

Purchase of Uncle Tom's Cabin Urged

The Montgomery County Council urged the regional planning commission and historical groups yesterday to acquire a log cabin associated with Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

"The cabin is one of great historical significance, and we should do whatever we can to purchase, maintain and care for this property," said a statement by council member Nancy Floreen (D-At Large), who introduced a resolution asking the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to collaborate with the county historical society and other groups.

A house for sale on Old Georgetown Road near Rockville includes an attached log cabin that was home to Josiah Henson, whose autobiography of a life that began in slavery was a model for Stowe.

Montgomery Council to Oversee Taxi Fees

Breaking an impasse with Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan (D), the County Council yesterday made itself the arbiter of fees that the county charges the taxicab industry for licenses and other services.

For two years, the county government has been attempting to increase competition and improve taxi service, an effort that Council President George L. Leventhal (D-At Large) said "had not achieved its goals." In recent months, the council and the executive have been unable to agree on a schedule of fees, with Duncan saying high fees were in keeping with reform initiatives and council members responding that the fees were too high for the industry to bear.

Duncan spokesman David Weaver called the council's move unfortunate because it will cause the county to use public funds to pay for expanded oversight of the industry. Council member Nancy Floreen (D-At Large) said the council had little choice.