

Romaine Marie Rose,

In regards to: the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation for the Rose-Budd House

"BLESSED ASSURANCE...This is my Story..."

My name is ROMAINE MARIE ROSE, Great-Granddaughter of Richard Perry Budd and Amanda Budd.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the County Council for consideration of a Montgomery County historic designation for my ancestral property (the ROSE-BUDD House).

This special project, seeking the designation started over 20 years ago when I saw an Ad in the Olney Gazette seeking (photos/artifacts) about Black families in the Sandy Spring community. I knew that my Great-uncle (Walter) Perry Budd, was a "shutterbug" had captured some original photographs of the community and the actual "Spring" that the Town was named after, original firehouse, General Store, Bank and family artifacts and lifestyle. When I presented to Mr. Camby, Curator (former National Geographics Magazine Photographer) he was thrilled and amazed that our family owned an expensive camera and was able to capture and maintain the original proofs! When the Sandy Spring Museum had its grand opening, a large mural was created on one wall that depicted our family history as freed settlers (they were manumitted in the 1700s). They highlighted my family's different accomplishments in the community, working closely with the Quakers (blacksmithing, carpenters - Brookeville Academy, General Store, etc.), promoting education, serving in various teaching positions, etc. The museum also included our family history in the "Sandy Spring Legacy Photo Album". This is when I realized the importance of the work my great grandfather Perry Budd, and the significance of our family home in Sandy Spring.

I was born in Sandy Spring, and raised in this homestead as a child/teenager. My maternal grandmother, Zadie (BUDD) Riggs or "Miss Zadie" who was Richard Perry Budd's youngest daughter used to call our small town "GOD's Country"! I really didn't appreciate as I was growing up about the true nature and serenity of Sandy Spring. For example, the quiet neighborhoods, woodpeckers, farm (cows) and also Quarter horses (in fact, Kentucky Derby horses were transported to the farm for grazing due grass issues in Kentucky!), various fruit trees (peaches, apples, sickle pears, persimmons, cherry, grape vineyards, vegetable garden, English Black Walnut trees (that were gathered for Christmas giving),

attending Church revivals, local parades (my mother was crowned Miss Sandy Spring once), picnics (helping my Grandmother sell her famous "Lemon Meringue Pies" that folks fought over!), you knew when Fall was approaching and it was hunting season because my Uncle Tom Budd who had beagles that would hound in the early morning or late at night so excited to chase foxes, racoons and other creatures, white furry foxes loping up the snowy hill, and new "Bambi" deer frolicking and nibbling on the tender blackberry fruit/leaves.

Later in life, I realized that I was one of the blessed grandchildren who could return each day after school or work to the peace and tranquility of Sandy Spring.

This made me realize the impact of my great grandfather on generations of students in Montgomery County and beyond. Through the years (4 generations), our middle-class family has continued to promote and serve in various professional and teaching positions. This happened because of the unique opportunities available in Sandy Spring, and because of my family's dedication to seeking education. For example:

GRANDDAUGHTER - Served as School Principal (Elementary School in Florida). NOTE: The School Board (posthumously) renamed the school after my relative.

- GRANDDAUGHTER - Served as a School Principal (High School in Northern VA)

- GREAT- GRANDSON - Graduate of Harvard University

- GRANDDAUGHTER - (NALC) Supervisor (Data Center) - representing Postal Workers, nationwide

- GREAT-GRANDSON - Served in (Washington, DC) as Executive Vice President and Computer Trainer for D.C. oldest Black-owned Bank

- GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER - Served (10 years) as a (Federal Government) Human Resources recruiter/Training Specialist (Managers, employees, and Nobel Peace Prize scientists, etc.)

Again, I felt it was important and a great opportunity to continue to promote and honor our family history/legacy! My ancestors were GOD fearing, loving, hardworking and humble people. I was able to learn and experience what it was like living with two different minority heritages/cultures! My Great-grandfather, Richard Perry (Black) and my Great-grandmother, Amanda (American Indian). Not many households in the community enjoyed the different food/herb delicacies, fresh food/meats, homeopathic remedies, gardening techniques from their family/ancestors. We were blessed!

We are proud that our family has always been a pillar in the local community and believe the Rose-Budd House represents generations of my family members who had remarkable impact on the Montgomery County community because of our unique history.