

Bolton Hill

Community Association

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Enrollment bumps up as MICA approaches 200th anniversary

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/mica-enrollment-up-200th/>



MICA is kicking off a year-long bicentennial anniversary celebration in January as it comes out of the doldrums of the COVID pandemic. The pandemic hurt enrollment and the school's finances, and reduced international student enrollment. Meanwhile, enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is up.

Sara Warren, MICA's representative on BHCA's board, said this month that throughout the coming year MICA will be announcing art exhibitions, a distinguished speaker series, artistic performances, art tours and lectures, a fashion-show week, community art programming in Baltimore, and more – all part of its anniversary observance.

“We want the Bolton Hill neighborhood to get involved. We think of Bolton Hill residents as part of our family,” she said. The activities will lead up to a Bicentennial Weekend Oct. 9-11, 2026, connecting alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community. It will include notable speakers, performances, workshops, a “parade of classes” by decade, hands-on art making, legacy exhibitions and more.

This year MICA enrolled 397 new undergraduates, an increase of 46 from last year. There are 167 new graduate students, an increase of two from Fall 2024. It continues an upward trend from last fall of 25 additional undergraduate and graduate enrollment to a total of 1,431. The five-year average enrollment before the pandemic was about 1,700. This year's combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment of international students is 304. Cecelia McCormick was named president in June 2024.

Despite BHCA opposition, city council passes zoning changes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/zoning-changes-pass-council/>

Mayor Brendon Scott signs the zoning changes into law (Kaitlin Newman/The Banner)

The City Council has passed four of the five housing bills on this year's agenda, and the fifth is likely to pass this week or next. One of these bills doesn't affect us, two are good, and two are likely to cause trouble in the coming years.

BHCA worked hard to blunt the worst effects of the bad bills. We proposed a good win-win compromise. We failed for various reasons, mainly because the mayor supported the bills as written. Our District 7 (North Bolton Hill) Council Member James Torrence supported us warmly, while 11th District (south of McMechen Street) Council Member Zac Blanchard opposed us firmly.

The bill that doesn't affect us changes the percentage of a lot that a building can cover. This matters a lot in the suburban-style neighborhoods of the outer city, but the changes in row house neighborhoods are unimportant.

The first good bill moves the city zoning office from the Housing Department to the Planning Department. Since the Planning Department is responsible for zoning, this is a no-brainer and long overdue. The second good bill allows new small apartment buildings to have only one fire-rated stairway. This makes sense because building codes are good and sprinklers work, and it should save space and money.

Now the two bad bills. The first, which hasn't passed yet but is likely to, allows anyone to convert a single-family house into as many as four apartments as of right; i.e., without going to the zoning board or the city council. The second eliminates all requirements for off-street parking.

These bills are designed to alleviate Baltimore's crisis of housing affordability. Advocates say that building more apartments will change the balance of supply and demand in the rental market, and rents will fall. They also say that people who want to become homeowners but can't afford it will be able to get extra income from renting out apartments when they buy.

Affordability is certainly a hot issue this year. Voters at both political extremes – for President Trump and for Mamdani, the new mayor of New York City – pulled their levers in large measure because they thought the cost of living was too high, and housing was a big part of their worry. Even though Baltimore

remains the cheapest city on the east coast, and Baltimore City is by far the cheapest part of the Baltimore region, there are obviously a lot of Baltimoreans who are worried about housing affordability.

(For what it's worth, most serious analysts of housing affordability say that the root of the problem is that most Americans aren't getting paid enough. But tackling that is harder than fiddling with housing, so housing gets fiddled with.)

Most of the debate on these bills concerned neighborhoods with no apartments, mostly in the suburban-style neighborhoods in the outer city. Because there aren't a lot of neighborhoods like Bolton Hill, with a mix of single-family houses and apartment buildings on every block, we got ignored.

What do these bills mean for us?

Our basic neighborhood real estate market probably won't change very much. Single-family houses in good condition are unlikely to be converted to apartments because they sell for high prices. A few people will probably create apartments in their houses and build a few rental units on parking pads and above garages.

Where we might get into trouble is with houses that are in bad condition. These don't sell for high prices, and I think they're vulnerable to absentee landlords and apartment conversions. It's hard to tell how many houses fall into this category, but it's not a small number. BHCA's committee on vacant and deteriorated property is working on 24 houses right now. Every one of those houses is a likely target for an absentee landlord, and there are probably more.

What should we be doing? First and foremost, we should get good people to buy houses in Bolton Hill and live here. Talk up the neighborhood at parties and at the office water cooler. Stop by realtors' open houses and chat with potential buyers.

Beyond that, we should keep track of what's actually happening as a result of these bills. And we should do this in concert with the other downtown neighborhoods whose housing stock and housing markets are like ours: Madison Park, Reservoir Hill, Mount Vernon, Charles Village, Marble Hill and other neighborhoods with large row houses.

--*Charlie Duff*

Midtown Academy's new director leads school's planning for growth

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/midtown-academy-new-director/>



Sarah Ceponis is Midtown Academy's new executive director – charged with leading the public charter school at Mt. Royal Avenue near W. Lafayette St. through a broad planning process that will include building updates and, potentially, an expansion beyond Bolton Hill.

“The principal and I work very closely together. She manages the staff and students and curriculum and I oversee budget, planning, governance and administrative affairs,” she said. This is Principal Kimberly Davis’ third year at the school, which has some 200 students in its kindergarten through eighth grade classes. “She has really built a strong team and culture,” the director said.

In March, Midtown completed the acquisition of the former Catholic school building it has occupied as a tenant since shortly after the school was created in 1997, along with an adjacent building that was the rectory for the Corpus Christi parish that is now part of the Basilica. That enabled some upgrades and expansion from what was previously a tight fit for the students and staff.

Midtown has been in conversation with the city to make available to it a larger vacant school building in the Guilford neighborhood, near the Loyola University campus. When and whether to move the school or open a second campus is at the center of the planning being managed by Ceponis and the school’s board and stakeholders.

“The Department of Housing and Community Development owns that building, which has been vacant for nearly 10 years. It will require significant renovation if we take possession. For sure we are in Bolton Hill for the next 2026-27 school year,” she said. “We are here. We are investing in our current facility, too.” She said the fall of 2028 would be the first possible exit year, given where things stand. The size of the current site likely rules out major expansion beyond its 200 students, though there are some options to explore. There has been a waiting list for admission.

Midtown had been without an executive director since the 2017-18 school year. Ceponis started in August, transitioning from work with youth and family programs in the city. She lives in Reservoir Hill and has three children, one who attends Mt. Royal Elementary and Middle School and two at Bolton Hill Nursery nearby. She said Midtown was thrilled to be visited by city schools CEO Sonia Santelises on the first day of this school year.

Midtown was one of the first and is the longest operating charter school in Baltimore, created initially to primarily serve children in Bolton Hill and Reservoir Hill. Today, according to Ceponis, about 40 percent of the student body comes from the 21217 Zip Code that includes those neighborhoods, but also from Madison Park, Upton and Druid Heights. Another 20 percent come from close-by 21215 and 21216, with the others from around the city.

--Bill Hamilton

Notice a change in the MICA railroad station clock tower?

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/mica-clock-tower-colors/>



The Mt. Royal Station clock tower, after more than a century, has a new look. This past summer, MICA implemented the **Safe Haven Clock Tower project** as part of its **Beacons of Light** initiative.

The Mt. Royal train station was built by the B&O Railroad primarily to serve Royal Blue Line passenger trains connecting Washington, D.C. with New York City, using the then-newly built Howard Street Tunnel. When opened on Sept. 1, 1896, it was the first railroad station in the world to serve electrified passenger trains, and according to historian Lucius Beebe, it was “...one of the celebrated railway stations of the world...”

The B&O Railroad ended passenger service at the station in June of 1961, and MICA acquired the property in 1964. MICA converted the station into studios for use by art students by 1967. (As for the railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was acquired by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in the 1960s, and the C&O became part of the larger CSX transportation network in 1980.)

The station’s landmark clock tower extends 150 feet above the ground. The clock dial itself is 9 feet in diameter, and the clock once served as the master clock for all clocks in the station. According to Mark Mitchell, a clock restoration expert, the clock was made by the Howard Watch and Clock Company in Boston and still operates mechanically but is wound electrically.

The new-look clock tower, according to Sara Warren from MICA’s Office of Advancement, connects art and design to community well-being. The clock tower project reimagines the historic clock at Mt Royal Station as similar to a coastal lighthouse, a beacon of safety and inclusiveness, projecting a sense of community for all who observe it.

The artistic lighting suggests a lighthouse effect without interfering with the clock mechanisms or architectural elements. The faces of the clock glow in MICA’s colors of magenta/pink with a white slash. The clock faces are then illuminated sequentially to achieve the lighthouse effect. According to Warren, funding for the Safe Haven Clock Tower project came from the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation

in New York.

MICA's Beacons of Light initiative dovetails with the **Inviting Light** project in Station North that has been implemented over the past year. "Soft Gym," located at 101 W. North Ave., is the fourth of five large-scale art installations to open in Station North. All of the installations are expected to be on display for at least a year. Bloomberg Philanthropies is the primary sponsor of the Inviting Light initiative, and the Central Baltimore Partnership has taken the lead in its facilitation. Information about that program can be found at invitinglight.org.

--*Sallye Perrin*

BHCA names working group to sort out State Center developments

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/state-center-working-group/>



State Center in Better Days (Credit: Baltimore Banner)

BHCA President Lee Tawney named Beth Brenner, Jeff Thompson, Charlie Duff, Davin Hong and Sallye Perrin to a neighborhood State Center Working Group to keep tabs on the sometimes confusing and conflicting plans for the soon-empty campus of public buildings just south of Bolton Hill.

In the spring of 2021, then-Gov. Larry Hogan's office announced the allocation of funds to begin relocating more than 3,000 state workers to Baltimore's central business district. This initiative aimed to address vacancies and stimulate the downtown economy with no evident regard for its impact on the residential neighborhoods and businesses surrounding the outdated state office complex.

The current number of relocated workers has expanded to 5,160, according to the Downtown Partnership, with the remaining few hundred expected to vacate in 2026. State Center, which runs parallel to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., consists of five Brutalist high-rise office buildings built in the middle of the last century. Plans to renovate the campus and add new housing, retail locations and a supermarke, have been debated and litigated since 2005.

Hogan stopped the project and eventually announced plans to deed the empty 28-acre property to the city. Early in 2024, the city Department of Planning shelled out more than \$300,000 for a market study of possible uses for the tract, one of the larger central city parcels available in any major city. But the city never took possession. In June, Gov. Wes Moore and state officials posted an RFP for a "transit-centered" redevelopment of the site. Proposals were due by summer's end, but no announcements have followed.

According to *The Baltimore Banner*, a consultant hired as a result of that RFP likely would take a couple of years at a cost of roughly \$2 million to produce a vision for the site. The consultant will review all the prior State Center plans and studies, identify options for building and rebuilding, and come up with cost estimates and potential funding sources.

Artist of the Month: Office parks as art: Mark Luthringer's photographic obsession

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/office-parks-luthringer/>



Bolton Hill resident Mark Luthringer is a photographer, painter, and writer who is busy documenting the world in which we live in a most unique and engaging way. His body of work consists of a string of projects that are commentaries on our times, focusing mainly on the human-made landscapes of American suburbia.

Luthringer's artistic life started with a degree in photography when he graduated from the Arts Institute of Chicago in the early 1990's. Early in his career, he found success with commercial photography. Later, he moved into writing and editing as a way to pay the bills. And today, his time with photography and painting is spent solely in lofty artistic expression. "Not beholden to anyone, I can do whatever I want. I can follow my muses."

Through his photography, Luthringer explores themes that revolve around familiar scenes, such as in the series *My Life in Office Parks*. "I'm obsessed with office parks. I have photographs of over 700 sites," he says. The pieces are sometimes presented individually, one office park per image, like a portrait. Other times a group of photographs are combined, as part of a grid. They are complex, both as images and as conceptual art. The compositions and the colors are subdued, with straight architectural lines and plenty of concrete grey. There is carefully landscaped foliage in the designs, but there are no people. Luthringer says that they have been described as "both beautiful and terrifying at the same time."

This is true of other themes he explores, such as the signage for suburban housing communities (*Ridgmont Typologies*) or landscapes featuring infrastructure elements (*40 Monuments to Progress*). These are themes that Luthringer explores completely, in depth and from various angles. Luthringer plays with repetition and variations on a theme, with close attention to both the literal sense of place in his subject as well as the aesthetics around composition and color of each individual work. The grids, a straightforward presentation of the subject, are a document, a record of a time and place, allowing viewers to bring their own thoughts and memories to the work.

Luthringer's studio occupies the lower level of his home in Linden Green, which he shares with his partner Christine Kent and their cats. Christine is a content creator and writer, who is active in

neighborhood associations, currently serving on the architecture committee for the Atrium HOA. Both came to Baltimore from years of living in the San Francisco Bay area. When they decided to move back east (Luthringer grew up in Washington DC, and Christine in New York), Baltimore appealed to them immediately. The convenient east coast location was a selling point.

An avid cyclist and hiker, Luthringer loves the convenience of “the country” being just 15 miles north. When looking for a place to settle within the city, Luthringer says, “I first looked here in Bolton Hill, and I never looked anywhere else.” Luthringer and Kent have been here now for eight years, and among other things, they love the friendliness of the Bolton Hill community. According to Luthringer, “Socializing at the many neighborhood events has brought me out of my shell. Bolton Hill has so many interesting people, so many artists, everyone has an interesting thing they are doing.”

Opportunities to see Luthringer's work include a group show at Goucher College in February which will include his recent paintings on the office park theme. Also at Goucher, a solo show is being planned for September 2028. Virtually, you can see the range and depth of Luthringer's work in all the aforementioned themes on his website <https://www.markluthringer.net/> and don't forget to check the BHCA Facebook and Instagram pages for more images from Luthringer's portfolio.

--*Francine Marchese*

City has plans for fishing and entertainment venues at Druid Park Lake

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/city-plans-druid-park-lake/>



Screenshot

Although it has been decades in the making, the city wants you to know that there is a planning process at work around future development of Druid Hill Park Lake, although no end date is yet in view.

On Oct. 29, the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) held a community meeting to provide updates on plans for the lake that is the highlight of the park's southern border. In May the walking path loop around the lake was reopened. The vision now is to weave other recreational features adjacent to the lake and provide new recreational opportunities.

Federal drinking water regulations promulgated in 2006 required municipalities to cover exposed drinking water reservoirs. Construction began in 2017 at Druid Hill Lake under EPA orders to install two large concrete tanks that can store 76 million gallons of finished drinking water. The original 55-acre reservoir-lake has been reduced to 33 acres, which will be available solely for recreation use once BCPR's plan is implemented.

BCRP's planning work is focused on introducing lakeside recreational amenities, improving access to the lake, and ensuring that a healthy ecosystem surrounds it. Lakeside amenities are to be concentrated on the north shore and include a café/boathouse/education building, a swimming area, a boat launch, and a pedestrian bridge over the lake connecting new islands to the shoreline, BCRP officials said. Major improvements will allow direct access to the water from multiple locations, providing 1/3 mile of accessible shoreline.

The plan also envisions a fishing pier at Linden Avenue on the south side of the lake. The now-barren land area atop the two reservoir tanks would become two large event spaces, with an amphitheater to accommodate both large and small performances.

To ensure a healthy ecosystem surrounds the lake, the plan reintroduces a stream valley feeding into the northwestern shore. As the stream enters the lake, it flows over a cascade which could be observed from a new pedestrian bridge. This new bridge and the island bridge will provide options for pedestrian routes around the lake in addition to the original pedestrian loop.

Improved community connections have been critical to the plan's development. BCRC's plan includes a major pedestrian entrance way at Eutaw Street and Druid Hill Drive. The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) has received a \$6 million grant to "reconnect West Baltimore Communities to Druid Hill Park," and the selection of a consultant is underway. The BCDOT project will reinforce the pedestrian connection at Eutaw Street and apply complete street concepts at other locations along Druid Hill Drive to improve access.

The price tag for the entire BCRP vision plan is in excess of \$50 million. BCPR currently has \$34 million in funding commitments from state and city sources, which is sufficient to fund Phase 1 of the plan: the construction of all major earthwork and features, minus the boathouse/café and pedestrian bridges (Phase 2). BCRP says it is about to enter the design phase, which is scheduled for completion in 2026, and Phase I construction could begin as early as 2028. The city is currently exploring philanthropic opportunities and grants for the additional funding required for Phase 2.

For more information about BCRP's plans for Druid Hill Lake go to yourdruidlake.govocal.com . You can take a survey there to indicate your preferences.

--*Sallye Perrin*

What's the oldest house in Bolton Hill?

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/oldest-house-bolton-hill/>

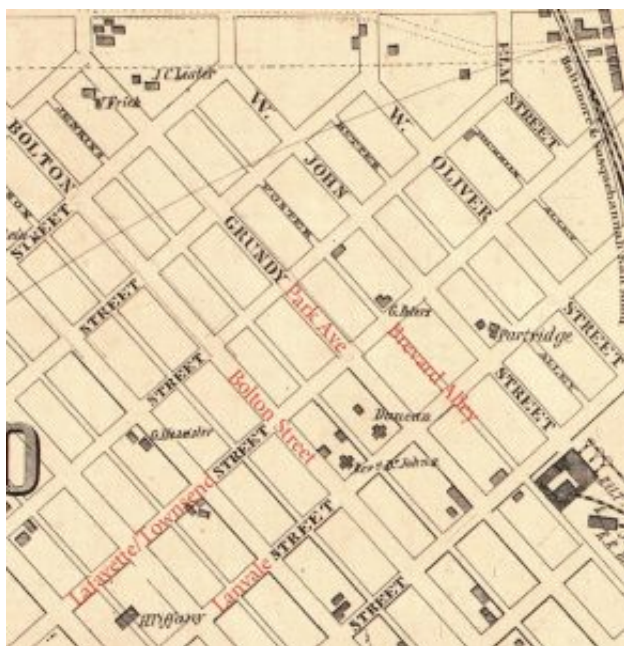


Screenshot

What's the oldest house in Bolton Hill? Most sources will tell you it's the cottage at the northwest corner of Lanvale and Bolton streets, but those claims may not have been entirely accurate.

In the mid-19th century, Bolton Hill was home to several freestanding cottages on the north side of Lanvale, and also some on Lafayette Ave., then known as Townsend Street.

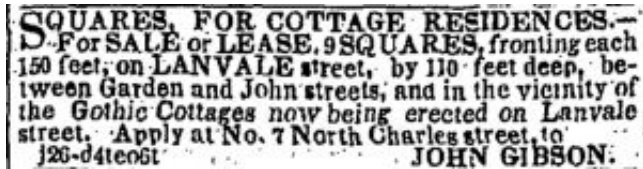
This 1851 map shows some of them, with the cottage of Rev. Henry Van Dyke Johns (for whom Memorial Episcopal was originally named) on the north side of Lanvale between Bolton and Jenkins Alley, and the cottage then known as the "Duncan" house between Jenkins and what's now called Park Avenue (then Grundy Street). At bottom left is labeled Henry Tiffany's house, "[Rose Hill](#)," on Eutaw Place at Lanvale.



Detail from Plan of the City of Baltimore, Sidney & Neff

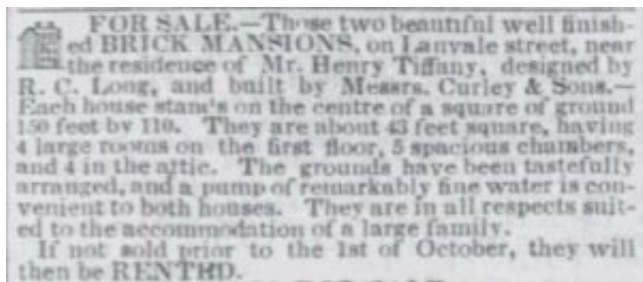
(1851) (embellished with street name information in red), available at <https://www.loc.gov/item/2004629026/> and at <https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/items/ca0933f0-c073-4cf0-9d4f-850c9888bc21>

In *Baltimore Sun* advertisements, John Gibson listed much of the land along Lanvale St. between Linden Ave. (then known as Garden St.) and John St. for sale in January 1848:

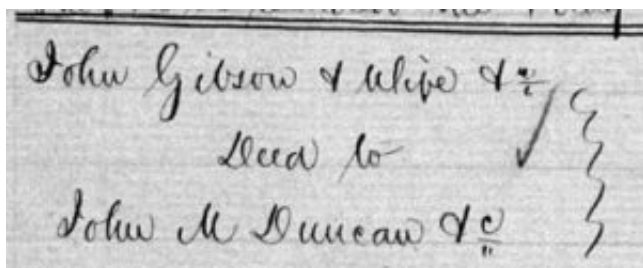


He advertised those nine “squares for cottage residences” and specifically mentioned the Johns cottage and the Duncan cottage “now being erected,” which might be thought of as model houses in contemporary neighborhood construction.

On Sept. 13, 1848, those two cottages were finished and listed for sale in the *Baltimore Sun*: “two beautiful well finished BRICK MANSIONS, on Lanvale street, near the residence of Mr. Henry Tiffany, designed by [R.C. Long](#), and built by Messrs. Curley & Sons.”



In 1850, Gibson sold the cottage that is now the Bolton Hill Nursery to John Duncan and his wife:



The conveyed property was described as “all that piece or parcel of ground. Beginning for the same at the corner formed by the intersection of the southwest side of Grundy Street [Park Ave.] and the northwest side of Lanvale Street and running thence Northwestwardly bounding on Grundy Street one hundred and ten feet thence Southwestwardly parallel with Lanvale Street one hundred and fifty feet to Jenkins Alley thence South Eastwardly bounding on Jenkins Alley one hundred and ten feet to Lanvale Street and thence Northeastwardly bounding on Lanvale Street one hundred and fifty feet.”



Based on this record, by 1848 the Johns and Duncan cottages were built and listed for sale, and in 1850 the Duncans took title to what is the nursery school today. And so we see in the 1851 map, the cottage labeled “Duncan.” (The record is a little muddy because an 1849 article suggests Isaac Tyson Jr. may have bought the cottage, and he was in fact a third party in the 1850 deed, but as can be seen, Gibson sold the property to Duncan, and it is so labeled in the 1851 map.)

What about that cottage on the northwest corner of Lanvale and Bolton? In his description of the property for [National Historic Trust consideration](#), the late neighborhood historian Frank Shivers informs us that John Robbins was among the earliest owners – actually stating he was the first owner.

An Aug. 29, 1850 record [advertisement](#) for the sale of a vacant lot used the Robbins cottage as a reference point: “ONE LOT on Lanvale street, 50 feet front by 160 feet in depth, adjoining the Rev. Mr. Robbins’ [sic] building, now in progress of erection.” The cottage, then, was still being built in 1850.

VALUABLE BUILDING LOTS TO LEASE—The Subscriber will lease, or, if desired, sell, at moderate rates, to those wishing to improve for private residence, the following very desirable LOTS, embracing some of the most eligible portions of the ROSE HILL property:—

SIX LOTS on Lanvale street, each 50 feet front by 150 feet in depth, immediately opposite the Gothic mansions of the Rev. Dr. Johns and Isaac Tyson, Esq.

A SQUARE of Ground, 231 feet 6 inches front on Grundy street, corner of Lanvale street, and 150 feet in depth to Foster alley. This Lot is susceptible of being made one of the most beautiful residences in the city, being remarkably high, and having the unusual advantage in such a location of majestic forest trees.

NINE LOTS on Grundy street, between Lanvale and Townsend streets, 50 feet each by 150 feet in depth, to Foster and Jenkins alleys—on these lots are also large forest trees.

ONE LOT on Lanvale street, 50 feet front by 160 feet in depth, adjoining the Rev. Mr. Robbins’ building, now in progress of erection.

THREE LOTS on Lanvale street, opposite Mr. Robbins, each 50 feet front by 150 feet in depth.

The above Lots are all on paved streets, and the situation such as to entitle them to improvements of the best character; a stipulation will therefore be inserted in any Leases or Deeds of the property, so that dwellings of not less than 25 feet front can be erected. Apply to

JOHN GIBSON,
At the Counting-room of Gibson & Co.,
an 24 d1wcd2aw tf No. 7 N. Charles st.

If the “Robbins’ building” was under construction in August 1850, it would be younger than the Duncan cottage (i.e., the nursery school), completed by sometime in 1848. Later, a similar *Sun* advertisement,

from Sept. 4, 1852, refers to “the recently finished Cottage of the Rev. Mr. Robbins.” So among these cottages, the nursery school must be the oldest.

These findings raise unanswered questions, like when – if at all – did Isaac Tyson Jr. reside in the Nursery School cottage (note his name in the preceding image), and these search results do not rule out the possibility that another existing structure in the neighborhood might still be older.

It has been suggested that maybe 211 W. Lanvale St. could be the oldest, but an ad in the *Sun* from Sept. 7, 1852, describes the lots on the south side of Lanvale as though they were empty, “eligible lots of the Rose Hill estate, beautifully situated for improvement”:

By Gibson & Co.

PUBLIC SALE OF VERY DESIRABLE BUILDING LOTS ON LANVALE, GRUNDY AND BOLTON STREETS.—On **THIS DAY**, September 7th, we will sell by public auction, on the premises, at 4 o'clock, P. M., or immediately after the sale by Messrs. Adreon & Co., of the beautiful Gothic Cottage of Mrs. Duncan; the very desirable **SQUARE OF GROUND** immediately opposite said residence, fronting 150 feet on Lanvale street, and running back and binding on Grundy street and Jenkins alley 150 feet. This is one of the most eligible lots of the Rose Hill estate, beautifully situated for improvement, and deserves the attention of those who may desire to secure choice lots with a view of erecting first class residences.

Merry Rogers, a lifelong Bolton Hill resident on Lanvale St., said she was once told that the house at 1222-1224 Bolton St. (just south of Lanvale, on the west side) was the oldest.

In my research, I was unable to locate reference to a structure there predating the nursery school's cottage. And Charlie Duff, a resident of Lanvale St., points out that the house labeled “Peters” on the 1851 map was never reported to be torn down; it appears to have been simply built over and incorporated first into the Women's Hospital and then into MICA's Meyerhoff dormitory.

I located no record of the Col. George Peters house being there prior to 1851, but if one looks at that structure from Brevard Alley (formerly known as Foster Alley), Charlie notes, an irregularity can be seen in the side of the building, where it juts out from the rest of the wall. This could be part of a house even older than the Duncan cottage:



Have you seen documentation of any Bolton Hill structures earlier than the Duncan cottage? Email history@boltonhillmd.org to share what you've found.

* * *

Thanks to Merry Rogers, Charlie Duff, John McLucas, Johns Hopkins, Meg Fairfax Fielding, Alex Greenspan, and Michele LeFaivre for their generous input & feedback on drafts of this piece.

--Kevin Cross

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-nov25/>



Mt. Royal Playground redesign needs your input

Mt. Royal Elementary and Middle School is looking to redesign its playground, and wants Bolton Hill residents to weigh in, according to the school's PTO president, Rochelle Carpenter. To participate go to this link online and take a short survey: **bit.ly/MountRoyalSurvey**.

Volunteer designers from the Neighborhood Design Center are providing the conceptual design process pro bono to help reimagine the outdated playground into an inclusive, engaging, and accessible space that reflects the creativity and energy of Mt. Royal students while strengthening its role as a community resource.

"We want input from students, families, teachers, and residents," said Maura Dwyer, who is leading the survey effort. A Nov. 14 deadline for responding has been pushed back to the end of the month. The result will be a shared design vision that can be used as a fundraising and advocacy tool leading to the playground construction project.

Organizers are reaching out to BHCA, MICA and the adjacent city-run recreation center as partners with students, parents and school and PTO officials.

Free street lighting available from Safety Committee

Violent crime in Bolton Hill – always fairly rare – has declined by 49 percent over a comparable period last year, according to BHCA's Safety Committee, using Baltimore Police Department data. Citywide, violent crime is down 19 percent. However, property crimes are on the rise.

Working with a grant from BGE, the committee will distribute on request free, energy-efficient light bulbs for dusk-to-dawn lighting in alleyways and other dark spots. Also available are solar-powered motion detection devices. For further information or to assist with the project attend the committee's next meeting on Wed., Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church, or contact Jim Prost, jprostmd@gmail.com.

Drop off Food Bank donations at Memorial Episcopal today

BHCA, Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church and Memorial Episcopal Church are hosting a food donation drive for the Maryland Food Bank on Saturday (Nov. 15). Sidewalk drop-offs of non-perishable food items will be accepted at Memorial Episcopal at 1316 Park Ave. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Swimming lessons at Callowhill indoor pool

Callowhill Aquatic Center is located next to Pimlico Elementary/Middle School on Oakley Ave., near Sinai Hospital. Operated by the City Department of Recreation and Parks, it offers free and low-cost swimming lessons for adults and children at its indoor facility. Next classes start in January. To use Baltimore City pools, you must have a Civic Rec account, available on the Rec and Parks website. More information at 410 396-0677.

About The Bulletin

The *Bolton Hill Bulletin* is published monthly, except for July and August. It is designed by Elizabeth Peters. Paula Jackson is our proofreader. We invite others to help with writing, editing, photography or work on the business side. Contributors this month were, among others, Kevin Cross, Charlie Duff, Francine Marchese, Sallye Perrin and Scott Sommerer. Errors and omissions are the responsibility of the editor, Bill Hamilton. Comments are welcome at bulletin@boltonhillmd.org.

Bolton Hill

Community Association