

## HTI 2006 Annual Report

### ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Fundraising and Purchase of Building**

The most important accomplishment of 2006 was obtaining grant money to purchase a building at Takoma Junction to serve as a permanent home to HTI. The first installment was a \$50,000 grant from the State of Maryland in 2005, but the bulk of the funding was obtained in 2006. This year an additional \$210,000 came from the State of Maryland, contingent upon HTI finding matching funds. In May 2006, Montgomery County awarded HTI a \$260,000 matching grant as part of its arts and humanities grant program. HTI had been leasing an historic building at Takoma Junction, with an option to buy. Once the grant money was obtained, HTI exercised its option and purchased the building, located at 7328 Carroll Avenue, on September 29, 2006. The challenge for the future is for HTI to turn the building, essentially an empty shell, into space for storing archival material, office space, meeting and classroom space as well as exhibit areas.

#### **House and Garden Tour**

The 33rd annual Takoma Park House and Garden Tour was held on May 7, 2006. The Tour's theme this year was "The Art of Living." Takoma Park has long been known as a haven for artists of all types, from writers to sculptors to dancers to creative environmentalists. Many Takoma Park artists incorporate art, created by themselves or others, into their homes and lifestyles. The Tour featured approximately a dozen homes and gardens centered around the Willow Avenue neighborhood. The Tour, HTI's major annual fundraising event, was a great success, bringing in revenues of over \$13,000, including over \$4,000 in sponsorships and the remainder from ticket sales.

#### **Proposed Development at Takoma Metro Site**

HTI continues to play an active role in the debate, as part of the Friends of Takoma Transit group (FTT), regarding proposed development at the Takoma Metro site. The Washington Area Mass Transit Authority (WMATA) has proposed to sell the land immediately adjacent to the Takoma Metro Station to a developer. HTI and many other community stakeholders have concluded that the plans of the developer EYA do not suit the needs of the community. The proposed development would convert the space (currently a park, buffering green space, bus bays, bus turnarounds, and a parking lot) to approximately 90 two-car-garage town houses, while providing limited space for expansion of bus bays and slashing the existing number of parking spaces in half. HTI, FTT and many area residents are concerned that the proposal severely limits and impedes transit access and expansion at the site, unacceptably reduces existing open green space, reduces short term parking spaces available to community members, would provide for too many badly planned residential units, and would be a financially unsound decision for WMATA. HTI has provided testimony and written comments at public hearings, met with WMATA and other public officials, submitted requests for information, and met with other interested stakeholders. HTI has also worked to provide a constructive alternative proposal for development at the site for consideration by WMATA.

#### **Walking Tours, Education and Outreach**

HTI sponsored a several walking tours during the spring of 2006, including two tours of the historic heart of Old Takoma, and one focused on the Dinky Line Trolley. Response has been good, with an average of 15 participants in each tour. An HTI representative also led walking tours of the city for the fourth graders at Piney Branch School. On March 19, 2006, Lee Jordan, a long time resident of Takoma Park, was posthumously inducted into the Montgomery County Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Mr. Jordan had been nominated for the honor by HTI and the City of Takoma Park. Mr. Jordan used sports as a vehicle for bring kids of all races together, beginning in the 1930s, when schools and many other activities in Montgomery County were racially segregated.

#### **Input into Activities in Area Historic Districts**

Shaping change to preserve the historic character of our community is one of Historic Takoma's most important functions. HTI reviews and advises the Montgomery County MD Preservation Commission and DC Historic Preservation Review Board on Historic Area Work Permits having a major impact on the districts; testifies in Commission and Review Board hearings; and works with developers to encourage positive change that contributes to the economic vitality of the city while preserving its unique character. HTI also holds a seat on the Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board, Montgomery Preservation, Inc.; and the Old Takoma Business Association.

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Among such matters in which HTI has been active during 2006 were: 1) proposed development at 7001-7003 Carroll, which the original developer, ITC, has now decided not to pursue; 2) Ecco Park condo development at the corner of Maple and Carroll, containing many green building features, which HTI has supported; 3) design for new Takoma Park Fire Station and attempts to impose significant modifications of the approved design; 4) proposed Douglas Development project with plans for retail and condos proposed at Maple and Willow Ave.; and 5) proposed infill project by developer John Urciolo on Laurel Ave. near the corner of Eastern.

### Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2006

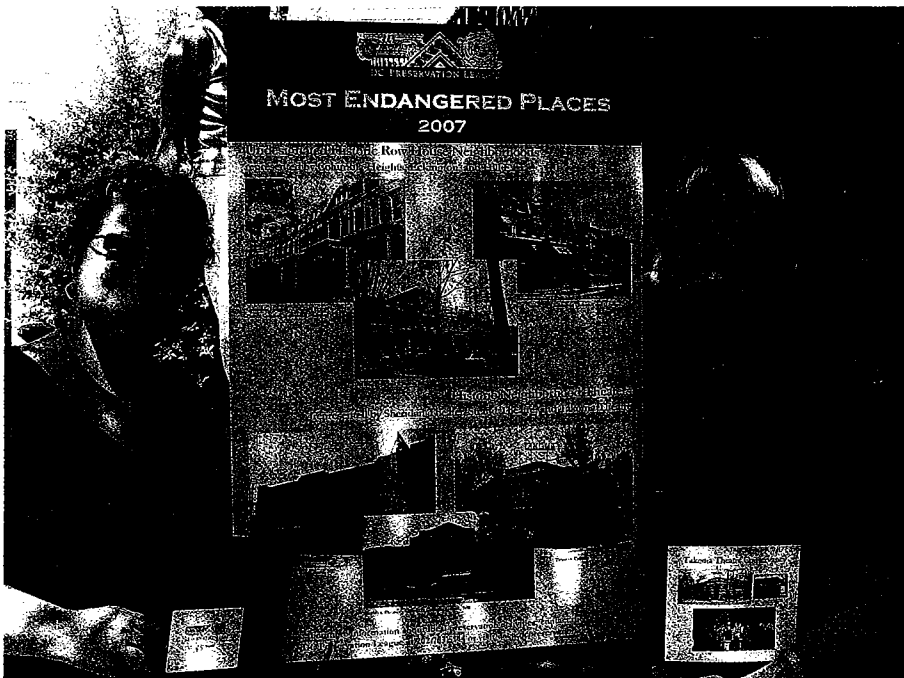
#### ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	\$65,951.43
HTI HQ 7328 Carroll Ave.	\$485,000.00
Other	\$82,794.00
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	\$633,745.43

LIABILITIES \$15,044.50

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$618,700.93

## DC Preservation League Names Takoma Theatre An Endangered Historic DC Site



HTI President Sabrina Baron and Takoma Theatre Conservancy President Loretta Neumann attended the DC Preservation League press conference naming the Takoma Theatre to DCPL's list of ten most endangered historic sites in DC.

## Fate of the Perpetual Building in Silver Spring in Question

HTI has concurred with the nomination of the Perpetual Building to be worthy of designation on the Montgomery County Master Plan and the National Register of Historic Places. The five-story Postwar International style building is located at 8700 Georgia Avenue, at the corner of Cameron Street. The building cost \$1.5 million to build and opened in 1958. The building housed the Silver Spring branch of the DC based Perpetual Building Association. It was built and designed by the Bank Building and Equipment Corp. of America, in collaboration with well known DC architect and builder Robert O. Scholz. The Silver Spring Historical Society and other groups are attempting to discuss with the current owner ways to reuse this important community landmark or to incorporate it into new construction.



The Perpetual Building located at 8700 Georgia Avenue, at the corner of Cameron Street.