

**Preparing for Next Semester
or Looking for One Good Organization**
December 15, 2003

Looked at the syllabus for next semester's courses to order books. Found that I also needed to have selected and approved by the professor the organization I am to study for the course Organizational Development. It has to be a non-profit preservation group with at least one paid staff member, preferably one at a local, not state, level. That considerably narrows the possibilities in this area! There just aren't too many organizations with paid staff. I contacted Peerless Rockville and they are willing to be "used." I emailed the instructor, who is the Executive Director of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation in Seattle with my choice and their website for information about the group. She approved the selection and said that it looked like it would be an interesting organization.

So I am about to learn about a whole new area of Maryland. I know very little of about Rockville and will have to start some reading before I get back to them. The course requires that we conduct an evaluation of the organization using interviews with board members and entities they interact with, as well as a random survey of their membership. At the end we have to prepare an organizational study report and present it to them and to the professor and other students via conference call. I should learn some information that will help in working with Preservation Howard County as well.

The other course I am taking is Documentation. This will involve learning how to do the requisite historic documentation. We met both of the professors during the summer and they are to divide the students and to contact us before the course starts. I did go to the blackboard site and locate the required readings and order them. Most are publications for the Historic Trust. None of the books is costly, but many books are required, so the total came to almost \$100.00. But, of course, they will be valuable resources for the future.

We are to pick a site and go through the documentation process. I'm not sure what I will choose I was thinking of maybe trying to do Wilna as an historic district-by perhaps I should just do Union Chapel Church. Or I could ask Christine at Howard County, if there is a site she would like me to take on. I think I should discuss with the professor before making any determination.

Well, class doesn't start until the 20th of January, so I have a few more weeks to relax, although I should start some reading.