

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: July 10, #8 - Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, Germantown (M:19-13-8)
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 8:03:03 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

The Boyds Historical Society supports the listing of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House on the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites. This house, and the other houses on Liberty Mill (formerly Germantown) Road, were part of the little residential area around the Germantown B&O railroad station; they should have been included in the Germantown Historic District when it was created in 1989. Listing this house would be a small step towards correcting that error.

In addition, listing this house would not impede transit-oriented development in the area in the future, should there be interest in transit-oriented development on the steep hill on the south side of the railroad tracks.

Thank you,

Miriam Schoenbaum
President, Boyds Historical Society

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: #8 Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 10:53:02 AM
Attachments: [Jordan House PB testimony.docx](#)

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Attached is the testimony of the Germantown Historical Society and six illustrations to accompany. Also, here is a link to the "Rivers, Roads and Rails" Heritage Montgomery tour that is referenced in our testimony: <https://www.heritagemontgomery.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Transportation-brochure-2024.pdf>

Thank you,

Susan Cooke Soderberg
President
Germantown Historical Society
P.O. Box 475
Germantown, MD 20875
[REDACTED]

[July 10, #8 -- Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, Germantown \(M:19-13-8\)—Evaluation for the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites](#)

The Germantown Historical Society supports the listing of this house on the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites for the following reasons.

- Germantown was once an important agricultural railroad town with the second largest mill in the state. It is currently part of the Maryland Heritage Area "Rivers, Roads, and Rails" transportation tour.
- In 1988 the Montgomery County Planning Board, along with the Historic Preservation Commission unanimously approved the Germantown Historic District of 26 historic structures. The Montgomery County Council whittled this down to four historic buildings and a replica train station as being representative of the original town (with three houses outside of the District named as individual sites).
- The historical significance of the District depends on the existence of a town. A town does not consist of three houses and a Bank building as it is currently. It needs more context. The Jordan House is important for the continuity of the historic neighborhood and its connection to the railroad.
- The Jordan House was inadvertently left out of the original proposal for the Germantown Historic District because it was indicated as a vacant lot instead of a lot with a house on the original map designating the historic district being proposed.
- A year after the revised Germantown Historic District was included in the 1989 Germantown Master Plan, the owner of the Jordan House, a real estate agent, applied for and was granted commercial zoning for the property. This property stands out from the surrounding properties in the residential neighborhood which are all zoned R-200. One other property in the neighborhood is zoned commercial, but this had been a store from the 1880s.
- The Germantown Historic District that is mentioned in the MARC Rail Community Sector Plan as being complimentary to the plan but unchanged by the plan. Thus, the zoning from 1989 was unchanged by the Plan.
- The nearby historic Germantown Bank is well on the way to becoming a Museum of Banking -- a living museum teaching financial literacy. As the only such museum in Maryland this will draw people to Germantown and enhance local economy. It is also mentioned in "Rivers, Roads, and Rails" tour of the Maryland Heritage Area. If this house were to be replaced with a modern building it would greatly detract from the historicity of the bank building and the other buildings in the Germantown Historic District.
- This house was constructed by a local builder in 1885 and is one of two oldest existing houses from the original town. It is unchanged except for the covering of vinyl siding and window shutters. As can be seen by the stones of the foundations, the small rear "bump-out" is probably the oldest part of the house and pre-dates the 1885 section and may be the "carpenter shop" that is shown on the 1870 Hopkins map in this location.

- Wilson and Charlotte Jordan, although they never actually owned the house, lived in the house for many years as they both contributed to the community. They were anchors of the old town. Wilson was a minister and Charlotte played the piano for the services. After the church folded he became the local electrician -- bringing electricity to old houses that never had it before. Wilson Jordan, as part of the Germantown Lions Club, played the local Santa Claus at Christmas for more than 30 years. They were so revered that people raised the money to dedicate a stained glass window to them in their church.
- It is the responsibility of the County to preserve sites of historical significance to the community -- this means not just those places associated with the rich or famous, but places that have a special meaning to the community. These local sites are the soul of the community and give residents a commonality and sense of place.

This is an opportunity for this Planning Board to correct a mistake that was made thirty-seven years ago.

Susan Cooke Soderberg

President

Germantown Historical Society

P.O. Box 475

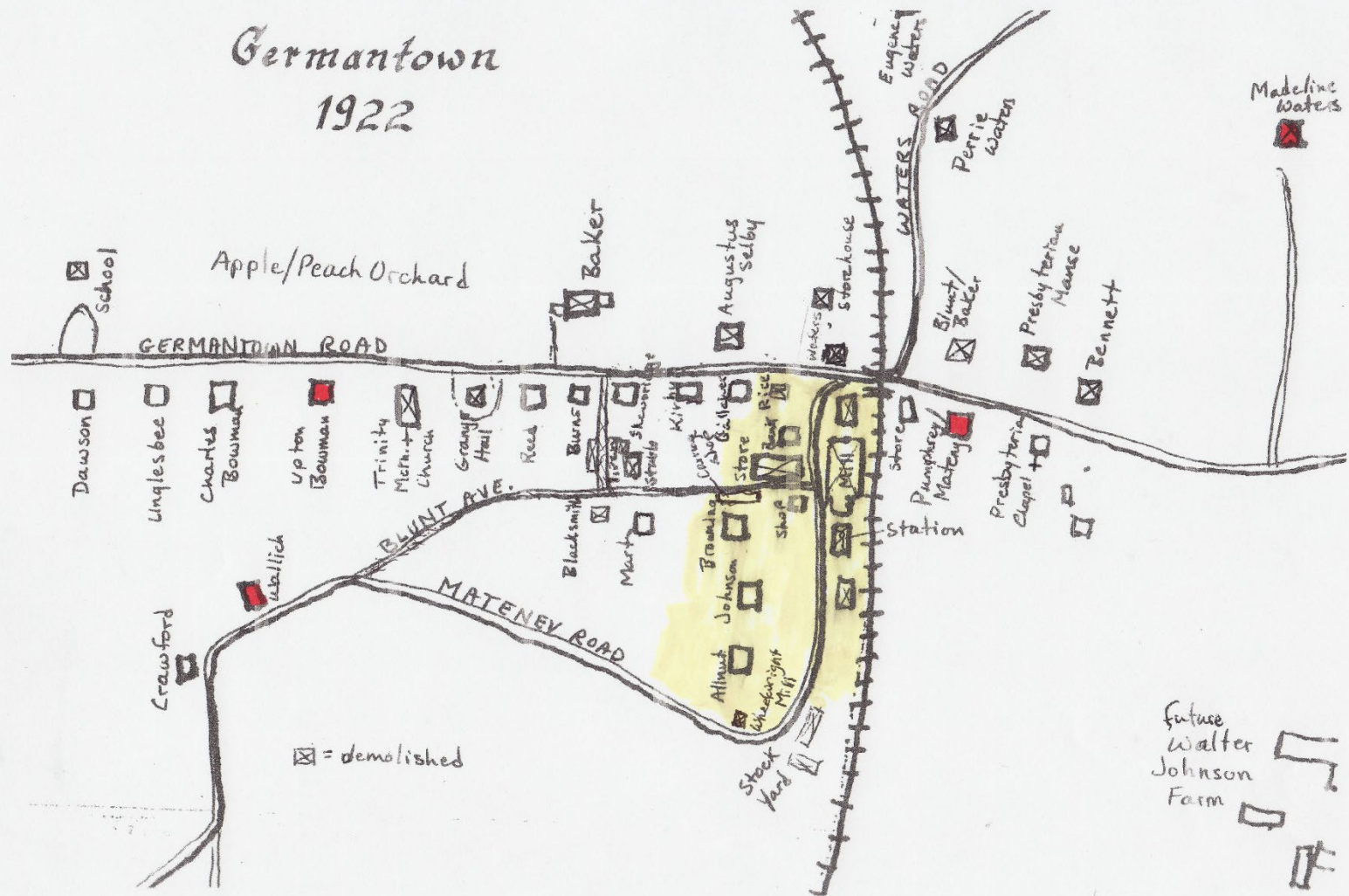
Germantown, MD 20875

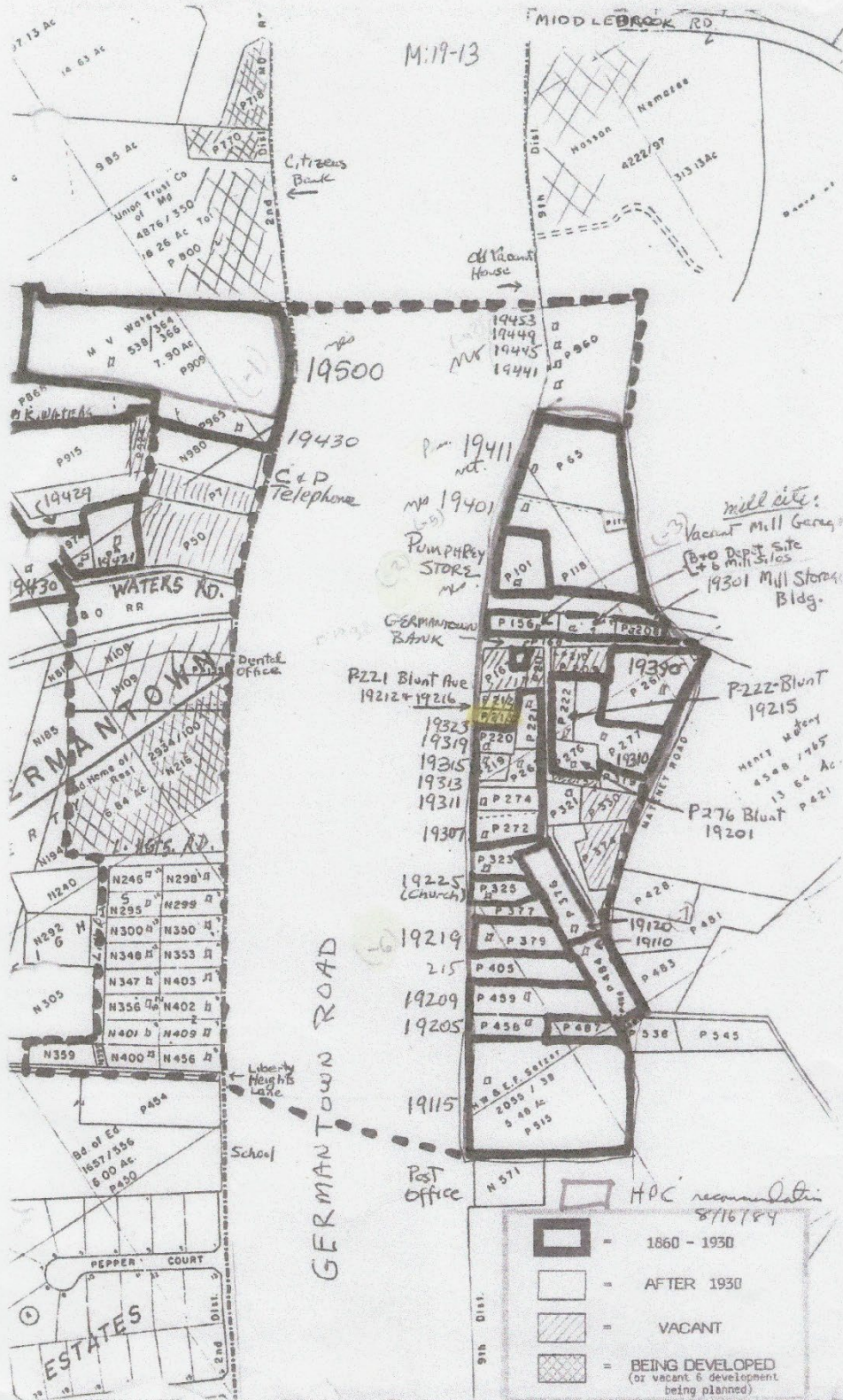


GERMANTOWN STA. & P.O.



Germantown 1922

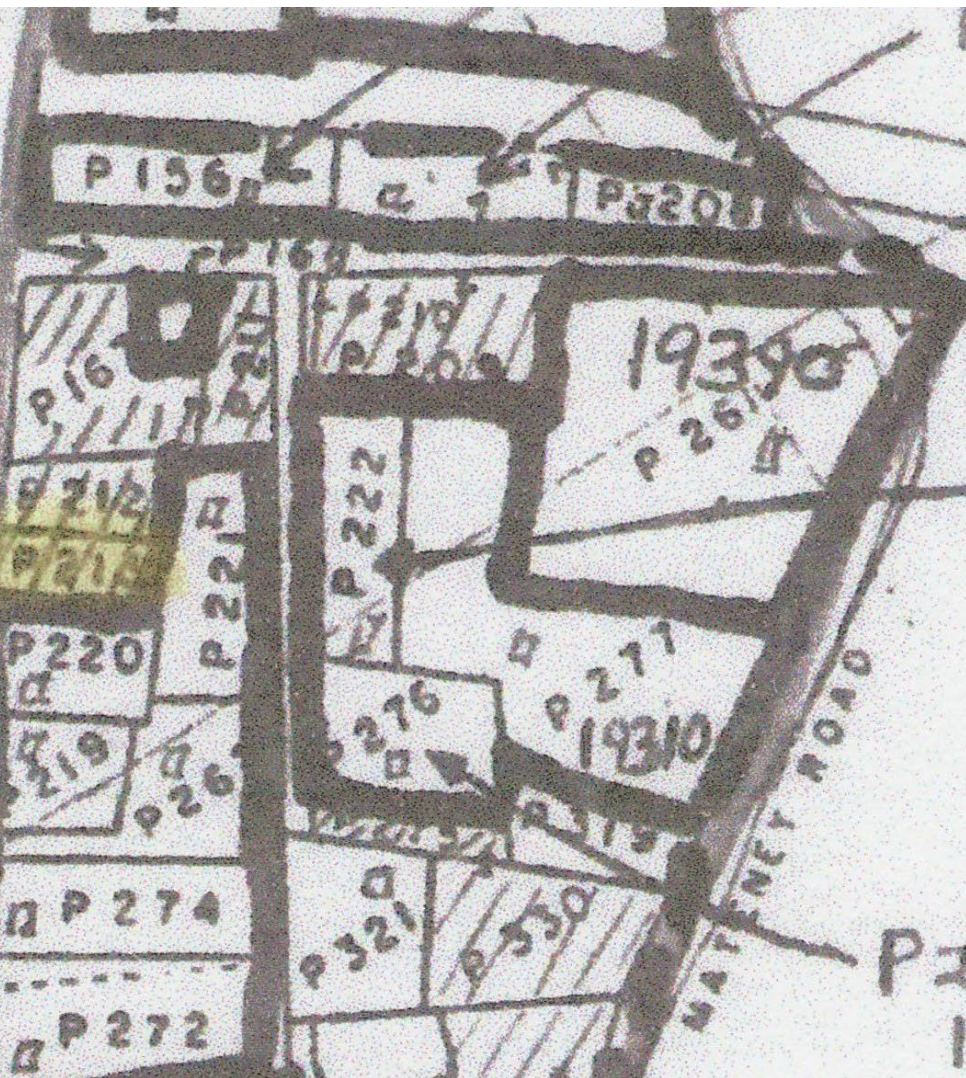




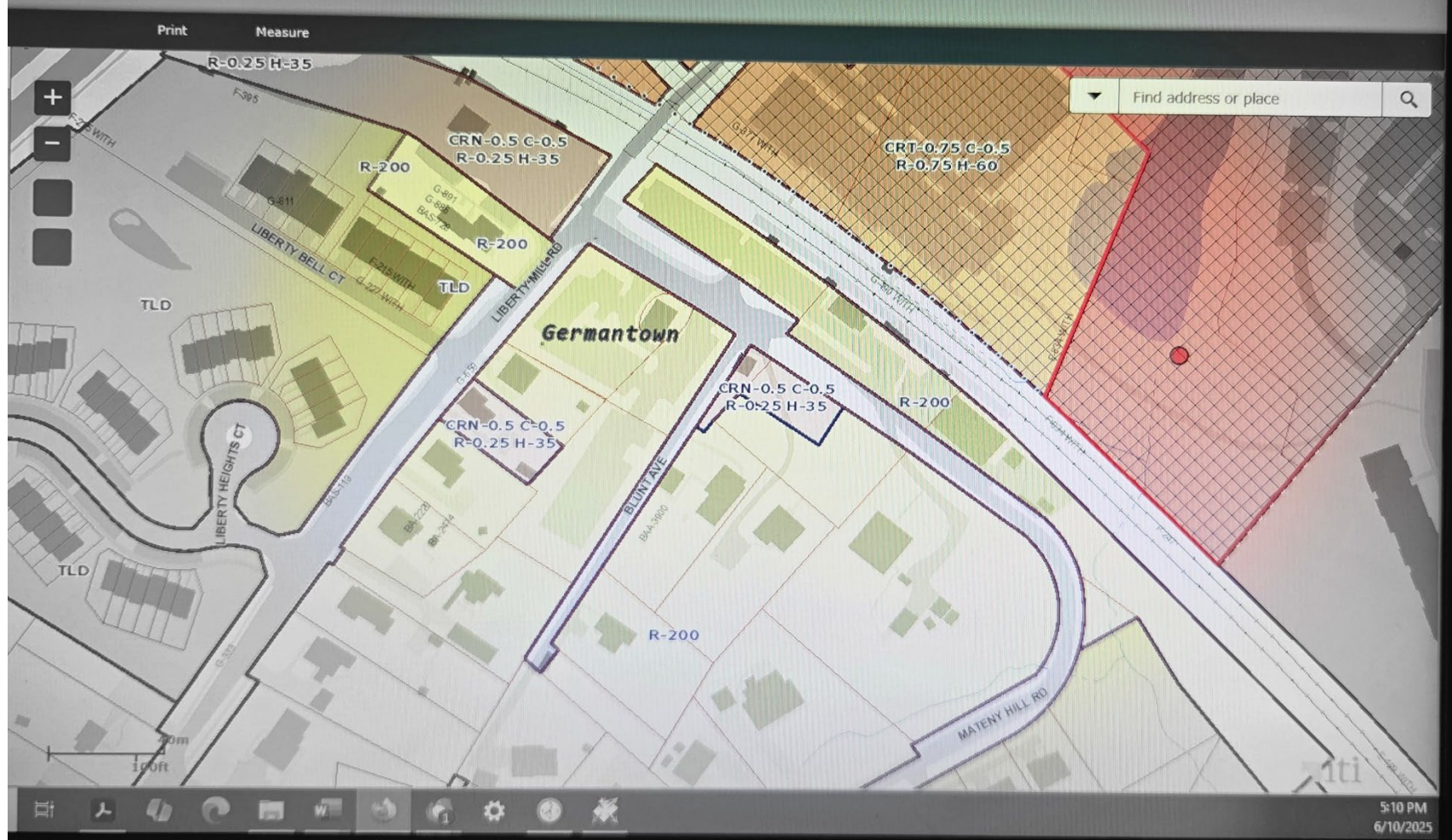
GERMANTOWN
BANK

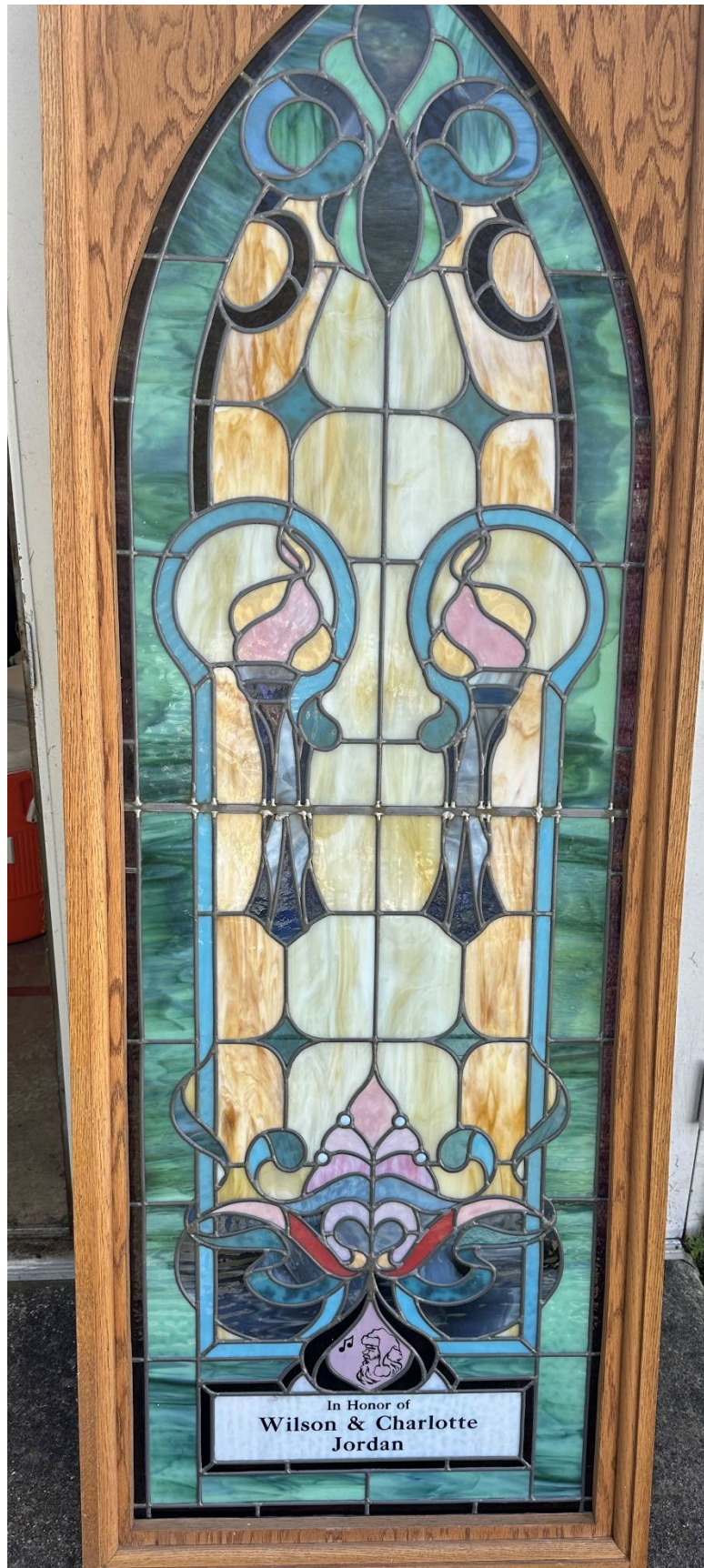
P221 Blont Ave
19212 + 19216

19323
19319
19315
19313
19311
19307



last amended: June 18, 2024 H-150)





In Honor of
**Wilson & Charlotte
Jordan**



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Karen Burditt
Chair

July 8, 2025

Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reddie Drive, 14th Floor
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

RE: Historic Preservation Commission evaluation of a property for listing in the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County: Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House (M:19-13-8), 19323 Liberty Mill Road, Germantown, MD

Dear Chair Harris and Members of the Planning Board,

On June 11, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend the designation of the Jordan House, 19323 Liberty Mill Road, to the Locational Atlas and the Index of Historic Sites.

The HPC vote came to this unanimous conclusion after hearing the Historic Preservation staff's report and recommendation not to designate the Jordan House because it lacked Architectural and Historic Significance. The vote also came after hearing the testimony of the Germantown Historical Society and a lengthy discussion among the Commissioners on the value of the property to Germantown and Montgomery County. The Historic Preservation Commission evaluated the lengthy history of the property as representative of the common vernacular rural residence of the late 1800's and its position on Liberty Mill Road, along with similar vernacular rural residences.

Additionally, the property's location near the growing community of Germantown and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Tracks, and the role the many residents of the Jordan House, and the adjacent properties, in the growth of Germantown as a stable and thriving rural town.

The Commission also reviewed and discussed the original listing of the property on Liberty Mill Road on the Locational Atlas in 1976, and the subsequent proposed inclusion in the Germantown Historic District. At that time, the majority of the resident living on the Liberty Mill Road strongly supported Liberty Mill Road's inclusion in the Proposed Historic District. Liberty Mill Road and the Jordan House were subsequently not included in the proposed Germantown HD by a decision of the County Council, and the 19323 Liberty Mill Road property was rezoned to CT Zone (Commercial Transitional) Zone.

The Historic Preservation Commission discussed why this one property on Liberty Mill Road was singled out for rezoning to commercial when it was clearly a residential property at that time.

The Historic Preservation Commission agreed that the Jordan House was an important representation of not only that small community on that street, but the larger Community of Germantown. That the odd decision to rezone this one lot should not have occurred since it could lead to the possible demolition of the house and its replacement by a commercial structure up to 35' in height. A new commercial structure could cause the breakup of this long standing residential community by allowing a nonresidential use to be built in the middle of it. A strong

longstanding residential community should be protected, particularly when those properties have created generational wealth for the many working and middle class families over 140 years.

The Historic Preservation commissions recommends that the Jordan House, 19323 Liberty Mill Road, be added to the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Properties due to its importance as a Vernacular House and as a representation of 140 years of community in Germantown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Burditt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Burditt, Chair
Historic Preservation Commission

Cc: Members, Historic Preservation Commission

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Ballo, Rebecca](#)
Subject: testimony for July 10 item #8 on Montgomery County Planning Board agenda
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 12:39:23 PM
Attachments: [MPI to Planning Board Jordan House.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chairman Harris and members of the Planning Board,

Attached find testimony for item #8 on your July 10, 2025 agenda.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of Montgomery County's excellent Historic Preservation program, process, staff, and public input.

Sincerely,

Eileen McGuckian, President
Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

[REDACTED]



Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Promoting the Preservation, Protection and Enjoyment of Montgomery
County's Rich Architectural Heritage
and Historic Landscapes

July 8, 2025

Re: Item #8 Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, M:19-13-8 Public Hearing 7/10/2025
19323 Liberty Mill Road, Germantown – Addition to Locational Atlas

Dear Chairman Harris and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board,

I write on behalf of Montgomery Preservation, Inc. to submit our organization's full support for listing the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan house on the Locational Atlas, with its current environmental setting.

This property has been listed in the Locational Atlas previously, as part of the original Germantown Historic District. Twice the HPC has recommended this structure for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, once in 1984 and again last month with a unanimous vote. Twice the Planning Board has acknowledged its historic and architectural significance by recommending this house and the Germantown Historic District, once in 1976 on the original Locational Atlas and again in 1988 for designation on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Not only does this house satisfy at least three of the required criteria, but it remains the second oldest structure in the neighborhood. Most importantly, the Jordan house is essential to defining and protecting the continuity of this historic railroad community.

Exceptionality is not one of the designation criteria as outlined in the County Code. Not every site, whether individually designated or within a historic district, is exceptional. Most are representatives -- of historic, social, and architectural themes -- that when identified, preserved, and protected fulfill the intentions of our Historic Preservation program. With due respect to Historic Preservation staff, MPI agrees with the nominators and appointed Officials who have always found that the Jordan house is worthy of designation and preservation.

MPI appreciates this opportunity to testify about the quality and future of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House in Germantown.

Sincerely,

/s/

Eileen McGuckian, President
Montgomery Preservation, Inc.
P.O. Box 4661
[REDACTED]