. This would necessitate having the building open to the public much of the time; consequently, it would limit the possible types of uses. A museum, featuring machinery and other artifacts salvaged from the post office, and/or artifacts from the archaeological dig at the Blair Lee house site, is one such use. A post office substation might be another use.
3. Preserve the structure as an amenity outside the public-use amenity space requirement. This would require the applicant to meet the 20 percent public-use amenity quota elsewhere in the project. In return, the applicant could be allowed greater density to accommodate more loft units. If this were done (or option #1), Blair Station building could be used for whatever purpose the applicant sees fit (e.g., their condo office).

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Blair Station is historically and culturally significant

- It was the first post office built in Silver Spring following construction in 1937 of the main postal facility on Georgia Avenue.

- It is one of the markers of the post-World War II development of Silver Spring as a burgeoning suburb (Other markers of the era include the train station in 1945, the Canada Dry bottling plant in 1946, and the Hecht Company department store in 1947). The years immediately following the war were a

period of rapid suburban growth nationwide, with Silver Spring no exception. The Blair Station is physical evidence of that period, and the only *public* building that marks the period.

- It is the site of a significant step forward in mechanization of postal service, which had been postponed by the Depression and World War II. In 1957, the *Transorma*, an automated sorting machine, was pilot-tested in the adjoining section of the post office, which was added in 1954 (at 8045 Newell Street). The machine had been tested earlier, elsewhere in the United States, but Silver Spring was where the test succeeded. Officials at the time said the *Transorma* could be as history making as the Pony Express in speeding the mail.

Since 1954, the post office as a whole has consisted of the 1950 section plus the larger addition. Once the 1954 section is demolished, the original Blair Station post office at 8051 Newell will be the only remaining physical link to the use of the *Transorma*.

The Blair Station is architecturally significant

- The Blair Station post office is an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood due to its singular physical characteristics. The recently acclaimed documentary by Walter Gottlieb and the SSHS that aired on PBS, *Silver Spring: Story of an American Suburb*, demonstrates how important older examples of the built environment are in the lives of Silver Spring residents. Implicitly, the film was an argument in favor of preserving the physical evidence of our past. The Blair Station post office was depicted in the film in the context of the dramatic postwar suburban growth.

- Post offices are one of the few places in which citizens have the opportunity to interact (amicably) with their federal government on a day-to-day basis. By meeting a public need for half a century (until 1999), the Blair Station post office not only became a familiar and useful feature of its largely residential neighborhood, but also a friendly one. In the Silver Spring CBD are other types of structures dating from the mid-20th century: a bottling plant, a train station, and a department store. The Blair Station would add a mid-century post office - a federal government structure - to that body of architecture.

- We make no claim that this small, humble, workaday structure is the Silver Spring equivalent of Versailles. It is vernacular architecture, but many architectural historians have celebrated that category. Intended to meet a public need, the Blair Station post office is a functional building, nevertheless distinctive

in blending architectural styles and types of materials. The Inventory cites its "unusual combination" of Neoclassical and International themes and its departure from the stark simplicity of the International Style through use of rustic stone facing and massive windows and door surrounds. As far as we know, it is unique in the County.

- It's possible that the design of the building was part of the shift in building criteria specified by the federal government for post offices after World War II. Post offices became prominent examples of the dictum that "form follows function." When the General Services Administration was established in 1949 and took over public-building functions, the Commissioner instructed that designs be simplified. One of the first building types affected were post offices, which began to feature clean lines and to eliminate such "frills" as exterior steps.²

In scale, the Blair Station post office is a good fit with the apartment buildings and single-family dwellings (the latter in Washington, DC) adjacent to it or nearby. Up until the facility ceased operations, postal employees placed pots of African violets in the windows. This use would not have been well accommodated in a building larger in scale. Preservation would offer a transition and welcome relief from the far larger scale of the proposed project behind it. Preservation would provide some physical continuity with Silver Spring's history as the suburb undergoes change in this century.

THE SILVER SPRING CBD 20TH CENTURY INVENTORY - AND PRESERVATION

The ink is barely dry on the Inventory of 20th century buildings in the Silver Spring CBD. Only one month after the Inventory's completion, a building listed on it is in imminent danger of demolition. To our knowledge, the Blair Station post office is the first building on the Inventory to be at risk. The architectural and historic merits of the Blair Station, and its function in the South Silver Spring neighborhood over the years, are without question. David Berg, developer of the Inventory, included the Blair Station post office among the buildings considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

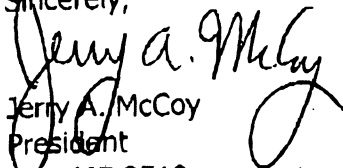
For these reasons, aside from the building's merits, it would be sad indeed if the Board rejected preservation while approving the project. If that happens, the entire preservation community in this County could only conclude that the Inventory is irrelevant as a tool to promote preservation.

² Lee, Antoinette J., *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000:286.

We respectfully suggest a Canada Dry preservation solution will work for the Newell Street Lofts project and we would be pleased to work with the applicant and the Board to that end.

Thank you for your interest and attention.

Sincerely,



Jerry A. McCoy

President

301.565.2519

sshistory@yahoo.com

www.sshistory.org

#7



Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce

8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 203 · Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(301) 565-3777 · FAX (301) 565-3377

January 15, 2003

Mr. Derick P. Berlage, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2003

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Berlage:

The Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce (GSSCC) has recently seen a presentation of the condominium housing project proposed for 8045 Newell Street by Patriot Group LLC.

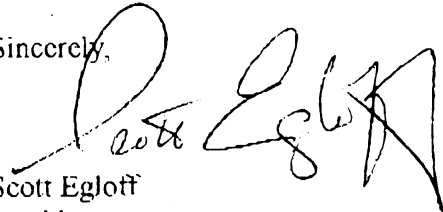
Patriot Group's project is beneficial to Silver Spring for several reasons. First, it includes market rate units, almost exclusively, in an area that has a significant shortage of market rate housing. Second, the project will be the area's first condominium in an area where hundreds of new rental units will be built in the next few years. Third, along with the other housing projects under development in the area, Patriot Group's project will help to enliven South Silver Spring, and bring valuable activity to downtown Silver Spring.

It has come to our attention, however, that the January approval hearing for the project was delayed due to an application for historic designation for the former Blair Station Post Office that was located on the site. We understand that the application has been made not as much for the historic significance of the Blair Station Post Office building, as for machinery that was used in the building but removed many years ago.

While GSSCC acknowledges the value of preserving truly significant historic properties, we are very concerned that applications for historic designation can also become serious impediments to progress for Silver Spring. Historic designation based on long-gone equipment housed in a particular building does not, in our estimation, justify delaying or preventing valuable, needed redevelopment from moving forward, and we urge you to oppose designation of this site.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We hope the Planning Board will expedite the now-delayed process for approval of the Patriot Group condominium project.

Sincerely,


Scott Eglott
President

c: Steven Spurlock, Historic Preservation Commission
Robert Kronenberg, M-NCPPC



Woodside Park Civic Association

1509 Dale Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
January 17, 2003

Mr. Steven Spurlock, Chairman
Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
1109 Spring Spring Street, Suite 801
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chairman Spurlock:

The Woodside Park Civic Association voted on January 8 to support preservation of the 1950 Blair Post Office at Newell and Kennett Streets in Silver Spring and its listing on the County's Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites.

We are aware that a project plan has been submitted to the Park and Planning Commission for construction of a condominium community of loft-style apartments. We welcome the addition of housing in the Silver Spring Central Business District, but we would hope that the plan could combine old with new, as in the plan for the nearby Canada Dry site. Locational Atlas status for the post office would provide a measure of protection to the building.

Aside from concern raised by the project plan, we believe the building merits listing on the Atlas because of its place in the history of Silver Spring. The documentary history of Silver Spring that aired recently on public television placed great emphasis on Silver Spring's expansion and building boom after World War II. The former Blair Post Office was constructed to serve our suburb's rapidly growing population. The 1950 post office, like the neighborhood of Woodside Park, was deemed important enough to be shown in the film.

Members of our association who also belong to the Silver Spring Historical Society have informed us that the Blair Post Office was the site of the first successful U.S. pilot testing of the TRANSORMA, which was a significant step in the automation of mail sorting. If the loft project goes forward, the actual TRANSORMA site in the 1954 part of the building will definitely be demolished, but the 1950 portion--which was after all the entrance to the post office--could serve as a remembrance. We understand also that the architect, Clifton White, was in a sense one of our own, having designed homes in the Silver Spring-Bethesda area. Our neighborhood contains a Tudor-style home designed by Mr. White.

Since the 1950 post office was selected from the recently completed survey of 20th century Silver Spring buildings as being a possible candidate for National Register eligibility, Atlas listing would be a good precedent. We urge you to add the former Blair Post Office to the Locational Atlas.

Sincerely,

Chuck Dolan
President, Woodside Park Civic Association



Woodside Park Civic Association

1509 Dale Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
January 17, 2003

Derick Berlage, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
JAN 21 2003

RE: Plan for "Newell Street Lofts" (Case No. 9-03000)

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Berlage:

The Woodside Park Civic Association voted on January 8 to support preservation of the 1950 Blair Post Office at the corner of Newell and Kennett Streets in Silver Spring and its listing on the County's Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites.

We are aware that a project plan has been submitted to the Park and Planning Commission for construction of a condominium community of loft-style apartments. We welcome the addition of housing in the Silver Spring Central Business District, but we would hope that the plan could combine old with new, as in the plan for the nearby Canada Dry site. Incorporation of an early 1950s-era building would likely enhance the setting for loft apartments, while retaining a physical remnant of Silver Spring's history.

The documentary history of Silver Spring that aired recently on public television placed great emphasis on Silver Spring's expansion and building boom after World War II. The former Blair Post Office was constructed to serve our suburb's rapidly growing population and is therefore among Silver Spring's historical markers. The 1950 post office, like the neighborhood of Woodside Park, was deemed important enough to be shown in the film.

Members of our association who also belong to the Silver Spring Historical Society have informed us that the Blair Post Office was the site of the first successful U.S. pilot testing of the TRANSORMA, which was a significant step in the automation of mail sorting. If the loft project goes forward, the actual TRANSORMA site in the 1954 part of the building will definitely be demolished, but the 1950 portion--which was after all the entrance to the post office--could serve as a remembrance. We understand also that the architect, Clifton White, was in a sense one of our own, having designed homes in the Silver Spring-Bethesda area. Our neighborhood contains a Tudor-style home designed by Mr. White.

Since the 1950 post office was selected from the recently completed survey of 20th century Silver Spring buildings as being a possible candidate for National Register eligibility, preservation of this property would be a good precedent. We urge you to incorporate preservation of this corner into the requirements for approval of the plan.

Sincerely,

Chuck Dolan
President, Woodside Park Civic Association



LEE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Lee Plaza, 8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20910

January 21, 2003

Derrick Berlage, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2003

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Re: 8045 Newell Street, Patriot Group, LLC Project

Dear Mr. Berlage:

The downtown Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Board met and voted to support Patriot Group, LLC's proposed condominium housing project for 8045 Newell Street in downtown Silver Spring.

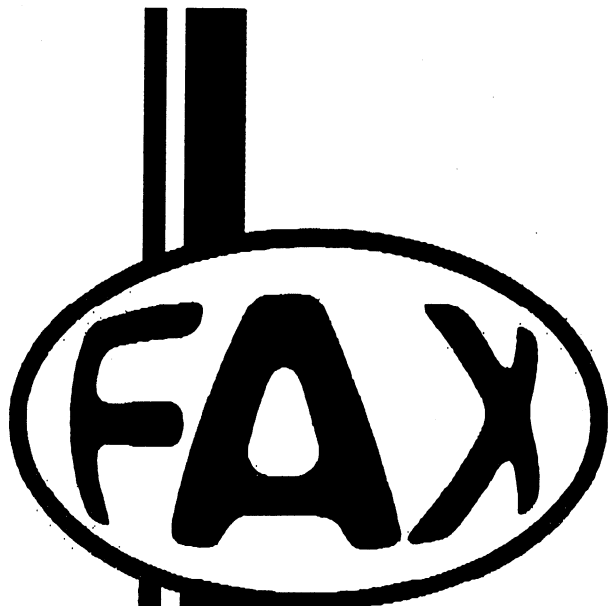
This housing project will be an added benefit to the revitalization efforts going on in the central business district of Silver Spring, especially in the southern part of the district. This is an exciting project, as it will be the first condominium project in our area to add needed housing units to downtown.

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that Patriot Group, LLC's project was removed from Park & Planning's January agenda so that it could be considered for historic designation. The property is the site of the former Blair Station Post Office, which apparently at one point in time, had some machinery housed there that may have had some historic significance. The members of the Advisory Board respect and appreciate historic significance of properties, but this is going too far. We urge you to oppose the application for historic designation for this site. We greatly appreciate your attention to our concerns. It is our hope that the Planning Board will approve the now delayed schedule for Patriot Group's condominium project.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Lee, Chair
Silver Spring Urban District

cc: Steven Spurlock, Historic Preservation Commissions
Robert Kronenberg, M-MCPPC



To GWEN WRIGHT & HPC COMMISSIONERS

Fax Number 301-563-3412

Phone Number

From MARCIE STICKLE

Fax Number 301-585-1555

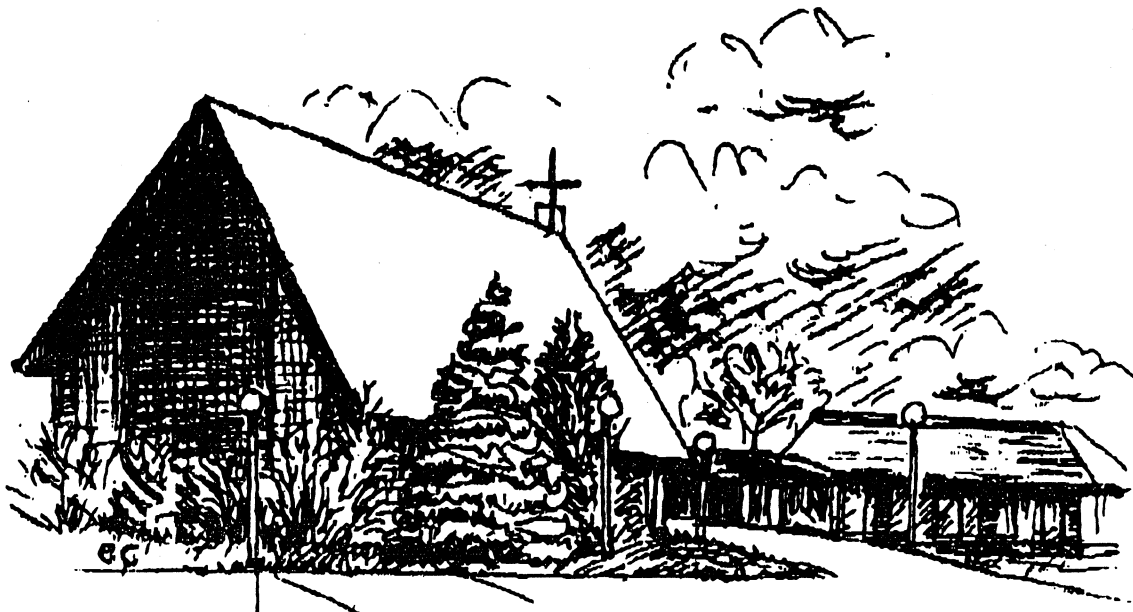
Phone Number 301-585-3817

Subject BLAIR POST OFFICE TESTIMONY, 1/22/03

Number of Pages 13

Date 1/22/03

Message Gwen, Please distribute my Blair Post Office Testimony asap to HPC Commissioners for tonight's hearing, appreciate it, photos on top, written statement within, thanks! Marcie, 301-585-3817



ROCKVILLE
 UNITED CHURCH
 Clifton Bryan White, Architect

TO: HPC Commissioners

Marcie Stickle, Member, SSAS
 301-585-3817, 1/22/03

Marcie Stickle, Member, SSAS
 301-585-3817, 1/22/03

SHANNON & LUCHS
 Agents
 1505 H St. N.W. NA. 2345

Kenwood



WHILE the wonderful display of Japanese Cherry Blossoms in Kenwood is now a painful memory until next Spring, the Dog-wood and Tulips will soon be in bloom on the site of this incomparable residential community. Where beauty is concerned Kenwood has no season.

CAPTURE to yourself the joy of living and rearing your family in such exalting surroundings, and remember the Kenwood Golf and Country Club will provide almost every recreational facility at your door.

DIVE out to Kenwood and let us show you the homes nearing completion. If you have your own ideas or plans for homes, you will agreeably be surprised at the low price for which you can acquire a home site in this highly restricted community.

Edg-Chamberlin Development Co

KENWOOD OFFICE,
 KENNEDY DRIVE AND CHAMBERLIN AVE.
 Wisconsin 4425

Kenwood, drive out Connecticut Avenue to Cherry Chase Circle, through Simitar to Kenwood, or out Wisconsin to Dorset Avenue, west on Dorset Avenue through Kenwood, or out Connecticut or Wisconsin Avenue to Bradley Lane and west on Bradley Lane to Kenwood.

These homes are artistic and livable. Center-hall plan of whitewashed brick, Williamsburg Colonial and real Dutch Colonial in design. Modern in construction.

Prices are moderate. My personal representative on premises will be glad to furnish all information with no obligation on your part whatever.

We urge you to inspect this unusual group of new homes
OPEN DAILY AND SUNDAY



M. B. SWANSON
 OWNER E. B. TOOLE, SALES BUILDER

Just Completed



607 South Noyes Drive
 Woodside Park, Silver Spring, Md.

Investigate -- locality, construction, lowest cost financing. Ultra-modern all brick and stone houses. Six spacious rooms (attic over entire house). Three (twin-bed) bed rooms. Ample closet space. Two luxurious baths. (BATH ROOM FLOORS WATER-PROOFED; PREVENTS STAINED CEILING.) Large "sunshine" kitchen, breakfast nook. Steel windows and screens. Drain tile around entire foundation insures dry cellar. Copper flashing built into the masonry over every window and outside doors

prevents seepage. No. 1 HEAVY UNFADING VERMONT SLATE ROOF. Copper water piping, flashing, gutters and downspouts. Furred walls (FELTED OUTSIDE WALLS UNDER THE FURRING DOUBLES THE WALL EFFICIENCY IN RETAINING HEAT) AND KEEPING OUT ANTS, VERMIN, ETC. weather stripping, caulking, etc. Fully air conditioned, 100% insulated. Comfort free with modern gas appliances.

We will finance first trust at 5%—\$6.60 per thousand

Directions—Take Parkway Exit at traffic light at Elroy Avenue and turn left at second corner. Open today and every week day 9 P.M. to 9 P.M.—Monday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.

Clifton White, Architect

For Sale by **S. J. Monk, Builder—Geo. 2435**

1009 Noyes Drive

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1937.

REAL ESTATE

**ORS HELP
 P RIII NINC**

insure a sound structure that will stand up and meet all mortgage eligibility requirements. We are constantly on the lookout for little details that do not cost much money but have a great importance in relation to the durability of the structure.

belong. In recent years, merchandising of residential property has placed too much stress on gadgets and novel appliances and too little on the actual house itself. It is a part of our task to see that builders pay more attention to those elements behind the plaster and shingles—things that

have been very gratifying. Technical details insisted upon by Licensing Administration architectural inspectors include the following: bracing of frames by diagonal sheathing or let-in corner braces (heretofore horizontal sheathing was frequently used with no braces); encouragement

of better materials; insistence upon adequate ventilation for unobstructed areas to prevent dry rot and termite infestation; better mortar and concrete; encouragement of water proofing and damp proofing in basements; compliance with local building codes; wiring, plumbing and heating

Marcie Stickle, SWS, MEMBER 17, 1/2/03

Attractive Northeast Home Sold



Home at 1701 Twenty-fourth street northeast, purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Waller J. Hunt of Small Construction Co., builders.

EDITOR DISCUSSES CITY LIFE CHANGE

Revolution in Social and Economic Trends Reported.

Special Director to The Mar. NEW YORK, N. Y., May 15.—A revolution of social and economic trends is rapidly changing the form of America's urban civilization, according to James P. Duvine, Jr., of Chicago, editor in chief of the Journal of Real Estate Management.

Addressing the Central Atlantic regional convention of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, here today, Duvine said:

"Social trends are even more important to real estate than economic trends because, after all, real estate value and fluctuation of real estate use are based on manifestations of the current life and on movements of population.

"In the change going on in the pattern of our urban civilization, these matters are of the greatest importance to real estate use and to the real estate value:

"1. Increased rate of population growth. Prior to the most typical American cities about every 10 years, since that time the rate of growth has steadily declined.

"2. The size of the average family

has been in a steady decline since 1880. It is now down to the point where the typical family has only one child.

"Most cities grew from the course of ordinary population growth (summed of births over deaths) plus a substantial immigration. In the typical American city the percentage of foreign born used to range from 30 to 40 per cent of the total population, this contributed to the pattern of growth. At the time this influx was taking place racial and language influences were potent. There was a steady replacement of population at the bottom, a circling chain of so the typical American past of steadily increasing standards of living.

"The cessation of immigration changes all of this.

"3. Recent real estate housing activity has been confined almost entirely to the upper economic strata. Builders have been taking the frosting of the economic cake. And continued housing activity must be designed to reach those mass markets of the kind exploited by Bears Road, General Motors, and like industrial efforts.

"Eighty per cent of our urban fam-

ilies have loosened from totaling only \$200 per year this market which the re- reach if any large-scale be gram is to result.

"Low interest rates and limitation seem to be the or providing such a possi years of research in buildi have given us few technic motifs which promise such coor as to greatly widen th housing construction and new buildings be need."

Tomato Plants Cro
Tomatoes from Germany
America are being crossed
for the purpose of producing
early-maturing variety.

SALESMEN!

A real proposition for a good man. Respected waterfront development and desirable local property.

Harry A. Oikler Co.
1114 N. K. St. N.W. W. A. 3187

Realty

(Continued From First Page)

housing available for citizens of all income groups be called for action to remove the principal deterrents, which he listed as three: Original cost, including both land and construction cost, variable charges that are too high, including interest rates, and the dissemination requirements, and the disadvantages to home ownership caused by such factors as the slow spread of blighted areas in cities.

After that the Home Builders' Guild will go far in reducing building costs. He held the spread of blighted areas as the greatest menace to urban real estate.

Other speakers spoke for passage of the Wagner-Dooley bill, for having Congress, which would create a national mortgage clearing bank. This bill is sponsored by the national association and member boards.

Specialized groups of the association, such as appraisers, lenders and property managers, were to hold the center of the stage this afternoon. A banquet tonight, during which Catholic and State again were listed to speak, was to furnish concluding business to the convention, which in addition to Washington, embraces inclusive of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Members of the Washington delegation are expected to return to the Capital tomorrow.

The national president, as well as

The mudlet movement is growing rapidly in Britain.

Highly Moody of Bethesda
Although Township of Ca
On the first floor, in
the customary living room,
kitchen, there is an
study, and one of
features of the house.
small room. This latter
New central to the re-
the house, has been fur-
modern style with metal
polished in leather, and
chairs over a grey cover-
dressed silver paper.
There bed rooms on the
one of which has been
as a nursery. Additional
vied by a recreation room
and a large, covered
patio.

Only One of Kind.
Keeping still in Minn
to be followed by some
only one of its kind in
the

Assessed Corner
Only \$9,500
Than First Tract
Conn. Ave.
Chase, Md.
Brooms—2 Baths
—Lot 70x100
—Fully constructed with fire-
—Living room sun room
—2 full baths 4 bedrooms
—Porches on second floor
—Kitchen and maid's room
—Full and full in front
—Full and full in back
JUST BE SOLD
Today & Sunday
T. Gravatte
Realtor NA. 0753



A Beauty of a Home in
Highland View—Sligo Park
1721 Flower Avenue

Exclusive restrictions as to purchasers. Rigid regulations as to type and cost of homes erected. Paved streets—with no excess ment to buyers. Only 2 blocks from Sligo Park. Direct bus service to downtown. Stores, schools, theaters, etc., handy.

On a large lot—84x117 feet—5 delightful rooms and modernly equipped bath; all heat; attic that is roughed in for such partitioning as you may want to make.

This home is only \$8,750 Other homes up to \$10,500

One of Two Superior New Homes Just Completed in Beautiful Woodside Park, Silver Spring, Md.



605 South Noyes Drive

—A FEW FEATURES—

- 6 Large Rooms
- 2 Baths
- Full Attic
- 3 Twin Bedrooms
- Large Sunshine Kitchen
- Steel Windows and Screens
- Breakfast Nook
- Copper Flashings and Pipes
- Vermont Slate Roof
- Furred Walls
- Weatherstripped
- Air Conditioned

"Carefree Comfort With Modern Gas Appliances"
We will finance first trust at 5%—\$6.60 per thousand
Directions—Take Coburnville Pike at traffic light at Silver Spring and turn left at second corner. Open today and every week day 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.—Sundays 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

For Sale by S. J. Monk, Builder
Geo. 2433
Brokers Protected.



A FINE

There are a great many advantages in Some of these try Club with as golf, swim doors of the tractions, the atmosphere a sensed by the the community.

Call our Field and let us show the home that your dreams, construction requirements.

Kennedy-Cha

KENNEDY DI

To reach Kenned, drive west on Orffton Street in Avenue to Dorcas corner to Kenwood to Bradley Lane

1005 Noyes
A Home to Grow
Marcie Stickle, Member, S.S.A.S., 301-585-3819

U.S. Blair Post Office Station Deserves Locational Atlas Status
Architect, Clifton Bryan White; Marcie Stickle, SSHS Member. Before HPC, 1/22/03

The U.S. Blair Station Post Office deserves Locational Atlas Status (to protect it); it is a landmark structure at national, state, county, and local levels, serving the public for 50 years (1950-1999); and also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, 12/02.

It is an intrinsic part of the Mo Co Certified Heritage Tourism Management Area, in the Technology & Innovation Cluster, along the B&O R.R. line, on the verge of being approved 1/24/03 by the State of Md. Heritage Authority.

It is an intrinsic vital component of the historic nexus converging at the intersection of East West Hwy, Kennett & Newell Sts., & Blair Mill Rd, at "hallowed" ground, embracing: S.S.'s founder, Francis Preston Blair's original glittering "silver spring," discovered 1840; Acorn Park with its 1850's gazebo, site of Blair's 20-room estate, and prominent Civil War site; the newly restored 1945 B&O R.R. Station and Visitors Center; 1948 Art Deco influenced underpass with double staircase leading up to the train station; Walter Monroe Corey's 1946 Streamline Moderne Canada Dry Bldg.; art deco Spring Garden Apartments; and architect Clifton Bryan White's 1949/1950 Blair Station P.O., site of the innovative "Transorma," first automated mail sorting device successfully tested 1956 in the U.S.

Francis Preston Blair, advisor to 12 U.S. presidents, made certain that the B&O R.R.'s first stop in Md. would be in Silver Spring, "literally in the backyard of his estate."

As part of Heritage Tourism, the U.S. Postal theme is vivid here at the National, State, County, and local levels. The U.S. Blair Station P.O. is a living tribute to the founding Blair family, who sold their land for the P.O. at this esteemed site; and especially to Montgomery Blair and his son Gist Blair.

Montgomery Blair was Abe Lincoln's innovative and first U.S. Postmaster General during the Civil War. (As a courageous lawyer, he defended the slave Dred Scott before the U.S. Supreme Court, and found able counsel for and contributed to the defense of the abolitionist John Brown, of Harper's Ferry notoriety.) As Postmaster General, he instituted moving railway post offices, using the railroad to deliver the mail free directly to U.S. homes, sorting the mail en-route in the railway cars. This innovation was so successful that Congress authorized funding for a national postal railway system by 1864 (Silver Spring Success, by Richard Jaffeson, 7/96). Mo Blair also established uniform Postal rates throughout the world.

Because of his bold actions towards the Confederacy during the Civil War, his nearby estate The Falklands was torched and burned to the ground it is reported by Confederate General Jubal Early's troops in 1864. While his home was being rebuilt, Blair lived at The Moorings Estate, now Jesup Blair Park and House, amidst the ancient oak trees, also on the B&O R.R. line, another landmark in the Heritage Tourism Technology & Innovation Cluster.

Gist Blair, Mo Blair's son, was installed in 1899 as Postmaster of Silver Spring, by President McKinley.

Silver Spring along B&O R.R. is a prominent Civil War Site, and at nexus described above: Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's troops encamping, marching and fighting along now Ga. Ave. in his ultimate inexorable goal of the Nation's Capital; foiled at nearby reinforced Fort Stevens.

Stickle, Blair P.O., 1/22/03 P. 2

It is 1949, Congress authorizes \$60,000 for a new Post Office in Silver Spring. M. Cladney Construction Co. wins the bid; enter Clifton Bryan White who is their choice for architect; he likely (competitively) bld on the job, perhaps through a design contest. He wins the honor to design a new U.S. Post Office, which goes on to serve the public for 50 years.

In 1949, also, the General Services Administration was established; and taking over public building functions, instructs that designs be simplified, post offices being one of the first bldg. types affected (which began to feature clean lines and to eliminate such "frills" as exterior steps.) (Judy Reardon, quoting from Lee, Antoinette J., *Architects to the Nation: The Rise & Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*, N.Y., Oxford U. Press, 2000.286.)

White and his company met the challenge of a \$60,000 budget: How much to the architect? How much to materials? How much to workers? White created a U.S. Post Office for the people, nestled into a largely residential neighborhood, a vernacular structure, by a self-made, skillfully-trained versatile architect, whose name appeared earlier in advertisements for his Woodside Park, S.S., homes!

Better to have an authentic historic structure, a U.S. Post Office, than an anonymous kiosk!

Clifton Bryan White, born Knoxville, Tenn., 1890 - 1962+, (raised in Richmond/Norfolk), chose well those he apprenticed with (1923-1932): George N. Ray and John J. Whelan, based in Wash., D.C., were prolific and skilled architects of institutional, residential, and commercial buildings, their drawings and other information are housed and accessible at the Library of Congress. Likewise, the architects White chose as references to expand his architectural practicing license from Md. to D.C. include Leon Chatelain, Maurice S. May, Jarrett C. White, also prolific and skilled architects of institutional, residential, and commercial buildings, whose works are collected and accessible at the Library of Congress. (See [www. memory. loc.gov/pp/ade/Authors](http://www.memory.loc.gov/pp/ade/Authors).) (George N. Ray did extensive design work on Riggs Bank Bldgs., Wash., D.C.)

He trained also, 1923-1927, with the acclaimed Beaux Arts Institute, headquartered in New York City. "The Beaux Arts Institute was an enormous success.. Its graduates were accomplished and in great demand. . . Many of America's greatest buildings and neighborhoods, built in the first half of the 20th Century, were designed by architects trained in the methods of the Ecole des Beaux Arts," (New School for Traditional Architecture & Urbanism, [www. traditionalarchitecture. org/new. htm](http://www.traditionalarchitecture.org/new.htm); www.traditionalarchitecture.org/apoplogia.htm, 843-722-0025, Charleston, S.C.)

"One hundred years ago, leading American graduates of the French Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, banded together to promote the teaching of the Ecole's principles of architectural design for use in the U.S. . . . They founded the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, which used offices of the top graduates of the Ecole around the country to teach interns who simultaneously studied and worked in the offices. . . . Designs were judged in New York, and published in the Institute's Newsletter." "The original Ecole was a 19th century school of architecture in Paris that promoted historical and eclectic design on a large scale . . . The Gibbes Museum is one of Charleston, S.C.'s best surviving examples of the style." (Citation above; see enclosure for more info.; www.culture.fr/ENSBA/History.) The Ecole continues to thrive today 2003 in Paris.

Stickle, Blair P.O., 1/22/03 P. 3

In 1932, White opened his own practice in College Park, Md., subsequently moving his offices to different locations in Silver Spring, Md., including 7906 Ga. Ave. He achieved AIA membership, 1947. His versatile works include churches, residences, commercial and industrial buildings, and one U.S. Post Office.

At least one residence, 1932, is in the historic district of Chevy Chase, Kirk St., at least one, 1933, on Foxhall Rd., Wash., D.C., and two are in the potential historic district of Woodside Park, S.S., 1005 and 1009 Noyes Drive. Two 1937 *Washington Star* real estate advertisements, enclosed, tout Clifton White's "Just Completed" ultra-modern all brick and stone, "heavy unfading" Vermont slate-roofed, fully air conditioned houses, with gas appliances:

"Investigate—locality, construction, lowest cost financing. Ultra-modern all brick and stone houses. Six spacious rooms (attic over entire house). Three (twin-bed) bed rooms. Ample closet space. Two luxurious baths. (Bathroom floors waterproofed, prevents stained ceilings.) Large "sunshine" kitchen, breakfast nook. Steel windows and screens. Drain tile around entire foundation insures dry cellar. Copper flashing built into the masonry over every window and outside doors prevents seepage. No. 1 heavy unfading Vermont slate roof. Copper water piping, flashing gutters and downspouts. Furred walls. (Felted outside walls under the furring doubles the wall efficiency in retaining heat and keeping out ants, vermin, etc.) Weather stripping, etc.) Fully air conditioned, 100% Insulated. Carefree comfort with modern gas appliances. . . Clifton White, Architect, For Sale by S.J. Monk, Builder." Each house includes a stone fireplace seen in the ads' photos, enclosed, 4/24/37.

Also, "One of Two Superior New Homes Just Completed in Beautiful Woodside Park, Silver Spring, Md." (The Evening Star, Wash., D.C., Sat., 5/15/37).

Two of his churches are A-frame: St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 3820 Aspen Hill Rd., Wheaton, Md., 301-871-7660 (o), dedicated 1959, and Rockville United (Presbyterian) Church, originally St. Andrews Presbyterian, 355 Linthicum St. at Farragut St., Rockville, Md., 301-424-6733 (o), constructed 1961. Of red brick, floor to ceiling windows, angled roof implying a spire, natural wood in interior, soft glow of amber, golden light infusing in, a "quiet, contemplative place" (Marilyn Slatick visit, 1/21/03). See enclosed list of other notable works, including the Waters Memorial Church Parish Hall, Frederick, Md., 1962; and an apartment development with Y-shaped buildings in Prince George's County.

Michael Cohalan, Delaware- and former D.C.-based architect, whose first job was as an apprentice for White, 1962, says that White was a "gregarious, large man, tall, silver haired, handsome, good looking, and friendly," and notes his apprenticeship with White on his Web site resume, at www.michaelcohalan.com/bio.htm. White served as Cohalan's reference for his architectural registration. (Cohalan's wife painted the historic murals on side of the Caldor bldg.) (1/21/03, conversation with Marcie Stickle, SSSH.)

White is a notable architect, and has designed a distinctive vernacular U.S. Post Office building for the people, skillfully meeting the challenge of a limited budget and instructions from the new GSA for simplification of public buildings. It is a unique, one-of-a kind U.S. Post Office in all of Mo Co's Heritage Tourism (to be Certified) Management Area, specifically in the Technology & Innovation Cluster. There is no other!

Stickle, Blair P.O., 1/22/03 P. 4

Better to have an authentic historic structure, a U.S. Post Office, than an anonymous kiosk!

George Kephart, former P&P Commissioner from the 1970's said at a recent MPI Awards Dinner that what we have in Mo County are the treasures we have, let's cherish, enjoy and promote them.

We celebrate what it is we do have, we hold it precious, and arrive at a creative adaptive reuse; Canada Dry Bottling Plant as our model, which we know we can attain also with the Patriot Group's exciting new lofts project! Let's work together towards an innovative common goal and adaptive reuse. Let's work creatively together on "common ground" blending the best of the old with the best of the new. We can do it!

Marcie Stickle, Member, SSSS, 301-585-3817
8515 Greenwood Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

Footnotes:

1. *Home Sites of Distinction, The History of Woodside Park*, by Robert Oshel & Marilyn S. Slatick, 1998, Published by Woodside Park Civic Association

Please Deliver asap to Gwen Wright, thank you! 1/14/03

TO: Gwen Wright, HPC Coordinator, for HPC Staff Report

FR: Jerry McCoy, Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society, 301-585-3817

RE: Clifton Bryan White, Architect, Blair Station P.O.

Information received from U.S. Postal Service Historian:

Clifton B. White

Business Address: 7906 Georgia Avenue (in 1947)

Elected to the American Institute of Architects on Feb. 14, 1947

Born: Knoxville, Tenn.

Licensed to practice architecture in Maryland and District of Columbia

Education: Attended Maury High in Norfolk, VA for four years

Beaux Arts Institute of Design

Apprenticed with: George N. Ray - D.C. 1923

Ben Flournoy - D.C.

Bowman & Bowman - Knoxville, Tenn.

John J. Whelan - D.C.

Information from Isabelle Gournay, researching architecture in metro area at the U. of Md:

White, Clifton B, Knoxville, Tenn 1890-1962, raised Richmond/Norfolk

DC worked in offices / studied at night schools

and active in Washington Architectural Club

opened office in College Park 1932

source: PVA December 1957

Among his works:

Bryan Building

Sidney Graves' home, 1933, Foxhall Road, Wash., D.C.

St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aspen Hill Road, Wheaton, c.1959

Wheeler, Inc. 4800 Wisconsin Ave NW, Wash., D.C.

Eastman Kodak Processing Plant, Wash., DC

East-West Motors, Silver Spring, Md.

Waters Memorial Church Parish Hall, Frederick, c.1962

Community Paint & Hardware Warehouse, Bethesda, c. 1961

Professional Arts Building, East-West Highway, Silver Spring, c.1963

St. Andrews United Presbyterian Church, Farragut Avenue and Linthicum Avenue near

Twinbrook Shopping Center, Rockville, 1962 (PVA 6/61) A-frame

Apartment development, PG (Y-shaped buildings) Note: Nancy Urban research 2 items above

From his Granted Architectural Application, Wash., D.C., 2/12/46, his works include:

Mr. & Mrs. Graves' Home, Foxhall Rd., D.C., 1933

Eastman Kodak Development Plant, 1350 Ohlo St., N.E., D.C., 1939

Home, 27 or 22 Kirk St., Chevy Chase, Md., 1933, now an Historic District, his handwriting here is difficult to read,

Ambassador Animal Hospital, 7931 Ga. Ave., S.S., 1936

From Bob Oshel's & Marilyn Slatick *Home Sites of Distinction: History of Woodside Park, 1998*

2 Homes, 1009 & 1005 Noyes Drive, 1937, for S.J. Monk, builder

Dec 05 02 03:08p

p. 3

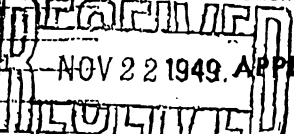
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT

Erect THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Repair
Alter
Extend
Move
Raze



APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

Permit No. 5955

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S OFFICE SILVER SPRING, MD.

Date Nov 22

Application is hereby made for a building permit as follows:

Owner Silver Spring Property Management, Inc. Phone Sat 2400

Address Newell Road, Box 391, S/S

PROPOSED STRUCTURE: Election District 13th Town S/S

House Number _____ Street Newell St at KENNETH Silver Spring

Lot No. _____ Block Part Parcel 25C Subdivision Part of Parcel 25C

Zone Classification Commercial Intended Use of Structure Post Office Annex

Building Width 60 Depth 75 Height 24 Story 1 Basement None

No. Families _____ No. Rooms _____ No. Baths _____ No. Lavatories ✓

Size Footings _____ Foundation Walls 12" Main Structure _____
Type of material Poured Gypsum Type of material

Roof Steel Deck Heating Plant Space Heaters

Garage: No. Cars _____ Construction of _____ Detached _____ Attached _____ Built-in _____

Utilities: Water OK Electricity OK Gas OK Sewer OK Septic Permit No. _____

Estimated Cost of Construction \$ 460,000

Contractor M. Glavin Const. Co. Address 435 F St NW

Architect C. B. White Address Box 134 SV

Remarks LINE STAIN & RUBBLE FACING - STEEL FRAME - MASONRY

Slab Floor

Approved } as to Zoning only
 Rejected } By commission
[Signature] 11/23/49
 Chief Engineer Date

Owner Daniel J. [Signature] 11/22/49
 Agent Signature Date
 Approved as to plans and building code compliance

 Building Inspector Date

CAUTION

To begin construction before a building permit placard has been issued and displayed on the job is a violation of the law.

Permit Fee \$ 57.00 check 3/23

TWO SETS OF PLANS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION

Please Deliver asap to Gwen Wright, thank you! 1/14/03

TO: Gwen Wright, HPC Coordinator, for HPC Staff Report

FR: Jerry McCoy, Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society, 301-585-3817

Blair Post Office, Clifton Bryan White, Architect; Beaux Arts Institute: An Enormous Success

Clifton Bryan White indicates on his Granted Application to practice architecture in Wash., D.C., 2/12/46, which Jerry McCoy faxed to you, that he attended the Beaux Arts Institute in New York City, 1923-1927. The Beaux Arts Institute, New York, was a revered, highly respected, and utilized form of education for architects, in fact, it is being emulated today by the New School for Traditional Architecture & Urbanism, <http://traditionalarchitecture.org/news.htm>, <http://traditionalarchitecture.org/apologia.htm>, 843-722-0025, P.O. Box 974, Charleston, S.C., Robert Behre, 937-5771, 937-5579. (fax), rbehre@postandcourier.com, quoting:

The Virtual School

One hundred years ago, the leading American graduates of the French Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, banded together to promote the teaching of the Ecole's principles of architectural design for use in the United States. Finding little support at American universities, they founded the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, which used the offices of the top graduates of the Ecole around the country to teach interns who simultaneously studied and worked in the offices.

Design problems were mailed from the New York headquarters to students across the country. Students opened their envelopes at the same time, and postmarked their solutions no later than five p.m. four to six weeks later. The designs were then judged in New York and published in the Institute's newsletter.

The Beaux Arts Institute was an enormous success. Its graduates were accomplished and in great demand. Universities had to acknowledge that the Beaux Arts students were producing better work than their own graduates, and so most schools adopted the Beaux Arts methods of teaching. Many of America's greatest buildings and neighborhoods, built in the first half of the 20th Century, were designed by architects trained in the methods of the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

The new (Charleston, South Carolina) school will take a lesson from the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, founded a hundred years ago in New York and patterned after the Ecole des Beaux Arts, a 19th-century school of architecture in Paris that promoted historical and eclectic design on a large scale. The Beaux Arts school of thought migrated to America and had a strong influence here. The Gibbes Museum is one of Charleston's best surviving examples of this style.

The Beaux Arts Institute was a network of American graduates of the Ecole, who wanted to bring the teaching methods of the school to America, where it was ignored by the universities and their architecture schools. The Institute architects, who had offices around the country, would take local students as interns and serve as their teachers, critiquing the intern's designs for the school assignments mailed from New York.

White, Beaix Arts Institute, 1/14/03, P. 2

The New School will use similar distance-learning methods updated with the world wide web, and its curriculum will be similarly updated for America and the 21st century. While the school's instructors and students will work in several cities and communicate via the Internet, the school promises to lure dozens of talented tutors and students to the Lowcountry. at least for a few weeks at a time. "We want to bring people to Charleston," he says:

"Charleston to become architecture classroom," Monday, May 13, 2002, <http://traditionalarchitecture.org/news.htm>:

Charleston is poised to assume a greater role as a classroom for teaching future architects about how buildings were designed in the past.

The New School for Traditional Architecture and Urbanism, plans to hold its first events in the fall and its first course here early next year.

The New School will use the Internet to update this system of interns studying and working in leading offices, and combine it with periods of study when the practitioners and the interns will gather together for joint classes.

Each year-long program will start in January in Charleston, South Carolina. There we will spend a week studying the fundamentals of drawing, construction and theory, using the sterling examples of Charleston, Savannah, and the New Urban projects of the Lowcountry as our classroom.

The program will also finish in Charleston in December, with a charrette for the city led by our Board members Andres Duany, Leon Krier and Ray Gindroz. In between, we will have 6 design problems, and a week-long session during the summer in Nantucket or Rome. Successful participants will receive a certificate and AIA/CES credits. <http://traditionalarchitecture.org/apologia.htm>, 843-722-0025

"The first reason we're in Charleston is because of the mayor's encouragement and help," director John Massengale says.

"The second reason is because Charleston is such a beautiful city with so many examples of beautiful traditional architecture and urbanism.

"The third reason is because the area has so many examples of the best new urban projects, like I'On, plus the Lowcountry and Savannah. There's so much to take students to see."

Dec 05 02 03:08p

p. 4

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION AND LICENSES
 DIVISION OF BUILDING INSPECTION

APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

Date JUNE 18, 1954

Application is hereby made for permit to:

Construct Repair Alter
 Raze Extend Move

a. Post Office

Width 200 Depth 100 Height 29'6" Stories 2 Basement

Number Rooms 12 Lavatories 8 Baths

Construction MASONRY & STEEL

Roof Built up Heating Plant Gas & oil

GARAGE: No. Cars Atchd. Const. of SAME

UTILITIES: Water Electricity Gas

Sewer Septic Permit No.

Estimated Cost of Construction \$ 250,000

LOCATION: Newell Rd. Election District 13

Lot(s) SILVER SPRING Block B

Subdivision PARCEL 13

New Street Address 8073 - 47 Newell ST.

Zone Classification

Front Street Foundation Set-back

Side Street Foundation Set-back

Side Yards: Minimum Total

Rear Yard

for above info. see record plat now on file

OWNER: Name Starling & Scull Phone 301-9-2400

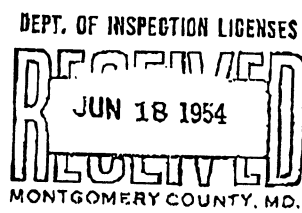
Address 8509 DIXON AVE. S.S. Md

ARCHITECT: Name C. B. WHITE Phone 301-9-1992

Address 8055 13th St. S.S. MD

CONTRACTOR: Name Not Selected Phone

Address



ZONING: Sheet No. C-2

Checked By M.A. [Signature]

SURDIVISION: 3726

Plat No. 146 - 4

Plotted by

SET-BACKS:

Street Plan

Checked By

PARKING:

Checked By

STREET GRADE:

Checked By

SEWER & WATER:

Checked By

PLANS:

Checked By

Approved

Disapproved

Owner Agent } Thomas P. O'Reilly
 Signature

Chief, Division of Building Inspection

Fee Paid

Permit No. Date

587793

Dupl

IMPORTANT

Complete Back of Application



P.O. Box 1160 • Silver Spring, Maryland • 20910-1160

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
January 22, 2003

**Testimony of Jerry A. McCoy, President, Silver Spring Historical Society,
and Judy Reardon, Vice President, Silver Spring Historical Society
on the nomination of the BLAIR STATION POST OFFICE
to the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites**

Chairman Spurlock and members of the Commission:

On December 27, 2002, the Silver Spring Historical Society requested that the 1950 Blair Station post office at 8051 Newell Street in Silver Spring be placed on the County's *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*.

In nominating the building, we said we believe it meets historic preservation ordinance criteria 1a, 1b, 1d, and 2e. We would like to first expand on those points.

- The Blair Post Office has historical and cultural significance because of its character, interest, and value as part of the development of the County (criterion 1a).

It was the first post office built in Silver Spring after construction of the main postal facility on Georgia Avenue in 1937. As such, it is one of the markers of the post-World War II development of Silver Spring as a burgeoning suburb. Other markers of that era include the Silver Spring train station (1945), the Canada Dry bottling plant (1946), and the Hecht Company department store (1947). The staff report notes, in contending that the building does not merit designation, that it is not the main post office. We contend its status as an annex is a strength: it was built in response to the need for more capacity than what the main post office alone could handle.

- The Blair Post Office has historical and cultural significance because it was the site of a significant historic event (criterion 1b).

In 1957, the TRANSORMA, an automated sorting machine, was pilot-tested in the adjoining section of the post office added in 1954 (at 8045 Newell Street). Mechanization of postal service had been postponed by the Depression and World War II. While the TRANSORMA was not the machine ultimately used throughout the country, as staff points out, nevertheless it marked a significant step forward in automation. The machine had been tested earlier, elsewhere in the United States, but Silver Spring was where the test succeeded. Officials at the

time said the TRANSORMA could be as history-making as the Pony Express in speeding the mail.

Assuming the proposed development of this property is approved, the Blair Station site at 8051 Newell will be the only remaining physical link to that event. The entire post office (1950 and 1954 sections) would merit protection as the site of the pilot test except that the 1954 section falls a mere one year short of meeting the standard 50-year criterion. In the 1950 building was the entrance to the larger structure and was always the public face of the post office. The staff report noted it is not clear how long the TRANSORMA was used at the Blair Station. However, our contention is that not the number of years of service but the pilot-testing of this machine constitutes the significance.

- The Blair Station Post Office has historical and cultural significance because it exemplifies the economic, social, and historic heritage of the County (criterion 1d).

The Blair Station post office exemplifies one aspect of the economic and social heritage of Silver Spring. The years immediately following World War II were a period of rapid suburban growth nationwide, with Silver Spring no exception. The Blair Station is one of the few remaining physical reminders of that period.

- The Blair Post Office has architectural and design significance because it represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood (criterion 2e).

This small, humble, workaday structure was functional. It was built to meet a public need. We make no claim that it is the Silver Spring equivalent of Versailles. We concur with the staff's characterization of it as "utilitarian" and as having "a very modest public 'face.'" Indeed, it is vernacular architecture, but this is a category celebrated by many architectural historians. Structures built even without benefit of an architect can be historically significant - the "shack" on Beale Street in Memphis where W.C. Handy was born is a National Register property.

It's possible that the design of the building was part of the shift in building criteria specified by the federal government for post offices after World War II. Post offices became prominent examples of the dictum that "form follows function." When the General Services Administration was established in 1949 and took over public-building functions, the Commissioner instructed that designs be simplified. One of the first building types affected were post offices, which began to feature clean lines and to eliminate such "frills" as exterior steps.¹ This new policy may well explain the building's "modest" face.

¹ Lee, Antoinette J., *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000:286.

Nevertheless, the Blair Station is distinctive in blending architectural styles and types of materials. The Inventory cites its "unusual combination" of Neoclassical and International themes and its departure from the stark simplicity of the International Style through the use of rustic stone facing, and massive windows and door surrounds. As far as we know, it is unique in the County.

In scale, the post office fits well with the apartment buildings and single-family dwellings (the latter in Washington, DC) adjacent to it or nearby. Preservation would offer a transition and welcome relief from the far larger scale of the proposed project behind it. Up until the facility ceased operations, postal employees placed pots of African violets in the windows. This use would not have been well accommodated in a building larger in scale.

Post offices are one of the few places where citizens have the opportunity to interact (amicably) with their federal government on a day-to-day basis. By meeting a public need for half a century (until 1999), Blair Station not only became a familiar and useful feature of its largely residential neighborhood, but also a friendly one.

In the Silver Spring CBD are other types of structures dating from the mid-20th century: a bottling plant, a train station and a department store. The Blair Station would add a mid-century post office—a federal government structure—to that body of architecture. The staff report noted that the Blair Station "is one of the few civic buildings from the post World War II expansion period that still remains in Silver Spring and that is of interest."

Other Issues

As to the merits of the architect: We made no claim in nominating the post office that Clifton B. White was Silver Spring's answer to Frank Lloyd Wright, or even that he was a "master" of his craft. As the staff report notes, and as attested by research conducted by SSHS members subsequent to the December 27 nomination, Mr. White was a local architect who practiced locally, designing houses and churches. We did not and do not claim that the building meets *all* the ordinance criteria.

The fact that the building is not on a major thoroughfare was cited by the staff as an argument against designation, but we do not know definitively that siting prominence affects the historic value of a property. If it did, the "alley houses" occupied by slaves in this country would not be considered historically significant.

Other Major Considerations

The recent film by Walter Gottlieb, "Silver Spring: An American Suburb," demonstrates how important are older examples of the built environment in the lives of Silver Spring residents. The 1950 post office was shown in the film. Implicitly, the film is an argument in favor of preserving the fabric of our past. Preservation would guarantee some physical continuity with Silver

Spring's history as the suburb undergoes further change in the 21st century.

In the absence of preservation - either by official designation or other means - our community (or any community, for that matter) would become architecturally more and more homogeneous, as structure after structure meets the wrecking ball in the name of "progress" or "highest and best use" and are replaced. These can't be our only values. Preservation allows the essential mix of building types that lends the physical fabric of a community diversity and interest, and creates the sense of place that makes a community distinct (if not distinctive).

Why Recognition Now

More than two years ago, when the Blair Station faced demolition because of a proposed project plan, the SSHS testified before the Planning Board in favor of preservation. What has changed since then is 1) more definitive documentation that the building is at least 50 years old;² and 2) recognition, through listing on the County's Inventory of historically significant 20th-century buildings in the Silver Spring CBD. **The Blair Station is one of the Inventory buildings considered potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.** Inventory recognition is what prompted our decision to nominate the building.

The Inventory was submitted to the Commission on December 23, 2002. The ink is barely dry. Only one month after the Inventory's completion, the Commission may seal the fate of one of the Inventory buildings. To our knowledge, the Blair Station post office is the first building on the Inventory for which designation is being sought. Its architectural and historic merits and its function in the South Silver Spring neighborhood over the years are without question. In view of these merits and the fact that the building is on the Inventory, it would be sad indeed if it were not placed on the Atlas. If it is rejected, the preservation community in this County could only conclude that the Inventory is ineffective as a tool to promote preservation.

A project has again been proposed for the site of the 1950 and 1954 buildings. We do not want to stand in the way of this project. We understand that Planning staff is open to a substitution of preservation in the place of open space. We have broached this with the developer, and the Silver Spring Historical Society and Montgomery Preservation, Inc., will follow up on it. We welcome development in this part of Silver Spring. Preservation of the 1950 building in lieu of the plaza, which was proposed to meet public-use requirements, would mean no loss of useable space. It is possible to come up with a solution that combines preservation with development. It worked for the Canada Dry building. It can work for the Blair Station post office.

Thank you for considering our views.

² Research by the Silver Spring Historical Society determined the Blair Station was "established" on September 1, 1950.

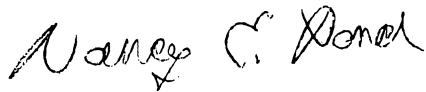
January 22, 2003

TO: Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Committee
FAX: 301/563-3412
SUBJECT: Hearing tonight on Blair Post Office Building

Please let the record for this evening's hearing show that the letter presented by Jerry A. McCoy, president of the Silver Spring Historical Society, objecting to demolition of the former Blair Post Office building, located at 8051 Newell Street, does not reflect the position of the general membership of this organization.

I am a member of the Silver Spring Historical Society, and this issue has not been brought to the general membership for discussion.

If you have any questions you can reach me at 301/565-3777.



Nancy E. Pond

8045 Newell Street, LLC
1003 K Street, NW
Suite 207
Washington, DC 20001

Tel: (202) 737-9540 • Fax: (202) 737-9541

January 22, 2003

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
P. O. Box 1160
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Chairman Spurlock & Commission Members:

Please accept our request that the Blair Post Office not be nominated to the County *Locational Atlas and Index of Historical Places*, or otherwise be designated as a historically significant structure. Although the Silver Spring Historical Society has nominated this structure for inclusion in the Atlas, we strongly object to the basis for its nomination and its eligibility. The identification of this structure as historically significant does not fit either the spirit or established guidelines of historical preservation.

We have attached reports from Anne Adams of Shaw Pittman, LLP and Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell of Karell Archeological Services. Both individuals are recognized architectural historians, and have direct experience with the research and preservation of both buildings and artifacts within the Washington Metropolitan area. We have attached copies of their curricula vitae. Their reports present findings that delineate:

- I. The architecture of the building is neither exemplary for the period, nor evocative of a particular style or school of architecture. The architect who designed the project is not noted for either the scale or significance of his designs, so the building architect does not merit recognition as part of this review process.
- II. The interior of the building has been largely removed, and is significantly altered from its earlier use as a post office. Little or none of the original post office interior remains to remind us of its earlier use.

DANIEL KOSKI-KARELL

**KARELL ARCHEOLOGICAL SERVICES
POST OFFICE BOX 342
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20044**

**Telephone (202) 333-1492
Fax (703) 243-1492**

1. BIOSKETCH: Daniel Koski-Karell has 30 years of professional experience in the fields of archeology and historic preservation, and 17 years of experience in architectural history. As an historic preservation consultant in archeology and architectural history he has served as Principal Investigator on more than a hundred cultural resource management studies performed for federal, state, and local government agencies as well as scholarly institutions and private organizations. This work has included several contract investigations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore and Jacksonville Districts, NASA Langley Research Center, U.S. Army Force Space Command, and the General Services Administration.

Mr. Koski-Karell is highly experienced in architectural history research and evaluations pursuant to federal and state cultural resource management requirements, and preparation of National Register of Historic Places evaluations and nominations. His work has also included investigations in prehistoric, historic, underwater, and aviation archeology. He is President of Karell Archeological Services, a cultural resources consulting company performing archeological, architectural history, and historical investigations.

2. AREAS OF EXPERTISE (meets the following professional qualifications standards as defined in the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation):

**X Architectural History
X Archeology
X History**

3. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

Doctor of Philosophy Degree (January 2003) from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Studies in archeology, architectural history, and anthropology.

Master of Arts Degree (1976) from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Studies in anthropology and archeology.

Bachelor of Arts Degree (1969) from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Studies in archeology, history, and government.

Course Work in Architectural History:

Architecture 546 (Historic Preservation Topics and Methods), Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

American Civilization 175 (American Architecture, 1600-1860), and American Civilization 176 (American Architecture, 1860-1940), George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

4. RELEVANT MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS: Member of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Archeological Society of Maryland; Certified as an Architectural History Consultant by the Maryland Historical Trust.

5. REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS:

Architectural History:

The Pentagon Building National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Nomination (1988), conducted for the U.S. General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. Work involved architectural history research for the Pentagon Office Building in Arlington, Virginia, and preparation of nomination documents that resulted in the Pentagon being listed on the NRHP and subsequently designated a National Historic Landmark.

Proposed Montgomery County Landfill Project (1994-1996), conducted Phase I and Phase II archeological background research, survey, and site evaluations and architectural history evaluations of sites and structures for a proposed landfill near Poolesville, Maryland, for the Montgomery County Division of Environmental Services, Maryland.

Terrestrial Archeology:

Indian Key Archeological Project, Islamorada, Florida (1972); employed as an archeological field worker by the Florida Bureau of Archeological Research.

Virginia Department of Transportation Contract (1984), Interstate Highway 95 HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) Lanes Project, Fairfax and Prince William Counties, Virginia; Phase I archeological survey of project area and testing of archeological sites encountered.

Maryland State Highway Administration Contract #88-105 (1989-1992), statewide archeological services contract for the Maryland Department of Transportation. Work involved the conduct of Phase I archeological surveys at various project locations in Maryland.

Rio Fajardo Flood Control Project, Puerto Rico (1994), for the Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers. Conducted Phase IA background research and Phase I terrestrial field survey of the project area for proposed flood control structures in the lower Rio Fajardo drainage.

Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters Compound Master Plan, Langley, Virginia (1997), conducted Phase IA background research and Phase I terrestrial archeological survey.

Underwater Archeology:

Spanish Galleon Fleet of 1715, shipwreck survey and excavation, Florida east coast and Florida Keys (1973), employed as a salvage and exploration field agent for the Underwater Archeological Research Section (UWARS), Florida Bureau of Archeological Research.

Baltimore Channels 42-Foot Project, Chesapeake Bay, Maryland (1979), for the Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers. Work involved Phase 1A and I background research and underwater remote sensing survey, and Phase II underwater site evaluation investigations.

Delaware Route 1 Highway Project, Underwater Archeological Services Contract (1992-1994), for the Delaware Department of Transportation, Dover, Delaware. Work involved Phase I and Phase II underwater archeological investigations of three proposed bridge crossings.

San Juan Harbor Improvements Project, Puerto Rico (1993), for the Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers. Conducted Phase IA background research and Phase I underwater archeological remote sensing survey and target identification diving in the project area for proposed navigation channel improvements in and at the entrance of San Juan Harbor.

South Amelia Island Beach Restoration Project (1993), conducted Phase IA background research and Phase I underwater archeological remote sensing survey, for the South Amelia Island Shoreline Stabilization Association, Nassau County, Florida.

6. MILITARY SERVICE: U.S. Army (1969-1971), Vietnam, Purple Heart, Honorable Discharge.

Anne H. Adams
Architectural Historian

Shaw Pittman
2300 Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1128
(202) 663-8884
andi.adams@shawpittman.com

Employment

8/00 to Present	Shaw Pittman, LLP Architectural Historian
5/84 to 8/00	Wilkes Artis, Chartered Architectural Historian
10/77 to 5/84	District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office Architectural Historian on the staff of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Joint Committee on Landmarks, and its successor board, the Historic Preservation Review Board
2/77 to 10/77	Don't Tear it Down (currently the D.C. Preservation League), Architectural Historian and Administrative Assistant
9/74 to 8/76	University of Maryland Department of Art, Teaching Assistant

Qualified as Expert Witness in Architectural History and Historic Preservation Before:

District of Columbia:

- Joint Committee on Landmarks
- Historic Preservation Review Board
- Mayor's Agent for D.C. Law 2-144
- Zoning Commission
- Board of Zoning Adjustment

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Howard County, Maryland Historic Preservation Commission

Montgomery County, Maryland:

- Historic Preservation Commission
- Board of Appeals and Review

Prince Georges County, Maryland:

- Historic Preservation Commission
- County Council

Rockville, Maryland Historic District of Commission

Arlington County, Virginia Board of Architectural Review

Fairfax County, Virginia Board of Architectural Review

Representative List of D.C. Landmark Applications and National Register Nominations

Alumni House – George Washington University
Concordia German Evangelical Church and Rectory
Corcoran Hall – George Washington University
Downtown Historic District
Dupont Circle Historic District
Fifteenth Street Financial Historic District
Lisner Auditorium – George Washington University
Luzon Apartments
National Metropolitan Bank Building
Northumberland Apartments
Park Road, N.W. – south side of 1600 Block
Park Road, N.W. – north side of 1800 Block
President's Offices – George Washington University
Schneider Triangle
Seventh Street, N.W. – east side of 1000 Block
Sixteenth Street Historic District
Stockton Hall – George Washington University
Strong Residence Hall – George Washington University
Van Ness Mausoleum
Wardman Park Annex (Wardman Tower)
Woodhall House – George Washington University

Representative List of Properties Evaluated for Historic Significance

Alban Towers – 3700 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
3901 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Western Presbyterian Church – H Street, N.W.
Circle Theater – 2100 Block of Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Governor Shepherd Apartments – 2121 Virginia Avenue, N.W.
Park Lane Apartments – 2025 H Street, N.W.

Representative List of Projects Reviewed Pursuant to D.C. Law 2-144

1901-13 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. and 1512-24 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. – Exterior restoration of buildings owned by Riggs Bank

312 and 323 8th Street, N.E. – exterior restoration of houses, rear addition, and bridge over alley

Victor Building, 724 9th Street, N.W. – restoration of significant elements of individually-designated landmark and new construction

Shoreham Building, 800 15th Street, N.W. – restoration of facade and significant interior spaces in conjunction with new construction

Square 428 – restoration of facades and new construction at northwest corner of 7th and I Streets, N.W.

Square 347 – redevelopment of west half of square bounded by 10th, 11th, E and F Streets, N.W., including restoration, reconstruction, and relocation of historic facades

Square 456 – 500 block of 7th Street, N.W. and 500 block of E Street, N.W. – restoration of buildings and facades, additions, and new construction

Bowen Building and National Bank of Washington, 813 and 825 15th Street, N.W. – restoration of facades and significant interior spaces in conjunction with new construction

910-916 F Street, N.W. – restoration and rehabilitation of three historic buildings and incorporation of same into new hotel tower

National Cathedral School Athletic Facility, 3500 Woodley Road, N.W. – construction of a below-grade athletic facility with above-grade entry pavilion within National Cathedral Close

Representative List of Tax Act Projects

21 Federal Street, Nantucket, MA
901 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
1644-66 Park Road, N.W.
1731 Willard Street, N.W.
Alperstein's Furniture Store, 1015 7th Street, N.W.
Buckingham Apartments, Arlington, VA
Hard Rock Cafe, 999 E Street, N.W.
Roosevelt Hotel – 2101 16th Street, N.W.
Manhattan Laundry, 1326-46 Florida Avenue, N.W.
Mann's Potato Chip Factory, 1042-54 29th Street, N.W.
Miller Furniture Company Store, Pennsylvania Avenue and D Street, S.E.
Thomas Sim Lee Houses, 3001-03 M Street, N.W.
Wardman Row, 1416-40 R Street, N.W.

Education

Graduate: University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, M.A. in Art History,
with a concentration in American Architecture, 1976
Thesis title: An Examination of the Life and Work of Frederick
Bennett Pyle, Washington Architect

College: University of Rochester, Rochester, New York
B.A. with Honors - 1974, Major - Art History;
Elizabeth M. Anderson Award for Excellence in Art History

Secondary: Laurel School, Shaker Heights, Ohio - 1970

Positions and Memberships Held

Positions Held

Decatur House Council (House museum owned and operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation), 1995-2002

Chairman, Collections and Acquisitions Committee; Building and Grounds Committee; Finance Committee

Chevy Chase Village Historic Preservation Committee, 1995-97

Chevy Chase Village Local Advisory Panel, 1998-99

Local Advisory Panel reviews and makes recommendations to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission of projects under review within the Chevy Chase Village Historic District

D.C. Preservation League

Advisory Committee for two grant projects funded by the National Park Service through the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office, 1984-87

Washington Decorative Arts Forum

Board of Directors - 1995-present

President, 1995-98

Washington Metropolitan Chapter, Victorian Society in America

Vice-President for Programs, 1979-81 and 1988-90; At-Large Member of Board, 1981-83; President, 1985-87; Ex-Officio Member of Board, 1987-88; Chairman, Nominating Committee, 1995

Association for Preservation Technology Foundation

Treasurer, 1985-87

Washington Chapter, American Institute of Architects

Historic Resources Committee, 1984-2001; Development Committee, 1987-89

Memberships

Chester County Historical Society

Chevy Chase Historical Society

D.C. Preservation League

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Latrobe Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians

Montgomery County Historical Society

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Society for Commercial Archaeology

Automated Mail-Sorting in America and the Transorma Machine

By Daniel Koski-Karell, Ph.D.

Executive Summary

The development of automated mail-sorting in the U.S. Post Office Department was a long and complex process in which the overall impact of the Transorma machine was very limited or negligible. At the time the Transorma was brought to the United States during the 1950's it represented an obsolete technology that was not suited for processing the various envelope sizes characteristic of mail in America. This machine was a technological dead-end and never adopted for general use in the U.S. postal system.

The Transorma was not a historically significant break-through in mail-sorting in the United States. It was developed and built in the Netherlands during the 1920's, and by the time of its installation during the late 1950's its design was already some thirty years old.

The mere former presence of this machine at the 8045 Newell Road mail processing facility does not directly relate to the alleged significance of the small post office building next door at 8051 Newell Road. The Blair Station Post Office does not merit being listed on the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites* because of the Transorma.

Report Text

The mechanization of mail sorting in America has spanned a century and continues with ongoing research and engineering to develop faster and more efficient equipment. Looking back to the early twentieth century, American engineers Barry and Moleyneux were granted a patent for a system of mechanical letter sorting around the year 1900 (Mustafa 1964:82). Later, a U.S. postal worker named John Sestak built a mail sorting machine in 1949 that was installed in post offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C. (Fisher and Wentzel 1954:126-129; Mustafa 1964:82-83).

In the development of the U.S. Post Office Department's modern sorting equipment, the role of the Transorma was very limited in both time and scope. Invented in the Netherlands during 1926-1927, it was not tested by the Post Office Department until the late 1950's. (Blair 1976:758; Postmaster General 1958a:25) By that time the Transorma's engineering was some thirty years old and the machine's technology was ill suited for the needs of the U.S. mail system (Postmaster General 1958a:26).

In 1953 the Office of the Chief Industrial Engineer was established by the U.S. Post Office Department to promote automating the American mail processing system (Postmaster General 1955:12). This program emphasized research and development of equipment for automatic culling, facing, and canceling, as well as the sorting of both letter mail and parcels. (Postmaster General 1955:12-13; Postmaster General 1958:23-27).

The Post Office Department contracted with the National Bureau of Standards to develop sorting equipment that suited the specific character of mail in the United States (Mustafa

1964:84; Postmaster General 1958a:25-26). Several American companies were involved in this effort including the Burroughs Corporation, Pitney-Bowes, and a local Takoma Park R&D firm named Rainbow Engineering Company (Mustafa 1964:84). The first of a series of U.S.-built new technologies began testing during 1957 in Washington, D.C. (Postmaster General 1958a:25; Postmaster General 1958b:16). This resulted in the Burroughs mail-sorting machine and other processing equipment that came to be installed in Post Offices nationwide (Mustafa 1964:86-87).

Concurrent with these advances a peripheral aspect of the Post Office Department's automation program involved testing foreign-built mail sorting equipment. This included purchase of a Belgian-made mail sorting machine built by the Bell Division of International Telephone and Telegraph Company (Postmaster General 1958b:15-16). Another piece of foreign-built equipment tested was the Transorma made by the Werkspoor Company of the Netherlands (Mustafa 1964:83; Postmaster General 1958b:16). It had originally been developed in the 1920's specifically for the Dutch mail system (Blair 1976:758).

The U.S. Postmaster General reported that "We have examined the Belgian and Dutch systems, but have not found them suited to our needs" (Postmaster General 1955:12). A major problem was that the Transorma technology was some thirty years old by the time testing at the Blair Station mail processing facility began in 1957 (Postmaster General 1958b:15). It was described as "noisy and inefficient" (MacDonald 2001:5). One shortcoming was that the Transorma was engineered to handle standard European letter envelopes not longer than 7 inches (Barron 1976:759). This is less than the standard American-size business envelope that is 9-1/2 inches long. In addition, both the Dutch and Belgian equipment were "designed primarily for use by smaller countries having a much less complex distribution scheme" (Mustafa 1964:83).

By the time it was installed the Transorma was obsolete and not suited to the needs of the U.S. mail. No additional units of this equipment were purchased by the Post Office Department (Bureau of Research and Engineering 1967:4).

The role of the Transorma in U.S. mail automation was very limited and its overall success was negligible. The stated reason for the Transorma's purchase was simply "in order to gain experience in mechanization with coded schemes and keyboard distribution" (Postmaster General 1957:18). It has been concluded that "the main purpose in procuring these foreign machines (Bell and Transorma) was to determine the economics of key-sorting equipment and to test new concepts prior to the time that it would be possible to develop American sorting machines embracing an entirely new concept" (Mustafa 1964:83). The Transorma was a piece of outmoded and poorly-suited equipment that saw very limited use. Its role compares poorly with American-built 1950's automated mail-processing machines that embraced new technological advances and achieved unparalleled success.

In conclusion, it is clear that the Transorma did not play a significant role in the development of mechanized mail-sorting in the United States Postal Service.

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EVALUATION OF THE
BLAIR STATION POST OFFICE
8051 Newell Street,
Silver Spring, Maryland

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January, 2003

**Evaluation of the Blair Station Post Office, Silver Spring, Maryland
With Respect to the Criteria for Listing in the Montgomery County
Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites and Master Plan for Historic Preservation**

I. Introduction

This evaluation was undertaken at the request of 8045 Newell Street LLC, owner of the Blair Station Post Office at 8051 Newell Street, Silver Spring, Maryland. The object of this evaluation was to determine if the Blair Station Post Office meets the criteria for listing in the Montgomery County Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites (Atlas) and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation (Master Plan). These criteria, set forth in Section 24A-3(b) of the Montgomery County Code, relate to historical and cultural significance and architectural and design significance. Based upon a site inspection, review of information about the property and the Historic Resources Survey Report on the Silver Spring Central Business District prepared by Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc. and dated December, 2002, as well as additional research, it is clear that the Blair Station Post Office does not meet the criteria for listing in the Atlas or the Master Plan.

The Blair Station Post Office was one of many buildings constructed in Silver Spring in the early years after World War II. This wave of construction was the continuation of the growth of Silver Spring that began after World War I and ended with the completion of the Beltway and opening of Wheaton Mall in the 1960s. The building boom of the 1940s was part of the transformation of Washington and its close-in suburbs from a small southern city surrounded by smaller-still suburban towns to the greater Washington metropolitan area we know today. For two decades after the war, downtown Silver Spring was a thriving retail center that rivaled downtown Washington for shopping opportunities. Its stores served not only Silver Spring

residents, some 60,000 in 1949, but also residents from surrounding jurisdictions. Some of the buildings constructed during those years are architecturally, historically, and/or culturally significant. Many are not.

While the Blair Station Post Office, which includes the Annex, was constructed because of the post-war population boom it is not representative of the types of buildings that were critical and most significant in defining post-war Silver Spring. The two decades after World War II were the glory years of downtown Silver Spring shopping. It is the retail buildings that defined and reflected the significance of Silver Spring during those years, just as garden apartment complexes defined what was most significant about Silver Spring during the 1930s and 1940s. The Blair Station Post Office is not part of what was most significant about Silver Spring in the years following the war. It is an ordinary building, designed by an ordinary architect, and its history has been ordinary. It was not an important, innovative, or significant piece of design. It is not architecturally, historically, or culturally significant for reasons set forth below and it fails to meet any of the established criterion for official recognition as a historic resource.

II. Description of the Building

The former Blair Station Post Office at 8051 Newell Street, Silver Spring is comprised of two parts, the original one-story building and the two-story Annex. Construction began on the former in 1949 and on the latter in 1954. The facility was located on the southwest corner of Newell and Kennett Streets, in a close-in semi-industrial part of Silver Spring. It was off the main retail and commercial corridors and clearly not part of the public, retail, or civic face of Silver Spring.

The original building is faced with an odd variety of materials – brick, cast stone, and rock-faced randomly-sized sandstone. (See attached exhibit A). The front entrance to the post office is symmetrically located within the ashlar portion of the facade. The extra height entrance bay, surrounded by heavy cast stone molding, contains late twentieth century metal doors in a wall of metal windows. Six-light window panels flank the doors. Similar six-light windows and a center section of nine lights fill out the upper portion of the entrance bay above the doors. Colonial Revival carriage lamp fixtures and full-height eight-light fixed sash within cast stone surrounds flank the entrance bay. The cast stone and brick bay to the west of the entrance element stands alone; its counterpart on the east side of the entrance bay angles away from the entrance toward Kenneth Street.

The design and footprint of the Blair Station Post Office does not relate to or take advantage of its corner location and its façade does not quite follow the street line. (See attached Exhibit B). The entrance bay angles slightly away from Newell Street but does not actually face the corner at Newell and Kennett Streets. (See attached Exhibit C). Instead, an uninviting element similar to the brick and cast stone bay to the west of the entrance confronts the corner. To the south, along Kennett Street, the façade is simple, unarticulated brick punctured by three pairs of punched windows. The original loading dock was reached from Kennett Street. By not acknowledging or taking advantage of the building's corner site the architect missed the opportunity to announce or celebrate the building's presence at this location. The building does not make a statement as a piece of civic/government architecture nor is it able to convey its use through its façade articulation. The Annex, on which construction began in 1954, is a two-story brick box with an irregular footprint that wraps around the original building. The Newell Street elevation features cast stone window moldings on the second floor and an L-shaped feature

around some of the first floor windows. The large loading dock is located on the south side of the building.

The Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form on the Blair Station Post Office, completed by David C. Berg and submitted to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) by the Silver Spring Historical Society (SSHS) by letter dated December 27, 2003, notes that the building is “an unusual combination of International and Neoclassical styling” and that it features a “varied facade that departs from the simplicity of the International Style by the use of rustic stone facing and massive window and door surrounds.” These statements seem to reflect both too much effort to identify and ascribe stylistic features to a building where none exist and something of a misunderstanding about the nature of the styles in question.

While the building is indeed somewhat “unusual,” it has no characteristics of the International Style. The International Style was characterized by horizontality, asymmetrical balance, and flat, smooth, uniform wall surfaces with windows in the same plane as the wall. (See attached Exhibit D). No stylistic characteristics of the International Style are present in the Blair Station Post Office. Even the ganged windows on the second floor of the Annex cannot be interpreted as the ribbon windows of the International Style because they are not at the plane of the façade and they are defined and interrupted by projecting molding. The original building appears to be more about the use of traditional materials than the use of anything remotely “Modern.”

Although the overall building is asymmetrical and the Annex is more horizontal than vertical, the main design feature of the building, the entrance bay, is both vertical in feeling and symmetrical in composition. The wall surfaces are not smooth except for the small portions of

the facades that are cast stone. The windows are punched with bold surrounds that project from the plane of the wall. The Blair Station Post Office is not about the International Style or modern stylistic trends. Nor is it a building with Neoclassical motifs. The building is asymmetrical and lacks balance and the architect used no classical elements such as columns or pediments. Rather, this is a building where the architect focused his attention on one element of the façade, the front entrance, where he used a simple functional composition as a backdrop for the application of oddly-contrasting materials.

The interior of the original building has been largely altered. A small portion of the original terrazzo floor remains visible inside a non-original entrance vestibule. The interior of the Annex retains its large original double height space. The elevated walkway around and down the center of the space is largely intact. The original building is vacant and in poor condition. The Annex is currently used as a hotel furniture storage and sales facility and is in fair condition.

The MHT form correctly avoids making claims of architectural or design significance for this building. However, by letter dated January 22, 2003 to Chairman Spurlock and Members of the [the Montgomery County Historic Preservation] Commission, the SSHS attempts to argue that the Blair Station Post Office has architectural and design significance. The SSHS states that the Post Office is an example of “vernacular architecture” and that “structures built without the benefit of an architect can be historically significant.” While the latter statement is certainly true, this building was apparently designed with the benefit of an architect and it is not a vernacular building.

The original building was designed by Clifton B. White, a local architect who was registered to practice in both Maryland and the District of Columbia. White was born in 1905 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He took correspondence courses at the Beaux Arts Institute in New York

from 1923 to 1927. He worked as a draftsman for several Washington architects, including George Ray and John Whelan, neither of whom were first-tier architects of the day. Based on the information available one can only conclude that White was a journeyman architect, not a master. The Blair Station Post Office was an ordinary piece of design work by this ordinary architect.

III. Criteria for Listing in the Atlas and/or Master Plan

The criteria against which a building must be evaluated for historic designation are set forth in Chapter 24A the Montgomery County Code. These criteria relate generally to historical, cultural, architectural, and design significance. It is important to remember that last concept – that of **significance** – when applying these criteria. It is equally important that critical evaluation of the property be undertaken. Just because a building is there, and it has a history, does not mean that it qualifies for designation as a historic site. All buildings have a history and all buildings look like something. That does not mean that their history is significant in any context greater than the building itself.

Before evaluating any building against any criteria for historic designation one must first understand fully the nature of the building in question. With that full understanding of the Blair Station Post Office no claim for significance can be made with respect to that building. In the context of the twentieth century development of downtown Silver Spring the Blair Station Post Office does not have the historical, cultural, architectural, or design significance required for listing in the Atlas or the Master Plan. While the building is a product of the post-War building boom it is neither architecturally distinguished, innovative, or interesting. It is but one of many buildings that served its function for a time without making any particular impact on or

contribution to the development or history of Silver Spring. The Post Office is not the work of a master, nor was it the site of a significant event.

Extensive discussion about the installation of the TRANSORMA machine forms the basis for the claim made by SSHS that the Blair Station Post Office was the site of a significant historical event. However, the attached report by Daniel Koski-Karell debunks the assertion that the TRANSORMA was an important part of the United States Postal Service's efforts to develop automated mail sorting machinery. Indeed, the TRANSORMA was nothing more than a footnote in the efforts to automate our mail sorting system and its existence in the Annex is of no significance in those efforts.

In addition to the lack of significance attributable to the TRANSORMA machine there is a curious inconsistency between the SSHS's letter nominating only the original Blair Station Post Office, and not the Annex, and SSHS's and the MHT form's claims of significance based on the TRANSORMA's supposed critical role in the development of automated mail sorting in this country. The difficulty here is that the TRANSORMA was located in the Annex and that it no longer exists and has not existed for many years. Even if the TRANSORMA had been significant in the development of automated mail sorting, which is not the case, its absence from the building raises the issue of "loss of integrity." The term integrity, as used by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), is the ability of a building or site to convey its significance, whatever that significance might be. The only significance that is claimed for the Blair Station Post Office is its relationship with the TRANSORMA and that relationship is seriously undermined in the absence of the machine and the part of the building where that machine was once located. Without the machine there is no mechanism by which the so-called significance of the TRANSORMA can be conveyed or understood. Thus the Post Office has lost its integrity of

association. By not seeking to designate or retain the Annex the SSHS is attempting to transfer significance from one part of the building to another. However, if there were anything significant about the TRANSORMA that significance would be associated with the Annex, not the original part of the building.

If one focuses only on the original building, in the absence of the Annex and its associations with the TRANSORMA, the claim to historical significance is totally undermined. When considering a building for listing in the NRHP the entire building must be considered. As written in National Register Bulletin #15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, "Parts of buildings, such as interiors, facades, or wings, are not eligible independent of the rest of the existing building. The whole building must be considered, and its significant features must be identified." Although Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code does not contain similar language it is useful to look to the NRHP for guidance in such matters. The original Post Office and the Annex were physically integrated and they functioned as a single building. Thus, it should be considered as one whole. However, whether whole or in part, the building does not meet any criterion for listing in the Atlas or the Master Plan as the site of a significant event because the TRANSORMA was not important to the development of automated mail sorting equipment in this country.

The Blair Station Post Office does not have architectural or design significance by virtue of the fact that it is an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape. The Blair Station Post Office is not an established and familiar visual feature of the Silver Spring CBD. It is tucked away on side streets, off the main traffic routes, isolated and well removed from the public face of downtown Silver Spring. There is nothing about the exterior treatment of the Post Office, which

barely rises to a “design,” that is indicative of its use or ownership. It is hardly a good example of civic architecture. The size of building, at one and two stories, is no different from the surrounding buildings. Fitting in “well with the apartment buildings and single-family dwellings (the latter in Washington, DC) adjacent to it or nearby” (SSHS letter, page 3) does not an established and familiar visual feature make. The now-demolished Silver Spring Armory, the Hecht Co., the Canada Dry building, and the penguin murals at the Metro are established and familiar visual features of the Silver Spring CBD. Crisfield’s, the local seafood establishment known throughout the Washington metropolitan area, is a familiar feature of downtown Silver Spring. These are distinctive, easily recognized features of Silver Spring. The Blair Station Post Office, tucked away at the corner of two side streets, does not rise to that level of recognition.

IV. Conclusion

In the context of the development and history of downtown Silver Spring and what is now the Silver Spring CBD the Blair Station Post Office lacks architectural, historical, and cultural significance. A critical analysis of the building, its history and architect, and the role the TRANSORMA did not play in the development and evolution of automated mail sorting in the United States clearly establishes that the Blair Station Post Office fails to meet the criteria for listing in the Locational Atlas and/or the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and thus cannot be so listed.

