

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
11 October 2005

Present: Cairns, Ed & Sally; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Simpers, Nancy; Sennstrom, Eric

Absent: Dixon, Mike; Folk, Patricia

Call to Order: Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Nancy Simpers made a motion to approve the July 2005 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ron Edwards. All in favor of motion.

New Business: Director Sennstrom presented the application from George & Elizabeth Glessner nominating Barnes Inheritance for designation as a historic structure. The property was originally part of Susquehanna Manor, a 32,000 acre land grant from Lord Baltimore to George Talbot. Susquehanna Manor was intended to create a buffer to the southward encroachment of William Penn's Pennsylvania colony. Susquehanna Manor was subsequently divided into smaller parcels after 1767. James Barnes obtained his Maryland patent in 1793. The property then progressed through different owners until the Glessners purchased it in 1965. The dwelling was built in two parts. The smaller portion was erected sometime between 1793 and 1800. The larger portion was erected sometime near the middle of the 18th century. The house was built from stone found on the property and is an example of the German style known as double pile construction. A three inch thick top coat originally covered the exterior. The mortar was made from sand, horse hair, lime and water. The joists, beams and downstairs floor are white oak, the attic floors are yellow pine. The exterior window sills are made of black walnut. The house has 21 double sash windows, each with six panes. There are also five attic windows and two basement windows. Some of these windows still have the original glass. All of the window sashes are original. The newel post on the interior stairs goes through to the basement and can be tightened with a wedge if it starts to wobble. The old kitchen retained its oak lintel until replaced in 1985. The new kitchen was erected around the well and the hand pump is still present. A letter from Raymond Michael Borland in support of this nomination was read by Director Sennstrom.

Motion was made by Nancy Simpers to recommend that Barnes Inheritance be designated as a historic structure due to the significant exterior features such as the stone work and original windows. Additionally, interior features of note include the newel post and stone walls. Motion was seconded by Audrey Edwards. All in favor of motion to recommend approval of nomination.

The HDC perused the proof of the informational brochure. Sally Cairns indicated that her first name was spelled incorrectly. Chairman Ed Cairns indicated that the return address was located incorrectly. Nancy Simpers suggested moving the photographs on the interior of the brochure down slight bit so that the top photograph is not cut off. The

HDC was pleased with the overall product and stated that they would like to proceed with the printing.

Audrey Edwards discussed a narrative concerning Green Hill. The property's owners may be submitting an application for nomination shortly. Ron Edwards stated that the owners were procrastinating until they completed their renovations. Nancy Simperts stated that she will attempt to have the new owners of the Fair Hill Inn nominate that property for designation.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1 November 2005, 3:00 p.m., P&Z conference room

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – PZP&R