

**Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission**

**Miscellaneous Building Assets Report- DRAFT**

**November 26, 2023**

## **Introduction**

When our Commission got created by an Executive Order of County Executive Calvin Ball, we were told to review the report of our predecessor commission and were specifically asked to review the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin and the newly-named Dr. Edward L. Cochran, Jr. East Columbia 50+ Center. Dr. Cochran's time in public office started during a period when racial segregation was legally enforced in the county. He served along with Charles E. Miller, who our Commission also examined in a prior report. We asked our county for access to certain government records that hold important information for researchers who'd like to examine and tell the accurate history of this time period in our county's history, but after a year of searching we were told that the records we seek could not be located. The Executive Orders for County Executive Edward Cochran are lost to history, as well as the records related to the citizens who our local government asked to serve on interracial and human relations commissions as our citizens were voting on having Howard County transition from a Board of County Commissioners to a charter government with a County Council and County Executive. These were the early ancestors/predecessors to the current day Office of Human Rights and Equity, an office that therefore doesn't have access to its history. An entire era in our county's history is pretty much absent from the view of residents, students and visitors.

For the lion's share of 2023, we waited for our county to provide us with records and resources in order to adequately achieve what was asked of us: ask the community what IT THINKS should happen with the names on public assets that our research arm created reports for. If citizens were to tell us what they thought, we had to first ensure they had as much of the historical facts as possible before being asked. It was anticipated by us that while we waited on our county for requested information and tools, we'd be seeking an extension of our Commission's existence that is permitted per the county charter. The extension would require approval by the County Council, and a sponsor for the legislation asking for it. You'll read in the Cochran report herein about citizens who organized and went to their legislators regarding human relations/rights in their time, and what they achieved. Our Commission had recently received word that the County Executive was not going to sponsor legislation to request that our Commission get extended per the charter as we asked, putting a stop to our work. This report on the last five county assets researched by our Commission provides critical information relative to how our county fits into Maryland's civil rights history of the 1950-1970 time period and we are thrilled to provide this to our county for the upcoming Year of Maryland Civil Rights (Governor Moore's directive). We hope that it is valued by those who value history, and can be useful to the organizations and entities that teach it.

Contained within these pages is information regarding: Howard High School, Marriotts Ridge High School, The Harriet Tubman Community & Culture Center, Thomas Isaac's Log Cabin, and Dr. Edward L. Cochran, Jr. The reader will find history in these pages, but they will also find out about how naming has happened for these public buildings. The authors for each writeup are noted within. Our Commission's final report will be compiled after giving time to our community to respond with any changes you think we should consider making to this one.

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### Miscellaneous Building Assets Report

November 26, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	Dr. Edward L. Cochran Jr. East Columbia 50+ Center
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	Next to East Columbia library
<b>Dates</b>	Built <u>2023</u> Named <u>2021</u> Renovated/Repurposed <u>n/a</u>
<b>Who Named</b>	County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball III
<b>Reason for Name</b>	unknown
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – NO, but there are naming policy questions as a result of his time and actions as County Executive.</b>	

#### SUMMARY:

Dr. Cochran moved to the county in 1956 and began his time as a public official as a member of the Howard County Board of Education in 1964. When plans were made to create a community college in the county, he became a part of the Board of Trustees as did others on the local Board of Education. He served on the Howard County Council (campaigning as an “independent” Democrat) shortly after the charter form of government was finally put into place by county voters. He later went on to become Howard County’s second County Executive for one term. The Maryland Manual Online government entry<sup>1</sup> for him chronicles 14 years between the years 1964-1978 and another almost 4 years subsequent across various board/commission/task forces later that were deemed as irrelevant for our Commission’s inquiry. When one considers that complete school desegregation did not occur in Howard County until the year 1964 (or 1965 if the actions regarding Guilford Elementary School are considered), his documented actions relative to desegregation by the Board of Education were necessary to examine. A Human Relations Commission existed in the county prior to him becoming a councilman (as well as earlier iterations of it), so his documented actions relative to local civil rights/human rights were also necessary to examine. Some credit him as being critical to the desegregation of county schools, with others credit him as being responsible for a 1975 “Human Rights Act” that created an “Office of Human Rights and making discrimination”<sup>2</sup> etc. unlawful in the county. Our research did not corroborate these allegations for reasons that are detailed in the rest of this report, but nor did we find overt evidence that he participated in overt racism, nor the oppression of or bias towards a minority group. A request was made to his daughter Courtney Watson that he might consider answering some questions of our Commission. His recollections and those of others of what life was like when he and his family came to the county in 1954 and his thoughts

<sup>1</sup> Maryland Manual Online entry for prior County Executive Dr. Edward L. Cochran, Jr. accessible via: <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/36loc/how/former/html/msa14142.html>

<sup>2</sup> From a Wikipedia webpage created for him, which will be addressed

about what he saw the county doing when desegregation got federally mandated and county citizens were organizing around various equal rights initiatives here in the county would have been invaluable to capture. It would have also been highly beneficial for us to learn more about the committee he mentioned having formed to a reporter, and the policy he referred to regarding the names of living vs deceased people being placed onto county buildings. Our county government spent a year looking for Dr. Cochran's Executive Orders that we requested multiple times to help us understand activities he participated in and witnessed. Multiple county government offices reported that they were unable to locate any of them. The existence of a naming policy has ramifications throughout the county, and for this building asset in particular. Mrs. Watson was also asked if her father retained copies of his Executive Orders, and she reported that he had not.

### ***IMPORTANT NOTE:***

Dr. Edward Cochran, Jr. was examined by our Commission at the specific request of County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball III. Our predecessor Public Spaces Commission, created under Executive Order 2021-01 on February 4, 2021, was to submit their findings and recommendations to the Executive by November 5, 2021. On December 16, 2021, during a groundbreaking event for the East Columbia 50+ Center, it was announced by Dr. Ball that it was going to be named for Dr. Edward L. Cochran, Jr.<sup>3</sup> Dr. Cochran's name does not appear in the report of our predecessor Commission, meaning it was not examined by that body. It is unknown if they were asked to. Members of the local community who were advocates of the 50+ center's creation began to ask questions concerning the process of how the naming decision had been made, which likely contributed to the County Executive creating our Commission and adding the asset for us to research and have the public vet. In making this examination of the East Columbia 50+ Center, the only public asset we have reviewed that carries the name of someone still living, special care was taken to try to capture what seemed most relevant and necessary to do the task laid before us. Dr. Ball's words were to "review the names.. and the relevant history surrounding the namesake"<sup>4</sup> in order to ascertain whether the namesake participated in oppression, racism or similar biases. We ultimately had to do that without hearing directly from Dr. Cochran, which was not our desire but we had no choice but to consent to.

The bulk of Dr. Cochran's time in local public service (14 years) occurred during the segregation and desegregation era of local county history as well as civil rights activism of the 1950s/60s/70s. There is a lot about that time in our county's history that isn't visible anywhere for residents, visitors, and students to see and learn from. It's a time span that predates and encompasses Rouse and Columbia being built on top of agricultural land that was once home to large plantations and small farms, and there are many people still among us who have memories of that time. While this report was in draft form for the author, our current Governor Wes Moore made the announcement that the year 2024 would be the Year of Maryland Civil Rights. This

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<sup>3</sup> News and video accessible at: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News121621>

<sup>4</sup> Executive Order 2022-08 dated May 12, 2022 signed by County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball

report was already ten pages long at that point, but our Commission had also received word that the County Executive's office declined to introduce legislation to the County Council to extend our life as we requested as can be done per the county charter. To ensure that interested residents and students have a better chance of learning and knowing more about the history of how previous and current local residents fought for the rights that many of us take for granted, a decision was made by the author to expand this report in anticipation of 2024 activities per Governor Moore's recent declaration. What is written in this report is information designed to provide the reader with some of the "relevant history" Dr. Ball said he wanted that has been overlaid with a chronology of Dr. Cochran's political activity relevant to our charge to try to do some justice to a topic that is so much larger than the few men who are receiving much of the credit.

It should be reiterated that this Commission previously put out a report on the naming of the four county government buildings in Ellicott City. We made note that we found that it was Dr. Edward Cochran who was reported to be responsible for the renaming of three government buildings and the naming of another in March 1977 "by a formal decree signed by the executive,"<sup>5</sup> which hadn't been reported by our predecessor Commission. Our first report also noted our finding that "Cochran declared that it was usually "...the policy to name the buildings after historical figures and not recent officeholders" when he was asked by citizens about naming a building for the first County Executive Omar Jones.<sup>67</sup> This was why we asked for records.

## **OUR REQUESTS FOR COUNTY RECORDS AND SOURCES USED**

We made specific requests of our Commission's county liaison beginning in 2022 for access to any Resolution or Executive Order of Dr. Edward Cochran's involving the naming of the buildings during his tenure as County Executive. Our request changed to access to ALL of his Executive Orders not long after, since we preferred to independently examine them ourselves. Due to what our Commission was examining regarding the tenure and county culture when Charles E. Miller was in office for our report on the county libraries, further requests were made of our county for government records related to the early iterations of the county's Human Rights Commission which existed around the time that our county adopted the charter form of government. In our draft report sent to the community in early 2023, we reported that "Without access to the records of the local Interracial Commission (and its successor Human Relations

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<sup>5</sup> Howell, Ron. "Property Tax Hike Predicted." Accessible via county OpenData site:

<https://opendata.howardcountymd.gov/Public-Spaces-Commission-2022/Cochran-decree-re-building-names/9ne4-c3fs>

<sup>6</sup> First report of our Commission can be found here, and page 2 contains the quote referenced:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Public%20Space%20&%20Facilities%20Commission%20Governor%20Buildings%20Report%209.29%20%20FINA.L.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> "Omar Jones building proposed in Howard." Accessible via county OpenData site:

<https://opendata.howardcountymd.gov/Public-Spaces-Commission-2022/Cochran-re-naming-policy/y7yz-p76k>

Commission) our commission's job is made more difficult.”<sup>8</sup> Our Commission did NOT make inquiry of the current administration as to what it examined when the decision was made to name the East Columbia 50+ center in late 2021 since it asked us to do an independent examination. It is noted that a Google search for “Edward L Cochran” brings up as the first two results a Wikipedia page and the state's Maryland Manual Online entry for him which are referenced in this report since they're likely to have and be a source used by others. For reasons that will become clear, we could not rely upon the Wikipedia webpage. Records were therefore used from newspaper reporting, legislation, county Board of Education meeting minutes, and those cited in the footnotes. We did also make use of notes from a 2003 interview Dr. Cochran granted to the researcher compiling the history of Howard Community College (HCC) for their archives.<sup>9</sup> Cochran had been an early Trustee for HCC while on the Board of Education. It's important for people to understand that the minutes that were approved by the Board of Education may not reflect everything that actually occurred during the meeting, but it is the record that then-members agreed to have made for required government reporting purposes about what had transpired. There is only one source in the county for ALL of the Board of Education *approved* meeting minutes, and that is online via BoardDocs.<sup>10</sup>

### **THE SURFACE INTERNET DETAILS REGARDING DR. COCHRAN**

The Maryland Manual Online entry for him noted in the first footnote of this asset report provides the following public positions and dates:

**County Executive, Howard County, December 1974 to December 1978.**

**Member, County Council, Howard County, 1971-74 (Chair, 1971-72)**

**Member, Board of Education, Howard County, 1964-68 (past chair).**

**Board of Trustees, Howard Community College, 1966-68, 1985-91.**

**Member, Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board, 1977-80; Task Force on Growth and Development, Howard County, 1988; Charter Review Commission, Howard County, 2012.**

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<sup>8</sup> Second report of our Commission can be found here, and page 2 contains the start of the quote referenced: <https://opendata.howardcountymd.gov/Public-Spaces-Commission-2022/Public-Facilities-Commission-Libraries-Report-2022/6mvj-hg8i>

<sup>9</sup> For more info about HCC's archive, history and early history involving Columbia please see “History of Howard Community College: the early years, up to 1981 Vol 1 by VLADIMIR G. MARINICH: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fhowardcc.libanswers.com%2Ffolder%3Ffid%3D2170%26type%3D1%26key%3D79ccd615937431cca8d5ab32d29cb51f&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

<sup>10</sup> Complete approved Board of Education meeting minutes accessible from year 1847 forward via: <https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpsmd/Board.nsf/Public>

The Wikipedia.org entry for him shows a warning that “This article has multiple issues” to all webpage visitors, which caused an investigation for this report into why. The warning were: “The neutrality of this article is disputed” and “This article may lend undue weight to certain ideas, incidents or controversies” which were both dated June 2013.<sup>11</sup> According to Wikipedia’s website it is “a free encyclopedia, written collaboratively by the people who use it.” The site also indicates that anyone can “edit almost every page.”<sup>12</sup> In addition, the edit activity for the users who do contribute is also easily accessible. There was activity submitted by user “Fanatic W1K” regarding Dr. Cochran’s life, and the desegregation and human rights info appears to have been added to the page by that user. There was no way for us to ascertain the real identity of the user but knowing that people would continue to utilize and refer to the Wikipedia information made it that much more important to decipher what did happen in our community for those who value and rely upon accurate local history. The selected portions of the documentation regarding the activity for FanaticW1K that was captured is being placed on OpenData and can be seen via the footnoted links.<sup>13 14</sup> The Wikipedia page had been scheduled for deletion because of the issues, which is also seen by the logs. It is also important to know that there is more than one “Edward L. Cochran” which had to also be untangled for this report through research. His time as Chair of the County Council appears to be incorrect according to a story that was located from a 1971 newspaper in which a debate about time as council chair happened,<sup>15</sup> and that’s relatively insignificant but should be made clear on the government page for students and researchers.

## **COUNTY DESEGREGATION ACTIVITIES AND DR. COCHRAN:**

Anyone reading about the actions of people during this time period need to at least have some relevant history of what was going on in the county and in Maryland after Dr. Cochran moved to the county in 1956 and before he began public service in 1964. Multiple newspaper articles consistently made note of him being a Clarksville, MD resident. After May 17, 1954, many people in the country would have known that the first opinion in “*Brown vs. Board of Education*” had been handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court and that racial segregation of children in public schools was declared to be unconstitutional regardless of any state law requiring or permitting it. In that opinion, the court made it clear that “because of the great variety of local conditions, the formulation of decrees in these cases presents problems of considerable complexity.”<sup>16</sup> The subject court cases were returned to the court’s docket, a date was set for further argument, and a written decision would get issued in 1955. In the state of Maryland, there was an Interracial Commission of Maryland that had been created by an act of the General Assembly in 1927 (Chapter 559 of Act of 1927) though it had no investigative nor

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<sup>11</sup> See our document called “Cochran- Wikipedia page activity” placed on OpenData for webpage images captured

<sup>12</sup> Wikipedia introduction page accessible via: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Introduction\\_to\\_Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Introduction_to_Wikipedia)

<sup>13</sup> User info for Fanatic W1K is accessible via: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Contributions/Fanatic\\_W1K](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Contributions/Fanatic_W1K)

<sup>14</sup> Cochran entry revision history on Wikipedia is accessible via:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Edward\\_L.\\_Cochran&action=history&offset=&limit=250](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Edward_L._Cochran&action=history&offset=&limit=250)

<sup>15</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Hanna replaces Cochran” *Baltimore Sun*, December 7, 1971 Pg C14

<sup>16</sup> Supreme Court decision accessible via: [Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka :: 347 U.S. 483 \(1954\) :: Justia US Supreme Court Center](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/55/states/05-453.html)

enforcement power. That Commission operated from 1927-1943. The commission morphed into the Commission to Study Problems Affecting the Colored Population (created by Chapter 432 of 1943) and it operated from 1943 to 1951. That commission morphed into the Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations in 1951 (created by Chapter 548 of 1951). On May 31, 1955 the second written opinion of the *Brown* Supreme Court was issued that provided further clarification and direction for school systems. On June 20, 1955 the new Attorney General for Maryland C. Ferdinand Sybert (a Howard County native, county state's attorney from 1935-1947, Delegate for Howard from 1947 to 1950 after which he became a MD Senator) issued written guidance for the state and local school boards. On the front page of the June 30, 1955 edition of the local county newspaper *The Ellicott City Times* the Attorney General's "first formal opinion on the Supreme Court's recent segregation ruling" was reported on. The article made it clear that the state Board of Education's first meeting after the Supreme Court's second written opinion had just occurred the week before.<sup>17</sup>

Dr. Cochran is widely reported to have moved to Clarksville in Howard County with his wife and children in the year 1956. On April 4, 1956 the Howard County Board of Education officially issued a statement that public elementary schools (grades 1-5) would be desegregated at the start of the upcoming school year and that in accordance with recommendations of "the Citizens' Committee on Desegregation in the Public Schools" policies had been established by them. Dr. Cochran does not make a documented appearance in the approved Board of Education meeting minutes until May 5<sup>th</sup> of the year 1964<sup>18</sup> as a scan of the January 1960 to December 1964 minutes revealed.

The public is encouraged to read all of the events and activities involving the county's desegregation efforts as documented by the approved Board of Education meeting minutes and other sources in order to see the efforts of citizens and various groups for many years leading up to May 1964 when Cochran became a member. A succinct summary of where things stood as of that moment according to four members of the enlarged Board of Education was placed in the April 1964 minutes which can be read beginning at PDF page 28 and up to 33 using the link in our "Year 1964 Howard County Board" footnote on the previous page. Seven members of the local NAACP were in attendance at the meeting including Silas E. Craft, the President. The organization's prepared statement was read by Robert Kittleman, Chairman of the NAACP's Education Committee. Conversation then ensued between Mr. Craft and various board members, along with a discussion about the 1963 "Directed Integration Program" that was to be completed and achieved within four years. Unfortunately, there are no transcripts for any of the meetings to be able to know word-for-word what was said between all of the parties. The NAACP gave their proposal for desegregation they believed could be completed by 1964 which some community groups supported, and the Board wanted theirs to be used which other groups supported. One of the board's stated positions was that an "...adequate period of time must be permitted for the psychological and emotional adjustment" to occur. (Minutes Pg 157) A board member mentioned the board size increasing to five in May "at which time the problem would again be

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<sup>17</sup> See our Commission's Harriet Tubman writeup for article citation

<sup>18</sup> Year 1964 Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, May 5, 1964, Pg 169 Accessible via:  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/867JWA4F22E3/\\$file/01+07+1964+to+12+01+1964.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/867JWA4F22E3/$file/01+07+1964+to+12+01+1964.pdf)



discussed” (Pg 158), and the then-newest member (Zimmer had been appointed in March) was identified on document page 159.

It is written in various places that Cochran ran for Board of Education, and a Howard Community College webpage incorrectly states that his tenure began in 1965<sup>19</sup> but in reality he was appointed by Governor Tawes to be the fifth member of the Board in May 1964. It got reported in the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1964 edition of *Central Maryland News* that Cochran resigned as the chair of the Nominating Convention that would be deciding on local school board candidates. It was written that he had been urged to resign so that his name could be among the candidates to be considered.<sup>20</sup> In the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1964 edition it was reported that he had been nominated by the Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA). HCCA was reported to be: “..an organization of community associations and individuals representing approximately 2,000 persons in the county”<sup>21</sup> and he was on their Board of Directors.<sup>22</sup> In the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1964 edition of the *Central Maryland News* it was reported that Cochran and two other men were those who were recommended to Senator James Clark to be appointed by the Governor for an enlarged local Board of Education.<sup>23</sup> By this time, citizens had been writing letters to the editor regarding desegregation that were being published in the *Central Maryland News*. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Cochran was appointed by Governor Tawes.<sup>24</sup> In an article published when he first became the new County Executive, Cochran provided his recollection of the initial catalyst for him getting involved in politics when he moved to the county in 1956: that he was displeased with the “the classroom situation in the local schools, and I didn’t feel they were doing as good a job as they should be for our own children.” He reported having been active in the PTA at the local schools for three of his children and taking over the chair position in 1963 for the school board nominating body that made recommendations to the Governor for school board appointments. He also stated that “..in 1965 we integrated all the schools ahead of schedule with hardly any difficulty.”<sup>25</sup> Perhaps he meant ahead of the 1963 “Directed Integration Program” that was to be achieved in four years by 1967.

Our Commission sought information from the county regarding various prior iterations of the Human Rights Commission because the author of this report has been compiling information relative to their activities that are visible in various records and they are highly relevant to the time period and topic. The Maryland Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations sponsored its First Regional Conference on Race Relations that was held in Rockville MD on May 6, 1961. Howard County was reported to have been represented there by a biracial group in workshops there on housing, education, employment, etc. In November 1959, Mr. Douglas B. Sands (Tubman School graduate and Cooksville resident who moved to Baltimore) had been

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<sup>19</sup> HCC webpage <https://www.howardcc.edu/donors-alumni-and-friends/donor-profiles/joan-cochran-edward-and-joan-cochran-family-endowment/>

<sup>20</sup> “Cochran Resigns- Bush Appointed.” *Central Maryland News*, January 9, 1964. Pg 2

<sup>21</sup> “Other Nominees” *Central Maryland News*, January 16, 1964. Pg 18

<sup>22</sup> “Dr. Cochran Nominated.” *Central Maryland News*, January 23, 1964. Pg. 19

<sup>23</sup> “Cochran, Zimmer, Moxley Named; Clark Agrees With Convention.” *Central Maryland News*, March 5, 1964

<sup>24</sup> “2 Put on School Board” *The Washington Post*, May 2, 1964. Pg C34

<sup>25</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard’s new executive: Reason to rule him, Cochran says” *Baltimore Sun*. December 2, 1974. Pg C1

made the Executive Secretary of the state Commission. In the Annual Report transmitted in January 1962 to the Governor and General Assembly it was reported that Sands had turned his attention to the Maryland counties “and that citizens in seven counties including Howard had “formed citizens committees working in this area, but with no formal blessing from the County Commissioners.” The state Commission and various groups were working on trying to get an Accommodations bill passed by the General Assembly in 1962 to address discrimination in restaurants etc. In June 1962 it was reported that Sands was urging Maryland counties to create duplicates of the state commission.<sup>26</sup> That September, reports were being made of the progress in each of the school systems in Maryland. Howard County’s stair step one grade per year process was noted.<sup>27</sup> An Interracial Commission of Howard County is known to have been appointed, and members were recorded as being present at local county school board meetings on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1963 (pg 66), August 13, 1963 (pg 71), October 29, 1963 special meeting called by the Commission Chair Mrs. Albert K. Romoser (pg 107-108), and July 7, 1964 which was the first one in which Dr. Cochran was present as a school board member (pg 204).<sup>28</sup> Omar Jones was the Principal of Howard County High School at that time, for perspective.

In calendar year 1964, one mention was found in the Board of Education meeting minutes specifically mentioning Cochran that was directly related to county desegregation. The July 7, 1964 minutes referred to a letter that was given to the Board by an architectural firm who articulated reasons that the current Tubman School building shouldn’t be added to and the recommendation that a new building be built instead. The motion made to change the plan for the Tubman School to make it into an elementary school, and buy 10 acres of land to build a new high school was seconded by Cochran. (Pg 204) Nationally, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that had been enacted by the U. S. Congress on July 2, 1964 contains Title VI which provided: “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”<sup>29</sup> The Howard County Board of Education approved meeting minutes for July 6, 1965 provide a very important piece of information that seems to have been skipped over by the places telling our county’s history of this era: “Letter from Mr. Francis Keppel, U. S. Commissioner of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, approving the plan submitted by the Howard County Board of Education for the desegregation of its school system.” (Pg 82) Mr. Keppel had been appointed by President John F. Kennedy as Commissioner of Education<sup>30</sup> and his office was fully authorized to send termination orders to school systems that didn’t have satisfactory desegregation orders in place. Evidence of this was found in a footnote for a source:

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<sup>26</sup> “County-Level Racial Study Group Urged” *Cumberland Evening Times*, June 28, 1962, Pg 24

<sup>27</sup> “Maryland School Trend Still Towards Integration”, *Cumberland Evening Times*, September 4, 1962. Pg 9

<sup>28</sup> Note: our Commission used the *History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland* book by Cornelison, Craft and Price (1986) as a guide, but had to primarily rely upon the actual Board of Education meeting minutes due to the book not reflecting all of the relevant meeting minutes material of the Board.

<sup>29</sup> Civil Rights Act of 1964 § 601, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d accessible via: <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/civil-rights-act>

<sup>30</sup> Image of Francis Keppel accessible via: <https://www.jfklibrary.org/asset-viewer/archives/JFKWHP/1962/Month%2012/Day%2010/JFKWHP-1962-12-10-B>

Seven other school districts voluntarily submitted satisfactory desegregation plans after becoming subject to a final termination order. In all 329 school districts have met their requirements under Title VI by submitting satisfactory court orders. Of these 529 court orders, 137 were secured before the passage of Title VI.<sup>31</sup>

**The Howard County Board of Education submitted a plan to the federal government regarding desegregation plans, and an important question is whether or not it had first been subject to a final termination order of the United States government.** An examination of the minutes fails to provide any information regarding the text of the plan, nor what the catalyst was for it being submitted to the federal government. The minutes do make it very clear that the Board was desirous of continuing to make use of federal funds in the county and on occasion had made references to applications made to the federal government for things like:

- replace boiler in basement of gymnasium at Lisbon (“The Board has federal funds which can be used for this renovation.” (July 6, 1960 meeting, Pg 243-244)
- attempt to acquire building “St. Joseph Cupertino Seminary at Ellicott City” using a federal program (February 7, 1961 meeting Pg 48)
- discussion of creating a language laboratory at Glenelg High using federal funds (September 12, 1961 meeting, Pg 111)
- construction of Patuxent Elementary school using federal funds discussed (June 24, 1963 meeting, Pg 60)
- application for federal \$ for Patuxent denied; reapplication for funds to assist in additions for Elkridge (\$109,011) and Ellicott City (\$102,932) Elementary schools and science equip (\$69,026) for 11 elementary schools. (October 1, 1963 meeting, Pg 104)
- clarification of class sizes of schools that would receive science equip (December 10, 1963 meeting, Pg 122-123)
- mention of Division of Federal School Lunch Program as well as Division of Insurance and Federal Aid in the organizational chart for the local Board of Education (April 7, 1964 meeting, Pg 165-166)
- Reapplication for federal funds to assist in paying for the construction of Patuxent Elementary in Laurel (June 17, 1964 meeting, Pg 196)

This list is created in order to convey the reality a bit better for the reader about what every member of the Board of Education would have been operating under regarding school

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<sup>31</sup>The Yale Law Journal, Vol 77, 321 (1967) Footnote #32 on page 330 discussing information about termination orders and desegregation plans given in a 1967 interview by the Office of Civil Rights, HEW accessible via: [https://openyls.law.yale.edu/bitstream/handle/20.500.13051/15178/21\\_77YaleLJ321\\_December1967\\_.pdf?sequence=2](https://openyls.law.yale.edu/bitstream/handle/20.500.13051/15178/21_77YaleLJ321_December1967_.pdf?sequence=2)

desegregation activities in the county. Noncompliance with the new federal law meant potential financial penalties as well as court orders. Readers are encouraged to read what our neighbors in Montgomery County were doing regarding their desegregation, as it's likely that it would have been important for the Howard Board of Education to have an awareness of what was happening around them while making decisions for Howard County.<sup>32</sup> Evidence that they were interested in nearby events are recorded in the minutes with one example being:

“The Board was interested in obtaining an opinion from Mr. Reese concerning recent court cases in Montgomery and Anne Arundel County. Mr. Reese plans to give the Board a written statement concerning the court cases and if the decisions of the court apply to Howard County.”<sup>33</sup>

While it is articulated in multiple places that it was Dr. Cochran who provided some sort of a “swing vote” at the February 9, 1965 board meeting widely touted as the one that ended desegregation in the county, the Board of Education approved minutes for that date indicate that after they first met in executive session and then conducted other business in the regular session:

“The Secretary recommended that the Harriet Tubman High School be closed at the close of the present term, June 11, 1965, and that the use of this building be decided sometime between now and June 1. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Secretary’s recommendation was approved.” (Pg 27)

The Secretary was Superintendent John Yingling, and the approved minutes don’t indicate who made the motion nor who seconded it as had been done in minutes of prior years. Same with the entry on page 30 of the minutes that: “Following a discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to integrate the Guilford School in 1965.” The Board’s counsel, Mr. Reese, was recorded three conversations later to provide them with information relative to a Court of Appeals case in which the Montgomery County Board of Education and Montgomery County government had been engaged in a legal issue with each other. It isn’t know whether or not the case had anything to do with desegregation in the state of Maryland.

Decisions were being made regarding the fate of the Harriet Tubman school building before it had closed. In the March 2, 1965 meeting of the Board of Education it was recorded that: “Letter from John P. Redmond, President of the Middle Patuxent Community Association, concerning the use of the Harriet Tubman High School as the Board of Education administrative building.” Discussion was had, and the motion was approved to place the matter onto the April agenda. (Pg 36) Recorded in the May 4, 1965 (Pg 58) minutes was: “Letter from the Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners' re the use of the Harriet Tubman School for administrative offices and a reply from the Commissioners.” It was noted that they voted to move Board of Education

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<sup>32</sup> See Montgomery County desegregation timeline accessible via: <https://montgomeryhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Integration-timeline.pdf> and Harford County one using media: <https://harfordcivilrights.org/items/show/2>

<sup>33</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, January 5, 1965, Pg 22 Accessible via: [https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/867JUS4EEAD8/\\$file/01+05+1965+to+12+13+1965.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/867JUS4EEAD8/$file/01+05+1965+to+12+13+1965.pdf)

to Tubman once the following had happened: “.the assurance given in the letter from the Commissioners.” (*Note: our Commission has not examined the letter, and it and others may not have been retained*). As for a potential reason for the willingness and potential desire to change the building to an admin building: “Letter from Dr. Sensenbaugh enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. Royd A. Mahaffey, Superintendent of Schools, for Wicomico County, from the office of the Attorney General re the use of State incentive funds by county boards of education for the construction of administration buildings.” (Pg 82) Another written communication from the federal government pertaining to Howard County’s desegregation of schools was noted to have been received by the Board of Education in the September 6, 1966 meeting minutes as simply: “A letter from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare re desegregation in the Howard County Schools.” No open discussion was recorded in the minutes to have occurred about it.<sup>34</sup> The author of this report has not yet been successful in obtaining a copy of this or the other correspondence from the federal government, but they are without question a critical part of the county’s accurate desegregation story.

For historical perspective: June 12, 1967. was the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Loving vs Virginia* which ruled that miscegenation laws were unconstitutional. The case was a challenge to Virginia’s “Racial Integrity Act” of 1924 which the Supreme Court condemned in the *Loving* decision: "The fact that Virginia prohibits only interracial marriages involving white persons demonstrates that the racial classifications must stand on their own justification, as measures designed to maintain White Supremacy."<sup>35</sup> On March 24, 1967 in advance of the April 10, 1967 oral arguments at the Supreme Court in *Loving*, the Maryland legislature passed a law which went into effect on June 1, 1967 law repealing the state’s miscegenation laws.<sup>36</sup>

## **HUMAN RIGHTS/RELATIONS ACTIVITIES AND DR. COCHRAN:**

*Note: This section picks up where the early human rights work in the county previously written left off. Emphasis is being primarily placed upon Dr. Cochran’s involvement as found in records, and this therefore represents a small part of what was definitely a larger story.*

The topic of Human Relations was being discussed at Board of Education meetings due in large part to the efforts of the local Human Relations Commission. The April 13, 1965 meeting minutes reflect that the board received a letter from Evora Robinson (the then Chair of the Commission) regarding community programs one of which the Board of Education Chair was noted would be attending. (Pg 47) Due to some incident at Atholton High School, the local NAACP made inquiry into whether courses in human relations could be taken for credit by teachers. (March 7, 1967 meeting Pg 87) A committee for human relations at Atholton High School to improve racial relations sent a letter to the school board who were reported to have

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<sup>34</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, September 6, 1966 Pg 14 image placed on OpenData website

<sup>35</sup> See overview of *Loving v. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1, at 11 (1967) accessible via: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/388/1/>

<sup>36</sup> Maryland Session Laws, 1967. Chapter 6

agreed that “it was a big problem which still needs to be worked at.” (April 4, 1967 meeting Pg 97) At the next meeting in which representatives of the Atholton committee attended, Dr. Cochran was voted in as the President of the Board of Education. Discussion regarding the setting down of “...a time of implementing the teaching of Negro history in the schools.” (May 11, 1967 Pg 127) At the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1967 meeting of the Board of Education, a discussion was had between the Board and Dr. James Dudley from University of Maryland regarding human relations instruction. The minutes were approved to record that Board member Mrs. Albert James thought “..that omission of reference to the Negro and his contributions to American culture and to civilization as a whole perpetuates the idea that the Negro's contribution is insignificant and that the Negro is inferior.” Mention was made in the minutes that changing attitudes needed to be approached “..on a much wider front” than the teacher courses, and Dr. Cochran was recorded to have: “requested that Dr. Dudley emphasize that the Board of Education of Howard County is very much interested in the formation of a state-wide committee to study this question.”<sup>37</sup> Silas Craft representing NAACP’s Education Committee was who had previously asked the Board of Education in 1965: “To find out if consideration is being given to changes in curriculum or textbooks to fill in the present void of information about Negro contributions to our American Heritage.” (board meeting April 13, 1965, Pg 51) Recommendations were being made regarding curriculum by an Advisory Committee on Curriculum at the time as recorded in the meeting minutes.

Outside of the Board of Education meeting room, other activities were being reported in the local media regarding the county. A March 28, 1967 news story containing information regarding a local man who called himself the “Imperial Wizard of the Interstate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.” The local police chief reported that “They were moving stuff in during the night a couple of weeks ago” and Mr. Edwards was reported to have said that he had established a headquarters in Ellicott City on Main Street.<sup>38</sup> Edwards claimed it was an office and workshop for making Klan robes. It had been reported in a Washington Post news article that the Chair of the Human Relations Committee in Prince George’s County believed that a recent incident of violence in Laurel had been instigated in part by “Ku Klux Klan members from nearby Howard County.”<sup>39</sup> The incident had been more extensively reported on in the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1967 newspaper, and KKK activities involving the county were mentioned.<sup>40</sup>

At the November 7th, 1967 meeting, a correction to the official minutes was requested by Mrs. James: “that the following be inserted after the sixth line of paragraph 6 on page 3 of the unapproved minutes.” Her thoughts regarding Black history had been left out of the unapproved minutes. (Pg 208) A letter was noted to have been received by the Board of Education: “State Department is forming a group of Maryland educators to meet with him to discuss the problems of human relations and racial tensions in the Maryland schools, and methods of improving these situations.” (Pg 211) Discussions between Board members about human relations training of teachers being important were captured in the minutes (Pg 218) Board member Mrs. James

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<sup>37</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, October 3, 1967 page 205 placed on OpenData site

<sup>38</sup> “Maryland Klan Head Resigns, Raps Police” *The Washington Post*. March 28, 1967. Pg B2

<sup>39</sup> Smith, Philip. “Outside Agitators’ Kept From Laurel Area.” *The Washington Post*. July 19, 1967. Pg B2

<sup>40</sup> Jay, Peter A. “4 Linked to Klan Chief in Laurel Arson Attempt” *The Washington Post*. July 18, 1967. Pg B1

expressed wanting follow-up regarding human relations courses for teachers (January 9, 1968 meeting Pg 240-241) In the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1968 meeting minutes, Board member Mrs. James “recommended that Dr. Browne be requested to ask that the role of the Negro be included in courses that are being taught in history and that there be one course at least that deals specifically with Negro history.” (Pg 16) Dr. Kenneth L. Browne was the State Supervisor of Teacher Education. The meeting minutes contained an exchange between Mrs. James and Dr. Cochran regarding a report of the Human Relations Committee (school board one) that she wished for the Board to publicly endorse in which Cochran “..questioned the right of the Board to move into the area of social legislation.” (April 4, 1968 minutes Pg 35) Mrs. James was recorded to have remarked that: “..that there will be people of many more varying backgrounds as the county grows, and that the Human Relations program should be concerned with all groups.” (Pg 36) The report that was endorsed by the Board of Education has not been viewed by this author, and its whereabouts are unknown. During the next meeting, a letter from Dr. Browne was discussed, and “.. Mrs. James said she would move that the Board request the Secretary to President to commend Dr. Browne for his understanding of the statewide importance of this problem and the urgency of the matter as a whole” and she “..commented that this subject, is taking on national importance and to have something done in Maryland is in line with what is being done in other areas.” (May 7, 1968 meeting Pg 49) This was the final meeting of the Board of Education in which Dr. Cochran was a member due to Governor Agnew appointing someone else for the seat<sup>41</sup> and a Resolution from the Board was issued thanking Cochran for his service. (Pg 54) Another Resolution was recorded in the June 4, 1968 minutes. (Pg 72)

On September 13, 1968, Dr. Cochran filed his intention to be a candidate for a seat on the new County Council just as the voters were gearing up to make decisions about the charter form of government for the county created by the Charter Board that had been elected in 1966.<sup>42</sup> He considered himself to be a “candidate “independent” of the two major Democratic party factions.” He was quoted by a newspaper reporter as saying that the major problem facing the county was “..the ability of local government to plan and anticipate the needs of the county, and to provide services as they are needed.”<sup>43</sup> Voters approved the charter in the November 1968 election 57% to 43% opposed, and Cochran moved forward in the special primary as one of the winners vying for one of three open council seats in the next election.<sup>44</sup> A few days later, it made the news that the Howard County Interracial Commission had filed a lawsuit against the Board of County Commissioners. When the fifteen member Interracial Commission proposed a charter for itself, the County Commissioners blocked it which led to a lawsuit being filed in order to

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<sup>41</sup> “State Education Posts Filled” *Baltimore Sun*. May 8, 1968. Pg C16

<sup>42</sup> Names provided since many of them are also reflected in county Board of Education meeting minutes. See Sharkey, John. “Democrats Sweep Howard; Clark Piles Up 2-1 Margin” *Baltimore Sun*, Nov. 9, 1966, Pg F5

<sup>43</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “Cochran Running For Howard Post” *Baltimore Sun*, September 14, 1968, Pg B11

<sup>44</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “Howard Votes For Charter With Record 75% Turnout” *Baltimore Sun*, November 6, 1968, Pg F10

have a court decide whether or not the county commissioners could create “a local human rights commission.”<sup>45</sup>

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1968, the Howard County Interracial Commission was dissolved by the Board of County Commissioners, but they kept meeting anyway. By early December of 1968, the Interracial Commission had dropped its lawsuit after promises were made to look into creating a human relations commission under the new charter. The commission’s attorney gave the statement to the newspaper that: “..the possibility existed that a lawsuit could be brought against Howard County’s new County Council early in 1969 if the council refused to consider the creation of an “effective” local human rights commission.”<sup>46</sup> On January 9, 1969, it was reported that all eight of the candidates for office in the county had agreed to re-establish the Interracial Commission but “as an advisory body only.”<sup>47</sup> At a local Board of Education meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1969, Mrs. James was attributed with having the belief that: “the attitudes of the teachers are very important; even though courses are offered as listed, unless a teacher has the real facts and an attitude of wanting to help present day situations, there is still a long way to go; that she felt there is a need to encourage further work in this area so that all schools are offering courses in Negro history and relevant courses in sociology as well as other related subjects.” (Pg 162)

A January 23<sup>rd</sup> report of the 1969 election results contained a quote from Cochran that he and his fellow councilmen would be working to implement provisions of the new charter, and “the establishment of a county human relations commission.”<sup>48</sup> By April, all five councilmen sponsored the legislation to create a nine member county human relations commission with advisory powers only.<sup>49</sup> In May, it was reported that the legislation to create the commission passed with a vote of 4-1. Charles E. Miller was reported to have voted against due to questions he felt weren’t answered regarding how civil cases would be handled.<sup>50</sup> An August newspaper account reported that Wayman A. Scott, Jr. was elected President of the Human Relations Commission and that he stated that their main objective would be to “involve the community as much as we can.”<sup>51</sup> His obituary noted that he had also been a member of the Interracial Commission (state or local isn’t yet known).<sup>52</sup>

In February 1971 while Dr. Cochran was Chair of the County Council, a request was made for additional funding for the Commission beyond the \$2000 annual operating budget it was

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<sup>45</sup> “RIGHTS GROUP SEEKS ORDER: COURT PETITIONED IN HOWARD ON COMMISSION ISSUE” *Baltimore Sun*, September 18, 1968; Pg A10

<sup>46</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “Howard Suit Is Dropped” *Baltimore Sun*, December 3, 1968. Pg C9

<sup>47</sup> “RACIAL PANEL FINDS DEBATE” *Baltimore Sun*, January 9, 1969; A13

<sup>48</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “DEMOCRATS SWEEP FIRST HOWARD VOTE” *Baltimore Sun*, January 23, 1969. Pg C20

<sup>49</sup> Balfour, Charles. “RIGHTS GROUP PLAN DRAWN” *Baltimore Sun*, April 8, 1969. Pg A11

<sup>50</sup> Balfour, Charles. “BIAS PANEL ESTABLISHED” *Baltimore Sun*, May 6, 1969, Pg A10

<sup>51</sup> “Teacher To Head Howard Bias Unit” *Baltimore Sun*, August 2, 1969, Pg A10

<sup>52</sup> Wayman A. Scott, Jr. obituary information accessible via:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/172722933/wayman-a-scott> and his resignation from the Tubman School as a teacher noted to have been July 9, 1958 in the Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes.



receiving. It was reported that the County Executive believed the council would need to enact enabling legislation to provide funds for paid commission staff.<sup>53</sup> A report got released by the Human Relations Commission that rated the county as poor in relation to the “equal employment posture” of the classified employees system.<sup>54</sup> *This report and all documentation regarding this commission was requested by our Commission, and no records responsive to our request was received by us to review.* The county’s Human Relations Commission was engaged in an investigation involving the classification of school students in regards to learning disabilities, and the Chairman Llewellyn W. Woolford was interviewed for the August 1973 story in which he expressed his belief that their efforts to do an “independent investigation” was being thwarted. The article also noted the school system being cited by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare the year before in 1972 for their hiring and promotion practices.<sup>55</sup> This author has not obtained a copy of that citation.

In December 1973, the first Human Relations Director for the county named Von M. Hanton was hired by the county administrator with the approval of County Executive Omar Jones “to devote full time to investigating and mediating complaints of discrimination.” The county administrator was quoted as saying: “We preferred a qualified black to investigate minority discrimination complaints who had practical experience in the field.”<sup>56</sup> By February 1974, it was reported that the Human Relations Commission had drafted new legislation “proposing broad new commission authority” that it would be submitting to the County Council in April. It would have been the beginning of public police accountability.<sup>57</sup> Mr. Hanton reported that his office was asking “..some 200 community groups to review the draft proposal and several public workshops will be held explaining its provisions.” The newspaper article contains an extensive list of what the proposed legislation sought to accomplish, including “Incorporating in a local ordinance the state and federal laws covering public accommodation, open housing and non-discrimination in employment.” *It should be noted that our Commission has not viewed that proposed legislation, which was also requested by us of the county but not given to us.* Hanton was quoted as predicting that the legislation wouldn’t pass: “After the election, I think there is a good chance we might get it passed because there likely will be more council members then who will be more sensitive to human relations.”<sup>58</sup> Hanton reported that public workshops had been held regarding the proposed legislation. Hanton’s predictions came true. In July 1974, it was reported that none of the Human Relations Commission members had been able to get a member of the County Council nor the County Executive to sponsor the legislation in order to introduce it. Douglass B. Sands, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, was reported to have met with County

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<sup>53</sup> “Howard Rights Panel Asks Paid Staff, More Authority” *Baltimore Sun*, February 24, 1971, Pg C12

<sup>54</sup> “Howard Rated 'Poor' As Equal Employer” *Baltimore Sun*, April 24, 1971, Pg A11

<sup>55</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard board, Goedeke faulted in blocking bias probe” *Baltimore Sun*. August 16, 1973. Pg A12

<sup>56</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Prince Georges bias panel aide hired by Howard” *Baltimore Sun*. December 8, 1973, Pg A19

<sup>57</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard bias body asks right to use subpoena, cease-and-desist orders” *Baltimore Sun*. February 5, 1974 Pg C12

<sup>58</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Hanton predicts Howard council will defeat relations bill” *Baltimore Sun*. May 24, 1974. Pg C3

Executive Jones.<sup>59</sup> Dr. Cochran was on the County Council at this time, though he had already declared his candidacy for the position of County Executive in April.

News reporting about Dr. Cochran's candidate filing was initially focused upon his positions on acquisition of land for parks and a landfill and necessary cooperation between Executive and County Council. He was an advocate for mandatory financial disclosure and declared he would limit campaign contributions to \$100. He was quoted at a news conference as saying "the fact people associate me with Columbia is political slander."<sup>60</sup> It made the news when Cochran was quoted to say "It was not an appropriate function of a political club to make slates."<sup>61</sup> In a large expose' about the candidates in the upcoming election, one candidate was associated with human relations: council candidate Mrs. Thorpe who was the "chairwoman of the county human relations commissions' task force on women." She was reported to want "stronger human relations authority for the commission."<sup>62</sup> In the state of Maryland, laws were being passed prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. In a November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1974 newspaper, it was reported that Cochran had been elected as the new County Executive and that his primary concern "...is to unite the county, since it lacks unity at this point" and that he wished to "...encourage the press to de-emphasize the so-called divisiveness in this country."<sup>63</sup> Human relations didn't make the list of priorities he listed in that article, nor in his list of "21 campaign commitments" he announced he intended to keep.<sup>64</sup> The County Human Relations Director reported to the media that he wished to meet with Cochran about the affirmative action plan put into place by his predecessor Omar Jones his last month in office.<sup>65</sup>

Howard County was in the news in January 1975 with the headline "Harassment of Elkridge black family 'halted' with 7 arrests, police report." The Human Relations Commission was noted to have been involved, along with the U.S. Department of Justice.<sup>66</sup> Work to expand the areas of discrimination and the powers of the Howard County Human Relations Commission was completed and packaged into Council Bill 20 in the 1975 legislative session. The lone sponsor of the bill was Councilmember Richard L. Anderson and the bill was entitled "Human Rights Commission." Sections 12.200 through 12.207 of the Howard County Code were to be repealed and as Mr. Hanton noted in the letter he sent to community leaders asking for support for the legislation "...for the first time in the history of our county it will be decided whether or

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<sup>59</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Jones opposes giving Howard relations panel subpoena powers, right to award \$1,000 damages" *Baltimore Sun*. July 19, 1974. Pg C1

<sup>60</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Cochran files for top Howard post" *Baltimore Sun*. April 26, 1974. Pg C4

<sup>61</sup> "Democratic hopeful for executive assails Columbia Club's Move to Pick a Slate" *Baltimore Sun*. July 16, 1974. Pg C5

<sup>62</sup> Clark, Michael J. "The election: Howard shapes post-Jones era" *Baltimore Sun*. October 18, 1974. Pg C1

<sup>63</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Howard's Democratic government will listen to Columbia" *Baltimore Sun*. November 7, 1974. Pg C5

<sup>64</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Cochran announces in Howard 21 commitments he plans to keep" *Baltimore Sun*. December 4, 1974. Pg C1

<sup>65</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Howard rights chief bars county plan" *Baltimore Sun*. December 7, 1974. Pg B1

<sup>66</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Harassment of Elkridge black family 'halted' with 7 arrests, police report" *Baltimore Sun*. January 14, 1975. Pg C3

not your commission will be given the necessary tools to combat and educate the perpetrators of discrimination.”<sup>67</sup> Though Cochran was noted to have not formed an opinion yet about the proposed legislation, he mentioned that the 46 discrimination complaints the commission had received the past year “is not great.” Hanton reported that there had been “156 discrimination complaints dealing with Howard County” that had been filed with federal agencies during the past two years and “176 discriminatory complaints affecting the county” that had been submitted to the state commission over the past three years. The initial and revised draft and various amendments proposed by each councilmember (Knowles, Yeager, Keeton, Anderson, Thomas) can be seen in the PDF of the bill.<sup>68</sup>

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1975 it was reported to the media that the county’s Deputy Solicitor had written his opinion that the proposed legislation was contrary to the newly enacted county charter. The new Chair of the existing Commission, Wilbur A. Crable, expressed surprise at the written opinion as did the bill’s sponsor. Mr. Crable remarked “It sounds to me like someone is playing games. Brother Cochran (Edward L. Cochran, the county executive) was in our corner, I thought. But now this happens. It came like a shock wave.”<sup>69</sup> Action on Anderson’s bill got postponed until June, and Councilmember Thomas Yeager meanwhile introduced another version of a human rights bill that would have its public hearing also in June. Chairman Crable reported that he sent a letter to the councilmembers and Cochran “..indicating the strong possibility that commission members might quit if the bill is scuttled.”<sup>70</sup> He was also said to have enclosed legal opinion from two attorneys, one who was legal counsel for the Maryland Human Relations Commission and the other a Columbia civil rights attorney, that they believed that the proposed bill is “constitutional and should survive any court test it might be subjected to.” The bill’s sponsor complained that Yeager’s bill was weaker and that it removed protections for those who may be discriminated against due to sexual orientation. Yeager’s bill had the same title, but it was CB26-1975. The handwritten note on it indicates that it was tabled<sup>71</sup> as was Anderson’s bill.

A newspaper report about the federal government issuing a citation to the Howard County Schools for racial imbalances made the front page of the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1975 local newspaper. The title was “Goedeke Says Time Will Cure Schools’ Racial Balance Ills” and it was reported that a letter sent in May from the federal government requested information regarding why the Swansfield and Guilford Elementary schools had a higher percentage of Black students “..than allowed by federal guidelines.”<sup>72</sup> The Superintendent was reported to have written a 14-page reply to the government. The article mentioned court action and loss of federal funds as potential penalties for offenders. A July 30<sup>th</sup> news story reported that members of the local Human Relations Commission did resign just as they had threatened. A new version of a proposed

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<sup>67</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard rights commission campaigns for more power” *Baltimore Sun*. April 16, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>68</sup> Howard County Council CB20-1975 Anderson bill and amendments called “Human Rights Commission”

<sup>69</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard legal aide brands bill on civil rights unconstitutional” *Baltimore Sun*. May 20, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>70</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Nine-member commission: Howard unit vows to quit if human rights bill fails.” *Baltimore Sun*. June 3, 1975. Pg C1

<sup>71</sup> Howard County Council CB26-1975 Yeager bill called “Human Rights Commission”

<sup>72</sup> “Goedeke Says Time Will Cure Schools’ Racial Balance Ills” *The Howard County Times*. July 8, 1975. Pg 1

human rights bill was referred to as the Watts version because of the drafter of it being W. David Watts from the county Office of Law. Sexual orientation protection was placed back in the legislation, the Commission would have advisory powers only, but the human rights administrator who would be appointed by the County Executive would have various powers.<sup>73</sup> The current Commission would review the draft before the proposed bill would be filed with council in September. The Howard County school system was excluded from having protection under the legislation. Kathleen Griffin had been appointed by the school system in April as a Human Relations Specialist.

Mid-September in 1975, an opinion piece came out in Ellicott City's *The Times* newspaper about the draft legislation that the Human Relations Commission would be voting on. The title of the piece was "No More Delays On The Rights Bill" and it chronicled the history and posture of the issue up to that point. The newspaper's editors printed: "As we said previously, we believe the need imperative. We want to see a human rights bill passed and implemented. While it would have been best to put the power of the bill in the hands of commission members, it is obvious now that just can't be." The editors went on to suggest that their perception of the county's offer be accepted: "That is an office of human rights, with an all-powerful administrator advised by a non-powerful commission. If it's all we can get, let's take it."<sup>74</sup> It was reported that a draft of the Human Rights bill had been unanimously approved by the county Commission. Claudia Friend was the acting Chair of the Commission at that time, and she was quoted to say it was "...the strongest possible bill that this County Council would consider passing."<sup>75</sup> The front page of the September 20, 1975 local newspaper contained the headline "New Rights Bill Heads For County Council."<sup>76</sup> The legislation was reported to cover bias in the areas of housing, public accommodation and employment. It was reported that Commission members would be meeting with council/legislators when the bill was sent to them.

The Chair of the County Council, Yeager, was not in favor of the provision prohibiting discrimination based upon sexual orientation. The front page of the October 1, 1975 local newspaper contained the headline "Council, Cochran To Back Human Rights Bill." The body of the story made it clear that it was speculation: "All five county council members and the county executive will probably jointly sponsor the new human rights bill at the council's next legislative session."<sup>77</sup> The bill was going to be introduced October 6<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in the same edition was the news that Cochran was at Columbia Foundation banquet talking about a possible human services administrator to coordinate human service programs that had been created in the county "in response to the thrust within the community."<sup>78</sup> CB38 was introduced on October 6, 1975 and was listed to have been sponsored by Cochran and all five members of the County Council. The public hearing for CB38 was advertised to be taking place on October 20, 1975 at 7pm in

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<sup>73</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Bill revised: Howard rights board would advise" *Baltimore Sun*. July 30, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>74</sup> "No More Delays On The Rights Bill" *The Howard County Times*, September 17, 1975. Pg 4A

<sup>75</sup> "Rights bill is backed in Columbia" *Baltimore Sun*. September 18, 1975. Pg C3

<sup>76</sup> Thomas, Jim. "New Rights Bill Heads For County Council." *The Howard County Times*, September 20, 1975 Pg 1

<sup>77</sup> Beem, Barbara. "Council, Cochran To Back Human Rights Bill" *The Howard County Times*. October 1, 1975 Pg 1

<sup>78</sup> Beem, Barbara. "Cochran Predicts Human Services Office" *The Howard County Times*, October 1, 1975. Pg 18A

the council hearing room of the courthouse.<sup>79</sup> An African American investigator for the Human Relations Commission was hired in October 1975, and for a story that appeared in a December 1975 newspaper he reported that “Since he started his job in October there have been 36 outstanding complaints of discrimination” and that the majority were from women.<sup>80</sup> He was also quoted to say: “I would like to think the citizenry wants a viable office of human rights.” This was a bit of the local culture and climate that existed when the council bill was reported to have passed, with the legislation being called a “..controversial ordinance setting up a local office of civil rights with strong enforcement powers”<sup>81</sup> by a newspaper. The legislation got signed by Cochran on November 10, 1975. In 1976 it was reported that Mr. Hanton (the appointed Human Relations Director whose position was replaced by Administrator of Office of Human Rights by legislation) was being considered by Cochran for the job to head the new office.<sup>82</sup>

County Executive Cochran is directly responsible for doing many things while he was the Executive, and it is unfortunate that the entire inventory of his official Executive Orders is forever lost to researchers to study and further understand what he achieved as opposed to having to rely upon secondary sources such as newspapers and internet sites that can’t be relied upon. For purposes of this Commission report, it is noted that when citizens circulated petitions asking that he consider naming the new county office building after the county’s first County Executive Omar Jones he was reported by the press to have said that a committee was suggesting names and that it was “..the policy to name the buildings after historical figures and not recent officeholders.”<sup>83</sup> Executive Order 77-1 dated January 17, 1977 is one of the few orders from Cochran that were found from this time period. In it Cochran said there “..is a need for a citizens committee consisting of a broad based group of community leaders to coordinate the public review process..” relative to a recent three year study of Ellicott City. He formed the Ellicott City Citizens Advisory Committee and appointed twelve people to it. The Committee was to issue a final report to the Executive and County Council prior to October 1, 1977. In March 1977 the building which Cochran’s office was located in got renamed the John Lee Carroll building after having previously been called County Office Building One. Cochran’s Executive Order or “formal decree” that was referred to in the article containing the information about how it was done appears to be forever lost to researchers.<sup>84</sup>

In 1977 Resolution #77 was introduced on July 5<sup>th</sup> by four of the councilmembers titled “Resolution requesting the County Executive to forward to the County Council a Resolution disposing of the land adjacent to the Mt. Gregory Church, Cooksville.”<sup>85</sup> On July 24<sup>th</sup> the Baltimore Sun ran a story about it with the title: “Black church expected to regain land.” Dr. Cochran was noted to have relayed that the county had turned over the land to the Department of

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<sup>79</sup> Beem, Barbara. “Council Holds Rights Hearing” *The Howard County Times*, October 18, 1975. Pg 2A and hearing notice in same newspaper October 6, 1975

<sup>80</sup> Cane, Missy. “Charles Taylor: Investigator Fpr Human Rights” *The Howard County Times*. December 14, 1975. Pg 12A

<sup>81</sup> “Civil rights office set up in Howard” *Baltimore Sun*. November 4, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>82</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Human services chief fired in Howard; new post unfilled” *Baltimore Sun*. March 10, 1976. Pg C4

<sup>83</sup> “Omar Jones building proposed in Howard” *Baltimore Sun*. December 21, 1976. Pg C5

<sup>84</sup> Howell, Ron. “Property Tax Hike Predicted” *Baltimore Sun*. March 29, 1977. Pg 20

<sup>85</sup> Howard County Council CR77-1977 introduced July 5, 1977

Public Works instead of returning it to the church. Though the article's author was incorrect to report "... land was given to black residents of Cooksville for construction of a private school for black children" (the land had been purchased by the African American trustees in 1867), she reported comments from the council Chair Virginia Thomas: "It's been a long, drawn-out process, this is no charity thing. The people up there need to have their faith restored in government. It is their land and the government has no business being there."<sup>86</sup> The Resolution passed August 1<sup>st</sup>.

On October 6, 1977 the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee penned a cover letter addressed to "Dear Fellow Citizens" informing that they had spent many hours to develop their recommendations and that "In order to provide you an opportunity for commenting on these recommendations, the Committee has scheduled two public hearings to be held."<sup>87</sup> They planned to do the sessions "...in order that a final report can be forwarded to the County Executive by December 15, 1977." In the November 29, 1977 *Baltimore Sun* newspaper, a story appeared about the Citizens Advisory Committee's recommendation that "Ellicott City" be renamed back to "Ellicott Mills."<sup>88</sup> The county's Deputy Solicitor remarked that "There is no corporate entity as Ellicott City or Ellicott Mills, it is just what people want to call it." The Committee Chair reported that other members suggested that County Council could change the name by Resolution or a referendum process could happen through county voters. *Note: The final report mentioned in the article that was to contain the renaming proposal by the Committee has not been located.*

Dr. Cochran ran for re-election seeking a second term as County Executive but did not win in the Democratic primary of 1978 against J. Hugh Nichols. It was reported that Nichols won by a 3000 vote margin.<sup>89</sup> In November 1978 it was reported that a county judge declared part of the local human rights law to be invalid.<sup>90</sup> In December, Cochran gave an interview in which he declared that he believed that his loss was "a fluke."<sup>91</sup> He reported that he was going to return to working at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. A January 1979 newspaper article reported that the human rights law was being amended<sup>92</sup>, and the County Council took action on the bill to pass it with amendments in February 1979.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Hargaden, Anne. "Black church expected to regain land." *Baltimore Sun*. July 24, 1977. Pg B8

<sup>87</sup> 1977 Ellicott City Citizens Advisory Committee cover letter and draft recommendations on OpenData

<sup>88</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Citizens seek 1772 name, Ellicott Mills" *Baltimore Sun*. November 29, 1977. Pg C4

<sup>89</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Nichols upsets Cochran in race for Howard post" *Baltimore Sun*. September 13, 1978. Pg A11

<sup>90</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Rights law held partly invalid" *Baltimore Sun*. November 21, 1978. Pg C18

<sup>91</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Cochran thinks defeat was a fluke" *Baltimore Sun*. December 3, 1978. Pg 29

<sup>92</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Howard county moves to revise human rights law in line with ruling" *Baltimore Sun*. January 3, 1979. Pg C4

<sup>93</sup> Howard County Council CB2-1979 revising CB38-1975

**The County Executives list and who has a building named for them\* are:**

1) Omar Jones	6) Charles Ecker *had one at HCC then gone
2) Edward Cochran *	7) James Robey *named by Ulman
3) J. Hugh Nichols	8) Kenneth Ulman *
4) William Eakle, Sr. (interim)	9) Allan Kittleman
5) Elizabeth Bobo	

- Cochran building is the asset researched herein.
- Charles I. Ecker Business Training Center named by Howard Community College in June 2002<sup>94</sup>
- James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center named by County Executive Kenneth Ulman in October 2007. In that article it was reported that: “Ulman considered Robey's commitment to public safety when it came time to name the new police training center in Marriottsville.” The article continued: “While he appreciated the honor, he said he was also thinking that many people were involved in establishing the new training complex for police and firefighters. When Ulman told him he was going to name the center for him, "my first thought was: 'Am I dead?' ”<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> “HCC Center Honors Ecker” *Washington Post*. June 6, 2002. Pg HO10

<sup>95</sup> Hirsch, Authur. “Robey says 'it's time' after a half-century: Low-key police chief, county executive and senator retiring.” *Baltimore Sun*. April 6, 2014. Pg G1

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### Miscellaneous Building Assets Report

November 26, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL
<b>Classification</b>	School
<b>Location</b>	8700 Old Annapolis Rd, Ellicott City, MD
<b>Dates</b>	Opened September 1952; Named April 8, 1952
<b>Who Named</b>	Named by Howard County Board of Education as “Howard County Senior High School.” Commonly known as Howard High School.
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Named after Howard County.
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – NO, if named for the county. *If named after the Howard family, then they were indeed enslavers.</b>	

#### Summary:

In 1945 the school board briefly mentioned the need for a “central senior high school in Ellicott City after the adoption of the 12-year program in Maryland.”<sup>96</sup> A site was decided upon in April of 1946, but a decision was made to defer the building of a new central high school for two years due to financial concerns.<sup>97</sup> In November of 1946, the matter of the school was discussed by the Board as a “central senior high school” as well as a “central Negro school” and a new school at Elkridge.<sup>98</sup> These two high schools were again discussed by the Board in 1948 moving their ultimate construction forward.<sup>99</sup>

On May 23, 1950, the State Superintendent of Schools sent a letter to the county Board of Education approving the erection of a consolidated high school that would have tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.<sup>100</sup> During a June 27, 1950, joint meeting between the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners, it was disclosed that the owners of three different possible sites had been contacted.<sup>101</sup> During a joint meeting of the two boards on July 12, 1950, it was reported that one owner would sell 20 acres for \$10,000 and Mrs. Gaither would sell 30 acres or more for \$500 per acre.<sup>102</sup> For several reasons articulated on page 147 of the meeting minutes, 30 acres of the Gaither site was authorized to be purchased for \$13,500 at the Board

<sup>96</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 64, January 9, 1945

<sup>97</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 111, April 2, 1946 and p. 142, December 10, 1946

<sup>98</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 135, November 12, 1946

<sup>99</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 210, April 6, 1948

<sup>100</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 129, May 23, 1950

<sup>101</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 129, June 27, 1950

<sup>102</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p.146-150, July 12, 1950



Meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.<sup>103</sup> The deed for the purchase of 30 acres was recorded on October 13, 1950.<sup>104</sup>

The school was to be a replacement for Ellicott City, Clarksville, and Elkrigde High Schools. Other high school students were to be sent to the Lisbon school, which would be refitted as a senior high school.<sup>105</sup> During the January 21, 1952, school board meeting, it was disclosed that Mrs. Gaither had agreed to sell an additional twelve acres of land for \$5000 and would remove the “colored house and the corn crib.”<sup>106</sup> on it. Developer and associate School Board member Charles E. Miller stated that he would be willing to contribute \$2500 towards the cost for the extra land, but no decision was made on this contribution.<sup>107</sup>

While examining the school board meeting minutes, we noted that in May 1954 “The Secretary recommend that the Kiwanis of Ellicott City be permitted to use the Howard County Senior High School gym for the purpose of holding a minstrel show. Upon motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by the motion of Mrs. Crist, the recommendation was approved”.<sup>108</sup> It was also noted that the Board minutes reflected receiving a letter of thanks from the Kiwanis Club for the use of the facilities for the “recent Kiwanis Minstrel Show.”<sup>109</sup> We did not notice any other such requests of any other schools.

### **Naming of the School**

According to the approved minutes for March 6, 1952, the Superintendent had recommended that the Board survey all 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade children in Districts 3 and 4 to determine how many wanted to attend the new high school. During the April 8, 1952, meeting, the Board of Education noted that the Superintendent had “stated that it would be necessary for the Board of Education to select a name for the new high school.”<sup>110</sup> Five proposed names were recorded:

- John Eager Howard High School
- Charles Carroll of Carrollton High School
- General Gaither High School (family name for property purchased)
- Edwin Warfield High School
- Howard County High School

The approved meetings minutes of April 8<sup>th</sup> do not get into any details of the discussions preceding the decision to name the school. Board member Norman H. Warfield moved that it be named “Howard County Senior High School” which was seconded by Board member Charles E.

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<sup>103</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p.152, August 15, 1950

<sup>104</sup> Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records) MWB 220, p. 239, MSA\_CE53\_211.

<sup>105</sup> Ellicott City Times, 11/6/1952, School Section/Second Section, “Howard High Dedication This Friday” Pg 1

<sup>106</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p.22-23, January 21, 1952

<sup>107</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 22-23, January 21, 1952

<sup>108</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 191, May 4, 1954

<sup>109</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 209, July 6, 1954

<sup>110</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 39-40 April 8, 1952

Miller and approved. The school opened on September 4, 1952. An article appeared in the *Ellicott City Times* on November 6, 1952<sup>111</sup> regarding the dedication of the school. We also note that there is a seal embedded in a hallway at the school with the inscription of “Howard County Senior HS”.<sup>112</sup>

We were unable to find when or how (and therefore if) the school’s name changed from the original “Howard County Senior High” but a Board of Education minutes noted that the sign on the school was to be changed from “Howard County High School” to “Howard High School.”<sup>113</sup> A Howard County Public School System profile on the school notes several additions/renovations to the school and the sign on the school has: “Howard High School.”<sup>114</sup> By being named Howard County Senior High School, it was named after Howard County and presumed namesake John Eager Howard. We include the word “presumed” because there is no evidence found of any discussion or decision to name the County after Colonel John Eager Howard, although government and other sources state it is so. As a local government Commission doing a job for our community and citizens, we rely upon primary sources in order to confirm things that may be commonly assumed and understood. Without confirmation by primary source documents, we cannot confirm or deny the rationale for naming.

It is said that the county’s name was derived from the predecessor “Howard District” in Anne Arundel County. Howard District was created in 1839 and was largely the efforts of the men representing a group of residents who wanted to partition a section of Anne Arundel into a separate county. The Chair of that committee was Governor George Howard. It is commonly said that the “Howard” from Howard District and County honors George Howard’s father, John Eager Howard, but no documentation of that could be found. The 1837 edition of the *Maryland Gazette* mentioning the meeting of the committee does not mention a desired name.<sup>115</sup>

Report written by Wayne Davis and Margaret Goodlin

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<sup>111</sup> *Ellicott City Times*, November 6, 1952

<sup>112</sup> Discussion and photo of a Hallway Seal in the FB Group “You Know You Went to Howard High When?”, June 9, 2023

<sup>113</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Sept 6, 1966

<sup>114</sup> Howard High School profile accessed April 26, 2023

<sup>115</sup> *Maryland Gazette*, February 23, 1837

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### Miscellaneous Assets Report

November 26, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	MARRIOTTS RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
<b>Classification</b>	School
<b>Location</b>	12100 Woodford Drive, Marriottsville, MD, 21104
<b>Dates</b>	Opened 08/30/2005; Originally named Marriott's Ridge but changed to Marriotts Ridge in December 2004. <sup>116</sup>
<b>Who Named</b>	Named by Howard County Board of Education
<b>Reason for Name</b>	The minutes say the school was named after the town of Marriottsville, and the height of its location as per BOE naming criteria which names schools per geographic location. <sup>117</sup>
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – DEPENDS UPON WHAT IT WAS ACTUALLY NAMED FOR</b>	

### Summary:

At the time of these discussions with the school board, the location of the soon-to-be Marriotts Ridge High School was believed to be located on land patented to John Taillor in 1727 called "Woodford" comprising 3,440 acres.<sup>118</sup> As some point the area became known as Marriottsville after William H. Marriott settled on 905 acres of land he resurveyed in 1831 which were parts of the original Woodford land patent and another adjacent one.<sup>119</sup> This resurveyed land was east of the current location of Marriotts Ridge High School.

However, the land that Mount View and Marriotts Ridge schools are located on is, in fact, not on the Woodford land patent but on a somewhat obscure land patent of 100 acres called "Whole Cammon".<sup>120</sup> Jody Frey describes as "Surveyed 4/23/1741 by William Cromwell; Patented in Nov 1741 by Joshua Brown for 100 acres repatented as Joshua's Loss And Dorsey's Advantage".<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> The Baltimore Sun, 12/9/2004, "At Howard school, making a point about an apostrophe".

<sup>117</sup> Howard County Board of Education minutes, 6/22/2004, p.8.

<sup>118</sup> Patented Certificate 5354, Woodford, 3,440 acres, John Taillor, Baltimore County, Maryland State Archives record S1190-5432

<sup>119</sup> Patented Certificate 1725, Woodford, 905 acres, William H. Marriott, Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Archives record S1189-1814

<sup>120</sup> See land patent map of Woodford and Whole Gammon, created by Wayne Davis using Google Earth based on the kml files provided in Frey's Emporium of Amazing Knowledge.

<sup>121</sup> Frey's Emporium of Amazing Knowledge, Land Patents, <https://jsfecmd.info/FREAK/HowardCountyLandPatents.html>

Marriottsville had its first post office in February 1832, shortly after Marriott settled there, with postmaster Isaac C. Bowles in what was still Anne Arundel County.<sup>122</sup> Marriott served as Brigade Major and Inspector of the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Maryland Militia and served in the War of 1812.<sup>123</sup> He rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 1820.<sup>124</sup> He was also a lawyer and served in the House of Delegates and in the Maryland Senate and “was appointed to the United States Supreme Court but died before taking his position.”<sup>125</sup> In 1850 according to the Federal Census he was enslaving 10 people.<sup>126</sup> Gen. Marriott “was secretary for a meeting of slaveholders of Anne Arundel County on September 15, 1842. Among the resolutions passed at that meeting was a call for a convention in Annapolis of persons favorable to slaveholding in the state.<sup>127</sup> At that convention, held in Annapolis from January 12 – 14, 1842, several measures were recommended to the Maryland Legislature, some of which became law, which tightened the bonds of slavery and increased restrictions for the free Black population. While Marriott was part of the group, it does not appear that he was recorded to have been present at the convention.<sup>128</sup>

General William H. Marriott died in 1851 and his son, William H. Marriott, Jr., put their 207.5-acre farm and residence called Woodford Hall up for sale.<sup>129</sup>

### **Naming of the High School**

The Howard County School Board held a meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003, to discuss the name of the newly built 12<sup>th</sup> high school for the county that was being referred to as Northern High School up to then.<sup>130</sup> A naming committee had been established and it reported to the Board that after receiving suggestions from students and community members it recommended the name “Woodford High School” for the new school. Other names the committee put forward included West Ridge High, Westwood High, West Branch High, and Old Pike High, with Woodford High receiving the most votes.

It wasn’t the first time the name Woodford was considered for a school in that community. During the naming of the school currently named Mount View Middle School in 1992, the name Woodford had also been suggested.<sup>131</sup> The discussion on the name for this “Western Middle School” occurred over a 4-month period with some of the same rationale for considering this name for Marriotts Ridge High School as discussed below. In the end, the Board decided not to accept Woodford as the school name giving the rationale that “While Mount View is also the

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<sup>122</sup> Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1828-1832. National Archives Microfilm Publication M1131, Roll 4, Volume 6, page 7.

<sup>123</sup> Archives of Maryland, (Biographical Series), William H. Marriott (1790-1851).

<sup>124</sup> The Maryland Gazette, Annapolis, MD, “Militia Appointments”, Jan 20, 1820, p. 3.

<sup>125</sup> The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Brooklyn NY, “Emily G. Minton”, Feb 21, 1911), p.3.

<sup>126</sup> Schedule 2, Slave Inhabitants in Howard District, Census December 1, 1850.

<sup>127</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Maryland from the Earliest Period to the Present Day*, Volume III (Hatboro, PA: Tradition Press, 1967, p. 325.

<sup>128</sup> Archives of Maryland, (Biographical Series), William H. Marriott (1790-1851).

<sup>129</sup> The Baltimore Sun, “For Sale”, 5/28/1857, p.3.

<sup>130</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, 5/8/2003, p. 14.

<sup>131</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, 10/22/1992, 11/12/1992, 12/10/1992, and 1/14/1993.

name of the community and the post office and the white school at Slack's Corner, there was also a colored school named Mount View and a colored school named Alpha. The name [Mount View] not only captures the white history but also some of the Black history. Mount View replaced Woodford."<sup>132</sup>

As a consolation, Dr. Hickey, then Superintendent of the School Board, noted that "in recommending the name Woodford it should be noted that the name is being reserved for a future elementary school.<sup>133</sup> While our report is not examining the naming of Mount View Middle School, it should be noted that despite the desire by some community members to recognize the name Woodford for one of our public schools, this never happened.

Regarding the name of Woodford for the high school in the area, which would become Marriotts Ridge High School, Ms. Alice Haskins, Administrative Director for Secondary Schools, was recorded to have provided the following rationale during the meeting:

"According to Dr. Caleb Dorsey's land grant map, Woodford was a 3,440-acre land patent of John Taillor that encompassed a portion of Route 32 and north of Route 99, patented December 20, 1727. In the 1800's, there was a church and school on Sand Hill Road called Woodford. The school was for African American children housed in a one-room building. The church included a congregation of Black Methodists and eventually became West Liberty Methodist Church in 1911 when the school was closed, and the congregation bought additional property. Written correspondence from Ms. Joetta Cramm, a Howard County Historian, stated that the name Woodford may have originated from a place in England since early settlers often used names familiar to them."<sup>134</sup>

The other four final suggestions were also discussed. It was recorded that: "Ms. Haskins stated that the two names that received the most support were Woodford High and West Ridge High, with Woodford receiving the most votes."

Howard County historian Joetta Cramm wrote a memorandum to the school naming commission with her view that "Woodford is probably the name most closely related to the location of this new school"<sup>135</sup>. She continued that although Dorsey's roughly drawn Land Grant Map showed Woodford extending further south that it really did (see discussion above)<sup>136</sup>, she noted that "There was a Woodford farm located where the school is to stand until the Baker's chose another name. Woodford [is] the name of the road back to the school area. There was a church and school named Woodford on Sand Hill Rd. on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas.

The approved minutes reflect: "Mrs. Watson stated that the Board received an email from two committee members who recommended West Ridge High and asked how Woodford High was chosen. Ms. Haskins explained that the name Woodford received the highest number of votes by

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<sup>132</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, January 14, 1994, p. 8

<sup>133</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, January 14, 1993, p. 8

<sup>134</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, May 8, 2003, p. 14.

<sup>135</sup> Memorandum from Joetta Cramm to School Naming Commission, re New High School, 2004 3-12

<sup>136</sup> Caleb Dorsey's "Original Land Grants of Howard County, Maryland" map showing Woodford, Howard County Historical Society.1968

committee members, students, and teachers. She also emphasized that the name Woodford is only a recommendation to the Board.” The Board decided to hold a public hearing about the matter on June 12, 2003. One Board member was recorded to have expressed his support for the recommendation. Email reactions to the recommendations were encouraged.<sup>137</sup>

According to the approved meeting minutes, at the June 12, 2003 public hearing on the new school’s name, alternate names were suggested. Two of the speakers were noted to be local historians – Dr. Alice Cornelison and Ms. Joetta Cramm who both spoke in favor of the name Woodford. A Mount View MS parent was recorded to have said “Woodford is not a name preferred in the community.” and she provided three alternative names with the word “ridge” in them (Stone Ridge, Marriott Ridge and North Ridge). A West Friendship ES PTA President and member of the naming committee was recorded to have said “..there were too many names with “Wood” in them in the area” and supported the three names given by the Mount View MS parent<sup>138</sup> It can only be speculated that perhaps nearby Woodstock was the tipping point to not favor the name Woodford since it wasn’t recorded in the minutes. Several others, including local historians, supported Woodford High School based on its historical significance. The final decision was made at a later date.

Ten days later at the June 22, 2004 meeting of the Board, a new person came to give a recommendation from the School Naming Committee and the minutes record that a public hearing was held about it that day. No further mention of Woodford was made and Stone Ridge High School was the recommendation.<sup>139</sup> This was dropped for fear the students would be taunted as “Stoners” or the school referred to as “Stoned” Ridge High School. It was recorded in the minutes that: “Mr. Kaufman stated that a committee was formed to make a recommendation to the Board, and he felt that the Board should honor the committee’s recommendation.” Another felt that “..there were other more appropriate names suggested and considered by the committee.”

A motion was made that the Board consider the name Marriott Ridge High School, and a discussion ensued among the Board members. It was recorded that “Mrs. French stated that the Board’s policy on naming schools suggests that the geographic region should be identifiable by the name of the school.” It was further recorded that “Ms. Gordon agreed with Mr. Kaufman that the Board should accept the committee’s recommendation. The committee members considered and debated the suggested names. The second name recommended by the committee was Woodford which also has a strong geographic connotation.” The motion to name it Marriott Ridge “..failed by a vote of 2-3 with Mr. Kaufman, Mr. O’Donnell, and Ms. Gordon voting no.” New action was done as follows: “Mrs. Watson moved that the new high school be named Marriott’s Ridge High School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board by a vote of 3-2 with Mr. O’Donnell and Ms. Gordon voting no.” There was an apostrophe added to the name that had been just voted down minutes earlier.

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<sup>137</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, May 8, 2003, p. 14,15.

<sup>138</sup> Howard County Board of Education minutes, June 12, 2003, p.12.

<sup>139</sup> Howard County Board of Education minutes, June 22, 2004, p. 7.

In the November 11, 2004 meeting minutes suggestions to changes to the naming policy were made. Among them were that: “Mrs. French noted that the Chair Facilitator, geographer, and historian are non-voting members and expressed her opinion that they should be allowed to vote if desired.” A more extensive discussion commenced regarding the naming committee:

Mr. O'Donnell asked that the Board consider adding language that would indicate that the Board selects a name that is suggested by the committee. Mrs. French expressed concern that such a provision would limit the Board's options. Mr. O'Donnell expressed his belief that the Board ignores recommendations of committees. Mrs. Watson expressed complete disagreement and stated that the Board uses committees to advise and consult the Board and never ignores committees.

It was also recorded in the minutes that: “Mrs. French indicated the need to consider avoiding punctuation in names of facilities.” A public hearing on the policy changes would happen the next month. In the approved meeting minutes for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the following was recorded:

Staff recommended that the apostrophe be deleted from the spelling of Marriott's Ridge HS. Apostrophes imply ownership, and it was not the intent of the committee to name the school after a person. The name was selected to recognize the local community of Marriottsville and the location of the school on a geographic ridge.

It was approved that the school name be: Marriotts Ridge HS.<sup>140</sup>

The situation with the Marriott's Ridge apostrophe made the news in advance of the meeting. The news report clarified that the school's new principal had originally made the request of Dr. Cousin by letter.<sup>141</sup> There are two other county schools that have the separate word "Ridge" in them: Forest Ridge ES and Triadelphia Ridge ES in Laurel.<sup>142</sup> Presumably, they too were named that way for also being on a high point in the county.<sup>143</sup> We've noted the school on a map showing the applicable nearby areas. Per our prior report on Glenwood in which the library is actually located in Cooksville, we do wonder if geographic boundaries for areas are being considered in naming decisions.

Report written by Wayne Davis, Marlena Jareaux and Margaret Goodlin

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<sup>140</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, December 9, 2004, Pg 4

<sup>141</sup> Cho, Hanah. "At Howard School Making a Point About an Apostrophe" Baltimore Sun. December 9, 2004. Pg B4

<sup>142</sup> See HCPSS map image with "ridge" in them

<sup>143</sup> Map of other county schools with "ridge" as part of their name.

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### Miscellaneous Building Assets Report

November 26, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	Thomas Isaac's Log Cabin
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	Corner of Main Street and Ellicott Mills Drive
<b>Dates</b>	Built circa 1851 Named _1979_ Renovated/Repurposed _1988
<b>Who Named</b>	Historic Ellicott City, Inc. and Howard County Recreation & Parks
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Named for one of the prior land owners where asset once sat
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – YES, but there are other things to consider regarding the renaming that happened</b>	

#### SUMMARY:

\*Note: the County Executive's office specifically requested that our Commission ask the community what it wished to have happen regarding the name on this asset. Out of all of the assets reviewed by our predecessor Commission, this one received the most treatment in terms of word count. The report on the asset was not placed into the table of contents of the document, but it begins at PDF page 86 of that document and ends on page 97.<sup>144</sup>

We first had to address the misinformation contained in that report. Much of the information in it appears to be an attempt to decipher the ownership and chain of title for the land upon which the asset once sat prior to it being moved which was known to be under investigation by a group of researchers through an initiative of a local history nonprofit. The chain of title work included in our predecessor's report had actually been done by one of those initial researchers who exited the work of the initiative prior to examination of the property ownership transfers (deeds).

Our predecessor entity wrote that "The only other reference to Levi Gillis is in a Deed of Property from Thomas Isaac to Levi Gillis and others.." (Pg 87 of report) but that is incorrect. Thomas Isaac purchased property from Levi Gillis immediately prior to him selling land to Gillis and others, which our predecessor missed. Levi Gillis was recorded on the 1850 census to be a Mulatto man living in Ellicott's Mills with his wife Jane and their children. He purchased land in 1851 from a Black man named Thomas Fisher and his wife Ellen. It was also noted in our predecessor's report that the land sold to Gillis and other church Trustees had a mortgage on it that "was not paid in full, so Thomas Isaac paid the trustees \$5 and the land was conveyed back

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<sup>144</sup> Public Spaces Commission Report dated November 5, 2021 accessible via: [https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/Public%20Spaces%20Commission%20Report-110521\(1\).pdf](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/Public%20Spaces%20Commission%20Report-110521(1).pdf) with pages placed on our OpenData webpage



to him.” (Pg 88 of report). That is also incorrect. That land was never conveyed to Thomas Isaac nor to any member of his family.

The accurate history of the asset was investigated over a nine-month period by a local research team in conjunction with an initiative of the county history nonprofit Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. Highlights of their findings were published in a report disseminated to the community in early 2022 and shared with Howard County Recreation and Parks (manages the asset) in Spring 2023 for purposes of changing the interior narrative of the property that is told to visitors, students and residents.<sup>145</sup> The asset had been made to reflect and depict a “European settler” narrative to coincide with tourism interests. The state tourism website claims the asset once “..served as a National Road way station”<sup>146</sup> and it was made part of the Historic National Road<sup>147</sup> Byway. The nonprofit Howard County Tourism, Inc.’s website reports that the asset “..commemorates the early stages of European development in the Patapsco River Valley” and also contains wrong ownership chain of title data.<sup>148</sup>

The nonprofit Howard County Historical Society, Inc. also has the following information: “The oldest structure in Ellicott City was built by Isaiah Mercer in 1780. It is believed was given to Thomas Isaac in 1858.”<sup>149</sup> The 1850 census entry for Isaiah Mercer, Sr. which indicates an age for him of 69 years old, meaning he would have been 1 year old in 1780 and NOT the builder of the log cabin.<sup>150</sup> Their site also has: “The interior provides an idea of how Europeans and Africans lived during the time of colonial settlement.” No evidence could be found that the interior showed/shows anything related to “Africans” during the colonial times. The correct chain of title for the asset has been shared with the community in 2022 and specifically with HCRP in early 2023.<sup>151</sup>

## **Thomas Isaac**

Thomas Isaac first appears in Anne Arundel County census records in the year 1830 as head of a household of two. Occupations weren’t placed onto the early census records with any degree of consistency until the year 1850. He was listed on the 1850 census to be a laborer, and he was also recorded on the 1850 Ellicott’s Mills slave census and associated with a 15-year-old Mulatto girl. He was recorded to have \$1000 worth of real property by the census taker. He had purchased a property in February of the year 1838, and that property fronted Old Columbia

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<sup>145</sup> Report of Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. accessible via: <https://hocoltr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Early-Ellicott-City-Black-history.pdf>

<sup>146</sup> State tourism website accessible via: <https://www.visitmaryland.org/scenic-byways/historic-national-road>

<sup>147</sup> Deal-Zimmerman, Michelle. “Taking the Scenic Route.” *The Baltimore Sun*. November 8, 2009.

<sup>148</sup> Howard County Tourism, Inc.’s webpage for the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin accessed November 1, 2023 and placed on our OpenData webpage for our records

<sup>149</sup> Howard County Historical Society, Inc.’s webpage for Thomas Isaac Log Cabin accessed November 1, 2023 and placed on our OpenData webpage for our records

<sup>150</sup> 1850 census entry for Isaiah Mercer, Sr. showing his age to be 69

<sup>151</sup> Chain of title created by local research team showing ownership from 1816 to 1860 when T. Isaac purchased it from Levi Gillis and his wife. Accessible via: <https://hocoltr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Deeds-cabin-property-p1.pdf.pdf>

Pike.<sup>152</sup> He was recorded on the 1860 census to be a carpenter. When Thomas Isaac died, an inventory was done of his real estate holdings in 1887. He was the owner of multiple properties: a “Double House on the Gillis Lot,” a “Single House on the Gillis Lot,” “The Mercer & Fulton Lot,” a “Double Stone House- Gambrill Lot,” two other properties, and “The Home place.”<sup>153</sup> The Isaac family themselves evidently continued to refer to the property that Thomas purchased from Levi as “the Gillis Lot” even in 1887.

## **The Naming**

The author of the prior Commission’s report noted that the asset had been renamed (it was once referred to as Merryman Cabin and Stanton’s Log Cabin) and that it was “..to prevent location confusion” (Pg 88 of report) when it was relocated from its original location on Merryman Street, though that doesn’t explain why the name “Stanton’s Log Cabin” that was an alternate name for it at the time wasn’t retained for it. In our predecessor’s report the following is found that it is “.. unclear as to why it was named specifically after Thomas Isaac, who neither occupied nor built the cabin.” They concluded that it was “Historic Ellicott City, Inc.” that did the renaming, though no source was noted in the report for that conclusion.

The 2021 report contains the following: “In 1980 the abandoned cabin was donated by the Stanton family to Historic Ellicott City, Inc. for preservation.” (Ibid.) There is nothing to support this statement of it being abandoned by the Stanton family on whose property the structure once sat. After many years of being showcased on Ellicott City walking tours, negotiations were entered into between Historic Ellicott City, Inc. (HEC) and the Stanton family in order to purchase the cabin/structure from them. Around 1976/77, HEC applied for a state grant requesting \$35,000 to purchase and restore it.<sup>154</sup> Ultimately, Fannie Stanton and her family donated the structure to HEC. A small plaque is mounted outside the front door of the structure acknowledging their donation.

A county employee and architectural historian (Alice Morrison) did an addendum to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form for the structure in 2002. For some reason the form had never been transmitted to MHT to update the file, but was located by the research team investigating the structure via the recent nonprofit initiative. Morrison was credited with having written the following about the structure: “Contrary to its official title as “Thomas Isaac’s Log Cabin” and past scholarly and current colloquial references to such homes as cabins, this building is more properly defined as a log house, not a cabin which is smaller, often temporary structure, always of only one story.”<sup>155</sup> Morrison placed into her document the following information, which is true: “Levi Gillis owned what is today known as the Thomas Isaac’s Log Cabin.” (Pg 4 of Morrison’s document) For some time in its

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<sup>152</sup> Martenet map image showing 1860 noted Thomas Isaac properties

<sup>153</sup> Jareaux, M., Davis, W., Bulbul, C. (2023) Early Ellicott City Black History: A Historic African American Church, A Log Cabin and Lynching. Pg 29 placed on OpenData

<sup>154</sup> From top of Pg 103 of Jareaux, Davis and Bulbul book

<sup>155</sup> HO-64 addendum pg 2 done by Alice Morrison 8/25/2002

history, it was being “operated by Historic Ellicott City, Inc., a private, non-profit organization who was marketing it to visitors to reflect “..life in Ellicott’s Mills from the late Colonial Period through the early Federal Period (1770-1820)”<sup>156</sup> according to a National Road brochure utilized by Ms. Morrison to do her investigation.

Records were obtained and examined by two of the research initiative team members which helped further decipher when the name came about and who began to use it first. The structure was not dedicated to the county until the year 1988, but there was activity prior to that date showing the name. A page of the nonprofit’s 2023 book is being provided from the section titled “The Naming of the Log Cabin” that reveals the early and first references/names used for the structure and the first documented instance of the name “Thomas Isaac” being used for it along with a bit about how it got to Main Street. Howard County Recreation and Parks was the owner of land where the cabin was going to be reconstructed onto, according to the 1987 application done by Martin H. Stephan on its behalf. The name he placed onto the form was “Thomas Isaac.” The land was reacquired for \$3000 by the county six years after it had originally been sold to the nonprofit Howard County Historical Society, Inc. for \$1.<sup>157</sup> There were plans to make a historical park that would contain the log structure and the county’s original courthouse. The county’s original courthouse has since been demolished by a recent flood, leaving only the one near Court Avenue that contains an early 1840s courthouse. That circuit court building is vacant with recently unveiled plans to repurpose into a space for two county nonprofits and a government entity.<sup>158</sup>

Report written by Marlena Jareaux

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<sup>156</sup> Brochure placed in HO-64 addendum done by Morrison

<sup>157</sup> From Jareaux Davis and Bulbul book pg 189 placed onto OpenData website

<sup>158</sup> Howard County website for repurposing of historic courthouse accessible via:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/planning-zoning/ellicott-city-historic-courthouse>

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### Miscellaneous Building Assets Report

November 26, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	Harriet Tubman Community & Culture Center
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	8045 Guilford Road
<b>Dates</b>	Built _1948__ Named/Renamed _1948/1949/1965/2004/2018_ Renovated/Repurposed _several times__
<b>Who Named</b>	Multiple parties over time
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Multiple as discovered
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – NO</b>	

#### SUMMARY:

This county asset was reviewed by our Commission and was not reviewed by our predecessor. It was selected for review by us because it's one of the only schools in the county that was named for a person and the naming process that was utilized was important to reveal to our community. This was not the first high school for Black children in the county, since the Cooksville Colored High School was already in existence prior to 1943. This is being made clear because the county website for the center contains the following language: "The Harriet Tubman School opened in 1949 as Howard County's only all-black high school until it was closed through desegregation in 1965 and was used by the Howard County Public School System for more than 50 years."<sup>159</sup> It may have been the only *remaining* all-Black high school when it opened due to Cooksville High being closed or its capacity reduced in anticipation of what was originally to be the new "Atholton Negro High School."

The school was named for Harriet Tubman upon the request of the community, and the association with slavery or oppression is only that Tubman self-liberated from slavery and oppression and also helped others to do the same. There is a myth and legend that claims Tubman visited Howard County sometime after her successful self-liberation to help others escape enslavement. An African-American researcher named Dr. Steward H. Frazier, Jr. presented his independent literary research regarding Tubman to the Howard Community College Silas Craft Scholars program in 2007. He wondered "...is Harriet's legacy in Howard County fact or fiction?" With the title "The Legacy of Harriet Tubman" Dr. Frazier published his findings in the county nonprofit historical society's The Legacy newsletter dated February 2008.<sup>160</sup> The building is named for her, and Howard County folklore has it that a stone area down the road from the Tubman school hid runaway slaves until it was safe. None of the books

<sup>159</sup> Howard County website for Harriet Tubman Cultural Center accessible via:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/htcc>

<sup>160</sup> "The Legacy of Harriet Tubman" *The Legacy*. February 2008, Pg 6

written about the documented activities of Harriet Tubman have ever suggested that she came to Howard County nor had a reason to. It appeared that the nonprofit Howard County Historical Society, Inc. was going to be pursuing something with the National Park Service relative to the Underground Railroad for the site, but there is no evidence to indicate that it was successful if it was attempted. A new book about county history also delves into the topic a bit, just as Dr. Frazier did, to question fact vs myth about Tubman coming to the county.<sup>161</sup>

When the building stopped being used as a high school, it became a vocational school, school system offices, the site for the Grassroots nonprofit, and the subject of a 1988 federal grant application to make it into a site for transitional housing for the homeless. It got transferred from the school system to the county pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding and process that is outlined in this report. Along the way, it underwent several name changes. What has been captured herein is a fascinating history for a historic building.

### **SELECTING A SCHOOL SITE:**

The subject of the school began in the Board of Education meeting minutes at a time when the Howard County Board of Education was comprised of three members. An entry for November 2, 1943 noted: “Additions were considered for Lisbon, West Friendship, Savage, and new buildings for Elkridge Elementary and a Negro high school.”<sup>162</sup> The proposed location for the new school shifted three times, according to the Board of Education meeting minutes. In 1944, it was to be “..a two-story and basement consolidated high and elementary Negro school building to consist of 4 elementary rooms and 7 high school rooms, with auditorium, to be located somewhere [sic] in the neighborhood of Ellicott City.”<sup>163</sup> In 1946, the Board “.. inspected a lot in Jonestown on the Waterloo road as a possible site for a consolidated Negro school and felt that this would be suitable for that purpose.”<sup>164</sup> Possible sites for a consolidated high school for white children were also mentioned. By October of 1947, the minutes reflect that ““The members of the Building Commission favored the location of the Negro school on the Louis M. Brown lot at Atholton and, after discussion, the members of the School Board agreed to this also.”<sup>165</sup> On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1947, the Board of Education purchased 20.98 acres of land near Guilford and Freetown Roads from Louis, Eva, Herbert and Grace Brown.<sup>166</sup> In the approved minutes for a July 1949 special meeting it was recorded that the Board of Education formally inspected the Harriet Tubman High School and accepted it with some reservations for repairs and modifications to be attended to before the opening.<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> Davis, N., Davis, W. (2023) Hidden History of Howard County. Pg 85-86

<sup>162</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated November 2, 1943, pg 39

<sup>163</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated March 7, 1944, pg 46

<sup>164</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated March 12, 1946, pg 110

<sup>165</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated October 14, 1947, pg 187

<sup>166</sup> Brown Deed to The Board of Education of Howard County. HOWARD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT (Land Records) MWB 201, p. 0596, MSA\_CE53\_192. Date available 11/06/2003. Printed 02/02/2023

<sup>167</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated July 25, 1949, pg 71

The nonprofit Harriet Tubman Foundation has done a wonderful job of curating and showcasing much of the history regarding the building and the students, teachers and staff who walked through its halls. This report will not endeavor to do or convey what visitors to the center can see for themselves about the school. The school was open during the time when segregation was permitted in Maryland, and it eventually got closed at a point along the county's path to reach full desegregation. Readers should consult our Dr. Edward L. Cochran, Jr. East Columbia 50+ Center report for more information regarding local desegregation activities of this era.

### **THE NAMING OF THE SCHOOL:**

The Board of Education meeting minutes did not chronicle the activities of the County-Wide PTA which were related to the question of naming the school. The County-Wide PTA was founded by Silas E. Craft, Sr. and it was comprised of parents from the Black schools in the county. In a February 26, 1989 article in the *Howard County Sun* much was written about why and how the school came about, and it contained interviews from Douglass Sands, Silas Craft Sr. and his wife Dorothy, Dr. Morris Woodson, Delegate Robert Kittleman, and various Tubman teachers and students. The article included that "...the county's black community strongly favored naming the new high school after Harriet Tubman, the Maryland-born escaped slave who led hundreds of slaves to freedom in the north through the 'underground railroad'" and that the school board "...objected, recommending that the school be named Atholton Colored High School for its location."<sup>168</sup> The article was missing information relative to the naming, which was located in another source.

The book History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland was published in 1986 under the auspices of the Howard County Branch of the NAACP and it was the first book on county Black history. The book is broken down into three sections: the collection of oral history regarding various topics, county schooling, and contemporary issues from the perspectives of thirteen local people who were interviewed. The schooling section was created by the examination of Board of Education minutes and the placement of excerpts that were thought to be relevant to Black history in particular. The following entry included from the approved Board of Education minutes is contained on page 117 of that book:

"The Joint Boards considered a name for the Negro school at Atholton and unanimously decided that the name should be the Atholton High School. This the Board did even though a poll had been taken among the Negroes of the county which favored the name of Harriet Tubman High School. (see appendices)."<sup>169</sup> *Note: the "(see appendices)" part was not written in the actual approved Board meeting minutes.*<sup>170</sup>

Recorded in the approved meeting minutes for April of 1949 was that "Sixteen colored citizens representing the Colored County Parent Teacher Association met with the Board to discuss the matter of housing the sixth grade in the junior high school building at Atholton" out of concern

<sup>168</sup> Powder, Jackie. "School Teaches County a Lesson." *Howard County Sun*. Feb 26, 1989. Pg 58

<sup>169</sup> Cornelison, A., Craft, S. and Price, L. (1986) *History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland*. Pg 117

<sup>170</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated November 9, 1948. Pg 16

for overcrowding. “The delegation also protested the naming of the school at Atholton High School and stated that a large number of Negro patrons desired that it should be named Harriet Tubman High School. The board advised that it had no objection to the choice of the latter and had named it the Atholton High School because the name designated the location of the school, as was the case of other schools of the county.” They said they would confer with the “Building Commission.”<sup>171</sup> This was before an actual naming policy had been created by the Board of Education. There was earlier activity surrounding the naming that never got recorded in the official Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes that is important to know.

A report got created in September 1948 by a Naming Committee for the New High School that was comprised of six men and women who had been selected by the County-Wide PTA. In their report, they submitted the number of votes received by citizens and which three names received the majority of the votes.<sup>172</sup>

- Marian Anderson            96 votes
- Silas E. Craft                51 votes
- Arthur-Carter High        42 votes

It was acknowledged that “..the foregoing method employed received very little response and the results are not representative of the county’s Negro population.” The Committee noted that “.079 is not a graphic picture of a good sample of any given population” and that “..contact with a representative of the School Board reveals that such a body desires several names, preferably names of deceased personalities.” The Committee recommended that “..such names be restricted to personalities who are making, or who have made distinctive contributions to society and based upon authentic records.” The Committee members were listed on the September 17, 1948 report and are found on Page 199 of the source cited.

It was recorded that at the regular May 1949 meeting of the board: “The Board discussed the naming of the Atholton Colored High School and, after considering all of the facts, decided to name it the Harriet Tubman High School.”<sup>173</sup> The Cornelison, Craft, Price book contains “The issue was resolved by naming the school Harriet Tubman in honor of a native Marylander who led hundreds of slaves to freedom through the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.” (Pg 199) For perspective on the time in history that this happened, on the front page of the June 30, 1955 edition of the local county newspaper *The Ellicott City Times* the Maryland Attorney General’s “first formal opinion on the Supreme Court’s recent segregation ruling” was reported on. The article made it clear that the state Board of Education’s first meeting after the Supreme Court’s second opinion in the case mandating school desegregation had just occurred the week before<sup>174</sup>

While desegregation in the county was nearing completion the following happened in the February 9, 1965 Board of Education meeting: “The Board was given a copy of the Capital

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<sup>171</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting April 5, 1949. Pg 43

<sup>172</sup> Cornelison, A., Craft, S. and Price, L. (1986) History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland. Pg 198

<sup>173</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting May 3, 1949. Pg 47

<sup>174</sup> “Maryland’s School Segregation Laws Now Null and Void: Sybert” *The Ellicott City Times*, June 30, 1955. Pg 1  
Accessible at Howard County Historical Society, Inc.

Improvement Financing & Scheduling Program. Following a discussion, the wording "Harriet Tubman site was changed to Atholton High School site." That only related to what it was being called on a document. In the same meeting: "The Secretary recommended that the Harriet Tubman High School be closed at the close of the present term, June 11, 1965, and that the use of this building be decided sometime between now and June 1." and that "Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Secretary's recommendation was approved." Additionally, it was recorded in the approved minutes that: "Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed that the Secretary send a letter to the principal and staff of the Harriet Tubman School and also the PTA, indicating the reasons for closing the school and stating the Board's desire to work with them in reassigning the pupils and staff."<sup>175</sup> *\*Note: a copy of that letter and others mentioned in the Cochran report of our Commission have not been located nor examined by our Commission but would be significant for students and residents to see.* In a February 11, 1965 edition of the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper it was reported that discussions were happening regarding where the school system's administration building would be in the midst of "...a larger issue of whether to move all county offices out of Ellicott City."<sup>176</sup> Ellicott City has been and still is the County Seat. It was written that: "A staff report to the school board submitted earlier this week suggested the Harriet Tubman High School, the last all-Negro school in the county, be used as office space after it closes in June, but this did not meet with approval from the board."

After further discussions regarding what would happen to the Harriet Tubman High School, the building got renamed by an act of the Board of Education as recorded in the approved September 14, 1965 meeting minutes: "Following discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board officially named the vocational facility located at the old Harriet Tubman School, the Howard County Vocational Center, Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board named the facility occupied by the Superintendent and the staff, Board of Education Administration Building."<sup>177</sup> The same record referred to the building as "Harriet Tubman Vocational Center" and that awards relative to bids for tools and equipment for it had been made. In subsequent discussions in November 1965 regarding vocational education in the county, it was initially suggested that "The community college and vocational-technical center should be located on one site of approximately 10 acres."<sup>178</sup> This was the early discussion of what would eventually become Howard Community College.

In a June 7, 1966 meeting between the Board of Education and Dr. Harold D. Reese from the State Department of Education he expressed he was "... in favor of the vocational-technical center being a part of the community college for the sake of shared facilities. A community college should include on its campus a vocational technical center." (Pg 225) It was recorded that in the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1967 meeting of the Board of Education: "...negotiations had been completed for the purchase of a tract of land owned by Mrs. Voshell on Route 108 and Cedar Lane. This land is to be the site of the Vocational-Technical Center." (Pg 72) The name "Harriet Tubman" was no longer being used to refer to the building by this time. In 1968, the Board of Education created a

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<sup>175</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting February 9, 1965. Pg 27

<sup>176</sup> Pickett, Edward G. "School Board Will Select Howard Office Building Site" *Baltimore Sun*. Feb 11, 1965 Pg 36

<sup>177</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting September 14, 1965. Pg 105

<sup>178</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting November 2, 1965. Pg 131



criteria regarding the naming of schools.<sup>179</sup> In 1988, the building was the subject of a federal HUD grant application pursued by the County Executive Liz Bobo administration. The project was titled “Harriet Tubman Homeless Shelter Renovation” on the application. At that point, it was reported that through the county’s contract with Grassroots, Inc. emergency shelter services had been provided for “.. seven (7) years in the Tubman Center” with 12 beds and that “..building owned by the Howard County Government.”<sup>180</sup> There was an Agreement of Sale that had been executed between the Board of Education and Howard County on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1988 for the building that had been submitted to County Council with the application materials. No further inquiry was made for this report to determine how long the building operated under that particular use.

The school was the subject of a 2002 newspaper article because “..a coalition of nonprofit groups made it known they were eyeing the school as a likely site for a county crisis center for battered women, victims of sexual abuse and others in need of shelter.”<sup>181</sup> The voice of Howard Lyles got captured for the story as follows: ““If this building becomes something else, when we pass on, the public will never know that Harriet Tubman ever existed,” said Lyles, who graduated in 1952. “And we would lose our history.” The name of the school was referenced as follows: “Howard County folklore has it that a stone quarry down the grass-lined road from the Tubman school hid runaway slaves until it was safe to move on, making even the name of the school all the more special to local black people.” In 2002 it was noted to be: “one story, red-brick structure near Atholton High School” being used by school maintenance workers and Head Start. It was also reported that: “The Howard County Center for African-American Culture wants to give up its leased rooms in Town Center and move to the Tubman campus.” In the article community members were credited with the idea: “What would be a more fitting use of the building's remaining space, Jennings and others said, would be a cultural center with a museum, a library and educational program.” That is what the building became for the most part, and it would take work across multiple administrations and the creation of a foundation to get done. A section of Guilford Road near the building had been reported in a June 1996 newspaper to have been renamed Harriet Tubman Lane by an act of the Howard County Council in January 1996.<sup>182</sup> We found materials related to that as well.<sup>183</sup>

In the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004 edition of the Baltimore Sun, a story appeared providing details about “..a coalition of community leaders plans to commemorate the May 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education school desegregation decision through a series of events starting with an honorary County Council resolution.”<sup>184</sup> An organization calling themselves the “Howard County Brown vs. Board of Education Planning Commission” was noted to be planning several events. In the January 22, 2004 Board of Education approved minutes it was recorded that a

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<sup>179</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting September 4, 1968. Pg 119-120

<sup>180</sup> Howard County Council CR51-1988 Approving HUD submission for Tubman renovation placed on OpenData

<sup>181</sup> White, Tanika. “Former Tubman school holds memories, history; Heritage” *Baltimore Sun*. June 31, 2002. Pg 1B

<sup>182</sup> Samuels, Alisa. “Freetown street to be renamed for Tubman” *Baltimore Sun*. June 21, 1996. Pg

<sup>183</sup> Harriet Tubman Lane materials related to the 1996 street renaming

<sup>184</sup> Carson, Larry. “An education on desegregation ; Series of events to mark the 50th anniversary of landmark Brown decision.” *Baltimore Sun*. January 4, 2004. Pg 1B

Proclamation for Black History Month was presented by John O'Rourke to the Board of Education for its approval. A vote for approval was moved by Sandra French, seconded by Mr. Kaufman and approved by all of the Board 5-0. Board of Education Chair Courtney Watson was noted to have informed that Board that a committee was “..working on events associated with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brown V Board of Education.”<sup>185</sup> This was the coalition of community leaders.

In the March 23rd, 2004 approved Board minutes a new Proclamation was noted to have been presented and recommended by Dr. Sydney Cousin, Interim Superintendent. “Mrs. French moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Ms. Martin supported the motion. Mrs. Watson recognized several individuals who were instrumental in the integration of Howard County Schools. Present were Ms. Leola Dorsey, activist and former president of NAACP; Senator Robert Kittleman, who was chairman of the education committee of NAACP in the 1950s; and Mr. Ed Cochran, who served as chairman of the Board of Education. Mrs. Dorothy Craft was also recognized as the widow of Mr. Silas Craft, former president of the Howard County Chapter of the NAACP and school principal during the time of desegregation in Howard County.”<sup>186</sup> It was noted that community and school activities were happening regarding the commemoration.

In the approved meeting minutes for April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004 it was noted that: “Dr. Cousin explained that a special program on Brown vs. Board of Education was presented at a recent Board of Education meeting. Lesson plans and staff of the Curriculum Office developed back-up materials for teachers to use.”<sup>187</sup> It was also recorded that: “Mr. Rakes asked if the lesson plans and presentations recognize local heroes as well as the national heroes associated with the decision. Mr. Stout responded yes, that the Howard County citizens who played important roles in the desegregation of Howard County schools are included in the instructional materials.” Mr. Rakes was the then-Vice Chair of the County Council, and Mr. Stout was the then- Coordinator of Secondary Social Studies, and Chair for the Howard County Committee on Brown vs. Board of Education. It was also noted that: “Mrs. Watson added that the county heroes were also recognized during the Board of Education meeting. Mr. Rakes suggested that Dr. Silas Craft’s wife be invited to participate in some of the school activities. Mr. Kittleman asked if the subject would be included in the curriculum only this year during the celebration of the event. Mr. Stout responded that the lesson plans would be available for teachers to use from now on.”

In 2007 when the budget was being written about during the administration of County Executive Kenneth Ulman (who had been on the County Council in 2004), the following was written in the local newspaper: “Included in the budget is \$1.1 million to begin planning a \$20 million school system maintenance shop and warehouse that, when completed, would allow the school board to stop using the segregation-era Harriet Tubman High School building near Atholton High School for maintenance facilities. That would free the 1948 building to become a museum, which the

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<sup>185</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting January 22, 2004 Pg 12-13, placed on OpenData

<sup>186</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, March 23, 2004 Pg 2-3 placed on OpenData

<sup>187</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, April 21, 2004 Pg 1-2 placed on OpenData

African-American community wants.”<sup>188</sup> Also reported in the same article was that: “The budget also includes \$1.9 million to plan a \$36 million combination Ellicott City library and Howard County Historical Society headquarters.” \*Note: see our Commission’s report on the Charles E. Miller Library and Historical Center to read more regarding the partnership between the library and the nonprofit historical society.

A 2015 editorial in the *Howard County Times* about an event on September 29, 2015 at the Miller library marking “the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of integrated schools in the county” reported that the then-County Executive Allan Kittleman would be speaking at the event.<sup>189</sup> Another story about the event along with a photograph of the building with the name “Harriet Tubman Building” on it reported to have been done in 2004 appeared a few days later.<sup>190</sup> A 2019 newspaper article mentioned the building being renamed “..the Harriet Tubman Building in 2004” and being made into a cultural center according to Harriet Tubman Foundation President Bessie Bordenave who spoke about the building renovations.<sup>191</sup>

A October 22, 2015 Board of Education meeting agenda item was the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education of Howard County and Howard County, Maryland that had been created by the Office of Law regarding the Harriet Tubman Building. The unsigned document dated August 26, 2015 indicated that the “Property currently is used by The Department of School Facilities and the Department of School Construction to perform their day-to-day operation” and that “the Board will surplus the Property to the County if a replacement location, to be determined, with equivalent finished space for offices, shops, and outdoor areas like parking is provided.”<sup>192</sup> The agreement also called upon the County to “..take the necessary steps to ensure the preservation of the historical significance of the Property as a location on the Underground Railroad and the last black high school in Howard County, Maryland (“Preservation Purpose”) in accordance with Howard County Code Section 4.202 or such other steps as are necessary in the County’s discretion to put into effect the Preservation Purpose, including but not limited to, the transfer of the ownership or use of the Property to an organization that will put into effect the Preservation Purpose.” The MOU was executed on October 16, 2015 during the Allan Kittleman administration.<sup>193</sup>

According to the county’s webpage for the advisory councils created for the center, Council Resolution No. 110-2017 established a School Surplus Use Committee that was required when school property is desired to be transferred. The committee members are noted on the

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<sup>188</sup> Carson, Larry. “SCHOOLS GET FULL FUNDING” *Baltimore Sun*. April 4, 2007. Pg 1G

<sup>189</sup> “Marking 50 years of school desegregation isn’t the whole story” *Howard County Times*. September 22, 2015.

<sup>190</sup> Philip, Lisa. “Howard County to commemorate 50th anniversary of school desegregation” *The Howard County Times*. September 23, 2015

<sup>191</sup> Holzberg, Janene. “‘We love telling good stories’: Howard County’s role in the Underground Railroad” *The Howard County Times*. August 9, 2019.

<sup>192</sup> 2015 unsigned MOU for Harriet Tubman Building LAD File No. 3377 Board of Ed to Howard County, MD placed on OpenData site

<sup>193</sup> Harriet Tubman Advisory Council webpage accessible via: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/boards-commissions/harriet-tubman-advisory-council>

resolution.<sup>194</sup> The county website also contains that on: “December 5, 2017, the County Council was informed that the Harriet Tubman School site would be retained for County Government use” and that the site was transferred to the county on April 4, 2018.<sup>195</sup> ***\*Note: there were three different Executive Orders created across two County Executive administration’s involving advisory councils for the building. It was important to decipher between the various created councils to be able to better understand what happened and by whom. That is because a name change apparently occurred again, and was done by one of the council iterations.***

In the December 13, 2018 approved meeting minutes for the then Advisory Council the following entry was recorded: “We decided to name the building: Harriet Tubman Community & Culture Center”<sup>196</sup> The December 12, 2019 meeting minutes also reflected some activity regarding the building name: “Putting name on building” and “Will remove Board of Education from the building”<sup>197</sup> At this point, the Executive Order created on September 21, 2019 governed the work of the council and was not requested nor viewed. The January 9, 2020 minutes contained the report that the Board of Education signage had been removed and “HTCCC signage added”<sup>198</sup> It was reported that in May 2021 Shawn Gladden “Applied for Network to Freedom Trail grant.”<sup>199</sup> On August 2, 2021 another Executive Order got executed creating the Harriet Tubman School Grand Opening Council that was to terminate in August of 2022. That council is who noted in their approved meeting minutes: “MOU is being put together for HCRP and Harriet Tubman Foundation”<sup>200</sup> “HCRP” is Howard County Recreation and Parks. A newspaper article about the opening of the new center reported that: “The county’s Department of Recreation and Parks will operate the facility.”<sup>201</sup>

***\*Note: the Network to Freedom application mentioned in the meeting minutes was not requested nor viewed to ascertain what history information relative to the Underground Railroad and/or Harriet Tubman was placed onto it. Since no NTF sign exists for the property, it’s presumed that the application failed.***

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<sup>194</sup> Howard County Council CR110-2017 forming a School Surplus Use Committee regarding Tubman building

<sup>195</sup> County webpage for the Harriet Tubman Advisory Council accessible via:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/boards-commissions/harriet-tubman-advisory-council>

<sup>196</sup> Harriet Tubman School Advisory Council meeting minutes, December 13, 2018 placed on OpenData and accessible via: [https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2012\\_13\\_18.pdf](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2012_13_18.pdf)

<sup>197</sup> Harriet Tubman School Advisory Council meeting minutes, December 12, 2019 accessible via:

[https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2012\\_12\\_19.pdf](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2012_12_19.pdf)

<sup>198</sup> Harriet Tubman School Advisory Council meeting minutes, January 9, 2020 accessible via:

[https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2001\\_09\\_20.pdf](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2001_09_20.pdf)

<sup>199</sup> Harriet Tubman School Advisory Council meeting minutes, May 13, 2021 placed on Open Data and accessible via: [https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2005\\_13\\_21.pdf](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2005_13_21.pdf)

<sup>200</sup> Harriet Tubman School Grand Opening Council meeting minutes, meeting May 12, 2022 accessible via: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2005.12.22.pdf>

<sup>201</sup> Ehrenhaft, Ethan. “Harriet Tubman Cultural Center to open this weekend in Columbia at site of former all-Black high school.” *Baltimore Sun*. September 14, 2022.

## **The Story of the Sign on the Original School Building**

A bit to clarify a story that persists in the community that the Board of Education had refused to place her name on the building in the mid-1900s, since information was located about it while doing the research for this report.

In the March 6, 1951 approved meeting minutes of the Board of Education it was written: “The Secretary stated that Mrs. Dola White, President of the Harriet Tubman PTA, had written to the Board requesting permission to place the name “Harriet Tubman High School” over the school's entrance. The Board approved the request provided the sign is approved by the Superintendent of Schools before installation and paid for by the PTA.”<sup>202</sup> It was noted in the meeting minutes a year later in November 1952 that the “The Secretary stated that Mrs. E. E. Donaldson, Chairman of the Sign Committee of the Ellicott City Junior High School PTA, had requested permission to erect a sign in front of the building or place a sign on the building to designate the school as the Ellicott City Junior High School. The Board visited the Ellicott City Junior High School in the afternoon and decided to grant permission to the PTA of this school to erect a sign over the front door of the school.”<sup>203</sup> On January 5, 1954 it was recorded in the approved minutes that: ““Mr. Lewis T. Kelly, representing the Harriet Tubman PTA, appeared before the Board. Mr. Kelly requested the Board to install a school sign on the Harriet Tubman School. The Board turned down the request because funds for this type of installation were not included in the present school budget. The Board requested the Secretary to inform the Harriet Tubman P.T.A. that it had no objections to the installation of a school sign on the Harriet Tubman school, provided the PTA would assume all financial obligations for the sign and have the specifications and location of the sign approved by the County Superintendent of Schools before the installation is made.”<sup>204</sup>

In an oral interview conducted between Jareaux and Douglass Sands, it was conveyed that a lot of work after school and on weekends from the student citizens at Tubman went into raising funds in order to have a brick wall erected in front of the building and the school name installed. Perhaps that story will be captured and one day featured in the building. The program for the September 17, 2022 opening of the building contained: “The name Harriet Tubman Jr. & Sr. High School was never placed on the school building. In 1953, with the assistance of the PTA, a brick wall was erected in front of the building and the name.. was installed.”<sup>205</sup> The program also referenced a May 27, 2004 unveiling ceremony in which “..the name Harriet Tubman was finally placed on the building.” Recognition was given to the school board and its then-Chair Courtney Watson for the act, and when no mention could be found in the approved Board of Education meeting minutes of the Board of Education regarding the event or act in order to find any information about Board of Education actions regarding the sign, an email inquiry was sent to Mrs. Watson to obtain any recollection she had about the act and what party was responsible. In an email communication on April 26, 2023 from Mrs. Watson’s Chief of Staff she was reported

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<sup>202</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting March 6, 1951, Pg 204

<sup>203</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting November 5, 1952, Pg 84

<sup>204</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting January 5, 1954, Pg 176-77

<sup>205</sup> Harriet Tubman Foundation of Howard County, Inc. Harriet Tubman Day Celebration September 17, 2022 program, Pg 7

to have recollected that “One day, Dr. Cousin asked to meet with Delegate Watson as Chair and explained the history of the HT School and that the name had never been placed on the building.” and that “Surprised to hear this, Delegate Watson agreed that the HCPSS should place the name on the building”<sup>206</sup> as the then HCPSS Superintendent Sydney Cousin evidently suggested. It was also reported that “Delegate Watson does not recall whether there was a board vote.” *Note: Our Commission did not find that there was a vote recorded to have been cast. We did not inquire as to who paid for the sign that was created and installed in 2004, the school system or the nonprofit. It was done during the year of the community activities for Brown vs Board of Education as written about above.*

The current building now carries the name “Harriet Tubman Cultural Center” on it. Documentation for who made the decision to have the sign be that was not located.

Note: Our area did have our own Harriet who was advertised to have self-liberated from enslavement. More about Harriet Green has been deposited on the OpenData site to travel with our Commission’s work.<sup>207</sup>

Report written by Marlena Jareaux with research support from Wayne Davis

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<sup>206</sup> 2023 email from Courtney Watson regarding the Harriet Tubman sign

<sup>207</sup> 1846 Runaway advertisement Harriet in Howard area placed on OpenData site