



Library User Guide

Introduction

The Maryland Historical Trust Library is the State's principal repository for information relating to Maryland's architectural, archeological, and cultural heritage.

Visiting the Library

The library is open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, researchers should contact the librarian, Lara Westwood, at lara.westwood@maryland.gov or 410-697-9546.

Researchers are welcome to bring laptops, cell phones, notebooks, and personal cameras. Computers are also available in the library. Wireless internet access provided. Photocopies can be purchased via check or invoice.

Library Services

The librarian is available for reference assistance and consultation for research on Maryland history, historic preservation, historic properties, and archaeology. The librarian can help find resources within the Maryland Historical Trust Library, as well as identify other potential sources of information. Consultations can be scheduled by email or phone.

Online Resources

Library Catalog

The catalog for the Maryland Historical Trust Library can be found online here: <http://m30014.eos-intl.net/M30014/OPAC/Index.aspx>. The online catalog contains records of books, journals, site-specific reports, and historic maps, historic structure reports, preservation plans, and architectural drawings available to researchers.

Medusa, Maryland's Cultural Resource Information System

Maryland Historical Trust's online database of architectural and archeological sites and standing structures can be found here: <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/>. The database includes records for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties in Maryland, determinations of eligibility (DOE) records, and records for properties in the Maryland Historic Preservation Easement program. User tutorials can be found here: <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/tutorials/Tutorial1.pdf>.

Archeological site data can be found on Medusa, but access is restricted to credentialed archeologists and proxy account holders. For access, please apply here: <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/RequestUserAccount.aspx>.

Maryland Archeological Synthesis Project

The Maryland Archeological Synthesis Project can be found here: <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/synthesis/>. Limited use of the database is available to the

public. It consists of a searchable database that is linked to Maryland Archeological Site Survey files, synopsis reports, and cover sheets generated of excavation projects.

Maryland's Historical Markers

More information on the state's historical road markers can found here:

<https://mht.maryland.gov/historicalmarkers/Introduction.aspx>. The database features the text, map coordinates, and more for each marker, as well as thematic tours and story maps.

Library Collections

Books

The library holds a large collection of books on topics including Maryland history and culture, architecture and architectural history, historic preservation, decorative arts, archeology, and more. The collection contains many locally published and limited-run publications, as well as theses and dissertations on Maryland themes submitted by students and professors.

Journals & Periodicals

The library maintains subscriptions to many local, national, and international professional publications, journals, and periodicals related to archeology, architecture, history, and historic preservation. Journals and periodicals can be accessed in the library. The collection is undergoing cataloging and will be added to the library catalog. For questions about the availability of periodicals and journals, please contact the librarian for further assistance.

Historic Structure Reports (HSR)

Historic Structure Reports document characteristics and conditions of historic properties. These often include historical contexts, chain of title research, photographs, and conservation and preservation recommendations. The library collects reports related to buildings on Maryland's Inventory of Historic Properties, as well as those in surrounding states. They are listed in the library catalog under the HSR call number.

Field and Research Reports (FRR)

Field and Research Reports document a wide variety of architectural and historic preservation related studies. These reports can contain architectural surveys, research on historic districts or architectural themes in a city or county, paint analysis reports, and more. They are listed in the library catalog under the FRR call number.

Archeological Reports

The library holds a large collection of archeological compliance reports, including Phase I, II, and III reports, cultural resource surveys, and more. These reports are generally restricted to researchers who meet [Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Archeology](#) and their proxies. For access, please apply for a Medusa account: <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/RequestUserAccount.aspx>.

Maps

The library maintains a small collection of Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic historic maps, United States topographical maps, and more. The collection is currently being inventoried. For questions related to the map collection, contact the librarian.

Architectural Drawings

The library collects architectural drawings related to properties on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP), NRHP, Maryland Historical Trust easements, and more. The collection is currently being inventoried. For questions related to the architectural drawing collection, contact the librarian.

Oral Histories

The Maryland Historical Trust's collection of oral histories captures the State's cultural traditions through written transcripts and audio and video recordings. Themes include African-American communities in Baltimore County, tobacco in Calvert County, lighthouses across the state, and more. A complete list of all oral history projects can be found here:

https://mht.maryland.gov/research_MHTlibrary.shtml.

Slides & Photographs

The library holds an extensive collection of slides and photographs of historic properties. Many of these photographs were taken as documentation for admission to MIHP and NRHP and generally date from the 1960s to present. The collection often supplements images included in the scanned MIHP form found online through Medusa. The collection is currently being inventoried. For questions related to the slide and photograph collection, contact the librarian.

Vertical Files

The Vertical Files contain additional research on historic properties and topics related to Maryland history, counties, architecture, and archaeology. These files often include researcher notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, and more and provide information additional to the MIHP forms. The collection is currently being inventoried. For questions related to the Vertical Files, contact the librarian.

Search Guides

New search guides and research resources are always being created and will be added to the website as they become available.