

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD
410-514-7600
mht.maryland.gov

ATTENTION!

OWNERS OF HISTORIC OR OLDER PROPERTIES AFFECTED BY A NATURAL DISASTER

If a natural disaster damages your historic property or buildings you own that are more than fifty years old, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) may be able to provide guidance and technical assistance as you begin the rebuilding process.

IS YOUR PROPERTY HISTORIC?

A property is considered historic if it is listed on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of buildings, sites, objects, and districts that warrant special preservation consideration. Approximately 90,000 historic properties in Maryland are listed in the National Register either individually (more than 1400) or as contributing properties within over 160 historic districts. In addition to National Register -listed and -eligible properties, MHT's Office of Research, Survey and Registration (ORSR) maintains the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, a catalog of approximately 120,000 resources that are over 50 years old, many of which are likely eligible for the National Register, including properties that have been designated as historic by local historic preservation commissions. Inclusion in the Inventory is not a guarantee of National Register eligibility because properties may deteriorated or have been altered since they were recorded.

MHT's Office of Research, Survey and Registration can tell you if your property is listed on the National Register or appears to be eligible for listing. The more information you provide about a property, the better. Although ORSR has files on more than 120,000 older properties, it is likely that additional information, such as historical background and photographs of the property before and after the disaster-caused damage, will be needed when you request a determination of National Register eligibility. In certain cases, it may be necessary for staff to visit the property to determine its eligibility.

WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES?

MHT can provide technical restoration services to owners of historic properties and cemeteries affected by a natural disaster. Staff will consult, free of charge, with local governments, nonprofit organizations, churches, and private citizens about damage and recommend repairs to historic properties. Services include telephone consultations,

copies of technical articles and sample specifications, on-site inspections and evaluations, and referrals to specialty architects, contractors, and other restoration or rehabilitation experts. Photographs of storm related damage can greatly facilitate telephone consultations about your historic property's needs.

Information is also available on methods and materials to repair storm-related damage and to best preserve the historic integrity of your property. A property does not have to be listed in the National Register for you to request a consultation, but due to staff limitations, priority will be given to listed and eligible properties.

The federal and state tax codes each provide a twenty percent tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation of income-producing historic buildings that meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Non-income-producing historic structures, such as private residences, may be eligible for a twenty percent state tax credit if the work exceeds \$5,000 and also meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. **Rehabilitation work must be approved by the MHT prior to commencement of work.**

Although there are no special federal or state grants available to owners of historic properties affected by natural disasters, historic properties may be entitled to additional consideration from private insurers and state and federal relief agencies. Be sure to indicate on all claims or requests for assistance that your property is or may be historic.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BURIED REMAINS OR RESOURCES AFFECTED BY A NATURAL DISASTER?

Damaged historic properties may contain or may be significant themselves for archaeological resources. Once-buried features such as old wells, privies, cellar holes, foundations, and artifacts which are important to the history or understanding of an older property may have been exposed by uprooted trees, flood erosion, post-hurricane cleanup efforts, and other ground disturbances caused by a natural disaster. Historic watercraft may have been dislodged or damaged by wave action or erosion. In addition to damaging headstones and boundary markers in historic cemeteries, a storm also may have uncovered human burials. Redefining cemetery boundaries once markers or trees are gone is often difficult. MHT's Office of Archeology can assist with the identification of significant historic, prehistoric, or maritime archeology resources. Written or verbal reports of suspected archaeological artifacts or features are helpful. Whenever possible, our archaeologists will visit damaged properties, and may accompany other MHT staff on inspections of damaged buildings or cemetery sites.

WHO CAN YOU CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR HISTORIC OR OLDER PROPERTY?

For a determination of your property's National Register status, contact:
Peter Kurtze, Administrator, Registration and Evaluation
Office of Research, Survey and Registration

100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
Telephone: 410-514-7649, FAX 410-987-4071
email: kurtze@mdp.state.md.us

For restoration or rehabilitation assistance, contact:
Anne Raines, Administrator, Capital Grants and Loans
Office of Preservation Services
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
Telephone: 410-514-7634, FAX 410-987-4071
Email: araines@mdp.state.md.us

For assistance with archaeological sites or remains, contact:
Maureen Kavanagh, Chief Archeologist
Office of Research, Survey and Registration
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
Telephone: 410-514-7660, FAX 410-987-4071
email: hughesr@dhcd.state.md.us

If you are located in a county or municipality with a historic preservation, landmark, or district commission, be sure to contact your local commission or preservation planner for assistance and information about specific ordinances which may affect your historic property. A list of local preservation organizations is available on our website, under "In Your Community".

The Maryland Historical Trust wishes to acknowledge the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office for generously sharing its experience and much of the information included on this page.

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