

May 7, 2023

The Boyds Historical Society asks the Montgomery County Council to designate the Edward U. Taylor School on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. In addition, we specifically ask the Council to designate the entire area (building and property) as the environmental setting, as recommended by Historic Preservation Commission staff. We oppose the Planning Board's suggestion to consider designating a smaller section of the parcel.

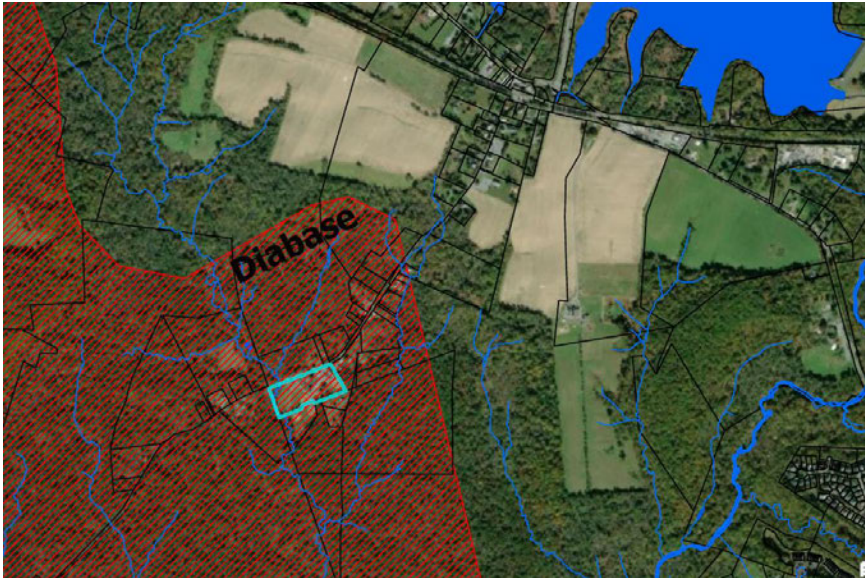
First, the entire area was the Taylor School – not just the building, or the building and part of the property, but the whole property. The entire area was the environmental setting, and thus the entire area should be designated as the environmental setting. In the memory of students who attended the Taylor School, both during segregation and after integration, the play area and playing fields were just as much a part of the school as the school building.

Second, the Planning Board's recommendation was based on a desire not to preclude further development on the parcel. However, further development on the parcel is extremely unlikely, regardless of historic designation, given that

- The area is on well and septic and designated to remain on well and septic.
- The western part of the parcel is in the 500-year flood plain (see olive green, on the left).



- The whole parcel is on diabase bedrock, which means the parcel will not pass a percolation test. (The Taylor School has a septic tank which must be pumped out multiple times a year, even with just the current limited usage of the building.)



- The parcel is also on an Exceptional Rustic Road (White Ground Road).

In addition, historic designation does not preclude further development; there are many examples in Montgomery County of further development within the designated environmental setting of a designated historic site.

For these reasons, we ask the Montgomery County Council to follow the original Historic Preservation Commission staff recommendation and designate the entire parcel as the environmental setting.

Thank you,

Miriam Schoenbaum
President, Boyds Historical Society

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