

**PERTAINING TO THE DESIGNATION OF A HISTORIC DISTRICT FOR THE SITE  
KNOWN AS THE SIMMS-THOMAS TOBACCO BARN, CASE HD 2015-01**

**WHEREAS**, Title 8 of the *Land Use Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code and Chapter 57 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Calvert County, Maryland, being Chapter 57 of *Article 5* of the Code of Public Laws of Maryland, (hereinafter, the “County Code”), *Historic Districts*, provide that the County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, upon receiving a recommendation from the Historic District Commission, may designate a site with historic, cultural, architectural or design significance and that meets the purposes and criteria of the foregoing County Code as a Historic District;

**WHEREAS**, the Historic District Commission received an application from Rhonda Thomas, property owner, for Historic District designation of the site described as:

A portion of the property located at 1860 Adelina Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland, identified as Parcel 58 on Tax Map 30, is zoned Residential, and consists of ± 0.25 acre (hereinafter, referred to as the “Site”);

**WHEREAS**, the Historic District Commission, in regular session on July 8, 2015 reviewed the application, made the following findings and voted to recommend designation of the Site as a Historic District having met the following criteria of the County Code, Chapter 57, Article III, Section 57-8(A)(1)(a), (c) and (d) and Chapter 57, Article III, Section 57-8(A)(2)(a) and (d):

*The Simms-Thomas Tobacco Barn was probably built in the early twentieth century. Tobacco barns are emblematic of the culture and history of Calvert County and are disappearing from the landscape.*

*The Simms-Thomas Tobacco barn was built by members of the Gross or Simms farming families, probably with assistance from the surrounding area, which includes a historically African American community. The barn is one of the few agricultural structures that survive in that community to tell its history.*

*The Simms family was the longest-term recent landowner, possessing the land since the 1920s when they purchased it from the William Gross family, who also were African American farmers. The property, like many around it, was part of an African American community that extended along Adelina Road, clustered from Sixes Road to Sheridan Point Road and included a one-room school and a church. Most of the members of that*

*community were likely to have been farmers, as were the Simms and the Gross families before Ms. Thomas purchased the property in 2001.*

*The Simms-Thomas Tobacco Barn has some design characteristics that make it appear older than it is, such as an asymmetrical roofline. It features a unique layout and support piers that are made of rusticated block. The block piers are nearly identical to those used for the foundation of the Carroll-Western Church, located just south of the property. It is possible that Clarence Bowen, who lived nearby on Sixes Road and who supplied the block-making machine for the church, also had a hand in building the tobacco barn.*

*The Simms-Thomas Tobacco Barn is unmistakable as a barn for air-curing tobacco, to anyone familiar with Southern Maryland. The unusual block piers and design tie it to the community in which it has stood since its construction.*

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing to consider said recommendation was duly scheduled, advertised, and held on August 25, 2015 at which time the recommendation of the Historic District Commission was discussed, staff's recommendations were considered, and public comment was solicited; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland was satisfied that the criteria for approval of the Historic District had been met, that the property owner was in favor of the designation, and that designation of the Site as a Calvert County Historic District is in the best interests of the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Calvert County, and voted to approve the designation of the Site.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, that, for the reasons set forth by the Historic District Commission in support of its recommendation to approve the application for Historic District designation of the property known as Simms-Thomas, as more fully described above, **BE**, and hereby **ARE**, adopted as findings of fact by this Board;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the Site, as recommended, **BE**, and hereby **IS**, designated as a Calvert County Historic District;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that any structure within said Historic District is designated as a "landmark"

for purposes of §§ 9-204 of the *Tax-Property Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code, insofar as those improvements contribute to the significance of the Calvert County Historic District;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully rewritten herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that this Resolution shall be effective upon recordation without publication of a fair summary.

**DONE**, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, sitting in regular session.

Aye: 5

Nay: Ø

Absent/Abstain: Ø

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

*Harriet S. Frederice*  
Clerk

*Steven R. Weems*  
Steven R. Weems, President

*Evan K. Slaughenhaupt, Jr.*  
Evan K. Slaughenhaupt, Jr., Vice-President

Approved for form and legal sufficiency by:

*Mike Hart*  
Mike Hart

*John B. Norris, III*  
John B. Norris, III  
County Attorney

*Tom Hejl*  
Tom Hejl

*Pat Nutter*  
Pat Nutter

Received for Record August 26 2015  
at 10:25 o'clock A M. Same day  
recorded in Liber KPS No. 48  
for 34 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AND RESOLUTION.

*Garry P. Smith*