

State of Maryland

2006 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
3514	SB961	1870	HB544	Creation of a State Debt – Montgomery County - Uncle Tom's Cabin
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Sen. Ruben				Del. Lee, et.al.
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Montgomery County				\$100,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
Authorizing the creation of a State Debt to serve as a grant to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for the planning and design of the historic preservation of and public access to Uncle Tom's Cabin.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
The grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund. The matching fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of the Act.				
8. Special Provisions				
Prior to the issuance of the bonds, the grantee shall grant and convey to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement.				
9. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)				
<p>The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 1927 to protect open space and control development in parts of the Maryland suburbs next to the District of Columbia. The early law gave the Commission authority to plan for the physical development of the bi-county area of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties through a general plan, to acquire land to implement plans for parks, to determine the location of highways, to exercise subdivision control and to implement zoning regulations. The Commission's responsibility includes acquisition, development and maintenance of the park system within the two Counties.</p> <p>The Uncle Tom's Cabin/Riley House was acquired by the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning and it is this department within MNCPPC which is undertaking the restoration and interpretation of this important historic site. The purpose of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning is to improve the quality of life by conserving and enhancing the natural and developed environment for current and future generations. The Department oversees the acquisition, development and management of a nationally recognized, award winning park system providing County residents with open space for recreational opportunities and natural resources stewardship, as well as over 150 cultural resources located on parkland.</p>				

10. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)

Uncle Tom's Cabin/Riley House is a historic resource of local, state, national and international significance because of its association with Josiah Henson, whose memoirs inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The Riley tobacco farm was where Henson lived and worked as a slave from 1795 to 1830. The existing building is the 18th century Riley home with a log kitchen wing. Henson specifically describes this kitchen wing and his experience of sleeping in this room in his memoirs. Many of his experiences of living as a slave on the Riley property are vividly depicted in his memoirs and are recreated in Stowe's novel. Henson eventually escaped to Canada, where he established a fugitive slave colony and became a speaker and writer. The impact of Stowe's novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" cannot be underestimated. Published in 1852, it broke all sales records of the time and sold over half a million copies by 1857. It inspired and enflamed the abolitionist movement in the mid-19th century and many believe it helped to propel the nation toward civil war.

The Uncle Tom's Cabin/Riley House had been in private ownership for its entire history, but has just been acquired (in January 2006) by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). Despite the resource's tremendous history, there has never been a systematic, comprehensive effort to research the property's origins, architectural materials, or archaeological yield. Only now, with its acquisition by MNCPPC, can we move beyond the minimal amount of secondary-source research that has been conducted. The development of an Historic Structures Report is the quintessential tool to fully understand the resource. It is a first step in an overall effort to interpret the building and eventually open it to the public as a museum/educational center devoted to better understanding the slave experience as part of our state's rich African-American heritage. The National Register nomination will provide a thoroughly documented description and significance statement of the property that can become part of a public repository.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

11. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	1,000,000
Design	400,000
Construction	1,500,000
Equipment	250,000
Total	3,150,000

12. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Source	Amount
Acquisition/Program Open Space funds	1,000,000
Design/Federal FY 2006 Certified Local Government Grant	25,000
Design/2006 State Bond Bill	100,000
Design/Current MNCPPC CIP Budget	100,000
Design/Other Grants	175,000
Construction/2007 State Bond Bill	1,000,000
Construction/Other Grants	500,000
Equipment/Other Grants	250,000

Total			3,150,000
13. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
June, 2006	December, 2007	January, 2008	June, 2008
14. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised as of January 2006	15. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	16. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
-0- (property was just acquired in January, 2006)	-0- (property was just acquired in January, 2006 and is not yet open to the public)	20,000	
17. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
1998	\$200,000	Renovation of the historic Joseph White House	
18. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission/Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910		11420 Old Georgetown Road	
19. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address
Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Supervisor		(301)563-3413	gwen.wright@mncppc-mc.org
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			District 16
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Michele Rosenfeld	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	(301)495-4646		Yes
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
MNCPPC 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910		December, 2005	\$1,000,000
24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
-0-	-2-	-0-	\$150,000 per year
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			

A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?		own	
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?		no	
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?		no	
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	2,000		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	2,000		
New GSF	-0-		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion		circa 1780's	
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			

Because of the historical associations of the Uncle Tom's Cabin/Riley House, there is no property in Montgomery County, and perhaps in all of Maryland, that conjures up images of slavery and the slave experience as much as this resource. The goal for the interpretation of the Uncle Tom's Cabin/Riley House is to accurately portray the Maryland slave experience as demonstrated by the property and to open it up to the public as an educational resource. The realization of this goal will have a permanent educational benefit in that it will enrich the existing interpretation of the slave experience in Maryland. Once interpreted and opened, this property will have an audience that will reach well beyond county and state inhabitants to visitors from all over the world.

There has been tremendous interest in this historic resource generated by the recent public acquisition. Over the last month or two, the property has been featured on NPR, CNN, The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, and Voice of America. It has been covered by multiple newspapers and television stations, and photos of it will be in the August issue of National Geographic magazine. There is a palpable desire on the part of many cultural institutions; governmental entities; and the lay public to open this building to the public as soon as possible. The window of opportunity must be seized while there is a high level of support for conducting the necessary research and converting this property from a private home into an interpreted historic site. Key local historians, architectural historians, and building materials specialists are eager to begin work on this project as soon as the necessary funds are made available.

The building is protected by its public ownership and MNCPPC is committed to being an excellent steward of this resource. However, it is important to move quickly forward with plans for interpreting the resource and developing long range plans for its use and access by the public. There has been tremendous interest in this resource generated by the recent public acquisition, as well as great support and momentum to embark on a comprehensive plan for its future. Not only is there a risk of vandalism the longer it is left unoccupied, it would also be a great waste to allow this important historic site to continue to remain hidden from the public eye and inaccessible.