

From Judith Beck Helms, *Tenleytown D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood*, second ed. (Washington, D.C.: Tennally Press, 2000)

The Tenley Citizens Advisory Board, organized in 1974, comprises delegates from nearly a dozen citizens groups, including the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Committee; the Friendship Citizens Coalition; the Chevy Chase, American University Park, Friendship, North Cleveland Park, and Forest Hills Citizens associations; St. Ann's Church; McLean Gardens; and Citizens for City Living. The Tenley CAB concerns itself with National Capital Planning Commission plans for the area, land use, zoning, traffic, the Metro, the environment, development, and historic preservation.

In the early 1970s the D.C. Recreation Department inaugurated a very popular Summer in the Parks program, bringing various musical programs—including the National Symphony Orchestra—to the Reno recreation area as well as to other parks around the city.

The National Capital Parks also began a series of free outdoor rock music concerts whose popularity was widespread. Unfortunately, the loudness of the electronically-amplified music disturbed neighbors for blocks around, and the sight of hundreds of long-haired teenage rock fans, many drinking wine and beer and smoking marijuana, was not pleasing to many of these same neighbors. The rock concerts have continued regularly, however, for nine summers.

On Sunday afternoons those same fields at Reno are used by local international teams for soccer games. Again, large groups of people—very different from the Saturday night crowd—congregate to enjoy the recreation facilities at Fort Reno.

The one recreational facility missing at Reno was a public swimming pool, planned since 1935. In 1979 a southern wing to Wilson High School was completed that housed an indoor pool for use by the public as well as by students.

## TWO TENLEYTOWN LANDMARKS



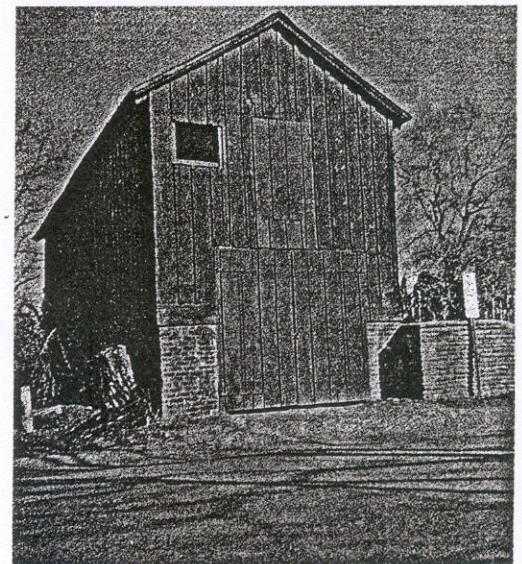
(1965 photo c/o Rosalie Rinis Miller)

### Tenleytown Lives Again

Interest in Tenleytown as a place, and the revival of the name Tenleytown—instead of Friendship or “the upper Wisconsin Avenue area”—was very apparent in the 1970s. *The Uptown Citizen*, *The Washington Post*, and (the late) *Washington Star* have increasingly used the old name. The Tenley-Friendship Library council, formed in 1972, has consistently favored the name Tenley over Friendship.

The year 1974 brought a flurry of student research activity in the area. A University of Maryland graduate class in architecture undertook a study of the projected impact of the subway on Tenleytown, which included a survey of the residential and commercial architecture of the area.

Oral history students at George Washington University interviewed elderly blacks in Washington, including descendants of the Fort Reno community. Classes in urban history at American University and in urban studies at George Washington University concentrated attention on the urban development of the Tenley area.



(1973 photo by Priscilla McN)

*Top: Frank the Barber—Frank Errigo, whose shop on 41st Street closed in the late 1970s, was one of the most popular businessmen in the area.*

*Bottom: A committee to Save The Old Red Barn formed in 1976 to repair and preserve this relic on Belt Road near Brandywine. It was built about 1907 by the Grove family.*