



# About Town

## *The Kensington Historical Society Newsletter*

P.O.Box 453, Kensington, MD 20895

February 2013

**ARE YOU IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT?**

Check the map on Page 3.

**SOCIETY NEWS**  
*Learn more about the Kensington Historical Society*  
**Page 2.**

**SUMMER CONCERTS**

*See you June 1st!*  
**Page 2**

**NEW MEETING DAY!**

*Sunday, Feb.24th*  
**Page 1.**

**TEAR WHAT DOWN?**

*See Warner Update on Page 1.*

**KHS PROGRAM Sunday, February 24, 4 TO 5 PM:**

### **Josiah Henson & Uncle Tom's Cabin**

Presented by Heather Bouslog, Senior Archaeologist & Shirl Spicer, Museum Manager M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks

Join Montgomery Parks staff on a journey back in time to meet the Reverend Josiah Henson whose extraordinary life inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. Retrace the steps from his enslavement on the Isaac Riley plantation to escape on the Underground Railroad to freedom in Canada. Explore Reverend Henson's relationship to the historic Newport Mill in Ken-Gar Palisades Local Park. Learn about the historical research and archaeological investigations conducted onsite that reveal what the county was like during Reverend Henson's lifetime. Learn about the plans to convert the site and historic

buildings to a public historic/cultural park and house museum with an interpretive program to honor him.

Please join us for the Society's first Sunday afternoon program! We will be happy to have the public join us at 3:30 for coffee, cookies and socializing. We meet in the Town Hall, Lower Level, 3710 Mitchell Street in Kensington. Our program will start at 4 followed by our regular meeting. Please invite guests and teens who might be interested in this program!

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Patrick Weed, Patrick Realty  
Col. Michele Prokopchak, USMC (Ret.)  
Susan Wranik

And thanks to ALL who have renewed their memberships!

#### **WARNER CIRCLE UPDATE**

For those who are new in Town, the property with the large mansion and carriage house located across from Noyes Library on Carroll Place is referred to as Warner Circle. A large piece of land purchased by Brainard Warner in 1890 was called the Kensington Park Subdivision, extending in an awkward outline from part of Summit Avenue to Washington Street to Kensington parkway to the Rail Station. (See print in the Town Hall lobby.) Mr. Warner subdivided the land into building lots and built his home in this central location on Carroll Place. Skipping to the present, the property was purchased by the Montgomery Parks Department though the Legacy Open Space Program and they hope eventually to restore the original exterior of the home. The grounds are now a public (continued p.2)

park. There are two late addition wings on the home that were built when it was used for a nursing home, and the current project includes demolition of those wings and hopefully a restoration of the rest of the exterior. The latest news is that the contractor has been selected and with luck the work will begin by next month!

KHS News ~ Julie O'Malley

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Kensington Historical Society! Members and guests finished the year with a wonderful Holiday Party at the stately Clum house on Kensington Parkway. Thanks to all who volunteered ~ we can't do it without you! Our special thanks to our hosts, Steve and Alesia Peterson. The Historical Society is trying a new meeting schedule with our first meeting on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. Please let us know if this timing is better for you.

([info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org) or call Julie at 240-460-2548.) We are very excited to have this special presentation by the Parks Department on Josiah Henson! We are continuing in our effort to bring information to you about the Kensington Historic District. In our November issue we included information about the Historic Area Work Permit process. In this issue, page 3, we've included a map showing the boundaries of the Historic District.

As we have in the past, you can find us supporting Kensington's spring festival, the International Day of the Book on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please use the contact information above if you would like to volunteer at our table. For more information on the festival itself, google "Day of the Book."

## Summer Concerts Continue

We're looking forward to continuing our tradition of Saturday Summer Concerts with our 2013 Season, and hope you are too. We try to present a variety of music with a different band playing every Saturday morning, 10 to 11, from the beginning of June until the end of September. We're happy to have neighbors stop and visit at the park on Howard Avenue, to have shoppers from the Farmers' Market cross the street, and actually to have just about anyone who is interested drop by for lively entertainment. The little ones (and not so little sometimes) just love to dance!

## COME INSIDE

Before you get engaged in your spring outdoor projects, come and visit us at the Archives. We're on the Lower Level of the Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, and will be open on Friday mornings 9:30 to 12. Can't make it then? Let us know when you'd like to come.

([info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org) or call Julie at 240-460-2548) We'd love to show you around and if you're interested you could work with our photo collection, historical research, or toy collection.

## MD's State Historic Preservation Plan is to be Updated!

Press release by MD Historic Trust, CROWNSVILLE, MD (February 14, 2013)

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), today announced that efforts to update Maryland's State Historic Preservation Plan are underway. The goal of the preservation plan is to gain a full understanding of the issues facing historical and cultural resources in Maryland and to identify innovative strategies for their

recognition, long term care, and enhancement.

Rodney Little, Maryland's State Historic Preservation Officer, commented "We intend for the plan to be a useful implementation tool serving diverse stakeholders - from planners, developers and heritage tourism organizations to economic development and preservation advocates across Maryland."

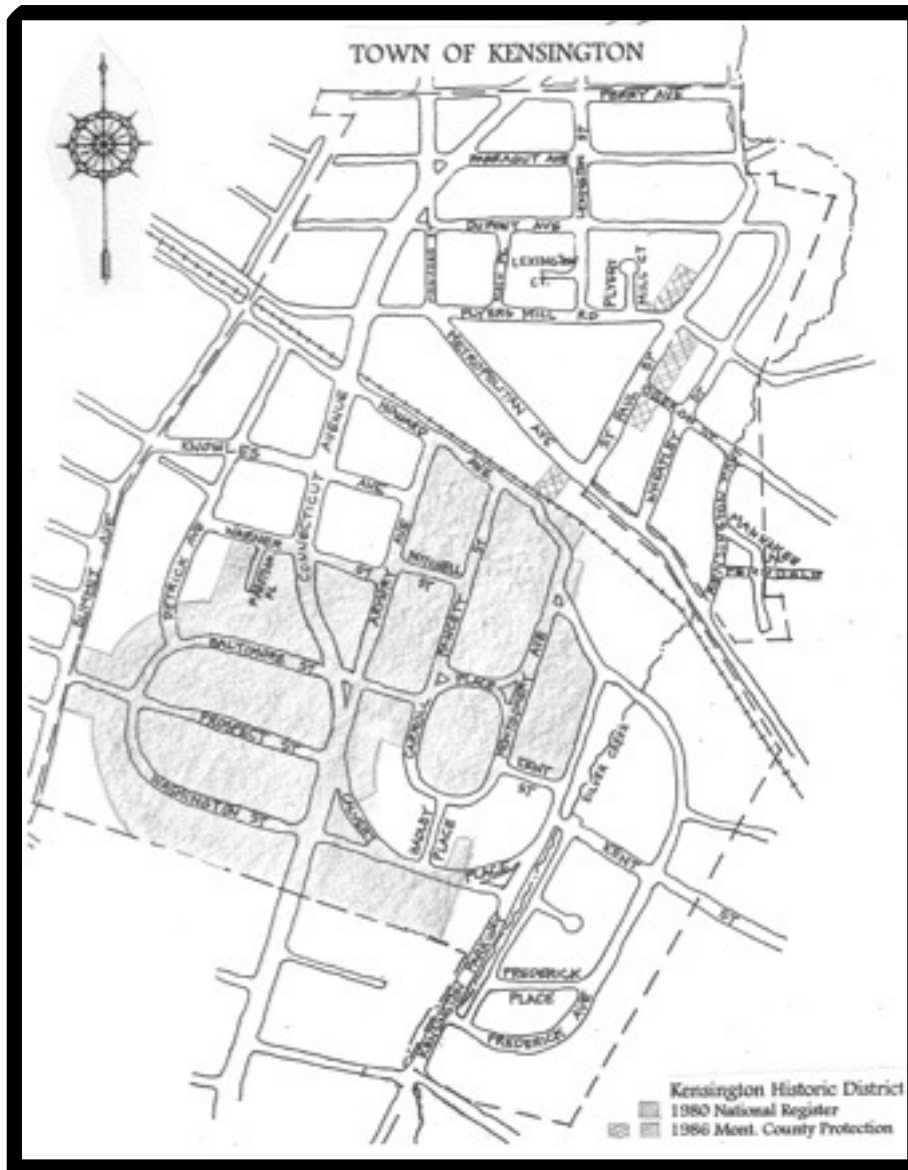
This year-long plan update process will rely upon public participation throughout 2013. Outreach efforts begin with an online survey currently underway. This spring, MHT will conduct interviews with major stakeholders and then, during May and June, will host public forums at various locations statewide.

Following the analysis phase over the summer, the plan will be published later this fall.

State historic preservation plans are prepared periodically, in part, to comply with National Park Service requirements. Plans must be updated in order for state historic

preservation offices to remain eligible to participate in the national historic preservation program. The previous plan was published in 2005. You may visit the MHT website for a more detailed description of the planning process and many of the key issues that will be covered by the plan at [mht.maryland.gov/plan](http://mht.maryland.gov/plan)

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is a division of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.



### The Kensington Historic District

The portion of the Kensington Historic District to the south of the railroad was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Montgomery County’s Master Plan for Historic Preservation and Chapter 24A of the County Code established the protection mechanism for the Preservation of Historic Resources in Montgomery County. In 1986, the original portion of the Kensington Historic District, along with an additional portion to the north of the railroad, was placed on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and became protected by the County Ordinance. Above is a map of the Kensington Historic District. (For individual addresses refer to [www.TOK.MD.gov](http://www.TOK.MD.gov) under Around Town, MAPS and Historic Area.)

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