

8. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Historic architectural and archeological tasks were conducted for this Federally permitted project, to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800). The compliance process began with an information request for previously identified cultural resources in the project area, sent to Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). The Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Historic Preservation Division and the City of Gaithersburg Historic District Commission were also contacted for records of existing resources.

For historic architectural resources, windshield surveys were then performed for each alternative within the area of potential effects (APE), identifying properties greater than 45 years of age. The Secretary of the Interior guidelines for the evaluation of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility is for buildings, structures, or objects 50 years of age or older. However, consistent with common cultural resource management practice, the age limit was lowered for this project to include resources five years younger to account for lead-time between the preparation of environmental documentation and actual project construction.

In order to assist with the alternatives selection process, preliminary NRHP eligibility determinations were prepared, and are summarized in the following discussions. In addition, the text indicates whether the historic property is listed on either the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County or the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The County status does not have a bearing on whether the property is eligible for the NRHP, but is provided for information purposes. Intensive-level surveys were also conducted for two farm properties to guide the preliminary engineering for Option D. The APE, and findings for these preliminary determinations and intensive-level surveys were sent to MHT and consulting parties for their review and comment. In addition, preliminary effect determinations have been prepared for each historic property and are summarized in this report.

Once the Preferred Alternative has been selected, intensive-level surveys will be conducted for historic properties within the APE of the Preferred Alternative, to establish final determinations of NRHP eligibility and effect. These efforts will also be coordinated with MHT and the consulting parties.

Based on information obtained from MHT and M-NCPPC, several archeological resources were noted within the study area. When a Preferred Alternative has been identified, physical testing will be conducted within the archeological APE to determine eligibility for the NRHP.

In addition to historic architectural resources and archeological sites, there are Rustic Roads in the project vicinity, which are defined as those historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the county. Rustic Roads are managed by the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee and three Montgomery County agencies. Their inclusion

in the Montgomery County Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan does not infer that they are eligible for listing on the NRHP.

The potentially eligible historic architectural resources are shown on **Figure 8-1**.

8.1 Potentially Eligible Historic Architectural Resources

Potential Wildcat Road-Davis Mill Road Rural Historic Landscape District

There are several properties located in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve which, although not individually eligible for the NRHP, could nevertheless be part of a potential Wildcat Road-Davis Mill Road Rural Historic Landscape District. This potential historic district is located within the APE for Alternatives 4 Modified, 5, 8, and 9. By letter dated August 8, 2012, MHT recommended additional field work and research be conducted to explore the possibility of a rural historic landscape along Wildcat and Davis Mill Roads if one of these alternatives were subsequently selected as the Preferred Alternative. Should the district qualify for the NRHP, the following properties within the APE could potentially be contributing elements:

- **22325 Ridge Road** – This property is located on the east side of Ridge Road, north of the road's intersection with the future Snowden Farm Parkway. It includes a 1½-story, three-bay brick Cape Cod house with projecting front gable and dormers, built in 1950, with a large dairy barn, wagon shed/corn crib, other outbuildings, and large equipment sheds.
- **M: 14-48 - Dr. Edward Hughes Farm (King Farm)** – This property is at the northeast corner of the Ridge and Brink Roads intersection. Only a barn and foundations of the house remain.
- **21520 Ridge Road** – This property is at the southwest corner of the Ridge and Brink Roads intersection, and has a frame, five-bay, cross-gable house with Gothic Revival influences, constructed circa 1890, with garage and shed outbuildings.
- **21900 Wildcat Road** – This property has a one-story brick rancher, built in 1958, with several barns and outbuildings. This property is within the APE of Northern Terminus Option D only.

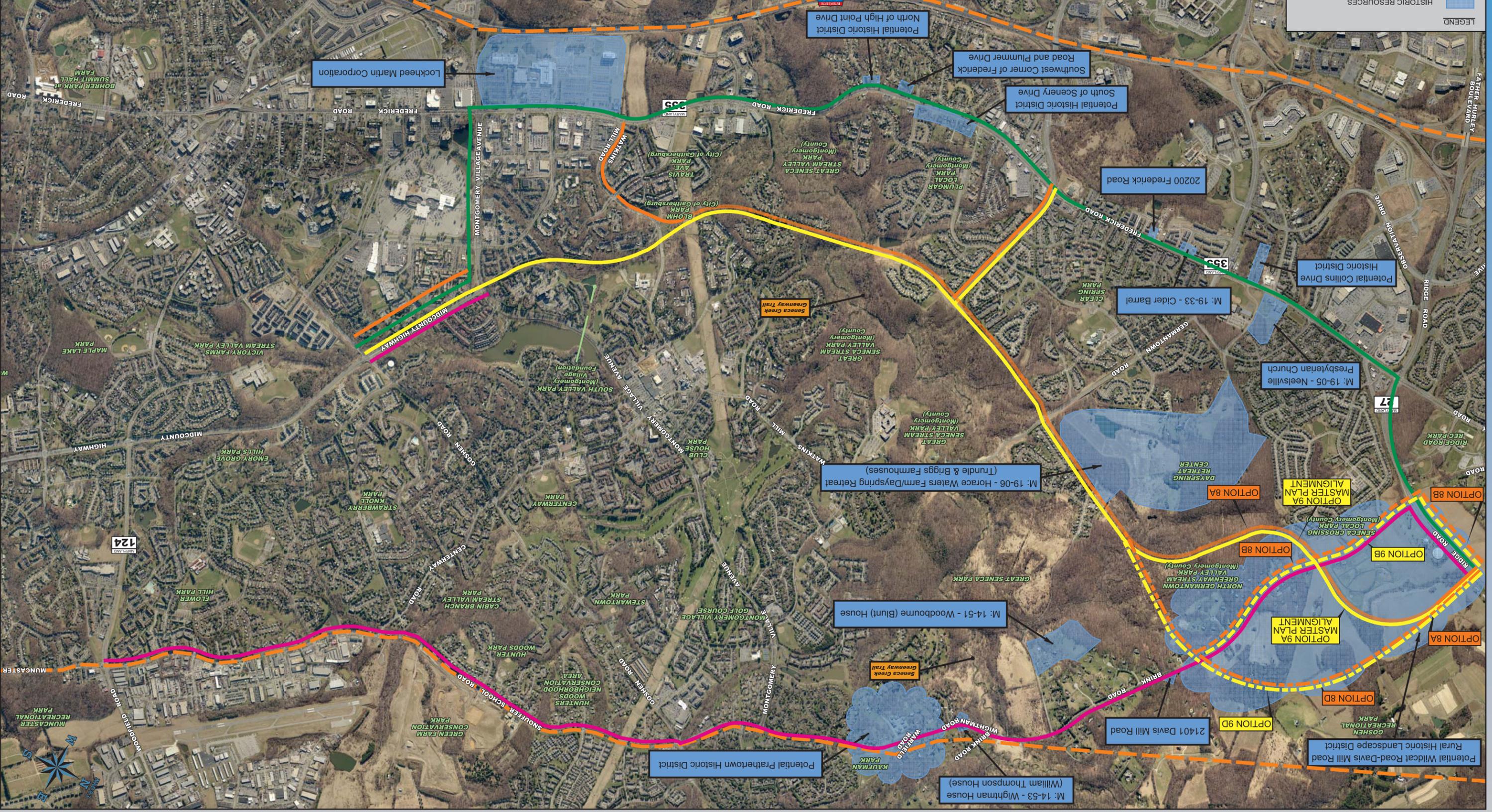
None of the four properties listed above are identified in the County's Locational Atlas.

The potential district could also include the Benson-Sibley Farm and Woodfield Farm, although these two properties are not individually eligible for the NRHP (see **Section 8.2** for their descriptions).

The additional field work and research would be warranted if Alternative 4 Modified, 5, 8, or 9 were selected as the Preferred Alternative. If a NRHP-eligible rural landscape historic district exists, the effect of the Preferred Alternative on the district would be assessed.

LEGEND

-  HISTORIC RESOURCES
-  STUDY AREA
-  ALTERNATIVE 4 MODIFIED
-  ALTERNATIVE 5
-  ALTERNATIVE 8
-  ALTERNATIVE 9
-  NORTHERN TERMINUS OPTION B/D



21401 Davis Mill Road

Built in 1962 as part of the Burton Woods housing development, this one-story, five-bay frame building with gambrel roof was built into a hillside with a lower story that fronts toward Brink Road. There is a large frame addition with a central brick chimney. The Burton Woods development is located along the south side of Davis Mill Road. The property at 21401 Davis Mill Road may be NRHP-eligible, both individually and as a contributing element of a possible Burton Woods historic district. This property is not listed in the Locational Atlas. MHT stated that mid-twentieth-century subdivisions are ubiquitous resources within the suburban landscape and should possess integrity of community design and distinctive architectural styles in order to be considered significant and representative of the suburban movement. Consequently, this property warrants additional evaluation to determine whether the early 1960s Burton Woods development is eligible for the NRHP. If either Alternative 4 Modified, Alternative 8-Option D, or Alternative 9-Option D were subsequently identified as the Preferred Alternative, this property would be further evaluated. If the property is determined eligible for the NRHP, either individually or as part of a historic district, encroachment of Alternative 4 Modified onto the property would likely result in an adverse effect. With Option D, this property and/or historic district would likely be adversely affected by the introduction of visual, atmospheric and audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features.

M: 14-51 - Woodbourne (Blunt) House

This property located at 21000 Blunt Road (west of Wightman Road) contains a large farm house constructed circa 1805, and associated with the Dorsey and Blunt families. The property is listed in the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation. In good condition and retaining much of its original setting, this property was preliminary found to be potentially eligible for the NRHP. MHT agreed with this preliminary finding. Should Alternative 4 Modified be selected, an intensive-level survey of this property will be conducted. This alternative would likely result in no effect on the property.

M: 14-53 - Wightman House (William Thompson House)

This property at 9821 Wightman Road is located just south of the bridge over Seneca Creek. Its Queen Anne-influenced house was constructed by John and Mary Wightman in the early twentieth century. The Wightmans were white farmers who employed some of the African American Prathertown residents on their 141-acre property. This property is listed in the County's Locational Atlas. MHT agreed with the preliminary finding that this property is potentially eligible for the NRHP. Should Alternative 4 Modified be selected, an intensive-level survey of this property will be conducted. Under this alternative, the widened highway would encroach a minor amount onto the potentially eligible historic property. However, since the residence would be located directly adjacent to Alternative 4 Modified, this would likely result in an adverse effect.

Potential Prathertown Historic District

Prathertown was founded in 1883 by emancipated slaves, Moses, Marshall, Rezin, and John Prather. They paid \$390 for nearly seven acres of land from William Benson, a local white farmer. Adjacent lands were later purchased by African Americans James and Moses Wilson, Wesley Boyd, and Basel Frazier. Moses Prather had been a slave at the nearby Woodbourne House on Blunt Road. While there is a plaque commemorating the location of the former community, there is no Prathertown District listed in the Locational Atlas.

If Alternative 4 Modified is subsequently identified as the Preferred Alternative, an intensive-level survey will be conducted. MHT recommended additional historic research and field investigations be conducted to determine if a sufficient number of geographically and thematically-related historic properties exist in the area to form a cohesive historic district. Should the district qualify for the NRHP, the following properties could potentially be contributing elements:

- ***M: 20-41 - Benson House*** – This property at 9710 Wightman Road is located on the northwest corner of Wightman and Warfield Roads. Its two-story, L-shaped frame house was built circa 1910. In 1882-1883, the Benson family sold seven acres to the Prathers, which resulted in the founding of Prathertown. This home is listed in the County’s Master Plan for Historic Preservation.
- ***M: 20-42 - Posey House*** – This property at 9631 Wightman Road is located at the southeast corner of the intersection with Warfield Road. The house dates from about 1910 and, according to tradition, was built by John and Mary Wightman to house their farm workers, many of whom were Prathertown residents. Sarah Posey bought the house in 1916. The resource represents an African American residence dating from an era of restricted ownership, and is one of a small group of houses significant for representing the Prathertown community. This home is listed in the County’s Master Plan for Historic Preservation.
- ***9620 Wightman Road*** – Located at the southwest corner of the intersection with Prathertown Road, this property contains a two-story, gable-front, three-bay frame house with large addition, built in 1925. It may be associated with Prathertown area history. This home is not listed in the Locational Atlas.

If a NRHP-eligible historic district is found to exist, and MHT concurs with such a finding, the Preferred Alternative’s effect on the district would be further coordinated with MHT. It is likely that Alternative 4 Modified would result in a finding of adverse effect on the district due to the demolition of the Posey House, and encroachment, construction of retaining walls, and substantial changes in the setting at the other two properties due to changes in the highway width and profile.

M: 19-05 - Neelsville Presbyterian Church

This 1929 Gothic Revival Church is located at 20701 Frederick Road (MD 355), with a cemetery to the rear of the church building. This church is listed in the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation. MHT agreed with the preliminary finding that the property is eligible for listing in the NRHP. Should Alternative 5 be selected, an intensive-level survey of this property will be conducted. Under this alternative, the effect would not likely be adverse, given the minor encroachment onto the property and the substantial setback of the church building from the highway.

Potential Collins Drive Historic District

This is a circa 1930s planned residential development along Collins Drive. If Alternative 5 is subsequently identified as the Preferred Alternative, this development would be evaluated for NRHP-eligibility as a historic district. The following properties on Frederick Road within the APE of Alternative 5 could potentially be identified as contributing elements of the district:

- **20600 Frederick Road** – This property has a wood-frame bungalow, circa 1930s.
- **20524 Frederick Road** – This property has a gambrel-roofed Dutch Colonial house, circa 1930s.
- **20516 Frederick Road** – This property has a brick bungalow, circa 1930s-1940s.

None of these properties are listed in the Locational Atlas.

Although encroachment onto these properties would be minor (limited to construction of a 10-foot wide shared use path), the effect on the historic district would likely be adverse, given the close proximity of the residences to the highway.

M: 19-33 - Cider Barrel

This one-story, curve-fronted, one-bay wooden building is located at 20410 Frederick Road (MD 355), with a false front resembling a barrel with bands. Built in 1926 by Andrew Baker, this apple and cider stand still stands and appears to be in good condition. This is a significant survivor from the 1920s when Frederick Road was an important transportation route, and is a notable example of local programmatic architecture. This property is listed in the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation. MHT agreed with the preliminary finding that the property is eligible for listing in the NRHP. Should Alternative 5 be selected, an intensive-level survey of this property will be conducted. The proposed improvements under this alternative were shifted eastward to avoid encroachment onto the potential historic property; therefore, there would likely be no adverse effect.

20200 Frederick Road

This former gas station is a small gable-front, frame building with hipped roof and projecting front canopy, circa 1920s. This building is a significant survivor from the 1920s when

Frederick Road was an important transportation route. This property is not listed in the Locational Atlas. MHT agreed with the preliminary finding that the property is eligible for listing in the NRHP. Should Alternative 5 be selected, an intensive-level survey of this property will be conducted. If this alternative were constructed, this building would be demolished, resulting in an adverse effect.

Potential Historic District South of Scenery Drive

Between Scenery Drive and Plummer Drive, along the east side of MD 355, the homes appear to be part of a late 1940s to early 1960s planned development. Should Alternative 5 subsequently be identified as the Preferred Alternative, this development would be evaluated for NRHP-eligibility as a historic district. MHT commented that planned developments from the 1950s to 1960s are ubiquitous resources within the suburban landscape and should possess integrity of community design and distinctive architectural styles in order to be considered significant and representative of the suburban movement. The following properties could potentially be identified as contributing elements of such a district:

- **19413 Frederick Road** – Located at the corner of Scenery Drive, this is a one-story, frame and brick ranch style house constructed in 1953, with a recent large frame addition.
- **19405 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story frame/brick rancher with a projecting front gable, built in 1962.
- **19401 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story frame/brick rancher built in 1959.
- **19333 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story frame/brick rancher with a projecting front gable, built in 1955.
- **19329 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story frame/brick rancher built in 1959.
- **19325 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story frame/brick rancher with hipped roof, built in 1959, with a recent garage addition.
- **19321 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story frame/brick rancher, with a projecting front gable with bow bay window, built in 1953.
- **19315 Frederick Road** – This is a 1-½ story frame house on Frederick Road at Plummer Road, built in 1946.

None of these properties are listed in the Locational Atlas.

The effect of the project on this historic property would likely be adverse, since Alternative 5 proposes a two-way service road parallel to MD 355 in the front yards of these residences.

Southwest Corner of Frederick Road and Plummer Drive

This one-story frame/brick rancher with carport, circa 1960, appears to be part of a 1960s planned residential development. This house is not listed in the Locational Atlas. MHT commented that planned developments from the 1950s to 1960s are ubiquitous resources

within the suburban landscape and should possess integrity of community design and distinctive architectural styles in order to be considered significant and representative of the suburban movement. Should Alternative 5 subsequently be identified as the Preferred Alternative, this property would be evaluated for NRHP-eligibility as part of a historic district. If the district is found to be eligible for the NRHP, the finding would likely be no adverse effect since this alternative would shift MD 355 eastward, further away from this building.

Potential Historic District North of High Point Drive

There is a 1960s era planned residential development along the west side of MD 355. Should Alternative 5 be subsequently identified as the Preferred Alternative, this development will be evaluated for NRHP-eligibility as a historic district. MHT commented that planned developments from the 1950s and 1960s are ubiquitous resources within the suburban landscape, and should possess integrity of community design and distinctive architectural styles in order to be considered significant and representative of the suburban movement. The following properties within the APE of Alternative 5 could potentially be identified as contributing elements of such a district:

- **19118 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story brick rancher built in 1962.
- **19114 Frederick Road** – This is a one-story brick rancher built in 1961.

Neither property is listed in the Locational Atlas.

The effect on this historic district would likely be adverse, since the highway would encroach onto both residential properties for the construction of a deceleration lane and a shared use path.

Lockheed Martin Corporation

This property at 700 Frederick Road is a Mid-Century Modern concrete office building complex built in 1966. This property is not listed in the Locational Atlas. MHT agreed with the preliminary finding that the property is eligible for listing in the NRHP. Should Alternative 5 be selected, an intensive-level survey of this property will be conducted. Given the minor encroachment of the alternative onto the property, and the substantial setback of the building from MD 355, the effect would not likely be adverse.

M: 19-06 - Horace Waters Farm/Dayspring Retreat (Trundle & Briggs Farmhouses)

The Trundle Farmhouse is outside the APE. The Briggs Farmhouse, located at 11301 Neelsville Church Road (known as Dayspring Retreat), is a circa 1920 Colonial Revival/American Foursquare House. The bank barn was destroyed by fire in 1973. Two sheds remain standing and several outbuildings exist only as ruins. This property was removed from the Locational Atlas. Located on 206 acres of the historic Horace Waters Farm, the property was purchased by the Church of the Savior in 1953 and developed as a “silent retreat” facility. The landscape remains rural. Many of the trees were planted

between 1953 and 1955 following the design of Earl Disque (National Botanic Garden). Disque also designed the retreat lodge, completed in 1956, located at the north end of the farm property. Other related buildings include a pavilion and restroom building (ca. 1956), stone bridge (1956), amphitheater (1957), residential “Inn” (1961-62), “The Gatehouse” residence (1961), three irrigation ponds (1960s), Wellspring conference center and three cabins (ca. 1973), Retreat Director’s residence (1977), and several more-recent buildings.

MHT agreed with the preliminary finding that the historic district is eligible for listing in the NRHP. Should Alternatives 8 or 9 be selected, an intensive-level survey of this property will be conducted. Under both alternatives, a sliver of forestland at the property’s eastern end, near Wayfarer Road, would be taken. In addition, under Alternative 8, the 67 dBA noise contour would extend onto the Dayspring property for a distance of 70 feet from the sidewalk that is proposed along the southbound lanes (and extend 80 feet with Alternative 9). Both the additional noise and the highway’s visual intrusion would indirectly alter the pastoral characteristics of the property that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP, in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s setting and feeling. In view of these visual, atmospheric, and audible changes, Alternatives 8 and 9 would likely result in an adverse effect.

8.2. Properties Determined Not Individually Eligible along Northern Terminus Option D

During the preliminary engineering of the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study, coordination was undertaken with MHT to determine the eligibility of two farm properties that would be bisected by Option D. By letter dated November 21, 2011, MCDOT requested the concurrence of MHT in their determination that neither the Woodfield Farm nor the Benson-Sibley Farm is eligible for the NRHP.

M: 14-49 - Woodfield Farm

This property at 21521 Wildcat Road is located in the northeast corner of the Wildcat Road/Brink Road intersection. This 105-acre farm includes a two-story frame, five-bay house built in 1903. The house is listed in the Locational Atlas. The house has been abandoned for several years, and has fallen into an advanced state of deterioration due to neglect. A two-story double corn house, barrack barn, hog house, and poultry shed have been demolished since 2004. In addition to the house, only a small shed and a wagon shed remain. By letter dated March 1, 2012, MHT concurred that the Woodfield Farm is not individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

M: 14-50 - Benson-Sibley Farm

This property at 10715 Brink Road is located adjacent to, and south of, Woodfield Farm. This 120-acre farm includes a 1920s frame house, a shed, a cast block milk house, and the collapsed ruin of a bank barn. The property does not clearly possess the defined characteristics required to be strongly representative of an early twentieth century dairy farmstead in northern Montgomery County. There are numerous other farmsteads still in

existence that are better representations of this context. This property has been removed from the Locational Atlas. By letter dated March 1, 2012, MHT concurred that the Benson-Sibley Farm is not individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

In a letter dated August 8, 2012, MHT concluded that both properties could potentially be contributing elements in a potential Wildcat Road-Davis Mill Road Rural Historic Landscape District (see beginning of **Section 8.1**). If a NRHP-eligible historic district is found to exist, and MHT concurs with such a finding, the Preferred Alternative's effect on the district would be further coordinated with MHT. Alternatives 4 Modified, 5, 8, and 9 could potentially have an effect on such a district.

8.3. Archeological Resources

Archeological sites have been identified through research of MHT and M-NCPPC files. The archeological resources in the general project vicinity of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment are listed below. This file search was conducted in 2004, before the study was expanded to include alternatives to the master plan alignment. Archival research and a field reconnaissance of archeological sites will be undertaken after concurrence has been obtained on a Preferred Alternative.

The following sites are listed in numerical order as identified in MHT's Inventory of Historic Properties. The site names generally refer to the archeologist(s) that conducted the research or the site name geographically.

MO: 12 - Hargett-King Rock Shelter, Historic, Native American, only known rock shelter in immediate area. This site is approximately 0.4 miles east of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment east of Middlebrook Road. It was on schedule 1/61 of S.W. Chap. ASM, to excavate as soon as possible. Site was dug in summer and fall of 1961, quartz and pottery found. S.H.A. File No. FN-31. Location 15 feet from bank of Great Seneca Creek.

MO: 27 - Gardner/Haynes, 1977. Archeological reconnaissance, no significant archeological resources found. This site is southwest of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment as it crosses the tributary to Whetstone Run.

MO: 32 - Epperson, 1980. Archeological reconnaissance, no significant archeological resources found. This site is southwest of the master plan alignment as it crosses the Great Seneca Creek.

MO: 73 - Chase, Joan, American University. Preliminary archeological reconnaissance of the Midcounty Highway study alignment in February 1990. This site is located north of Watkins Mill Road near where the master plan alignment crosses Whetstone Run. No significant archeological resources found.

MO: 175 - Rabbit, Historic, Anglo American Farmstead. Information on artifacts is unknown. This site is approximately 0.7 miles west of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment.

MO: 310 - Beacon, Prehistoric Native American, Lithics, woodland. Investigation reported by James Sorenson, Park Archeologist at the Agricultural History Farm Park. This site is approximately 1.0 mile northeast of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment.

MO: 323 - Peter Noursi, Prehistoric Native American site, no artifacts found. Investigation reported by James Sorenson, Park Archeologist at the Agricultural History Farm Park. This site is approximately 0.3 miles west of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment south of Brink Road.

MO: 362 - No information was available on this site.

MO: 363 – This site is associated with a standing mid-nineteenth century structure. No information was available on this site.

MO: 456 - Howes, Historic, 1851 Headstone. This site is approximately 500 feet west of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment south of Middlebrook Road.

MO: 490 - Great Seneca Extension SVI, Historic, Anglo American, rock lined hearth. This site is approximately 0.9 miles east of the Midcounty Highway master plan alignment.

The following information was extracted from a Phase IA Archeological Assessment prepared by Elizabeth Anderson Comer/Archeology in May, 2007, for Preliminary Alternatives 3 through 11. Archeological site information was obtained from a review of records at MHT, and from a field reconnaissance of the entire study area.

Alternative 4 Modified

Approximately 37 acres within the limit of disturbance (LOD) are recommended for physical testing for prehistoric resources. Prehistoric resources are expected to consist primarily of small lithic scatters, which typically represent short term occupations for hunting or resource extraction. Lithic scatters are traditionally not considered eligible for listing on the NRHP due to the lack of information they reveal beyond the Phase I level of study. However, a more intensely occupied habitation may be possible on the terraces above the Great Seneca Creek at the confluence of the Goshen Branch (i.e., just north of Brink Road). Approximately 74 acres are recommended for physical testing for historic period resources. One previously recorded archeological resource from the historic period, a potential quartz quarry (18MO358), would be within the LOD of Alternative 4 Modified, along with 19 potential sites that have not previously been recorded.

Alternative 5

Approximately 4 acres within the LOD are recommended for physical testing for prehistoric resources. Prehistoric resources are expected to consist primarily of small lithic scatters. More intensely occupied habitation sites may be located along the terraces and floodplain of Seneca Creek, just downstream of the confluence with Whetstone Run. However, this area would not be impacted by Alternative 5. Alternative 5 contains approximately 15 acres considered to have high potential for historic period archeological resources, representing 12 potential sites. Four of these sites were previously recorded: 18MO175, 18MO361, 18MO362, and 18MO363.

Alternative 8

Approximately 143 acres within the LOD is recommended for physical testing for prehistoric archeological resources, much of which is in Great Seneca Stream Valley Park and North Germantown Greenway Stream Valley Park. In particular, the east side of the stream valley, which contains wider terraces and floodplain, would be expected to contain more intensely occupied habitation sites. This area would be outside the LOD for Alternatives 8 and 9. The rock shelter discussed above (MO12) is also located within the park, near Seneca Creek. Alternative 8 also contains 42 acres classified as having high potential for historic period resources, representing a potential 18 historic period sites. Three previously recorded archeological sites would be potentially impacted: 18MO175, 18MO362, and 18MO363. Three sites discovered during the field reconnaissance would be potentially impacted in Great Seneca Stream Valley Park, north of Middlebrook Road: two stone foundations and one surface scatter of historic debris. A second debris field would be impacted by Northern Terminus Option A. (It should be noted that Northern Terminus Option D had not yet been proposed at the time of the Comer report.)

Alternative 9

Approximately 158 acres are recommended for physical testing for prehistoric archeological resources, and 39 acres are classified as having high potential for historic period archeological resources including an anticipated 15 historic period resources. The previously-recorded sites and sites identified during the field reconnaissance, which could potentially be impacted by Alternative 9, are the same as those described above under Alternative 8.

Following the public hearing, Phase I testing will be performed within the LOD of whichever alternative is subsequently approved as the Preferred Alternative. Coordination will then be undertaken with MHT to determine whether Phase II testing is warranted for any of the tested sites.

8.4. Rustic Roads

Chapter 49, Section 76, Article VII, of the Montgomery County Code establishes a program to preserve as rustic roads those historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County. Preservation of rustic roads will be achieved by retaining certain physical features of rustic roads and by certain right-of-way maintenance procedures. Chapter 49 names two Rustic Roads that are located in the project vicinity.

Davis Mill Road is classified as a Rustic Road for its entire length. There would be no physical alteration of Davis Mill Road by any of the build alternatives or the No-Build alternative. In addition, Davis Mill Road is approximately 500 feet from the intersection of Brink Road and Northern Terminus Options B and D. Northern Terminus Option D would be a departure from the master plan and could potentially exert development pressure in the Agricultural Reserve, including in the Davis Mill Road corridor. However, many homes have been constructed along Davis Mill Road in recent years without necessitating alterations to the character-defining features of this Rustic Road. Therefore, it is presumed that any

development pressure caused by Northern Terminus Option D would not indirectly result in the need to improve Davis Mill Road.

Wildcat Road is classified as a Rustic Road. It's a forest road with outstanding natural features and historic value. The alignment of the road generally follows the course of Wildcat Branch, making the stream a significant feature of the road. The rural character of the road reflects the agricultural character of the area.

Wildcat Road would be physically impacted by all three Northern Terminus Options, as follows (see mapping of the various options in the Appendix):

- Option B would result in the least impact on Wildcat Road. This option would widen existing Brink Road and require a minor reconstruction of the Wildcat Road intersection. The intersection would remain unsignalized.
- Option D would intersect Wildcat Road at the location where Wildcat Road currently crosses Wildcat Branch, forming a new at-grade, unsignalized intersection. As a safety precaution, a median would be constructed to prohibit traffic on Wildcat Road from continuing across Midcounty Highway; however, left turns to and from the north would be allowed. The existing intersection of Wildcat Road at Brink Road would remain an unsignalized intersection. Although Option D would require construction of a culvert to carry Wildcat Branch under the new highway, a culvert already exists at this location to carry Wildcat Branch under Wildcat Road. Option D would change the rustic character of Wildcat Road in the vicinity of the intersection with Option D, but Wildcat Road would remain unaltered to the north and south of this new intersection.
- Of the three northern terminus options, Option A would result in the greatest alteration of Wildcat Road; however, this option is on the Montgomery County Master Plan. With Option A, approximately 1,000 feet of Wildcat Road would be incorporated into the highway improvements, resulting in the reconstruction of this 1,000-foot long segment of Wildcat Road to a four-lane divided highway. In addition, a new intersection would be created with the remaining two-lane portion of Wildcat Road, and this intersection would be unsignalized.