



FY25

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT  
OF PLANNING

**Founded in 1961, Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is the state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Housed within the Maryland Department of Planning, MHT serves as the State Historic Preservation Office charged with implementing federal preservation programs and operates Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM).**

**1.37 MILLION**

people reached through MHT, JPPM, & MAC Lab newsletters, social media, blog, outreach events, & websites

**5,830**

state and federal projects reviewed for impacts to historic & cultural resources

**\$33.6+ MILLION**

distributed by grants and tax credits programs



# RESEARCH, SURVEY, & REGISTRATION

To plan for, protect, and interpret a historic place, it is necessary to understand that place's evolution, history, and significance. MHT helps researchers find this information through an on-site library and online tools, like Medusa, Maryland's database of architectural and archaeological sites. MHT also provides guidance for archaeological and architectural survey, as well as the National Register of Historic Places, and maintains the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

In FY25, MHT staff advanced several ongoing documentation and research efforts, such as a follow-up survey of Smith Island (Somerset County), to address questions in its National Register nomination; continued work on Eastern Shore potato houses; remote sensing investigations in Cecil and Harford counties for the Rochambeau project, which identified features that may relate to Revolutionary War encampments; and fieldwork at the Jacob Jackson Home Site (Dorchester County) documenting archaeological resources. The MHT Library continues to expand its offerings with the creation of a [LGBTQ+ history guide](#) for Pride Month and the completed scanning and cataloging of the architectural drawing collection.



OVER  
31,000

users of the  
Medusa  
database



20

new listings in  
the National  
Register of  
Historic Places



## **Highlight: Historic Highway Bridges of Maryland, 1694 - 1965**

The recently listed Historic Highway Bridges of Maryland, 1694-1965 National Register Multiple Property Submission highlights the state's engineering and transportation history through three bridges: the Sykesville Bypass Bridge, the Pocomoke River Bridge, and the Snow Hill Drawbridge. The Sykesville Bypass Bridge (Howard County) is Maryland's only aluminum bridge, using a lightweight triangular box girder design. On the Eastern Shore, the Pocomoke River and Snow Hill Drawbridges (Worcester County) reflect the 1920s-1930s shift from river to road transport, balancing navigation with growing automobile traffic and modernization.

# FINANCIAL INCENTIVES: GRANTS

Through numerous grant programs, MHT provides funding for capital and non-capital projects, including rehabilitation and restoration work, property acquisition, technical assistance, heritage tourism, educational programs, archaeological and architectural research, and more.

In FY25, the Historic Preservation Grant Programs awarded \$699,000 to nine capital projects and \$300,000 to eight non-capital research and documentation projects. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program, overseen by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, awarded more than \$3.6 million to 61 capital and non-capital projects in 13 heritage areas, and the African American Heritage Preservation Program (in partnership with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture) awarded \$5 million to 31 capital projects that are significant to the African American experience in Maryland. The Certified Local Government Program, administered by MHT with the National Park Service (NPS), awarded \$106,052 through 17 non-capital grants to jurisdictions that have made a special commitment to preservation to support education and training.



\$20.1+  
MILLION

in non-state  
matching  
support

\$11+  
MILLION

in administered  
grants



## Success Story: Bethel Center (Garrett County)

Funded by a FY22 African American Heritage Preservation Program grant, the Bethel Center project revealed the little-known story of Garrett County's African American community. Built in the 1890s by Bethel AME Church, the wood-frame building served as a church, school, and community hub until the 1920s–30s, when racial tensions and limited opportunities forced residents to leave. Relocated and used as a blacksmith shop for decades, it was disassembled and rebuilt in Mountain Lake Park in 2023. Now restored by the Mountain Lake Park Historical Association, the Bethel Center preserves this vital history through creative partnerships and dedicated leadership.

# FINANCIAL INCENTIVES: TAX CREDITS

The Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program, as well as the federal tax incentives that MHT administers, encourages private sector investment in rehabilitating and reusing historic buildings to benefit local economies. The state tax credit program can be accessed through competitive commercial, small commercial, and homeowner credits.

In FY25, MHT awarded \$20 million in commercial tax credits to ten projects, as well as an estimated \$352,965 in tax credits to nine small commercial projects and \$1.97 million in tax credits to 162 residential projects.



**\$22.3+**  
**MILLION**

in tax  
credits to  
181 projects



**\$108+**  
**MILLION**

in expected private  
investment from  
competitive  
commercial projects



## **Success Story: Visitation Frederick (Frederick County)**

Founded in 1824 by the Sisters of Charity as St. John's Benevolent Female Free School, the Visitation Academy campus in Frederick was expanded by the Sisters of the Visitation after 1846 to include a chapel, convent, dormitories, and classrooms. The complex retained its 19th-century architecture, including the chapel's marble altars and stained glass, even after the school closed in 2016. In 2023, the property was rehabilitated using commercial tax credits and transformed into a boutique hotel featuring a restaurant, community spaces, fitness center, and retail shops—preserving the historic chapel as a striking interior feature.

# PLANNING

MHT supports preservation planning at the state and local levels by preparing and monitoring the statewide preservation plan, providing technical assistance to local governments, implementing the Certified Local Government Program.

In FY25, MHT reviewed draft comprehensive plans and responded to planning assistance requests from more than 15 municipalities and six counties. FY25 highlights in implementing *Heritage2031*, Maryland's statewide preservation plan, are listed below.

## Goal 1: Prioritize community histories and places underrepresented in the historical record

MHT advanced documentation and recognition of underrepresented communities by managing multiple NPS grants, including new work to on Asian American, American Indian, and African American heritage.

## Goal 2: Support professionals & the public in historic preservation, archaeology, & cultural heritage efforts

MHT supported preservation professionals by launching semi-annual virtual roundtables featuring case studies and policy discussions, reaching over 75 statewide planners.

## Goal 3: Use cultural heritage to enhance climate adaptation, local planning, & economic development activities

MHT contributed to statewide and local resilience planning and policy initiatives, including the development and launch of MDP's Sustainable Growth Planning Principles, the State Hazard Mitigation Plan update (led by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management), and draft solar siting legislation.

## Goal 4: Improve efficiency and accessibility of cultural heritage data and financial programs

MHT revived the Museum Assistance Program following a new appropriation of \$300,000 for FY26 and began shaping the program with stakeholder input.

## Goal 5: Make the case for preservation

MHT amplified preservation's public impact by growing its digital audience, producing new video content, and publishing in-depth blog posts on the federal Historic Preservation Fund's role in preservation.

# The Historic Preservation Fund: QUIETLY POWERFUL (AND WHY IT NEEDS OUR VOICE)



31

Certified Local Government evaluations & plan reviews

24

Certified Local Governments

# EASEMENTS & PROJECT REVIEW

MHT manages a portfolio of preservation easements to safeguard historic properties, thereby supporting positive stewardship by property owners. Additionally, through consultation with state and federal agencies, project sponsors, and the public, MHT also ensures that projects avoid, reduce, or mitigate harm to historic and archaeological properties across Maryland under state and federal law.

In FY25, MHT acquired five new easements and modified two existing agreements. The Project Review and Compliance team consulted on more than 5,830 projects under state and federal law, including the Francis Scott Key Bridge project, helping to resolve adverse effects of projects on significant cultural resources where needed and establish streamlined coordination procedures for certain programs.



713

easements on

938

properties

25

Section 106  
Programmatic  
Agreements to  
streamline federal  
projects



## Conservation and Community in Garrett Park (Montgomery County)

In 2023, Garrett Park received a Community Parks and Playgrounds grant from DNR to create a park on the Yeandle Property, part of the National Register-listed Garrett Park Historic District. Donated in 2006 by Leticia Yeandle, the project included forest maintenance, trails, a playground, and demolition of a c.1954 Minimal Traditional-style house, which was found to be an adverse effect. To resolve it, the Town partnered with MHT and Montgomery County to create an [evolving website](#) highlighting the town's history, forest conservation, and women's roles in preservation.

# PUBLIC PROGRAMS

MHT provides a series of programs that engage with the public as well as with professional colleagues, including the MHT Roadshow, the Architectural Fieldwork Symposium, the Maryland Preservation Awards, the Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archaeology, and the Workshop in Archeology.

MHT hosted the Architectural Fieldwork Symposium in March 2025, which included project updates and seven presentations on a range of regional topics related to the historic built environment. In May, the MHT Board presented 10 awards throughout the state for the 50th annual Maryland Preservation Awards, celebrating noteworthy accomplishments in the preservation field. The archaeology field session was held in May and June at the Teague's Point Site, where each day dozens of volunteers worked to recover artifacts at the site. Throughout the year, MHT hosted four MHT Roadshows, including one in May for Preservation Month, a financial incentives event in December, an in-person event co-hosted with the Beach to Bay Heritage Area in Salisbury, and one co-hosted with Preservation Maryland on the National Register.



OVER  
1,000

hours of  
volunteer  
labor

2,940+

people reached via  
84 virtual,  
livestreamed, & in-  
person MHT  
outreach events



## Success Story: The 2025 Tyler Bastian Field Session in Archaeology at Teague's Point (Charles County)

In May 2025, MHT archaeologists partnered with the Archeological Society of Maryland, Charles County, and Department of Natural Resources for the 11-day Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archaeology at the Teague's Point Site. Dozens of volunteers participated in the excavations, which yielded hundreds of artifacts like Chesapeake pipes, faunal remains, a bone needle case, and annealed nails from a burned structure. Fieldwork revealed a remarkably intact late 17th – early 18th-century domestic site possibly tied to the Swift or Smith families. WMAR News produced a [segment](#) featuring the field session.

# JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK & MUSEUM

A 560-acre park located along the Patuxent River in Calvert County, JPPM is home to archaeological sites, historic houses and outbuildings, museum spaces, the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab), and recreational facilities. The park's mission is to connect people to the past and support the preservation of Maryland's cultural and natural resources. The MAC Lab houses the state's archaeological collection.

In FY25, JPPM advanced key capital projects, including the MAC Lab expansion, and approved a new strategic plan through 2030. The site hosted over 130,000 visitors and continued popular programs like Village Days, Discovering Archaeology Day, and Children's Day on the Farm. MAC Lab staff completed the award-winning *Witnesses of Wallville* project (funded by an NPS Civil Rights grant), advanced work with descendant African American communities, rehoused the Middle Plantation collection, and completed an audit of accession files and digital records to ensure long-term data integrity.



**OVER  
3,000**  
hours of  
volunteer  
labor

**8,350+**  
people reached via 39  
virtual and in-person  
JPPM & MAC Lab  
outreach events



**Success Story: Patterson House and Gardens Officially Opens to the Public**  
JPPM reached a major milestone in May 2025 when the Patterson House & Gardens officially opened to the public. Designed by Gertrude Sawyer in the 1930s, the multi-year project modernized the site with ADA access, a geothermal HVAC system, updated infrastructure, and drainage improvements. Crews preserved 1930s wallpaper, replanted Rose Greely's Enclosed Garden, converted the pool house to restrooms, and completed other repairs. The reopening event drew dignitaries and highlighted strong collaboration between state agencies and the Calvert County Commissioners, reflecting JPPM's commitment to preservation, accessibility, and community enrichment.