

Trailing in delegates, Clinton shakes things up

Special to Sentinel-Voice

With Sen. Clinton racking up a string of recent defeats in the Democratic presidential contest, her campaign manager is departing and being replaced by an aide who served as Clinton's chief of staff during her years as first lady in the White House.

The installation of the campaign's new chief, Margaret Williams, and the departure of the former head, Patti Solis Doyle, came as Clinton's rival for the nomination, Sen. Obama of Illinois swept caucuses in the state of Maine on Sunday. On Saturday, Obama also prevailed by healthy margins at caucuses in Nebraska, Louisiana, Washington and the Virgin Islands. And in the past few days Obama added more decisive victories votes garnered in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

In an email message to colleagues, Solis Doyle, who moved to Iowa last year to oversee Clinton's ultimately unsuccessful effort there, alluded to some exhaustion but made no reference to the campaign's difficulties or the challenges it faces in the coming weeks.

"I have been proud to manage this campaign, and prouder still to call Hillary my friend for more than 16 years. I know that



Margaret Williams has been put in charge of Sen. Hillary Clinton's White House push. she will make a great president," Doyle wrote.

"This has already been the longest presidential campaign in the history of our nation, and one that has required enormous sacrifices

from all of us and our families." A campaign spokesperson said the aide left of her own accord.

Clinton issued a statement praising Solis Doyle "for an extraordinary job" that put the nomination "within reach." The former first lady said she was "lucky" to have Williams taking the helm. "I know she will lead our campaign with great skill towards the nomination," the New York senator said.

Beginning on Super Tuesday last week, when the two top Democrats essentially tied in a 22-state showdown, Clinton's aides have acknowledged that Obama was likely to score a series of wins until March 4, when the Clinton campaign believes it can prevail in Ohio and Texas. However, Clinton's team may not have expected that Obama's margins in the February contests could push him out front in the delegate race.

During a conference call with reporters last week Clinton's communications director, Howard Wolfson, seemed to predict that Clinton would maintain her lead in the delegate count, even as Obama notched some victories this month.

"We think that we are in the pole position because we have a lead overall in delegates.

We think it is going to be very difficult for Sen. Obama to make up that lead because of the way in which the party allocates its delegates proportionally. So we feel very good about that, but this is going to be a neck-and-neck contest for the foreseeable future," Wolfson told reporters.

"Sen. Obama does enjoy some advantages in the contests in the rest of February but not in a way that should permit to him to overcome our lead in delegates."

However, Clinton's lead in the delegate race already seemed to have evaporated. The CBS News count had Obama at 1,134 delegates and Clinton at 1,131, with 2,025 needed to secure the nomination under current rules prior to the "Potomac" push. CNN, ABC News, and the Associated Press had Clinton narrowly ahead, though it appears the balance shifted in Obama's favor after wins in primaries in Maryland, Virginia and the nation's capital.

In an e-mail, Wolfson said he had not intended to suggest that Clinton would remain ahead in the delegate count through February, but only that she would emerge victorious. "I meant overall," he said. "We will be the nominee."

Subdivision

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the Berkley Square neighborhood on the city's West Side have applied for a listing for the subdivision of modest ranch homes built after World War II for the city's growing Black population, many of them veterans.

The neighborhood is a reminder that home ownership for Blacks, once rare, became a reality for many, said Ruth D'hondt, who has lived there since 1959. Just a few years earlier, city developers were advertising homes in "Whites only" subdivisions.

"It just grieves me we would walk away from something that was so hard fought for and was so valuable," said D'hondt, 65, a retired server at Caesars Palace.

The neighborhoods were developed as the G.I. Bill made home ownership a reality for millions for the first time, including Blacks. Cities partnered with the government — the Veterans Administration or the Federal Housing Authority — and private developers with a conscience.

Thomas Berkley, for example, who helped finance what became Berkley Square, was a Black civil rights activist.

One challenge to historic recognition is how much the areas have changed. In Delaware, owners have made improvements from new windows to adding a story to houses in the Dunleith neighborhood south of Wilmington, created in the

1950s as the state's first housing development marketed to Blacks.

Early residents included blue-collar workers and teachers as well as veterans. Like Pontchartrain Park and Berkley Square, it's still largely a Black community.

The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs considers Dunleith potentially eligible for the National Register but would need to know more about what made the houses unique if an application were made.

Another challenge is the relative youth of the housing developments. Eligibility for the National Register begins after 50 years, a time span that could now make "historic places" of split-level ranch subdivisions and shopping plazas.

"It doesn't seem to be imperative to save these buildings right now," said Christine Madrid French, president of the Arlington, Va.-based Recent Past Preservation Network "versus an 1890s mansion, where it might seem more obvious."

The National Register, a listing of about 80,000 properties, considers the architectural and historic importance of buildings and the shape they're in.

Persuading Black property owners to seek the designation can sometimes be difficult because some equate preservation with gentrification or higher taxes.

"There is the concern that venturing into some aspects of historic preservation could

lead to neighborhood change that isn't necessarily wanted," said Jeffrey Harris, director for diversity at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a nonprofit advocacy group.

In Columbus, the Hanford Village subdivision got its start in 1946 when real estate developer Ivan Gore advertised the first houses.

"Homes for Negro Families" read the April 21 ad that year in *The Columbus Dis-*

There was gratitude, but something less comfortable too: The segregated houses were a reminder of Blacks' station in society, even in a northern city.

"There was always a bitter spot in our hearts because they're building houses all over Columbus, and the only houses available for Afro-American vets was this one little Hanford Village," Watkins said. "This is only a drop in the bucket of the

played and picnicked in the park around the corner.

A mom calling her son home could yell his name from her door and neighbors would repeat it house after house until the message arrived.

"Everybody knew each other; everybody's parents parented everybody," said Carol Haile, whose father, Major Haile, an aircraft mechanic who served in the Pacific in World War II, bought one of the first houses.

The neighborhood began to change in the 1960s when the state routed Interstate 70 through Hanford Village, removing several houses. The highway split the park that a generation of children had grown up in, rendering the remaining few acres almost inaccessible.

People began to move away.

Today, Hanford Village is slightly downtrodden, with a mix of renters and homeowners, including a few original residents. Many of the single-story Cape Cod-style cottages are still well kept, looking more or less the same as when they were built. Others are showing signs of neglect; some are even boarded-up.

The Ohio Historical Society considers Hanford Village historically significant and deserving of further study. But it will take a resident to step forward and ask for the process of listing on the National Register to begin.

After the war ended and

Bolden came home, he and his wife, Betty, were so eager to move into their home they huddled in the cold basement while the house was still under construction.

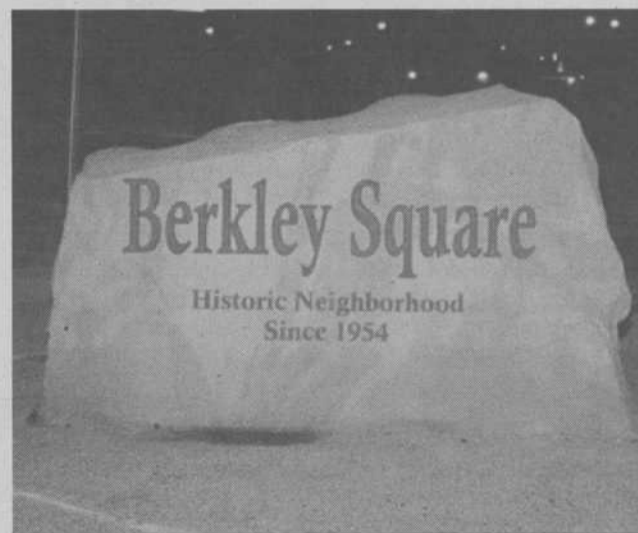
The house was less than 1,600 square feet, small by modern standards. It had five rooms and a single bathroom. But the couple happily settled in and raised four sons and a daughter, all of whom still live in the Columbus area. The second Sunday of every month they all get together at the Hanford house for dinner.

"It was really something to live out here," said Bolden, who worked as a busboy and janitor in Columbus restaurants and later as a jewelry store deliveryman and mail clerk.

"If anything happened, everybody was here and they were going to take care of it," Bolden said. "So we were very fortunate, and we are still fortunate."

George Glasper is proud of his family's legacy in Berkley Square neighborhood in Historic West Las Vegas. They own four homes there and have a 50-year history with the historic subdivision. When he was growing up, he says the neighborhood of architecturally distinct homes was aesthetically striking. The neighborhood still looks good, although its tenor has changed quite a bit.

"The people have changed," he said. "Many of the old folks we grew up with and the kids we grew up with have moved on."



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Berkley Square in West Las Vegas was a popular destination for African-American soldiers returning from combat.

patch. Houses were available for about \$6,500, a relative bargain considering the median value of a single-family home at the time was about \$8,500.

William Watkins was a Tuskegee Airman who lived in one of the first houses while stationed at nearby Lockbourne Air Force Base. Watkins, now 94, remembered how happy he was to have a house as a newly married soldier.

number of houses that we actually need."

In those days, Hanford Village was its own municipality with a mayor, fire department, police department and several stores.

Surviving veterans and their children recall a tidy neighborhood where neighbors all knew each other.

Children rode their bikes late into the night. They fished, swam and rafted in nearby Alum Creek. Families