

SANDY SPRING



February 17, 2025

Montgomery County Council
Rockville, Maryland

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of Sandy Spring Museum, I write to express our strong endorsement of the historic preservation nomination of the Rose-Budd House, located within the historic Sandy Spring African American enclave. As this nomination comes before the Montgomery County Council for final approval, the Museum fully supports its adoption and designation.

Sandy Spring Museum connects diverse communities and advances social equity through shared experiences of our region's cultural heritage. As stewards of significant nineteenth-century archival collections, we work to ensure broad and equitable access to history by centering perspectives historically underrepresented within the record.

Through our ongoing initiative, *Equity in Metadata*, the Museum examines historical documents created by white landowners, merchants, and institutions to surface African American histories embedded within them. Of particular importance are our farm and commercial ledgers dating from 1800, which document agricultural and economic activity in Sandy Spring and provide rare, sustained evidence of Black life, labor, and economic participation.

The first appearance of the Budd family in these records dates to 1832. From that point forward, the family appears repeatedly over many years, demonstrating a stable and well-established presence and emerging as a cornerstone of Sandy Spring's African American community. Multiple family members are documented through frequent transactions reflecting consistent engagement in the local economy, including the outright cash purchase of a cow in 1845 and the rental of both a residence and a blacksmith shop. This evidence documents a multi-generational African American family into which Perry Budd was born in 1861, reflecting continuity of economic activity, skilled labor, and community presence.

The Rose-Budd House, constructed by Perry Budd, represents the tangible continuation of this documented family history. As one of only two known early extant homes associated with Sandy Spring's historic African American enclave, the property is a rare and increasingly vulnerable cultural resource. Its preservation is essential to maintaining the integrity of the historic landscape and ensuring continued public access to this history.

For these reasons, Sandy Spring Museum strongly supports final approval of the Rose-Budd House historic preservation nomination by the Montgomery County Council. Designation will safeguard an irreplaceable link to Sandy Spring's African American heritage and advance a more complete and equitable understanding of the County's past.

Sincerely,

Allison Weiss
Executive Director