Report to the Governor and the General Assembly

2012 Annual Report
on the
African American Heritage Preservation Program

Christ Rock Church, Dorchester County

Maryland Commission on
African American History and Culture
84 Franklin Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.africanamerican.maryland.gov

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
www.mht.maryland.gov

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

MCAAHC

THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland's African American heritage; to provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives; and to educate Maryland's citizens and visitors about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland and the nation.

MCAAHC is housed within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Historical Trust is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Maryland Historical Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage.

The Maryland Historical Trust is a unit of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

Background

The African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program was created during the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Program is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC), a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). The purpose of this Program is to encourage the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland.

Eligible applicants for Program funding include non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions. Business entities and individuals may also apply for Program grants when seeking funds for a preservation or development project that serves a high public purpose. Eligible activities include acquisition, construction, and capital improvement of buildings, sites, or communities of historical or cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland as well as pre-development costs directly associated with an acquisition or construction project. Such pre-development costs may cover historic structures reports and studies, the preparation of plans and specifications, necessary archeological investigations, and reasonable fees for architectural, design, engineering and other special services.

Activity of the African American Heritage Preservation Program in 2012

Fiscal Year 2013 Grants

Based on recommendations from MCAAHC and MHT, the following projects were forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management in late 2011 and were included in the Governor's Capital Budget for fiscal year 2013:

County	Project & Applicant	Description	Total Project Costs	Grant Award
St. Mary's	**Project Name:** Brome Plantation Slave Quarter **Project Address:** Historic St. Mary's Commission, St. Mary's City, MD 20686 **Project Sponsor:** Historic St. Mary's City Foundation	This building has significance as a rare and valuable surviving example of the wooden dwellings used to house slaves in the Chesapeake region. It is one of only a tiny number of such survivors owned by the citizens of Maryland, and also one of the few quarters subjected to intensive archeological study. The structure was occupied before, during, and after the Civil War, so this site offers a unique opportunity to present the transition from slavery to freedom in Maryland. The building will be interpreted as a slave quarter on the grounds of Historic St. Mary's City. *Project work includes: Restoration of slave quarter; fabrication of exhibit panels, bases, and frames; furnishings for exhibits; archaeological monitoring; site work; ADA ramp; construction of shed.*	$37,000	$20,000
Calvert	**Project Name:** George E. Rice House and Outbuildings at the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm **Project Address:** 2695 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 **Project Sponsor:** Calvert County Division of Natural Resources	The George Rice House is an L-shaped vernacular house built in at least two phase. The farmstead takes its name from an African American farmer and landowner, George Rice, who owned the property for 23 years ending in 1938. A white local landowner purchased the property at auction and the house became a tenant house for sharecroppers who worked the land. The house and outbuildings will become the centerpiece of the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm. *Project work includes: Repair of foundation and pier supports (with archaeological monitoring); repair / rebuild porch; repair, rebuild, or replace windows and doors; repair / replace roof; repair / replace siding; repoint chimneys.*	$100,000	$50,000

Wicomico	**Project Name:** San Domingo Rosenwald School **Project Address:** 11526 Old School Road, Mardela Springs, MD 21837 **Project Sponsor:** John Quinton Foundation, Inc	The San Domingo School is a Rosenwald school constructed using Tuskegee Institute's design and is one of three Rosenwald schools still standing in Wicomico County. This three teacher school was built as a community effort, and all children from this rural African American community, as well as surrounding African American communities, attended this school from grades 1 though 7. The building will be used as a community center. *Project work includes: Repair / painting of ceiling, walls, and trim; installation of new partitions; installation of ADA restroom; plumbing upgrade; electrical upgrades and installations; installation of kitchen; insulation; fabrication and installation of interior trim; replication of blackboards; repair of plaster; cleaning and repair of floors.*	$97,500	$90,000
Washington	**Project Name:** Tolson's Chapel Cemetery **Project Address:** 111 E. High Street, Sharpsburg, MD 21782 **Project Sponsor:** Friends of Tolson's Chapel	Built in 1866, Tolson's Chapel served as place of worship for newly freed black families and also served as Freedmen's Bureau school until 1899. It was an active Methodist Church for many years. Its cemetery includes graves of slaves, notable local residents, and USCT soldiers, telling the story of the community. The chapel will be a museum and the adjacent cemetery will be open to the public. *Project work includes: Assessment of stones; mapping of cemetery; search for unmarked graves using ground penetrating radar; condition report and preservation plan; cleaning and repair of headstones; construction and installation of fence; develop & display interpretive materials.*	$38,000	$35,000
Queen Anne's	**Project Name:** Kennard School **Project Address:** 410 Little Kidwell Ave, Centreville, MD 21617 **Project Sponsor:** Kennard Alumni Association	Kennard was built in 1936, with expansions in 1947 and 1951, and until its closing in 1966 it was the county's only secondary school for African-Americans. Music, sports, farming, and home economics programs provided additional benefits to the African-American community. The building will be used as a community center. *Project work includes: Install and paint drywall ceiling with wood batten strips; install and finish drywall on interior walls.*	$121,260	$100,000

Anne Arundel	**Project Name:** Wilson Farmstead **Project Address:** 862 Galesville Rd, Galesville, MD 20756 **Project Sponsor:** West River Improvement Association, Inc. (WRIA, Inc.)	The Wilson Farmstead was constructed in the 1870's by manumitted slave Henry Wilson. The house and associated lands provide a tangible link to slavery, manumission, tenant farming, and to the semi-professional Negro League ballfield that survives adjacent to the house. The building will ultimately support the County Parks and Recreation Department's development and use of the site. *Project work includes: A/E services; stabilization; structural and foundation repairs; masonry, carpentry, and roof repairs / replacement; installation of rain leaders; project management.*	$127,000	$100,000
Baltimore	**Project Name:** Mt. Gilboa A.M.E. Church **Project Address:** 2312 Westchester Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228 **Project Sponsor:** Mt. Gilboa A.M.E. Church	Mt. Gilboa A.M.E. Church is the oldest active African American church in Baltimore County. It was built by free African Americans and is of similar size, material, and quality as other places of worship built during the same period by white congregations. Its history is also associated with Benjamin Banneker, known as the "First African American Man of Science." The building will continue to be used as a church. *Project work includes: Site work for erosion mitigation; replacement of doors; repointing and cleaning of masonry; painting; repair / replacement of trim and fascia; replacement of rain leaders; replacement of roof; restoration of porch; project management.*	$103,500	$100,000
Wicomico	**Project Name:** Charles H. Chipman Center **Project Address:** 325 Broad Street, Salisbury, MD 21801 **Project Sponsor:** The Chipman Foundation, Inc.	The Charles H. Chipman Center is the oldest African American congregation site in the region and the first site for religious services in the region during and after slavery, the first school for children of freed slaves in the region, and the first Delmarva high school for African American children after the Civil War. The building is currently used as a cultural center and small museum focusing on African American heritage in Delmarva. *Project work includes: Removal of parging; repairs / repointing of masonry; site and foundation work to address moisture problems; rain leaders; sprinkler system; repair / replacement of doors; archaeology; A/E services and project management.*	$72,000	$72,000

Wicomico	**Project Name:** Wetipquin Community Center **Project Address:** 22099 Royal Oak Road, Quantico, MD 21856 **Project Sponsor:** Wetpquin Community Development Club	Wetipquin School is one of dozens of efforts around the South to find and save the schools built with money from Julius Rosenwald. The Wetipquin School is a "two teacher type school." The building will house a community center and day care. *Project work includes: A/E services and rehabilitation of exterior.*	$30,700	$29,000
Charles	**Project Name:** Old Pomonkey High School **Project Address:** 3395 Metropolitan Church Road, Bryans Road, MD 20616 **Project Sponsor:** Pomonkey High School Alumni Association	Old Pomonkey High School served as the first African-American public high school in Charles County. Established in 1922, the original frame building was replaced in the 1930s by the existing one-story structure with high ceilings, large windows, and Colonial Revival styling. The building will become a cultural center and museum. *Project work includes: A/E services.*	$50,000	$50,000
Baltimore City	**Project Name:** Union Baptist Church of Baltimore **Project Address:** 1219 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217 **Project Sponsor:** Union Baptist Church of Baltimore	The founding congregation of Union Baptist Church, the fifth oldest African-American congregation of any denomination in Baltimore City and the second oldest Baptist church in Balimore with an African-American pastor, began on May 10, 1852. The Gothic Revival church building was designed by architect William J. Beardsley of New York. The project will renovate the lower "Undercroft" level to facilitate a climate-controlled repository for the Church's African American archives and artifacts. *Project work includes: A/E services; masonry repairs, repointing, and moisture treatments; mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; painting; demolition.*	$80,000	$40,000

Baltimore City	**Project Name:** Two Sisters' Houses **Project Address:** 612-614 S. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21231 **Project Sponsor:** The Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill and Fell's Point, Inc.	These are the only extant survivors of a wooden building type that was once the predominant housing stock for low and middle classes in Baltimore. They represent a once-common building type that was vitally important to the architectural and physical development of the port city of Balimore. Since the houses were inhabited by African American ships' caulkers, these houses hold primary significance in African American maritime labor history, in "mobtown" history, and in immigration/social history in a workingmans community. *Project work includes: Stabilization; services of archaeologist, conservator, architect, and engineer.*	$100,000	$100,000
Montgomery	**Project Name:** Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge **Project Address:** 1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Road (Route 108), Sandy Spring, MD 20860 **Project Sponsor:** Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Sandy Spring Lodge #6430, Inc.	The Odd Fellows Lodge was built during the early 1900's as a health, burial, and life insurance agency for African Americans, and it served in this capacity for over 60 years. The Lodge also became the social hub for African Americans, as a popular site for picnics and dances. The current structure was built by local African American artisans and remains the oldest surviving structure of its kind. The building will be used as an educational and cultural center. *Project work includes: A/E services; repair / replacement of doors, windows, and trim; repair / replacement of stairs; rebuilding of front portico.*	$100,000	$100,000
Dorchester	**Project Name:** Christ Rock M.E. Church **Project Address:** 2403 Rock Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613 **Project Sponsor:** The Friends of Stanley Institute, Inc.	Christ Rock Church, along with the Stanley Institute school, is the focus of the African-American community that arose at Christ Rock, outside of Cambridge, just after the Civil War. The church was constructed in 1875 and rebuilt in 1889 and 1911. The church will be rehabilitated as a cultural center and museum focusing on the African-American experience in Dorchester County. *Project work includes: A/E services; archaeology; site work; masonry; carpentry; roofing; doors and windows; MEP systems; painting and finish work; accessibility for construction of outbuildings and fellowship hall.*	$100,000	$100,000

Talbot	**Project Name:** Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church **Project Address:** 18 South Higgins Street, Easton, MD 21601 **Project Sponsor:** Historic Easton, Inc	The church is the oldest African American church structure in Easton, and the second oldest African American church structure in Talbot County. The church was dedicated by Frederick Douglass in 1878. The building will become an education and research center. *Project work includes: window and glass repairs / restoration.*	$14,000	$14,000

These grantees were notified of their awards in May 2012, after the approval of the FY2013 Governor's Capital Budget. A press release describing the program and detailing the grant awards was distributed on July 9, 2012.

In the summer and early fall, site visits involving MHT and MCAAHC / GOCI staff have been made to many properties, and projects are getting underway. To date ten of fifteen grant agreements have been approved by the Board of Public Works; grantees and MHT and MCAAHC/GOCI staff have made brief remarks at the BPW meetings.

Fiscal Year 2014 Grant Applications

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY2014 funding were made available in January 2012 via MHT's website. A press release on February 10, 2012 announced the availability of the applications and also announced a series of five workshops for potential applicants in locations across the state:

Date	Partner Institution	Location
March 7, 2012	Sojourner-Douglass College	Cambridge, MD
March 10, 2012	Fairmount Heights Library	Fairmount Heights, MD
March 12, 2012	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Boonsboro, MD
March 19, 2012	Reginald F. Lewis Museum	Baltimore, MD
March 21, 2012	Prince Frederick Library	Prince Frederick, MD

These workshops, which were specific to this grant program, reached and informed at least 75 interested individuals. Throughout the spring and summer, MHT and MCAAHC staff responded to specific inquiries from potential applicants and provided guidance about the application process.

Sixteen eligible applications for FY2014 funding were received by the postmark deadline of July 15, 2012. The total funding request was approximately $1,476,400; the majority of the funding requested was for rehabilitation, with the remainder for acquisition and predevelopment costs. Applications represented 12 counties and the City of Baltimore.

After a threshold review of the applications by MHT staff, MCAAHC evaluated eligible applicants in accordance with the project selection criteria during August and September of 2012. On October 1, 2012, MCAAHC will meet to rank and develop recommended funding levels for FY2014 and will transmit recommendations to the MHT Board on October 4, 2012.

On or before November 1, MCAAHC and MHT will forward the list of projects and grantees recommended by MCAAHC and the MHT as a recommendation to the Department of Budget and Management for inclusion in the Governor's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

Ongoing Program Activity

MHT and MCAAHC staff, along with staff from MHAA, DHCD, SHA, the Maryland Humanities Council, and Preservation Maryland, offer grant workshops covering a range of funding options for preservation projects. Typically there are three workshops each September in various locations across the state. The African American Heritage Preservation Program is featured in these workshops.

Date	Partner Institution	Location
September 14, 2011	Carroll County Community Media Center	Westminster, MD
September 20, 2011	Greenbelt Community Center	Greenbelt, MD
September 28, 2011	Historical Society of Talbot County Auditorium	Easton, MD

Applications for fiscal year 2015 funding will be available through MHT's website early in 2013; applications must be postmarked by July 15, 2013.

Notable Accomplishments & Project Updates

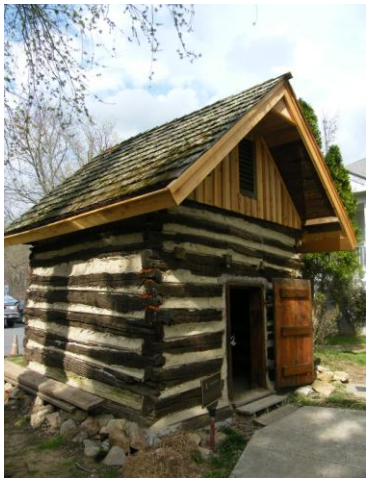
Dr. Joni Jones, Director of MCAAHC and Executive Director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Rosenwald Schools Conference at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama from June 14-16, 2012. According to Dr. Jones, "Attending the conference was a great way to super-charge those involved in school preservation, especially the many committed volunteers. It also allowed us to build connections between states, which led to several conversations about multi-state programming possibilities."

San Domingo Rosenwald School, Wicomico County:

With exterior rehabilitation nearly complete under MHT Capital Grant funding (see before and after photos at right), work on the interior is now well underway using AAHPP funding. New electrical and HVAC systems are being installed, as well as accessible restrooms and a warming kitchen. Below: Tony White of GOCI and MCAAHC Chairman Ted Mack tour the construction site with grantee and San Domingo alumnus Newell Quinton.

Sandy Spring Slave Museum, Montgomery County:

Repairs to the main museum building and accessory structures, including the log cabin (shown at near right), slave ship (shown at far right), statue, and arts pavilion, have been successfully completed. Work included cleaning, carpentry repairs, HVAC and electrical upgrades, and weatherproofing.



Christ Rock Church, Dorchester County:

Exterior rehabilitation is progressing rapidly, funded through an MHT Capital Grant as well as AAHPP grants. Wood framing members were termite-eaten and required replacement, and the building had to be lifted while the entire foundation was replaced. Fabrication of appropriate replacement windows and restoration of roof and siding will follow. The church will become a museum and community center and is located along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway.

Before (left) and during rehabilitation (right)

Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge, Montgomery County:

The structure was stabilized in 2008 using MHT Capital Grant funding; AAHPP funding provided a means for the owner to afford historically appropriate replacement windows and a front door. The new windows truly restore the personality of the building. Below, architect Tom Taltavull, Larry Oyler of Structural Preservation Services, and grantee Laura Anderson Wright examine the replacement windows prior to installation.