

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

FINAL Report

12/5/2023

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DRAFT

### **Creation of Commission and Composition:**

On May 12, 2022, Executive Order 2022-08 was executed by County Executive Calvin Ball which created our commission. Among the duties and responsibilities were to be:

1. Review the Public Spaces Commission Report, issued on November 5, 2021;
2. Complete and implement a strategic plan to obtain community feedback;
3. Create a plan to review names, locations obtained from community feedback;
4. Review public spaces that were not reviewed by the previous Commission;
5. Make recommendations based upon the rubric created by the previous Commission and evaluate and propose changes to the rubric, as needed; and
6. Make recommendations based on community feedback.

By Executive Order 2022-09, participation on the Commission was changed from one specific person to enabling any person affiliated with the nonprofit Howard County Historical Society, Inc. Upon the request of our Commission, the time for existence of our Commission was extended to enable us to have the full eighteen months provided per the charter which led to the execution of Executive Order 2023-08. Nineteen people were originally appointed to the Commission with two co-chairs designated in the Order. The co-chairs had no involvement in any nomination of prospective members, nor in the final selection that occurred without our input. Various members resigned from the Commission, and others were removed per the charter provision governing attendance/participation. The final composition of our Commission included: Claudia Allen, Kiros Auld, Denise Boston, Towanda Brown, Wayne Davis, Margaret Goodlin, Marlena Jareaux, Allison Jessing, Jean Lewis, Dhaval Shah. They represent a mixture of nonprofits, groups, and county government offices. It's important that we reveal this information about HOW we operated since that is often times just as important as what we produce. Every Commissioner involved in our 18 month process was actually one. A person only gets an appointment from the County Executive for these sorts of commissions, and we guarded that carefully. We received administrative support from the county government.

### **Work of the Commission:**

From the beginning, it was clear that the 2021 report of our predecessor Commission was NOT a complete one. The report was filled with references to data and documents, and instruction that the reader should "see source folder \_\_\_\_." Neither the source folders nor any of their contents had not been given to our Commission, making it impossible for us to do any meaningful review of the report. We spent several months trying to troubleshoot with the county government and the nonprofit in order to ascertain where the data files (referenced in the 2021 report) had gone. In addition, the 2021 report left out most of the specific data concerning the actual naming done for the county assets being examined. Combined with the determination that the documentation of the 2021 report had been destroyed by the nonprofit, it left our Commission no choice but to create a viable product/report for our community that could be used to complete our charge of obtaining community feedback. The leadership for the creation of our Commission's report

centered around obtaining all information concerning HOW the prior naming had been done, what policies existed, etc.

In order to engage the community in our work so that they too would know how prior naming happened before being asked whether or not anything should be changed or augmented, a decision was made to have county government use its resources in order to dispense and circulate our work to the community as we were completing it. The community was essentially asked “Do you know of something we should consider adding to make this as great as it should be?” three times before compiling this final report. This was designed to have the community feel as if they were involved in co-creating the product/report that we would all be using to give community feedback on for the recommendations sought. We started with the four county government buildings (four Governor buildings), moved then to the library system, and then selected an assortment of buildings which included two county assets specifically requested by the County Executive himself to be examined by our Commission.

While the county pushed out the content of our first two mini reports (Governor Buildings and Libraries) via one of its Facebook pages (County Government), Commissioners also circulated the reports via the private channels they each had at their disposal using agreed language for consistency. Some used social media presences, and others used email mailing lists etc to groups they were affiliated with. Comments regarding suggested changes were made by a few community members including a previous manager of one of the library branches, and they were vetted by the researchers who did the applicable asset report before being included when they were included. We opted to have the data/documentation files as highly accessible as possible, as we also considered them to be valuable to county history and an exercise in critical thinking and discernment of information sources.

Our Commission has sunset without having been extended per the charter by an act of the County Council. It was our request to be extended by our creator, and that request was declined. A decision was made to allow any Commissioners who wanted to exercise their power and issue their recommendations, to do so. We were aware that the prior Commission did not submit their final report until weeks after their sunset date, and we opted to do the same AFTER circulating our last mini report to the community first just as the first two reports had already been. Data files used for that report were provided to the county so they would reside where the first two sets already exist (county OpenData website). They were not placed on the county website and had to be placed onto a site belonging to a local history nonprofit to not interfere with the community’s unrestricted ability to view the files used for this final report. As was revealed in our Tubman report, that community involved in its naming monitored themselves when it came to the amount of the population it was asking! Public spaces, unlike private ones, belong to the community. Ensuring that we did all that we could to ensure that anyone who wanted to weigh in could, was a high priority second only to accurate information with the highest degree of integrity possible. This final report is being transmitted to the County Executive, County Council, two county history archives, and will reside on the nonprofit’s webpage: [www.hocoltr.org/hocopublicspaces/](http://www.hocoltr.org/hocopublicspaces/) along with the data file links for all of the 3 mini reports.

It has been the pleasure of the co-chairs to do this work for our county to create this unique document. There is NO document anywhere in the county that contains this compilation of information regarding the naming done for county public assets. Though it likely comes as a surprise to some (unwelcomed by some) regarding the naming process in action as conveyed within this report, it too is valuable county history and we hope that this work will be treated as such. The true value of history comes from what we learn by examining it. Examination shouldn't happen without first finding/using the most accurate information possible. We did the best we could to do that, as revealed herein and in the videotaped sessions of our monthly full commission meetings, despite many roadblocks. We are proud of the product revealed in these pages, and the lessons learned with our fellow Commissioners along the way of producing them.

Marlena Jareaux and Wayne Davis, Co-Chairs.

### **Recommendations of Commissioners (submitted while a commissioner):**

#### **Commissioner Marlena Jareaux:**

What do our fellow citizens think should be done with Howard County **public spaces** that have been named for people? That was the charge given to a group of us citizens by County Executive Ball in 2022, and it was a carryover from a job left undone by a 2021 group who was given only 8 months to do the work. "I strongly believe that our public facilities and spaces must reflect today's values that favor and embrace inclusion and diversity" were the words of Dr. Ball in 2021 and 2022 when both groups were assembled by him. By 2023, we were told by our county government that there was no longer an appetite for our work. What was our work?

When I was asked about co-chairing this commission, I knew that there'd be both resistance from some citizens to it as well as excitement from others. I knew that there had been resistance in other areas of the country to similar attempts, and success in others. Though Columbia and places like Fulton are relatively new, there are places like Cooksville, Lisbon, Sykesville, Marriottsville and Clarksville that appear on the pre Civil War 1860 map of the county. Elkridge Landing also appears, which we now just call Elkridge. Ellicott's Mills also appears, which got changed to Ellicott City. As our research report shows, a group of citizens expressed the desire to have it changed back to Ellicott's Mills and were exploring what mechanism could be used to do so. "*How did the names get onto the public buildings we are to evaluate?*" seemed critical for citizens to know before we asked them what they thought should happen to the names. Did citizens ask that it be done, and if so was it representative of the total population who'd want to be heard about the matter? Have we changed names before, and if so why? I felt that if citizens knew the power that was used in order to name the buildings in the first place, they'd tap better into their own power in order to convey what they wanted to have happen to the spaces that are supposed to represent THEM. The 2021 commission didn't focus on the actual naming processes that occurred, which is the biggest difference between our two commissions and what constituted the bulk of our commission's work. There is a documented library process/policy, a street one, and a school one that we used for our work and reports. The policies themselves also changed over time.

Waiting a year for local government records we requested made our work more challenging to do with the integrity that was desired, as was waiting for access to county public engagement tools in order to do the job that was asked of us. Learning what citizens did to ensure that an adequate number of citizens had weighed in on the Harriet Tubman School name was inspiring to see and capture for our report. Learning that our second County Executive Dr. Cochran reportedly used a “formal decree” in order to name the four buildings named for Governors and that he had himself used a “committee” or panel for name suggestions was important for us to discover and consider. His statement to the press about the policy being “to name the buildings after historical figures and not recent officeholders” had huge implications for the work of our commission as well as for the county regardless of whether we obtained the County Executive’s sponsorship of County Council legislation to have us continue to exist. I think HOW you do things is sometimes more important than what you actually accomplish, and our reports should be valued not only by those who like history but also by those who care about how our county got to be the way it currently is. Learning how citizens were involved in the naming process of the buildings we examined was personally rewarding for me to see, and I was excited about what our citizens would tell us about their own involvement in having their voices heard back then (for those still with us) and today in 2023. Who we are today has changed from what the community thought themselves to be in the 1970s when buildings were named, and the values uplifted in the 1970s had changed from those of the 1800s Governors who were honored on those buildings. I believe that a community gets to decide what values to uplift for others on its *public* spaces, or I should write that I think it *should* get to by making the best effort possible to elicit it from those who wish to comment. Values change over time.

### **Specific Recommendations:**

- 1) Re-create an official naming policy for other non-school and non-library county buildings that is at least consistent with the words expressed by Dr. Edward Cochran in 1976 relative to them being named for historical vs recent officeholders. Since Dr. Cochran is still living, I think it’s the best way to honor his actions as an early builder of county government particularly considering the county has reported not having retained any of the Executive Orders he executed during his tenure as our second County Executive. The policy should mirror other local naming policies (particularly school and library) as close as possible that exist as revealed in our reports.
- 2) Ascertain what the rationale has been for naming buildings for some County Executives thus far, and not for others. A building has never been named for the first County Executive Omar Jones though he has been deceased for some time now; one was named for the second one in 2021; none for the third, fourth or fifth ones; one done by Howard Community College for the sixth one (which may have been subsequently undone) in 2002; one done for the seventh one in 2007; and one for the eighth one in November 2021. This makes it appear that we have Executives who were not worthy of honor, and I can’t figure out why.
- 3) Our predecessor commission made as one of its recommendations: “The Commission advocates for a Phase 2, which will explore how to best engage the community utilizing the report and criteria.” (Preamble of report). In order to receive engagement from the highest number of citizens wishing to voice their thoughts, the co-chairs had several conversations with the county administration in order to ascertain which of the various community engagement tools in its arsenal could be made available to our commission for use. It became very clear that the

administration had no desire to have us try to reach the number of citizens we wished to reach. This was counter to any effort claiming to capture what the community thinks.

- 4) Any person attempting to utilize a “criteria rubric” for use in making assessments about people should first ensure that the base information/report about the person contains everything needed in order to run the person through the rubric. How the rubric got created by the predecessor commission was an issue that we received no good answers enabling us to keep it.
- 5) All county government documents that are no longer in immediate use should be turned over to the state archives so that they are accessible to researchers and others. Open, transparent governments make their documents freely available to citizens for viewing without charge. There is a state retention schedule we provided to county admin that had been agreed upon with MSA. If documents are being held at Iron Mountain and paid for by county dollars, there should be a complete and easily-accessible finding aid that lets people know everything that is being stored there. In addition, all local government record locations where records are being stored should be prominently displayed on a county website so the citizens know what things are located where. Older County Council legislation records like supporting documents and testimony aren’t on the site, and are important to be able to view without restrictions.
- 6) Personally, I think naming of buildings shouldn’t involve one person. For example, what my research for Cochran report showed was an entire community working for societal change. Displays inside appropriate buildings should be made using technology that can have the information rotated for visitors. This keeps info fresh for visitors, while uplifting many community voices which is also more aligned with the truth about how things evolved here. If we can have a monitor at George Howard Building showing visitors 500 pictures of C.E. Ball visiting people that is rotating on a loop on a monitor, we can also do things at other buildings showing the actions of citizens who got involved in their county. Isn’t that what we should inspire?

Marlena Jareaux

Co-Chair, Public Facilities and Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

Executive Director, Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc.

## **Commissioner Wayne Davis:**

### General Comments

It was an honor to serve as Co-Chair of this Commission with Marlena Jareaux, and with the other Commissioners. Given the circumstances, I believe we provided three superb documents exploring and promoting an accurate history of the namesakes examined and the processes of naming that have been used. I believe these documents will establish a new baseline for the quality of history research in this county.

We had several obstacles to doing our work. Let’s start from the beginning. Marlena and I agreed to co-chair this Commission with the request that it would not start until July 2022 to allow us time to deal



with other obligations and to thoughtfully prepare for this commission. Instead, it was rushed through within days of our acceptance and began on May 12, 2022. As co-chairs, we desired more time to strategize and prepare but we were denied that request.

Many of the Commissioners that were appointed had no idea why they were selected by the county administration, resulting in several resigning within months after it started. We never had any input into recommending any of the Commissioners to ensure we had a balance of Commissioners skilled in research and outreach. My impression was that the Commissioners the County selected, who were generally not researchers, had the belief that we were just going to promote to the public the report produced by our predecessor Commission. But few Commissioners read, or were even familiar with, the predecessor Commission's report which we had found to be deeply flawed, inaccurate, inconsistent, and incomplete. In fact, one of the Commissioner's whose organization was responsible for the last Commission's report freely admitted that they had destroyed the source material used for the report. We were forced to start from scratch to review most of the assets.

I found a disturbing lack of interest by the county administration in this Commission or its findings. We received no feedback and virtually no assistance in meeting our requests for information. In fact, we faced indifference and obstacles to our Commission including inexcusable delays in posting the public meeting notices in a timely manner resulting in the cancellation of at least two of our regularly scheduled Commission meetings.

Getting an accurate history was more important to us than rubber-stamping a deeply flawed product of the last Commission. It is clear for all to see from our 3 asset reports, and especially our 3<sup>rd</sup> one, the history of this county is poorly understood and is largely comprised of heritage history with a good dose of legends and mythology. It is shameful for a county with such a rich history to have it so inaccurate and poorly known. Howard County's history and economic success was dependent on enslavement, followed by Jim Crow and segregation, but that did not define our communities who rose beyond these circumstances in most cases. But let's not erase our history and promote the plantations over those who built them. A great city was created replacing a good portion of our farmlands and bringing new economic and social ideas. It has not always been an easy merging of ideas or ideals, and these struggles include our many successes and failures, but they must be clearly and accurately known dating back to the origin of the County and even before that. Our County needs to do better.

#### Recommendations

- 1) A permanent Public Spaces Naming Commission is needed to vet and review naming of any public spaces. This would require competent researchers that know our local history and are able to provide an unbiased examination of it. It is very much needed to continue to explore these naming issues in detail and to engage with the county administration and the public. Commission members should be independent of government/political influence or conflicts of interest with county funding.
- 2) A Standard Operating Procedure should be put in place, subject to public review, and implemented detailing the process for naming, or renaming, public spaces and facilities.
- 3) There should be a permanent History Commission to address the inadequacies of the accuracy of Howard County history and to review and research any necessary issues that are of public interest. Commission members should be independent of government influence or conflicts of interest with county funding. The Howard County Historical Society is a private organization but

receives tremendous and critical operational funding and support from the county. While they should be included in these efforts, they have a strong historical bias and weakness in their incomplete research and conclusions drawn from that research.

- 4) The County should also create a single group within the administration that has the primary focus of promoting and managing accurate history with qualified researchers who are free from political interference.
- 5) Generally inaccessible information related to the history of Howard County should be made freely accessible to the public, including government records of executive orders and other decisions dating back to the first county executive and earlier. This should include digitizing collections within the Howard County Library System that are currently on microfiche and other government records on microfiche that were intended as the primary retention requirement of county records. This also includes the materials, microfiche/tapes/documents in the Howard County Historical Society, Inc., that receives generous funding from the County.
- 6) The Country must develop and maintain a single and visible online mechanism for public comments specifically on the issues reflecting history, naming and historical significance in general.
- 7) The County must develop a usable and useful online environment for finding, accessing, and downloading data and information. The Howard County GIS Website is an outstanding example of good customer service, although many of the databases need to be updated. The “Open Data” platform seems designed to frustrate the user and serves as an obstacle for finding information. Open Data is functionally a dumping ground for public information to meet some PIA requirements and in general a CYA activity. It needs to be redesigned and much better, something one would expect from a County such as ours with such a high level of competence, education, ingenuity, and wealth.

### **Commissioner Kiros Auld:**

Wingapo (Greetings),

The call of the commission was to research the historical significance of the naming of identified Howard County building assets and, with that evidentiary foundation, to present these findings to the community and solicit their feedback on those findings. Beyond clarity on our legacies, both the community and county leadership possess the power of the present. The process provides a clear means through which the community should be informed and engaged as to what persons, values, and legacies we celebrate using their authority, their name, and their tax dollars. The Executive Order was a brave and honest official mandate to first ask and answer these hard questions, and, without external interference from outside the community, to empower the community to decide how we should collectively proceed.

I lament the omission of community feedback due to the expiration of the commission, which effectively defers and denies their ability to be formally heard. As a former student and 1998 graduate of Atholton

High School (AHS), I can testify to the erasure of the Harriet Tubman School (HTS) that still stands next door as the present Harriet Tubman Community & Culture Center discussed on Page 35 of the third report. Despite the explicit inclusion and educational opportunities of Black History Month, I spent four of them and four years at AHS not hearing one word about HTS as one of the few all-Black high schools in Howard County. Transitioning to AHS, I was fresh from a Clarksville Middle School that had no anti-bullying, tolerance, or diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, but witnessed student recruitment by the Ku Klux Klan out front with frequent slurs to Black and brown students within. The uplifting story of Columbia that replaced our actual and nuanced history rang hollow in the face of this Howard County reality. Today, the omitted next door legacy of HTS hits me as a bitter loss of belonging and Black achievement when kids like me really needed it. We can do better.

The critical second half of the Executive Order mandate is presently not a matter for this commission, but now submitted for the decision and review by the County Executive, County Council, and community stakeholders reading these reports. Collectively, they comprise a torch to be carried into the future, whereas the costs of fearing their heat are losing clarity as to who we are, where we have been, and where we are headed.

I applaud the diligence, objectivity, and sacrifices of the research team who compiled and reviewed the evidence foundational to these three commission reports. I celebrate the leadership of commission Co-Chairs Marlena Jareaux and Wayne Davis, who guaranteed both the integrity of commission reports and voice in the official record that was systematically denied to the marginalized. I cherish my appointment to this commission, and the dedication to principle that created it, by the Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball as County Executive.

Anah (Farewell),

Kiros A.B. Auld

Commissioner, Public Facilities and Spaces Commission

### **Commissioner Towanda Brown:**

As the Chair of The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County (TCOE) who was one of the few who returned to the second Commission after being on the first, I must say I am truly disappointed in the outcome; however, extremely impressed with the effort put into this report by the co-chairs, Marleana and Wayne as well as the research team. On May 12, 2022, Executive Order 2022-08 was issued to extend the Public Facilities. From the first commission, we made a recommendation. It appears that the first report was well-received as an Executive Order [EO 2022-08 2.pdf](#) ([howardcountymd.gov](http://howardcountymd.gov)) was created with the following order:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that the Public Facilities and Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission is established. The duties and responsibilities of the Public Facilities and Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission are as follows: 1. Review the Public Spaces Commission Report,

issued on November 5, 2021. Complete and implement a strategic plan to obtain community feedback; Create a plan to review names, locations obtained from community feedback; Review public spaces that were not reviewed by the previous Commission; Make recommendations based on the rubric created by the previous Commission and evaluate and propose changes to the rubric, as needed; and Make recommendations based on community feedback.

The Research Team did the lion's share of the work and the findings in the report were well grounded, well researched and well communicated. If the purpose of this Commission was to truly provide an opportunity for the Howard County public to provide input to the naming of various buildings, parks, streets, etc, then the blockage that I observed prevented the accomplishment of that goal from the very beginning of this new Commission. As one who was part of the first Commission we were initially "on fire" about the opportunity to change names of public entities that were offensive to the Howard County community. When this second Commission started, we felt the same passion since the big focus was on community input and public support. We felt the need to be transparent and to let others know the truth so public support could be garnered for changing the names. However, there were so many stumbling blocks and barriers placed in front of the co-chairs for this Commission that I started to question if this Commission was really expected to accomplish anything or whether it was strictly created to satisfy a public outcry for participation. The important thing to note is that not one of the Commissioners get paid to participate on the Public Facilities and Spaces Commission. Between these two Commissions, many put in a lot of volunteer hours with no obvious impact being made to change any names in Howard County! In spite of the valiant efforts of the Research Team on the second commission, their sacrifices, and documentation of roadblocks, this Commission has not been extended. In spite of the valid documented roadblocks, missing information/documentation from the first commission, unanswered responses to questions posed about previous documentation of prior commissions before County Executive Calvin Ball, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission was not extended. Logically, it makes no sense to not allow the objective to be met when there are valid reasons of why it was not.

Based on what has occurred, I have no choice but to wonder what was about to be uncovered and what was about to change with the naming of public spaces? The community was started to get involved and had hope that their voices would finally be heard. Now, they are disappointed as well, with loss of hope of having a voice to make any changes. This kind of behavior implies that things were hitting "too close to home" to people who are in authority and power in Howard County and a decision was made to pull the plug. From the first Commission, we discussed the importance of transparency. If Howard County has become a county that does not tackle the hard topics to protect a few of the prominent families, I think that is very unfortunate for this county. I am hopeful that the County Council, who is supposed to represent the collective county, will intercede and uphold the importance of this Commission. If it was to ensure our public spaces and facilities are not offensive to those named in the original Executive Order, that objective has not been accomplished.

Towanda Brown,

Commissioner and TCOE Chair

## Commissioner Jean Lewis:

As a member of the Board of Directors for the Howard County Center of African American Culture, Inc. who was appointed to the Public Facilities and Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission by County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball, I was excited about the prospect of engaging with our community in order to ask what we all want to have done with public buildings that have been named in the past. Another member of our center's Board of Directors was on the first commission which had recommended in its final report that a Phase 2 of work regarding this topic be "Public Engagement Driven." As I mentioned many times at our monthly commissioner meetings, there were several members of the public who were telling me that "you are wasting your time being on that commission, because the county never does anything with those reports and is not going to do anything about the names on those buildings." One of our commissioners resigned after saying in an early meeting that he wasn't going to spend his time on this for a similar reason. I saw how this commission was purposefully running differently in ways that were engaging with the public throughout our existence by the first reports that went out requesting public reviewing and input. I had hope that our county government would be interested in our work and would value it. I had hope that it really wanted us to find out from our neighbors what we all collectively wanted. How disappointed I am that the Office of County Executive that created us, didn't want us to continue our work. This is a disservice to the community.

Jean Lewis

Commissioner

# The Four Governor Buildings

Our work on the four county buildings named after Maryland governors began with examining the last commission report. Due to not receiving any of the source materials on the governor buildings referenced in the last report, we recreated it when it was possible and added information. We made changes/corrections to the prior report as follows:

- The slave ledger created after the abolishment of slavery in Maryland is mischaracterized throughout the last commission’s written report. For example, the George Howard entry contains the following sentence on page 17: “..Ledger produced in 1868 documenting the slaves in the county in 1864..” This implies that the ledger contains ALL of the names of those being enslaved by Howard County enslavers, which is not accurate. The ledger actually represents the list of enslavers who wished to be financially compensated for their perceived losses due to slavery being abolished. It was a choice, and not all enslavers sought the compensation.
- We could not locate any source in the last report that referenced the naming date nor the party responsible for the naming. Each box contains the entry “When/Who Named” with “Howard County Government” listed throughout many of the sheets. One of our researchers located a 1977 article that reported on the naming of the George Howard Building, and the RENAMING of the other three buildings by a formal decree of then County Executive Edward Cochran. Another of our researchers located a 1976 article that referenced that a “committee” was being used by Cochran to select the building names. A group of citizens had asked that the new building be named after recently deceased County Executive Omar Jones, to which Cochran declared that it was usually “..the policy to name the buildings after historical figures and not recent officeholders.” We noted the information in this revised report that we have as of the time of its creation, and made a request of the county for a copy of the 1971 General Plan, Cochran’s decree relative to his action, and information regarding the committee that he mentioned to the 1976 reporter. Another newspaper article mentioned a document with names.
- We focused the data in our report on the information requested by the original Executive Order: information regarding enslavement activities, controversial legislation created that oppressed rights, and public statements made that reflected bias toward populations. We removed much of the reporting on the plantations and family members who lived after the subject’s death in order to focus on the information requested and the naming.
- We examined and reported on the vote given by the men while in legislative roles. We decided that it was helpful for providing historical context for the reader as well as reflecting how the individual men participated in historical events relative to their peers.

*The research contained in the sheets was done using the time and energy of the commissioners who are listed as follows: Margaret Goodlin, Wayne Davis, and Marlana Jareaux. Claudia Allen provided necessary support in compiling the research into the form you see herein, which was patterned after the last commission’s format.*

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### The Four Governor Buildings Mini Report

September 12, 2022

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>John Lee Carroll Building*</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	3450 Court House Dr. Ellicott, City, MD
<b>Dates</b>	Opened in 1967: Named in 1977
<b>Who Named</b>	Howard County Executive Edward L. Cochran renamed
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Suggestions by special panel/committee
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – YES</b>	
<b>He was an enslaver (owner) and made public statements advocating oppression.</b>	

\* We are using the exact name as reported in quotes by a 1977 newspaper to have come from C.E. Cochran

### **JOHN LEE CARROLL (1830-1911)**

#### **I. Biographical Summary**

On September 30, 1830, John Lee Carroll was born at Homewood in Baltimore City. His father, Charles Carroll of Doughoregan, was the grandson of Charles Carroll of Carrollton (the last living signer of the Declaration of Independence).

John Lee Carroll was elected to the Maryland State Senate in 1867 and served two terms. He was elected President of the Senate in 1874. As a member of the United States Democratic Party, John Lee Carroll served as the 37<sup>th</sup> Governor of Maryland from 1876 to 1880.<sup>1</sup> His father willed Doughoregan Manor to his son Charles, but in 1866 John Lee Carroll and his wife purchased the property from Charles and his wife.<sup>2</sup> John Lee Carroll died in Washington, D.C. on February 27, 1911.

#### **II. Connections to Slavery**

It was reported in *The Sun* that a “Southern Rights Meeting” took place in the County in 1860. The article further notes that Colonel Charles Carroll was to command a troop of cavalry men to stand with the South.<sup>3</sup> According to the 1860 census, John Lee Carroll was living in New York with his in-laws. Furthermore,

<sup>1</sup> “John Lee Carroll (1830-1911)”. *Archives of Maryland*. MSA SC 3520-1468. Accessible via: <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001468/html/1468extbio.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Howard County Circuit Court Land Records, Book WWW25 Pg. 316-318. *Maryland State Archives*.

<sup>3</sup> “Southern Rights Meeting and Organization of a Troop of Horse in Howard County.” *The Sun*. December 4, 1860, Pg. 4.



he was reported to have \$40,000 of personal property.<sup>4</sup> Of note, New York law permitted enslavers to bring their slaves into the State for up to nine months.<sup>5</sup> It is likely that slaves comprised part of his “property.”

“Colonel Carroll’s [his father] failing health and the secession crisis of 1861 caused John Carroll to return home in 1861. At ‘Doughoregan Manor,’ he became the manager of the plantation and its many slaves, and when his father died in 1862, John Lee Carroll was his executor.”<sup>6</sup> John Lee Carroll was 32 years old at this time.

In his 1861 will, Colonel Charles Carroll indicated that “my experience and full convictions are that as long as we have that class of labor among us, they are, as a mass, better cared for and happier than if they were free and providing for themselves. I therefore give all my slaves to all my children, with these positive injunctions: that none of them shall be sold except among themselves...”<sup>7</sup>

*The Alexandria Gazette* reported that “Of 300 slaves belonging to the estate, all but 140 have run away.”<sup>8</sup> In the second round of estate inventory filings done on January 10, 1863 under the heading “Servants on Farm” the names of those whom were still being held were documented. Each person was given a value of \$5. Carroll signed on January 15<sup>th</sup> to attest to the accuracy. For the second administration filing for the estate done February 23, 1865, Carroll reported the deduction of \$650 in assets that represented “...the appraisalment of the slaves set free by the new Constitution.”<sup>9</sup>

On behalf of his father’s estate “Heirs of Charles Carroll”, John Lee Carroll placed his name on the 1867 list of county enslavers who wished to be financially compensated for their perceived losses after Maryland’s Constitution abolished slavery in 1864. Carroll’s list contained the names of 131 people that had been enslaved by the Carroll family as of 1864.<sup>10</sup> John Lee Carroll was one heir.

### **III. Controversial Legislation**

None found, due to records of time period for Gen. Assy. not being available.

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<sup>4</sup> 1860 Federal Census of New York

<sup>5</sup> Benton, Ned. “Dating the Start and End of Slavery in New York.” *New York Slavery Records Index*. Accessible via: <https://nyslavery.commons.gc.cuny.edu/dating-the-start-and-end-of-slavery-in-new-york/>.

<sup>6</sup> “John Lee Carroll (1830-1911)”. *Archives of Maryland*. MSA SC 3520-1468. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001468/html/1468extbio.html>.

<sup>7</sup> “Will of Charles Carroll of Doughoregan.” *Alexandria Gazette*, February 2, 1863. Pg. 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Alexandria Gazette*, June 3, 1863. Pg. 3.

<sup>9</sup> Baltimore City Register of Wills. Administration Accounts. CM193-18, Pg. 120. *Maryland State Archives*.

<sup>10</sup> “Howard County Commissioner of Slave Statistics.” *Maryland State Archives*. MSA C957 1-0041. [http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msa\\_c957/msa\\_c957\\_1/html/msa\\_c957\\_1-0041.html](http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msa_c957/msa_c957_1/html/msa_c957_1-0041.html).

#### IV. Public Statements and/or Positions

According to the *Maryland State Archives* website biography on John Lee Carroll, he made an address at the Democratic State Convention in 1903 endorsing the proposition of negro disenfranchisement.<sup>11</sup>

More specifically, John Lee Carroll supported the Poe Amendment and gave a speech in 1905 making a plea to the State legislature to support the amendment.<sup>12</sup> In that speech, he said: “We recognize the broad fact that from the foundation of our government to the end of our great Civil War there had never lived a man, white or black, of any political persuasion who had for a moment dreamed of such a condition as would force upon a prostrate South the right of free and equal suffrage to the negro race.” He went on to say: “.we know, as everyone knows, that the negro race, even when aided by its white Republican friends, was never intended to influence the white man’s government, and whenever it has been attempted the result has been ruin and disaster.” The full newspaper article can be found in our source folder. *More information about the Poe Amendment can be found in the Warfield building writeup in this report.*

Carroll continued making his position known on the topic by making the following statement in 1910: “If we can pass an amendment to the Constitution which is perfectly legal and proper, I would be glad to get rid of the negro in politics. We have beaten the negroes all the time, and can still do it.”<sup>13</sup>

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Buchholz, Heinrich Ewald. *Governors of Maryland: From the Revolution to the Year 1908*. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Company, 1908. Library of Congress Digital Access: <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/public/gdcmassbookdig/governorsofmaryl02buch/governorsofmaryl02buch.pdf>.
2. <sup>1</sup> “John Lee Carroll (1830-1911)”. *Archives of Maryland*. MSA SC 3520-1468. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001468/html/1468extbio.html>.

/Marlena Jareaux

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<sup>11</sup> “John Lee Carroll (1830-1911)”. *Archives of Maryland*. MSA SC 3520-1468.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001468/html/1468extbio.html>.

<sup>12</sup> “Gov Carroll Urges It.” *St. Mary’s Beacon*. October 12, 1905.

<sup>13</sup> “Ex-Gov Carroll’s View.” *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland)· 4 April 1910. Pg. 2.

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

### The Four Governor Buildings Mini Report

September 12, 2022

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>George Howard Building*</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	3430 Court House Dr. Ellicott, City, MD
<b>Dates</b>	Opened in 1976: Named in 1977
<b>Who Named</b>	Howard County Executive Edward L. Cochran
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Suggestions by special panel/committee
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – YES</b>	
<b>He was an enslaver (owner) and participated in enacting controversial legislation.</b>	

**\* We are using the exact name as reported in quotes by a 1977 newspaper to have come from C.E. Cochran**

### **GEORGE HOWARD (1789 – 1846)**

#### **I. Biographical Summary**

On November 21, 1789, George Howard was born in Annapolis, Maryland to John Eager Howard and Peggy Chew Howard. He was raised at “Belvedere” in Baltimore County. In 1811 George was married to Prudence Gough Ridgely and received the land called “Waverly” near Woodstock as a wedding present from his father. He was the son of prominent planter, Revolutionary War hero, and namesake for the County, John Eager Howard. The Howard Family were part of Maryland’s “planter elite class” and enslavers.<sup>14</sup>

George got his start in politics when he was appointed a Commissioner of Primary Schools in Anne Arundel County in 1827<sup>15</sup>, though it isn’t clear if he acted in the role. He was a close friend of Maryland Governor Daniel Martin (Whig) and was elected to the Governor’s Council in 1831 by the Maryland House of Delegates, his first public office. When Governor Martin died in July of 1831, George Howard was appointed interim Governor of Maryland.<sup>16</sup> George Howard was then elected to a one-year term (that was standard in those times) in 1832 and served until January of 1833. He died at his Howard County plantation home called “Waverly” on August 2, 1846.

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<sup>14</sup> From the 2021 *Public Spaces Commission Report*. Pg. 16.

<sup>15</sup> “Primary Schools.” *Maryland Gazette*. May 17, 1827

<sup>16</sup> “The New Governor.” *The Torch Light and Public Advertiser*. July 21, 1831

## II. Connections to Slavery

George Howard was an enslaver according to Federal Census Records: the 1820 census records him enslaving 20 slaves; the 1830 census records him enslaving 31 slaves; the 1840 census records him enslaving 17 slaves.<sup>17</sup> After his death, an inventory was created listing a total of 25 slaves which included both adults and children.<sup>18</sup> *Note: we corrected the number (22) that was contained in the 2021 Public Spaces Commission Report.*

In 1841, George Howard was the chair of the Maryland Slaveholder's Convention held in Annapolis in January 1842 to promote the rights of slaveholders and attempt to have legislation created that would benefit them. Their written memorial was referred to the Committee of the Colored People.<sup>19</sup>

## III. Controversial Legislation

As Governor, George Howard signed into law legislation passed by the General Assembly titled an "Act Relating to the People of Color in This State." This legislation appointed three people "...whose duty it shall be to remove from the State of Maryland, the people of color now free, and such as shall hereafter become so, to the colony of Liberia, in Africa, or such other place or places, our of the limits of this state..."<sup>20</sup> The legislation to form the organization was "An Act to Incorporate the Maryland Colonization Society."<sup>21</sup>

He also signed into law legislation forbidding "the immigration of free negroes" into Maryland and various other restrictions on the rights of Blacks including the right to assemble for religious purposes unless conducted by a white person.<sup>22</sup> During the antebellum period, Maryland and Virginia politicians from both political parties (Democrats and Whigs) sought to address the growing Free Black population, in their respective states, with legislation that would either prohibit or relocate manumitted slaves or migrating Black freemen.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> From the *2021 Public Spaces Commission Report*, Pg. 16

<sup>18</sup> 1846 September 24. George Howard Inventory of Will. Maryland Register of Wills Records, 1629-1999 > Howard > Inventories 1840-1848 vol 1. "Maryland Register of Wills Records, 1629-1999," images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9TRY-XXJ?cc=1803986&wc=SNY4-W3N%3A146534701%2C146712801> : 20 May 2014), Howard > Inventories 1840-1848 vol 1 > image 216 of 284; Hall of Records, Annapolis.

<sup>19</sup> Early State Records Online. *Maryland State Archives*. SC. M. 3172, Pg. 136.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4800/sc4872/003172/html/m3172-0136.html>.

<sup>20</sup> Archives of Maryland. *1831 Maryland Session Laws*. V. 213, Pg. 343. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000213/html/am213--343.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Archives of Maryland. *1831 Maryland Session Laws*. V. 213, Pg. 426. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000213/html/am213--426.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Archives of Maryland. "An Act Relating to Free Negroes and Slaves." *1831 Maryland Session Laws*. V. 213, Pg. 445. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000213/html/am213--445.html>.

<sup>23</sup> Excerpt from the *2021 Public Spaces Commission Report*. Pg. 16.

#### IV. Public Statements and/or Positions

None found in the newspaper sources that have been digitized and are searchable.  
With one term in public office, he may not have had time to make any.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Buchholz, Heinrich Ewald. *Governors of Maryland: From the Revolution to the Year 1908*. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Company, 1908. Library of Congress Digital Access: <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/public/gdcmassbookdig/governorsofmaryl02buch/governorsofmaryl02buch.pdf>.
2. "George Howard." *Maryland State Archives*. SC. 3520-1453. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001453/html/1453sources.html>.

/Wayne Davis and Marlena Jareaux

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### The Four Governor Buildings Mini Report

September 12, 2022

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>T. Watkins Ligon Building*</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	8360 Court Avenue, Ellicott, City, MD
<b>Dates</b>	Opened in 1967: Named in 1977
<b>Who Named</b>	Howard County Executive Edward L. Cochran
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Suggestions by special panel/committee
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – YES</b>	
<b>He was an enslaver (owner), participated in enacting controversial legislation, and made public statements advocating oppression.</b>	

**\* We are using the exact name as reported in quotes by a 1977 newspaper to have come from C.E. Cochran**

### **THOMAS WATKINS LIGON (1810-1881)**

#### **I. Biographical Summary**

Thomas Watkins Ligon was born on Mary 10, 1810. Ligon made his initial debut in local public service when he was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1843.<sup>24</sup> He then went on to represent the Howard District of Anne Arundel County in 1843 as a Democrat at the Maryland House of Delegates. In addition, he was a member of the Twenty-Ninth Congress in the United States House of Representatives serving Maryland's third Congressional district for two terms from the end of 1845 until 1849.<sup>25</sup>

Of interesting note, Ligon was part of the House when the U.S. annexed the Texas Territory from Mexico, which voted to declare war upon Mexico.<sup>26</sup> By the 1850 census, his profession was reported to be: Attorney at Law. In a few years he became the 30<sup>th</sup> Governor of Maryland serving from January 1854 to January 1858. He was the second Maryland Governor who had been born in Virginia.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> "Appointments of Justices of the Peace." *The Sun*. February 8, 1843.

<sup>25</sup> "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875." *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*. V.41, Pg. 5. Accessible via: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llhj&fileName=041/llhj041.db&recNum=4&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(hj0413\)\):%230410005&linkText=1](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llhj&fileName=041/llhj041.db&recNum=4&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(hj0413)):%230410005&linkText=1).

<sup>26</sup> "The Work of the 29<sup>th</sup> Congress." *History, Art & Archives United States House of Representatives*. Accessible: <https://history.house.gov/Historical-Highlights/1800-1850/The-work-of-the-29th-Congress/>.

<sup>27</sup> From the 2021 *Public Spaces Commission Report*. Pg. 23.

Towards the end of his life, Ligon retired to his Howard County home ‘Chatham’ near Ellicott City. He died at his home on January 12, 1881. According to our preceding commission, Ligon Road in the Ellicott City neighborhood of Dunloggin presumably bears his name.<sup>28</sup>

## II. Connections to Slavery

Thomas W. Ligon reported to be enslaving 10 people to the 1850 census taker. On the 1860 slave census he reported enslaving 7. In addition, he placed his name on the 1867 list of county enslavers who wished to be financially compensated for their perceived losses after Maryland’s constitution abolished slavery in 1864. His entry contained the names of 7 people.<sup>29</sup>

Furthermore, primary source documents in Annapolis, MD show a Governor pardon transaction involving Ligon both as an enslaver and as a Governor. In Ligon’s first year as Governor, two young men enslaved by him named Andrew and Jerry Dent had been convicted of burglary and sentenced to the penitentiary. Ligon issued a conditional pardon for the two men, after he asked the Howard County Commissioners to receive them and sell them out of the state of Maryland for him the month before. In 1855 Ligon petitioned the Orphan’s Court to extend their time of servitude by several years, and to sell them to someone out of the state. They ultimately were sold to a well-known Maryland slave trafficker.<sup>30</sup> Jerry and Andrew had been purchased by Ligon in 1847.

Ligon’s second wife Mary Tolly Dorsey, daughter of Col. Charles Worthington Dorsey, received \$10,000 and all of the property except the money in the house, including the crops growing and the enslaved that her deceased father had held in bondage. T. Watkins Ligon was an Executor of the estate, and the receipt of slaves was acknowledged in writing by his wife on August 2, 1864 in Howard County Orphan’s Court records.<sup>31</sup> An entry was made on behalf of the estate “Heirs of Charles W. Dorsey” on the 1867 list of county enslavers who wished to be financially compensated for their perceived losses after Maryland’s Constitution abolished slavery in November 1864. That entry contains the names of 26 people that had been enslaved by the heirs as of 1864.<sup>32</sup> Ligon signed his name as Executor.

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid

<sup>29</sup> “Howard County Commissioner of Slave Statistics.” *Maryland State Archives*. MSA C957 1-0081. Accessible: [http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msa\\_c957/msa\\_c957\\_1/html/msa\\_c957\\_1-0081.html](http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msa_c957/msa_c957_1/html/msa_c957_1-0081.html).

<sup>30</sup> Primary source material found and published to the Facebook page “Howard County Maryland Black History.” <https://www.facebook.com/HoCoMDBlackHistory/posts/pfbid02KFuU7PRNSdNn2iRuCfa6vzNJoGQhw8VrraTaTuhHV6f2dBeWAmTHJKefeOaN3iGhI>.

<sup>31</sup> Howard County Register of Wills, (Receipts), T1309-1

<sup>32</sup> “Howard County Commissioner of Slave Statistics.” *Maryland State Archives*. MSA C957 1-0041. Accessible: [http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msa\\_c957/msa\\_c957\\_1/html/msa\\_c957\\_1-0048.html](http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msa_c957/msa_c957_1/html/msa_c957_1-0048.html).

### III. Controversial Legislation

According to the *Maryland State Archives*, quoting White, “His governorship was perhaps the most disgraceful in Maryland because of the flagrant manner in which citizens’ rights were violated and...because of the countless frauds and disorder during Baltimore’s elections.” The Archives entry cited a *Baltimore Sun* article written after his death concluding that Ligon retired “...with the consciousness of a faithful performance of arduous and unpleasant duties, and no sort of reproach can be attached to his public record.”<sup>33</sup>

During Ligon’s tenure as Governor, legislation entitled, “An Act for the Better Protection of Slaveholders in the Several Counties Therein Mentioned” was signed into law by him in 1854.<sup>34</sup> In 1856 legislation was signed into law by Ligon that specifically authorized the County Commissioners of Hartford County to sell or set free slaves that belonged to the county. If they were sold, the proceeds were to be “...applied to defraying the annual expenses of said county.”<sup>35</sup> In that same session, the 1854 Act written above was repealed by the legislature and signed into law by Ligon.<sup>36</sup>

### IV. Public Statements and/or Positions

The positions held by Ligon during his time as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives were found by searching for his vote on matters regarding slavery. On the topic of the abolition of slavery in D.C., a resolution was considered that contained an amendment that would have restored the following rule, which was abolished at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the last Congress: “No petition, memorial, resolution, or other paper, praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, or any State or Territory, or the slave trade between the States or Territories of the United States in which it now exists, shall be received by of this House, or entertained in any way whatever.” The majority vote was Nay (121-85), and Ligon’s vote was Yea.<sup>37</sup>

In the 30<sup>th</sup> session in 1848, the following draft resolution was prepared by the House:

“Whereas, on Friday last, three armed persons engaged in the internal slave trade, entered a dwelling in this city and violently seized a colored man, employed as a waiter in the boarding-house of several members of this body, and in the presence

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<sup>33</sup> “Thomas Watkins Ligon (1810-1881)” *Archives of Maryland*. MSA SC 3520-1461

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001461/html/1461bio2.html>

<sup>34</sup> “1854 Session Laws.” Maryland State Archives. *Archives of Maryland Online*. V. 616, Pg. 252. Accessible: <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000616/html/am616--252.html>.

<sup>35</sup> “1856 Session Laws.” Maryland State Archives. *Archives of Maryland Online*. V. 623, Pg. 104. Accessible: <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000623/html/am623--104.html>.

<sup>36</sup> “1856 Session Laws.” Maryland State Archives. *Archives of Maryland Online*. V. 623, Pg. 122. Accessible: <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000623/html/am623--122.html>

<sup>37</sup> “A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875.” *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1845-1846*. Accessible: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(hj0413\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(hj0413))).



of his wife gagged him, placed him in irons, and with loaded pistols forced him into one of the slave prisons of this city, from which, it is reported, he has since been dispatched for the slave market at New Orleans;

And whereas said colored man had been employed in said boarding-house for several years, had become well and favorably known to members of this House, and had married a wife in this city, and under a contract to purchase his freedom for the sum of three hundred dollars, had by great industry paid that sum within about sixty dollars;

And whereas outrages like the foregoing have been of common occurrence in this district, and are sanctioned by the laws of Congress, and are extremely painful to many of the members of this House, as well as in themselves inhuman: Therefore,

Resolved, that a select committee of five members be appointed to inquire into and report upon the facts aforesaid; also, as to the propriety of repealing such acts of Congress as sustain or authorize the slave trade in this district, or to remove the seat of government to some free State.”

There was a motion to move the resolution to be “laid on the table which would have the effect of stopping things. It was a close vote of 87 Nays and 85 Yeas to lay it on the table. Ligon’s vote was Yea.<sup>38</sup> At the end of 1848, Bill 666 was introduced which would have authorized the people of the D.C. to express their wishes as to the continuance of slavery and the slave trade in the D.C. Mr. Thompson moved that it be laid on the table, which was decided in the affirmative by a vote of 106-79. Ligon voted Yea.<sup>39</sup>

Another attempt was made days later which contained the following language:

“Whereas the traffic now prosecuted in this metropolis of the republic in human beings as chattels in contrary to natural justice and to the fundamental principles of our political system, and is notoriously a reproach to our country throughout Christendom, and a serious hindrance to the progress of republican liberty among the nations of the earth: therefore,

Resolved, that the Committee for the District of Columbia be instructed to report a bill as soon as practicable prohibiting the slave trade in said district.”

The usual attempt was made to move it to the table, but it failed this time. There were 81 Yeas to table, and 85 Nays. Ligon voted Yea.

Thomas Watkins Ligon was in the U. S. House of Representatives during a time when Abraham Lincoln was also serving. In 1849, Bill 750 to “...prohibit the introduction of slaves into the District of Columbia as merchandise or for sale or hire...” was read a first

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<sup>38</sup> “Monday, January 17, 1848.” *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1847-1848.*

Accessible: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(hj04331\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(hj04331))).

<sup>39</sup> “Monday, December 18, 1848.” *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1848-1849.*

Accessible: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(hj04412\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(hj04412))).

and second time. A motion was made to lay it on the table, which failed by a vote of 72 Yeas and 117 Nays. Ligon voted to table, and Lincoln voted not to.<sup>40</sup>

Once Ligon was voted in as Governor of Maryland, his position on slavery was shared by him in his 1854 inaugural address.<sup>41</sup>

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

1. Thomas Watkins Ligon (1810-1881). MSA SC 3520-1461, Maryland State Archives. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001461/html/1461bio2.html>
2. White, Jr. Frank F. (1970), "Biography of Thomas Watkins Ligon", *The Governors of Maryland 1777-1970*, Annapolis: The Hall of Records Commission, pp. 147–151, OCLC 144620.
3. Buchholz, Heinrich Ewald. *Governors of Maryland: From the Revolution to the Year 1908*. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Company, 1908. Library of Congress Digital Access: <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/public/gdcmassbookdig/governorsofmaryl02buch/governorsofmaryl02buch.pdf>

/Marlena Jareaux

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<sup>40</sup> "Wednesday, January 31, 1849." *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1848-1849*.

Accessible: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(hj04446\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(hj04446))).

<sup>41</sup> "Inaugural Address of Governor T. Watkins Ligon." 1854. University of Maryland College Park. Web. See page 6 of: <https://archive.org/details/inauguralofgover1854ligo/page/6/mode/2up>.

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

### The Four Governor Buildings Mini Report

September 12, 2022

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Edwin G. Warfield Building*</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	3410 Court House Dr. Ellicott, City, MD
<b>Dates</b>	Opened in 1973: Named in 1977
<b>Who Named</b>	Howard County Executive Edward L. Cochran
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Renamed by a County committee that suggested it
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – YES</b>	
Mr. Warfield benefitted from the servitude of the enslaved, supported legislation and made several public statements supporting White supremacy and other racist themes.	

**\* We are using the exact name as reported in quotes by a 1977 newspaper to have come from C.E. Cochran**

### **EDWIN WARFIELD (1848-1920)**

#### **I. Biographical Summary**

Edwin Warfield was born to Albert Gallatin and Margaret Gassaway Warfield on May 7, 1848 at the Oakdale Plantation. He was a public-school teacher and edited the Ellicott City Times newspaper. Mr. Warfield began public service in 1874 as the Register of Wills in Howard County and in 1886 became a State Senator. He founded *The Daily Record* business newspaper in 1888. He became governor in 1904 serving one term. After his term as governor ended he served in various capacities with financial institutions and also participated in the Southern Commercial Congress in 1911 as a Maryland representative escorting the state flag in their procession to the tune of Dixie.<sup>42</sup> He died March 31, 1920.

#### **II. Connections to Slavery**

The son of enslavers, he was likely too young to legally to own property, but he greatly benefited from the servitude of those enslaved that met his every need until the end of slavery when he was just over 16 years old. Even in later years, those formerly enslaved still referred to him as “Massa Edwin” demonstrating his lifelong status in their eyes.<sup>43</sup> He was sympathetic to the Confederate cause, and two of his brothers fought for the Confederacy. He established a committee for a Confederate

<sup>42</sup> *The Confederate Veteran Magazine*. 1911. Volume 19. No. 5. Pg. 208

<sup>43</sup> “Edwin Warfield: Farmer and Financier.” *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1995); Jan. 22, 1911

Monument/Memorial for Ellicott City in 1911.<sup>44</sup> He also hosted a Confederate Soldier reunion in 1899 at Oakdale Plantation.<sup>45</sup>

### III. Controversial Legislation

As governor, he was opposed to the Poe Amendment to the Maryland Constitution which would have disenfranchised Black voters. His main opposition to Poe was not that it would have disenfranchised uneducated black votes, which he strongly advocated for, but rather because the language in the amendment could be used to also disenfranchise white immigrant voters who were part of the Democratic Party base.<sup>46</sup> He did, however, support disenfranchisement legislation such as the Strauss Suffrage Amendment in 1909 with provisions for the disenfranchisement of illiterate black voters. It required a literacy test, and he stated that the amendment would eliminate “the ignorant, unreflecting, and thriftless negro voter.”<sup>47</sup> Warfield signed a Jim Crow Car law into effect in June 1904 to segregate Maryland’s railway cars and steamship lines.<sup>48</sup>

More about the Poe amendment: “The Poe amendment resulted from the increase of anti-Black sentiment in the very early 1900s and dominated Maryland politics from 1903 to 1905. Through this amendment, the party under Senator Arthur P. Gorman would have disenfranchised Maryland’s Negroes. The racist movements of the South and anti-Negro sentiments of a segment of the Baltimore press affected Democratic thinking. The Democrats scored an overwhelming victory in the 1903 state election and pushed the amendment through the 1904 meeting of the Legislature. The Legislature sent the measure to the people as a referendum in the November 1905 election. If passed, it would have placed much power in the hands of election officials. In 1904, however, resistance to the proposal emerged, first by Governor Edwin Warfield and later by other leading Democrats. In addition, the newspapers lessened their racist tone. The amendment threatened the Republican party; its members strongly fought it. They received help at this critical point from Secretary of the Navy, Charles J. Bonaparte, who led and solidified the party. In particular, the Bonaparte-led Republicans utilized the foreign community and apprehensive third parties. They also received negative help from the Baltimore Democratic organization under I. Freeman Rasin which gave the amendment little support. Further, the

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<sup>44</sup> “Will Honor Confederates: Movement to Erect Memorial To Howard County Company.” *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1995); May 17, 1911.

<sup>45</sup> “Reunion Dinner: Ex-Confederates Entertained By Mr. Edwin Warfield.” *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1995); Jun 12, 1899. Pg. 7.

<sup>46</sup> “Gov. Warfield Speaks; Opposes Poe Amendment.” Staff Correspondent. *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1994); Nov 3, 1905. Pg. 14

<sup>47</sup> “For Amendment: Ex-Gov. Edwin Warfield Declares He Will Heartily Support the Suffrage Plan.” *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1995); Sep 15, 1909. Pg. 14

<sup>48</sup> “In Effect July First: On and After July First Colored People Must Ride Jim Crow Cars.” *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1994); June 25, 1904.

election eve saw a number of leading Democrats such as Senator Isidor Rayner squabbling publicly over the amendment. Thus, the voters did not trust Gorman and his organization, did not fear the threat of Negro domination, and thoroughly defeated the amendment throughout most of the state.”<sup>49</sup> *Note: the 2021 Commission report incorrectly noted the thesis to be authored by Horace Merrill. Dr. Merrill was Goll’s thesis advisor.*

#### **IV. Public Statements and/or Positions**

In his campaign speeches, Edwin Warfield declared his firm belief in white supremacy and advocated for the political destiny of Maryland to be shaped and controlled by the white people of the State.<sup>50</sup>

From his 1903 speech accepting the nomination for governor: “Therefore I take my stand firmly upon that plank in the platform of our party which declares that the ‘political destinies of Maryland should be shaped and controlled by the white people of the State.’ And I appeal to all citizens, irrespective of party, who love and honor the State, to lend their earnest and active support in this contest for the supremacy of the white race, for the cause of civilization and good government.”<sup>51</sup>

“The question as presented, and which the voter must decide at this election, is a plain practical, business one, and goes home to every white householder and taxpayer in Maryland. It is whether the government of this great Commonwealth shall be intrusted [sic] to a party more than one-half whose voters is composed of this ignorant race, or the party comprising in its ranks a vast majority of our white people.”<sup>52</sup>

It should also be noted that Warfield was in favor of repealing the 15th amendment that guaranteed voting rights for Black. In a 1905 speech in New York he stated that the 15th amendment should be abolished in favor of State's rights and

“..had the negro shown a disposition to discriminate in voting and to exercise an intelligent judgement in casting his ballot on public questions, the opposition to him would never have developed. But few of them have shown any desire to improve their condition, mentally, morally or financially, and the great majority of them are no better able to exercise the right of suffrage intelligently and discriminately today than were they were first given that sacred privilege.”<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>49</sup>Goll, Eugene W. “The Poe Amendment’s Defeat: Maryland Voters Reject the Negro Disfranchisement Movement, 1903-1905.” *Thesis/Dissertation ETD*. University of Maryland (College Park, MD), 1967.

<sup>50</sup> “Mr. Warfield’s Speech of Acceptance at Mt. Airy.” *The Aegis & Intelligencer*. October 2, 1903. Pg. 2

<sup>51</sup> “Mr. Warfield’s Speech of Acceptance at Mt. Airy.” *The Aegis & Intelligencer*. October 2, 1903. Pg 2

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>53</sup> “Speaks for Maryland.” *The Baltimore Sun*. February 25, 1905. Pg 1

As Ex-Governor, Warfield supported the Straus Suffrage Amendment (1909) which would require an educational/literacy test disenfranchising a large number of black voters and provide protection for the native and foreign born white voters. As part of his interview with the *Baltimore Sun* on this topic, and reported by the *Democratic Advocate*, Warfield said "This amendment is a substantial compliance with what I have always advocated. It is not too much to say that in its essential features, it is drawn along the precise lines that I suggested in my last message to the Legislature in January 1908. In that message, referring at length to the public demand for a suffrage amendment 'for the elimination of the ignorant, unreflecting and thriftless negro voter.' I declared that "this state should be governed by those citizens who, because of their intelligence, their heredity and their interest in the material welfare of the Commonwealth, are best fitted to properly, patriotically and wisely exercise the high duties of citizenship". I added that the supposed amendment should protect 'the citizen who voted in 1869 and his descendants, because that was a sacred privilege then enjoyed by the white citizens of this state.'"<sup>54</sup>

Even in 1912 Mr. Warfield stated that Black people benefited from slavery. He also felt that "The real slaves were the master and mistress, who were charged with the entire responsibility and care, while the servants had all their wants provided for."<sup>55</sup>

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

1. "Articles about The Poe Amendment Maryland, 1904-1905." Warfield Family Papers. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nrBF\\_i6EduYFWTiV2IqiKtjsVkfS1PhK/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nrBF_i6EduYFWTiV2IqiKtjsVkfS1PhK/view)
2. Edwin Warfield (1848-1920) Archives of Maryland (Biographical Series) <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001400/001476/html/msa01476.htm3>.
3. Buchholz, Heinrich Ewald. *Governors of Maryland: From the Revolution to the Year 1908*. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Company, 1908. Library of Congress Digital Access: <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/public/gdcmassbookdig/governorsofmaryl02buch/governorsofmaryl02buch.pdf>

/Margaret Goodlin and Wayne Davis

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<sup>54</sup> "Warfield Favors The Amendment." *Democratic Advocate*. September 17, 1909. Pg 1.

<sup>55</sup> "Tells of Slave Life - former Governor Warfield on Old Plantation Days." *The Baltimore Sun*. April 13, 1912. Pg 16

# The Library Buildings Mini Report

FINAL

## **Library Naming in Howard County (an overview)**

It was originally suggested to our commission that the naming of libraries was a state function only in which there was no local control, but we discovered that to be incorrect. After ascertaining the history of a local policy, we kept it in mind while we reviewed and revised the report content to make it accurate. *The last commission did not have nor make use of the Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, which were vital to our understanding of what transpired with our libraries.*

There was a lot to sort through that began with a time period when library service was done by volunteers out of their stores, homes and vehicles. It continued into the time period of when Columbia was being built and libraries that no longer exist (like the “Wilde Lake Village Library” at the village center) were created. The library board still exists, and still meets.

We knew that there was one branch that was definitely named for a person: the Charles E. Miller Branch and Historical Center. The process we were able to piece together regarding how that branch is named for a person is contained in this report. We discovered that there were at least two other documented instances in which requests were made by citizen groups to name a branch after a person, and we include them here. In the first instance, a member of the Howard County King Memorial Committee wrote a letter dated October 21, 1986 to the Board of Library Trustees requesting that the Central Library be renamed after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Board responded that it “..in a lengthy and very thoughtful process over the past several years, evolved a policy of not naming library facilities for any person living or dead.”<sup>56</sup> This was seven years after the renaming of the Frederick Road library to Miller documented herein. In the second instance, the Rotary Club of Elkridge made the 1986 offer to contribute \$25,000 to the library in exchange for it being named after Dr. Benjamin Brumbaugh. Brumbaugh had been a local doctor.<sup>57</sup> The Board of Library Trustees had constituted a Committee For Naming Future Libraries, and a suggested policy got created by them which was found in the March 12, 1986 meeting minutes. The board approved the policy and voted to table the request regarding Brumbaugh.<sup>58</sup> Years later, the newly constructed Miller branch went through a process to get its name, documented herein. For the most part, we were unable to find documentation of a deliberative process conducted by the Board of Library Trustees to name the libraries, except for their documented involvement in the Frederick Road renaming after the death of Charles E. Miller.

## **Constraints**

Due to the time period in question and the lens we are asked to view namesakes with, we must acknowledge an impediment that exists to a more robust reporting. Without access to the records

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<sup>56</sup> See Central Library writeup herein

<sup>57</sup> Brumbaugh Naming Request. Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, 1986. Courtesy, Howard County Library

<sup>58</sup> Naming Policy. Howard County Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, March 12, 1986. Courtesy, Howard County Library



of the local Interracial Commission (and its successor Human Relations Commission) our commission's job is made more difficult. We made multiple requests of the county to locate records for our review, and none have been received by us to date. One of our researchers was able to gain access in Annapolis to annual reports compiled by the state commission of that name, verifying that there were references within them that mentioned incidents in Howard County. Who they involved is potentially relevant to this report and subject, since Mr. Miller was not only a local elected official and legislator but also a business man and land developer.

## **Summary of Changes**

Our work on the county libraries began with examining the last commission report. We were fortunate to have access to the source documents that were used to create the last library writeups, due to a commissioner employed by the library having retained the records for their files. We make note of general and necessary corrections to the assets and list them in this overview. They are:

- We found multiple inaccuracies in the deed records for several libraries, which affected the data regarding ownership, dates and transaction amounts. The correct deeds are cited in this report, and are attached as exhibits. Hopefully, the data can be changed by the county clerk's office so that other SDAT users can have accurate information.
- We could not locate any source in the report that referenced the naming date nor the party responsible for the naming of the libraries. Each box contained space for "When/Who Named" but only "Howard County Government" was listed for them all, which was incorrect. Our research discovered that it was the Howard County Library Board of Trustees (a separate entity, appointments by the Governor for much of the pertinent time we examined) which created a policy regarding the naming of libraries and the rooms within them, and only a few naming instances involved county government.
- We found that the library names were incomplete, as many like Miller also include things such as "Historical Center". We corrected them accordingly.
- We made other changes to the reports that we deemed necessary.

## **Naming Policy**

The policy for library names was noted to be the following in 1988, which we kept in mind while reviewing and revising the report:

## ITEM #10 Naming of Libraries and Areas of Libraries

### Policy for Naming Future Libraries:

A library shall be named for the geographic area which it serves. However, a room or an area of a library or a memorial endowment fund may be named for a person who has had a distinguished record of service within the Howard County community.

The libraries we reviewed all had been named prior to 1998, with the exception of the current Ellicott City library (Miller) opened in 2011. By 2009, the language of the policy had changed slightly to “typically”, as was found in “Supplement 3”:

### **Naming of Future Branches or Areas Within a Branch**

Typically, a branch will be named for the geographic area that it serves. A room or an area of a branch may be named for a person who has had a distinguished record of service within the Howard County community, or, in recognition of a substantial donation.

A written request for this honor may be made to the Executive Director & CEO by any branch of the County Government, any County organization, a County resident, or a family member. The request should include the reason(s) the individual should be honored and should describe the individual's accomplishments and contributions to the community and/or Howard County Library.

In the source files, the name for each of the libraries researched is placed in front of the file name to make it easier for the reader to locate and match.

*\* The research contained in the sheets that follow was done using the time and energy of the Commissioners who are listed as follows: (MG) Margaret Goodlin, (WD) Wayne Davis, (MJ) Marlena Jareaux and (DS) Dhaval Shah. Their contributions are noted at the end of each asset report. Claudia Allen provided necessary support in compiling the research into the form you see herein, which was patterned after the last commission's format and amended to reflect the desires of our commission.*

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### The Library Buildings Mini Report

January 9, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Howard County Library System, Administrative Branch</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
<b>Dates</b>	1962 as a library, renamed 1979, renovated 2014 as Administrative
<b>Who Named</b>	Howard County Council by resolution, then changed again
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Memorial to Miller then (assuming) purpose descriptive
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.</b>	

**\* writeup is done on the current name, as opposed to the historic name.**

### Summary:

Charles E. and Grace Miller purchased two parcels of land from Elizabeth, George, and William Sloatfield on May 14, 1943.<sup>59</sup> The property called Gray Rock, owned by Miller, was subdivided into 300 acres for a development that included a plot donated to the library. Howard County's first permanent library building, now the Administrative Branch, was constructed on this plot. It was reported on April 1, 1960 in *The Baltimore Sun* that citizens and businesses jointly cooperated with a "public subscription of \$160,000" for the construction of the building." It was reported that George Morrison made a \$60,000 donation and Charles E. Miller donated \$25,000, including the value of the land.<sup>60</sup> Miller and his wife transferred the land for the library to the Board of Library Trustees of Howard County on December 30, 1960.<sup>61</sup> The building sitting on the two-acre site ultimately was formally turned over to the Board on May 5, 1962.<sup>62</sup> According to meeting minutes from the Library Board of Trustees, it was often referred to as the "Frederick Road location."

The library was noted in the 1971 General Plan to be inadequate for a desired Central Library.<sup>63</sup> However, it was suitable to serve as a branch. In a capital project expenditure request dated December 15, 1978, it was noted that the branch needed to be increased by approximately 15,000 sq ft in order to reach the goal of 22k sq ft.<sup>64</sup> The results of a meeting with Charles Miller about the acquisition of more land for the expansion was recorded in the April 9, 1979 meeting minutes. It was reported to the Library Board that Miller "...may not be able to donate any land to the Library. He will require the library to purchase additional land to the stream at half of the

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<sup>59</sup> Referenced in the Admin Building writeup of the 2021 Public Spaces Commission report, Pg 33

<sup>60</sup> "Library For Howard." *The Baltimore Sun*. April 1, 1960. Pg. 14

<sup>61</sup> Miller sale to Library. Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records), Book RHM 363, Pg 432

<sup>62</sup> "Howard County Library." *The Baltimore Sun*. April 1, 1962 Pg RE9

<sup>63</sup> 1971 General Plan, Pg 52

<sup>64</sup> Capital Project Expenditure Request for Frederick Road Branch, dated December 15, 1978. Howard County Library archival records.

cost per acre of the originally requested land.”<sup>65</sup> Charles E. Miller passed away on July 9, 1979, and a newspaper reported that he had contributed “...2 acres and \$15,000 for a county library,”<sup>66</sup> which was the original parcel. We have not been able to determine if the Library Board or the County paid for additional land for the expansion, or if it was donated.

On August 6, 1979, during the legislative session, the County Council co-sponsored resolution #156 with County Executive J. Hugh Nichols that proclaimed that “the Frederick Road Branch be and is hereby renamed the Charles E. Miller Memorial Library.”<sup>67</sup> Council requested that the County Executive prepare and erect a plaque on the building. Written testimony from the then Board of Library Trustees reported that they had approved the pending action on August 2, 1979.<sup>68</sup> This provided the accurate date for when the branch was renamed.

In 2010, it was reported that \$780k was included in County Executive Ken Ulman’s capital budget to “..plan conversion of the current Miller branch into library administrative space, which when complete would free 9,000 square feet at the East Columbia library where administrative offices are located.”<sup>69</sup> *See separate writeup on the Charles E. Miller Branch and Historical Center for information regarding Miller.* The renovated structure is now used as the library administrative branch. A 50+ exercise center operated by the Office of Aging and Independence shares the building.

At one time, a Burgess meeting room existed inside which was described in 2001 meeting minutes as being named for the county’s “first librarian”. Language was approved by the library board in 2002, and a plaque was installed in her honor in the building.<sup>70</sup> There are currently no meeting rooms available for public use in the building.

/Marlena Jareaux and Wayne Davis

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<sup>65</sup> Frederick Road expansion. Meeting Minutes of the Howard County Board of Library Trustees, April 9, 1979. Howard County Library archival records.

<sup>66</sup> “Charles Miller, Howard Republican, dies.” *The Baltimore Sun*. July 10, 1979 Pg A8

<sup>67</sup> Howard County Council Resolution 156 renaming Miller Branch Library from 1979 Legislative Session. Courtesy, Howard County Council

<sup>68</sup> Written testimony supporting Resolution No. 156.

<sup>69</sup> Carson, Larry. “Officials Unveil \$211 Million Howard Capital Budget.” *The Baltimore Sun*. April 4, 2010. Pg G4

<sup>70</sup> Meeting Minutes of the Howard County Board of Library Trustees, several dates.

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

### **The Library Buildings Mini Report**

January 9, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Howard County Library System, Central Branch</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	10375 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia MD 21044
<b>Dates</b>	Opened in 1981, renovated 2000-2001 and 2016-2017
<b>Who Named</b>	unknown
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Assume purpose descriptive
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.</b>	

### **Summary:**

In the 1971 General Plan for Howard County, the recommendation was made that there be a “new proposed central library” for the County and that the “..present location on Frederick Road is not ideal for a future central library for the county because of its interior arrangement..”<sup>71</sup> In 1975, Library Director Marvin Thomas formed the Central Library United Effort citizen committee to facilitate the planning process for a new location for the central library.<sup>72</sup> It was reported in May 1977 that Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRDC) offered to donate 2-2.5 acres of land near the south entrance road to Columbia for a central library, but that a site closer to the Columbia Mall was preferred.<sup>73</sup> Three potential sites had been before the Howard County Planning Board, which indicated to the County Council a few years earlier that the site should be under its review.<sup>74</sup> It was reported in June 1977 that the Library Board of Trustees recommended a Columbia Mall site, and that HRDC offered to donate an acre for that site. It was also reported that the south entrance location would need 3 acres total for future expansion. Both recommendations went to the County Council and they made the site selection decision.<sup>75</sup>

A May 1979 article reported that HRDC donated additional acreage to make 3.1 acres total, citing preservation motives.<sup>76</sup> A June 1980 article mentioned that the administrative staff were moving into the building, and that half of the library system’s volumes would be in the new building.<sup>77</sup> A December 1980 article in *The Baltimore Sun* provided an overview of the events

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<sup>71</sup> 1971 Howard County General Plan, Pg 52

<sup>72</sup> Morgan, Michael. “Opening of new central library is good news for county bookworms.” *The Baltimore Sun*. December 28, 1980. Pg.2

<sup>73</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Columbia library site offered”. *The Baltimore Sun*. May 2, 1977. Pg.40

<sup>74</sup> Clark, Michael J. “25-year Howard library project wins favor with county planners.” *The Sun*. Nov. 21, 1975. Pg C6

<sup>75</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Board votes on Columbia library site.” *The Baltimore Sun*. June 9, 1977

<sup>76</sup> “Developer donates more ‘open space’ to save trees at library site.” *The Baltimore Sun*. May 3, 1978. Pg 31

<sup>77</sup> Lynch, Mary. “Library cuts costs”. *Columbia Flier*. June 26, 1980

that led to the creation of the central library that stood “..in a grove of mature trees.”<sup>78</sup> The opening date to the public for the Central Library was scheduled for January 5, 1981, and a ceremony occurred the day before.<sup>79</sup> HCLS Central Branch is a 47,000 square foot, 2 -story public library in downtown Columbia, Maryland near the Columbia Mall and Lake Kittamaquundi.<sup>80</sup> It has undergone two renovations, one in 2000-01 and another in 2016-17.

We attempted to verify the ownership of the building, since it was mentioned in the last commission’s report and since historically some were owned by the Library Board of Trustees. The SDAT (Maryland State Department of Assessments & Taxation) listing for the address indicates that “Howard County Maryland Library” is the owner, and a deed reference of book 01879 page 00257 is indicated.<sup>81</sup> However, our examination of the deed referenced is actually for a Maintenance Agreement for private storm water management facilities.<sup>82</sup> We are therefore unable to verify who the current owner is of the land through that mechanism.

In terms of the name, we note that the 1982 General Plan referred to this library as “The Central Library” and distinguished it from the Miller “branch” library and other reading centers that then existed. The 1971 General Plan originally made the distinction between the central library and other future branches. Older images for the library show a sign for the facility with “central library” without the word “branch” as the other facilities do. One of our researchers was told that a decision had been made at some point in time that all of the libraries should be called branches, which accounts for why Central is now referred to as a branch.

It’s important to note that this was not the first “Central Library” in Howard County, nor was it the first branch located in Columbia. The earliest written naming policy that was located for the County Library System was enacted in 1988, after this library got its name. Unfortunately, we were unable to find evidence in the Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes that a process was used to decide what the name would be. We did locate written communication between David Rakes (representative of the Howard County King Memorial Committee) and the Library Board, dated in the year 1986, requesting support for an effort to rename the Central Library in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The letter mentioned the “..board’s policy of discouraging the naming of libraries for individuals.”<sup>83</sup> the President of the board responded that “..the central facility is so designated to communicate the concept of that facility as a central resource for the entire county..” We also noted that when the county library system was reorganized in 1963, circulation numbers were noted from bookmobile operations and the “Central Library.”<sup>84</sup> At that time, this would have been referring to the Frederick Road branch.

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<sup>78</sup> Morgan, Michael. “Opening of new central library is good news for county bookworms.” *The Baltimore Sun*. December 28, 1980. Pg 2.

<sup>79</sup> Image of central library, Howard County Library System archival records

<sup>80</sup> 2021 Public Facilities and Spaces report

<sup>81</sup> SDAT listing for central library branch address, searched September 21, 2022

<sup>82</sup> Deed in SDAT. Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records) CMP1879 Pg 257-259

<sup>83</sup> 1986 communications regarding naming Central after MLK Jr. Howard County Library archival records.

<sup>84</sup> 1963 reference to Central. Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, Howard County Library archival records

We also note that this facility has two meeting rooms: Maxine White Warfield Room, and Collage Conference Room. Maxine Warfield was a prior member of the Library Board of Trustees. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/Marlena Jareaux and Margaret Goodlin

FINAL

## Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

### The Library Buildings Mini Report

January 9, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Howard County Library System, East Columbia Branch</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045
<b>Dates</b>	Opened in 1994; named in --- ; renovated 2018
<b>Who Named</b>	Unknown
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Assume geographic descriptive
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.</b>	

### Summary:

During the planning of Central Library in 1975, a request was made for the County Council to approve funds that would enable the library system to rent space for a branch in East Columbia.<sup>85</sup> This is the first recorded instance of the use of the name “East Columbia” for a library branch in Howard County. Space was rented in the Long Reach shopping center, and was closed a few years later in 1981. This was around the same time that the Wilde Lake library branch closed.<sup>86</sup> It was also during this period that the East Columbia Village Board United Effort Committee for a Branch Library was advocating for a permanent branch in the east part of Columbia in the 1980s.<sup>87</sup> The need arose due to a 1986 finding that “..after five years of operation, the {central} library is too busy to provide its specialized function and effective service to both east and west Columbia.”<sup>88</sup> The Howard County Board of Library Trustees reportedly appointed The East Columbia Library Site Committee to study possible locations for a branch, and four potential sites were reported to have emerged.<sup>89</sup> A citizen committee created by the Board of Library Trustees and the Owen Brown Village Board began vetting sites in 1987 and ultimately the site on Cradlerock was selected by County Executive Liz Bobo, according to a newspaper article published in *The Baltimore Sun*.<sup>90</sup> It was reported in a 1992 newspaper headline “Construction to begin on East Columbia library” in order to relieve pressure for the Central Library.<sup>91</sup> The library was to also house a 50+ senior center and a book drive-through. The East Columbia branch opened in August 1994 and was reported to have been funded by the Howard County

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<sup>85</sup> Glick, Ruth. “Library, Like Director’s Office, is Bulging At The Seams.” *The Times*. May 21, 1975

<sup>86</sup> Lynch, Mary. “Library seen risking autonomy.” *Columbia Flier*. September 11, 1980.

<sup>87</sup> Nerreau, Deidre. “Library proposals stack up.” *The Baltimore Sun*. January 6, 1988. Pg H2

<sup>88</sup> “Plans being developed for library in east Columbia.” *The Baltimore Sun*. June 21, 1987. Pg P11

<sup>89</sup> Powder, Jackie. “Library board to consider 4 sites for Columbia branch.” *The Baltimore Sun*. February 19, 1989. Pg P4

<sup>90</sup> . Boller, Donna E. “Education board yields school site to library branch: Path clear to build on Cradlerock Way.” *The Baltimore Sun*. April 3, 1991. Pg I5

<sup>91</sup> “Construction to begin on East Columbia library.” *The Baltimore Sun*. June 14, 1992. Pg O2



Department of Public Works. When it opened, there was one central library and four branch libraries.<sup>92</sup> It was renovated between 2016-2018, and also houses a teen center.

As for the naming of the library, we did not find evidence in the Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes that a process was used to decide what the name would be, quite possibly because one was not being used. The earliest naming policy that was located for the County library system was enacted in 1988, after this library was already being referred to as the East Columbia Library.

This branch has rooms named for: Lucille Clifton Room and Marvin Thomas Room. Marvin Thomas was a long-time President of the County library system. Lucille Clifton was Poet Laureate of Maryland from 1979-1985. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/Margaret Goodlin and Marlena Jareaux

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

### **The Library Buildings Mini Report**

January 9, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Howard County Library System, Elkridge Branch + DIY Education Center</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	6540 Washington Blvd., Elkridge, MD 21075
<b>Dates</b>	Opened in 1993; Major renovations in March 2018
<b>Who Named</b>	Unknown
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Assume geographic and purpose descriptive
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.</b>	

<sup>92</sup> Sevilla, Graciella. “New Library is One for the Books.” *The Washington Post*. August 8, 1994. Pg Mo1

## **Summary:**

The current Elkridge Branch opened its doors on August 23, 1993. It reportedly replaced the Elkridge Community Library which we were not able to confirm when it first opened. However, it did house only 3,000 books.<sup>93</sup>

There had been significant community involvement in the quest to build a larger library in Elkridge that started before the small community library opened.<sup>94</sup> Activists Ed Huber and Ellen V. Schultz, both members of the Elkridge Master Plan Citizens Review Committee, organized letter writing campaigns and spoke out at County Council meetings with crowds of other Elkridge residents to let County Executive Charles I. Ecker and the council members know that Elkridge deserved a library on par with those in Columbia and Ellicott City.<sup>95</sup> <sup>96</sup> A new site near Washington Boulevard and Hunt Club Road was agreed upon by the Howard County Library Board of Trustees and then by the Howard County Council. The budget and some of the project details are contained in the documentation for County Council Bill 38 in 1988.<sup>97</sup> It opened in August 1993. The DIY Education Center is run by the library, without any nonprofit assistance.

In the prior commission report it was written that “The name Elkridge or Elk Ridge dates back as far as 1702 when it was first recorded on tax records.” (Pg 40 of report). Historian Joetta Cramm was attributed as the source of the information that the name derived from “Ridge of Elk”<sup>98</sup> and we believe that her source was a book called “My Lovely World” by Lulu Townsend Armstrong Geissinger or a paper written in 1937 called “The Early History of Elkridge Landing” although we don’t know for sure since no source was given by Cramm. They are the only references to “Ridge of Elks” that we were able to find.<sup>99</sup>

The first documented use of the term “Elk Ridge” that was found in historical records was in a 500 acre land certificate for “Adam the First” located on a “Ridge called Elkridge” was granted to Adam Shipley in 1687.<sup>100</sup> At that time the Baltimore County boundary extended south of the Patapsco River. Also that year, Major Edward Dorsey received 599 acres of land called Majors

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<sup>93</sup> Sherry, Joe. “Elkridge Bookworms Soon to get Spacious Accommodations.” *The Baltimore Sun*. August 9, 1993. <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1993-08-09-1993221064-story.html>

<sup>94</sup> Low, Stuart. “Building boom stirs Elkridge.” *The Baltimore Sun*. July 18, 1984. Pg HS1

<sup>95</sup> Sinclair, Molly. “Elkridge Opens its New Library.” September 2, 1993. *The Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1993/09/02/elkridge-opens-its-new-library/d5afef3a-3d3e-486f-88ec-a3cb2d307c51/>

<sup>96</sup> Coram, James M. “Long-awaited libraries gain backing in budget.” *The Baltimore Sun*. March 4, 1993 <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1993-03-04-1993063108-story.html>

<sup>97</sup> County Council of Howard County, Maryland. 1988 *Legislative Session Bill no. 38*. Dated 08/01/1988. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=7370>

<sup>98</sup> Cramm, Joetta M. (2004). *A Pictorial History of Howard County*. Expanded Edition. Pg 25. (The Donning Company Publishers, Virginia Beach, Virginia)

<sup>99</sup> Cramm’s possible source. Geissinger, Lulu Townsend Armstrong. *My Lovely World*. (1969) Accessible via FamilySearch.org title no 26948. Pg 141

<sup>100</sup> Adam Shipley. (1687, April 8). Adam the First Land Patent. Liber NS2 Folio 571. Maryland State Archives. SR7371. Pg 571

Choice near the Patapsco River “on a ridge called Elk Ridge”.<sup>101</sup> It is interesting to note that both the term Elk Ridge and Elkridge seemed to be interchangeable in 1687.

As noted in the beginning of this report compilation, a request was made to name this branch after a well-known doctor, Brumbaugh, which the Board of Library Trustees declined to do. This branch has meeting rooms named: Belmont, Hockley and Grist Mill. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/Wayne Davis and Marlena Jareaux with support from Dhaval Shah

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

### **The Library Buildings Mini Report**

January 9, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Howard County Library System, Glenwood Branch</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	2350 State Route 97, Cooksville, Maryland 21723
<b>Dates</b>	Opened on August 28, 2000
<b>Who Named</b>	Unknown
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Assume geographic descriptive
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.</b>	

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<sup>101</sup> Major Edward Dorsey. (1687, October 15). Majors Choice Land Patent. Liber NS2 Folio 717. Maryland State Archives. SR 7371. Pg 717

## Summary:

A committee made up of residents and library staff was formed in 1988 to study the need for a branch library, or several small community libraries, in the western part of Howard County.<sup>102</sup> The negotiations to acquire land to build a library in the western part of the County were reported in the March 24, 1994 issue of *The Baltimore Sun*.<sup>103</sup> Internal records of the Board of Library Trustees referred to the project as “Glenwood Community Center” in the June 15, 1994 meeting minutes.<sup>104</sup> It was noted in FY1995 budget documents, included in the September 7, 1994 Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, that the library would be “within or adjacent to the Glenwood Community Center.”<sup>105</sup>

In capital budget documents dated September 14, 1995, a plan was noted that the “Library building will be the first new building to be constructed and opened on the site.”<sup>106</sup> By July 1996, ideas were sought from the community regarding the planned government complex and regional park on a 181-acre parcel that would contain the library.<sup>107</sup> It was noted that the project idea for a government complex with a fire station and a library had come up in 1993. An article published in August 1996 reported that land north of Glenwood Park owned by Penny Gray had been sold to the County in 1994.<sup>108</sup> In early 1997, the library was already referred to in internal County documents from the Library Board as “Glenwood Branch Library.”<sup>109</sup> Furthermore, in 1997 a newspaper reported that the tentative name for the entire project was “Glenwood Center.”<sup>110</sup> It was reported that area residents had use of a storefront library in nearby Lisbon, and thus the library was referred to as “Glenwood library” by a reporter in early 1997.<sup>111</sup> However, throughout 1997 the proposed center was typically referred to in newspaper articles as “The Glenwood Center.”<sup>112 113 114</sup>

A slight shift occurred in 1998 when newspapers began referring to the city where the library was being constructed, Cooksville.<sup>115</sup> Soon, the branch had its grand opening on August 28, 2000<sup>116</sup> and was renovated in 2021. A library policy existed in 1988 in which libraries “shall be named for the geographic area which it serves.” Given the Glenwood Branch has a postal address

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<sup>102</sup> Howard County Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, June 18, 1988. Howard County Library archival records.

<sup>103</sup> Nelson, Erik “County negotiating to acquire land to build park, multipurpose center.” *The Baltimore Sun*. March 24, 1994. Pg 3B

<sup>104</sup> Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, June 15, 1994. Howard County Library archival records.

<sup>105</sup> Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, September 7, 1994. Howard County Library archival records

<sup>106</sup> FY1995 Capital Budget document dated September 14, 1995. Howard County Library archival records

<sup>107</sup> Harrington, Erica C. “Ideas sought for Route 97 complex.” *The Baltimore Sun*. July 30, 1996. Pg 1B

<sup>108</sup> Harrington, Erica C. “Concerns aired about government complex, park.” *The Baltimore Sun*. August 1, 1996. Pg 5B

<sup>109</sup> Internal county correspondence dated Feb. 25, 1997. Howard County Library archival records.

<sup>110</sup> Hedgpeth, Dana. “Officials see delay for library project” Jan. 1, 1997. *The Baltimore Sun*. Pg 3B

<sup>111</sup> Timberg, Craig. “Glenwood library may open in 1999.” *The Baltimore Sun*. April 30, 1997. Pg 1B

<sup>112</sup> Wilber, Del Quentin. “Proposed center’s design to suit site, planners say.” *The Baltimore Sun*. September 25, 1997. Pg 5B

<sup>113</sup> Hedgpeth, Dana. “Proposed library delay is criticized.” *The Baltimore Sun*. April 1, 1997. Pg 1B

<sup>114</sup> Timberg, Craig. “Glenwood library may open in 1999.” *The Baltimore Sun*. April 30, 1997. Pg 1B

<sup>115</sup> Wilber, Del Quentin. “Library, mall are likely for Cooksville.” *The Baltimore Sun*. October 15, 1998. Pg 1B

<sup>116</sup> Hopkins, Jamie Smith. “Library opens with extra frills.” *The Baltimore Sun*. August 29, 2000. Pg 1B

of Cooksville, MD many speculated if it would become the “Cooksville Branch.”<sup>117</sup> However, for several years, the library was referred to in Board of Library Trustees’ planning documents as “Western Howard County Branch,” but at some point, the name became “Glenwood Branch.” It is important to note that we were unable to find a meeting of the Library Board Trustees in which an agenda item was the official naming of the branch. Furthermore, we found no indication of the naming happening at either the official nor the unofficial opening of the branch.

As for the historical name “Glenwood,” conflicting information exists. The question: “where did the Glenwood name come from?” is one we tried to answer definitively without much success. First, we tried to locate information regarding the first historical use of the name Glenwood. In 1841, a post office was announced in the newspaper that could be found “at Mathew’s Store.” James B. Mathews was appointed the postmaster.<sup>118</sup> On the 1860 Martenet map, Cooksville is indicated by “Cooksville” with a separate store and post office near the blacksmith shop and the word “Glenwood” is not shown though the home of J.B. Mathews and the store/P.O. is.<sup>119</sup> By the release of the 1878 Hopkins map, twelve areas with post offices were prevalently noted on the district four section of the atlas with three areas without one: Lisbon, Dorseyville and Shaferville. In the list of patrons for the atlas, post office addresses are listed for them and the word “Glenwood” was found.<sup>120</sup> It was a time in Howard County’s history when the appropriate post office was your address.

A story found in many sources recirculates the notion that the village was renamed Glenwood from the name Mathews. More specifically, Celia Holland’s “Old Homes and Families of Howard County Maryland” suggests that: “In 1841 a post office was established as “Mathews Store, Anne Arundel County”; the village was then known simply as Mathews. On 13 January 1874 the name was officially changed to Glenwood, a name chosen by Professor Lycurgus Mathews, son of James and later headmaster of Glenwood Institute.”<sup>121</sup> Given the context in the sentence, Holland was referring to the post office being renamed by Lycurgus. Information was located in the Howard County Historical Society, Inc.’s Fall 2015 newsletter about Glenwood, in which it was written that the “small village was known as ‘Mathews Store, Anne Arundel County”<sup>122</sup> which is likely accurate. We were not able to find any evidence for how the area got its name, and it is referred to as an unincorporated community. However, we do know that it was not named by an act of the General Assembly as Elkridge Landing and Ellicott City had been.

The Maryland Historical Trust inventory created in 2004 for the Alfred and Sophia Mathews Farmhouse (HO-850) noted that “The village was known as Mathews until 1874, when it was renamed Glenwood, after the private school founded by Lycurgus Mathews” with no direct citation provided for the information.<sup>123</sup> Holland’s book was generally cited within the inventory as a source, which does not mention it being named after a school. Within Holland’s book was a footnote that referenced a 1927 family reunion booklet written about the Mathews family by

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<sup>117</sup> Howard County Library System, Glenwood Branch listing, <http://hclibrary.org/locations/glenwood-branch>.

<sup>118</sup> “New Post Office.” *The Baltimore Sun*. August 16, 1841. Pg 2

<sup>119</sup> 1860 Martenet map snip of Cooksville in relation to Mathews store and post office

<sup>120</sup> 1878 Hopkins Atlas entry with Glenwood post office addresses

<sup>121</sup> Holland, Celia. (1987) *Old Homes and Families of Howard County Maryland*. Pg 211-12. (author, Catonsville, MD)

<sup>122</sup> The Legacy newsletter. Howard County Historical Society, Inc. Fall 2015, Vol 52, Number 4. Pg 1

<sup>123</sup> MD Historical Trust, Maryland inventory of Historic Properties Form, Inventory No. HO-850. Pdf Pg 6

Kent Greenfield. Found within was “The Glenwood we all reverence and love was largely fashioned and built by Uncle Kirk. He gave it the name, Glenwood, to which name the post office was changed from Mathews Store.”<sup>124</sup> In Joshua D. Warfield’s 1905 book entry about Glenwood, he noted that the village was an “..outgrowth of a country store and post office long kept by Mr. James B. Mathews.”<sup>125</sup> The earliest entry located for the use of the word “Glenwood” in newspapers was on October 29, 1868 in reference to the home of William C. Polk.<sup>126</sup>

The Glenwood Library contained a room called “Pindell Room” named for Elizabeth Pindell, who served as postmaster for almost 42 years.<sup>127</sup> We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done, and the library website does not list a room with that name that is available to the public for meetings. The branch also has a Studio A and Studio B.

/Marlena Jareaux and Margaret Goodlin

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

### The Library Buildings Mini Report

January 9, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Howard County Library System, Charles E. Miller Branch &amp; Historical Center</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	9421 Frederick Road Ellicott City, MD 21042
<b>Dates</b>	Opened 2011; Named pursuant to county council resolution in 2006
<b>Who Named</b>	Howard County Council endorsed the name; the county and library board defined what “historical center” would entail.
<b>Reason for Name</b>	Undetermined reasons, but for Charles E. Miller and a historical research and genealogy center for the county

<sup>124</sup> Greenfield, Kirk. (1927) *The Mathews Family: pages from the lives of James B. and Kitty Griffith Mathews*. Pg 34 Accessible via Familysearch.org

<sup>125</sup> Warfield, Joshua D. (1905) *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties*. Accessible via <https://archive.org/details/foundersofannear00warf/page/443/mode/1up?q=glenwood&view=theater>

<sup>126</sup> Newspaper clipping with the word “Glenwood.” *The Democratic Advocate*. October 29, 1868

<sup>127</sup> Young, Luther. “In a short while, Glenwood will have three generations of post offices.” *The Baltimore Sun*. December 9, 1979. Pg HL3

## Association with Slavery or Oppression – YES

**Miller materially participated in the significant delay of the desegregation of county schools. He was reported to have led the effort to oppose the creation of a charter for the county's Interracial Commission. As a developer, he sold at least 11 properties with racially restrictive covenants he inserted into the deeds between 1939 and 1948.**

*NOTE: The last Public Spaces Commission incorrectly reported that land for this library had been donated by Miller. The state database, Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation, contains an incorrect deed citation for this building address. Book 11684 Page 166 data is not a record that pertains to any county library. The correct deed reference is Book 10952 page 277 and it reflects Howard County Maryland's 2007 purchase of 7.186 acres of land for the price of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars).*

### County Desegregation:

Charles E. Miller ran a bus service for several years, having a contract with the school system to do so. He began his public service by being appointed a trial magistrate. In 1938, he was recommended to complete the unexpired term for county commissioner Noll who had died.<sup>128</sup> According to the obituary written about him, he was a member of the county school board for twelve years.<sup>129</sup> His tenure began in 1950 as can be seen from county school board meeting minutes. This was a time in local history when segregated schooling existed in the county. Miller was a part of the school board when the cases that became known as *Brown v Board of Education* (there were multiple ones consolidated into one) came before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1952, a fact that would have been known by many in the country at the time. Any actions or inactions of people should be viewed with the lens of this information. In January 1952 Miller donated \$1000 towards the purchase price of land for a new Ellicott City "colored school" to be built upon.<sup>130</sup> This was mentioned in the prior commission report, but without important context.

In the February 11, 1952 Board of Education minutes, it was recorded that the property owner Nellie Dehnhart on Fells Lane was made an offer by the board for \$3250 for four acres of land but that she wouldn't sell for less than \$5k. She was then offered \$4k by the board. Miller was noted to have donated \$2500 towards the purchase of an additional twelve acres of land for the new white high school in Ellicott City, and an additional \$2000 towards the purchase of the site for the colored school from Dehnhart.<sup>131</sup> The board purchased the Dehnhart site on March 4, 1952 for an undisclosed sum. (Book MWB231, p. 0157)

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<sup>128</sup> "Named G.O.P. Candidate: C.E. Miller To Run For Howard County Post." *The Baltimore Sun*. October 27, 1938. Pg 22

<sup>129</sup> "Charles Miller, Howard Republican, Dies." *The Baltimore Sun*. July 10, 1979. Pg A8

<sup>130</sup> 1952 donation. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Jan 8, 1952. PDF Pg 2 Year 1952

<sup>131</sup> 1952 further donations. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Jan 21, 1952. PDF Pg 4-5

In June 1954, the state board of education and the State Superintendent of Schools issued the official position of Maryland after the Supreme Court's first decision in *Brown*. The statement contained: "The laws of Maryland specifically provide for segregation in the public schools and in the teachers colleges. In view of this law requiring segregation, no program of integration can be put into effect until the decision of the Supreme Court becomes final and an effective date is set by the Supreme Court."<sup>132</sup> After further legal arguments, a second Supreme Court opinion got issued in May 1955 in which local school boards were told to proceed "with all deliberate speed" to desegregate schools. This left it up to the interpretation of state boards of education, which provided guidance to local boards. MontgomeryHistory.com has a great website that provides information relative to their desegregation process and timeline, and one webpage mentions that "...legal barriers to desegregation had been removed from the Maryland books."<sup>133</sup> by the summer of 1955. It is noteworthy that the then-Attorney General of Maryland was Howard County's own C. Ferdinand Sybert.<sup>134</sup> Evidenced by a document from the state board of education, it is known that Sybert's office participated in the Supreme Court argument of the case via *amicus curiae* (a filing done by stating you have a strong interest in the case). The language written by Sybert and provided to the state board is instructive regarding the thought of the day by some, and interested readers should consult that for context to understand how our state attorney general was guiding the state.<sup>135</sup>

While President of the Board of Education of Howard County, Miller participated in the official board statement that got issued on August 16, 1955 regarding county school segregation and the Supreme Court decision. The board had decided not to begin desegregation that September. Part of their statement contained: "There remains for consideration the manner in which this decision is to be carried out in those areas, such as Howard County, where racial discrimination has been in effect."<sup>136</sup> Lawsuits demanding desegregation involving several Maryland school systems happened, including one at the United States District Court that involved a class action lawsuit of 66 Black children in St. Mary's County that Attorney General Sybert's office worked to dismiss. The Howard County Board of Education had a lawsuit filed against it by a group of citizens that sought to compel the board to keep separate schools in operation, and an aspect of that case got heard and decided by Maryland's highest court in 1957. There is no way that a good examination can be made in this paper regarding the many aspects of Howard County's desegregation efforts, and we would encourage the county to have one finally created that is highly accessible to everyone since it is important local history.

In November 2012, the county Board of Education issued a proclamation that expressed "...profound regret that the Howard County Public School System maintained separate and unequal public schools.." mentioning the prior board's slow response to comply with federal

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<sup>132</sup> 1954 Board statement desegregation. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, June 1, 1954

<sup>133</sup> Montgomery History, "After the Verdict, 1954-1955" part, <https://montgomeryhistory.org/online-exhibit-desegregation/after-the-verdict/>

<sup>134</sup> Archives of Maryland (Biographical Series), C. Ferdinand Sybert, MSA3520-1523. Accessible via: <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001500/001523/html/1523bio.html>

<sup>135</sup> Copy of Maryland Attorney General Sybert's written opinion given to the state superintendent of schools, dated June 20, 1955. Courtesy of Maryland State Archives.

<sup>136</sup> 1955 Board statement desegregation. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Aug 16, 1955



law.<sup>137</sup> Local desegregation wasn't fully achieved until 1965, and Miller was elected a county commissioner and installed on December 4, 1962. He was therefore part of the delay. Montgomery County claims to have been the first county to desegregate, according to the previously cited website. Baltimore City is generally acknowledged to have been the first jurisdiction in Maryland to do so.

## **Human and Racial Relations**

During Miller's second time on the Board of County Commissioners (precursor to county council), several things were going on in the county that dealt with human relations and racial relations. Fels Lane Urban Renewal is one. Again, there is much that should be written and documented about this era of county history that we were unable to find compiled anywhere and made easily accessible for the public. One newspaper article was found that contained information relative to Miller's publicly articulated views on Fels Lane community occupants while he was the chair of the county commission. Some of the public housing residents discussed a possible rent strike due to rental conditions, and he made a comment to the press that they were "slovenly, ungrateful, and financially irresponsible."<sup>138</sup> It had made the national press that Ellicott City had become a slum.<sup>139</sup> The urban renewal project was hotly contested.

The county had an Interracial Commission that had been formed at some point in 1962 (Miller was installed at the end of the year), and it too has a history that involves Miller. He was part of the Board of County Commissioners when the Interracial Commission was expanded, but he was reported to have led the effort to reject a charter for that commission that would have given them powers relative to investigations into discrimination complaints.<sup>140</sup> It was reported that the Interracial Commission filed suit against the county and then the county commissioners dissolved it. When a new Human Relations Commission got formed by county council, Miller objected to it. This was the general time period in which Columbia was being planned in the county, which Miller publicly opposed.<sup>141</sup>

## **Racial Restrictions in Deeds**

Personally, Charles Miller was a developer who engaged in the oppression of people of color due to his support of racial segregation with his creation of white-only communities in the county. As an example, Miller and his partner Benjamin Mellor, Jr. sought to establish the Mont Ridge subdivision off of Montgomery Road as a white-only development. Mellor had been the Howard County Clerk of the Court during much of the same time period.<sup>142</sup> Eleven deeds with racial

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<sup>137</sup> Garver, Rachel and Nienass, Benjamin (2020) "Making Sense of and with "Profound Regret": Howard County Board of Education's Apology for a Racially Segregated Public School System." *Journal of Educational Controversy*: Vol. 14 : No. 1, Article 3.

<sup>138</sup> "Rent Strike Plan Rebuked." *The Baltimore Sun*. August 31, 1966. Pg A15

<sup>139</sup> "Ellicott City Named Slum Area" *The Sun*. (1837-); Dec 6, 1963; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*. Pg 44

<sup>140</sup> "Bias Panel Established." *The Baltimore Sun*. May 6, 1969. Pg A10

<sup>141</sup> "Howard Gives Guidelines." *The Baltimore Sun*. Feb 19, 1965. Pg 26

<sup>142</sup> Mellor clerk listing <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc2600/sc2685/county/html/hoclerks.html>

restrictions were easily located that were made by Miller and his wife, Grace, between 1939 and 1948. An example of the language used in such deeds is found in the 1947 deed in which Miller and his wife sold a tract of land to Guilford and Ella Baker<sup>143</sup>:

**"(6) The above described lot and any part thereof shall not be used, occupied by, or conveyed to a person, or persons, of Negro descent or extraction, except that this restriction shall not apply to negroes or persons of negro descent or extraction employed as domestics thereon."**

### **The Naming of the Library:**

There are two parts to the name of the branch: "Charles E. Miller" and the addition that was done to include "Historical Center." The Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center at 9421 Frederick Road opened on December 17, 2011. It is located right beside the original location, which is now the Administrative Branch. It was reported in the newspaper in October 2004 that the library felt confident that it could acquire land from the Miller family for the new branch.<sup>144</sup> Months earlier in February 2004, it was reported in the newspaper that the then library director was unveiling plans for a new library that would be shared by the nonprofit Howard County Historical Society, Inc. and that it had the support of Courtney Watson (then chair of the school board) and Paul Miller (then board member for Howard County Historical Society, Inc).<sup>145</sup> Focus groups were reported to have been conducted with various groupings of stakeholders in June 2004, according to the library assessment and master plan prepared later that year. In the Howard County Library Facilities Assessment and Master Plan prepared November 2004, the rankings of eight library service functions that had been posed to and done by focus group participants was listed in a section of the report titled "Library Service Rankings Results." Ranked number eight in importance in this section was "Research local history and my family's genealogy."<sup>146</sup> The report indicated that focus groups reported the following interest: "would like to see the historical society and Columbia archives more a part of the library."<sup>147</sup>

A policy regarding naming of libraries was in effect by this time mandating that they were to be named after the geographic area they serve with provisions for rooms or areas of libraries to be named for people. The original branch contained Miller's name as a result of county resolution 24-1979 which facilitated the renaming of the Frederick Road Library to the Charles E. Miller Memorial Library (refer to Admin branch writeup). On June 5, 2006 then County Councilman Christopher Merdon introduced legislation in the form of a resolution to urge that any new library "retain the name Miller Branch" which was amended to read ".. include "Charles E.

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<sup>143</sup> Miller racial covenant example. Deed between Charles and Grace Miller and Guilford and Ella Baker, dated Aug 13, 1947

<sup>144</sup> Alexander, Sandy. "Growth prompts \$57 million library plan." *The Baltimore Sun*. October 28, 2004. Pg 3B

<sup>145</sup> Carson, Larry. "Big plans for small library in Howard." *The Baltimore Sun*. February 10, 2004. Pg 1B.

<sup>146</sup> Howard County Library Facilities Assessment and Master Plan: Facilities and Services-2005 to 2030. Providence Associates, Inc. November 2004. PDF Pg 23

<sup>147</sup> Ibid. PDF Pg 22

Miller” in its name.”<sup>148</sup> It was adopted July 3, 2006. The purchase of the land was finalized on October 11, 2007 between Paul Miller on behalf of The Miller Land Company and County Executive Ken Ulman on behalf of the county.<sup>149</sup> A variance was requested from building height requirements, and the county’s Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for CR66 - 2009 provides a great summary on the history of the project up to that date.<sup>150</sup> In December 2009, a top-out ceremony was conducted at the site, a celebration with roots in Scandinavian superstition.<sup>151</sup> The Howard County Historical Society, Inc. is the only local history nonprofit with space in the branch, operating pursuant to a lease agreement executed between the county, library board and the nonprofit on July 12, 2010. Due to the desire to preserve the tax-exempt status of any bonds used in the financing of the building, the county does not charge the nonprofit any rent while the financing is outstanding.<sup>152</sup> 1,962 square feet of the 3,991 square foot Historical Center are utilized as the “Historical Society Suite” exclusively for the operations of the nonprofit.

This branch has room names as follows: Avalon, Ellicott, Patapsco. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/Marlena Jareaux

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

### The Library Buildings Mini Report

January 9, 2023

<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Howard County Library System, Savage Branch &amp; STEM Education Center</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Building
<b>Location</b>	9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, MD 20723
<b>Dates</b>	1922 Original Library, 1966 as Savage Branch, 1991 New Building, renovated 2014 as STEM Center
<b>Who Named</b>	unknown
<b>Reason for Name</b>	unknown for certain
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – TBD.</b>	
This site is named after a geographic location that had a history of oppression, however the location namesake, John Savage, had no known history of slavery or oppression.	

<sup>148</sup> County Council of Howard County, MD resolution CR87-2006 adopted with amendment July 3, 2006., courtesy Howard County Council

<sup>149</sup> Miller Land sold to County. Deed dated October 11, 2007 Maryland Land Records, book 10952 Pg 277

<sup>150</sup> CR66-2009 Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement dated June 25, 2009, courtesy Howard County Council

<sup>151</sup> Holzberg, Janene. “Topping Out Library.” *The Baltimore Sun*. December 5, 2010. Pg G1.

<sup>152</sup> Agreement of Lease with HCHS, dated July 12, 2010 section 3. Courtesy of Board of Library Trustees

## Summary:

The Savage Branch & STEM Education Center is located just outside of Savage, Maryland with the postal address in North Laurel. In July of 1922, a corporation was formed called Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute, Inc. for a “Public Library, and/or for a Community Hall.”<sup>153</sup> In December of 1922, a newspaper reported that the city of Savage had been “..presented with a stone library and community hall by the Savage Manufacturing Company..”<sup>154</sup> This pre dated the official Howard County Library System, but was likely a library only for the Savage community. On February 29, 1956, The *Ellicott City Times* reported that the Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute had become the 10<sup>th</sup> “library station” of the Howard County Public Library.<sup>155</sup> It is not known how long the “station” remained open, but we noted that the county library system was supplying Bookmobile library services to Savage Elementary School in 1963.<sup>156</sup> In 1966, the Board of Library Trustees signed a 3-year lease in Carroll Baldwin Memorial Hall, with an option for another 3 years, but it is not known how long it operated under this lease.<sup>157</sup> This location became a “reading center” in the 1970s.<sup>158</sup> A permanent branch opened in 1991.<sup>159</sup>

The land for the new Savage Branch building was secured from Gorman Road Limited Partnership by Howard County Maryland on January 31, 1989 and consisted of 2.78 acres.<sup>160</sup> The building was renovated in 2015. Prior to the renovation, the branch shared the facility with a senior center and a county health department office. When those organizations moved to the North Laurel Community Center in 2013, the library expanded into the full 24,000 square feet of the building.<sup>161</sup>

Regarding the name “Savage”, in 1822, the Williams brothers (George, Amos, Cumberland and Nathaniel) and others chartered the “Savage Manufacturing Company” with an investment of \$20,000 from their friend and Philadelphia banker John Savage. The primary purpose of this company was the manufacture and sale of cotton duck cloth. The company built housing for their

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<sup>153</sup> Certificate of Incorporation of Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute, Inc. State of Maryland. 23 June 1922. Courtesy of Maryland State Archives.

<sup>154</sup> *Prince Georges Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser*. Vol. 35. December 15, 1922. Pg 2

<sup>155</sup> “Library at Savage Has Opened Again.” *Ellicott City Times*. February 29, 1956. Pg 1

<sup>156</sup> January 28, 1964 Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, Howard County Library archival records

<sup>157</sup> Lease of Library at Carroll Hall. July 21, 1966. Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, Howard County Library archival records.

<sup>158</sup> Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, Howard County Library archival records. April 1979.

<sup>159</sup> Howard County Public Library System. Historical Timeline. <https://hclibrary.org/about-us/history/timeline/>. Accessed 8-25-2022

<sup>160</sup> Gorman Road Partnership to Howard County Maryland. Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records) CMP 1955, Pg 614, MSA\_CE53\_1941.

<sup>161</sup> Davis, Nayana. “Library officials show off Savage Branch's \$6.1M makeover.” <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/howard/bs-xpm-2014-07-11-bs-md-ho-savage-branch-20140711-story.html> Accessed November 15, 2022

workers as well as a company store and the new town was called Savage, after the company. John Savage never lived in the town that seems to have been named for him.<sup>162</sup>

The library branch is likely named after this geographic location in the county – the village of Savage—though we were unable to find any clear documentation of the naming process that was utilized. John Savage was a banker from Philadelphia who had no known ties to slavery or oppression.

Regarding the issue of oppression in the town of Savage, racism left an indelible impression within the Black community. In *The History of Blacks in Howard County*<sup>163</sup> the opening paragraph in the chapter on Savage explains the feeling better than any other explanation could:

“In any given unabridged dictionary, a savage, noun, is most likely to be defined as ‘a person of extreme, unfeeling, brutal cruelty.’ Take this person and clone to the extreme unfeeling, brutal cruelty into every brain, nerve, heart, skin, intestine, and bone cell - indeed, into every cell in the body of each white man, woman and child living in Savage, and one will have the description of the place and its inhabitants as repeated by blacks in every community of the county. Savage residents hated black people and they made certain that every black person who dared cross the unincorporated boundaries of Savage knew about it.”

An exploration of this oppression is written about in Savage as a “sundown town” that was unwelcoming to Black people, where they did not dare to cross after sundown for any reason at all.<sup>164</sup>

Of course, this is a portrait of a situation that is distant in years, but still in the memories of some in the communities. Savage is no longer a sundown town and welcomes everyone, but understanding this history reveals some of the long-standing bitterness that may exist today within some when they hear the name “Savage.”

The branch also contains a STEM Education Center operated under the authority of the library. Meeting rooms were named after Albert Einstein, Carl Sagan and DaVinci.<sup>165</sup> We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/Wayne Davis

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<sup>162</sup> “Savage Mill Historic District,” Maryland’s National Register Properties.

<https://mht.maryland.gov/nr/NRDetail.aspx?NRID=270&FROM=NRMapHO.html> Accessed November 16, 2022

<sup>163</sup> Cornelison, Alice; Silas E. Craft, Sr., and Lillie Price. (1986) *History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland*. Pg 61-62. (Howard County NAACP, Columbia, MD)

<sup>164</sup> Davis, Wayne. “Savage: A Recent Sundown Town.” *Voices of Laurel*, Summer 2022, Vol.2 No. 3, Pg 28.

[https://www.laurelhistory.com/files/ugd/380430\\_0bf9d9786b9945b4814431edd46fd0f2.pdf](https://www.laurelhistory.com/files/ugd/380430_0bf9d9786b9945b4814431edd46fd0f2.pdf) Accessed 8-25-2022.

<sup>165</sup> Howard County Library System room information. <https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/reserve-room/room>. Accessed November 15, 2022.

## **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>166</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, while others credit him as being responsible for a 1975 “Human Rights Act” that created an “Office of Human Rights and making discrimination”<sup>167</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 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.

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<sup>166</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>167</sup> From a Wikipedia webpage created for him, which will be addressed



## ***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>168</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>169</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 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.

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<sup>168</sup> News and video accessible at: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News121621>

<sup>169</sup> Executive Order 2022-08 dated May 12, 2022 signed by County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball

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>170</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>171</sup><sup>172</sup> An additional corroborating finding had been made that Cochran named the buildings “After more than a year of discussion and investigation by a special panel..” by “an order.”<sup>173</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 Commission) our commission’s job is made more difficult.”<sup>174</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

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<sup>170</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>171</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>172</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>

<sup>173</sup> “New names given to office buildings.” *The Howard County Times*. March 30, 1977.

<sup>174</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>

researcher compiling the history of Howard Community College (HCC) for their archives.<sup>175</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>176</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.**

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>177</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>178</sup> In addition, the edit activity for the users who do contribute is also easily accessible. There was activity submitted by user “Fanatic WIK” 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

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<sup>175</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>176</sup> Complete approved Board of Education meeting minutes accessible from year 1847 forward via:  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpsmd/Board.nsf/Public>

<sup>177</sup> See our document called “Cochran- Wikipedia page activity” placed on OpenData for webpage images captured

<sup>178</sup> Wikipedia introduction page accessible via: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Introduction\\_to\\_Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Introduction_to_Wikipedia)

activity for FanaticW1K that was captured is being placed on OpenData and can be seen via the footnoted links.<sup>179</sup> <sup>180</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>181</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>182</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 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

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<sup>179</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>180</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>181</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Hanna replaces Cochran” *Baltimore Sun*, December 7, 1971 Pg C14

<sup>182</sup> Supreme Court decision accessible via: [Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka :: 347 U.S. 483 \(1954\) :: Justia US Supreme Court Center](#)

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>183</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>184</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. Kittleman had moved to the county in 1956, and referred to it as "The county was very genteel. Southern genteel" in a 2004 article.<sup>185</sup> 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 that 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 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>186</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

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<sup>183</sup> See our Commission's Harriet Tubman writeup for article citation

<sup>184</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)

<sup>185</sup> DeFord, Susan. "Difficult Change, One Step at a Time; School Board's Go-Slow Ways Challenged" *The Washington Post*, May 13, 2004. Pg HO16

<sup>186</sup> HCC webpage <https://www.howardcc.edu/donors-alumni-and-friends/donor-profiles/joan-cochran-edward-and-joan-cochran-family-endowment/>

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>187</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>188</sup> and he was on their Board of Directors.<sup>189</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>190</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>191</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>192</sup> Perhaps he meant ahead of the 1963 “Directed Integration Program” that was to be achieved in four years by 1967. In the 2004 DeFord article, Kittleman was quoted as having recalled a private conversation with board member Fred K. Schoenbrodt in which he was told that if the pressure were let up "I promise you, you'll be happy with what we'll do in '65."

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. K (Tubman School graduate and Cooksville resident who moved to Baltimore) had been 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

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<sup>187</sup> “Cochran Resigns- Bush Appointed.” *Central Maryland News*, January 9, 1964. Pg 2

<sup>188</sup> “Other Nominees” *Central Maryland News*, January 16, 1964. Pg 18

<sup>189</sup> “Dr. Cochran Nominated.” *Central Maryland News*, January 23, 1964. Pg. 19

<sup>190</sup> “Cochran, Zimmer, Moxley Named; Clark Agrees With Convention.” *Central Maryland News*, March 5, 1964

<sup>191</sup> “2 Put on School Board” *The Washington Post*, May 2, 1964. Pg C34

<sup>192</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard's new executive: Reason to rule him, Cochran says” *Baltimore Sun*. December 2, 1974. Pg C1

1962 it was reported that Sands was urging Maryland counties to create duplicates of the state commission.<sup>193</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>194</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>195</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>196</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 people and 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>197</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:

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

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<sup>193</sup> "County-Level Racial Study Group Urged" *Cumberland Evening Times*, June 28, 1962, Pg 24

<sup>194</sup> "Maryland School Trend Still Towards Integration", *Cumberland Evening Times*, September 4, 1962. Pg 9

<sup>195</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>196</sup> Civil Rights Act of 1964 § 601, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d accessible via: <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/civil-rights-act>

<sup>197</sup> Image of Francis Keppel accessible via: <https://www.ifklibrary.org/asset-viewer/archives/JFKWHP/1962/Month%2012/Day%2010/JFKWHP-1962-12-10-B>

requirements under Title VI by submitting satisfactory court orders. Of these 529 court orders, 137 were secured before the passage of Title VI.<sup>198</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. Much has been written about HEW enforcement that helped “.move southern districts beyond token desegregation.”<sup>199</sup> Some endured the withholding or deferral of funds. 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)

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<sup>198</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)

<sup>199</sup>Erica Frankenberg, and Kendra Taylor. “ESEA and the Civil Rights Act: An Interbranch Approach to Furthering Desegregation.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, vol. 1, no. 3, 2015, pp. 32–49. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.7758/rsf.2015.1.3.02>.



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 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>200</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>201</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.”

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<sup>200</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>201</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, January 5, 1965, Pg 22 Accessible via: [https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/867JUS4EEAD8/\\$file/01+05+1965+to+12+13+1965.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/867JUS4EEAD8/$file/01+05+1965+to+12+13+1965.pdf)

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 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>202</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. The desegregation plans for some jurisdictions still exist.

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>203</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>204</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.*

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<sup>202</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, September 6, 1966 Pg 14 image placed on OpenData website

<sup>203</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>204</sup> Maryland Session Laws, 1967. Chapter 6

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 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>205</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>206</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>207</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>208</sup>

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

<sup>206</sup> “Maryland Klan Head Resigns, Raps Police” *The Washington Post*. March 28, 1967. Pg B2

<sup>207</sup> Smith, Philip. “Outside Agitators’ Kept From Laurel Area.” *The Washington Post*. July 19, 1967. Pg B2

<sup>208</sup> Jay, Peter A. “4 Linked to Klan Chief in Laurel Arson Attempt” *The Washington Post*. July 18, 1967. Pg B1

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 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>209</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>210</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>211</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

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<sup>209</sup> “State Education Posts Filled” *Baltimore Sun*. May 8, 1968. Pg C16

<sup>210</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>211</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “Cochran Running For Howard Post” *Baltimore Sun*, September 14, 1968, Pg B11

winners vying for one of three open council seats in the next election.<sup>212</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 have a court decide whether or not the county commissioners could create “a local human rights commission.”<sup>213</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>214</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>215</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>216</sup> By April, all five councilmen sponsored the legislation to create a nine member county human relations commission with advisory powers only.<sup>217</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>218</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

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<sup>212</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “Howard Votes For Charter With Record 75% Turnout” *Baltimore Sun*, November 6, 1968, Pg F10

<sup>213</sup> “RIGHTS GROUP SEEKS ORDER: COURT PETITIONED IN HOWARD ON COMMISSION ISSUE” *Baltimore Sun*, September 18, 1968; Pg A10

<sup>214</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “Howard Suit Is Dropped” *Baltimore Sun*, December 3, 1968. Pg C9

<sup>215</sup> “RACIAL PANEL FINDS DEBATE” *Baltimore Sun*, January 9, 1969; A13

<sup>216</sup> Muncie, Peter C. “DEMOCRATS SWEEP FIRST HOWARD VOTE” *Baltimore Sun*, January 23, 1969. Pg C20

<sup>217</sup> Balfour, Charles. “RIGHTS GROUP PLAN DRAWN” *Baltimore Sun*, April 8, 1969. Pg A11

<sup>218</sup> Balfour, Charles. “BIAS PANEL ESTABLISHED” *Baltimore Sun*, May 6, 1969, Pg A10

much as we can.”<sup>219</sup> His obituary noted that he had also been a member of the Interracial Commission (state or local isn’t yet known).<sup>220</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 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>221</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>222</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>223</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>224</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>225</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

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<sup>219</sup> “Teacher To Head Howard Bias Unit” *Baltimore Sun*, August 2, 1969, Pg A10

<sup>220</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.

<sup>221</sup> “Howard Rights Panel Asks Paid Staff, More Authority” *Baltimore Sun*, February 24, 1971, Pg C12

<sup>222</sup> “Howard Rated ‘Poor’ As Equal Employer” *Baltimore Sun*, April 24, 1971, Pg A11

<sup>223</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard board, Goedeke faulted in blocking bias probe” *Baltimore Sun*. August 16, 1973. Pg A12

<sup>224</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Prince Georges bias panel aide hired by Howard” *Baltimore Sun*. December 8, 1973, Pg A19

<sup>225</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard bias body asks right to use subpoena, cease-and-desist orders” *Baltimore Sun*. February 5, 1974 Pg C12

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 than who will be more sensitive to human relations."<sup>226</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. Douglas B. Sands, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, was reported to have met with County Executive Jones.<sup>227</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>228</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>229</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>230</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>231</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>232</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>233</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

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<sup>226</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Hanton predicts Howard council will defeat relations bill" *Baltimore Sun*. May 24, 1974. Pg C3

<sup>227</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>228</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Cochran files for top Howard post" *Baltimore Sun*. April 26, 1974. Pg C4

<sup>229</sup> "Democratic hopeful for executive assails Columbia Club's Move to Pick a Slate" *Baltimore Sun*. July 16, 1974. Pg C5

<sup>230</sup> Clark, Michael J. "The election: Howard shapes post-Jones era" *Baltimore Sun*. October 18, 1974. Pg C1

<sup>231</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Howard's Democratic government will listen to Columbia" *Baltimore Sun*. November 7, 1974. Pg C5

<sup>232</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Cochran announces in Howard 21 commitments he plans to keep" *Baltimore Sun*. December 4, 1974. Pg C1

<sup>233</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Howard rights chief bars county plan" *Baltimore Sun*. December 7, 1974. Pg B1

noted to have been involved, along with the U.S. Department of Justice.<sup>234</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 not your commission will be given the necessary tools to combat and educate the perpetrators of discrimination.”<sup>235</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>236</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>237</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>238</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>239</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

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<sup>234</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Harassment of Elkridge black family 'halted' with 7 arrests, police report” *Baltimore Sun*. January 14, 1975. Pg C3

<sup>235</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard rights commission campaigns for more power” *Baltimore Sun*. April 16, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>236</sup> Howard County Council CB20-1975 Anderson bill and amendments called “Human Rights Commission”

<sup>237</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard legal aide brands bill on civil rights unconstitutional” *Baltimore Sun*. May 20, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>238</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>239</sup> Howard County Council CB26-1975 Yeager bill called “Human Rights Commission”



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>240</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 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>241</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>242</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>243</sup> The front page of the September 20, 1975 local newspaper contained the headline “New Rights Bill Heads For County Council.”<sup>244</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

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<sup>240</sup> “Goedeke Says Time Will Cure Schools’ Racial Balance Ills” *The Howard County Times*. July 8, 1975. Pg 1

<sup>241</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Bill revised: Howard rights board would advise” *Baltimore Sun*. July 30, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>242</sup> “No More Delays On The Rights Bill” *The Howard County Times*, September 17, 1975. Pg 4A

<sup>243</sup> “Rights bill is backed in Columbia” *Baltimore Sun*. September 18, 1975. Pg C3

<sup>244</sup> Thomas, Jim. “New Rights Bill Heads For County Council.” *The Howard County Times*, September 20, 1975 Pg 1

session.”<sup>245</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>246</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 the council hearing room of the courthouse.<sup>247</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>248</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>249</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>250</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>251</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

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<sup>245</sup> Beem, Barbara. “Council, Cochran To Back Human Rights Bill” *The Howard County Times*. October 1, 1975 Pg 1

<sup>246</sup> Beem, Barbara. “Cochran Predicts Human Services Office” *The Howard County Times*, October 1, 1975. Pg 18A

<sup>247</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>248</sup> Cane, Missy. “Charles Taylor: Investigator Fpr Human Rights” *The Howard County Times*. December 14, 1975. Pg 12A

<sup>249</sup> “Civil rights office set up in Howard” *Baltimore Sun*. November 4, 1975. Pg C2

<sup>250</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Human services chief fired in Howard; new post unfilled” *Baltimore Sun*. March 10, 1976. Pg C4

<sup>251</sup> “Omar Jones building proposed in Howard” *Baltimore Sun*. December 21, 1976. Pg C5

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>252</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>253</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 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>254</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>255</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>256</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>257</sup> In November 1978 it was reported that a county judge declared part of the local human rights law to be invalid.<sup>258</sup> In December, Cochran gave an interview in which he declared that he believed that his loss was "a fluke."<sup>259</sup> He reported that he was going to return to working at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. A January 1979 newspaper article reported that

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<sup>252</sup> Howell, Ron. "Property Tax Hike Predicted" *Baltimore Sun*. March 29, 1977. Pg 20

<sup>253</sup> Howard County Council CR77-1977 introduced July 5, 1977

<sup>254</sup> Hargaden, Anne. "Black church expected to regain land." *Baltimore Sun*. July 24, 1977. Pg B8

<sup>255</sup> 1977 Ellicott City Citizens Advisory Committee cover letter and draft recommendations on OpenData

<sup>256</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Citizens seek 1772 name, Ellicott Mills" *Baltimore Sun*. November 29, 1977. Pg C4

<sup>257</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Nichols upsets Cochran in race for Howard post" *Baltimore Sun*. September 13, 1978. Pg A11

<sup>258</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Rights law held partly invalid" *Baltimore Sun*. November 21, 1978. Pg C18

<sup>259</sup> Clark, Michael J. "Cochran thinks defeat was a fluke" *Baltimore Sun*. December 3, 1978. Pg 29

the human rights law was being amended<sup>260</sup>, and the County Council took action on the bill to pass it with amendments in February 1979.<sup>261</sup>

**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>262</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>263</sup>

/Marlena Jareaux

<sup>260</sup> Clark, Michael J. “Howard county moves to revise human rights law in line with ruling” *Baltimore Sun*. January 3, 1979. Pg C4

<sup>261</sup> Howard County Council CB2-1979 revising CB38-1975

<sup>262</sup> “HCC Center Honors Ecker” *Washington Post*. June 6, 2002. Pg HO10

<sup>263</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>264</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>265</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>266</sup> These two high schools were again discussed by the Board in 1948 moving their ultimate construction forward.<sup>267</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>268</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>269</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>270</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>264</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 64, January 9, 1945

<sup>265</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 111, April 2, 1946 and p. 142, December 10, 1946

<sup>266</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 135, November 12, 1946

<sup>267</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 210, April 6, 1948

<sup>268</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 129, May 23, 1950

<sup>269</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p 129, June 27, 1950

<sup>270</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p.146-150, July 12, 1950

Meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.<sup>271</sup> The deed for the purchase of 30 acres was recorded on October 13, 1950.<sup>272</sup>

The school was to be a replacement for Ellicott City, Clarksville, and Elkridge High Schools. Other high school students were to be sent to the Lisbon school, which would be refitted as a senior high school.<sup>273</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>274</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>275</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>276</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>277</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>278</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>271</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p.152, August 15, 1950

<sup>272</sup> Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records) MWB 220, p. 239, MSA\_CE53\_211.

<sup>273</sup> Ellicott City Times, 11/6/1952, School Section/Second Section, “Howard High Dedication This Friday” Pg 1

<sup>274</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p.22-23, January 21, 1952

<sup>275</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 22-23, January 21, 1952

<sup>276</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 191, May 4, 1954

<sup>277</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, p. 209, July 6, 1954

<sup>278</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>279</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>280</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>281</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>282</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>283</sup>

Report written by Wayne Davis and Margaret Goodlin

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<sup>279</sup> *Ellicott City Times*, November 6, 1952

<sup>280</sup> Discussion and photo of a Hallway Seal in the FB Group “You Know You Went to Howard High When?” June 9, 2023

<sup>281</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Sept 6, 1966

<sup>282</sup> Howard High School profile accessed April 26, 2023

<sup>283</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>284</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>285</sup>
<b>Association with Slavery or Oppression – DEPENDS UPON WHAT IT WAS ACTUALLY NAMED FOR, GIVEN OUR REPORT</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>286</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>287</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>288</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>289</sup>

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<sup>284</sup> The Baltimore Sun, 12/9/2004, "At Howard school, making a point about an apostrophe".

<sup>285</sup> Howard County Board of Education minutes, 6/22/2004, p.8.

<sup>286</sup> Patented Certificate 5354, Woodford, 3,440 acres, John Taillor, Baltimore County, Maryland State Archives record S1190-5432

<sup>287</sup> Patented Certificate 1725, Woodford, 905 acres, William H. Marriott, Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Archives record S1189-1814

<sup>288</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>289</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>290</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>291</sup> He rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 1820.<sup>292</sup> He was also a lawyer and served in the House of Delegates and in the Maryland Senate and reportedly “was appointed to the United States Supreme Court but died before taking his position.”<sup>293</sup> No corroboration could be made for the newspaper’s statement regarding the Supreme Court. In 1850 according to the Federal Census he was enslaving 10 people.<sup>294</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>295</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>296</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>297</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>298</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>299</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

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<sup>290</sup> Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1828-1832. National Archives Microfilm Publication M1131, Roll 4, Volume 6, page 7.

<sup>291</sup> Archives of Maryland, (Biographical Series), William H. Marriott (1790-1851).

<sup>292</sup> The Maryland Gazette, Annapolis, MD, “Militia Appointments”, Jan 20, 1820, p. 3.

<sup>293</sup> The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Brooklyn NY, “Emily G. Minton”, Feb 21, 1911), p.3.

<sup>294</sup> Schedule 2, Slave Inhabitants in Howard District, Census December 1, 1850.

<sup>295</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>296</sup> Archives of Maryland, (Biographical Series), William H. Marriott (1790-1851).

<sup>297</sup> The Baltimore Sun, “For Sale”, 5/28/1857, p.3.

<sup>298</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, 5/8/2003, p. 14.

<sup>299</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, 10/22/1992, 11/12/1992, 12/10/1992, and 1/14/1993.

accept Woodford as the school name giving the rationale that “While Mount View is also the 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>300</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>301</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>302</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>303</sup>. She continued that although Dorsey’s roughly drawn Land Grant Map showed Woodford extending further south than it really did (see discussion above)<sup>304</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

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<sup>300</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, January 14, 1994, p. 8

<sup>301</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, January 14, 1993, p. 8

<sup>302</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, May 8, 2003, p. 14.

<sup>303</sup> Memorandum from Joetta Cramm to School Naming Commission, re New High School, 2004 3-12

<sup>304</sup> Caleb Dorsey’s “Original Land Grants of Howard County, Maryland” map showing Woodford, Howard County Historical Society.1968

chosen. Ms. Haskins explained that the name Woodford received the highest number of votes by 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>305</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>306</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>307</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>305</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, May 8, 2003, p. 14,15.

<sup>306</sup> Howard County Board of Education minutes, June 12, 2003, p.12.

<sup>307</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>308</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>309</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>310</sup> Presumably, they too were named that way for also being on a high point in the county.<sup>311</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>308</sup> Howard County Board of Education Minutes, December 9, 2004, Pg 4

<sup>309</sup> Cho, Hanah. "At Howard School Making a Point About an Apostrophe" Baltimore Sun. December 9, 2004. Pg B4

<sup>310</sup> See HCPSS map image with "ridge" in them

<sup>311</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>312</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>312</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>313</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>314</sup> and it was made part of the Historic National Road<sup>315</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>316</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>317</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>318</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>319</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>313</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>314</sup> State tourism website accessible via: <https://www.visitmaryland.org/scenic-byways/historic-national-road>

<sup>315</sup> Deal-Zimmerman, Michelle. “Taking the Scenic Route.” *The Baltimore Sun*. November 8, 2009.

<sup>316</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>317</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>318</sup> 1850 census entry for Isaiah Mercer, Sr. showing his age to be 69

<sup>319</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>320</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>321</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>322</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>323</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>320</sup> 1860 Martenet map image showing noted Thomas Isaac properties

<sup>321</sup> Jareaux, M., Davis, W., Bulbul, C. (2023) Early Ellicott City Black History: A Historic African American Church, A Log Cabin and Lynching. (Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc.; Maryland) Pg 29

<sup>322</sup> From top of Pg 103 of Jareaux, Davis and Bulbul book

<sup>323</sup> HO-64 addendum Pg 2 completed 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>324</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>325</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 currently vacant with recently unveiled plans to repurpose into a space for two county nonprofits and a government entity.<sup>326</sup>

Report written by Marlena Jareaux

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<sup>324</sup> Brochure placed in HO-64 addendum done by Morrison

<sup>325</sup> From Jareaux Davis and Bulbul book pg 189 placed onto OpenData website

<sup>326</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>327</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>328</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>327</sup> Howard County website for Harriet Tubman Cultural Center accessible via:

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

<sup>328</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>329</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>330</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>331</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>332</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>333</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>334</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>335</sup>

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<sup>329</sup> Davis, N., Davis, W. (2023) Hidden History of Howard County. (Arcadia Publishing; Maryland) Pg 85-86

<sup>330</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated November 2, 1943, Pg 39

<sup>331</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated March 7, 1944, Pg 46

<sup>332</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated March 12, 1946, Pg 110

<sup>333</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting dated October 14, 1947, Pg 187

<sup>334</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>335</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 Douglas Sands, Silas Craft Sr. and his wife Dorothye, 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>336</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>337</sup> *Note: the "(see appendices)" part was not written in the actual approved Board meeting minutes.*<sup>338</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

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<sup>336</sup> Powder, Jackie. "School Teaches County a Lesson." *Howard County Sun*. Feb 26, 1989. Pg 58

<sup>337</sup> Cornelison, A., Craft, S. and Price, L. (1986) *History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland*. Pg 117

<sup>338</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>339</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>340</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>341</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>342</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>339</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting April 5, 1949. Pg 43

<sup>340</sup> Cornelison, A., Craft, S. and Price, L. (1986) History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland. Pg 198

<sup>341</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting May 3, 1949. Pg 47

<sup>342</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>343</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>344</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>345</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>346</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>343</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting February 9, 1965. Pg 27

<sup>344</sup> Pickett, Edward G. "School Board Will Select Howard Office Building Site" *Baltimore Sun*. Feb 11, 1965 Pg 36

<sup>345</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting September 14, 1965. Pg 105

<sup>346</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting November 2, 1965. Pg 131

criteria regarding the naming of schools.<sup>347</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>348</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>349</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>350</sup> We found materials related to that as well.<sup>351</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>352</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>347</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting September 4, 1968. Pg 119-120

<sup>348</sup> Howard County Council CR51-1988 Approving HUD submission for Tubman renovation placed on OpenData

<sup>349</sup> White, Tanika. “Former Tubman school holds memories, history; Heritage” *Baltimore Sun*. June 31, 2002. Pg 1B

<sup>350</sup> Samuels, Alisa. “Freetown street to be renamed for Tubman” *Baltimore Sun*. June 21, 1996

<sup>351</sup> Harriet Tubman Lane materials related to the 1996 street renaming

<sup>352</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>353</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>354</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>355</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>353</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting January 22, 2004 Pg 12-13, placed on OpenData

<sup>354</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, March 23, 2004 Pg 2-3 placed on OpenData

<sup>355</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, April 21, 2004 Pg 1-2 placed on OpenData

African-American community wants.”<sup>356</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>357</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>358</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>359</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>360</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>361</sup> but was a move criticized by Board of Education member Vaillancourt. Members Vaillancourt, Giles and Altwerger all reported having not seen the MOU before it was signed by Kittleman and Superintendent

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<sup>356</sup> Carson, Larry. “SCHOOLS GET FULL FUNDING” *Baltimore Sun*. April 4, 2007. Pg 1G

<sup>357</sup> “Marking 50 years of school desegregation isn’t the whole story” *Howard County Times*. September 22, 2015.

<sup>358</sup> Philip, Lisa. “Howard County to commemorate 50th anniversary of school desegregation” *The Howard County Times*. September 23, 2015

<sup>359</sup> Holzberg, Janene. “‘We love telling good stories’: Howard County’s role in the Underground Railroad” *The Howard County Times*. August 9, 2019.

<sup>360</sup> 2015 unsigned MOU for Harriet Tubman Building LAD File No. 3377 Board of Ed to Howard County, MD placed on OpenData site

<sup>361</sup> Harriet Tubman Advisory Council webpage accessible via: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/boards-commissions/harriet-tubman-advisory-council>



Foose.<sup>362</sup> It had been reported in the press days before that there was no definite date for the turnover of the building.<sup>363</sup>

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the building was noted in September 2017 for that year's Harriet Tubman Day.<sup>364</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 resolution.<sup>365</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>366</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>367</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>368</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>369</sup> It was reported that in May 2021 Shawn Gladden "Applied for Network to Freedom Trail grant."<sup>370</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>371</sup> "HCRP" is Howard County Recreation and Parks. A

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<sup>362</sup> Philip, Lisa. "County Executive and Superintendent publicly commit to turning over historic Tubman School." *TCA Regional News*. October 17, 2015.

<sup>363</sup> Philip, Lisa. "No timeline to vacate Tubman." *Baltimore Sun*. October 11, 2015. Pg Howard cover

<sup>364</sup> Magill, Kate. "Tubman celebration looks toward cultural center." *The Columbia Flier*. September 14, 2017. Pg 4

<sup>365</sup> Howard County Council CR110-2017 forming a School Surplus Use Committee regarding Tubman building

<sup>366</sup> County webpage for the Harriet Tubman Advisory Council accessible via:

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

<sup>367</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-](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2012_13_18.pdf)

[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>368</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>369</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>370</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-](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/Harriet%20Tubman%20Minutes%2005_13_21.pdf)

[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>371</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>

newspaper article about the opening of the new center reported that: “The county’s Department of Recreation and Parks will operate the facility.”<sup>372</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.***

### **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. Signage inside the building mentions the refusal.<sup>373</sup>

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>374</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>375</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>376</sup>

In an oral interview conducted between Jareaux and Douglas 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.

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<sup>372</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.

<sup>373</sup> Photograph of interior display mentioning refusal

<sup>374</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting March 6, 1951, Pg 204

<sup>375</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting November 5, 1952, Pg 84

<sup>376</sup> Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, meeting January 5, 1954, Pg 176-77

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>377</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 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>378</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. Information regarding the 1996 renaming of part of the street Guilford to Harriet Tubman Lane is provided.<sup>379</sup>

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>380</sup>

Report written by Marlena Jareaux with research support from Wayne Davis

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<sup>377</sup> Harriet Tubman Foundation of Howard County, Inc. Harriet Tubman Day Celebration September 17, 2022 program, Pg 7

<sup>378</sup> 2023 email from Courtney Watson regarding the Harriet Tubman sign

<sup>379</sup> 1996 communications regarding renaming and installation of Harriet Tubman Lane street sign

<sup>380</sup> 1846 Runaway advertisement Harriet in Howard area placed on OpenData site

## **Metrics for Report #3**

Our third mini report was circulated to the community outside of the county government channels, unlike the first two reports. Because of that and not having the benefit of any data from the county regarding the social media metrics for the first two reports, we wanted to at least provide some of the metrics that we were able to capture to give an idea of how many people we know we were able to reach with our third report (despite the short period of time we had).

First, the local history nonprofit Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. disseminated the full report #3 to 200 subscribers on November 27, 2023. The metrics show a 61% open rate (122 people) for the email. The report was then broken up into more digestible segments for readers on social media (Facebook), given how much material was inside of it. The contents and readership metrics are provided below. Readers were given each report segment, but had the option to also read the full report if they wished. Below are the numbers as of December 7, 2023.

### **November 28**

**Edward L. Cochran Jr. East Columbia 50+ Center**      **6 shares.**      **Post reach:**  
**1129**

### **November 29**

**Howard High/ Marriotts Ridge High**      **5 shares.**      **Post reach:**  
**2831**

### **December 2**

**Tubman building/ Thomas Isaac Log Cabin**      **10 shares.**      **Post reach:**  
**2046**

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     Bobo, 42, 79, 97  
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\*An effort was made to create a useful index for some of the topics and names that appear herein. Names that already appear in the table of contents were not placed in this index. Any omissions are solely the result of running out of time.