

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL
2024 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-040-2024
Proposed by The Chair (by request—Planning Board)
Introduced by Council Members Harrison, Watson, Olson, Ivey, Fisher, Hawkins, Dernoga
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction May 7, 2024

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Nancy Tabbs House, Elwood and Wilmer Gross House, and
3 George Henry and Agnes Gross House—Designation as Historic Sites in Prince George’s
4 County

5 For the purpose of approving the designation of the Nancy Tabbs House (Documented Property
6 66-000-01); the Elwood and Wilmer Gross House (Documented Property 66-000-02); and the
7 George Henry and Agnes Gross House (Documented Property 66-000-03) as Historic Sites in
8 Prince George’s County, Maryland.

9 WHEREAS, Section 29-120.01 of the Prince George’s County Code provides a process for
10 the owner(s) of an historic property to petition the Prince George’s County Historic Preservation
11 Commission for Historic Site designation; and

12 WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 29-120.01 of the Prince George’s
13 County Code, Maxine Gross and Delphine Gross filed petitions with the Historic Preservation
14 Commission for designation of the three properties described below, of which they are the
15 owners; and

16 WHEREAS, after proper posting and notice was given as required by law, the Prince
17 George’s County Historic Preservation Commission held a public hearing on December 19,
18 2023, on the three subject petitions; and

19 WHEREAS, the Nancy Tabbs House, located at 5011 Navahoe Street, College Park, was
20 built circa 1935 and is an example of a simplified, Tudor Revival-style dwelling and was

1 designed by notable African American architect Romulus C. Archer, Jr., and is significant as an
2 early dwelling in Lakeland to survive the urban renewal program; and

3 WHEREAS, the Nancy Tabbs House reflects the development of the historically African
4 American community of Lakeland and the heritage of the Gross and Tabbs families, and
5 demonstrates the innovative spirit of Black women in the early twentieth century, as shown by
6 the life of Nancy Tabbs; and

7 WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the Nancy Tabbs
8 House (Documented Property 66-000-01), and its 0.266-acre Environmental Setting, (Lot 10,
9 Block 13, "Lakeland"), be designated as a historic site on the basis of certain historic site
10 designation criteria stated in County Code Section 29-104(a), namely, criteria (1)(A)(iii),
11 (1)(A)(iv), (2)(A)(i), (2)(A)(ii), and (2)(A)(v); and

12 WHEREAS, the Elwood and Wilmer Gross House, located at 5110 Pierce Avenue, College
13 Park, was built circa 1962 and is significant as an intact representation of a mid-century
14 contemporary-style, split-level kit house on a prominent corner lot; and

15 WHEREAS, the Elwood and Wilmer Gross House is a representative example of the
16 development of Lakeland's residential community and a reflection of the influence of Elwood
17 and Wilmer Gross, particularly during the contested urban renewal project of the latter part of the
18 twentieth century; and

19 WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the Elwood and
20 Wilmer Gross House (Documented Property 66-000-02), and its 0.241-acre Environmental
21 Setting, (Lot 1, Block 3, "Lakeland"), be designated as a historic site on the basis of certain
22 historic site designation criteria stated in County Code Section 29-104(a), namely criteria
23 (1)(A)(iii), (1)(A)(iv), (2)(A)(i), and (2)(A)(v); and

24 WHEREAS, the George Henry and Agnes Gross House, located at 8002 54th Avenue,
25 College Park, was built circa 1970 and is an example of a modest, raised ranch dwelling, and is
26 significant as the residence constructed for George Henry and Agnes Gross after their earlier
27 home was demolished to accommodate the construction of Paint Branch Elementary School; and

28 WHEREAS, the George Henry and Agnes Gross House embodies the resilience of the
29 Lakeland community in the face of discriminatory public policy and the modest compensation
30 offered to displaced residents, and reflects the influence of George Henry and Agnes Gross as
31 early Lakeland residents who supported the community's growth and vitality; and

1 WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the George Henry
2 and Agnes Gross House (Documented Property 66-000-03), and its 0.186-acre Environmental
3 Setting, (Lot 2, Block 3, “Lakeland”), be designated as a historic site on the basis of certain
4 historic site designation criteria stated in County Code Section 29-104(a), namely criteria
5 (1)(A)(iii), (1)(A)(iv), (2)(A)(i), and (2)(A)(v); and

6 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Council, sitting as the District Council, held a
7 joint public hearing on the significance of these properties with the Prince George’s County
8 Planning Board on March 12, 2024; and

9 WHEREAS, the record of the hearing was left open until 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2024, and
10 written testimony in support of the proposed designations was received from Robert Thurston,
11 President of the Lakeland Civic Association; Miriam Bader, Planning Director of the City of
12 College Park; and G. Harris, an individual; and

13 WHEREAS, on April 11, 2024, the Prince George’s County Planning Board voted
14 unanimously to recommend that the Nancy Tabbs House, Elwood and Wilmer Gross House, and
15 George Henry and Agnes Gross House be designated as Prince George’s County Historic Sites;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, on April 30, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of local law, the District
18 Council convened as the Committee of the Whole to review the transcript analysis and Planning
19 Board recommendation as to the proposed designations and favorably voted to direct the staff to
20 prepare a Resolution of Approval as to the proposed Historic Site Designations.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
22 County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that part of the Maryland-Washington
23 Regional District in Prince George's County, Maryland, that the Nancy Tabbs House
24 (Documented Property 66-000-01) and its 0.266-acre Environmental Setting (Lot 10, Block 13,
25 “Lakeland”), the Elwood and Wilmer Gross House (Documented Property 66-000-02) and its
26 0.241-acre Environmental Setting (Lot 1 Block 3, “Lakeland”), and the George Henry and Agnes
27 Gross House (Documented Property 66-000-03) and its 0.186-acre Environmental Setting (Lot 2
28 Block 3, “Lakeland”), are hereby designated as Historic Sites in Prince George’s County,
29 Maryland.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clerk of the Council be directed to mail copies of this
2 Resolution to the Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Commission, the Prince
3 George’s County Planning Board, and to the property owners, as follows: (1) Nancy Tabbs
4 House, 5011 Navahoe Street: Maxine Gross; (2) Elwood and Wilmer Gross House, 5110 Pierce
5 Avenue: Maxine Gross and Delphine Gross; and (3) George Henry and Agnes Gross House,
6 8002 54th Avenue: Delmax, LLC.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE’S
COUNTY, MARYLAND, SITTING AS THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PART OF
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL
DISTRICT IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY,
MARYLAND

BY: Jolene Ivey
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council