

Food, discount 'shopping center' for state market approved

Annapolis (AP)—A "shopping center" at the state wholesale food market, with facilities ranging from stalls where farmers can sell produce to large factory discount outlets, was approved yesterday by the Board of Public Works.

All three board members approved the project despite a request by Mark Wasserman, who appeared representing Mayor Schaefer, that action be delayed.

J. Gary Lee, executive director of the Maryland Food Center Authority,

said the project would give a big boost to Maryland agriculture by providing farmers a place to sell their produce for up to 10 months a year.

The center, to be built in Howard county by KMS Group Limited Partnership, also must include a flower mart and a crafts market under terms of the contract approved by the board.

Wilber E. Simmons, a partner in KMS, said most of the space in the proposed center would be leased to factory outlet discount stores.

Mr. Simmons and Mr. Lee said the factory outlets would produce the revenue needed to make the center financially workable for the developer and also would draw the customer traffic necessary for farmers and craftsmen to sell enough goods to make money.

KMS has 60 days to decide whether to buy the land for \$1.6 million and go ahead with the project. Mr. Simmons said there were some engineering problems at the 14-acre site. If those can be solved, he said, the cen-

ter probably will open by the end of 1983.

Mr. Wasserman questioned whether a center that includes factory outlets open to the public is a proper facility for the state-operated wholesale food market.

"We have no problem with a farmer's market, even flowers. . .," he told the board, but he said the mayor and city officials do get concerned "when you start to get into discount outlets, when you start to get into crafts, gas stations."

Mr. Wasserman said discount outlet centers had been proposed in several areas of the state, including Baltimore, and that it was unfair for the state to get into the act.

Governor Hughes suggested to Mr. Wasserman that the legislature answered the question about what the food market authority should do when it amended the law in 1979 to permit the kind of development covered by the contract with KMS.

The wholesale food market is at U.S. 1 and Route 115, about half a

mile from Interstate 95.

Mr. Lee said the amount of Maryland produce sold through the wholesale market had increased from 4 percent to 8 percent since the market was moved from eastern Baltimore county to Howard county in 1976, but that "it should be 20 to 25 percent."

He said he hoped that putting the farmer's market next to the wholesale market would encourage buyers to purchase more Maryland produce to sell to their wholesale customers.

State grant OK'd to aid purchase of Brice House

Annapolis (AP)—A \$600,000 state grant to help Historic Annapolis purchase the two-century-old Brice House was approved yesterday by the Board of Public Works.

Pringle Symonds, head of the private group, told board members that her organization has raised \$600,000 in matching funds from private sources and is negotiating to buy the house from the international bricklayers union.

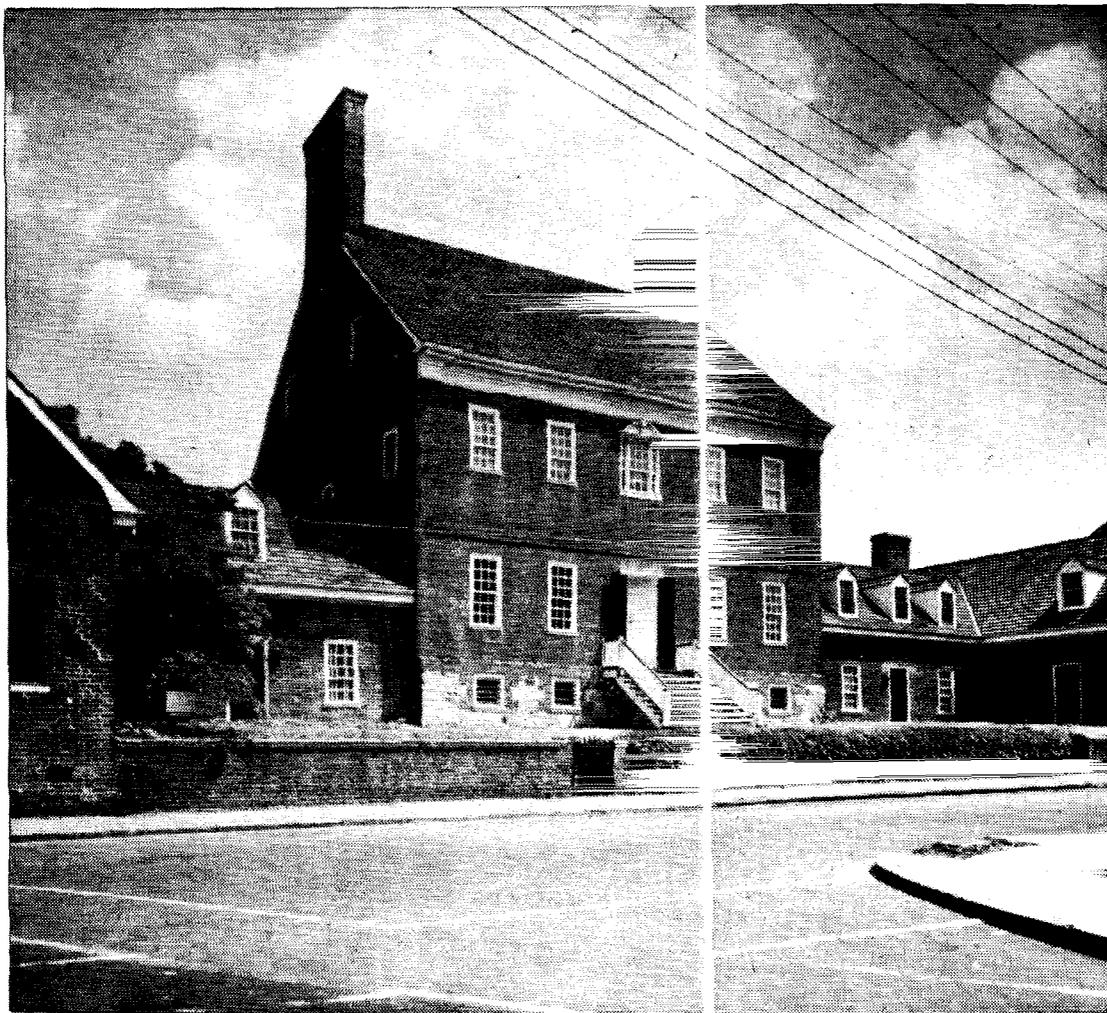
The union outbid Historic Annapolis when the Brice House was sold at auction in April. Union officials said at the time that they would turn the mansion into a museum.

Mrs. Symonds revealed only a few details of the agreement. She said negotiations with the union are still under way and that some issues have not been settled.

She said that present plans are for Historic Annapolis to buy the house, which is three blocks from the Maryland State House, and lease it back to the International Masonry Institute for operation as an educational and research facility in the bricklaying and masonry crafts.

Part of the agreement, Mrs. Symonds said, will be "a commitment to do a first-class interior restoration" of the mansion.

The Brice House was built during a seven-year period beginning in 1766 by James Brice, whose father planned the mansion but died before construction could begin.



The Brice House, the construction of which started in 1766, is to be purchased by Historic Annapolis.

Police promote woman to district commander

By Katie Gunther

Baltimore city police commissioner Frank J. Battaglia announced several Christmas promotions yesterday, including the appointment of the first woman district commander in the department's history.

Lt. Bessie R. Norris, 49, dean of students with the department's Education and Training Division, was promoted to major and will assume her duties as commander of the Southwestern District January 15.

The series of promotions was prompted by the upcoming retirement of Col. William L. Rawlings, chief of the Criminal Investigation Division. Colonel Rawlings plans to leave the force January 15.

Harry C. Allender, now a major serving as deputy chief in charge of the Central, Southwestern and Southern districts, was promoted to colonel and will replace Colonel Rawlings. The new deputy chief will be Major Calvin Lewis, who is currently commander of the Southwestern District.

Major Norris, an 18-year veteran of the force, will replace Major Lewis. In addition to being the first woman district commander, she is also the first black woman to attain

the rank of major.

A native of McBee, S.C., Major Norris earned her associate degree from the Community College of Baltimore 10 years after becoming a police officer. In 1976, she received a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from Coppin State College.

She was promoted to lieutenant in 1978 and served in the Criminal Investigation and Personnel divisions before working as a shift commander at the Northwestern District station. She was the first woman to be a shift commander in the districts.

Major Norris has been working in the Education and Training Division since June. She previously worked in the department's Communications division.

In other promotions, Lt. Joseph T. Newman, head of the recently formed and highly publicized narcotics task force, was promoted to captain and named head of the vice section in the Criminal Investigation Division.

Captain Newman, 36, had been a member of the force since 1969. He has worked in the Criminal Investigation Division since 1971. In 1980, he received a Bronze Star for his work in narcotics.