

Resolution No.: 15-1260
Introduced: December 13, 2005
Adopted: December 13, 2005

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmembers Nancy Floreen and Marilyn Praisner

SUBJECT: Request to M-NCPPC to Develop a Plan for Purchase of the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Property

Background

In 1849, Josiah Henson, a slave living in Montgomery County, Maryland, wrote his autobiography, "The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave", which became the model for Harriet Beecher Stowe's classic, "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

1. Josiah Henson was born on a plantation in Charles County, Maryland in 1789, but later his family was sold off and scattered. Josiah and his mother were sold to the Riley family which owned a 3,700 acre plantation in Montgomery County. He eventually rose to become the superintendent of the entire farm operation.
2. The cabin in which Josiah Henson lived during his years as a slave on the Riley plantation is located on what is now Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, just south of Tilden Lane. It is a rare example of a perfectly preserved slave quarter and includes the original oak beams, still covered with bark. This cabin is of national and historic significance.
3. The Cabin, which is on Montgomery County's list of historic sites, as well as the adjoining house built during colonial times, and an acre of land is for sale by the current owners.
4. This property should be under the control of an organization that will preserve it and enable historians, archeologists, and the interested public to visit and learn from it.

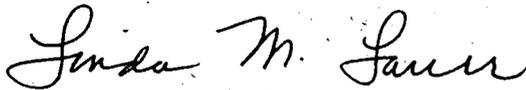
Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council requests that M-NCPPC develop a plan for purchase of the property known as "Uncle Tom's Cabin", working with the Montgomery County Historical Society, Heritage Montgomery, and other interested parties.

Arrangements should be made with the property owner to delay any sale of the property until an arrangement can be made for the purchase of the property by an appropriate party.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer
Linda M. Lauer Clerk of the Council