



# Historic Takoma

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Spring 1998

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## HTI Recommends Urban Streetscape for CVS Project

As the Takoma community contemplates the news that the Douglas Development Corporation plans a major development near Willow and Carroll Streets in the District, including both a large CVS drugstore and a strip shopping mall, local citizens are voicing their support for the project or their concerns about some of the impacts of the development, including design, the sale of alcohol, and the appropriateness of the stores involved. HTI believes that its role in this debate should focus on design issues and how the development fits in with the historic character of our community.

HTI has sent a letter to the Douglas Development Corporation and CVS expressing its concerns, and discussed these concerns with the developer prior to the February 18 community meeting. At that meeting, several individuals voiced support for the issues raised in HTI's letter. These include a preference for an urban design for building placement rather than the suburban strip-mall prototype with in-front parking, a two-story building height rather than a single-story height, appropriate signage, and consideration of the viewscape from the development up towards Old Town, where the handsome Adventist Church is located.



Site of proposed CVS at Willow and Carroll Streets.

The plans provided *►cont'd on p. 2*

## HTI Needs Events Manager to Join Board of Directors

**H**TI has had a busy and productive year. The 1997 Annual Report included with this newsletter reviews the many areas where volunteers and board members have been active. Progress has been substantial in terms of museum development, cataloging the archives, membership development, and public education.

One area where help is especially needed is events management. The HTI board has designated a board seat for this area and is actively soliciting a volunteer to fill this role from its membership.

The person who fills the board seat for events management will head the committee charged with planning and promoting HTI events, such as the annual June Strawberry Festival, and occasional open houses at

the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum, and for organizing HTI participation in community events, such as the annual Folk Festival.

As a board member, the events manager must be or become a paid member of HTI and attend monthly board meetings. The events committee has a 1998 budget of \$350.

If you are interested, please contact Ted Kowaluk, HTI's Vice President, at (301)270-1700, ext. 662.

HTI has many other volunteer opportunities where your help is greatly needed. Please see page 7 of the newsletter for a listing of some of the areas, including public education, archives, historic preservation, museum, and newsletter, where you can help.

Thank you!

## HISTORIC TAKOMA NEWSLETTER



Historic Takoma, Inc.  
PO Box 5781  
Takoma, Park, MD 20913  
(301)270-1700, ext. 662

### Officers

Lorraine Pearsall, *President*  
Ted Kowaluk, *Vice President*  
Kathy Brooks, *Secretary*  
Jack Carson, *Treasurer*

### Board of Directors

Dorothy Barnes  
Rev. Trevor Delafield  
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Patricia Fox  
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Joel Solomon  
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### Legal Counsel

Richard S. O'Connor

### Newsletter Editor/Design

Patricia Fox

*Historic Takoma Newsletter* is a publication of Historic Takoma, Inc. It is published quarterly for members and friends of the organization.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Volunteers are welcome. Please contact HTI if you want to become more involved in the preservation of your community.

HTI is a membership-based non-profit organization founded in 1979 to promote historic preservation, citizen involvement, and community development in Takoma Park.

Membership is open to the public. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Federal ID No.: 52-114960

## AROUND TOWN

### CVS Development is Part of Bigger Question of How to Treat "Gateway" Area Surrounding Metro Station

#### CVS

*cont'd from p. 1*

by the developer reflect some sensitivity to our historic neighborhood, such as the hipped roof on the front of the CVS, the use of brick, the design of the upper floor windows, and the rehabilitation and relocation of three bungalows that are in need of repair. More improvements could be made, however, especially regarding the placement of the parking areas. Action must be taken soon if changes are to be made because current information indicates that construction is scheduled to begin in the next 60 days.

With the knowledge that construction plans have not yet been approved at CVS (at the time of this writing in early March), HTI has sent a letter to CVS President and CEO Mr. Tom Ryan asking him to facilitate discussion with community groups. CVS's decision in the matter is pivotal to our community because the footprint of the CVS building affects how future development can be placed on that property.

Concerned individuals can write to Mr. Ryan at CVS Corporation, One CVS Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895.

#### Gateway Area in Need of Improvement

The CVS/strip mall project is happening in an area that needs substantial improvement. A great deal of revitalization is underway next door in Silver Spring, and HTI is concerned that the "gateway" area near Metro will be forgotten. This area is the introduction to our community for visitors arriving by Metrorail.

Improvement in this area could spark interest in Takoma Park becoming a Maryland Heritage Area, which would contribute to the financial success of our commercial establishments in Takoma, DC and Old Town. The improvement of this gateway area would also provide additional tax revenue to the District. HTI is inquiring whether groups in DC and Maryland would be interested in forming a coalition to focus on the revitalization of this area. To be a good neighbor, HTI is in search of Maryland funding to provide some assistance, which could be used to bring in an organization experienced in working with groups such as the National Trust Main Street USA Program, now being used in Silver Spring. The economic revitalization studies developed by Plan Takoma should form the basis for the coalition. Group representatives should call Trevor Delafield at 202-829-4800.



One of the three historic houses slated to be moved to make way for the proposed strip mall development.

## House and Garden Tour: Volunteers are Needed!

The 25th Anniversary of the House and Garden Tour will feature "Jewels of Takoma Park," including many of the earliest and finest of Takoma Park, MD and Takoma, DC houses. The tour is scheduled for Sunday, May 3. The House and Garden Committee is in urgent need of volunteers to be hosts and hostesses for the tour. Please contact Jan Schwartz at 301-270-2875 if you are interested in assisting in this important community effort.

## Takoma Junction

HTI has been included in the Committee of 21, an advisory group that will be assisting the City in the development of the Takoma Junction

property. The design of the development in this area will be one of our major concerns

## HTI Sponsors DC Preservation League Seminar

HTI is a member of a coalition formed by the DC Preservation League and is co-sponsoring a seminar entitled "Does It Fit? Why Do You Care? A Conference on Greater Preservation Enforcement" on June 4 from 8:30 to 4:30 at Sumner School, located at 17th and M Streets, NW. Its purpose is to strengthen preservation in the DC area and to address the issue of demolition by neglect. Local and outside speakers are currently being selected who will provide approaches and experiences that can be used as potential models for use in the DC area.



Part of the architectural plan for Willow Street elevation of the proposed strip mall.

## Historic Takoma RESOURCE GUIDE

mark's kitchen



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**Takoma Park Vision**

6919 Laurel Avenue  
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912  
(301) 270-2020

Thank you, Mark's Kitchen and Takoma Park Vision, for becoming the Newsletter's first advertisers! If you would like to advertise, please call Pat Fox at 202-291-0300.

### A Look Back: HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN TAKOMA PARK PART 4: 1990-1994

Expansion of the City's historic district had been a controversial issue in the late 1980s. However, the Historic Preservation Task Force reached consensus and recommended a significant enlargement of the district in 1990. A Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission staff report, in support of the expansion, was published in 1991. In 1992, the recommendation to dramatically enlarge the historic district in Takoma Park was approved by the Montgomery County Council. With this

action, the Takoma Park Historic District became the largest single historic district in Montgomery County.

Once community consensus had been achieved on expanding the historic district in Montgomery County, HTI began work on a program to permit owners of historic properties to make voluntary donations of easements to protect their properties. In 1991, this easement program was adopted by the organization. Also in 1991, HTI organized a fundraising drive to preserve and interpret the former Art Deco gas station at Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues. The park now commemorates B. Y. Morrison, the city's renowned horticulturalist

who was responsible for the creation of the "Glenn Dale" azaleas in the early 1900s. In 1992, HTI co-sponsored a program on how to make houses environmentally safe, and attracted Clint Good, author of the book "Healthy Houses," to conduct a seminar.

In 1993, the "Friends of the Thomas-Siegler Historic Property" merged with HTI, and the reconstituted organization began a concerted effort to complete the restoration of the historic carriage house and garden which had been acquired eight years earlier. Through the efforts of HTI and with the leadership of then-Mayor Edward Sharp, every elected official who represented Takoma Park at the

city, county, and state level signed on as an endorser of a fundraising effort to preserve the property. This unique showing of political unity was a first for the historic preservation movement in Takoma Park. The fund raising drive was successful, and HTI raised all of the funds necessary to provide the City of Takoma Park's match to a Maryland Program Open Space grant to preserve the carriage house. Restoration work began in early 1994 and was completed in October, to much acclaim.

This is the fourth of five articles documenting the historic preservation movement in the City.

## Museum Development Plans Make Progress

The museum committee has made considerable progress towards mapping out a long-range plan for the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum. To this end, the committee has been working with a museum consultant and has convened an advisory group to solicit community input. In addition, for the second year in a row, HTI sent a board member to the Small Museum Association Annual Conference

### Consultant Report

In September 1997, The Small Museum Association (SMA) awarded Historic Takoma a grant to hire a consultant to provide advice to HTI as it develops a long-range plan for the Museum. Working from a list of consultants recommended by the SMA, the committee selected Richard Dodds of the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, MD. Because of his extensive experience working with small museums on issues of collections care and management, Mr. Dodds was the natural choice to provide advice to HTI on how to use the Carriage House to interpret the history of Takoma Park, what the scope of the collection should be, and the types of artifacts that might be housed there given the limited environmental controls at the site.

During his day-long visit on November 22, Mr. Dodds inspected the Carriage House, examined the artifacts, and discussed a number of issues with committee and board members.

In his lengthy report, Mr. Dodds recommended that HTI consider interpreting the older part of the structure as a carriage house perhaps by acquiring a carriage and displaying related artifacts. He recommended using the more modern garage section of the structure as visitors center/exhibit space and had numerous useful and economically feasible suggestions on how HTI could begin to make these changes.

In his report, Mr. Dodds stated: "Takoma Park has a story to tell — as a planned Victorian residential community, as a resort and sanitarium, as an important transportation hub, and as the center for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. It is my understanding that no other institution is in a position to make this story available to the community and to the wider public. This is where the future of the Carriage House Museum lies."

Mr. Dodds gave Historic Takoma a lot to consider. Over the next several months, the museum committee will be considering his recommendations carefully as plans evolve.

### Advisory Group Convened

A goal of the planning effort is to obtain advice and input from the community. To this end, the museum committee convened an advisory group of museum professionals from in and around Takoma Park at the end of February. The panel included an architect, a preservationist, a museum educator, a public historian, and an exhibit designer in order to ensure a broad range of opinions and advice on how to use the Carriage House to interpret the history of Takoma Park, what types of artifacts to display, and what types of programs to develop. The committee also plans to obtain similar input from local neighborhood and business associations and to meet with local teachers some time in the next few months.

### SMA Conference

Once again, a representative from Historic Takoma attended the Small Museum Association Annual Conference held in Ocean City, MD, on February 22-24. The conference brought together approximately 150 people representing small museums and historic houses in the mid-Atlantic states. This year, the conference included workshops on heritage tourism, obtaining grant funds, and providing opportunities for volunteers.

A highlight of this year's conference was a field trip to Snow Hill, a small Eastern Shore community that is successfully using heritage tourism to introduce local history to a new audience.

In addition to the educational workshops, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to "network" with other organizations that are developing and running similar museums. Because many of the participants are representatives of small museums with unpaid staffs, we were able to learn much about ways of interpreting local history on a shoe string budget by sharing ideas with them.



With input from a museum consultant and museum experts and community groups, HTI is developing a long-range plan for the best way to interpret local history at the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum. The museum currently houses a photo exhibit and artifacts from the Edward Siegler family.

## HTI Joins DC Groups

In an effort to strengthen ties with its DC constituency, HTI has joined Plan Takoma and North Washington Neighbors, Inc. Both groups are active in Takoma, DC affairs. HTI—which has a significant number of members from DC—hopes to work closely with these groups in matters of mutual interest.

## HTI Wins Two Grants

In December, HTI received word that it had won both grants it had applied for from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission. Under the first grant, HTI received funds to help us arrange, describe, and house in archivally-sound storage containers the approximately 40 linear feet of historical records documenting the community's activities since before the turn of the century.

In the second grant, HTI received funds to prepare a camera-ready copy of its book, *Takoma Park: Portrait of a Victorian Suburb*, that was published originally to commemorate the community's 100th anniversary. The artwork for the book had been lost by the printer.

HTI plans to reprint the book in the near future when it raises sufficient funds. A few copies of the original book remain. This edition is becoming a true collector's item. If you want to order a copy, send \$25 to Book Order, HTI, PO Box 5781, Takoma Park, MD 20913.

## HTI Plans Victorian Garden

As part of the planning for the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum, the museum grounds committee has been developing a long-range plan for the grounds, one element of which will be a Victorian garden adjacent to the garage portion of the museum.

The committee has been soliciting input from gardening experts and books on traditional Victorian plants and garden layouts. Plans call for the garden to be installed this Spring. Volunteers to help in this effort are welcome!

Resource File:

## Historic Preservation Ordinance Requirements in Montgomery County

**D**esignation of an area in Montgomery County as an historic district helps preserve the buildings located in that district, and also imposes some restrictions on owners of those properties. Parts of Takoma Park constitute such a designated historic area and are part of Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Before passage of the Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1979, many buildings in Takoma Park were torn down and replaced with modern structures. Such demolition is much more difficult to do today.

Several county, state and federal programs help to offset the costs incurred in preserving an historic property:

- ❖ County property tax credit of 10% of the cost of the approved maintenance, exterior restoration, or preservation of Master Plan historic structures.

- ❖ Low interest loans for rehab and restoration if the owner meets income qualifications.

- ❖ Maryland state income tax deductions for approved restoration work on structures in locally designated historical districts recognized by the Maryland Historical Trust or in the National Register of Historic Places.

- ❖ Federal tax credit of 20% on income-producing residential, commercial, and industrial properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historically designated structures or sites are not frozen in time. New construction need not be in a particular style, and historic designation does not require the owner to initiate any type of historic restoration. Owners also are not required to reinstall historic features if they were not there when the property was acquired.

You can paint non-masonry exteriors any color, and you can make any interior changes you want. The Historic Preservation Ordinance only deals with exterior features. You do not need approval to:

- ❖ Paint non-masonry surfaces.
- ❖ Repair roofs, gutters, trim, lights, and exterior doors and windows with materials and design matching what

already is in place.

- ❖ Landscape, such as planting trees, bushes and flowers.

- ❖ Repair paving with matching materials.

- ❖ Perform general maintenance.

You do need approval if the work requires an Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP). You need this permit to move, demolish, or alter the exterior of a house, building, or other structure listed on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, or located in a Master Plan historic district. A HAWP also is needed for new construction, grading, and removing live trees. Examples of projects needing an HAWP are to:

- ❖ Construct additions.

- ❖ Remove or enclose porches.

- ❖ Install siding, shingles, or masonry facing, or make other changes in exterior materials.

- ❖ Replace window sash with new sash of a different material or with a different number or arrangement of panes.

- ❖ Permanently remove shutters.

- ❖ Add, remove or change architectural features, including size, shape and placement of windows.

- ❖ Paint or remove paint from masonry.

The HAWP is required in addition to any permits you may require from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. You can pick up an HAWP application where you apply for building permits.

The Historic Preservation Commission will review your application at a public meeting. You are encouraged to attend so you can answer questions about your project. The Commission then will approve or deny your application, and may require additional conditions.

The decision of the HPC can be appealed to the Board of Appeals.

If you have any questions about the boundaries of the historic district or any of the requirements, please contact the Historic Preservation Commission of Montgomery County, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Call 495-4570 or fax 495-1307.

## Annual Meeting Concludes an Eventful Year

### Annual Meeting Held and Officers Elected

Historic Takoma held its annual meeting on Sunday, December 7th, at the historic home of Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude. The approximately 60 guests in attendance were treated to an enjoyable afternoon of good friends, food, and entertainment.

Their home, newly named the Davis-Warner Inn, served as the setting for the meeting. The Inn (formerly the Cynthia Warner School) on Carroll Avenue is a beautifully restored Victorian structure. Dating from about 1850, it is one of the oldest buildings in the Takoma area. Guests marveled at the large rooms, high ceilings, period chandeliers and furnishings, and traditional holiday decorations.

Aspecial feature of the meeting was a talk and slide show by renowned Montgomery County historian and author, Bill Offutt. The topic of Mr. Offutt's presentation was "Street Car Suburbs—Glen Echo, Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park." The lecture addressed the early formation of these communities.

For many of the long-term area residents in the audience, the presentation was a trip down memory lane.

Historic Takoma officers were elected for 1998, as follows: Lorraine Pearsall, president; Ted Kowaluk, vice-president; Kathy Brooks, secretary; and, Jack Carson, treasurer. No board member seats were up for election. Continuing board directors are: Dorothy Barnes; Joel Solomon; Rev. Trevor Delafield; Laura DiCurcio; Gemma Flamborg; Melissa Martens; Pat Fox; and, Anita Weber.

### Photo Captions Mounted

At the request of the City, Historic Takoma produced and installed captions for the 18 enlarged photographs which line the City Council chambers. Thus, the mystery surrounding many of these photos has been solved

and City residents and visitors can understand better the substance of the images they are viewing. Most of the photos date from the turn of the century. The caption material for the photos was researched by HTI Historian, Dorothy Barnes and HTI Treasurer, Jack Carson. Jack produced the captions, which were mounted by HTI Vice President, Ted Kowaluk. The caption project was funded completely by Historic Takoma. The next time you are in City Hall please stop in the Council chambers and see your membership dues at work!

### Annual Report Prepared

As part of its year-end requirements under the by-laws, the board of directors of HTI prepared an annual report summarizing activities and financial results of the year. This report is included in this newsletter.

### 1998 Budget Approved

The HTI board of directors have approved a budget for 1998 in the amount of \$13,500. The budget is designed to match projected income for the year. The largest expense categories include the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum, budgeted at \$2,650, and the Archives and education

Committees, each budgeted at \$2,000. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the complete budget should send a stamped, self addressed envelope to Budget Request, HTI, PO Box 5781, Takoma Park, MD 20913.

### Special Recognition

HTI extends a special message of thanks and recognition to the individuals below:

Meg Finn  
Earl Gohl & Ann Burger  
Mark Busciano  
Doug Harbit & Robert Patenaude  
Bill Offutt

**Meg Finn.** Our thanks extend to Meg Finn of Weichert Realtors for her very generous donation of 21 (\$420) new Historic Takoma memberships, one for each household to whom she sold a house in Takoma Park in 1997. Meg has been making membership donations to HTI on behalf of her clients for several years. Thanks for your support, Meg, and best wishes for your continued success in 1998!

**Earl Gogh and Ann Burger.** We thank Earl Gogh and Ann Burger for their generous contribution of \$100, thus qualifying them to be HTI benefactors. We very much appreciate their support.

**Mark Busciano.** We thank City employee Mark Busciano for his assistance in preparing the Memorandum of Understanding HTI recently executed with the City. The MOU details the terms of the administration of the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum and Garden. We also thank Mark for the superb job he has done in helping HTI maintain the grounds.

**Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude.** We thank Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude for graciously letting us use their beautiful home for our annual meeting held this past December. The ambiance of their restored Victorian house helped make the meeting a huge success.

**Bill Offutt.** Finally, we thank Bill



Ted Kowaluk, HTI's Vice President, helps to install HTI's newly developed photo captions for the exhibit at City Hall.



entertaining talk and slide show on Montgomery County's Street Car Suburbs. His presentation was the highlight of the annual meeting, and received rave reviews from those in attendance.

Thanks, everyone!

## Welcome New and Renewed Members!

Caroline & Tom Alderson

Paul Treseder

Erol Torun

Mary H. Forrest

Ms. Inge B. Hill

Abby Frankson

Earl Gohl & Ann Burger

Rita C. Warpeha

Sherry A. Quirk

Elaine & Maynard Mack

Steve & Susan Browning

Karen Wilson

Elliot Andalman & Martha Bergmark

Jo Pressler & Katherine Naylor

Lester Polchlopek

Tom & Rene Lachman

Ben Waxman & Nicole McLaughlin

Kate Stewart & Jon Griffith

Stephen Hendrix & Ann Jenkins

Steve Silverman & Nina Falk

Mike Fisher & Christy Lopez

Dana Lesemann

Susan Bundock & Matt Johnson

Patricia Stefanik

Sonia Kueppers & John Pfeifer

Lisa Hone

Molly & Dave Mahlstedt

Bethany & Jeff Plungis

Jamie Baylis

Tom Butcavage

John Murray & Valerie Sedivy

Raymond Van Straelent & Gudrun

Kendan

Katherine Mack

Robert E. Guldin

Lenore A. Robinson

Kathleen M. Milton

Richard S. O'Connor

Megan Carroll

Laura Carter & Karen Bryant

Laura DiCurcio

Meg Finn

Ellen S. Ginsberg

Richard C. Gross

Susan Wilson

Jan Schwartz

Ruth Leffler

Mark Stahr & Don Houck

Maija L. Hay

## Please Renew Your Membership Promptly

HTI has switched to a personalized membership renewal system. Instead of all memberships expiring once a year in December, as was the case under the previous system, member-

lowing renewal or initial application. Each expiring membership will receive a notice to renew prior to the expiration of the membership. Please respond to your renewal notice in a timely manner. It costs HTI significant resources, both in precious volunteer time and scarce dollars, to prepare followup mailings to lapsed members.

Thank you!

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS:

### HTI Needs You!

HTI is completely dependent on volunteers to carry out our mission. Whatever your skill or interest, there is an area where your input will be useful. It's rewarding and it's fun! Shown below are some of the areas where help is needed. We welcome your additional ideas and suggestions. If you are interested, please contact HTI's Volunteer Coordinator, Ted Kowaluk, at (301) 270-1700, ext. 662.

1. Events management—plan HTI parties and events; help HTI to participate in public events; maintain and transport HTI events materials and equipment.

2. Fund raising—identify potential funding sources and apply for funds; coordinate HTI's United Way Campaign; market HTI merchandise (t-shirts, books, postcards); solicit newsletter advertising.

3. Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum—develop long-range plans;

prepare exhibits; help at museum openings.

4. Thomas-Siegler Carriage House grounds—help plan our Victorian garden and assist with landscaping and grounds maintenance.

5. Archives—arrange, file, and document HTI's archives of the City's history.

6. Newsletter/Membership—prepare articles; assist with distribution; help with mailing.

7. Historic Preservation—work on preservation issues relevant to our community; coordinate with community, business, and political leaders; interface with Montgomery County and DC preservation groups.

8. Public Education—develop an HTI web page; plan and lead walking tours; prepare exhibits for schools and libraries; develop kids' programs; participate in county-wide events; arrange cable television programs.



Prospective HTI volunteers met with HTI board members recently at the home of Lorraine Pearsall, HTI's President.



## WHERE IS THIS HOUSE?

### Win an Historic Takoma T-Shirt!

The first person to identify the location of this house, located within the City limits of Takoma Park, MD will win an Historic Takoma T-shirt.

Write to us at PO Box 5781,  
Takoma Park, MD 20913.

### From the Archives

Ordinance No. XIV-1890

#### TRAMPS

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of Takoma Park, as follows: That every person, not insane, who wanders about the Town of Takoma Park and lodges in public buildings, or in barns, outhouses, sheds, or in the open air, without having any fixed place of residence in the town, and without having any visible means of support, shall be deemed to be a tramp and to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be subject to imprisonment in the town lock-up or the county jail for a period of not less than ten days nor more than thirty days.

Passed and approved  
September 30, 1890

Historic Takoma, Inc.  
PO Box 5781  
Takoma Park, MD 20913